“We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it.” Barack Obama

July 31st, 2020

Issue 1: Family Newsletter

What’s Inside?

- New lingo
- July Survey Results
- What to expect in fall?
- Technology Update
- Thank you- to you!
What’s all of this new lingo?

**Asynchronous Learning:** the idea that students learn the same material at different times and in different locations

**Synchronous Learning:** the idea that students learn at the same time by activities such as attending a lecture or laboratory

**Remote Learning Model:** a model in which students learn from a location other than the school (most often their homes) through a combination of live online classes and work provided in a database such as Google Classroom

**Hybrid Learning Model:** a model in which a combination of in person learning opportunities and remote learning opportunities are offered to students
In June 2020, we sent out a survey to get feedback on your student’s Remote Learning experience. In July, we followed up with phone calls as we continued planning for our reopening. If you have not been able to give feedback and are still interested, please reach out to Tarrence Brown, Dean of Culture, Tarrence.Brown@codmanacademy.org, 617-791-3938

Some important highlights:

- 82% of our families prefer either a hybrid or remote learning model
- 57% of parents responded that they were quite or extremely concerned about their students' health returning to the building
- 65% of parents responded the academic deliverable expectations were "very clear",
- 45% responded the grading policy was "very clear"
- 55% of parents reported their student was quite or extremely engaged during spring remote learning
- 53% of parents reported they are quite or extremely confident that their student made academic progress in the spring
On July 31st, we submitted a Preliminary Reopening Plan to the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education for approval. The required plan includes details for how to hold school in a remote learning, hybrid learning, and a full in person learning model. These models were developed and reviewed by our teams with a focus on what’s best for our students—physical health, education, and emotional being.

Our goal is to return to in person learning as much and as soon as possible. We realize that this will not be a possibility at the start of the school year and are anticipating a remote start for our students. In order to be more fully prepared for health, safety and different learning models we are adding professional development time for staff, moving the first day of school to 8/31.

As we work to finalize these plans, we will continue to reach out to you to understand how to best serve your family in this new reality. We appreciate the work you have done to ensure your student is able to continue growing as we navigate change.

Important Dates

August 11th: Parent Council (K1-8 5:00pm, 9-12 6:00pm)

August 31st: First Day of Classes for students, grades 1-12

September 8th: First Day of Classes for students, K1/K2

October 12th: No Classes, Indigenous Peoples Day
Thank you, to you!

“Ms. Dolor was a great resource and ally for the school during remote learning. She was in the room with both her 5th grader and 7th grader during their classes and often helped troubleshoot any issues. If there were changes to the schedules or lesson design, I often had her test it out with her students, as they can see if from the student side.” – Rachel Bloom, 5-8 Teacher

“Tarah’s mom was learning alongside Tarah, she gave me important feedback letting me know she was appreciating the lessons and taking the time to help Tarah was actually also helping her learn.” Jemma Joseph, K2 Teacher

“Eman’s mom took the time to let us know we needed to communicate with her more so she could help him and us be successful. It was an “ah-ha” moment for the team, realizing we needed to do more to keep communication active with families” Edwin Yoo, Grade 9/12 Teacher

“Mr. and Mrs. Hall were really helpful in being sure to read all of the information sent out before classes started. They took the time to join James and be sure he was ready to go!” Marcus Parker, Grade 3 Teacher

“Ms. Coleman went out of her way to work with her son, encouraging him to join office hours and be sure to get the most out of his learning.” Sydney Chaffee, Grade 9 Teacher

I Need My Chromebook!

Great! We are excited to get everyone their chrome books and ensure they’re ready for classes to begin. During the week of 8/24, we will be distributing computers in the main office of our Lithgow Building from 9-12pm. *If you cannot make it, please reach out to our team at helpdesk@codmanacademy.org