

October 6, 2017



The Paw Print



Carpenter Elementary

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year From YOUR PTO President!!

Hello Carpenter families! I have the pleasure of being able to serve as your PTO president for the 2017-2018 school year. I have a fourth grader and a second grader at Carpenter this year. My family and I are Ann Arbor transplants, I grew up in Lake Orion, Michigan and attended college at Michigan State University (Spartans!!!). I recently returned to work full time after being home with my kids for ten years, and in my spare time I love to knit, read long books, hike long distances, and cook complicated meals. Now that I'm back at work and serving as president I tie string around my wrist, read the grocery list, walk to the mailbox, and order takeout. (ha!)

We have a big job in front of us this year. Our teachers work hard every day delivering the best academic experience possible (and some love on top of it). It's our job, parents, to build the community we want to have. It's our job to provide all the extras that set our school apart and make our kids' experience amazing. We do it together!

Through fundraising and volunteer effort from every family we will provide a rich community experience: we will laugh and cry at movie night. We will provide a trunk or treat for our tiniest Cougars (and all the big kids too!). We will help...

PTO Letter continues on page 2



Upcoming Events:

Friday, October 6th
Fun Run

Monday, October 9th
Spirit Wear Order forms
come Home

Tuesday, October 10th
PTO Meeting
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. MPR

Wednesday, October 11th
Wear Orange for Unity

Friday, October 13th
RESCHEDULED Fun Run

Wednesday, October 18th
Parent Teacher Conferences
4:20 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 20th
Dads & Donuts
8:00 - 8:53 am MPR



Carpenter Elementary School's Mission

The Carpenter School Community will provide a respectful, responsible, and safe environment in which each student is academically, emotionally, and socially prepared to face the future.



News You Can Use!



PTO Letter

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...provide funds for field trips that enrich the educational experiences in the classroom. We will help purchase extras that our teachers can use to stretch their classrooms beyond what is expected. We will wind down the year by celebrating at our school's Carnival. We do it together!

When I say together, I mean it. Every family, every parent, every student has something to offer. Every effort, no matter how small, makes a difference. A family who solicits ten one dollar donations for our fun run has raised as much as the family who pitches in \$10 on payday. The family who comes out to sell pizza at movie night works just as hard as the one who stuffs envelopes at home during nap time. WE DO THIS TOGETHER.

Our first big fundraiser is approaching in October: our school-wide Fun Run. Last year we raised.....well, I'm not even going to tell you - because this year we are going to blast that goal out of the water! Be on the lookout for how you can get involved.

We are building something great for all our kids. I can't wait to work with you. You can contact me any time at:

Carpenterptopres1@gmail.com

Kym Randall

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER!

With the start of the school year, it is always good to go over community and parent expectations:

- 1) Parents are encouraged to serve as classroom volunteers. Please contact your child's teacher to find out more details.
- 2) All visitors are required to report to the office and sign in when entering the school when school is in session (9:05am - 3:30pm). Visitors must wear a "Visitor's Sticker" at all times while in the building.
- 3) School dismissal is at 3:59 pm. Our teachers need the entire school day to ensure that our Cougars learn all that is needed.
- 4) We understand that there are times in which a student may need to leave school early. To pick up a child during the school day, parents must come to the office, sign the child out and wait for the office staff to call the child to the office.
- 5) As a safety precaution and to minimize interruptions to the instructional environment, non-staff members (parents, guardians, siblings) shall not pick their children up at classrooms or be present in the hallway during the school day. Please utilize the front lobby or the area by the MPR. Visitor's passes are not issued after 3:30pm.
- 6) When calling the school to make alternative dismissal plans, please try and do so before 3:00pm as many classrooms are engaged in learning throughout the building.

Have you heard? Carpenter's Fun Run is **RESCHEDULED** for October 13th?

Our students will be running, jogging or walking in our annual Fun Run. Each student is asked to raise money to help support our school. 100% of the pledges collected will provide supplies for classrooms, field trips and programs for our school.

This is our first **FUNdrasier** of the 2017-2018 school year. We are ready to BUILD the best Carpenter yet.

We are challenging our Cougar Community to raise more funds for our school than we did last year --if we raise **more than** \$5000 than Principal Johnson has agreed to be duct taped to the wall of our school!

***** You now have one more week to collect the funds to tape Mr. Johnson to the wall*****

Additional incentives have been added.

If students earn \$10 they get to help tape Mr. Johnson to the wall, \$30 raised gets them a movie in the MPR, \$100 is sundaes and \$250 raised is dinner with Mr. Johnson. The top 3 classes also get a special dance party!

The prizes stack! Let's get out there and raise funds for our school! Ask your grandparents, friends, neighbors, even moms and dads!

Check out the signup to volunteer during your Cougar(s) run times. Come on out and encourage and cheer on all our Cougars!



<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/409044ea4af22a57-funrun>

CARPENTER COUGARS

Pledge Form – Earning for Learning while on a Run for Fun

Student Name: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____

I will be running, jogging or walking in our Fun Run. 100% of the money collected provide school supplies for my classroom, field trips for me and my friends and programs at my school. I hope you can help by sponsoring me!

Your donation is tax deductible. (Carpenter PTO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization). Receipts will be sent for amounts over \$250, for lesser amounts your cancelled check is your receipt.

Pay by Cash, Check or PayPal carpenterptotreasurer1@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to Carpenter Elementary PTO.

Bring all Pledge money back to school by October 6, 2017

My goal is to get at least 10 pledges with the hopes of raising a lot of \$\$\$\$.

	Sponsor Name	Phone Number	Pledge Amount
1			
2			
3			
4			
	GREAT JOB! KEEP GOING!		
5			
6			
7			
8			
	10 PLEDGES IS AMAZING!		
9			
10			
11			
12			
	ROCK STAR STATUS!		

Birthday Treat Policy

In an effort to support our district health initiative for students, we are celebrating birthdays differently at Carpenter School. If you would like your Cougar to celebrate their birthday at school, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Please notify your child's teacher 1-2 days prior to the day that you would like your celebration. This allows our teachers to plan accordingly.
2. If you are sending food, we ask that you only send in fruit, vegetables and/or healthy snacks such as; crackers, popcorn, etc. These foods should be brought in ready-to-serve and easy for children to handle.
3. It will also be helpful if all necessary materials are provided (paper plates, napkins, etc.).
4. You may also send a small token gift instead of a snack, like pencils, erasers, bookmarks, etc. Other suggestions: donate a book to the classroom library or we can have an additional 5 minutes of recess in honor of that student.
5. Our Cougars who have birthdays in the summer are encouraged to celebrate their "half-birthday" or make arrangements in the Spring.
6. Invitations for outside birthday parties may be brought to school and passed out if all students in the classroom are invited.

Did you forget to get a copy of
"Cooking with Cougars" last year?

Are you new to Carpenter this year?

If you answered "Yes" to either of these questions, you are in luck!
We still have copies available of this amazing cookbook!

Over 50 families, teachers, students and
Carpenter neighbors contributed recipes.

Cookbooks are \$10 (cash or check accepted) and all proceeds go
back to our students, teachers and school!

If interested contact:

Niki Coatney at joj3207@gmail.com



Share Your Stories

We would love to hear about what great things are happening within the Carpenter Community. If your class, teacher, or school organization has done something or will be doing something that the community should know about, please provide a flyer or article about it. Please note, that Mr. Johnson has final say on all information provided in the Paw Print. Submissions for the next edition of the Paw Print are due to:

Kim Ulrich at kim@bityard.net
by Monday, October 9th.

No Nut Zones!

Carpenter has a Restricted Nut Policy. Please note that while students are allowed to bring food items that contain nuts and nut products, there will be classrooms that are designated as **No Nut Zones**.

In addition, all Special Area Classrooms are **No Nut Zones**.

We ask that for the first two weeks of school all snacks brought to school by students are vegetables or fruits.

Checking the labels on you child's food as you pack his/her lunch will ensure safety for all.

A complete list of No Nut Classrooms will be available by the end of this week of school.



Volunteer With Your PTO

Want to help, but not exactly sure how?

Complete our Volunteer Interest Form and help us **BUILD** an amazing PTO team!

Follow this link to help us **BUILD**

<https://goo.gl/forms/f1slmyGNcLK7Lh73>

News from the Library



Welcome to the Carpenter Library!

Hello, my name is Mrs. Clark, and I am your librarian. The 2017-2018 school year is my second year here at Carpenter. I am so excited to serve the students and staff again.

All Carpenter students visit the library at least once a week and have the opportunity to check out books.

Number of books students can check out:

1 Book- Young 5, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade

2 Books- 2nd Grade

3 Books- 3rd-5th Grade

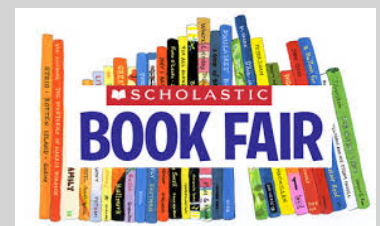
Just like last year, overdue notices will be sent every Thursday at 3:30 pm.

Have a wonderful week!

Mrs. Clark

Scholastic Book Fair

Help support our schools library while adding to your child's love of reading join us the week of October 23-27 as we bring the Scholastic Book Fair to Carpenter.



Family night will be Thursday, October 26.

BAs with all our events we can't make them happen without the support of our parent volunteers. Please consider signing up by clicking on the link below:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080E49A5AB2FABF85-

Here's what we know:

Across the United States, there has been a concentrated effort to tackle chronic attendance challenges – 89% of school districts report some level of chronic absence. In Washtenaw County, nearly 12,000 students missed more than 10 days of school during the 2014-2015 school year. Of the 12,000:

- 20% missed 19-35 days of school.
- Another 17% were severely chronically absent having missed more than 36 days of school.



Defining Terms:

Average Daily Attendance: The percentage of a school's student body that attends on a typical day.

Truancy: Is defined as a certain number or frequency of unexcused absences.

Chronic Absence: Is defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days in a school year. This comes out to 18 school days in a 180-day school year. This includes excused and unexcused absences.

Questions/Concerns?

Please contact the Ann Arbor Public Schools Access & Opportunity Department:

George Brieloff: 734-997-3617
Access & Opportunity Advocate

Jason Gold: 734-997-3622
Access & Opportunity Advocate

Access & Opportunity Department Mission Statement:

Support each student and their family by removing barriers and accessing appropriate support through problem solving and advocacy for families and students.



August 2017

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ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Attendance Matters!

School attendance plays an important role in academic success.

Children often fall behind in school if they frequently miss all or part of a school day.

You can help your child succeed in school by supporting their daily attendance. You can also help by understanding how schools define absences.



Attendance Matters!

"Talking to your child's school about attendance will help your child achieve"

Absences are a warning sign there may be a problem.

The **attendance** rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent.

Start Strong: Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict frequent absences later in the school year. Nearly half of all students that missed more than two days of school in September went on to miss almost a month of school.

Chronic Absences: An estimated 5 to 7.5 million students in the United States miss almost a month of school every year. This adds up to over a year missed by the time of graduation.

Early Absences Lead to Attendance Issues in Later Grades: Absenteeism starts early. One in 10 kindergarteners and first graders are considered to be "chronically absent."

Chronic Absence = Missing two or more days per month: Research shows students who miss 10 percent of school, or two days per month, show negative academic progress. In some schools, that adds up to 18 days a school year and is considered to be chronic absence.

Third Grade Reading Level: Poor attendance can keep children from reading proficiently by the end of third grade, which is shown to negatively affect their chances of graduating on time.

Dropout Indicator: By sixth grade, a chronically absent student is shown to have a significantly higher chance of dropping out of high school.

Excused Absences Hurt Too: Excused absences are just as negative as unexcused ones. Suspensions add additional missed time in the classroom, which in turn increases the dropout risk.

At Risk Students are at Risk for Absence: Students from low-income families are four times more likely to be chronically absent. Reasons for this are often out of the student's control, such as unreliable transportation, unstable housing, and a lack of access to quality health care.

Every Minute Matters: If a student is 10 minutes late to school each day, this adds up to missing more than 33 hours of class time. A student with a 90 percent attendance average for Kindergarten through 12th grade will miss over a year of accumulated time in the classroom.

Excused Absences due to chronic health conditions:

If you expect that your child will have multiple absences for medical appointments or chronic illness, it helps to be proactive and plan ahead. Early and frequent communication with the school can prevent problems later on. Here are some ways to start the conversation:

- Reach out to the school administrator, teachers, counselor, and nurse. These people can be advocates and work with you.
- Develop a plan so your child can catch up on schoolwork. Some ideas include planning for catch-up lessons, having homework delivered to your home, or arranging for educational services at home. Whenever possible, plan ahead so that your child can have materials before the absence.

When your child is absent for medical reasons, contact the school.

Many health care providers will write a letter to the school at the beginning of the school year or when your child is first diagnosed. The letter could explain:

- The diagnosis in general, and what impacts it may have at school and on school attendance.
- How often the child will be having doctor's office visits or may be absent for illness.
- Accommodations that may be helpful.

Absenteeism Intervention Protocol:

Points of Intervention I: 5-10 days missed:

- School personnel meet with student.
- Parent is contacted by school.
- Any supports needed?

Points of Intervention II: 10-15 days missed:

- Letter sent to parents/guardians regarding attendance.
- A meeting is scheduled with parents/guardians to develop an agreement to improve attendance.
- Determine if screenings or evaluations should be conducted.

Points of Intervention III: 15-20 days missed:

- Letter sent to parents/guardians regarding attendance.
- A meeting is scheduled with parents, student, school personnel, and Access & Opportunity Advocates.
- The meeting will result in development of an attendance agreement to improve attendance.
- A three week follow up with parents, student, school personnel, and Access & Opportunity Advocates to review any improvement in attendance.

Points of Intervention IV: Persistent absenteeism:

- Letter sent to parents/guardians regarding attendance.
- A meeting is scheduled with parents, student, school personnel, and Access & Opportunity Advocates.



ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Carpenter Elementary School

4250 Central Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Principal:

Michael Johnson

Secretary:

Valerie Babcoat

Teacher Clerk:

Valerie Munson

General Office Phone:

734-997-1214

Carpenter PTO Leadership

President: Kym Randall

Vice President: Shannon Dunn

Secretary: Michelle Keller

Treasurer: Amber Beattie

SIT: Glenn Timpe

Fundraising Chairs: Kathy Owens & Laura O'Leary

Community Chair:

Communication Chair: Kim Ulrich

Additional Ways to Support Your PTO and our Students!



Box Tops for Education:

Turn in your clipped Box Tops from participating products to the school office. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for our school. Want to help our school earn extra box tops? Visit the following website to enter the sweepstakes: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes>



Coca Cola Product Bottle Caps:

Did you know that Coke Rewards can help bring money to our school?

Just visit: <https://donate.mycokerewards.com/causes/featured>



Amazonsmile:

Did you know that Amazon donates a percentage of each sale when you shop at smile.amazon.com? It's the exact same Amazon products, the same prices, and the same quick shipping, but when you shop Amazon Smile, Carpenter receives a portion of each sale!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Login with your normal Amazon account info
3. Type Carpenter PTO in the charitable organization search box, and select our school.

Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP



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through the resale of unique and gently-used community donations.**

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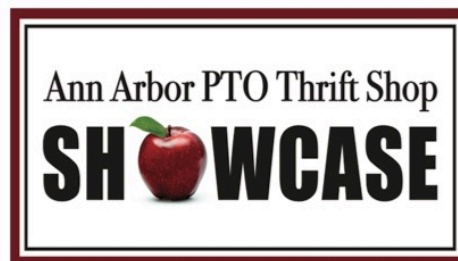
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