



COMMON GROUND HIGH · SCHOOL

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August 16, 2021

Dear Common Ground Students and Families,

I hope you are enjoying the last few weeks of summer vacation and gearing up for **our full return to in-person learning on August 31st!** Teachers, administrators, board members, even the chickens and goats are excited to welcome back all members of our community to a more “normal” learning environment. Keeping our students and staff healthy and safe will be our utmost priority so that we can remain together for the duration of the year. The social and emotional health of our community will be given the same priority as our physical safety and COVID-19 protocols. We will continue to hold high academic and social expectations for our Common Ground students, and more than ever we will embrace every opportunity to celebrate, recognize, and engage all members of our community.

Open, ongoing, and clear two-way communication will be critical to our stability this year as we continue operating in unpredictable times. 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@nhp.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.

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 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:** Our one-to-one Chromebook initiative continues this year. All students have already been issued loaner Chromebooks at no cost other than a \$35/year insurance fee. Our Chromebook Student Use Agreement, enclosed in this mailing, provides important details about this program. If you have not paid the insurance fee previously, we are accepting insurance fees now. Please contact the school office to make arrangements for payment or call Ana Rosa at 203-389-0823 ext. 1202 to pay by credit card. Please note: All outstanding chromebook insurance fees must be paid or a payment plan should be arranged.
- **School Calendar:** The school calendar for 2021-2022 is enclosed. Please note: we do not follow the school calendar for New Haven 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.

Staff Updates:

- I cannot overstate the absolute honor it is to join Common Ground as the new school director! In stepping into this position, [Monica Maccera Filppu](#) will now resume her primary role as the amazing Executive Director of Common Ground after serving in the dual role of executive and interim school director last year. Monica has been instrumental in helping me transition into this new position, along with Common Ground's many other school leaders, including Bev Greene, Joel Tolman, Amy Champagne, and Monique Fraiser. There are many other staffing updates to share; these will be included in upcoming communications.

Please safely enjoy the rest of your summer vacation!

Cherry Pacquette-Emmanuel
School Director