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August 24, 2017

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

New staff and faculty returned on the 14th of August and returning staff and faculty joined us on the 17th. Last week was full -- of meeting new colleagues, of learning, of practice, and of excitement for the year ahead. Having gotten rest and sleep, everyone has that end of summer glow. We are all diving head first into preparing for this school year and our list of to-do's is long. We will, however, be fully ready for students when they arrive on Wednesday, August 30th for the first day of classes and are so looking forward to welcoming them back to campus.

I wanted to write this short note in order to communicate our excitement *and* some important information before the start of the year. Please read the below information carefully and call us or email us or stop by if you have questions or are confused about anything. Take time to connect with your child's advisor! If he or she is continuing in the role for your child, build on the existing relationship and discuss your hopes for the coming year. If he or she is new, help him or her get to know you and your child, which will surely help in the days and months ahead.

• **Week 1 Logistics**

- Tuesday, August 29th is the Back-to-School BBQ. 4:00PM. Beef and Veggie Burgers as well as Hot Dogs will be provided. Please feel free to bring additional dishes to share.
- Wednesday, August 30th is the *first* day of classes. 1:30PM dismissal.
- Thursday, August 31st is the *second* full day of classes.
- Tuesday, September 5th is the *third* full day of classes.
- *Note: No school on Friday the 1st of September or Monday the 4th. Enjoy the holiday weekend.*

- **Coffee with the Principals** -- Ms. Norris (Middle School Principal) and Mr. Nomani (High School Principal) will again be hosting regular coffees. This will continue to be a wonderful opportunity for parents and guardians to ask questions or offer ideas. Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 6th at 8:45 AM. We hope to see you there.
- **Delayed Start** -- For the first time this year, CCSC may opt to delay the start of the school day based on the weather. Having this option should be good for parents/guardians, students, teachers, and students. We will provide more information on this as winter approaches. CCSC's top priority will continue to be the safety of students and staff.
- **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. Information about the National School Lunch Program, and the School Breakfast Program (including monthly menus, deadlines to order and how to order) will be available on our website.
- **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 2017 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 5th, after Labor Day.*
- **The supply list** was posted in June and remains 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.
- **Absences:** If your child will be absent, please call CCSC at 617-354-0047 by 8:40AM, and let us know the reason for their absence. If we don't hear from you by 8:40AM, we will inquire about your child's absence by contacting the home and cell phone numbers as well as the email address we have on file. Please be sure to furnish CCSC with accurate home, work or other emergency telephone numbers where you can be contacted during the school day.

- **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 30th, (the first day of school). September passes paid in full on August 31st will be available on September 5th, (the first day back after Labor Day weekend). All other paid passes will be distributed within 48 hours of receiving payment. Deadline for purchasing the September passes is Wednesday, September 6th at 1:30 pm. Payments after September 6th cannot be accepted. More information about the new MBTA Student Pass Program (including monthly payment deadlines) is located on our website. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Smith at extension 201.
- **WAM Clothing** -- Wellness and Movement uniforms, worn on the days students have WAM (and *only* the days students have WAM), can be ordered directly through Side Hustle Designs. Our website has more information.
- **PGA/SEPAC** -- On Tuesday, September 12th, CCSC will host the first meeting of the year for our Parent Guardian Association and Special Education Parent Advisory Council 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, both groups were 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 be delivered through postings to the school website, Facebook, and reminder calls home.

We work to ensure that CCSC is a welcoming environment for parents and guardians. Your support and collaboration in this work is necessary. Enjoy the final stretch of this summer and squeeze in beach time as you are able to. As always, we are thrilled to see your children when they arrive for our first day together.

Sincerely,



Caleb Hurst-Hiller  
Head of School