

CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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August 10, 2011

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a healthy, restful summer. I will be traveling with my family during the last week of summer and look forward to recharging my batteries for the school year. As we head towards September, I am excited about seeing students and hearing about their summer escapades and adventures. The energy that young people bring to our schools simply cannot be replicated in the summer months. It is with tremendous anticipation that I write to welcome you to the 2011-12 school year in the Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District. Please take a few moments to note the important information herein.

The Opening of School:

Each elementary school will host an open house for students and parents on Friday, September 2. I urge you to visit so that you can meet your child's teacher. Visiting during open house gives your child security for that first day of school, and also demonstrates to the teacher your investment in your child's education.

- Alcott School: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Thoreau School: 8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Willard School: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6. This is a full day for grades K-5 and 9-12, but a regular half-day for grades 6-8. Kindergarten students must pack lunch, as they will go to Harvey Wheeler Community Center and return to Boston at the close of the full school day. Please be sure to arrive at your morning and afternoon bus stop at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled time. The first few days of school are often a little hectic, as monitors and families are working to establish a good routine. I thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

Freshman Orientation at CCHS is Friday, September 2 from 7:30 to 2:11. Transportation is provided. Pickup will be at Franklin Park in the circle across from the zoo entrance at 6:30 a.m. The afternoon route will stop at Back Bay Station, Ruggles Station, and Forest Hill Station.

Communication Between School and Home:

In order to be successful today, students need an outstanding educational foundation. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to prepare lessons, demonstrate mastery of subject areas, and incorporate technology into their classrooms. Each teacher is personally invested in the development of high achieving, capable students. In addition, our teachers care deeply for each student's well being. I am confident that if we work collaboratively, each student will develop the critical skills required to excel. I encourage you to be an active participant in your child's education. Contact me at any time with questions or concerns, but more importantly, please contact your child's teachers. Inform them of your child's learning style and tendencies, share tidbits about your child's personality, and establish a good working relationship with them. A phone call or email to teachers at the beginning of the school year can be instrumental in getting your child off to a fantastic start.

To help you stay informed about happenings in the METCO Program, please visit www.concordpublicschools.net and click on the METCO tab on the left navigation. This is a newly designed site with information for parents in grades K-12.

K-12 METCO Parent Meetings:

Enclosed please find a flyer with the dates, times, and topics of our K-12 METCO Parent Meetings. **I remind you that at least one parent from each household is expected to attend these meetings.** While I was heartened to see almost half of our families represented at the first parent meeting last year, attendance dwindled in the meetings that followed. A focal point for all educators in the district is to produce high quality students who also possess exceptional character, integrity, and leadership skills. We need your help! The topics of our meetings are designed to promote discussion so that you can learn about developments in your child's classroom and district teachers and administrators can be informed by you. I recognize the challenges work and family life present, but please make every effort to attend.

METCO Parent Advisory Council:

Throughout the year, I work closely with a group of parents interested in collaborating with the Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District. The group's contributions are incredibly valuable, and the group functions as a support to our students and parents and as a resource for Concord's educators. The METCO Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is made up of representatives from each of our six schools. The PAC will assist in setting the agenda for parent meetings and serves as a conduit for information to the community and our schools. The members currently serving are listed below, but note that two schools still have vacancies. If you would like to join us, please contact me or a member of the PAC.

- Willard Naia Wilson
- Thoreau: Paula Corbett
- Alcott: Natacha Johnson
- Peabody: *vacant*
- Sanborn: Tanika Moody
- CCHS Yvette Gooding and Patti Lautner

Nuts and Bolts:

Bus stop and parent emergency contact information forms were due to Ms. Burgos, K-12 METCO Secretary, on July 30. Some families still have not returned forms. **It is imperative that you submit all paperwork immediately. Children cannot board the bus for the first day of school if our drivers and monitors do not know where children will be picked up and dropped off and to whom children can be dismissed.** Please help us take every measure to ensure your child's safety.

In addition, please make sure to update your preferred phone number with Peter Kelly at pkelly@colonial.net so that you receive all updates from our ConnectEd system. All school closures and other district-wide emergency notifications are sent using ConnectEd. It is recommended that you select your cell phone number in the event you are not at home during the day.

My office is located in the main building of Concord-Carlisle High School. I invite you to visit if you are in the district. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me. I genuinely look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Aaron Joncas

Enclosures:

Kindergarten Back to School Popsicle Party Flyer
CPS and CCRSD School Calendars
METCO Family Friends Picnic Flyer
METCO Family Friends Late Bus Tuesday Schedule
K-12 METCO Parent Meeting Dates Flyer