

CCA Weekly Parent Update
Monday, December 18

From the Principal

Friday was a joyous day, as student representatives from each major traveled on the CCA Road Show to perform at five elementary schools. It was wonderful to see young children get so excited about the performances of CCA students. We hope that many of these students will apply to CCA in the future!

We are very excited to announce that we are adding a **Piano major** next year! Rising 8th-12th grade students will be able to audition for the piano major in the upcoming audition season. If you know any excellent pianists, please encourage them to apply by January 30 and audition!

Best wishes for a very happy holiday season and a great break. Can't wait to have your kids back here in 2024!

Reminders from last week:

Please note that **parent/teacher/student conferences will be on Thursday, January 11**. These conferences are on an "as needed" basis. We will reach out to parents who are requested to attend a conference by January 5th to schedule a time. However, if you currently have a student who is having any academic challenges/failing grades, please save the date to plan to attend a conference on the afternoon or evening of January 11th.

Wednesday December 20th is a scheduled full school day. We will have holiday parties in the morning and then a holiday Finale until 12:30. We know that some parents choose to dismiss their children early on that day to get a jumpstart on the winter break. Please wait to dismiss your child until after the Finale (12:30). If you are planning an early dismissal, please communicate by using this link by Tuesday, Dec. 19 so we can be prepared: <https://forms.gle/fwA7tk9fzE8> If you are allowing your student driver to dismiss early, please use this form as well.

Communications Literary Gala: The Communications Department's annual Lit Gala will take place December 18th and 19th at 6:30 in the Sandra Black Theater. Tickets are on sale during student lunches. A single seat is \$10, and a seat plus our literary magazine Shift costs \$20. Students should bring cash to buy tickets during their lunch this week. Unfortunately, due to production delays at the printer beyond our control, the literary magazines will not be ready to distribute at the Lit Gala. Magazines will be distributed after Winter Break. The show will go on as usual!

Celebration of Creative Arts (CoCA)

Please be sure to purchase your tickets for **Celebration of Creative Arts (CoCA)** which will be held on **Friday, January 19th**. Tickets are on sale [HERE](#). This will be a fun night with great food, auction items and an all-star cast of performers! **All proceeds will benefit the arts programs at CCA**. Lots of our students will be performing, and you may even be able to catch a few fabulous faculty performances.

Holiday Spirit Week - This Week!

Monday: Dress like a candy cane

Tuesday: Holiday lights

Wednesday - PJs

Mark Your Calendar!

Monday, Dec. 18 and Tuesday, Dec. 19	Literary Gala in the Black Box	6:30 pm
Dec. 21 - Jan. 5	Winter Break	Rest, Relax and Enjoy!
Monday, Jan. 8	Students Return to School	
Tuesday, Jan. 9	PAPA Board Meeting	5:30 PM, CCA Commons
Thursday, Jan. 11	Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences	We will schedule with you if a conference is needed.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Parent of Seniors Meeting	Important
Friday, Jan. 19	Celebration of Creative Arts	Doors open at 5pm Showcase begins at 7pm

PAPA Notes

Celebration of Creative Arts (CoCA) is Friday, January 19th. Get your tickets [HERE!](#)

Heads up! Want to help your student's Dynamo Day Team earn coveted team points? Donate silent auction items to our fabulous fundraising gala in January. We're collecting donations during our first week back in school, January 8-12, and each item earns points for your team AND helps PAPA raise money to advance the purposes and passions of our students and staff. [Click here for item ideas](#). Bring an item yourself, request donations from a local business OR have something sent from our [Amazon Wish List](#). Please include your student's dynamo day color and the item's estimated value.

Questions? Email bhbehar@gmail.com or papapresidentcca@gmail.com

Parent/Family Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Jennifer Ledford, Volunteer Coordinator ledford_jennifer@hcde.org

Click on the links highlighted in blue for the sign-up. [Log Volunteer Hours Here](#)

As a reminder (from our student handbook and HCS magnet school commitment documents): “Parents may not bring other siblings to school while volunteering.” Please note that this includes dances and other school social events.

In-Person Volunteering	Item Donations
Literary Gala 12/18-12/19	High School Dance Majors Party 12/20

High School Dance Majors Party - the dance department is hosting their majors for a holiday party on December 20th! If you can provide supplies, please make sure they are delivered by 12/19/23 (except for pizza, which should be delivered on 12/20/23 before our 12:00 pm lunch time.) Please review the available slots above and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

Library Book Wish List - Please [click on this link to access the wish list](#). When you make a purchase, please email ledoux_mary@hcde.org so the books can be removed from the list to prevent duplicates and email ledford_jennifer@hcde.org a copy of your Amazon invoice. Thank you for your support of our Library!

Senior Section

Please click here for the [Senior Year FAQ](#) that Mr. Flowers and Mrs. Sarabia created to try to answer the most commonly asked questions about senior year.

As the Holidays approach and college decisions begin to trickle in, I know many of you are thinking about financial aid and scholarships. Here’s a quick reference guide to Tennessee Financial Aid & Scholarships: [State-Aid-Summary-Co24.pdf](#) (collegefortn.org) All CCA seniors have already applied for the TN Promise Scholarship.

To qualify for any Federal, State, or College/University aid you will need to complete the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA. Most institutional scholarships require the FAFSA as well. Due to a redesign of the FAFSA form, the 2024-2025 FAFSA will be available sometime in December instead of the usual opening

in October. Federal Student Aid has not provided the exact date, so I expect it will be toward the end of December. We will send updates as they are available.

On January 11, 2024, there will be a required meeting for seniors and their parents to go over senior events and fees, graduation, and financial aid updates and the FAFSA. Federal Student Aid has released some helpful videos that answer many FAFSA questions.

What is the FAFSA: [What Is FAFSA®? - YouTube](#)

Changes to the FAFSA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOglb7StyPU>

If you have questions regarding financial aid, please reach out to Ms. Sarabia at sarabia_m@hcde.org

Important Senior Events:

January 11, 2024: Senior Parent Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

May 1, 2024: College Commitment Day and Senior Finale

May 7, 2024: Seniors Last Full Day

May 8, 2024: Senior Exams and Senior Check Out Day

May 13, 2024: Senior Banquet and Senior Sunset 2 (2 guests per student)

May 16, 2024: Graduation at Memorial Auditorium at 5:00 pm

HANDY LINKS and Recurring Information:

[CCA Performance Attire Swap Document](#)

[Log Volunteer Hours Here](#)

Absences: For absences to be considered excused, we require an appropriate excuse note (parent, medical or other), please send your excuse notes to Kristen Weaver. Notes can be turned in at the front desk, emailed to weaver_kristen@hcde.org, or faxed to 423-209-5930 (attention Ms. Weaver). Please email Mrs. Weaver with any attendance related questions or concerns.

Transportation Changes: Please send an email to brantley_regina@hcde.org if you need us to let your student know about a transportation change.

For communication about dismissals and attendance, email Kristen Weaver weaver_kristen@hcde.org

Please avoid last minute transportation changes, unless it is an emergency.

For bus passes, email Regina Brantley brantley_regina@hcde.org

Bus Pass: If your student needs to ride a different bus, please send a written note or email brantley_regina@hcde.org by 3pm that day so that a bus pass can be prepared. You will need to include the following: student's name, bus number, stop location, parent name and phone number.

To make payments, purchase tickets, pay fees, or purchase swag, Go to cca.hcde.org **and click on the CCA Store Front tab.** There will be the following links to choose from:

- **[Ticketed Events & More](#):** This link is to purchase online tickets for upcoming events or special items such as fundraising events. When you click on the link, you will be redirected to Memberhub/Givebacks.
- **[CCA Swag](#):** This link is to purchase clothing and other items with the CCA logo. You will be redirected to the CCA Online Store. Instructions to make an account are on the website and [here](#).
- **[SchoolCash Online](#):** This link is to pay dues or school fees. You will need to make an account if you don't already have one. This was used during registration for fees.