

Welcome Back to Charter Arts for the 2026–2027 School Year!

Dear Students and Families,

Charter Arts is buzzing with excitement as we launch the 2026–2027 school year. All summer, our faculty and staff have been hard at work hiring new team members, finalizing schedules, preparing classrooms, cleaning and organizing our spaces, and making sure everything is ready for you to shine. We are excited to welcome several new faces to our community, including English teachers Mrs. Giamoni and Dr. Shosted, school counselor Ms. Wolper, seminar teacher Mr. Mugwanya, and dance teacher Ms. Busfield. We also have a familiar face stepping into a teaching role in the social studies department, Mr. Langsdorf. This communication is packed with important updates to help you start the year strong, so be sure to read it all the way through!

Assistant Principal Assignments: Student caseload assignments are as follows:

Dr. Diana: Last Names A-K (jdiana@charterarts.org)

Mrs. Evans: Last Names L-Z (cevans@charterarts.org)

Attendance: This year we will be adding a new attendance platform called Edia. This will facilitate easy two-way communication via text message to help manage student absences. Text messages will automatically go to the phone number on file for parents/guardians when a student is marked absent from school. If you have additional questions about this process, please contact our Main Office so that they can assist you.

Cell Phone Expectations: This year, we continue our commitment to creating the best possible learning environment. Therefore, we will continue to strongly enforce our cell phone policy during the school day. One new change is that cell phone use will not be permitted in Homework Labs. Phones will need to be stored in teacher-provided caddies or in a space designated by your teacher for the entire class period. We know phones are a big part of life, but research and experience show that when phones are put away, students are more engaged, focused, and better able to fully participate in the school's artistic and academic life. We want every moment in class to be about connection, collaboration, and creativity. If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, they will be excused

from class to make the call in the Main Office. Students using cell phones during the school day, in violation of this policy, may have their phones confiscated, requiring pickup by the parent or guardian in the Main Office.

Chosen/Preferred Name Form: The form used in the past is included in our digital eCollect forms in PowerSchool. Students who wish to be referred to by a chosen name must complete a Chosen/Preferred Name Form. Additional copies of the form are available through the School Counseling Suite. Chosen/preferred names will be reflected in our PowerSchool system. All changes or requests for chosen or preferred names must be submitted through the Counseling Suite so we can make the necessary updates and push the information to teachers. Students are encouraged to have a parent or guardian signature on the form so that the change can be reflected in PowerSchool. Please contact your School Counselor for any questions about this process.

Code of Conduct: Students are expected to have reviewed the [Student Handbook](#) before the start of this year. The Code of Conduct can be found beginning on page 46. There you will find our Infractions and Interventions, followed by our support process. It is our expectation that all students follow the *Be's* Model during their time as members of the Charter Arts community.

Digital Start-of-Year forms in PowerSchool: Just like last year, all Start-of-Year forms are completed digitally in PowerSchool through eCollect Forms. Parents and guardians must fill out and submit all required forms in the ParentPortal. All Start-of-Year forms must be submitted by August 31st.

Important: The *Acceptable Use* device form must be completed before Tuesday, August 25th, for students to receive a Chromebook during the first two days of school. If your parents or guardians have any questions about the forms, their ParentPortal account, or Chromebook assignments, they can contact Michael Carter at mcarter@charterarts.org.

Please note that any students with incomplete forms will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities, including: Walking Field Trips, Open Campus, Permanent Early Dismissal, Halloween activities, etc., until all forms are completed.

Labor Day Weekend: Just a reminder that there is a half day of school with dismissal at 11:45 am on Friday, September 4th, and school is closed on Monday, September 7th.

Main Office Changes: As part of our ongoing commitment to school safety, we have installed a secure transaction drawer at the Main Office reception window. This allows us to assist students, families, and visitors with paperwork, payments, item drop-offs, and other transactions while limiting unnecessary

traffic into the office. It's a small change that helps us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone while continuing to provide excellent service to our community.

Open Campus: There will be NO Open Campus for the first week of school. As a reminder, Open Campus is a privilege for our 11th and 12th-grade students. Students who would like to participate in this privilege must maintain a 72% in all classes. Students who fall below this will have their privileges revoked until their grades rise and they are put back into good standing. All students will need to use two school ID cards to leave for Open Campus: one to leave at the door and the other to carry with them at all times during their break.

Permanent Early Dismissal (PED): There will be NO Permanent Early Dismissal for the first week of school. During the first week, students with PED should report to the Homework Lab as outlined on their school schedule. PED will begin on August 31, 2026, for students who have already completed PED requests. School Counselors will process any new requests as fast as possible and will communicate with students about their updated schedules. Students may not leave for Permanent Early Dismissal until they receive an updated schedule from their School Counselor.

Safe2Say: We will have grade-level training and reminders for students coming in the first few weeks of school on the [Safe2Say Something](#) system. More to come soon on when that will be scheduled. If you are concerned about a friend or something you have seen or heard about at school, you are encouraged to report it to a trusted adult or to call 911. If you cannot do this for some reason, or feel you must remain anonymous, the Safe2Say reporting system has been established by the PA State Attorney General & Sandy Hook Promise to help save lives. Safe2Say is intended to help students safely report concerns and protect members of our school community.

As a reminder, anyone who is found to abuse the Safe2Say system by submitting false or harassing claims may be prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law. Further, as outlined in our school Code of Conduct, criminal activity that violates the law is a Level 5 infraction, as it is deemed inappropriate by the Administration and will result in an automatic 10-day out-of-school suspension and a possible recommendation for expulsion.

School Counselor Assignments: Student caseload assignments are as follows:

Morgan Wolper: School Counselor, Last Names A-D (mwolper@charterarts.org)

Chloe Fischl: School Counselor, Last Names E-M (cfischl@charterarts.org)

Jaime Harr: School Counselor, Last Names N-Z (jharr@charterarts.org)

Shane Nauss, School Psychologist

Laura Abell, School Social Worker

School IDs and Lanyards: We will continue to require all students and faculty to wear their school ID cards either on a lanyard or clearly visible on their person while on campus each day. IDs must be easily visible at a glance and may not be kept inside a wallet, badge holder, pocket, or other location where they cannot be readily seen. This practice supports our school safety initiatives by allowing staff to quickly identify members of the Charter Arts community and distinguish them from visitors. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe, secure, and welcoming learning environment for everyone.

Student Scheduling Information: Schedules can be accessed through PowerSchool. Students are encouraged to log in to PowerSchool before their first day of school to familiarize themselves with their schedules. Information or questions about schedules should be directed to your child's School Counselor. The window for adding or dropping courses from your child's schedule is the first five days of school. School Counselors will be available in the Commons during lunches on the first two days of school with add/drop forms, as well as to answer any questions your child may have about the process.

Transportation Office: If your student uses a service such as **Uber or Lyft** at any time, they must use the Steel Ice Center address as their drop-off and/or pick-up location. The address for the Steel Ice Center is: 320 E 1st St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

Charter Arts does not offer on-site **student parking**. However, parking is available nearby through the Bethlehem Parking Authority, offering several garage and surface lot options within walking distance of the school.

Recommended Parking Location: Polk Street Garage – 413 E. 3rd Street (closest and most commonly used by Charter Arts students). Monthly parking passes can be arranged directly through the Bethlehem Parking Authority. Space is limited and may sell out, so families are encouraged to inquire early.

Contact: Bethlehem Parking Authority, Phone: (610) 865-7123, Website: bethpark.org.

Please note that the only approved **Student Pick Up and Drop Off area** is the Steel Ice Parking Lot on 1st St. Students can use the Polk St. sidewalk from 1st St. to Charter Arts. Students may not be picked up or dropped off on Columbia Street, Polk Street, Taylor Street, or the Factory Parking Lot under any circumstances.

In the event that Polk St. is partially closed due to construction, you can reach 1st St via Webster St. or Founders Way.

We are ready for a year filled with learning, growth, and artistic excellence. Thank you for bringing your passion and commitment to everything you do here at Charter Arts. Let's make this our best year yet. I can't wait to see our new students on Monday during orientation and all of our returning students on Tuesday!

Quick links to the [Student Handbook](#), [Safe2Say](#), and [Title IX](#) information.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Levernier". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Mrs. Levernier

Principal