

**Board of Trustees**

April 6, 2016

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Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It has been a while since my last letter home. And as is always the case in the life of a vibrant school community, so much has happened in the interim. Your child's Quarter 3 Report Card is included in this mailing. Coupled with Semester 1 grades, which also appear on the report, you should have a solid sense for how your child is doing in all of his or her classes. Remember -- year-end grades are a pure average of semester grades. With one more quarter ahead, a mere nine weeks, this last push to the finish line is a critical one for students looking to maintain grades, improve them, and for some, avoid summer school and the prospect of repeating the grade. Please take some time to sit and review this report card with your child. Have him or her explain it to you. Ask questions. Listen deeply. And, as always, reach out to your child's advisor if you have questions about anything.

Our 10th grade students recently completed the English/Language Arts MCAS. The group showed commitment and scholarship as they sustained focus for three long days of testing. Afterward, when asked how it went and how they felt, almost every single one said the same thing: "I was prepared." Those simple words mean so much. As I have told our entire staff, their preparedness is not the result of one teacher or one department. It results from the work of so many adults in our community. I have no doubt they made us proud. I am equally certain that all CCSC students with state exams coming up will make us similarly proud. Our 10th graders will take math MCAS. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will take ELA and math PARCC exams. Our 8th and 9th grade students will take science MCAS. They are no doubt prepared as well. We will make sure they know it.

College acceptance letters have been rolling in over the past month or so. One of our seniors is bound for Stanford. Another is headed to the University of Virginia on a full scholarship as a QuestBridge Scholar. Many of our seniors have options, having been accepted to three or five or seven different colleges. The list of colleges is impressive: All of the UMass schools, Barnard, Boston University, Clark, Colby-Sawyer, Holy Cross, Northeastern, Temple, Villanova, Wheaton, Wittenberg, and more. They're waiting on more letters before weighing options and comparing financial assistance. We are quite

proud. They're not through with high school yet, however. Each is mid-internship, with presentations scheduled for June 1st.

Your child's advisor will soon be in touch to discuss the included grade report and to schedule your child's Roundtable presentation in June. Roundtable presentations are portfolio-based performance assessments that require students to reflect deeply on their mastery of substantive and challenging academic work in each of their core academic courses. Students must pass their Roundtable in order to be eligible for promotion. Parents and guardians are required to attend. It is a celebration of your child's hard work all year and I am excited to welcome all of you.

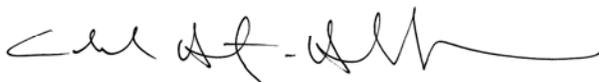
This mailing includes several important pieces, to which I want to call your attention:

- We are still accepting applications and are always appreciative of your help in spreading the word about CCSC! Encourage family and friends to apply online at <http://ccscambridge.org/about-ccsc/how-apply>.
- If you use Facebook, I encourage you to take a moment to follow Community Charter School of Cambridge. We post updates celebrating our students and showcase school and community events as well as other opportunities.
- The state testing schedule for the remainder of the school year is below:

| Grade | Test | Date(s) |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 8 th | Science MCAS | May 9 |
| 6 th , 7 th , 8 th | English Language Arts PARCC | May 10, 11, 12 |
| 6 th , 7 th , 8 th | Mathematics PARCC | May 17, 18, 19 |
| 10 th | Mathematics MCAS | May 17, 18 |
| 9 th | Physics MCAS | June 1, 2 |

Lastly, our spring teams are busy practicing and will soon take the field for competitions. Join us for a game -- softball, lacrosse, baseball -- or a track meet. I always appreciate your taking the time to read these letters through and your commitment to staying current on the goings on. Thank you for all you do to support your child, and our school community, in this important work.

Sincerely,



Caleb Hurst-Hiller
Head of School