



January 2, 2020

Dear ACS Parents/Guardians;

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

I hope that your winter break was relaxing and fulfilling, and that the new calendar year has got off to a positive start for yourself and all of your family. **School resumes on Thursday, January 2nd** and I know my staff and I are looking forward to our students' return.

January marks the beginning of a New Year, new semester, new experiences and new learning opportunities. We are excited about the months ahead and what we have accomplished so far during the school year. As the second semester approaches, the teachers and I have one vision for our students and we hope it closely matches yours. We want ALL of them to become all that they can be. We want them to be successful through good, consistent attendance, perseverance, utilizing help from teachers, and working diligently. We want this because these traits will build good habits that will carry them profitably throughout their life. We expect a great deal from them because they are so very capable of producing great results!

A new year always gives us the opportunity to reflect upon what we have done well and what we can do better. Did you make a new year's resolution? A fitness goal? An intellectual goal? A goal for creating greater balance? New Year's Resolutions provide a great opportunity for you to help your child to better understand that we all have the power to change the things in our life that we want to improve. Thinking about the goal of being a successful student, what shift does your child want to make to improve themselves as students? Keep in mind, simply saying, "I will do better in math," is not a Resolution – it is just a dream if there's no concrete plan with measurable goals set for making this change. A better Resolution might be: "I will practice every math problem that I found difficult in class even if they are not assigned as homework." Help your child choose an Academic New Year's Resolution that is realistic and encourage him/her to stick to it. Each study skill that your child can develop will be of great value once s/he is challenged to achieve at a level where the stakes are much higher.

Finally, I invite you to attend the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and Local School Council (LSC) monthly meetings. It is at these meeting that parents and stakeholders are allowed to provide input on new school policies, projects, and resources/materials that impact students and their families.

I am very proud of the children, families, teachers and staff at Carnegie and I look forward to a phenomenal 2020!

"Achieving Excellence Together"
Follow us on Twitter @ACSCOUGARS
www.carnegie.cps.edu



As we move into second half of the year, here are a few reminders:

- **Toy Drive:** Many thanks to the families who donated to our school's Toy Drive. The Class President, Ryan Roberson delivered the toys to Comer's Children Hospital on Wednesday, December 18th. Thank you for being the Light in Someone's Life!
- As the temperature begins to drop, there are a large number of children who are arriving excessively early to school daily. Children arriving to school prior to 8:30 a.m. becomes a safety issue. Students are permitted on school grounds at 8:30 am. **Staff will be on duty at their respective doors at 8:30 am to allow entry for students arriving before normal entry time.** However, it is imperative, particularly on inclement weather days that students DO NOT arrive before 8:30 a.m. **There is no supervision before 8:30 a.m. and students will not be permitted in the building.** During inclement weather, ALL students will enter through the main doors. Students arriving at 8:30 a.m. will be directed to the following areas:
 - All Pre-K through 3rd grade students will report to the cafeteria.
 - All 4th through 8th grade students will report to the gym.
- Carnegie School offers a Before and After School Program. The A.S.B is a tuition-based program that is offered to students from grades K-8th. The program runs Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. through June 19th. The program is not offered on CPS non-attendance and vacation days. The program offers a snack and meal, homework assistance, technology and physical activities. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact Mrs. Renee Sanders at (773) 535-0530 or via email rsanders@cps.edu.
- **After School Programs:** All extra-curricular before or after school programs ended on Friday, December 20, 2019. The ONLY programs that will resume on Thursday, January 2nd are:
 - PeeWee Cheer (Wed. & Thurs.)
 - 5th - 8th Grade Cheer (Mon. - Thurs.)
 - ArtShould (Wed.)
 - Chess (Fridays)
- **Early Dismissals:** Students will be released only to the parent, guardian, or designated adult indicated on the emergency form. PLEASE BE AWARE that students leaving before lunch will be marked absent for the full day; students leaving after lunch and before 3:30 p.m. will be marked ½ day absent. Please schedule appointments after school hours. **Early Dismissals will not be granted after 3:30 p.m.**
- **Stranded Child Procedures:** Effective Thursday, January 2, 2020, the school will call the Chicago Police Department and the Department of Child and Family Services Hotline to report child neglect for children who persistently remain in the main office and whose parents do not promptly pick-up their children by 4:00 p.m. If you are in need of childcare service after 4:00 p.m., you may utilize our After-School tuition-based A.S.B. program. The program is available daily from 3:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, you may contact Mrs. Sanders via email at rsanders25@cps.edu or after 11:00 a.m. at (773) 535-0530.
- **ASPEN Parent Portal:** Currently, 141 out of 581 parents have access to ASPEN Parent Portal. Our school goal is to have 100% of parents able to access their child's grades. To access the new Aspen Parent Portal, parents who are interested in creating an account for the first time must set up a new account. You have to come to the main office to verify you email address. Once Aspen has been updated with the email address you provided and your contact information has been verified by the school, you will receive a sign-up email with a security code from Aspen. If you do not receive the sign-up email, we recommend checking your Spam folder. If you are unable to locate the email, please contact Mrs. Brown or Mrs. Morgan in the main office for assistance.

"Achieving Excellence Together"
Follow us on Twitter @ACSCOUGARS
www.carnegie.cps.edu

- **CPS Volunteer Policy:**

- **Level 1 Status:** Parents that plan to chaperone the 8th grade out-of-state field trip, must complete the CPS volunteer application via www.cpsvolunteers.org and request Level 1. Parents will need to bring a copy of their driver's license to main office for school level approval and follow the district's email request for fingerprinting, TB, etc... *Parents who do not receive Level 1 clearance from CPS will not be permitted to attend the trip.*
- **Passport Required:** After receiving Level 1 clearance from CPS, parents must bring a copy of their passport to the main office to be submitted to the State Department's STEP program. *Parents who do not obtain a valid passport (date of travel cannot be within 6 months of the passport's expiration date), will not be permitted to attend the trip.*
- **Farewell to ACS Staff:** On January 31st, we will say farewell to Mrs. R. Gutierrez, 4th grade teacher who have decided to leave Carnegie School to pursue other educational endeavors. I wish her all the best at her new school.



- ✓ January 2nd & 3rd-FREE Out-of-Uniform Days for all students.
- ✓ January 2nd-24th-TRC Assessment for Kindergarten-2nd grades.
- ✓ January 10th-16th-The Dental Team will provide dental services for designated students.
- ✓ January 12th-Girls & Boys 7th/8th Basketball Teams will play in the Jr. NBA All-Star Invitational at Quest Multisport located at 2641 W. Harrison.
 - ✓ The Lady Cougars-Sunday, January 12th at 2:15 p.m. Court #2
 - ✓ Boys Basketball-Sunday, January 12th at 4:45 p.m. Court #1
- ✓ January 13th-17th-NWEA Winter Reading & Mathematics Assessment for all Kindergarten-8th grades.
- ✓ January 14th-LSC Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- ✓ January 15th-Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.
- ✓ **Eighth Grade Parents ONLY:** Class Trip to Toronto, Canada: Payment of \$175.00 is due on January 15th.
- ✓ January 17th-Academic Check-In Assembly for 5th (G)-8th grades.
- ✓ January 20th-No School Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
- ✓ January 31st-No School: It is a School Improvement Day.
- ✓ February 24th-April 2nd- After School Academic Academy for designated 2nd-8th grade students. More information forthcoming.



Happy New Year!
Principal Pollard

“Achieving Excellence Together”
Follow us on Twitter @ACSCOUGARS
www.carnegie.cps.edu