



February 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After an intense competition, we are thrilled for our amazing students who have emerged victorious as the top spellers in their respective grade span groups. Congratulations to all of our students who participated in this year's Bee! Our

School-wide Spelling Bee Winners:

- Primary (Kindergarten-2nd)-N.M.-Room 110
- Intermediate (3rd-5th)-Z.C.-Room 208
- Upper (6th-8th) A.V.-Room 228

The Upper Grade winner A.V. will advance to the City-Wide Spelling Bee Competition in March! We wish her the best of luck! We couldn't "bee" prouder of all of our spellers!

Students will take the Middle-of-the-Year (MOY) iReady ELA & Mathematics Assessments during the week **Monday, January 29th through Friday, February 2nd**. The MOY Assessment helps teachers to determine the level of students' ELA and Math knowledge and skill. It helps our school monitor students on their path to College and Career Readiness and determine who may need additional support and enrichment. Test results will be shared with parents during the 3rd Quarter Parent Conference Day on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Black History "Know Your Heritage Bowl"



I am incredibly excited that this week is the start of Black History Month. The month of February marks an annual celebration of achievements by African-Americans. It is also intended as a time to recognize African-Americans central role in U.S. history. There are a lot of African Americans that have made a difference throughout history, and to ensure that our students do not forget their contributions to the culture, this year we will again celebrate Black History Month by hosting our "Know Your Heritage" Trivia Assembly for all 4th-8th grades on **Thursday, February 29, 2024**. Also, this month during the morning

announcements we will highlight one of the trivia questions and its answer each day. This will help students learn about interesting African-American history as well as prepare for the trivia assembly.

Teachers will provide the study guide questions to any interested students in their classroom during the week of February 5th. Each team will consist of five students and one alternate student. Each team will receive a t-shirt and participation medal. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams will be awarded a trophy, medal and t-shirt. Teachers will review the rules and guidelines for the competition with all teams. **Please Note:** Due to the limited space in the gym, this will be a student-only assembly. Good Luck to All Teams!

February Attendance Challenge



We will continue our attendance challenges in February! There are 19 student attendance days for this month. Students who have perfect attendance **or** attend school 18 of 19 days in February will receive an incentive. **Please note:** Students with early dismissals prior to 2:45 p.m. are marked as half day absent and this will disqualify them from the incentive.

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. 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)

Out of Uniform Days

- **Tuesday, February 20, 2024** – College/University T-Shirt Day.
- **Thursday, February 29, 2024** – African clothing, or red, black, yellow, or green attire.

Valentine's Day Candy Gram



ACS Student Council will sponsor a Valentine's Day Candy Gram Fundraiser. Students may send a Candy Gram to their favorite teacher, parents, sibling, classmate, or to themselves. The cost is \$1.00 for a heart-shaped lollipop or \$2.00 for a Chocolate Rose. Each Candy Gram is individually packaged/wrapped. Your child may order as many as they would like! Candy Grams will be sold during the period of **February 5th-13th** in the cafeteria during each lunch period. **CASH ONLY. NO ONLINE PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** *The Candy Gram will be delivered to classrooms on Tuesday,*

February 14, 2024. All proceeds will benefit student incentives.

Parent Advisory Council Meeting (PAC)

There will be a PAC meeting on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** in the cafeteria. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

3rd Quarter Progress Reports

We are nearly halfway through Quarter 3 and Progress Reports will be sent home with your child on **Thursday, February 8, 2024.**

No School Day



There will be No School on **Friday, February 9, 2024.** It is a Professional Development Day for teachers. There will be No School on **Monday, February 19, 2024.** It is President's Day.

Class of 2024 (8th Grade) Picture Day

Cap & Gown Picture Day for all **8th grade students** are scheduled for **Monday, February 12, 2024.** It is recommended that boys wear a collared shirt and tie or bowtie. Students' hair styles must accommodate the graduation cap. Students will take 2 poses; one with cap and gown, and one without, so, students should dress to impress! Lifetouch ordering information will be sent home with your child next week. Do not place money inside of the Lifetouch envelope. Picture proofs will be sent home with your child in the coming months. All pictures must be purchased online. There will be **NO RETAKES!**

Class of 2024 (8th Grade) Spirit Week



Monday, February 12th through Friday, February 16th will be Spirit Week for **all 8th grade students.** Please check with your child's teacher for the daily theme.

GoCPS Results for 8th Graders Timeline

GoCPS high school results will be released to families on **Friday, February 23, 2024, after 5:00 p.m.** High school applicants and their families will be able to log into their GoCPS online accounts and view offers received and waitlist statuses. Families will also be able to sign up for training sessions that will be available in both English and Spanish to help familiarize families with viewing their results and navigating waitlists. Any questions about GoCPS results may be directed to gocps@cps.edu or Mrs. Avery-Jones beavery@cps.edu.

IB-MYP Class Trip to Puerto Rico

We are excited to announce the details for the IB-MYP Class Trip to Puerto Rico. Our school has collaborated with Explorica for all the arrangements. The IB-MYP Class Trip is scheduled for April 22nd -26th, 2024. All 6th-8th grade students are invited to attend. If you would like your child to attend the Class Trip, you must register your child. See the school's website for registration information.

If you are interested in chaperoning or required to chaperone with your child, you must complete the volunteer online application via <https://chicagopublicschools.civcore.com/index.php?action=english>. All volunteers must apply for Level 1 status. Please check the school's website for more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ramirez at mailto: eramirez262@cps.edu.

Winter/Spring OST After-School Programs

Carnegie's OST After-School Programs will begin on **Monday, February 5th through Thursday, March 14th**. The afterschool intervention program will be open to all Tier 2 & 3 students. All other programs (i.e. Dance, Band, Coding, Art, Science Club, Movie-Making Club, and Math Club) will be open to Tier 1 students. Your child's teacher will distribute permission slips to qualifying students. If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Boateng, fbnimpson@cps.edu or at (773) 535-0661.

ACS Winter Sports

All families are invited to the 7th/8th-grade Boys' Basketball games on **Saturdays** at Dunbar High School Gym located at 3000 South King Drive. Click link for time https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Tz30lgIALYOCtrr805xznYY-RI4sz-hfCAhy_Pxh36Q/edit#gid=666899459. Wear your favorite Carnegie Gear & come out and support our student-athletes! *You may purchase an ACS Parent t-shirt online. Go Cougars!*

Outside Food Policy

Students are prohibited from bringing outside food items into the school 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 during or 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.**

Student Arrival and Early Dismissal



It is imperative that students arrive to school on time at 8:45 a.m. When students arrive late to school, they miss valuable instructional minutes. If it is necessary for your child to leave school prior to the dismissal time of 3:45 p.m., **please note that: Early Dismissals will not be granted after 3:15 p.m.**

Cell Phone Policy



Students are strongly encouraged not to bring a cell phone and other devices such as earbuds, earphones, headphones, beats, pods, smart watches, or chargers to school. If students bring their cell phone to school, s/he must adhere to the following:

- Turn off the cellphone.
- The teacher will collect all cellphones at the beginning of the school day. Teachers will store and secure all cellphones in a lockbox during the day. Cellphones will be returned to students at the end of the day.
- In the event that your child must call home, the child may use the telephone in the main office.
- In the case of a family emergency, the office staff will certainly give your child a message or have him/her return your call.

Any student who violates these expectations will be held accountable to the Student Rights & Responsibilities/Student Code of Conduct.

COVID Test Kits

If you need a COVID At Home Test Kit, you may pick-up one from the main office, call the main office to request one be sent home with your child, or have your child pick-up one from the school nurse.

Parent Volunteers

We welcome 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. If you would like to volunteer, you must complete the volunteer application for Level 1 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 re-apply. 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

