



SUFFIELD  
ACADEMY

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September 26, 2019

Dear Parents,

As we head into October I wanted to send an update from Suffield. The academic year is off to a very good start and we have much to look forward to during the rest of the fall term.

Our returning students and faculty have done an excellent job welcoming 150 new members to Suffield. It takes time to adjust to the demands and pace of life here, and our new students and faculty members are transitioning successfully. It is fun seeing the Class of 2020 settle into their role of leading the student body. We are adapting to new email (Outlook) and learning management systems (Schoology) and benefitting from several capital repairs done over the summer in areas including our library, dormitories, academic quadrangle, and new counseling center.

We look forward to seeing many of you next week for Parents' Weekend. Many details go into this event, which includes individual meetings with each of your child's classroom teachers and their faculty advisors. Parents of twelfth-grade students will meet with college counselors, and various additional programs fill the schedule. We also welcome back many Suffield alums on this same weekend for their reunion. Details can be seen on our website. Other upcoming events include Grandparents' Day on October 17 and the Admissions Open House on October 19.

Our senior speaker series began at chapel on September 23 with eight students thoughtfully speaking about their lives and their experiences at Suffield. You can see these talks (which take place during our chapel period on Mondays at 1:00) on the school's Facebook page. At various points they are also added to our school website.

The fall athletic season is in full swing and contests fill the calendar between now and Thanksgiving. The enrollments are solid in all areas. We also have strong numbers in our musical (Legally Blonde), scheduled for December 12, 13, and 14.

We have taken several steps this fall related to sustainability including composting our food and other waste in Brewster Hall. We work with a program called Blue Earth Compost that picks up the waste and uses it for organic fertilizer and fuel. Next month each student, faculty, and staff member will receive reusable mugs and we will remove single use cups from the dining room. We are working through permitting and approvals for a solar energy project that will initially provide about 25% of our power with the capacity to expand. These efforts are being made possible by the dedication of our community and by financial support from generous parents. We will communicate more during the year about how other families can help the various initiatives.

You may have heard about recent reports of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Connecticut and Massachusetts. EEE has been detected

in mosquitos in some Massachusetts and Connecticut towns, mostly along the shoreline. While there have been no reported cases in Suffield we have made all of our students, faculty, and staff aware of the issues and recommendations from the Department of Health and CDC. We have bug repellent spray all around campus. Our understanding is concerns will last until our first fall frost. Students will be meeting with their faculty advisors about this and other items on Monday (September 30). As a largely residential school this type of topic is particularly complicated and education is the most essential aspect.

In closing I wanted to mention the exceptional work of our physical plant staff. Many parents have commented to me this fall that the campus is in impeccable shape. This is due in large measure to the commitment and talent of our physical plant crew. We are very fortunate to have a talented faculty and staff, and they are at the heart of what makes Suffield such an excellent school for our students.

Hillary and I look forward to seeing everyone next week at our fall Parents' Weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Cahn".

Charles Cahn III  
Head of School