Dear Charter Oak Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Charter Oak is fortunate to have an amazing, dedicated staff who gives 100% to our students. As a school, our mission is to educate the whole child, and our teachers go above and beyond to meet the individual needs of each student. The learning environment is both rigorous and engaging. Over the summer, many teachers have attended trainings and/or are taking graduate level courses to continue their own learning and expertise in education.

We take pride in our tradition of building positive relationships within our Charter Oak community. For our students to receive the best educational opportunities possible, our staff and families must work as a team. Do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Open dialogue is very important as we work together with a common goal in mind: student success! Parents are also encouraged to get involved at Charter Oak. This can be done through our Parent Teacher Club (PTC). Our PTC is an outstanding organization of involved parents who support our school with opportunities for social interactions each month, and fundraising, to help support the financial needs within our school.

Charter Oak will continue to partner with our community to provide opportunities for our students. Ms. Sarah Watt, from Family Core, is our Family-School Liaison. She will work closely with teachers, students, and families to provide children with the assistance they need in school and in the community. We will also continue our partnership with Big Brother/Big Sister who provide us with mentors for our students through our Lunch Buddy Program. The Peoria Humane Society is our Adopt-a-School partner who provides our Paw Pal (pet therapy) program, as well as character education. The Center for Prevention of Abuse will continue to provide the Second Step program for character development & bullying prevention. Look! It’s My Book! collaborated with the PTC to provide new books to every student eight times throughout the school year!

Due to COVID-19, students will be on a Blended Virtual A/B Learning Schedule. Students' temperatures will be checked each day when they arrive at school. Students must bring hand sanitizer to school and must wear a face mask while in school and on the school bus. Other aspects of the 2020-2021 school year may be subject to change due to the effects of COVID-19. Rest assured, if any changes happen, we will keep you informed and updated on those changes. Please follow all communication from the school or district to keep yourself knowledgeable about upcoming plans and events.

Please note activities coming up in the next few weeks at Charter Oak:

**Online registration will open on Wednesday, July 8 and ends on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at midnight. Make sure you register if you are a new or returning family. Secretaries will be back in buildings on Monday, Aug. 9 if you are in need of speaking with someone about any special circumstances.

**Watch for Backpack Peoria event information currently scheduled for Saturday, July 25.

**For all families, online registration help will be available at 2 hub sites (Peoria High School and Manual High School) Aug. 8 from 9am – 2pm., Aug. 11 & 13 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**We will post class lists Friday, August 14th at 4:00pm on the front doors of Charter Oak.

**All 1st - 4th grade students & parents are invited to 1st - 4th Grade Unpack Your Backpack on Monday, August 17th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Plan to drop off supplies, find your desk, meet your teacher, & see your new classmates!
All kindergarten students & parents will have their own Kindergarten Unpack Your Backpack event on Tuesday, August 18th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Kindergarten students can plan to come with their parents for station activities to help them make the transition to primary school. Plan to drop off all of your school supplies to alleviate students from carrying too much on the first day they attend school.

We will hold a Virtual Back to School Presentation that will launch Thursday, August 27. This will inform you of the mission and programming of Charter Oak Primary School, as well as introduce you to the Charter Oak Staff.

Uniform Friendly Reminders:

**Shirts** – Red, white, blue. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves and be plain uniform colors without writing or embellishments. Undershirt arms must also be plain uniform colors.

**Pants/Shorts** – Navy blue, black, or khaki. Pants must be plain dress pants. Please note – denim pants of any color, leggings, sweatpants and nylon athletic pants are not acceptable. Solid navy, black, khaki leggings may be worn under skirts and jumpers.

**Skirts/Jumpers** – Girls may wear plain skirts or jumpers in navy, black or khaki. It is recommended that shorts are worn under skirts for modesty. A uniform shirt or uniform color turtleneck must be worn underneath jumpers.

**Sweaters and Sweatshirts** – Red, white, navy. Sweaters and sweatshirts may be worn over collared uniform shirts. They may not have writing or embellishments. The only exception is Charter Oak Spirit wear which may be worn every Friday with uniform pants/skirts. On Fridays, we will also hold a 50 Cent Bottom Buy-Out. Students may pay 50 cents to have non-uniform pants/shorts/skirts with their spirit wear shirt or uniform shirt on Fridays. This will be an ongoing PTC fundraiser, and is subject to its success.

**Socks and shoes** – Solid white, black, navy or grey colored socks and tights without logos or designs. Close toed shoes with a back or back strap are required. Flip flops, sandals, and high heels are not accepted for safety reasons. Gym shoes must be on or at school daily.

**Spirit wear** – PTC sells Charter Oak Spirit wear at the beginning of the year. Spirit wear may be worn every Friday with uniform pants/shorts/skirts/jumpers, or non-uniform bottom for 50 cents.

For complete information about Charter Oak Primary School, please view the handbook on-line. There will be a place to check that you have reviewed the handbook. Should you prefer a hardcopy of the Parent Handbook, copies are available in the office at your request.

It is my privilege to be able to serve the families of Charter Oak Primary School. We have an amazing school community, and I look forward to working with each of you as we create an environment of support and success for our children. Feel free to contact me at any time throughout the year if you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

**Mrs. Rodriguez**

Mrs. Rodriguez
Principal, Charter Oak Primary School