



COMMON GROUND HIGH · SCHOOL

358 Springside Ave • New Haven, CT • 06515 • (203) 389-0823 • cghs@commongroundct.org • www.commongroundct.org

August 16, 2021

Dear New Students and Families,

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and board I heartily welcome you to Common Ground High School! After an unprecedented and unpredictable past 18 months, we are grateful and eager to bring our educational community back together to work hard, form new friendships, and develop the next generation of environmental and social justice leaders.

This new school year presents an opportunity to reset and reimagine our idea of “normal,” as **we fully return to in-person learning**. Keeping our community healthy and safe will be our utmost priority; the social and emotional health of our students will be prioritized as much as COVID-19 protocols. We will continue to hold high academic and social expectations for our Common Ground students, while creating spaces for celebration, recognition, and engagement of all members of our community.

Open, ongoing, and timely communication will be critical to our stability this year as we continue operating in a dynamic and risky environment. Please review the information below, frequently check our website www.commongroundct.org, your email, and telephone messages for important updates. And of course, please contact me at cherry.pacquette-emmanuel@nhep.com if you have any questions or need clarification on any school-related topic.

Important Dates:

- We are returning to 100% in person learning this school year. Our weekly class schedule is enclosed and can be found at <https://www.commongroundct.org/high-school/schedule-calendar/> and our reopening plan is found at our website [commongroundct.org/high-school](http://www.commongroundct.org/high-school).

Event	Date and Location
Family Orientation Night (For All Families)	Online via Zoom (<i>link will be sent via SMS</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, August 30 at 6pm
9th grade First Day of School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedules & Chromebooks Distributed Grab & Go Lunch Provided Attendance will be taken 	In person on Common Ground's campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday, August 31st, 8-11:30am Wednesday, September 1, 8-11:30am
10-12th grade First Day of School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedules & Chromebooks Distributed Grab & Go Lunch Provided Attendance will be taken 	In person on Common Ground's campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday, August 31st, 12:30-3:00pm Wednesday, September 1, 12:30-3:00pm
First Full Day of Classes - ALL GRADES	In person on Common Ground's campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, September 2nd
Back to School Night (For families and students)	In person on Common Ground's campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, September 23rd at 6pm

COVID-19 Safety Information:

- All students and staff on campus must wear masks when indoors. Common Ground will provide masks for each student but strongly encourage that students arrive in masks, especially if traveling using public transportation.
- 1 way masks (with an air vent) are not permitted. If your child has a medical condition that prohibits the use of masks, please contact our school nurse, Keith Riley, to provide supporting medical documentation at keith.riley@commongroundct.org.
- Please review and sign the attached [COVID-19 form](#) with additional details and explain these rules to your child. For everyone's safety, violation of these rules will be quickly and firmly addressed and may include removal from the learning environment.
- **IMPORTANT:** Please take the time to answer the invitation email from "SchoolDocs", which is our electronic medical records (EMR) program that helps us keep track of health office visits, Doctor Physicals, immunization status, as well as any updates to students' health needs. **School Docs will be the place where you upload proof of Covid Vaccination status.**

Instructional Needs:

- **Chromebooks:** All students entering Common Ground will be loaned a Google Chromebook that will be necessary to participate in all classes. There is a \$35/year insurance fee that must be paid by prior to August 31st, to enable distribution of Chromebooks and training at Freshman Orientation. During orientation, 9th graders will be learning about their devices and specific programs they will be using during the school year so it is essential that all 9th graders pay these insurance fees prior to August 31st, the first day of 9th grade orientation.

Our Chromebook Student Use Agreement, enclosed in this mailing, provides important details about this program. If your student has not been issued a Chromebook and/or has not paid the insurance fee, we are accepting insurance fees now. Please call the school's main office to schedule the chromebook pickup and/or call Ana Rosa at 203-389-0823 ext. 1202 to pay by credit card for the insurance fee.

- **School Calendar:** The school calendar for 2021-2022 is enclosed. Please note: we do not follow the New Haven Public School calendar exactly so it is very important that you review the Common Ground calendar carefully.
- **School Supplies:** A back-to-school supplies list is enclosed. Please check the supplies list carefully so your student has what they need to be successful this year. ALL students need a graphing calculator for math.
- **Student Registration:** All students must be registered to begin the 2021-2022 year at Common Ground. If your student is not registered at Common Ground please call the school at 389-0823 ext. 1200 or 1202 to schedule your registration appointment. Please call Ana at 203 389-0823 ext. 1202 or Iris at 203 389-0823 ext. 1200 if you have any questions about student registration and/or to report any changes in address or phone numbers.

Please safely enjoy the rest of your summer vacation!

Cherry Pacquette-Emmanuel
School Director