Charter Oak Primary School
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Through collaborative efficacy, Charter Oak is committed to educating all students in a supportive, safe, & rigorous learning environment to reach their highest potential, equipped to be lifelong learners.

July 2021

Dear Charter Oak Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 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. As much as covid restrictions allow, 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!

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

- *Online registration* rolls over for returning Peoria Public School students. For anyone wanting to make address, profile, etc. changes, there will be a registration hub open on **Wednesday, July 28 from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.** at Peoria High School.
- “Backpack Peoria” event will be on **Saturday, July 31st** from 9am - 12pm at the Dream Center. This will be a drive through only event.
- We will post class lists Friday, **August 13th** at 4:00 p.m.
- All 1st-4th students & parents are invited to our Unpack Your Backpack event on Monday, **August 16th** from 11-1 pm. We will also hold our final **Summer Reading Program Kona Ice Party** from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. so be sure to bring your reading log with you! Also, plan to drop off supplies, find your desk, meet your teacher, see your new classmates, & get your Kona Ice to get the year started!
Kickoff to Kindergarten: Kindergarten students should plan to join us on Tuesday, August 17th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to drop off their supplies, meet their teacher, see their classroom & meet some classmates. We can’t wait to welcome our newest Bobcats!

First Day of School: All students begin school on Wednesday, August 18th. Doors open at 8:55 a.m. Students learning hours are 9:10 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

All parents are invited to the PTC Parent Coffee on Wednesday, August 18th outside the school immediately after you send your child off to a great first day of school. Enjoy coffee as you catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Uniform Friendly Reminders:

- **Shirts** – Red, white, blue (light blue or navy 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 without writing or embellishments. Please note – denim pants of any color, jeggings, leggings, sweatpants and nylon athletic pants are not acceptable. Solid navy, black, khaki leggings may be worn under skirts and jumpers.
- **Skirts/Jumpers** – 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.
- **Masks** – Masks are a required part of the uniform until further notice. Masks may have fabric print, but no writing.
- **Water Bottles** – Water fountain use has been prohibited until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions. Student are encouraged to bring a water bottle. Clear drinking water is the only acceptable liquid. Juices, flavor packets/powders, energy drinks, thirst quencher drinks, soda, etc. are not allowed. Teachers will provide times for drinks at their discretion.
- **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