

CAROLINE

CONNECTION



Greetings Caroline Families,

I hope this communication finds you well. I am including below the Comprehensive Attendance Policy from the District since I have had lots of questions regarding excused/unexcused absences. I recently sent home letters to families regarding excessive late arrivals and excessive absences. These letters go home at incremental times including 5, 10, 15, and 20 days. These letters are an effort to keep you informed about attendance patterns. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Next Thursday is parent/teacher conferences. The teachers and students are working hard to prepare for sharing their progress with you. Please call Tracy in the main office to schedule your conference if you have not already done so.

The traffic in our front circle has been moving better. However, we still have parents using the staff lot. I cannot emphasize enough my request for families to give yourselves extra time in the morning to accommodate the traffic patterns. Please keep your speed down in the parking lot and use the staff to help guide you.

I am excited to share that the staff at Caroline is looking closely at our student achievement. We are motivated to look at reading instruction and set goals for improvement. In order to foster our inclusive environment and be culturally responsive, reading instruction needs to be a priority. Literacy levels the playing field for students. I will be certain to share more as we set goals and reflect on what's working and what's not. Thank you for your commitment to making reading a priority in your home.

New York State Assessments will be occurring on April 2 & 3 for the English Language Arts and on April 30 & May 1 for the math. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

Please be sure to always check your child's classroom folder. Your child's classroom teacher sends home important information about events happening in the classroom. We are always delighted for families to be part of the culminating events and case study presentations.

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's education. Have a wonderful week and stay warm!! As always, thank you for sharing your children with us.

Most Sincerely,

Karen Rachetta

March 7, 2019

VOLUME: 19

CALENDAR

March

14- Parent/Teacher Conferences-No School

15- Vacation Day- No School

18- District Conference Day – No School for students

20-4th/5th Grade Vocal Concert 8am + 6pm

3/25-PTA Meeting- ICSD Capital Project Discussion

3/28-Pre-K Art Show 5:30pm

April

15-19 Spring Break- No School

Board of Education Policies ICSD Comprehensive Attendance Policy

Number 5160 Last Revised June 22, 2010

1. Objectives

The Board of Education recognizes the important relationship between class attendance and student achievement. Through implementation of this policy, the Board expects to:

- a. encourage full attendance by all students through positive interventions;
- b. maintain accurate attendance records to ensure student safety and parent/guardian awareness of student absenteeism;
- c. identify patterns of student absenteeism; and,
- d. develop effective intervention strategies to improve school attendance/timeliness and to increase the likelihood that students will achieve academic success.

2. Attendance/Grade Policy

Students are required to attend all scheduled classes, unless their absence is excused under Section 5 of this policy. Consistent with the importance of ICSD grading and homework expectations, attendance and classroom participation, unexcused absence, tardiness, or early departure may affect a student's classroom participation grade. Consequently, each marking period a student's final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as student's performance on homework, tests, papers, projects, etc.

All students with absences, tardiness, and early departures are expected to consult with their teachers regarding missed work. Make up opportunities will be available for students with excused absences and must be completed by a date specified by the student's teacher for the class in question. Teachers may also provide opportunities for students with unexcused absences, tardiness, or early departures to make up work.

3. Notification

Schools will employ the following strategies to accomplish the objectives:

Each time a student is absent, or leaves early from school without a written notice from a parent, designated staff member(s) will notify the student's parent(s) by phone, mail or email of the specific incident.

a. When a student is absent, or leaves early from school five times for unexcused reasons, the school will send a letter home to parents documenting the absences and reminding them of the policy. If a student is absent 10 days for unexcused reasons, a second letter will follow and the parents will be contacted for a conference with school officials. The Principal or his/her designee may commence the PINS (Person in Need of Supervision) and/or DSS Hotline process in the event the student is not regularly attending school, in accordance with the New York State Education Law, Art. 65, Part 1.

b. Where extenuating circumstances are present, the individual school administration will deal with the case on an individual basis.

4. Strategies

Each school will develop procedures to address tardiness to classes.

a. Schools will accurately record attendance, absence, tardiness or early departure of each student. Schools will utilize data analysis for tracking individual student attendance and individual and group trends in student attendance problems.

b. The administration is directed to establish attendance codes to be utilized in tracking excused and unexcused absences, tardiness, and early departures.

c. The attendance policy will be included in student handbooks and will be reviewed with students at the start of the school year and with students entering during the school year. School newsletters and publications will include periodic reminders of the components of this policy.

d. Classroom attendance policies and practices will be in writing and reviewed with students and families during the first week of school.

e. Parents will receive a plain language summary of this policy by mail at the start of the school year. Copies of this policy will also be made available to any community member, upon request, and at the Public Library, school offices, and on the district's website

f. The district will provide a copy of the attendance policy and any amendments thereto to all faculty and staff. All faculty and staff will meet at the beginning of each school year to review the attendance policy to clarify individual roles in its implementation.

5. Excused and Unexcused Absences

The Board recognizes certain absences, tardiness, and/or early departures may be excused when

they are for legitimate educational purposes, necessary, and/or unavoidable. The following is a list of absences, tardiness, and/or early departures that the Board considers to be excused and unexcused. This list is illustrative and not exhaustive. It shall be the responsibility of the Principal to make the final determination as to whether an absence, tardiness, and/or early departure is excused or unexcused.

Examples of Excused Absences	Examples of Unexcused Absences
Personal Illness Medical, mental health appointments Court or legal hearings School field trips Career Visits Religious Observance Illness or Death in Family College Visits Military Obligations Student Services Appointments Out of School Suspension In-School Suspension Participation in school-sponsored events Music Sectionals Impassable roads or weather	Truancy Shopping Vacations Oversleeping Senior Skip Day Driver's Test Hunting/Fishing Birthday Celebrations Personal Babysitting Missing the Bus

6. Incentives, interventions, and disciplinary sanctions

Schools shall create and implement school-based incentive programs and RtI multi-tiered intervention programs for exemplary attendance and significant attendance improvement.

7. **Note:** Teachers grading policies will be consistent with ICSD attendance and grading policies, ex. Teachers may not add bonus points to student grades as an incentive for exemplary attendance.

Unexcused absences, tardiness, or early departures will result in disciplinary action consistent with the district's code of conduct. Those penalties may include, for example, detention, or in-school suspension. Students may also be denied the privilege of participating in or attending extracurricular events, parking privileges (high school), high school extensions as defined in the student handbook, and/or other privileges.

In order to participate in after-school activities, students must be present in school for at least one-half of that school day and attend all classes as required. Students who are absent from school with an excused absence, as defined in Section III, other than illness or suspension will be allowed to participate in after-school activities.

● **Review of Records**

The principal or his/her designee will be responsible for reviewing student attendance records and initiating appropriate action to address unexcused absence, tardiness, and early departure consistent with this comprehensive attendance policy.

In addition, the board of education shall annually review the district's student attendance records before the start of each school year.



Caroline Elementary PTA Invites you to our upcoming meetings:

Meetings are held in the music room.
Childcare is provided in the cafeteria.

Meetings are open to the entire school community – parents, teachers and staff. You do not need to be a PTA member to attend.

We hope to see you there! Questions? Email us! president@carolinepta.org

March 25, 2019 5:45pm-6:45pm

Principal Karen Rachetta will discuss the ICSD Capital Project, and what improvements we can look forward to at Caroline. We will also hear committee reports and discuss the PTA's annual budget for next school year.

April 29, 2019 5:45pm-6:45pm

School Librarian Milly Stephenson will briefly share a few of the library resources that may be helpful for families at home, including library databases and Sora, an ebook and audio book platform with many titles to borrow. We will complete the budget discussion and propose the slate of officers for the PTA board for next school year.

May 20, 2019 5:45pm-6:45pm

Voting on budget and officers for next school year. Planning for summer and fall events. Guest speaker: Details to come!

Are you considering getting more involved next school year?

These positions are available:

Treasurer
Co-President
Farm to Table Market Committee
Doug's Fish Fry Fundraiser Chair
Silent Auction Coordinator
New Student Welcome Committee
Yearbook Club

Contact any board member for more information about these opportunities, or come to a meeting and chat with us about your ideas. We'd love to hear from you!

Why Should You Volunteer?

7 Reasons to get involved in your child's school activities through the PTA

Volunteering in your child's school is a win-win situation. They need your time, talent and donations, and you get a backstage pass to a part of your child's world that you may not otherwise have been privy to.



The PTA offers many opportunities for parents and caregivers to volunteer their time and talents to help make our school a better place. Here's 7 reasons why volunteering will make a difference to you:

1. You can get to know the people in your child's life. You'll learn more about their teachers, the school staff, and the friends your child plays with daily.
2. You'll make connections to your child's day. You'll have a better understanding of what school is like for your child. You'll know what's happening.
3. You'll build your own social network and make connections with other parents in our community. It will open doors for you!
4. You can share your gifts. Your talents are precious and unique! PTA welcomes all types of talents and experiences to help run programs and events. Your skills are needed!
5. They can't do it without you! You've heard the phrase, and it's true: Many hands make light work.
6. You'll set an example for your child. Working with others to achieve a common goal in a school setting is a great life-lesson to share with your kids.
7. It feels good! You belong to this community and we share a common bond: Wanting to make our child's experience as great as it can be. Sharing your ideas, time and energy will reward you in many ways.

(Adapted from "Rewards of Volunteering" by Pam Molnar, printed in Ithaca Child, Spring 2019)

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District, the superintendent, or this school.



...because together we can make a difference in every child's educational experience.

SEPTA: Special Education Parent Teacher Association

Our mission is educational equity and social inclusion for all students

SEPTA welcomes and values the participation of families, caregivers, teachers and staff from all backgrounds, works collaboratively with the Ithaca City School District to provide educational equity, social inclusion and achievement for their students who may have different needs, and provides support for involvement in assessing resources and exercising informed choice in how to best meet those needs.

Contact us:



Ithaca SEPTA



@ithaca_septa

ithacasepta@gmail.com

Upcoming 2019 Meeting:
May 13

New York State



everychild.one voice.®

Come to our Next Meeting!!

Monday, March 11 5:30-7:00 pm

Beverly J. Martin Elementary School Cafeteria

Guest Speaker:

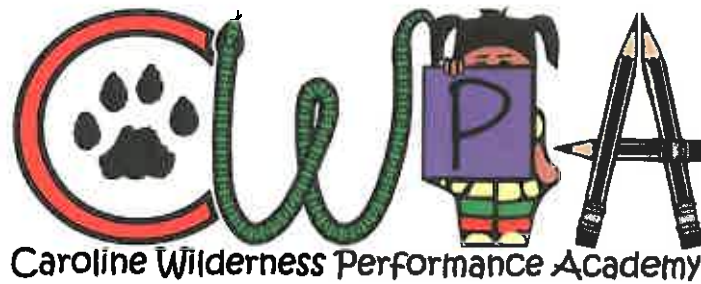
Mary Grover, Inclusion Officer for ICSD

Topic:

Beyond Integration: Inclusive Supports In and Outside of Classrooms

Childcare & dinner will be provided. RSVP not necessary but appreciated

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Attention first and second grade families! It's time to enroll your child in the Caroline Wilderness Performance Academy (CWPA)!

This is a FREE program that includes reading, writing, free books, outdoor education, cooperative games, theater activities and culminates with an amazing outdoor performance!

Your child will receive a tote bag with books and a script at the end of the school year. In July, a mentor teacher from Caroline will call to check in once a week and discuss the books your child is reading. We will meet at Caroline from 9am - 2pm from Aug. 5 - Aug. 23.

If you have a child in first or second grade, look for the application in backpack mail.

Please contact any of the following teachers if you have questions:

Anna Chapman

anna.chapman@icsd.k12.ny.us

Mike Cecere

m.cecere@icsd.k12.ny.us

Jenny Emerson

jennifer.emerson@icsd.k12.ny.us

Ryan Conklin

ryan.conklin@icsd.k12.ny.us

Aileen Grainger

aileen.grainger@icsd.k12.ny.us



**FAMILY GAME NIGHT AT
BROOKTONDALE COMMUNITY CENTER!**

Friday March 8, from 5PM-9PM.

Ages: focus on 8+, but any youth with adults who are interested in board games are welcome.

We will have a variety of games, including Forbidden Island, Apples to Apples, Clue, Dominion and more!!

Families who have youth who play Magic are welcome to join and learn as well.

Pizza and veggies will be available, along with popcorn and hot pretzels! Just RSVP so we know how much pizza to order!

Free event

If you would like --donations of \$5-20 per family are welcome.

Sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County and the Joint Youth Commission youth programs, and Brooktondale Community Center.

For questions, or to RSVP please contact Beth at 607-227-9532 or email bab47@cornell.edu

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4th and 5th Grade SPRING CONCERT AND ART SHOW



Wednesday, March 20, 2019
6:00pm in the Caroline Cafeteria

Ithaca Lacrosse Club Fundraiser @ Greek Peak Cascades Indoor Waterpark

Join the Ithaca Lacrosse Club at Greek Peak Cascades Indoor Waterpark!

When: Friday, March 22nd from 5:00pm-8:00pm

How: *Pre-order ONLY tickets are \$20.00 per person*

Visit <http://ithacalacrosseclub.org> to pre-order your tickets

For more information about the water park: <http://cascadesindoorwaterpark.com/>

- A responsible adult needs to attend with your children and buy a ticket.
- Questions? Mary Beth Ihnken (607) 539-3035



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ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL 5TH GRADE CLASSES

Tuesday April 9, 2019

The DeWitt Ice Cream Social

5th grade families arrive 6:15

Welcome 5th grade Families arriving at 6:15

Experience "A Night in the Museum"

6th grade projects

starts at 6:30-7:00

Agenda: Front foyer: 6th grade teachers will greet 5th grade families in front foyer

Teachers will walk 5th grade families downstairs to displays throughout the 6th grade wing.

7:00 Join in the ice cream eating & entertainment in the cafeteria after your visit until 8:00.

We will be delivering personalized student invitations last week of March.