



# CRLS Commonly Asked Questions



## How does CRLS communicate?

1. Website
2. DYK Newsletter
3. Social Media
4. Automated Phone Calls
5. Mobile App
6. Email
7. Aspen
8. Channel 98
9. Snail Mail (limited)

## Who do I call when my child is absent?

- Call the clerk in your child's learning community. If you need to excuse your child, send in a note or email as well.
- Learn more: [http://crls.cpsd.us/about\\_crls/learning\\_communities](http://crls.cpsd.us/about_crls/learning_communities)

## Where can my child get homework help or tutoring?

- There is homework help after school every day except Tuesday in the library.
- There is also drop-in math every morning in the tutoring center in room 2132.
- Students can also request a tutor from Cambridge School Volunteers.

## What is curriculum night?

At the beginning of each semester, parents follow their child's schedule and meet teachers. You will learn about curriculum and grading policies.

## How does my child pay for lunch?

- School lunch is paid for the same way as in elementary school; you can use [mylunchmoney.com](http://mylunchmoney.com) or students can bring cash.
- CRLS is an open campus; students can go to local restaurants on Broadway and Cambridge Street – but CRLS serves a delicious, nutritious lunch for only \$3.
- Please fill out paperwork for free and reduced lunch if your child is eligible.

## How do I get involved as a parent?

CRLS has a number of parent committees: Friends of CRLS, CRLS School Council, Friends of Cambridge Athletics, CRLS Arts Committee

## What is the CCRC?

- It's the Career and College Resource Center, which is run by the Coordinator of Guidance Lynn Williams. She organizes college fairs, college visits, financial aid and scholarship information, and career opportunities for students.
- It is located on the first floor near the media cafe in room 1501.

## What is Aspen & how can I access it?

- [http://crls.cpsd.us/news/aspen\\_student\\_parent\\_accounts](http://crls.cpsd.us/news/aspen_student_parent_accounts)
- Aspen is Cambridge Public Schools' student information system, which includes data, teachers, curriculum, and grade book.
- Passwords will be given to students and families.
- For support, contact your Learning Community (LC) lab tech: [CRLSLabTechs@cpsd.us](mailto:CRLSLabTechs@cpsd.us)

## How do I register for parent-teacher conferences?

- Parent-teacher conferences are either scheduled online using the PTC scheduler or are at an evening event that has no pre-registration and is called "walk-in" time.
- Conferences happen every semester after the first marking period and are 10 minute time slots with teachers.
- There is an early release day and a delayed opening for students.
- Learn more: [http://crls.cpsd.us/for\\_families/parent\\_teacher\\_conferences](http://crls.cpsd.us/for_families/parent_teacher_conferences)

## What is DYK?

- DYK stands for Did You Know and is a weekly newsletter sent out on Mondays to students and parents.
- You will be automatically enrolled by the webmaster using the email provided in Aspen.
- You can opt-in with another email, or you can opt-out at any time.
- Learn more: <http://crls.cpsd.us/news/dyk>

## Where do I find information on school events and holidays?

All school events, vacations, and holidays are listed on the school calendar on the CRLS website: <http://crls.cpsd.us/calendar>

### What is a Learning Community & how are students assigned to their LC?

- Each Learning Community (LC) has a Dean of Students, Dean of Curriculum, two Guidance Counselors, Clerks, Social Workers, and Psychologists.
- LCs are your administrative staff.
- Students take classes with all LCs.
- Students are randomly assigned to each LC; the only exception is sibling preference for those currently enrolled.

### When is MCAS testing?

- 10th graders take English MCAS in March and the Math MCAS in May.
- 9th graders take the Science MCAS in June.

### How does my child sign up for an athletic team & when are tryouts?

- Fall Sports: Sign up in June; season starts in late August
- Winter Sports: Sign up in October; season starts in December
- Spring Sports: Sign up in February; season starts in March
- Learn more: <http://crls.cpsd.us/athletics>

### How can my child get involved in clubs?

- Clubs are listed on the CRLS website.
- There is a club day in the fall; clubs will post flyers around school and make morning announcements.

### What is block scheduling?

- CRLS uses a 4x4 block schedule.
- There are two semesters and four classes per semester much like a university.
- Each block is 80 minutes long.

### What are CRLS hours?

Students start school at 8:05AM and end at 2:30PM.

Period 1	8:05–9:25AM
Community Meeting	9:29–9:44AM
Period 2	9:48–11:08AM
Period 3 & Lunch	
Lunch A	11:12–11:42AM
Period 3	11:46AM–1:06PM
Period 3	11:12–11:52AM
Lunch B	11:54AM–12:24PM
Period 3	12:26–1:06PM
Period 3	11:12AM–12:32PM
Lunch C	12:36–1:06PM
Period 4	1:10–2:30PM

### Where do I find the summer reading list?

- The list is posted on the CRLS website.
- The CPL stocks books for students to check out over the summer.

### How does my child get a bus pass?

MBTA passes are distributed in the main office at CRLS.

### When is freshman orientation?

Freshman Orientation is within the first two days of school.

### What is community meeting?

Community meeting is a 15-minute block after 1st period. This is a time when guidance counselors check-in with students and information is shared with students.

### How does my child get a student ID?

Student IDs are done through security. All students will be photographed, and IDs will be distributed.

### How does my child get a locker?

Student can get a locker from the Dean of Students. There is a one-time fee of \$5.

### When will students get their final class schedule?

- Final schedules (schedule with room numbers and teachers) are sent a week before school starts in late August.
- Schedule can be adjusted the first two weeks of school.

### What is the zone map?

- [http://bit.ly/crls\\_zones](http://bit.ly/crls_zones)
- When the school was renovated, the architects created zone and re-numbered to make it more user-friendly. The first digit of a room number is the floor; the second is the zone.

### What is the best way to communicate with my child's teachers?

- Parents can contact teachers directly through email.
- All cpsd email address are first initial and lastname@cpsd.us (e.g., Joe Smith is jsmith@cpsd.us).

Questions? Contact Greta Hardina, CRLS Family Liaison, at [ghardina@cpsd.us](mailto:ghardina@cpsd.us)

**CPS**  
Cambridge Public Schools



Cambridge Rindge & Latin School  
459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138  
[crls.cpsd.us](http://crls.cpsd.us) | 617.349.6630