

May 17, 2012

Dear Families of Students Currently in Grades 5-7,

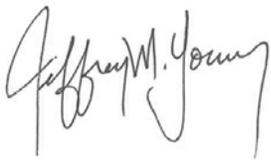
What an exciting time of extraordinary promise it is in the Cambridge Public Schools! In September 2012, we will open the doors of four new upper school campuses. All students in grades 6-8 will attend an upper school or the K-8 Amigos School. Faculty members have been assigned to each campus. Our four Heads of Upper School have begun meeting with their new staff and colleagues. The Upper School Program and its new curricula have been readied by our teachers and curriculum leaders. All we need now to launch this 21st century Upper School Program, which will provide a superior academic, social, and emotional experience to ALL Cambridge children, is ***your child!***

The first day of school will be September 4, 2012. The school day will be 8:55 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. at all campuses and the Amigos School. Bus assignments will be mailed in mid August, if your student qualifies for transportation. A description of the Upper School Program, as well as campus contact information, is available on a brochure posted to the CPS website (www.cpsd.us) and available at your school. You will receive more detailed information about next year from your Head of School this summer. Translation services are available; please contact us as described below. We look forward to hearing from you.

In addition, please join us for two very special events in the coming weeks. **On Wednesday, May 30th, 6:00-8:00 p.m., join us at the CRLS Cafeteria for Innovation Agenda Curriculum Night.** CPS curriculum coordinators, district leaders, and Heads of Upper School will be in attendance to present our new academic program and take your questions. In early June, **please join us to participate in the CPS Family Survey**, which will be available online at our district website as well as in paper form. We will be gathering feedback about your experience and perceptions of our district and schools. Your voice is critical to our students' success; please let it be heard!

In closing, as we stand on the verge of this transformative change for our children and district, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—words that launched the Innovation Agenda over a year ago: “The time is always right to do what is right.” I am grateful, humbled, and proud to say: that time, for us, is now. After a year of intensive, dedicated, high-quality work by all members of this community—families, teachers, school and district leaders, community partners, and School Committee—we stand ready to open four new campuses, and begin providing our grades 6-8 students with the excellence and equity that they deserve. As the 2012-13 school year progresses, we will continue to develop, improve, and refine our Upper School Program as we learn and move forward together, realizing the vision of excellence we hold as a city.

With gratitude and excitement for our days ahead,



Jeffrey M. Young
Superintendent of Schools