

Dear Charter Oak Families:

Welcome back to our 2016-2017 school year!

We cannot ask for a better start of the year! Our students are already here and as Faith, one of our student speakers at the Opening Day Ceremony said, now the building is finished, "It is when students fill it with laughter, love, and knowledge...that will be when the school is complete."

Our children are doing a tremendous job exploring the new building and in some cases already giving us ideas on how to take advantage of the exciting opportunities it offers. Our wonderful staff is committed to supporting their interests, their questions, and their learning journey.

This year I am particularly proud of our initial steps in having our students take action in one of the main topics of our world today: sustainability. Right from the first day, the entire school is making composting and recycling a top priority. Sustainability is a world issue and our students and staff, with the support of our parent community, are already taking action on the topic -- making their school experience relevant, as we strengthen a more internationally-minded approach to life.

I would like to express our appreciation to all the parents and students for their critical contribution for a smooth start. Our children and families are already entering and exiting the building every day in a safe way. We are all getting familiarized with our beautiful school and we feel increasingly comfortable moving around. I am already smiling when I see some of our youngest showing their families around inside the building -- telling them how to get to the cafeteria, the nurse, or the main office. Please make sure to remember that once the school day starts we lock our building. When you visit us, after 8:35, remember to use the Office Entrance which is located on the west side, where the old building used to be.

As quick update regarding parking and our library. We expect the parking lot to be completed in early November. Until then please continue to observe the guidelines we have shared with you in different communications. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact us.

Our library is fully furnished with the exception of the new shelving. All technology is in place, which allows our students and staff to access the many resources available online for research, reference, etc. Mrs. Cochrane, our Media Specialist has come up with a temporary plan to reduce the impact of not having complete collection of books. This plan includes using technology resources to support literacy and research skills, read alouds, and working with students to develop ways to use our new space creatively. Books from our book room are also available for students to borrow without formally checking them out and our classroom libraries have a significant number of fiction and nonfiction books available to students. We will be installing temporary shelving so regular circulation of books will not be delayed for much longer. Please stay tuned.

Our sincere gratitude for your partnership and for entrusting us with your children. We are truly looking forward to a fantastic year and my personal commitment to you to make sure that your children, each of them, have a joyful, exciting, and meaningful school year.



Juan Melián
Principal