



January 3, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful and fun-filled winter break filled with family, food and laughter! I am very excited for students and staff to return to school on Monday, January 8, 2024. The first part of the school year went by rather quickly! We were very lucky with the weather we had in December; I hope it continues! When we return from the winter break, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards will be sent home with your child on **Friday, January 12, 2024**. Students will also take the Middle-of-the-Year (MOY) iReady ELA & Mathematics Assessment during the week of **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> through Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The MOY Assessment helps teachers to determine the level of a student's 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. **Please Note:** Holiday Homework must be returned to your child's teacher on **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Each year the Illinois State Board of Education releases the Illinois School Report Card which provides school and district demographic information, finances, and student growth and achievement. Each school in the state is given one of four Summative Designations. Illinois has four annual summative designations: Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, and Comprehensive.

- Exemplary acknowledges the top-performing 10% of schools.
- Comprehensive identifies schools in the lowest-performing 5%.
  - Beginning in 2023, Comprehensive also includes schools with overall performance above the lowest-performing 5% that have one or more individual student groups who remain Targeted, even after completing a full Targeted school improvement cycle\*.
- Intensive identifies schools that are also in the lowest-performing 5%, even after completing a full Comprehensive Support school improvement cycle.
- Targeted recognizes schools with overall performance above the lowest-performing 5%, but with individual student groups performing similarly to the lowest 5%.
- All other schools receive a Commendable designation.

Prior to the pandemic, our School Improvement Status was **Commendable**. For the 2023 school year, Carnegie School received a School Improvement Status of **Targeted**, a decrease from previous years. What does the Annual Summative Designation mean for School Improvement Status? Schools newly receiving Targeted and Comprehensive designations now enter a four-year period of school improvement status, during which the district will receive technical assistance from IL-EMPOWER, including a four-year grant award funded by Title I. The funds will be used to support our academic and enrichment programs.

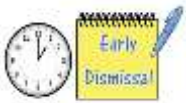
While high student achievement remains a constant priority, it is important that we place a greater focus on improving student attendance, continue to address students social and emotional well-being, and support teachers as they improve their skills to become more proficient at their jobs.

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. 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](https://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)
- other situations beyond the control of the student (as determined by principal)

### 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.**

### Out of Uniform Fundraiser

We are hosting a Kindergarten-8th Grade Out of Uniform Fundraiser. The cost of the fundraiser is \$10.00 per student. The sale will begin on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please make payments on Carnegie's website ([carnegie.cps.edu](http://carnegie.cps.edu)) via EPAY under the "Fundraiser" tab. Students will be allowed to come out of uniform on **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> ONLY**. Students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> who participate will receive an Out of Uniform badge that **MUST** be worn all week. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who participate, will be managed by the classroom teacher. All funds raised will be used for student incentives.

### LSC & PAC Meetings

There will be an LSC & PAC Meeting on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. All parents and community members are invited to attend.

### Spelling Bee Competition

Classroom Competition Study List were sent home with interested students prior to the winter break. Classroom Spelling Bees will be held on **Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**. There will be one winner per class that will advance to the school-wide competition on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The school-wide winner will advance to the City-Wide Scripps Spelling Bee Championship on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### ACS Winter Sports

All families are invited to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls' & Boys' Basketball games on **Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.** at Dunbar High School Gym located at 3000 South King Drive. Wear your favorite Carnegie Gear & come out and support our student-athletes! *You may purchase an ACS Parent t-shirt online. Go Cougars!*

### No School Day



There will be **No School** on **Monday, January 15, 2024**. It is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On **Monday, January 15, 2024**, people across the country will come together to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through acts of service in their communities. Celebrating Martin Luther King Day can be done in various meaningful ways that honor Dr. King's legacy and promote his ideals. Here are some ways to celebrate:

- **Attend Commemorative Events:** Many communities organize parades, lectures, and other events that celebrate Dr. King's life and message.
- **Engage in Community Service:** Participate in volunteer activities or service projects that benefit your community, aligning with Dr. King's commitment to social justice.
- **Educational Activities:** Learn more about the civil rights movement and Dr. King's work through books, documentaries, or visits to relevant museums and historical sites.
- **Reflect on Social Justice:** Take time to reflect on the progress made in the fight for civil rights and consider how you can contribute to a more just society.
- **Spread Awareness:** Share Dr. King's messages of equality, love, and nonviolence on social media to inspire others.

### Local School Council Election

Applications to run in the 2024-2026 Local School Council (LSC) elections are now available and are due by 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 8, 2024**. To apply, download the application forms via <https://www.cps.edu/about/local-school->

[councils/lsc-elections/](#) or you can obtain the forms from the Main Office, please see Ms. Hampton-Flagg. You must submit all completed forms and two forms of identification by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 8th, 2024 to the Main Office. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hampton-Flagg our Local School Council Liaison at (773) 535-0530 or via email at <mailto:fghampton-flagg@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 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend. If you would like your child to attend the Class Trip, you must register your child. See below 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>.



### Parent Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to assist in the classroom, coach a sports team or club, chaperone field trips and help in the cafeteria and during recess, you must complete a volunteer application for Level 1 via [www.cps.volunteers.org](http://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](http://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