



Karen Butler, Principal

August 19, 2020

To the Parent/Guardian of _____

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 School Year! This has been an unprecedented summer and we have been hard at work preparing for students' arrival. Safety protocols are in place to ensure all of the guidelines outlined in the district's reopening plan are in effect to safely welcome back our students who are participating in the hybrid model. I also must commend the CSS staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare to teach, both in person and online, during this atypical school year. Enclosed in this mailing is a **Daily Health Assessment checklist**. It is critical that every family evaluates their child/children each morning before sending them to school. Please do not send them to school if they are showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact (within 24 hours) with anyone who has been diagnosed with the illness.

The first day of school for students in Kdg, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade will be Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Grade 1 and 2 students work from home on Tuesdays, so their first day will be on Wednesday, Sept. 16th. Our new **school hours will be 8:00am to 1:30pm** – please take note of the shortened day.

For the upcoming school year, your child, _____ has been placed in _____'s classroom. Currently, your child is signed up for:

_____ Hybrid Learning! (4 days at school/1 day at home) _____ Distance Learning (5 days at home)

As we get ready for opening day, please read all of the important information below to be prepared and help make the transition back to school smooth for everyone:

- Bus routes are available on the HPS website: www.hamden.org. If you have questions, please contact the bus company at 203-288-2887.
- ATTENDANCE is very important. If your child is going to be absent you **MUST** call the school to report the absence by 9:00 AM. If you do not call, your student's absence is considered UNEXCUSED. Students with **four or more unexcused absences in a month or ten in a year** are considered TRUANT!
- Our building does not open for students until 8:00 AM. Please do not drop your children off any earlier, as there is no supervision available and we cannot guarantee that students will socially distance. After 8:15 AM, your child is officially tardy.
- The nurse will be available beginning Aug. 31st and parents can schedule to drop off medication, if needed. Nurse Pearl's hours during this time are 8:00am -3:00pm. Parents or guardians must bring medication directly to the school. **Students cannot bring medication in their backpacks.**

- We know the 1st Day can be tough, especially for parents, but we ask parents who may be dropping their children off at school to follow the “Kiss and Go” routine by saying goodbyes from the vehicle or the sidewalk. Making the first day of school as normal as possible helps start the year off on the right foot. There will be plenty of greeters available to help your young ones get to their classrooms safely. We also remind parents to obey the parking lot signs and rules, especially during arrival and dismissal times to ensure everyone’s safety.
- It is imperative that parents of students returning to the building, complete the enclosed transportation form to indicate how your child will be dismissed daily. It must be returned on or before the first day of school. Please note that any child assigned to a bus, will be placed on that bus in the afternoon unless we have an “alternate dismissal” form or written note on file. No student(s) will be dismissed between 1:00pm -1:30pm, and it will not be feasible to call into classrooms to inform a child about changes to dismissal unless it is an emergency.
- **** NEW This year, due to COVID-19, Dismissal for pickup students by vehicle will be for K-2 students (and older siblings) ONLY.** Vehicle pick-ups will begin after all buses have been dismissed. Parents should not get out of their car. Staff members will direct you from the side walk and we will call students to your car as you arrive. This may take additional time and we ask for your patience as we implement this new dismissal routine. All other pick-up students, in grades 3—6 will be dismissed as walkers and escorted to the edge of the property, in a socially distanced line. If you are a walking parent, you can meet your child at either the corner of Chester St & Church St or the end of the front driveway. Parents should stay on the front sidewalk closest to the street.
- The district will provide each student with a personal school supply kit; however, parents are encouraged to provide the following for their child: 1. A reusable water bottle (no glass) as students cannot drink directly from a water fountain. 2. A change of clothes in case of an accident (we will be unable to provide spare clothing this year) 3. Personal headphones to prevent sharing. 4. A wheel-less backpack, large enough to carry a Chrome book and a supply kit.
- Students can bring a lunch from home or get lunch from the cafeteria. Breakfast and lunch for all students are FREE this year at Church Street.
- In lieu of a Parents Orientation, there will be a “Welcome Back” video posted on the CSS website to show parents and students what a day will look like when they return to the building. Please view this video with your child(ren) so they can be prepared! While the video highlights some important information, you can also find more comprehensive information in our Student & Family Handbook on the website. Please check our website for virtual presentations from each teacher on “Meet the Teacher Night” on Sept. 9th.
- Please return the enclosed transportation and emergency forms. On the first day, important paperwork will be sent home with students that must be completed and returned the next school day. All notices/flyers are sent home on Thursdays or Fridays – be sure to check your child’s backpack and check the school’s website for our handbook and other important information.

On behalf of the staff at Church Street School, thank you for your support and as we navigate the many new safety and educational guidelines. I look forward to working with all of the students and families that make up our wonderful school community!

Karen Butler