



617 354-0047 P
617 354-3624 F
info@ccscambridge.org E
245 Bent Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
www.ccscambridge.org

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Dear CCSC Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that it's almost November. The leaves are turning. It finally feels like fall. And we're in the middle of a good stretch of school, which allows for teachers and students both to get into a healthy rhythm. The result, we find, are classes in full swing, with students doing real work – recognizing the importance of mastering the basics, reading tough texts carefully, puzzling through tricky problems, making strong hypotheses, carrying on conversations with peers in Spanish. Classes are focused and students are smiling. All wonderful to see. And yes, we continue to revel in our MCAS success. How could we not? We were proud that the Boston Globe sent a reporter to write about our celebration.

Thanks again to those of you who made attending our Back to School Night a priority. We know you're busy. But we also believe that creating strong partnerships between parents/guardians and advisors as well as teachers is critical. The night allows for the strengthening of existing partnerships and the forging of new ones. Our first Parent Social was also a hit, with many parents and guardians arriving early to meet other members of the CCSC community.

Earlier Notification about Detention (New Procedure)

One of the announcements we made at Back to School Night was the following: starting soon, we will create detention lists for the coming day the afternoon prior. So, for example, the parents/guardians of students who have detention on Tuesday will now receive a call the evening before, on Monday night. We hope this will lead to more conversations at home about the causes of the detention. We also hope this will make planning for the afternoon easier, as families will know definitively if a student will be required to stay. Additionally, it will provide parents and guardians more time the following day to call and inquire, if necessary. As with any change, there are sure to be little bumps in the road, but we're excited about this shift and hope that you are as well. **This change will go into effect on Monday, October 29th. So, you would receive a call on the evening of Sunday, October 28th, if your child has detention the next day.**

Receive School Communications by Text Message (New Option)

We are also excited to now be able to offer parents and guardians an additional way to be notified of important messages from the school – via

The Community Charter School of Cambridge will prepare a diverse student body, grades 7–12, for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship. At CCSC, all students are known well, encouraged to meet high expectations, and linked to their community through internships and other field experiences.

text message. The included notice has information about this option, and we hope many of you will choose to take advantage of it.

Is Your Child Taking Full Advantage of our After-School Activities?

The Learning Center continues to be well-attended. I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of it. There is no better help than the assistance our students can receive from our teachers themselves. Help is available for every class three or four days per week after school. I sometimes walk the halls of the Upper School in the late afternoon and absolutely love seeing packed rooms of students and teachers, working on the night's homework, targeting a specific problem that is proving complicated, or revising the essay due in two days. In addition to the Learning Center, there are also many other extracurricular options for students looking to get involved. We're having our first Extracurricular Activities Fair on Thursday, October 25th. All students will get to learn about the different offerings, from mock trial to dance/step to the basketball teams to a computer science programming course. It's our hope that all students will find a team or club they will enjoy.

Help Us Recruit New Students for 2013-14

You will soon receive some of CCSC's promotional materials in the mail. Even though you have a child currently enrolled in the school, we want you to know about the upcoming Open House events and the lottery deadlines. Is there a younger sibling whom you'd like to enter in the lottery? Do you have friends or neighbors who are interested in sending their children to CCSC? We love building our student body this way and hope you are all as proud of your children attending CCSC as we are proud to be given the chance to educate them.

School Calendar

This week, we have both an early release on Wednesday, October 24 at 11:30 a.m. and a school holiday on Friday, October 26th. The first quarter ends on Friday, November 2nd. Before we know it, the Thanksgiving break will be here. Help us keep the momentum of these strong opening weeks going. And, as always, thank you for taking the time to read this and for being actively involved in your child's education.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School

Text Message Opt-In Information

CCSC is excited to announce the launch of a new service that will allow us to deliver important information like detention notifications and school cancellations to you via text message on your cell phone. This service is not intended to replace our existing means of communication. Rather, we think it will enhance them.

The service is provided by our automated telephone call system, SchoolMessenger. Information about SchoolMessenger can be found at www.schoolmessenger.com/tm

In order to participate in the new service, we need you to confirm your willingness to receive text messages to your phone.

1. First, you'll want to ensure that we have your wireless number(s) in PowerSchool. If you haven't already provided that information, please contact the school so we can enter it in to our system.
2. Next, we'll send a one-time text message to all of the cell phone numbers we have in PowerSchool, providing the opportunity to opt-in. The message will read:

"Community Charter School of Cambridge messages. Reply Y for aprx 3 msgs/mo. Txt HELP 4 info. Msg&data rates may apply. See schoolmessenger.com/tm

3. All you have to do to enroll in the service is reply to the message with the letter Y and you will be signed up.

Please note, although the CCSC does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges. Also, you may receive more than 3 messages per month, depending on the time of year and the number of detentions your student(s) have accrued.

We are always looking to improve our own systems to communicating important information to you. This is yet another way we can do so. We hope you decide to take advantage of it, but we also know it's not for everyone. Whatever you decide is fine with us!