Wednesday, August 13th, 2014

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the Grade 4 team we would like to welcome you to Connect Charter School. We are all looking forward to an exciting year with your child! We wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some basic information about our school.

**Homerooms**

In order to better meet the needs of each individual student, grade fours will be placed in temporary homerooms for the first few days of class. This will allow our learning community to become better acquainted with one another as a group before final homerooms and pod assignments are determined. Beginning on Monday, August 18th, each child will have a designated homeroom, and will move together to various classrooms throughout the day. We ask that each child have a pair of indoor shoes appropriate for movement in both Drama and Physical Education that will remain in his or her homeroom.

**Schedules:**

Connect Charter School runs on a six-day cycle.  Our first day, Wednesday, August 13th is a “**Day 0**”. Thursday and Friday (**Day 1** and **2**)will consist of team building activities with all grade fours. Formal instruction will begin on Monday, August 18th, **Day 3** on your child’s schedule. Schedules will be posted in each classroom and on the class website ([www.connectgrade4.weebly.com](http://www.connectgrade4.weebly.com)) on Monday. Students will also receive a copy of the schedule to keep in his or her agenda.

**Learning in Grade Four**

The philosophy of Connect Charter School is to approach learning through an inquiry based lens. Throughout the year, your child will be challenged to think about problems and projects that place the skills they need to know for Grade 4 in a meaningful and authentic context. A great way to support your child is to continuously ask them questions about their work and their learning experiences. By asking these questions, you will encourage your child to think critically and advance their learning in a meaningful way.

**A Culture of Mutual Respect:**

Cultivating a culture of mutual respect is integral to our school community and forms the fundamental building blocks of our everyday interactions. As a team we work hard to ensure that every student feels respected and cared for. Through our actions, words and attitudes, we strive to demonstrate respect for ourselves each other and our learning environment. If you have concerns regarding social interactions or transitional issues, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we may work together to support your child.

**Communication:**

There will be one blog update, on our class website, for all grade fours posted on the final day of each school week. We request that parents and students review these blog posts every weekend in order to reflect on what has taken place each week. These updates are a great opportunity to connect with the learning that takes place in class and review what we’ve discovered. We will attach a link to each post to allow an opportunity for parents and students to share their thoughts on what’s happening. This process provides us with invaluable feedback on each child’s individual experience.

Your child will also be given an agenda that they will be asked to write in every day.  We request that parents review and sign it daily to ensure that this important three-way communication channel remains open. Their agenda will often contain reminders of upcoming activities that they might need to be prepared for. Open communication is of fundamental importance to the success of our learning community. Please contact us by email or phone (282-2890) outside of class hours with questions or inquiries. If your child will be absent or late, please contact the main office by email or phone message.

**Homework:**

Each day at Connect, we provide seven hours of rigorous engagement in academic and physical endeavors for your child. Our focus is on helping each student develop a deep understanding in Math, Science and the Humanities. Although we will not assign daily homework, on occasion work might come home for special projects or if it is not completed in class. This will be noted in students’ agendas or via email. If assignments are late or missing, parents will be contacted via email.

**Lunch:**

Students at Connect eat their lunches in the classroom. Please be aware that microwaves and hot water are not available. We strongly encourage that all lunch containers are labeled as everyone seems to have the same Tupperware. We also recommend that students bring labeled water bottles with them to school. We have top of the line filtered water bottle stations throughout CSS hallways for regular refills!

We look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Dave Bennett & Heather Melville -  Grade 4 Math/Science

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