

Board of Trustees

August 24, 2016

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Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Everyone is back and we're all hard at work preparing for the coming school year. On the 15th, we welcomed faculty and staff new to our community and got right to work introducing them to CCSC and learning more about each other. On the 18th, we were joined by those returning for the year and the excitement in the room was palpable. Looking rested and rejuvenated, staff and faculty returned ready to get to work. There is much to be done before we welcome students on August 31st for day one. There's no time to waste.

I send this note annually to communicate critical messages ahead of the start of the year. It is impossible to overstate the collective power of a community of adults (staff, faculty, parents, guardians) and students *all* on the same page. So, please read on and read carefully. Reach out with questions if you have them. And, if you have not already received a phone call from your child's advisor, you will soon.

• **Week 1 Logistics**

- Tuesday, August 30th is the Back to School BBQ. 4:00PM - 6:00PM
- Wednesday, August 31st is the first day of classes. 1:30PM dismissal.
- Thursday, September 1st is the second full day of classes.
- Tuesday, September 6th is the 3rd full day of classes.

- **Coffee with the Principals** -- New this year, your principals will be holding a drop-in coffee hour the fourth Friday of every month. This will be a chance for parents and guardians to ask questions or offer ideas to Ms. Norris (Middle School Principal) and Mr. Nomani (High School Principal). Please mark your calendars for 9 AM Friday, September 23. We hope to see you there.

- **Nutrition** is a key component of students being successful in school. CCSC continues to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision plan. We offer school breakfast and a school lunch to *every* student at no charge to the family. However, meals *must still be ordered in advance* to be available to students. You will have the opportunity to sign up for weekly, monthly or the complete school year meal service. Information about the National School Lunch Program, and the School Breakfast Program will be available soon.



- **Summer Reading** -- make sure assigned reading is complete before the first day of school!
- **Student Schedules** -- A list of your child's courses for Fall 2016 is included with this letter. If you have questions or concerns about your student's schedule, please call the school at 617-354-0047.
- **The bus schedule** (for students from Cambridge in grades 6 through 8): A letter is enclosed informing you of your child's bus stop or lack of eligibility for bus service, as determined by the Cambridge Public School's transportation department. If you have concerns about your child's transportation status, please contact Tina Fisher at Cambridge Public Schools at 617-349-6862, or Toni-Ann Squillante, CCSC Bent Street Front Desk Coordinator at 617-354-0047. *Please note that bus service does not start until September 6, after Labor Day.*
- **The supply list** was mailed out previously. Should you require another copy, it is posted online for viewing and download.
- **Your child's advisor** will be reaching out to connect with you before the school year begins. Advisors continue to play a critical role in our community. We hope you find your child's advisor a solid resource and advocate for your child as he/she progresses through their time with us.
- **MBTA** renewable student passes are available to students for a cost of \$30 each calendar month. Cards must be purchased/renewed prior to the first day of each month via cash or check made out to *Community Charter School of Cambridge*. You are allowed to pay in advance if you like. Payment for September passes will be accepted beginning August 31st (the first day of school). September passes paid in full on August 31st will be available on September 1st. All other paid passes will be distributed September 6th. Deadline for purchasing the September passes is Wednesday, September 7 at 1:30 pm. More information about the new MBTA Student Pass Program is located on our website. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Smith at extension 122.
- **WAM Clothing** -- Wellness and Movement uniforms, worn on the days students have WAM, can be ordered directly through Side Hustle Designs. Our website has more information.



- **2016-2017 Schedule Changes** -- We have made the following substantive changes to our school calendar, which is posted on our website.
 - The Friday before long weekends, we will dismiss at 11:30AM.
 - We will not have school on Monday, March 13, 2017 in order to give students and staff a bit of a break during this typically long and taxing stretch of the school year.
- **Parent Guardian Association** -- On Tuesday, September 15th, CCSC will host the first PGA meeting of the year to discuss updates on policies, schedules, staffing and other Need-to-Know information for new and returning families. Open to all CCSC parents and guardians, the PGA was created to support the efforts of CCSC, provide resources and information to enable parents and guardians to help their students succeed, and facilitate ongoing communication with the school administration and faculty. More details on the event will go out to families in an upcoming Family Newsletter.

Please do reach out with questions if you have them. It's important to us that CCSC remain a welcoming environment for parents and guardians. Your support and collaboration in this work is necessary. I hope these final few days of summer are relaxing. We cannot wait to see your children (and perhaps you as well!) when they arrive on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Caleb Hurst-Hiller
 Head of School