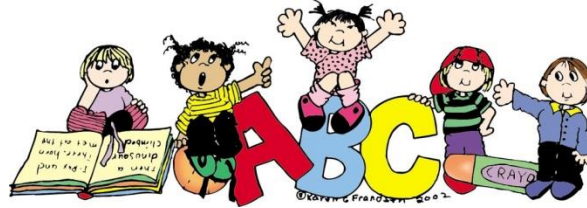


Docilla Pollard
PrincipalShirley Roberson
Assistant Principal

Kindergarten “In-Person” Parent Orientation

June 26, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Welcome to ACS School Community. As we prepare for the first day of Kindergarten we are sure you are excited and a bit nervous. We are looking forward to meeting your child and beginning their school journey with you.

The Parent Orientation will be held on **Monday, August 14, 2023, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.** We will begin the meeting in the gymnasium. To provide adequate space for all guests, two adults per family will be allowed to attend.

During the Parent Orientation, the Kindergarten teachers and I will introduce you to school procedures and daily protocols, raise awareness of current academic expectations, and review essential learning and social and emotional skills embedded in the curriculum. We will also share with you the importance of attendance, and give an overview of the iReady ELA & Mathematics Assessments, Branching Minds Intervention Plans, Parent Portal, immunization, and behavior and homework policies. We will also provide you with a few tips in helping your child be successful throughout the school year.

Upon completion, you will have the opportunity to visit your child’s classroom, talk with your child’s teacher and the administration, tour the school, purchase your child’s gym uniform/hoodies, and attend the Back to School Bash.

We look forward to sharing valuable information with you on **Monday, August 14th at 2:30 p.m.**

Just a reminder! The first day of school is **Monday, August 21, 2023, promptly at 8:45 a.m.**

Sincerely,

Mrs. D. Pollard
Principal



The ABC's of Kindergarten

A-Attendance

A quick reminder: If your child is absent, please fill out an Excused Absence Form on the Parent Portal website: [aspen.cps.edu](https://www.aspen.cps.edu). You can also write a note, fax or e-mail it with student's name, teacher's name and the date and reason for absence. Our school's fax number is 773-535-0525.

B-Book bags

Each child will need a book bag to carry home his/her papers and take home folder. No rolling book bags are allowed. Please make sure the book bag is big enough to carry a homework folder. Please label book bags with the student's name.

C-Curriculum

In kindergarten, students learn the foundational reading and mathematics skills that set them on the path to become lifelong readers, writers, and English language effective communicators. Instruction is differentiated to meet the wide range of students' abilities.

D-Drop-Off

If you drop your child off in the morning at the North Dorchester Door, please be mindful that there is **NO** supervision prior to 8:30 a.m. During inclement weather, students can enter through the North Dorchester door and will be monitored until their teacher arrives at 8:45 a.m. Your child must be in the classroom by 9:00 a.m. Any time thereafter will be counted as a tardy. Tardy students must enter through the Main Entrance.

E-Email

A great way to keep in touch with your child's teachers is through e-mail. Please feel free to contact the teacher whenever you have a question or concern. During the first week of school, your child's teacher will send home a welcome letter which will include their email address.

F-Folders

Every day your child will bring home a take home folder. Please take the work and return the folder back to school daily. Homework will be located in the folder as well. Be sure to look for important information that might be sent home as well as send all notes to the school in the folder.

G-Grading

Every five weeks your child will receive a progress report and every ten weeks they will receive a report card. They are both standards based. More information about these reports will be shared during our Open House in September.

H-Homework

Please make sure to check your child's book bag daily for homework. Your child will be required to read their "Book-in-a-Bag" nightly. Your child will be assessed weekly and/or biweekly. Homework assignments will vary and will be sent home in the take home folder. Unless otherwise noted, please return the homework the following day.

I-Illness

The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if s/he is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy.

J-Join PAC

Carnegie Elementary School does have a Parent Advisory Committee. Meetings will be held monthly throughout the school year. PAC meetings follow LSC meetings.

K-Kindness

Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

L-Lunch

The school will provide lunch and breakfast for the children. Breakfast is served daily from 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. The breakfast and lunch menu is posted on the school's website <https://www.carnegie.cps.edu/>.

M-Music

Your child will go to Music, Art, Spanish, Dance and P.E. every day. A schedule will be sent home in their take home folder to let you know which Resource class they will be attending each day. For your child's safety please make sure that your child wears tennis shoes on the days we have Dance and P.E.

N-Notes

Your child will receive a take home folder on the first day of school. This is a great place to put your notes for the teacher.

O-Open House

The 2023 Open House will be scheduled in September. Please plan to attend to speak with your child's teacher and review the curriculum and classroom community.

P-Parties

We have implemented CPS Wellness Policy. Therefore, **do not send cupcakes and other sweets to school for your child's birthday.** Teachers will host a Halloween, Holiday, & End-of-the-Year classroom party; in which you may contribute healthy snacks. Information regarding these events will be sent home from your child's teacher.

Q-Questions

If you at any time have questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. The best way is through e-mail. Teachers will not be able to come to the phone during school hours, but will return the call within 48 hours. You and your child are important to us and I think of us as a team. Two way communication is the best policy.

R-Recess

Children receive 20 minutes of supervised outdoor recess daily. If temperatures dip below 40 degrees, recess will be held in the cafeteria and/or classroom.

S-Snacks

We have implemented CPS Wellness Policy. Therefore, please consult with your child's teacher for their classroom policy for snacks.

T-Toys

Children are asked **NOT** to bring toys from home. They are very distracting. We cannot be responsible for broken toys or hurt feelings caused by them. However, donations for the prize box are appreciated.

U-"U" & V-Volunteers

"U" are important in your child's education. We will need volunteers for different things throughout the year. We would love to have you volunteer. 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 application to become a Level 1 volunteer at 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.**

W-Wet and Xtra Clothes

It is very important that you send an extra set of clothes in case of a bathroom accident, messy spill, or wet and muddy playgrounds. This way we do not have to bother you at work or home. These clothes will stay in your child's backpack since we have no space at school to store them.

Y-Younger Siblings

It is in your child's and the programs best interest to have our parent volunteers available without younger children. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows for some special time between you and your kindergartner. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.

Z-ZZZZZs

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest. A kindergarten room is a busy place and you will probably find your child exhausted at the end of the day. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!

