

March 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Kudos to all of our 4th-8th grade Black History Teams who participated in the "Know Your Heritage" trivia assembly on Thursday, February 29th. Each team studied a plethora of Black History facts from slavery and its abolition to the Great Migration, the civil rights movement and military, scientific, cultural and political achievements, exploration of key moments, milestones and figures in Black History. Our winning teams received a trophy and all participants received a Black History t-shirt and medallion. Congratulations to our winning teams:

- "Ancestors Wildest Dreams" Room 228-8th-1st Place
- "Blackout" Room 216-6th-2nd Place
- "Lights Out" Room 212-8th-3rd Place

There are nearly three weeks left until the end of Quarter 3. The quarter ends on **Friday, March 22nd** and Parent Conference/Report Card Pick-Up Day is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 10th from 11:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** All parents are invited to meet with your child's teacher (in-person) to discuss your child's academic progress. All parent conferences are limited to ten minutes.

ASPEN Parent Portal



Please sign up if you have not for the CPS Parent Portal (Aspen) and check/track your child's grades and assignments 24/7. This is an important way for you to get involved with your child's education. The information on how to sign up and log in to Aspen is here: (<https://www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/parent-and-student-portal/parent-portal/>). For assistance, please email Mrs. Roberson, at segriffin@cps.edu. For additional information and videos on how to access ASPEN Parent Portal, please click <https://cps.edu/Pages/parentresources.aspx>.

Go CPS High School Results

Congratulations to all your students who received their high school application results on Friday, February 23! Families have to accept or decline their child's offer by **March 15, 2024**. After the deadline, any unaccepted offers will be automatically declined and students will need to participate in the rolling waitlist if they want to be considered for non-neighborhood programs.

Accepting an offer does not impact a student's waitlist status. Therefore, all students should accept an initial offer and they can remain on the waitlists for other programs. Schools will start to make waitlist offers in April when the High School rolling waitlists opens and will continue throughout the summer and into the school year. **We strongly encourage all families to accept an initial offer** and then if they receive a waitlist offer they will be able to choose if they want to accept the waitlist offer at that time. You may contact Mrs. Avery-Jones, school counselor for more information or assistance.

ASPEN Behavioral, Attendance & Grades (BAG) Report (5th-8th Grade Parents)

All 5th-8th grade students will receive a copy of their Behavioral, Attendance & Grades (BAG) Report during the Academic Check-In on **Friday, March 8th**. The BAG Report provides students with any behavioral incidents input into ASPEN, their attendance rate, and their grades for each quarter. There are a large number of 6th & 8th grade students that are projected for the Summer Bridge Program. You are asked to review the BAG report with your child. If your child needs additional academic support, you may sign your child up for the Spring OST After School Program. Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Boateng, OST After School Coordinator.

CPS SchoolLinks (6-8th Grades)



All 6th-8th grade students have engaged with the SchoolLinks software tool with Mrs. Avery-Jones, School Counselor. SchoolLinks helps students create an individualized roadmap to serve each student's unique skills, interests, and goals for the future. Each student has created their account. Parents may create an account as well by following the below directions. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Avery-Jones, School Counselor.

How to log in as a parent or guardian

Before logging in to SchoolLinks as a parent or guardian, you will need to claim your account by following the instructions below. Once you claim your account, you will be issued a password. The email you use to claim your account must match the one your student's school has on record. If you experience any difficulty claiming your account, contact your student's school to request an update to the email that is on record in Aspen.

Step 1

Click the Log in as Parent or Guardian button.

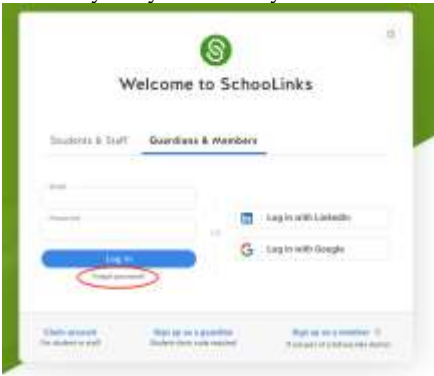
Step 2

Ensure Guardians & Members is selected on the SchoolLinks login portal.



Step 3

Select Forgot Password. Do not use the "Claim Account," "Sign up as a guardian," or other links on this page. The only way to claim your CPS SchoolLinks parent/ guardian account is through the Forgot Password process.



Step 4

Enter your email address. You must use the same email address as your Login ID for Aspen Parent Portal. You must have access to see your student in Aspen Parent Portal in order to have access to SchoolLinks. Contact your student's school if you need to create an Aspen Parent Portal Login ID. You will receive an email prompting you to create a password immediately as long as the email address matches one with an active user account. Note: Although the Login ID for Parent Portal and SchoolLinks are the same, the passwords can be different.



LSC & PAC Meetings



There will be an in-person LSC meeting on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Immediately following the LSC meeting, there will be a PAC meeting. All parents and community members are encouraged to attend.

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) & Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

Every year, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) administers federally-required state assessments that help us gauge how our students are growing academically compared to their peers across the state. These tests also help us determine where additional supports and resources are needed in our schools.

This spring, children in grades 3rd through 8th grades will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), which measures student mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics in grades 3 through 8. All 5th and 8th grade students will take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA), which measures student mastery in life science, physical science, earth and space science. The district testing window is March 11 - April 30, 2024.

Carnegie School will administer the tests during the weeks of:

- Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024 through Thursday, March 14, 2024 (Mathematics) and Monday, March 18, 2024 through Wednesday, March 20, 2024 (Reading)**. *Make-Up dates are during the week of April 2nd-5th.*
- Illinois Science Assessment (ISA): **Tuesday, April 16 through Thursday, April 18, 2024**. *Make-Up dates are on Friday, April 22, 2024 through Friday, April 26, 2024.*

Children cannot study for a standardized assessment like they would for a regular classroom test, but there are ways you can help your student prepare to do their best:

- Ensure your child attends school regularly so that they don't miss out on important instruction
- Speak with your child about testing so that they understand why doing their best is important
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before the assessment
- Ensure your child arrives to school on time on the day of the assessment
- Remind your child to take their time, listen to and read all directions, and tackle one question at a time
- Help your child maintain a positive mindset by reminding them of their strengths and accomplishments

Out of Uniform Day

There will be an Out-of-Uniform Day on **Friday, March 15, 2024**. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, all students and staff are asked to wear green, yellow, or white.

No School Day



There will be No School on **Monday, March 25, 2024 through Friday, March 29, 2024**. It is Spring Break! School will resume on Monday, April 1, 2024.

Sexual Health Education Curriculum - 4th Notification and 5th Notification for Kindergarten Parents: Students will receive Sexual Health Education as part of the CPS Sexual Health Education Policy. 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).

Attendance Incentive



Each month we offer a different "Attendance Incentive". Students with Perfect Attendance and no early dismissals (prior to 2:45 p.m.) or has an attendance rate of 95% or higher for the month will be awarded with either an off-site field trip, Perfect Attendance t-shirt, Pizza Party, Dance, Out-of-Uniform Pass, or otherwise. Therefore, parents we need you help! Please ensure that your child attends school daily. 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)

School Traffic Safety Protocols for Pick-Up and Drop-Off

As the weather becomes warmer, you are reminded that we will block off/close Dorchester Street during dismissal. In partnership with the Chicago Police Department, Alderman Taylor's Office, and in an effort to help ensure the safety and well-being of all, the administration ask that all parents consistently observe the expected routines for pick-up and drop-off of students:

- During dismissal, 60th-61st & Dorchester will be closed to southbound traffic. Do not drive around the white and orange horses. Once the school buses leave, southbound traffic will reopen.
- Do not park in the school bus lane, move the orange cones, or drive over them.
- Do not block 61st Place. This will allow ACS staff and CPS visitors to enter/exit the Staff Parking Lot.
- Do not block the crosswalk or corners of intersections as it inhibits the crossing guard's view of the children walking/crossing.
- Pull your vehicles up as far as you possibly can to drop off your students, allowing the cars behind you room to drop off their children.
- Do not double-park when dropping off or picking up your child and make sure your child gets out of the car on the curbside.
- If you are getting out of your car, walk to the building to retrieve your child, please do not double-park and leave your car. This will allow other cars to leave.
- Students who walk to school should cross the street in the crosswalk.
- **Please refrain from using verbal and physical threats towards school personnel.**



School Traffic Safety

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.

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 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.

