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August 24, 2015

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Faculty and staff have returned and we are all hard at work preparing for the start of the 2015-2016 school year. We welcomed new faculty and staff, along with various interns from various undergraduate and graduate programs in the area, back on the 17th of August. There was much for them to learn before their new colleagues returned this past Thursday. The energy in the room, as is so often the case after a summer spent recharging, was wonderful. CCSC's staff is as anxious as ever to dive into this work and again raise the bar in terms of how effectively we can serve all students.

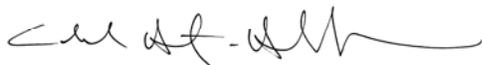
This short letter is intended to make sure that various critical tidbits are known by all parents and guardians ahead of the first day of school, which is Wednesday, September 2nd. As is always the case on Wednesdays, we will dismiss students at 1:30PM. As I wrote previously, please note that unlike many area schools, we start *before* the Labor Day long weekend. We will also hold classes on Thursday, September 3rd, but will *not* have school on Friday, September 4th. We will resume on Tuesday the 8th. On to announcements:

- **Nutrition** is a key component of students being successful in school. We are excited to announce that CCSC has been approved to start the Community Eligibility Provision plan. **We are now offering a 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. For more information about school meals, please read the School Nutrition section in the 15-16 Student & Family Handbook.
- **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 2015 is attached to 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) is being established by the transportation department at Cambridge Public Schools. Enclosed is some initial information on bus stops and pickup times. Additional information will be posted to our website as soon as we receive it. **Please note that bus service does not start until *after* Labor Day.**

- **The supply list** was mailed out previously. Should you require another copy, call the school or find it online.
- **Your child's advisor** will be reaching out to connect with you before the school year begins. Advisors play a critical role in our community and 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 \$26 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. September passes will be available for purchase the first day of school. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Smith at extension 106.
- **WAM Clothing** --most 6th-10th grade families have already ordered a Wellness and Movement uniform, which is a new requirement on WAM days this year. Please send your student with money to pay for the uniform when school starts, if you have not already paid. Uniforms are \$25 for the required t-shirt and sweatpants, or \$43 if you ordered athletic shorts as well. For families that have not yet ordered, advisors will have the necessary forms on the first day of school.
- **Teacher Work Days** -- At the end of each quarter, students will have an additional day off, extending the weekend. This will allow teachers important time to plan and improve units for the coming quarter. As such, there is no school for students on November 2nd, January 19th, and April 4th.
- **Parent Guardian Association** -- On Tuesday, September 15th, CCSC will host the first PGA meeting of the year. 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.

As always, if you have questions about the information above or anything else, do not hesitate to reach out and contact us. I hope the final days of summer break are relaxing and rejuvenating. And I hope you share our feeling that the coming year is full of promise. Thanks for all you do in support of our efforts.

Sincerely,



Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School