



April 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is finally here! What a beautiful time of the year this is, when the trees turn green and we see nature return. As we return to school, I would like to extend a warm welcome back from Spring Break to each and every one of you. As we head into the final stretch of the school year, I encourage our students to work hard and remain focused on their academic goals.

As many of you may know by now, after twelve wonderful years at Carnegie and twenty-nine years as an educator, I will retire at the end of the 2023-24 school year. I have been so incredibly proud to be the Principal of Carnegie School. The school has been on an incredible journey and through many changes. I have taken great pleasure in seeing hundreds of children develop and flourish as confident, successful young people and I am very proud of the part I have played in making Carnegie the outstanding and thriving school that it is today. It has been a great privilege, but the time is now right for someone else to take over the reins and lead the school forward on its next exciting chapter.



I am delighted to inform you that Local School Council selected Mrs. Shirley Roberson, the Assistant Principal, as its next Principal. Mrs. Roberson has very much been a part of the school's journey and I know I will be leaving Carnegie School in very safe and capable hands. I am confident that the school will have a successful future under her leadership. She will be ably supported by a very strong leadership team and many brilliant teachers and staff who are passionate about improving the education and well-being of our young people.



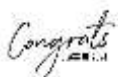
I will continue to work hard with you as Principal until July 5th when Principal Roberson will take the reins to lead you into the next school year. I know you will extend your support to Principal Roberson and her leadership team with great eagerness and enthusiasm. With all of your support, Carnegie School will continue to flourish in the hands of Principal Roberson.

Attendance

School attendance is a powerful predictor of student outcomes. Students who attend school regularly with an attendance rate of 95% or higher and arrive to school on time have been shown to achieve higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. One of the most powerful ways to prepare a child for success in life is through regular school attendance. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. When your child must stay home from school, please follow CPS procedures to notify the school in writing, by telephone, or through E-Absence - a new way to report excused absences through the Parent Portal. Parents and guardians can now submit, schedule, and track your student's absences through the Aspen Parent Portal. You can sign in to your account at ASPEN.CPS.EDU. CPS recognizes **six reasons for an absence to be considered excused:**

- Sounding taps at a military funeral for a deceased veteran
- Parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone
- student illness
 - This includes mental or behavioral health (As of January 1, 2022, absences can be attributed to mental or behavioral health for up to five days based on Public Act 102-0321.
- observance of a religious holiday (absence note required)
- death in the immediate family
- family emergency
- circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for their child's safety or health (must be approved by the principal)

Class of 2024 High School Offers



Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on their High School selections. Carnegie students have accepted seats at Walter Payton, Kenwood Academy, South Shore International, Urban Prep, University of Chicago-Woodlawn, Simeon, Gwendolyn Brooks, Morgan Park, King College Prep, Lindblom Math & Science Academy, and Noble Charter High Schools. Well Done Scholars!

Academic Centers Offers



Congratulations to all of the 6th graders who were offered a seat into Kenwood, Brooks, Morgan Park, and Lindblom Academic Centers. We wish you continued academic success in the 7th grade. We will miss you! Well Done Scholars!

No School Day & 3rd Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Day



There will be No School on **Monday, April 1st**. It is a School Improvement Day for teachers. There will be No School on **Wednesday, April 10th**. It is Parent Teacher Conference Day from 11:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Reach out to your child's teacher to schedule an appointment. All parents are invited to meet with their child's teacher (in-person) to discuss your child's academic progress. All conferences are limited to ten minutes.

Kindergarten Picture Day



Kindergarten Cap & Gown Picture Day is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**. Students will receive two poses; one with cap and gown and one without. Lifetouch monies are paid directly on their website. Information will be sent home with students. Email AP Roberson <mailto:segriffin@cps.edu> for more information.

Out of Medical Compliance



Chicago Public Schools require that children are medically prepared to attend school. Students were required to submit proof of physical examination and current immunizations to the school nurse **by October 15, 2023**. Currently, there are 56 students who are out of medical compliance. Parents were reminded during Open House, Parent Conference Day, emailed, sent home out of medical compliance parent letters and the school nurse has called families multiple time throughout the school year. Due to the measles outbreak, all students must be in medical compliance in order to attend school. Out of an abundance of caution, if your child's records are not current for immunization and/or physical health examination by **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the student WILL BE EXCLUDED AND UNABLE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL.**

Spring OST After School Programs



Carnegie's Final OST Spring After School Programs will begin on **Monday, April 8, 2024 through Thursday, May 23, 2024**. The after-school programs will vary based on grade and staff member availability (i.e. Beginning Band, Choir, Academic Support, Coding, Enrichment, Mentoring, Basketball, etc...). Most after school programs will run on Monday-Thursday from 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students are required to return their permission slip, which will be provided to them from the staff member. Snacks will be provided and all students will be dismissed promptly at 5:00 p.m. from the main entry door. If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Boateng, fnimpson@cps.edu or at (773) 535-0661.

Sexual Health Education Curriculum-5th Notification and 6th Notification for Kindergarten Parents:

Students will receive Sexual Health Education as part of the CPS Sexual Health Education Policy during the week of **April 15-19, 2024**. The Board acknowledges that parents/guardians are the primary sexuality educators for their child/children. Carnegie School is committed to partnering with you to provide supplementary instruction to students via the sexual health education lessons.

- In alignment with Illinois law (*"No pupil shall be required to take or participate in any class or course on AIDS or family life instruction if his parent or guardian submits written objection thereto, and refusal to take or participate in the course or program shall not be reason for suspension or expulsion of the pupil."* 105 ILCS 110/3), a parent/guardian must provide a timely written objection to opt their child/children out of participating in any CPS Sexual Health Education course. No student with a written parental objection will be suspended or expelled for refusal to participate in any such course. If you wish to have your child excused from participation, please inform me in writing (dpollard1@cps.edu).



Make-Up Assessment for Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR)



The make-up assessment dates for all 3rd-8th grade students who were absent during the IAR Assessment, will complete the assessment during the week of **April 2-5, 2024**. Please ensure that your child attends school daily.

IB-MYP Trip to Puerto Rico Virtual Parent Meeting

There will be a virtual Parent Meeting on **Thursday, April 11, 2024** at 5:00 p.m. for all students who are traveling to Puerto Rico during the week of April 22-26, 2024. The meeting link is as follows:

Puerto Rico Parent Meeting
Thursday, April 11 · 5:00 – 6:00pm
Time zone: America/Chicago
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ayi-wbwm-agu>
Or dial: (US) +1 567-316-0614 PIN: 460 065 425#

LSC & PAC Meetings

There will be an LSC & PAC meeting on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. All parents, teachers/staff and community members are invited to attend.

Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

Students in the 5th and 8th grades will take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) on **Tuesday, April 16th through Thursday, April 18, 2024**. The ISA measures student mastery in life science, physical science, and earth and space science. If necessary, the make-up assessment date is **Friday, April 19, 2024**.

GoCPS Elementary School Selection Offers



The Elementary School Selection results are available for families who completed a GoCPS application in the fall. If offered a seat into the Regional Gifted Program or Open Enrollment, the **deadline** to accept a seat into Carnegie for the 24-25 school year is **April 19th**. For Open Enrollment, the school is offering seats in Kindergarten only. All other grades are waitlisted. To check your results log onto GoCPS at <https://www.cps.edu/gocps/>.

2024 Speech Arts Competition

Carnegie School will host its **Annual School-wide Speech Arts Competition**. **The competition will be held in-person on Friday, May 3, 2024**. *The purpose of this activity is to give students the opportunity to engage in skill building and mastery of effective communication processes.* The competition category is "Published Poem". Students must recite a **published poem** and provide a copy of the poem to their teachers.



All students are required to participate in their classroom's Speech Arts Competition. *This activity will be incorporated into each student's 4th Quarter Reading and Listening and Speaking grades.* Each teacher (K-8th) will host a **classroom** Speech Arts Competition on **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**. *The first and second-ranked students from each classroom will advance to the school-wide level competition on Friday, May 3, 2024.* Medallions will be awarded to all participants. First, Second, and Third place trophies will be awarded in each grade span as follows:

- Primary (K-2nd) at 1:30 p.m.
- Intermediate (3rd-5th) at 11:00 a.m.
- Upper (6th-8th) at 9:30 a.m.

Parents are invited to attend the Speech Arts Competition Assembly on May 3, 2024 as indicated above.

8th Luncheon/Awards & Ribbon Pinning Ceremony

The 8th Grade Luncheon/Awards & Ribbon Pinning Ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 10, 2024** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Chateau Del Mar, located at 8301 W. 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL. 60457. We asking that all students and guests wear white or black. The fee is \$50.00 per student and guest. Students are able to invite (4) guests for a total headcount of (5) people per family. **Payment for the Luncheon/Awards Ceremony was due on Sunday, March 24, 2024.** Payment must be paid online under the tab "8th Grade Graduation". **Please Note: Tickets cannot be purchased at the door.**

The Class of 2024 Commencement Ceremony



The 8th Grade Commencement Ceremony will be held on **Thursday, June 6, 2024** at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago 915 E 60th St, Chicago, IL 60637 at 10:00 a.m. Each graduate will receive five (5) tickets. The graduation fee is \$100.00 **due on or before Sunday, May 19, 2024**. The fee includes: Diploma Cover, 2 ribbons, Autograph Book, Cap & Gown, music, flowers, speaker, medallions, and programs. Payment must be paid online under the tab "8th Grade Graduation".

Kindergarten End of the Year Celebration

The Kindergarten End of the Year Celebration will be held on **Thursday, June 6, 2024**, from 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at The Chateau Del Mar, located at 8301 W. 95th Street. Hickory Hills, IL. 60457. The End of the Year Fee is **\$100.00** due on or before **Sunday, April 30, 2024**. This fee includes the following items: (1) Student Luncheon Ticket, (1) Class of 2024 Student Hoodie, (1) Kindergarten Ribbon and (1) Kindergarten Diploma & Diploma Cover, trophies, and/or medallions. Students are able to invite (4) guests to the End of the Year Celebration, for a total headcount of (5) people per family. Each guest ticket (ages 3+) cost \$50.00. All fees must be paid online under the tab "Kindergarten Fees". **Please Note: Tickets cannot be purchased at the door.**



Outside Food Policy

Students are prohibited from bringing into the school outside food items for distribution or selling. For safety and food allergy reasons students should not consume any food items from their peers. Students can eat the meals from the cafeteria or any food items brought from their home. Food deliveries of any kind are not permitted both during school hours and after school hours. This includes pizza delivery, Uber Eats, etc. Homemade food items are not to be shared in any group setting. Finally, birthday cakes, cupcakes, candy, pizza, etc... for birthday celebrations are not permitted. **Each child's birthday may be recognized in the classroom with approval from the classroom teacher, but only with non-food items.**



Parent Volunteers

As we return to a more traditional school year, we are welcoming the return of parent volunteers to assist in the classroom, coach a sports team or club, chaperone field trips, and help in the cafeteria and during recess. The district has revised its vaccination requirement. If you would like to volunteer, you must complete the volunteer application for **Level 1 clearance** via www.cps.volunteers.org. **Once completed, the volunteer must provide the main office with a photo ID for school level approval.** **Please Note: If you were an approved parent volunteer last year, you will need to reapply. All parent volunteers must complete this process each year! The application process can take up to 2 to 5 weeks.**



School Communication: REMIND APP

Parents may receive important school-wide communications and updates from the school via REMIND (i.e. monthly parent newsletter, district-wide information, etc...) Parents are highly encouraged to sign-up for REMIND. Go to the school's website www.carnegie.cps.edu, go to the top of the page, click "Parents," click "REMIND," and then click the REMIND icon for instructions.



Principal Pollard

"Educate, Encourage, Empower"
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