



Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School
195 Route 137, E. Harwich, MA 02645
phone: 774-408-7994

Notes to Home: January 5, 2026

Greetings CCLCS Families,

On our first day of Back to School meetings way back in August, to rally excitement for all that lay ahead for the academic year, I shared a poem with the entire staff by W.S. Merwin entitled "To the New Year." My intent was to use the poem's message of hope to kick off my tenure at CCLCS and galvanize our work with students this year. I have the poem pinned to the bulletin board in my office as a reminder to remain hopeful through the ups and downs of a 185 day academic year. As we turn the calendar to 2026, I once again find myself drawing inspiration from the final lines of Merwin's beautiful poem. He concludes: "This is where we have come with our age/our knowledge such as it is/ and our hopes such as they are/ invisible before us/ untouched and still possible." For our middle schoolers, so much remains untouched, while all is still possible. Our resolution for 2026, as it has been since our founding, will remain to provide them with the skills necessary to navigate a changing world, while ensuring that they never lose sight of what is possible. Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy, joyful and peaceful 2026!

Warm regards,
Ben

Spread the Word!! Admissions Open House!

This Thursday is our second Admissions Open House of the year. Please help spread the word to families that you feel would be a good fit for the CCLCS Community!! All 5th graders are encouraged to apply for our February 26th lottery, and any current 6th and 7th graders are encouraged to apply for a spot on our waitlist. As a reminder, siblings of current students are automatically accepted as per state law, but **ALL SIBLINGS MUST FILL OUT AN APPLICATION!!**

Dress Accordingly! We seem to be having a cold and snowy winter! Please make sure that students come to school with warm layers as many days we will still be going outside for fresh air at recess.

Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School
Admissions Open House
Thursday, January 8th at 6pm



Join us for an information session & opportunities to tour our building, meet staff & students, and learn what makes the CCLCS experience special.

CCLCS is a public charter school for grades 6,7 & 8
Admissions by Lottery. Deadline Feb. 23rd at noon.

Skip Trip Ahead!! We are off to Pats Peak to ski and ride on January 20th with a group of over 40 students and staff. We will be traveling in school vans up to the mountain and will need some chaperoning parents to drive up with us as well. We will be getting the “afternoon until closing” ticket so we will not leave CCLCS until 9 AM. We will leave the mountain at 7PM and get back after 9PM. The weekday package includes \$36 for just the lift, and \$54 for lift and rental. Mr. Merrill will be in touch with parents who have already emailed interest in the trip. Any additional signups may have to be put on a waitlist depending on the number of parents driving up to help. Questions can be sent to Ken Merrill at kmerrill@cclcs.info .

School Breakfast & Lunch is open Jan. 5th- Feb. 13th Login to Ez School Apps to order! Please have a conversation with your student to make sure they will eat what is ordered. While all school meals are free, we want to be mindful of food waste!

Charter School Advocacy! As the new calendar year begins, our state lawmakers are preparing to turn their attention to the next fiscal year. In the coming weeks and months, lawmakers will develop proposals for the Commonwealth's Fiscal Year 2027 budget, determining how to allocate state tax revenue to meet the many needs of Massachusetts residents. Over recent months, we've been speaking out against proposed bills that would hurt charter public schools. While continuing to fight against those bills, next month, we'll raise our voices to ask our lawmakers to prioritize fair funding for all students.

Massachusetts Charter Public Schools Fair Funding Week 2026 will take place from Monday, February 2nd to Friday, February 6th.

Did you know that kids attending charter public schools receive less funding for their school buildings than kids attending traditional public schools? As lawmakers get ready to build our state's budget for the next year, we have an opportunity to change that – ensuring all of our kids and our schools are funded fairly!

Fair Funding Week 2026 kicks off on Monday, February 2nd at 6 p.m. with an inspirational virtual rally. The event will feature powerful stories from charter public school families, alumni, and educators from across the state. Register today to join us!

<https://tinyurl.com/3u9k56vz>



Clubs & Seminars!

Roots and Shoots: As we begin the new year, current Roots & Shoots members extend an invitation to any and all students who'd like to join us in our adventures and work. Roots & Shoots meets Thursday afternoons, directly after school until 4 (with occasional scheduled later dismissal times).

When Dr. Jane Goodall was asked about what she hoped her legacy would be, she said she knew her work would continue through Roots & Shoots, which she founded in 1991 based upon her belief that young people were the key to important, sustainable change for good.

Moving forward, CCLCS R&S will continue the working on projects begun this year, including, the completion of the Dr. Jane Goodall memorial mural in the hallway; crafting with people at a local senior center then selling the crafts to raise funds for local animal shelters; and developing a sustainability plan for the school community. Come join us!

Model UN Club! Model UN will resume on January 14th. See you then!

ART SPARK: ART SPARK will meet this Wednesday, 1/7, from 3-4:45 pm. Thank you to the families who have donated snacks and juice for this week! Colorful Collage group- don't forget to bring your favorite book or a copy of your favorite sheet music for this week's project!

Homework Club: Homework Club is open to all grades and meets on Mondays after school from 3:00-4:00. The purpose is to provide a quiet, structured space for kids to complete assignments. No sign up is necessary. Please pick up promptly at 4:00 PM.

Rainbow Alliance: The Rainbow Alliance will meet Tuesday at lunch.

Lego Club: Will meet Tuesday at lunch!

Music!

STRINGS! Hope that all of you had a wonderful vacation. I am looking forward to seeing all of you this week! This week's schedule will be as follows: WED. Jan 7th at 7:45 will be for beginner violins, Olive and Ariana, in the Spanish room. On FRI. Jan. 9th at 7:45 we will have Ensemble for all. Please remember to bring your instruments AND your music. Sectionals on that date: First period is for Anna and Aurora in Mrs. Wilkinson's room, and second period is for Stella in the Spanish room. See you all very soon and welcome back! Mrs. Schultze

CCLCS CHORUS: Thursday before school from 7:45-8:30

Band: Before School Band will start again Tuesday, January 6th!

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE: Thursday 6th period for all members (guitarist please bring instruments)

MUSICAL THEATER SHOW CHOIR: Friday after school from 3:00-4:00

Sports!

Sports This week (1/5 - 1/9)

BOYS BASKETBALL Mon - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Tue - Game SJP II 4:15 (at St Pius, 321 Wood Rd, S. Yarmouth), Wed - Game vs Trinity Christian Academy 3:45 (2736 Falmouth Rd, Osterville), Thurs -Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Fri - No Practice

BOYS BASKETBALL Mon - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Tue - No Practice, Wed - No Practice, Thurs Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Fri - No Practice

GIRLS BASKETBALL Mon - No Practice, Tue - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Wed - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Thurs - Game/ GREEN vs Cape Cod Acad 4:00 (50 Osterville West Barnstable Rd, Osterville), Fri - Practice 3:30 - 5:00

WINTER TRACK Mon - No Practice, Tue - Practice 3:15 - 4:30, Wed - No Practice,, Thurs - Practice 3:15 - 4:30

Sports Next week (1/12 - 1/16)

BOYS BASKETBALL Mon - Game vs Cape Cod Acad 4:00 (50 Osterville West Barnstable Rd, Osterville), Tue - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Wed - Game vs Falmouth Academy 3:30 (7 Highfield Dr, Falmouth), Thurs - No Practice, Fri - Practice 3:30 - 5:00

BOYS BASKETBALL Mon - Game vs Cape Cod Acad 5:15 (50 Osterville West Barnstable Rd, Osterville), Tue - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Wed - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Thurs - Game at DY 4pm, Fri - Practice 3:30 - 5:00

GIRLS BASKETBALL Mon - Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Tue - Game/ GREEN vs SJP 4pm, Wed - Game/ GOLD vs Falmouth Academy 3:30 (7 Highfield Dr, Falmouth), Thurs - Game vs Practice 3:30 - 5:00, Fri - No Practice

WINTER TRACK Mon - No Practice, Tue - Practice 3:15 - 4:30, Wed - No Practice,, Thurs - Practice 3:15 - 4:30

6th Grade

Week at a Glance: <https://tinyurl.com/3n7r2wtf>

ELA: Students will be writing in ELA and need to bring a pencil to class everyday!

Art: Sixth graders are diving deeper into neurographic art! They started by drawing together and responding to each other's Sharpie marks. This week, they'll make their own bold Sharpie drawings and add color with watercolor to bring their designs to life.

7th Grade

7th Grade Assessment Calendar: <https://tinyurl.com/47tyerr>

Spanish: Welcome back! Your students will be introduced to basic verb conjugation this week, beginning with the verb "ser." We will build off of our existing knowledge of subject pronouns to inform our conjugation.

Your students have a quiz this Friday, January 9th. Their homework is to study for the quiz, and be sure that they have all the necessary material they need in their INB's to be prepared.

Art: Seventh graders are strengthening their observational drawing skills by drawing brown paper bags from life using pencil and charcoal. Their final compositions will include wooden figures engaging with the bags in fun and playful ways.

8th Grade

Week at a Glance: <https://tinyurl.com/4ukhxfyh>

French: In class: Madame Dit (Simon Says), opinions & reasons about different classes; la culture→school system in French-speaking countries; Weekly Agenda for Families linked on WaaG. Weekly HW: School Schedule French-ified due Friday

Art: Eighth graders are starting a new observational drawing unit all about self-portraits! They'll kick things off with blind contour drawings of classmates, then dive into drawing themselves using pencil and mixed media.

Science: Letter W field trip to the Chatham Water Treatment Facility has been postponed until 1/12 due to icy conditions on the campus that prohibit our tour.

Thank you to the Taylor family for connecting us to Tara Nye Lewis, water analyst for the Cape Cod Commission! Ms. Lewis will be visiting our science classroom on Thursday and Friday of this week to discuss water analysis in our communities as well as pathways to a career related to water analysis.

High School Placement! We are entering a time of year where conversations around where to go to High School begin to become more real for our 8th grade. Please know that some anxiety around this is to be expected. We encourage families to continue to explore all options with an open mind!



CAPE COD ACADEMY
More than a school — it's a personalized journey for students in grades K-12.

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

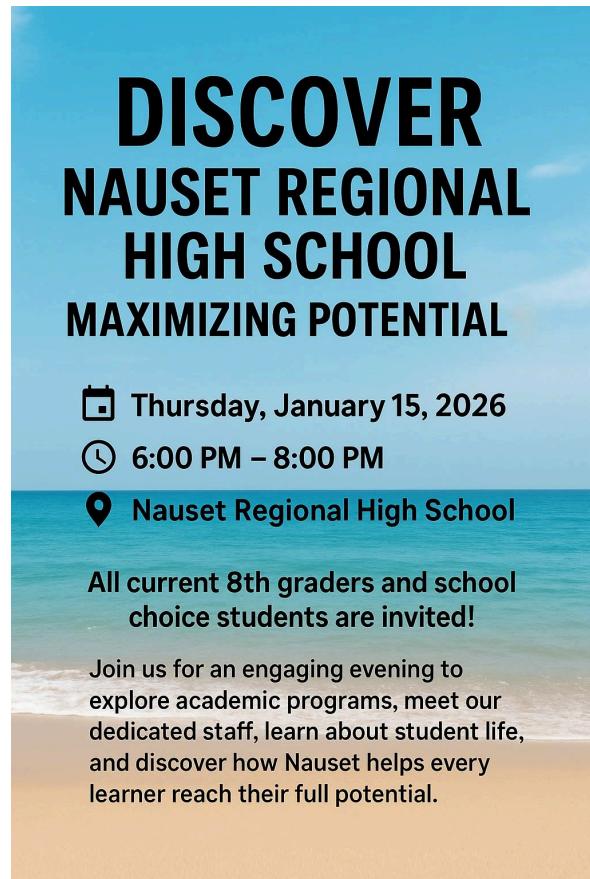
DISCOVER WHAT MAKES CCA DIFFERENT

Discover what makes CCA different. Our Open House gives families the opportunity to tour the campus, speak with faculty, and explore the programs and learning experiences that set our school apart. Come learn how we create an environment where students truly thrive.

Choose the tour time that best fits your family's schedule. Campus tours begin every 30 minutes, run about 45 minutes, with time for questions afterward.

Campus Tour Start Times:
9:00 A.M. | 9:30 A.M. | 10:00 A.M.
Register with the QR Code below, call, or email us to book your spot!

50 Osterville-West Barnstable Road
Osterville, MA 02655
www.capecodacademy.org | 508-428-5400
email us: admissions@capecodacademy.org



DISCOVER NAUSET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL

Thursday, January 15, 2026
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Nauset Regional High School

All current 8th graders and school choice students are invited!

Join us for an engaging evening to explore academic programs, meet our dedicated staff, learn about student life, and discover how Nauset helps every learner reach their full potential.



Our Enrollment Period is Open!

STURGEON BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IB

Our Enrollment Period is Open

For grade 9 and 10 applicants for the

2026-2027 School Year

December 1/2025 - January 16/2025

Apply Here!

Notes from the Social Worker

Guradians' Survival Guide

Re-Entry Blues

Surviving the first days after break

From the social work office



We all need time to re-adjust

The first days back can feel bumpy - not because something is wrong, but because routines, expectations, and social & academic demands return **all at once**. What you are seeing is often re-entry, not regression or backsliding



Mindset

Re-entry is not a test of how well a break went. It is a transition - and transitions are hard for developing brains.



Right now, calm connection matters more than fixing, pushing or correcting

Challenge

Try this

Try saying...

Big Emotions

tears, irritability, reactions

Keep calm, hold space for emotions, don't try to fix

Transitions are tough. I am not surprised you feel upset

Avoidance

slow mornings, headaches

Reduce language, show empathy, take small steps

Let's focus on getting dressed and see how we feel afterwards

Sleep and energy

trouble waking up & sleeping

Expect gradual improvement, re-establish routines gently

Your body is adjusting; this will get easier.

Executive Functions

forgetting, trouble starting

Add structure instead of consequences, use checklists

Let's look at what is first. I will help you get started.

Whining & needy

clinginess, boundary-testing

Be curious, provide short moments of connection

Want to see this funny reel about a sad dog?

Upcoming Events

- Monday, January 5th: School Resumes
- Thursday, January 8th: Admissions Open House for Prospective Families (6pm)
- Monday, January 19th: No School (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- **Tuesday, January 20th: No School (staff professional development)**
- Tuesday, January 20th: Ski Trip
- February 16th- February 20th: February Vacation
- Monday, February 23rd: Admissions Deadline (Siblings MUST apply!!!)
- Thursday, February 26th: Lottery for 2026-2027 School Year
- Wednesday, March 4th: Half Day
- Friday, March 27th: CCLCS Annual Auction at Wequassett Resort