

Carson Community Handbook 2018-2019



**5420 East 1st Ave.
Denver, CO 80220
Phone: 720-424-9090
TTY: 720-424-9116
Fax: 720-424-9115
Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sick Child? 720-424-9098**

ONE CARSON COMMUNITY

Carson Touchstone

We are proud students, involved parents, committed educators and a caring staff. We are a warm, welcoming community offering a safe, nurturing and challenging environment. Our children are comfortable growing, learning and celebrating differences with consistency, honesty, responsibility, kindness and respect.

Carson Character

Character Education is the foundation of all that we do at Carson Elementary. Our character traits define the way in which we interact with each other in order to maintain our positive environment. The following character traits define the Carson culture:

RESPECT

- We respect ourselves and others.
- We treat others the way we want to be treated.
- We value our property and the property of others.
- We support the right of everyone to have their own opinion.

RESPONSIBILITY

- We take responsibility for ourselves and our actions.
- We come to school prepared and ready to learn.
- We choose to do the right thing all the time.
- We consider the safety of others and ourselves.

KINDNESS

- We are kind to each other and ourselves.
- We choose to do good deeds and bring happiness to others.
- We are considerate, thoughtful and friendly.

ACCEPTANCE

- We are open and understanding of each other's differences.
- We accept people as they are without conditions.
- We accept ourselves for who we are and we don't try to be someone else.

PERSEVERANCE

- We persevere by not giving up.
- We have the courage to keep trying.
- We practice and practice to overcome difficulties.
- Together, through our perseverance, we are always winners.

INTEGRITY

- We show integrity by having the courage to do the right thing.

- We are honest and truthful.
- We keep our word and our promises.
- Through our integrity, we build a trusting community.

COURAGE

- We show courage when we face our fears.
- We are brave enough to tell the truth and admit when we are wrong.
- We are courageous when we stand up for what is right.
- Courage is believing in yourself and being yourself.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Visitor Information

At Carson, student safety is our number one priority. For this reason, we ask that all guests, including parents, family members, visitors, volunteers and room helpers, sign in and pick up a visitor/volunteer badge at the front office. We ask that badges be worn at all times while you are in the building. All of our entrances are monitored by security camera and the only entrance visitors are permitted to enter is the main entrance located at 1st and Grape.

Arrival and Departure Information

School hours are 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The first bell rings at 8:55 a.m and instruction begins promptly at 9AM.

Teachers warmly welcome our students each morning at their designated classroom spots on the blacktop. Prior to the start of the school day, teachers engage in lesson planning, committee meetings, and professional development. We ask that students stay on the playground or in the cafeteria before the start of school to ensure that teachers are fully prepared for their students.

Breakfast

Did you know that DPS offers free breakfast to every child? Every morning our kitchen staff prepares healthy breakfast options for our students. Breakfast service begins at 8:30AM every morning, we encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

We ask parents say goodbye on the playground or at drop off. For safety reason parents will not be allowed to walk their child(ren) into the building.

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth-grade who are picked up at the end of the school day, will be waiting outside in their designated areas with their teachers.

Kiss-n-Go

Our Kiss-n-Go lane was designed to create a convenient drop off and pick up method for busy parents on the go! Students who arrive using the Kiss-n-Go Lane can be dropped off starting at 8:30 AM if they are having breakfast in the cafeteria and at 8:40 AM for playground supervision. The Kiss-n-Go lane is supervised daily even on inside recess days!

Students who are picked up using the Kiss-n-Go Lane will be waiting on the corner of Grape/Ellsworth and will be dismissed to each car. Register for the Kiss-n-Go lane today!

Buses

Bus transportation is provided for many of our Carson students. Students who arrive by DPS transportation are dropped off in the front of the school on Ellsworth to awaiting staff members. We kindly ask that you do not drop your children off or park in our bus lane in the front of the school.

Weather

We keep our students inside and warm on very cold and/or wet days. If the temperature is 20 degrees or less (wind chill factor is taken into consideration), we will call for an inside recess. In Colorado our weather is unpredictable so dress your child(ren) accordingly or in layers. The school will send out push notifications via our school app if inside recess is necessary during morning drop off. On an inside recess morning, please drop off students using the Kiss-n-Go lane, a Carson staff member will escort your child to their dedicated indoor recess location.

Snow Days

DPS officials make the decision to close schools due to weather conditions, the district is committed to making a decision by 5 a.m. or earlier. The decision to close is made based on information provided by the DPS Department of Transportation, the weather bureau and city and county law enforcement.

If school is cancelled or delayed, this information will be posted on DPS' website at dpsk12.org and on DPS' Facebook and Twitter pages. A message denoting the closure will also be left on DPS' closure hotline at 720-423-3200, as well on the DPS Transportation hotline at 720-423-4600. Also, the Communications Office will

immediately notify local television and radio stations, which will broadcast regular announcements of school closures. You can visit the DenverChannel.com, 9News.com, KDVR.com and denver.cbslocal.com. Notifications in Spanish will be made on radio newscasts on 1150 AM, 1280 AM and 1090 AM.

Delayed Start Days

DPS may choose to announce that Carson Elementary is on a “delayed start” on a snowy day. If this message goes out to the community;

- Morning school buses will initiate pick-ups at bus stops one hour later than the normal pick up time.
 - (Example: If a student’s morning school bus pick-up time is 7:55 a.m., their bus will now pick-up at 8:55 a.m.)
- Students who are walking, biking, using parent drop-off or RTD, are encouraged to depart home one hour later than they would normally leave for school.
 - (Example: If a student normally leaves home at 7:45 a.m. for school, he or she would now depart at 8:45 a.m. to arrive to school on time.)
- Breakfast will still be served to students as they arrive to school.
- Afternoon school buses will depart school and drop off students at the same time as a normal day.

Professional Development & Testing Days

We believe in providing our teachers time to engage in professional learning. DPS has included Professional Development days (teal days) into the school calendar. The school leadership team determines how teachers utilize this time either as a whole staff, grade level teams, or individual planning time. Students do not attend school on these days.

Volunteers

Calling all Volunteers! Parents, families and community members who have a desire to volunteer in a classroom or in the school on a regular basis, must complete a background check. This DPS policy ensures the safety for our children as they interact on a regular basis with an adult in a position of trust in the school setting. See Norma at the front desk for more information.

Custody Paperwork

Check in or call the with the main office if you need support with family custody situations involving your child(ren).

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

It is extremely important for parents to keep the school informed of any changes in emergency, doctor and home or work phone numbers during the year. Current information is a necessity for the safety of your children. Please check in with Colleen at the main office to ensure your information is up to date.

Outside Service Providers

DPS policy prevents outside service providers to work with students during the school day. Outside service providers are required to reserve school space before the school day starts or after it ends to provide additional educational or therapy related services not associated with Denver Public Schools. Space can be reserved by contacting Community Use at Charlotte_Lee@dpsk12.org. If space is reserved for additional services please notify Colleen in the main office.

Collaborative School Committee

The Collaborative School Committee (CSC) brings together Carson families, staff and community members to create and implement a plan to promote high academic achievement in our school. This committee meets on a regular basis throughout the school year and is an opportunity for stakeholders to have a voice in the school.

Members are elected to two-year terms and may be elected to no more than 3 successive terms. The constituent group elects new members to fill vacancies during the school term. CSC members will nominate and approve individuals to fill vacant business representative positions. CSC meeting agendas, minutes, and summary are made public and accessible on the Carson Website. <http://carson.dpsk12.org>

CSC versus PTA

What is the difference? CSCs are required by state law and have specific responsibilities and structures. While parent-teacher organizations can look and feel similar to a CSC — in that they are comprised of parents and teachers, and facilitate family-school partnership — they serve different functions. The National Parent-Teacher Association is an advocacy organization focused on engaging and empowering families in schools. If you are interested in joining Carson's PTA visit <https://carson.ptapal.com/backtoschool.asp>.

Classroom Parties

At Carson, we have two schoolwide classroom parties during the year (Literacy Day, Valentine's Day). Each party will last between 30-45 minutes. Guidelines and specific details for each celebration will be at the teacher's discretion. Our PTA room parents will

be supporting teachers with a class sign-up sheet for parties that provide students with a more balanced set of snack options. Please speak with your child's teacher before bringing any food items. ALL food brought to school must be store bought in accordance with DPS policy. While you are planning your treats, please try to avoid bringing peanut products to school. Some children are extremely allergic to peanut products. We ask that younger siblings not attend classroom parties or events with their parents. However, younger sibling's may join their parents during lunch times with a parent or guardian.

Birthdays

Please check in with your child's teacher about individual birthday celebrations.

Outside School Invitations

Planning a private party? We ask that invitations to birthday parties, etc., not be sent to or delivered at school unless addressed to everyone in the class (due to hurt feelings).

Lost and Found

We ask that personal property your child(ren) bring to school be clearly marked with the their name. The Lost and Found area is located by the front office and by the cafeteria. Students may check the Lost and Found for lost items outside of class time. Small items (example: glasses, keys, etc.) are located in a Lost and Found box in the office. Unclaimed items are given to charity three times per year. The school takes every precaution to safeguard private property, however we cannot assume responsibility for lost items.

Internet and World Wide Web Policy

At Carson Elementary we believe in the educational value of technology. Denver Public Schools Board Policy EGAEB - Internet Policy will be used as guidelines regarding student expectations. Students will need to have a signed copy of the proper form (on file) in order to use computers at school. This form will be made available to all new students as part of the registration packet. To review DPS Policy EGAEB, please visit the district website at <http://www.dpsk12.org/policies/>. .

Pets

For safety and health reasons, animals are not permitted on school grounds. This includes pets on a leash. Denver City Ordinances prohibit having dogs or other animals on the playground. Please respect this ordinance even after school hours and on weekends. We recognize that some dogs are service animals and are exempted from the above policy.

Nutrition Information

The lunch menu is available on our website, but you can also visit the district website at <http://foodservices.dpsk12.org/whatson-menu.php>.

Lunch Money/Financial Assistance

DPS has a new improved Online Payment website. Please go to <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/> to set up your account. Otherwise, make checks payable to Carson Elementary (please include phone number). Cash money sent to school should be in an envelope with the child's name, classroom number and lunch number. Anyone needing financial assistance (even temporarily) may fill out an application for free or reduced meals at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. Applications can also be obtained from the Cafeteria Manager or by calling 720-424-9090. (Remember a new application must be submitted yearly at the beginning of the school year. Applications are not carried forward from school to school or year to year.)

Lunch with Parents

If you decide to join your child for lunch, please plan to arrive at the designated time for your child's grade-level. Students may choose to invite one friend to join them for lunch. Keep in mind our cafeteria fills up quickly with students so seating is limited. We also ask that parents only bring food for their children.

Carson Composts

Carson students are saving planet earth one lunch tray at a time! During breakfast and lunch, students will be recycling and composting food and packaging items. To help with our efforts, we appreciate when students pack lunches in reusable containers.

Attendance

Students, parents and the faculty share responsibility for attendance. All students enrolled in DPS are required to attend class in accordance with Colorado Compulsory Attendance Law §22-33-104, C.R.S. Attendance in class is an integral part of the educational process, and students are required to be in attendance every day school is in session. Parents, guardians and legal custodians of students are obligated by state law to ensure the child's attendance. If unexcused absences exceed four or more days in a one-month period or 10 unexcused absences in one semester, a letter will be sent to parents. Please read DPS Policy JE-R Student Attendance Procedures. Every

month, the school psychologist reviews student attendance and sends letters to parents for those students whose absences are excessive. The definition of “excessive” changes throughout the school year based on number of school days but parents can expect to receive the first letter after five absences or five tardies.

Tardies

It is important that children arrive on time for school. A "tardy" child not only disrupts the class when arriving late, but he or she misses an important part of the academic learning time. When it is unavoidable and a child is tardy, he or she must check in with the school office before going to class. The office will add his or her name to the lunch list as well as remove it from the "absence" list. The student also needs to take an "admit" slip to the teacher. To excuse a late arrival in advance, please call the attendance line at 720-424-9090.

Early Departure Information

If a student needs to be taken out of school before the end of the school day, an adult is required to sign the child out in the office. The office staff will call your child to the office. If anyone other than the parent, guardian or family members listed on Infinite Campus (IC) is to pick your child up from school, prior arrangements must be made with the office. We will request an I.D. from anyone who picks up a child, and all are required to sign students out each time they leave early.

Excused Absences

The following are considered excused absences: temporary or extended illness, injury, or physical, mental or emotional disability with a doctor's note; family emergencies; absences excused by the principal through prior requests of parents or guardians; absences pursuant to school release permits under District policy JHD; absences which occur when a student is in custody of a court or law enforcement authority; or any other absence approved by administration or designee. Please provide documentation whenever the absence involves a visit to a doctor's office.

Unexcused Absences

The following will be considered unexcused absences: those resulting from suspensions and expulsions; those absences lacking prior approval from school staff.

Notification of Absences

Parents are required to phone the attendance line or the primary office at 720-424-9090 to report the absence of their child. The absence should be phoned in by 8:55 a.m. on the day of the absence, or the preceding day. Attendance messages may also be left on

the attendance hotline at any time. Parents should leave the following information: Parent's name, child's name, teacher's name, dates of absence and reason for absence.

Scheduling Vacations While School is in Session

Parents are encouraged to schedule all vacations during school calendar breaks. Throughout the day, students are exposed to a variety of experiences that contribute to their learning. When a student misses a significant amount of school for vacations, it is difficult for her or him to fully make up what was missed. Instruction is adjusted daily based on student needs; therefore, teachers generally will NOT be able to provide make-up work prior to a scheduled vacation. Although much classroom time cannot be replicated, work that can be done independently will be provided upon the student's return. Vacation absences are NOT considered an excused absence.

Make-up Work for Student Absences

Students are responsible for obtaining the assignments missed and completing them. If parents want to pick up missed school assignments at the end of the day, it is necessary to call the office by 9AM. This allows the teacher the entire day to gather the appropriate materials. Please support our goal of high levels of instruction at all times by choosing not to interrupt class time to obtain missed assignments. This is disruptive and subtracts valuable instructional time.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Safety at School

Carson Elementary has emergency plans for fire, natural disasters and unwanted intruders. Drills are conducted regularly so that students will know what to do in an emergency. We teach our students to be quiet during these times so they are able to follow all staff directions during drills.

Severe Weather Dismissal

In the event of severe weather at the time of dismissal, students will be picked up in their classrooms. We will send a message on the APP by 3:30 p.m. if we are going to shift to the Severe Weather Dismissal Plan.

Tornado Watch

Office staff will consistently monitor the weather.

Tornado Warning

All staff and students will go to their designated safety area. Outside activities will be brought inside. Students will shelter-in-place (if needed) or will go to assigned places in the halls. Please do not come to the school as weather danger is in the school area. Your child will be in the safest place at the school. We will not dismiss students until the weather danger is over.

Snow

The district will determine if the snow is severe enough to cancel school. Please visit www.dpsk12.org or watch your local TV station or to see Denver Public School activity and school cancellations.

Fire Drill

All students and staff will exit the school and go to a designated location. Everyone will remain outside until the “all-clear” message is given. If students are allowed to re-enter the building, they will then return to class. If not, information will be available at the school or through the DPS Communications Office

Off-campus Evacuation

If we need to leave school grounds, we will go to our designated off-site evacuation locations. Information will be sent to you through robo-call and/or robo-text from the DPS Communications Office.

Lockdown

Our school is always on a modified lockdown, this means that all exterior doors are locked and visitors must be buzzed in by the main entrance. If danger in our building or neighborhood compromises the safety of our students:

- All exterior doors will be locked.
- All interior doors will be locked.
- No one may enter or leave. To keep our students safe as possible, there will be no exceptions.
- No students will be dismissed until the situation is over.
- Information will be sent to all families via robo-text and/or robo-call through the DPS Communications Office. Please do not call the school as we will be working with authorities to ensure the safety of the students.
- A sign will be posted on the windows of our doors stating if we are in a lockdown.

Accidents

Most injuries occurring at school require minimal assistance, which will be administered by office personnel. If a more serious accident occurs, the school office personnel will make every attempt to contact the student's parents at home or at work. If the parents are unavailable, the authorized emergency contact person will be contacted. It is imperative that the office has at least one emergency contact person who is not a parent. Remember, it is extremely important that up to date information is given to the office staff so that your records are current.

Walking/Bicycles

We strongly encourage parents to walk their children to school once or twice to familiarize them with the route from your home prior to having them walk on their own. We ask that parents teach their children to use the crosswalks and obey all traffic regulations. Bicycles must be walked on the school grounds and should be locked to the bicycle racks during the school day. For safety reasons, skateboards, scooters and rollerblades must be dismounted when entering school property. The school does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen bicycles, skateboards, scooters and rollerblades.

Playground Equipment

The playground and school ground areas are reserved for school use during school hours and afterschool daycare hours. Please plan your family visits to the playground area outside of designated hours. Anyone on school property will be asked to leave when school children are present, due to safety concerns.

Personal Items from Home

During school hours, school personnel provide playground and sports equipment. Therefore, for safety reasons and to prevent loss and theft, we ask that students not bring personal equipment, toys, games, ipods, MP3 players, tablets, cards, etc. from home to school unless given permission from a school authority. Fidget spinners and/or sensory toys are NOT to be brought to school. If your child has an IEP or a 504 that includes the use of sensory tools, these tools will be provided by the school. The school will not assume responsibility for personal items brought to school.

Video/Pictures/Photography

Parents cannot take pictures or video of students other than their child to post on social media without the permission of the other child's parent. We ask that parents who have pictures to share of school events, submit the pictures to a school staff member or through our Carson Elementary School App for staff to review prior to posting on school

sponsored social media. This will ensure that only students for whom parents have granted permission are pictured on social media. Students cannot take pictures or video of other students or staff members during the school day or during school related events unless using school equipment for a school sponsored project.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Display of Information

School calendars, District resources and services provided to the community are some of the items available for your information. They will be available in the front of the school and on our school website.

Carson Phone APP

Stay updated by downloading our Carson Phone Application. Notifications for weather, schedule, and other updates are sent through the APP.

<http://tiny.cc/carsondps>

School Newsletter

Our school newsletters and communications will be paperless this year (hard copies of the newsletter are available upon request). The newsletter will be sent to the email you provide during registration. If you are not receiving the newsletter, email colleen_kuhlmann@dpsk12.org to be added to the distribution list.

The monthly newsletter is sent out electronically once monthly. The newsletter contains information regarding what's happening at Carson Elementary; principal's information; committee news; and any information affecting the whole community. It is imperative that you make sure you have provided an accurate email address during registration to ensure receipt.

Electronic Communication

All teachers have an online classroom platform, Schoology, that is updated on a regular basis. This is where you will be notified of upcoming classroom events, homework and what is going on in your child's classroom. Teachers will acquaint families with how to use Schoology at back to school night.

You may also contact teachers through their DPS email address. Example of staff email address: Firstname_Lastname@dpsk12.org

Carson staff members make every effort to return emails during their office hours which typically are before & after school (no later than 5PM), during teacher planning time, or on their lunch break. If you are in need of immediate assistance please call the main line at 720-424-9090.

Communication

Our positive Carson culture is built on direct communication and open and honest feedback. We want to hear from you! Please contact us with any and all questions, celebrations you'd like to share, and any concerns you may have. Please contact us anytime!

Main Office: (720) 424-9090

Annie Larkin, Principal: (720) 424-9092

Valecia von Weise, Assistant Principal: (720) 424-9097

Request for Specific Classroom Placements

Each spring the Carson staff puts a great deal of time and thought into creating the class rosters for the following school year. Teachers, who have had an entire year or more with your child, work together to create the best possible classroom placement and combination of students for the next school year. While we cannot logistically manage parents requesting specific teachers, parents are welcome to submit an email to the principal at Anne_Larkin@dpsk12.org, with information about the type of learning environment they feel would be most supportive of their child. This information will be included in the teacher decision-making protocols for creating class rosters. Due to the amount of thoughtful collaboration that goes into creating classroom rosters, and the intentional creation of joyful, personalized, and rigorous learning environments by every Carson staff member, requests for classroom changes will not be approved.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Two formal Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled during the school year. Parent-Teacher Conferences allows for parents and teachers to discuss their child's progress. At the Parent-Teacher Conference, specific student data and observations about daily work habits will be shared with the parents. If you wish to have additional conferences throughout the school year to discuss your child's progress, please reach out directly to the teacher.

School Telephones

At Carson we value open communication and parents should feel free to call the school any time. In the event you need to contact your child's teacher during the instructional

day your call will be directed to their voicemail where you can leave a message which will be placed in the teacher's email. Carson staff members make every effort to return phone calls during their office hours which typically are before & after school (no later than 5PM), during teacher planning time, or on their lunch break. If you are in need of immediate assistance please call the main line at 720-424-9090. The school office staff will make every effort to deliver important messages to students if calls are received by 3:15 p.m.

Students may use the phone to contact parents for emergencies or as requested by a staff member. For non emergency situations students will be allowed to call parents during the day on a as needed basis per the approval of a staff member. We ask that Carson families arrange plans for after-school activities prior to coming to school.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

At Carson Elementary we instill high expectations for all of our students. In addition , students are required to demonstrate and show understanding of school rules and honor our DPS board policies. At Carson, we have aligned our expectations to the DPS Student Code of Conduct and discipline matrix when working with student behaviors. DPS Board policies can be found [here](#).

Dress Code

We ask that students come to school ready for an amazing day. This includes weather clothing that works for the current weather, as they will be expected to participate in outside activities weather permitting. For the safety of children, we ask that students wear their boots to school, but bring other shoes to change into once they are in the building. All students should bring tennis shoes to wear on the days that they have physical education.

We believe the way in which students show up for school, sets the tone and preparedness for the school day. The principal or the assistant principal will work with both the student and family if a dress code violation occurs.

Personal Belongings

We know from experience problems often arise when personal items are brought to school and can be hazardous, disruptive, or interfere with school procedures. We ask that children secure the permission of the teacher before bringing toys or collectibles to

school. Money and other valuables should only be sent to school when there is a designated need. Students will not be allowed to trade of cards or other collectibles at school. The school will not assume responsibility for personal items brought to school.

Cell Phones

Due to the increase in the number of elementary students with cell phones, a cell phone use policy is required. We ask that student cell phones stay be stored in backpacks or in the teacher's desk during the school day. Students may access their cell phones at the end of the school day.

Smart Watches

Due to the increase in the number of elementary students with smart watches, a smartwatch use policy is required. We will ask that students not use smart watches to make calls or text, take pictures, or play games during the school day.

*Refer to Board Policy JK-R

Supports for Students

At Carson Elementary, we strive to support all students within our school community. We use a variety of strategies to support our students. We also have designated staff members who support students: Instructional Specialists, School Psychologist, Reading Interventionist, Special Education Teacher, and Crisis Team.

Positive Behavior Intervention Support Program: PAWS

At Carson Elementary, we define student behavior expectations with a positive, asset based approach. Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Systems at Carson include a PBIS committee to support teachers and staff in promoting positive student behaviors and to problem solve with teachers to support students in the classroom.

The PBIS Team supports teachers, students and parents to correct negative student behavior in the following ways:

1. Identify the expected student behaviors and desired outcomes
2. Teach, model and practice what those behaviors look like, sound like and feel like
3. Specifically praise appropriate behavior with private or public acknowledgement
4. Collect data to determine successes and barriers to reaching the desired goals

**Positive Behavior Expectations for all areas of the school include:
PAWS in the Auditorium**

- P-Place hands in lap
- A- Applaud appropriately
- W-Watch the speaker
- S- Show three

PAWS in the Bathroom

- P-Privacy please
- A-Always flush
- W-Wash your hands
- S-Show three

PAWS in the Cafeteria

- P-Pick up after yourself
- A-Accept new friends
- W-When lights are off, voices off
- S- Show three

PAWS in the Hallway

- P-Place hands securely
- A-Attention ahead
- W-Walk quietly
- S-Show three

PAWS on the Playground

- P-Play safe
- A-Accept all friends
- W-Walk on blacktop
- S-Show three

Restorative Approaches: Resolving Conflict and Student Behavior

The restorative approach at Carson Elementary is a philosophy or guiding principle (not a program or specific activity) that sees relationships as central to learning, growth and a healthy school climate for students and adults. Restorative practices at Carson enable us to integrate this approach within our school culture for students, staff and the community.

Restorative practice seeks to repair relationships. Restorative practice is a strategy that seeks to repair relationships that have been damaged, including those damaged through bullying. It does this by bringing about a sense of remorse and restorative action on the part of the offender and forgiveness by the victim

Restorative discipline is a whole school relational approach to building school climate and addressing student behavior that fosters belonging over exclusion, social engagement over control and meaningful accountability over punishment. At Carson, restorative practices and discipline is established through restorative conversations. Staff, students and administration facilitate the conversation through the following questions:

Restorative Questions

- What happened? What is your side of the story?
- Who was affected and/or harmed?
- What part are you responsible for in the situation?
- Who else was involved and how are they feeling?*
- How will things be made right? *How can we restore the problem?*

Student Sentence Stems

- I am feeling...
- To restore this, I can...
- Because of my actions, I think _____ feels...

Sanford Harmony Social Emotional Curriculum

At Carson, teachers, psychologist and support staff use Sanford Harmony as the social-emotional learning program created by educators. The lessons focus on empathy, diversity, communication, friendships and conflict-resolution among students and peers.

Bullying: Bullying Shall Not Be Tolerated

Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law or district policy, including race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived.

A student who engages in any act of bullying, and/or a student who takes any retaliatory action against a student who reports in good faith an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. In accordance with DPS Board Policy JICDE.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING

At Carson, we intentionally design learning environments which are Joyful, Rigorous and Personalized.

Curriculum

Guided Reading Plus is the instructional pedagogy used to teach students how to read.

Orton Gillingham (OG): An intensive, sequential phonics-based system teaches the basics of word formation before whole meanings. The OG approach uses a multisensory approach and utilizes the three learning modalities through which people learn—visual, auditory and kinesthetic.

Genre Studies: A literacy instructional approach where students are actively engaged in developing genre understandings and applying their thinking to any genre. Students think, talk, and read texts with deeper understanding, and begin to write effectively.

EL Education: Literacy curriculum in grades 1st-5th which include lessons infused with learning, rigor, and joy. Students read, think, talk, and write about compelling topics. Students engage in meaningful tasks that motivate students to do their best work and assess students' growth as readers and writers.

Bridges: Math curriculum focused on developing students' deep understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and ability to solve complex and novel problems. Bridges blends direct instruction, structured investigation, and open exploration. It taps into the intelligence and strengths of all students by presenting material that is as linguistically, visually, and kinesthetically rich as it is mathematically powerful.

Common Core State Standards

A Common Core State standard is a statement that describes what a student should know and be able to do across grade levels in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Assessment

Teachers at Carson use assessment tools and resources to identify student proficiency. Some items which may appear in the students Body of Evidence are as follows:

- Teacher observation
- Daily assessments
- Surveys completed by students, parents and teachers
- Classroom assignments
- Student self-evaluations
- Classroom tests

- District interim assessments
- Curriculum based measurements
- iReady Math & Literacy
- State assessments

HOMEWORK

Homework Policy

At Carson Elementary, we believe that the time families spend together outside of the instructional day is precious and should be impacted on a limited basis by homework assigned by the school. On special occasions, teachers may assign a special project that may require support at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any homework questions!