

August 19, 2018

Hi Upper School Families and Students,

Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year at Carbondale New School! This looks like it is going to be an interesting and exciting year. We have such a wonderful group of students of hugely wide-ranging interests and that promises that we will all learn a great deal.

This first few weeks we will be getting to know each other, learning how to use our MacBooks and Google, getting organized, and moving on to find out where we are in what we know and how we can progress in each area.

We will be sending along our first week of vocabulary words with this newsletter. The first few days we have had to use quite a few reminders, but I know that as our routines get established those will be fewer and further apart. I know that with the beginning of school, I am having to rework all my routines as well to make sure that all the grading, planning, and other duties are performed as quickly and as well as possible.

This week in math, we will continue assessing the students. We will also start our problem of the week. Students will be given a Problem of the Week Folder on Monday and we will have an in-depth class on how these should be completed. On Tuesday, we will walk through this week's problem as a class. As I get to know the students better we will have more than one problem of the week based on skills and knowledge.

I hope you all got to take a look at our first math project completed in groups where all the students worked in pairs (and collaborated with other pairs) to use only four 4s and various operations to come up with all the numbers from 1-20. All the students were engaged and it was great to see them

all so focused and determined to find the solutions. We will continue to do a math project each week as well as daily math journal entries and assignments.

We briefly touched on science and social studies last week and will get more into both of these subjects this week. Students are writing daily and I hope to have them start contributing to this newsletter after Labor Day. I am sure that they will be able to write a great human interest piece on Hershey's return to the classroom at that time.

This group of students have really taken to Quags! If any of you have any large towels that you have earmarked to throw away or make into rags, please consider donating them to the classroom. The kids are loving holding Quags, but we need to provide a soft barrier between their skin and her spikes and claws. It also helps if she feels the *call of nature* while being held.

I want to thank you all so much for all your help and generosity to our class. Thanks so much to Avree's parents for donating additional seating options to our room. The items they donated have made the room much more comfortable and cheerier. The new buzzword in education is "flexible seating" which I have been doing at CNS since 1994. (Eventually the other schools do catch up, but we will keep innovating.) The new seating also helps since our class has doubled in size since last year.

We will be starting our cooking/health & nutrition class after Labor Day and will have a mini kitchenette set up in the classroom. We also plan to start having the students eat in the area after that time and would love to have any parents who would like to join us for lunch from 12:30- 12:55. Modeling and reinforcing manners and kindness is important.

The students have started to meet the new PreK/K students on the playground and will be choosing their buddies the week of August 27. Please get all the necessary paperwork turned in to the office as soon as possible. Deadlines are listed in the enrollment packet.

Finally, please feel free to text or email me. I will get back to you as quickly as possible. My phone number is (618) 889-5313 and the school email is carla@carbondalnewschool.com.

Communication is vital to ensure each student's success. Also, as I told many of you, please let me know if the kiddos will be late or gone for the day due to appointments or sickness. I really do act like a mother hen where my kids are concerned and I definitely worry. If you are going to be gone for more than one day and know ahead, let me know so I can prepare materials for your child. The more time I have to do this, the better. I think the handbook gives an exact timeframe.

Thanks again for a great start to the school year.

Best wishes,

Carla

P.S. Kroger has reminded us that everyone *has* to re-enroll their choice of charity every August so please be sure to choose Carbondale New School. If you haven't enrolled in Kroger Community Rewards, we encourage you to do so. It does not affect your cost or fuel points and only helps the charity you choose. Of course, we hope you choose us.

Wish List

Old bath towels

Legs for table in classroom (It was broken last year and we need the seating.)

Desk chairs (Old kitchen chairs or stools will work great.)

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20-24, 2018

1. **accommodate**: provide for the physical space or wishes of another (verb) (Anna)
2. **alliance**: a union or association formed for the mutual benefit of different groups; usually formed on the basis of mutual interests (noun) (Wiley)
3. **armadillo**: a mammal native to the western hemisphere; they have leathery armored shells and sharp claws that they use for digging; their diet consists mainly of insects (noun) (Liam)
4. **disbelief**: the inability or refusal to accept that something is true or real (noun) (Keira)
5. **foreign**: of, from, in, or characteristic of a country or language other than one's own (adjective) (Ellie)
6. **googolplex**: a number composed of a one followed by 100 zeros (noun) (Nolan)
7. **Illinois**: a midwestern state in the north central United States (noun) (Gavyn)
8. **indestructible**: something that cannot be demolished or destroyed (adjective) (Avree)
9. **paraphrase**: express the meaning of something written or spoken by another, using different words, especially to achieve greater clarity (verb) (Kloey)
10. **pizza**: a baked food usually composed of a layer of dough covered with tomato sauce, cheese and other toppings (noun) (Gabriella)
11. **quintillion**: in the U.S., a number represented by a one followed by 18 zeros (noun or adjective) (Bo)

12. **spectacular**: beautiful in a dramatic and eye-catching way (adjective) (Grayson)

13. **unique**: being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else (adjective) (Jasper)

14. **voodoo doll**: a puppet or doll made to resemble a person that is often used to cast spells on or cause harm to the person the doll represents. (noun) (Clare)

15. **primary source**: something that provides direct or first-hand evidence of an event, object, person, or work of art; can include legal documents, diaries, photographs (noun) (Carla)

16. **secondary source**: a document or recording that discusses or relates information originally presented elsewhere; examples include encyclopedias and dictionaries (noun) (Carla)

17. **qualitative observation**: information gathered by your senses that are subjective and do not involve numbers (noun) (Carla)

18. **quantitative observation**: information gathered by your senses that are measurable and include numbers (noun) (Carla)

19. **fixed mindset**: the belief that your abilities, talents, and qualities are set or predetermined (noun) (Carla)

20. **growth mindset**: the belief that your abilities, talents, and qualities are flexible and based on effort (noun) (Carla)