



We promise families a school with a challenging academic program and a culture that values integrity, academic excellence, civic responsibility and accountability that centers on college and career readiness.

February 4, 2021

Charlton Heston Parents:

This letter serves as an end-of-the-week notice of some of the updates in and around the school community.

There are some very exciting things happening at the Academy! First, as you may have seen, crews are working to lay the building foundations for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) buildings. Three additional buildings are being constructed with plans to open by September 2021. This building includes a Cosmetology Building (next to the LSSU building to the south), and an Automotive Technology Building and a Construction Trades Building (both adjacent to the Cosmetology Building). While we still have planning/work to be done, the vision is to begin exposing students to career exploration and/or college at early ages. This may include beginning CTE programming for students in early middle school grades. Take a look at the building plan on our website at www.charltonhestonacademy.com. Also, as discussed in my last letter sent home to parents, the Lake Superior State University college courses are continually increasing in both the number of courses offered and the number of students who are enrolling.

Second, in case the initial communication did not reach some parents I would like to touch on the amended academic calendar. This amended calendar can be found on the website at <https://charltonhestonacademy.com/school-year-calendar/>. It was decided that CHA will move to a more traditional calendar (early September through Mid-June), while still offering a summer learning opportunity for all students. So, the Academy will still offer the same instructional days for the summer months as we have since 2012; however, it is not mandatory for students to attend. This change will allow the Academy to provide a heightened focus on individualized academic, career, social, and emotional needs for all students. Again, the summer program is for all students. The final program will be created and made available to the school community in April. Until then CHA will solicit information by way of surveys to staff, students, and parents. The information from surveys will allow the Academy to even better plan to meet the needs of all students and make for engaging learning opportunities. In many ways the summer program will be similar to the traditional school year (as it has in the past). Thus, student transportation, food service, field trips, curriculum-based instruction, activities, special classes, etc. will remain in place. More information will be provided as additional programs and opportunities evolve in the coming months.

Last, the Academy is now prepared to transition any and all school closure days from in-seat instruction to remote/virtual instruction. While instruction may not be as rigorous as a typical instructional day, there is value in teaching and learning continuing even on days when the school district is closed. All children in grades pre-k through 8 have received Blizzard Bags. Blizzard Bags include learning materials to be completed during building closure days. Students in grades 9-12 will continue to be taught and learn online during building closure days. It is mandatory for students to participate during building closure days as instruction through Blizzard Bags (grades pre-k through 8) or within their online learning platform (grades 9-12). Teachers will contact each student on these days through email/electronic means or by phone. Students will be considered absent if there is no participation during these building closure days. Please contact the teacher directly if your child has not received a Blizzard Bag or if you have any other instructional needs.

Thank you,

David Patterson, Superintendent
Charlton Heston Academy

Community

Teamwork

Excellence

Love

Grit