



Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School

195 Route 137, E. Harwich, MA 02645

phone: 774-408-7994

August 5th, 2025

Greetings CCLCS Families!

As Lighthouse's new Executive Director, I cannot wait to welcome all of our students back to campus later this month. A new school year is a fresh beginning—a chance to set goals, grow academically and personally, and create lasting memories. To both our returning families and those new to our school community, it gives me immense pleasure to begin this exciting journey together!

The summer months have allowed our teachers and staff time to rest and recharge, refine and research engaging lessons, beautify our campus, and ensure that policies and procedures are in place so that every student feels supported from the moment they set foot on campus. All of this purposeful energy is in anticipation of students' arrival on the morning of **Thursday, August 28th**, when we can collectively kick off the start of a new year!

A reminder to all that the school day officially begins at 8:35 AM and ends at 3PM, however, drop off can begin at 8:10AM and any student who arrives between 8:10AM - 8:35AM will attend morning recess outside.

- **Please note that Thursday, August 28th is a FULL day of school, with dismissal at 3PM.**
- **Please note that Friday, August 29th is a HALF day, and students will be dismissed at 11:45AM. Yellow buses will be running on 8/29 to all stops, but Flex buses will not be available, and DART buses will need to be scheduled by guardians.**
- **NO School on Monday, September 1st.**

Below you will find loads of important information regarding the first day of school and more, including groupings, schedules and transportation details. In several cases, a form may require your timely response to a specific request for information, so be sure to read attentively. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. See you soon!

Ben Parsons
Executive Director

Back to School Information

ALL GRADES	Pick Up/Drop Off Information YELLOW BUS INFORMATION Please see this important letter for specific YELLOW BUS expectations.
6th	Welcome Letter
7th	Welcome Letter
8th	Welcome Letter
New 7th and 8th Graders	Helpful Information for New Families

Back to School Forms

HARD COPY OF THREE FORMS WILL BE SENT HOME AND MUST BE RETURNED-

Please check your student's backpack after their first day at school for these important forms.

They must be returned on the next day of school (8/29/2025)

- 1.) Student Emergency Information Form - please update, sign & return
- 2.) Medical Information Packet - please update, sign & return
- 3.) Blanket Permission Slip

ADDITIONAL ONLINE FORMS -

Please complete or print these from the website and return to school no later than 9/12/2025.

- 1.) [Do not photo form](#)
- 2.) [Free & reduced lunch application](#) Please note that per Massachusetts State Law, all breakfast and lunches are free for all students at CCLCS. Applying for "free" or "reduced" lunch status might help low income families qualify for other benefits (ex: field trip scholarships).
- 3.) [Accident Insurance Protection for Students](#)
- 4.) [Guardian Volunteer Survey of Interest](#)
- 5.) [Family Directory Opt Out Form](#)

Student Handbook & RUP

Before the school year begins, please carve out a few minutes to review our Student Handbook and the Responsible Use Policy.

Please complete the acknowledgement form for BOTH documents!!

[Student Handbook](#)

[Acknowledgement Form](#) (Student Handbook)

[Responsible Use Policy](#)

[Acknowledgement Form](#) (Responsible Use Policy)

Personal Device Free Zone!!

PLEASE READ & COMPLETE!

Please note! We are a personal device free school. This means that students will hand in their personal devices at the start of the day. They will receive them back at the end of the day. Devices will be kept in the main office during the school day.

ALL guardians must complete the following information for each of their students, even if they do not own a device at this time! If your child gets a device during the school year, please update. Thank you!

[Cell Phone Policy & Registration](#) (this must be completed by ALL families)

Important Upcoming Dates

- ★ [25/26 School Calendar](#)
- ★ **Campus Cleanup Day August 23. More info to come!**
- ★ **School Photos will be on September 5th**
- ★ **SAVE THE DATE for OPEN HOUSES (Adults Only)!**
 - 6th & 7th Grade - Tuesday, September 16th @ 6PM
 - 8th Grade - Thursday, September 18 @ 6PM

Breakfast & Lunch at CCLCS

- If you plan on bringing lunch, please remember we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.
- CCLCS has a refillable water fountain. All students should **bring their own labeled water bottle** to use throughout the day.
- As per our Wellness Policy, we ask that students ***refrain from bringing in candy, soda or caffeinated beverages***. Birthday celebrations in the form of baked goods are *not* permitted.
- Information about [meals at CCLCS can be found here](#).
- All students may order breakfast & lunch online at **no cost**. If you plan on ordering food please order ahead of time through the [EZ School App](#). Logins will be sent to new families no later than a week before school begins
- While meals are free to students, they do cost the school. Additionally, we ask students to be mindful of food waste. Please discuss options with your student!

Please contact Ms. Kast (hkast@cclcs.info) with any questions you may have about the school's food program.

Summer Assignments

Summer Assignment and supply lists can be found on our website!

[Summer Assignments & Supply Lists](#)

Meet the New Staff!

Mary Beth
Barnhardt

Speech
Language
Pathologist

Mary Beth is a passionate and creative speech-language pathologist with more than 20 years of experience supporting students in finding their voices—literally and figuratively! She brings joy, collaboration, and curiosity to her work, whether she's helping middle schoolers master conversation skills or co-teaching self-regulation strategies. When she's not at school, you might find Mary Beth in the garden, paddleboarding, or messing about with art supplies. She is beyond excited to be part of the CCLCS community! Mary Beth lives in Falmouth with her husband, daughter, two dogs and two cats.

Rachel Giffee Instructional Assistant	Rachel earned her BFA in Art Education from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. She is a Cape Cod native and CCLCS alum, excited to rejoin the community. In her free time she loves to spend time on nature trails, creating and baking, but is always eager to pick up something new!
Brenna Johnson Art Teacher	Brenna joins us as our new art teacher. Brenna has been an art educator extraordinaire in Franklin, MA for many years, teaching primarily at the high school level and creating the “Empty Bowls” program which has raised over \$100,000 for the Franklin Food Pantry. She was born and raised in the Nauset district and has a strong desire to return to the Cape. She has already spent some time in the art classroom at CCLCS to get a feel for the supplies, curriculum materials, and past student projects and is “ready to do the work to make the art classroom a magical place!”
Michael Francis Smith Band and General Music instructor	Michael is best known for creating a welcoming classroom filled with singing, playing, and joyful music-making, and he is excited to become part of the team at the Lighthouse Charter School. A composer, songwriter, author, and music educator, he is dedicated to engaging every student in making music so they continue singing, playing and creating music for life. He is the author of the popular <i>It's Time to Play</i> series for band, strings, and recorder, and has presented at the Midwest Band Clinic and music educator conferences nationwide. His compositions are known for their accessibility, diversity, and improvisatory spirit. Alongside his career in music, he is also a passionate gardener who finds hope and inspiration in cultivating beautiful outdoor spaces.
Tara Mason 8th Grade French Teacher	Tara aka Madame Mason aka the Madaminator has been in love with the French language and culture since she was in middle school. She has a BA in French & Secondary Education from Roanoke College and a Masters degree in Curriculum and Teaching from Fitchburg State University. She has been teaching modern languages to middle school students for almost three decades! She is most proud of her two children who are CCLCS alumni. She is a native Cape Codder and currently lives with her family in Yarmouth. Beyond the classroom, Madame likes to read mysteries, to travel and to listen to traditional Celtic music.
Doug Mason 7th grade math teacher	Douglas earned a BS from Springfield College where he played rugby for four years. He spent the last seven years teaching math at St. Pius X School. He has two children who are graduates of CCLCS and coached both baseball and basketball while they attended CCLCS. Baseball is one of his passions. After umpiring in the Cape Cod Baseball League for over 10 summers, he now spends his

	summers umpiring in Cooperstown, NY, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. When not on the baseball field he loves to travel with his wife across Europe, visit different MLB stadiums with his son or watch his daughter perform in her theater productions around Cape Cod.
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Returning Staff in New Positions!

Catherine O'Leary will be joining the 8th grade team as the 8th grade ELA teacher

Annie Haven will be joining the 8th grade team as the 8th grade Science teacher

Andy Novak will be shifting from 8th grade science to 8th grade math

Musical Offerings for All!

Our Music Department is excited to start a new year! It is not too late to begin a band, string instrument or the guitar. Here is the schedule for the 25/26 school year. Former and new musicians interested in joining should reach out to Mr. Girardin for chorus (mgirardin@cclcs.info), Dr. Smith for band (msmith@cclcs.info), or Ms. Schultze for strings (celloduo@verizon.net)

- Band - Every Tuesday, 7:45 - 8:30AM (Dr. Smith)
- Chorus - Every Thursday, 7:45AM - 8:30AM (Mr. Girardin)
- Strings Ensemble - Every Friday, 7:45AM - 8:30AM (Ms. Schultze)
- All other Instrumental Lessons/Sectionals, Tuesdays during the day (Dr. Smith), except strings on Wednesdays (beginner) and Fridays (Ms. Schultze)
- Musical Theater Show Choir - Every Friday, 3PM - 4PM (Mr. Girardin)
- Guitar: Thursday afternoon during school day as a sectional takeout class either at 1:15 or 2:15 (Mr. Girardin)

Be on the lookout for more details in our weekly Notes to Home! Notes to Home is our weekly guardian newsletter sent out via email Monday afternoons during the school year.