9th Grade Academy

Oak Team News

August, 2026

Welcome Oak Team Families, Class of 2030!

As you're well aware, the school year is quickly approaching. While we know that some students (and parents) may be experiencing a few jitters about starting high school, we want you to know that you have a group of dedicated teachers, tutors, and counselors who are looking forward to your arrival – and are eager to help you find your place, your people, and success at CCHS. We look forward to meeting you.

When you arrive at CCHS (for Orientation, on Friday, August 28th), you will see many new faces. There are over 250 incoming 9th graders this year from Concord, Carlisle, & Boston schools as well as from a few other communities. There will also be some new folks who have transferred or moved to the school district.

In order to smooth this transition, we have divided the 9th Grade class into four teams of students (Elm, Maple, Oak and Willow). A core team of faculty & guidance counselors will work with each team (scroll to end of newsletter to see your team). This team will work to connect with every student to meet the academic and social/ emotional challenges of 9th Grade. Our goal is to help each student feel confident and engaged by the end of their first year and excited to return to make the most of their next three years at CCHS. Each team has a team leader who, together with the guidance counselor assigned to the student, can serve as your connectors to help answer any questions, & communicate information between home and school.

Speaking of reaching out, we will be reaching out to our families throughout the year to share information and solicit questions and feedback. However, if you have any questions or concerns in the coming days and weeks, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Oak Team Coordinator, Theresa Ruggiero, via email: truggiero@concordcarlisle.org, I will do my best to connect you to the information you are seeking.

Finally, while we don't want to burden you with too much information over the last days of summer, we're passing along some information that might be helpful:

Sincerely,
The Oak Team Teachers & Staff

Important Dates and INFORMATION

- Fall sports try-outs start on Monday 8/24 (for more info, see here)
- Orientation day for ALL 9th-grade students is Friday, August 28th, from 9:00 am-2:41 pm (Orientation Information Letter linked; it is also shared at the end of this newsletter)
- 9th Grade Endless Summer Social, Friday, August 28th (see details and buy tickets here)
- The First Day of school for all CCHS students is Monday, August 30th, from 8:00 am-2:41 pm
- No School Friday, September 4th
- No School Monday, September 7th
- Back-to-School Night for families is on the evening of Thursday, September 10th, 5:30
- Whole school Homecoming Ball, Saturday, September 19th

Other important information:

Link to order your Class of 2030 Sweatshirt. Join your classmates in cozy school spirit. Order now, and they will be delivered by the end of September!

A Map of the Building Students will have a chance to tour the building during orientation and will find all of their classes so they are familiar with how to get around on the first day of school. If you want additional time, you can stay after orientation and go at your own pace using this map to find your way around. Don't hesitate to ask one of your teachers for help. Students who want a more individualized tour **before** the 9th-grade orientation can sign up for a Class Government tour here.

CCHS Website

The school website is a great resource for information throughout your time here, you can find the bell schedules, master calendar, the 9th grade transition landing page, and copies of the weekly wire newsletter here.

Introducing Root 9

Root 9 is a 9th grade course designed to help our ninth-graders make a confident and successful transition to CCHS. Think of it as a guide to getting rooted in our community while developing the skills they'll need to grow and thrive at CCHS. In our once-a-week classes, we'll explore essential high school skills like time management, effective study strategies, academic integrity, and teamwork in a fun and engaging environment. Our goal is to empower students with the habits and mindset they need to become proactive and self-assured learners from day one. We will be sure to share more information with you once the school year gets underway!

Guidance Department

During Orientation, students will visit the "Student Support Services" suite across from the front office where guidance counselor offices are located. Counselors will meet with students during flex blocks the week of Labor Day to introduce themselves. We encourage you to also reach out early by email if you have specific information that you want to share with the team of teachers before the school year starts, note that guidance counselors will not be available for calls or responding to emails over the summer however so don't be concerned if you don't hear back right away.

Oak Team students are assigned to Tamara DiCesare (tdicesare@concordcarlisle.org) or Alison Nowicki (anowicki@concordcarlisle.org). You can find out which one you are assigned by looking at your schedule in Aspen.

If a student needs a schedule change, counselors are available by appointment on Monday, August 24, Tuesday, August 25, and Wednesday, August 26, from 8:00 AM - 2:45 PM. These appointments will be held on Zoom. You will receive the Zoom link when you sign up for your appointment.

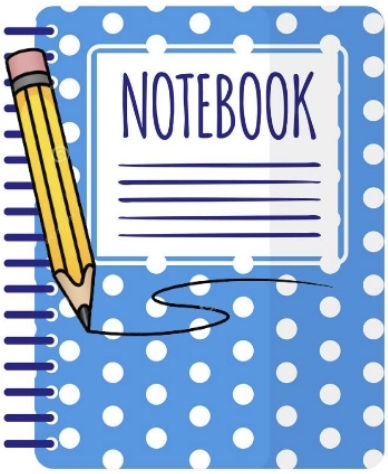
To Sign up for an appointment:

- The URL to log on to make appointments is https://cchs.schoolsoft.ca (Notice that there is no "www" in this address, and ends with .ca instead of .com)
- If you have used the conference manager before, you don't have to register, you are already in the database, and your password is still usable.
- Once you log in, use the "Available Conference Sessions" dropdown menu and select "summer schedule help" and a day that works for you. Click on "Summer Help Guidance" name and select "next." Finally, select any available time slot that works with your schedule. Once selected, you will be able to make comments. Please give us a brief explanation of your concern.
- If you have any trouble making an appointment, please contact Meg Merna (mmerna@concordcarlisle.org).

Tech Information:

- You will be using a CCHS Google account for your email and document drive while at CCHS. You will use this email to access Google Classroom and communicate with your teachers. You will get your **email** at orientation, and most will follow this format: first initial, last name, and last two digits of the year of graduation. For example, Brendan Cohane class of 2030 would be bcohane30@concordcarlisle.org
- Your teachers will use **Google Classroom** to post assignments and resources. Some teachers will collect and give feedback on assignments in Google Classroom. You will receive your Google Classroom codes on the first day of school.
- Your teachers will post grades on the **Aspen portal** which is viewable to parents as well. Aspen is also where you will go to view your schedule. During orientation, the student leaders will walk you through how to access Aspen and your schedule.

school supplies



- Materials List: Students will be expected to have a planner/assignment tracker, charged laptop, earbuds, pencils, notebooks, highlighter, folders and calculator in their school bag every day. Click on the link to get further details of what materials we would like all students to have to fully participate in all academic activities every day.
- PDF scanner app (like free Adobe scan or Turbo scan) and Google Drive & Google Classroom downloaded onto a cell phone for use in digitizing paper assignments and submitting or sharing easily

Clubs and Organizations

CCHS Clubs: Clubs are a great way for incoming 9th graders to find a community of mixed-grade students and make connections to a faculty member outside of the classroom. CCHS has over 60 active clubs so there is something for everyone. Some meet before school and some meet after. **There will be a club fair Friday September 25, 2026** during FLEX for just 9th graders as well as during lunch (open to all students) so students can learn more about each club from its members.

Oak Team Teachers & Staff

Tamara DiCesare
Guidance & Counseling

Alison Nowicki
Guidance & Counseling

Jen Greeley
English

Theresa Ruggiero
Planet Earth

Sara Kiesselbach
Mathematics

Jason Wise
Social Studies

Dear Class of 2030,

As some of you may know your first day at CCHS will be a little different than the normal school day. We have organized a Grade 9 Orientation in order to familiarize you with the school and ease you into your first year of high school. On the day of Orientation, there will be members of the Class of 2027 and 2028 who will serve as Orientation leaders to provide you support and guidance.

During the day, the leaders will help "orient" you with CCHS and give you an opportunity to meet fellow 9th graders in addition to 11th and 12th graders. Each 9th grader will receive their school computer and tech info, school schedule and school day info, and more. Our goal by the end of the orientation is to make every 9th grader comfortable for their first day of classes.

This year Grade 9 Orientation will occur on **Friday August 28, 2026.**

Grade 9 Orientation will begin at **9:00 AM and end at 2:40 PM**. Buses will operate with normal routes on a 1 hour later schedule. **A catered lunch will be provided down on the lower fields**.

Please visit the district webpage for bus routes (when available).
Transportation Contact Information. Email us or give us a call at 978-461-3981

- A portion of the day will be outside.
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear sunscreen and "active" clothes (T-shirts, sneakers, and shorts or pants).
- We would also suggest that you avoid sandals and skirts, and "fancier" clothing.
- Upon arriving at the school by 9:00 AM, please check in outside the auditorium where you will be directed to your assigned group and leaders. Parents who are dropping off should drive up around to the main entrance and drop off at the door.
- Those with allergies and any medical concerns should touch base with the school nurse prior to the 28th.
- You DO NOT need school supplies on this day; however, you will need a water bottle, and any other snacks or personal items. You may want a bag or backpack for your laptop.
- **If you have food allergies or concerns, please bring your own bag lunch**.
- If you do have severe allergies, asthma, or other special health concerns, we recommend that you carry your Epi-pen, inhaler, and other supplies with you throughout the day.
- Please notify the school nurse (you can leave a message on x 7500 or stop in room 207) and be sure to let your leaders know your health concerns at the beginning of the day so we can help prevent any complications and you can get immediate help if needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Ms. Bruno: hbruno@concordcarlisle.org or one of the student leader captains Silvia Hentemann: shentemann27@concordcarlisle.org, MacKenna Antonangeli: mantonangeli27@concordcarlisle.org, and Alex Skelly: askelly27@concordcarlisle.org

Don't forget to order a **class of 2030 sweatshirt**:
https://www.concordcarlisle.org/athletics/school-store#!/Class-Sweatshirt-2030/p/853163610

Also, purchase your **9th Grade Endless Summer Social ticket**:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-endless-summer-social-class-of-2030-tickets-1996633467449?aff=oddtdtcreator

We look forward to seeing you on the 28th. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Hanna Bruno
Grade 9 Orientation Coordinator