



# BOSTON COLLEGIATE

August 22, 2022

Dear Boston Collegiate Families,

I hope you and your families have been enjoying summer! Today, the entire Boston Collegiate staff returned and embarked on our annual week-long All Staff Orientation before the school year begins. We are eager to be back together and are hard at work preparing last minute details before your students arrive next week! From our teaching staff engaging in purposeful professional development to make curriculum even more relevant to our operations team beautifying and improving upon our facilities, our entire 130+ team of staff has been preparing to make the 2022-2023 an incredible school year for our students.

As a reminder, the first day for students in grades 5, 7, and 9 is next Monday, August 29th. Students in all remaining grades begin on Tuesday, August 30th.

A key to a successful year is a strong communication between our school team and each family. Our advisors will be reaching out next week by phone to introduce themselves and begin the process of forming that early and critical relationship. In addition, we commit to sharing this weekly newsletter each Monday to update you on school happenings.

To kick off our school year strongly, we recommend that each student and family read through our 2022-2023 Student and Family Handbook, which will be shared in next Monday's newsletter. To demonstrate your pledge to our school expectations, we will be sending home a paper agreement on the first days of school and ask that it be returned by the end of the week. Expectations include:

- Abiding by the school dress code daily;
- Adhering to a new no-phone policy;
- Respecting school technology; and
- Respecting our neighbors and our neighborhood.

We know that anticipation for the school year is mounting. Given our school's recent transition to a new student information system, PowerSchool, student schedules will be made available on the first day of school. We will offer detailed information on our new family portal in the coming weeks.

Lastly, our buildings will be fully closed tomorrow, August 23rd as we participate in professional development and team building offsite at Hale Reservation. If you reach out to members of our team tomorrow they will be sure to respond on Wednesday.

Warmly,

Jenna Ogundipe  
Executive Director

## Principal Messages

### Lower School

Welcome back, Lower School students and families! We are welcoming many of you to Boston Collegiate for the first time and could not be more excited. We will be greeting our new 5th graders on Monday, August 29th and our returning 6th graders on Tuesday, August 30th. The start of a new school year often leads to a lot of nerves and questions, particularly for those of you walking into a new community. Rest assured we are ready to jump into a really exciting year of learning and community building! Please feel encouraged to reach out to Melissa Aybar if you have any questions or concerns. She is our School Leadership Fellow and will be covering Ms. Smith's absence this fall and can be reached at [maybar@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:maybar@bostoncollegiate.org). We look forward to seeing all of you soon!

### Middle School

Welcome back, Middle School Students and Families! With the new school year kicking off next week, I wanted to officially extend my warmest greetings to all members of the Boston Collegiate Middle School community. We are thrilled to welcome our 7th-grade students back to school on Monday, August 29, and our 8th-grade students on Tuesday, August 30. We know that our students may be feeling a mix of emotions—excitement, nervousness, and everything in between! Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Megan Noyes, your Middle School Principal, at [mnoyes@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:mnoyes@bostoncollegiate.org). We look forward to seeing you all next week!

### High School

Welcome back, High School Students and Families! I am so excited for our students to return to what will be an amazing year of learning, opportunity, and community building. Get excited to meet new members of our High School Community, including new students in the 9th and 10th grade, new teachers, and a new Dean of Students, Mr. Baptista! We look forward to meeting our 9th grade students on Monday, August 29th for their first day of school and we will welcome the rest of our 10-12th grade students on Tuesday, August 30th. Your teachers and staff have been working incredibly hard over the summer to get ready for a year of deeper learning! Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Nadiya Monestime, your High School Principal, at [nmonestime@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:nmonestime@bostoncollegiate.org). Can't wait to see you next week!

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### Back to School Night

We hope you will join us a few weeks into the school year to hear more in-person from our Principals, meet your student's teachers, and take a tour through our buildings. Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- Middle School: Thursday, September 8, 5:00-7:00 PM
- Lower School: Tuesday, September 13, 5:00-7:00 PM
- High School: Wednesday, September 14, 5:00-7:00 PM

### Afterschool at the Lower School

We will begin official afterschool programming on September 19th. Lower School families, please be on the lookout for an incoming interest form from Frank Espinal, our Family Engagement and Operations Manager.

### Restorative Justice Tier 1 Training

Our community is still purposefully embedding restorative practices in our transition to shift school culture and school discipline. Our newest staff members all participated in a two-day training in Tier 1 just this past week and as of yesterday, 92% of our staff have completed this training with the remaining staff to follow this year.

We are excited to host a training for families for anyone interested, curious, nervous, or simply open to learning more. The tier 1 training on restorative practices is an in-depth introduction to what restorative justice is, how to build community-based on positive relationships, and the tool of circle practice. This is an interactive and reflective opportunity. To share your interest, please fill out this [google form](#). The training, led by facilitators from the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University, will be held virtually on the following dates. We ask that attendees commit to all dates as the sessions build upon one another.

- Wednesday, October 5, 5:30-8:30 PM
- Thursday, October 6, 5:30-8:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 19, 5:30-8:30 PM
- Thursday, October 20, 5:30-8:30 PM

### Uniform Updates and Reminders

- To shop for school uniforms, click [here](#).
- We understand that many families placed uniform orders that will now arrive after the start of school. Students are allowed to wear solid color t-shirts (navy blue, white, gray, or lime green) for the first two weeks of school IF your uniform order does not arrive on time for the first day of school.
- We welcome students to wear uniforms from prior years. Please note the Collegiate hoodies are not included.
- We are aware that CustomInk has experienced a backstock issue with the youth mesh athletic shorts. Until they are able to fulfill orders, please know that solid athletic shorts are an acceptable substitute (no stripes, brand name indicators, etc.).

## COVID-19

### Current COVID-19 Protocols

- Boston Collegiate is a mask optional school community; we encourage any individual who wishes to wear a mask may do so, with the understanding that making the choice to wear one obligates students to wear a surgical or medical mask appropriately and effectively, fully covering the nose and mouth.
- The COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for students, but is NOT required for school entry.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, notification must be sent to the School Nurse Leader at [jrryan@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:jrryan@bostoncollegiate.org).
- Students who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days; Day 0 of isolation is the first day of symptoms development or the day of a positive test if there are no symptoms.
- If a student is asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever free for 24 hours, they may return to school on Day 6. They must mask through their Day 10.
- Any absences related to required isolation are excused after notification to the School Nurse Leader has occurred.
- Quarantine is not required for any student, regardless of vaccination status, after known COVID-19 exposure unless a student becomes symptomatic; those who can mask are encouraged to do so until Day 10 post-exposure.
- Boston Collegiate will not be identifying close contacts for any COVID-19 exposure that may occur during the school day or after school activities.

### COVID Testing

We are no longer offering weekly pooled testing to students and staff. We will still offer on-site symptomatic rapid testing for students in the health office that present with COVID-like symptoms. Parents/Guardians can opt students into this program by completing a consent form in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Parents will be notified immediately if a student tests positive. This test result will also be reported to the local public health department.

Mildly symptomatic students can remain in school if they are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative.

Our current COVID-19 protocols will also be located on our website. Any additional changes to them during the school year will be communicated directly to families by our School Nurse Leader, Jen Ryan.

## Be Connected

Be Connected is Boston Collegiate's family group, similar to a Parent-Teacher Association. The purpose of this group is to connect and engage families with one another and with school staff to better meet the needs of our students. Our group will meet in person on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 PM, starting on October 4th.

## Enrichment

### Sports Tryouts

Tryouts will be held on August 22nd for the following sports:

- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball
- Flag Football

**Only students in grades 7-12 can try out for a team sport.** Use this [link](#) to learn about more details, times, and dates. Please note that all vital paperwork must be completed via the [Family ID](#) in advance in order to participate. Please reach out to Mrs. Moise for any additional questions at [rmoise@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:rmoise@bostoncollegiate.org)

## College Corner

The College and Career Counseling Team is looking forward to working again with all of our students and families, 5-12, but we are particularly excited to kick off the college and career process with the Class of 2023 this fall! Parents and guardians, please be on the lookout for any communication from Mr. Clark, Ms. Grandville, or Mr. George. As class schedules are finalized, our counselor cohorts will be assigned as well. At that point, your student's counselor will reach out directly, via a letter sent home, or an email, or a text, or a phone call, or all of the above, to try and schedule an initial meeting with your senior student and an adult member of the family. We like to schedule these meetings for sometime in September or early October, schedules permitting, so we can all be on the same page about the student and family priorities as early on in the process as possible. There is much more to follow on this, but you should be hearing from your student's counselor sometime during the first two weeks of school. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Mr. George with any questions at [mgeorge@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:mgeorge@bostoncollegiate.org).

## Resources

### Free Student Meals in Massachusetts for 2022-2023

All students in Massachusetts qualify for free school breakfast and lunch this school year. We are excited to continue our partnership with our vendor, RevolutionFoods, and are excited to see the improvements they've committed to make as their industry rebounds from pandemic-based shortages.

### Orange Line Shut Down

Are you impacted by the orange line shut down? Are you still trying to figure out transportation to school? We are happy to connect families to create carpools. Please email [familyengagement@bostoncollegiate.org](mailto:familyengagement@bostoncollegiate.org).

### Local School Supply Event



## Highlights of the Week

### i2Camp

This summer, around 50 students in grades 5-8 attended i2camp, a STEM camp we have been fortunate enough to receive funding to run for several years now! Participating students attend for two weeks, with each week dedicated to a specific STEM-related unit. This year, we offered Kinetic Sculpture and Ecosystems.



### Family Panel at our New Staff Orientation

A special thanks to our students and families who participated in a panel for our newest staff members last week. We appreciate your time, your candor, and your partnership.

