



# CARMEN ARACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

CARMEN ARACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS



**September 2—First Day of School**

**September 6—Labor Day Schools & Offices closed**

**September 15—Early Dismissal—Professional Development for Teachers**

**September 23—Open House 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.**

**September 27—Picture Day**

### SCHOOL HOURS:

**Regular day  
8:05 A.M.-2:50 P.M.**

**Early Dismissal  
8:05 A.M.—12:50 P.M.**

**390 Park Avenue**

**Bloomfield, CT 06002**

**Office: 860-286-2622**

**Guidance: 860-286-2648**

**Nurse: 860-286-2638**

**Fax: 860-242-0347**

**[www.bloomfieldschools.org](http://www.bloomfieldschools.org)**



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready for a successful 2021-2022 school year. Per state and health officials and Bloomfield Public Schools directive, we are planning for full five day in-person learning.

State and health officials advise that the most effective way to achieve this goal - and protect against COVID-19 – is for all educators and children, age 12 and older, to get vaccinated.

We remain committed to delivering a first class education that prepares every student to achieve within and beyond school. This shared responsibility includes you, your child, school staff and me.

During these turbulent times, it is vital that we continue to support school policies and procedures, reinforce school learning at home (practice basic reading, mathematics, writing skills and homework completion), and be an active participant with two-way communication while monitoring student progress in PowerSchool. This will further support our efforts to hold true to our mission to educate and elevate our students.

To that end, we will continue to mandate that students figure, know, understand and articulate his/her academic standing (i.e., grade point average, class standing or test grades) upon request.

The faculty will continue to make information accessible and user friendly to you and your child. I am committed to working with you and look forward to leading the charge to achieve academic excellence!

If you have questions, please feel free to call or stop by the school.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

In anticipation of a great year,

*Trevor L. Ellis, Ed.D.*  
*Principal*



“EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGINS WITH A DREAMER. ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE STRENGTH, THE PATIENCE, AND THE PASSION TO REACH FOR THE STARS TO CHANGE THE WORLD.” HARRIET TUBMAN



**School Hours**

First day of School is **Thursday September 2, 2021** 8:05 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. Please **do not drop students off before 7:45 A.M.**, as there is no adult supervision before that time.



**Uniform Policy**

Students should report to school dressed in uniform each day. The middle school **top colors are white, yellow, or black.** The middle school **bottom colors are khaki, navy, or black.** **No sweatshirts or hoodies.** (See attached flyer for additional information). If a student is not in compliance with this policy, a parent/guardian will be asked to bring in appropriate clothing to school. **Students will not be permitted to attend class until appropriate compliance has been made.**



**Open House**

Open House will be held **in September 23, 2021.**



**Breakfast and Lunch: The Bloomfield School Food Service**



offers affordable, nutritious breakfasts and lunches

to all school students in a clean, safe and friendly environment.

**Bloomfield Public Schools will offer free meals to all children through the 2021-2022 school year.**

The Food Service Department still encourage families to complete the meal application form when it becomes available.



**School Supplies**

Please use the attached **Back to School Shopping List** when shopping for school supplies.

**Late Buses**

Late buses are available to students who remain after school for extra help or participate in after school activities. **Our late buses pick up students at 4:10 p.m. Late buses will begin—TBD.**



**Homeroom Lists**

Homeroom lists will be posted on the front entrance to the school **by August 31, 2021.**

**Lockers**

Please **provide your child with two locks one for PE and one for personal locker.** It will be necessary for students to provide homeroom teachers with the combination and/or an extra key for emergency purposes. The purpose of the lock is to ensure the security of your child's belongings.



**Immunizations**

Please make sure that your child **has all of the immunizations necessary to start school.** Please note that by state law students who have not met medical requirements cannot be admitted to class.

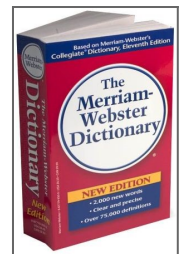


**Picture Day**  
September 27, 2021  
November 1, 2021

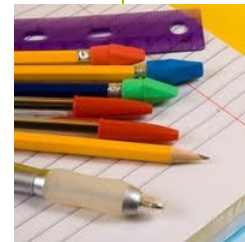




## BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING LIST



- Large 3-ring binder
- 2 Pocket folder for each subject
- 3 x 5 Index cards
- Six subject dividers
- Notebook paper
- Highlighters (yellow, blue, pink, green)
- Pencils and pens
- Colored pencils and water-based markers or crayons
- Two locks (one for P.E. and one for personal locker):
- Book covers
- A scientific calculator (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)
- A sturdy book bag
- Premier School Agenda / scheduler will be provided to each student at no cost. A \$5.00 charge will be assessed if replacement is required.
- 12" ruler
- Glue sticks
- Student scissors
- Pocket (small) dictionary  
 Dictionary with word etymology origin - examples are:  
 American Heritage Dictionary  
 Merriam Webster Dictionary



These are general requirements. Individual teachers may provide students with additional lists at the opening of school.



## HEALTH and SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-2022

**Be certain, Carmen Arace Middle School will follow strict state and federal health and safety guidelines to allow all students and staff the opportunity to return to school in-person.**

### We will:

- \* Clean and sanitize throughout the day
- \* Mark hallways and common areas with tape that is six feet apart
- \* Wear masks, wash hands often, and use hand sanitizer
- \* Use desk shields/table dividers and practice social distancing at all times
- \* Refrain from shaking hands, physical contact, and sharing materials
- \* Group students and stagger hallway transitions to reduce exposure
- \* Recommend staying home if sick
- \* Assess students for trauma
- \* Facilitate student/staff check-ins to discuss the impact of the pandemic
- \* Reach out to students and families to offer support
- \* Not have use of lockers—All belongings will be kept with the student

### Transportation:

- \* Everyone on the bus must wear masks for the entire ride
- \* Students will load the bus from back to front and exit bus from front to back
- \* Students will sit one per seat, whenever possible

### Meals:

- \* Students will eat in small groups in the cafeteria and/or classroom to adhere to social distancing

### Entering the Classroom:

- \* Hallway transitions will be staggered and traffic will move in one direction
- \* Class sizes will be smaller than usual
- \* Students will be spaced six feet apart, when feasible
- \* Some rooms/areas will be repurposed to accommodate classroom space
- \* Desk shields and face coverings will be used to reduce potential exposure

### If someone gets sick at school, they will be:

- \* Evaluated by the school nurse and excluded from school **IMMEDIATELY** if COVID-19 symptoms are exhibited
- \* Asked to wait in the isolation room until picked up by parent/guardian, responsible person, or released to another health care facility
  - The isolation room will be separate from the health office
  - Students will not be left alone in the isolation room
- \* ***Those in contact with the student or staff member will be notified of the exposure by school administration and instructed on current [CDC recommendations](#) related to exposure.***

### If someone gets sick at home, they:

- \* Should **NOT** attend school/work and should inform the school if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms or if they have had contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19

### COVID-19 symptoms include:

- \* Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever above 100 degrees, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, headaches

***If a student or staff member has had [close contact](#) with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the student or staff member **MUST** remain home for 14 days and [self-monitor](#).***



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST



### THE BASICS

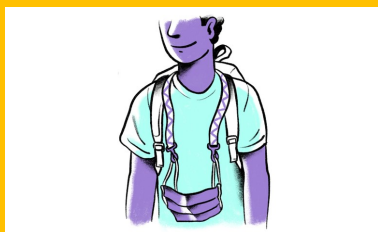
See the attached list

Parents should stock up on staples such as pens, pencils, crayons, markers, paper, erasers and scissors — both for kids who will be learning from home and for those who will be learning from school. Also, it is recommended that kids who will attend any in-real-life instruction should keep these items in a washable pouch because sharing likely won't be allowed.



### THE NEW BASICS

Two other must-haves for school in 2020: hand sanitizer and face coverings. Students should buy or make 10 to 15 masks they are comfortable wearing so that they can have two or three face coverings available every day. That's because masks can get sweaty or dirty, and kids need to have a backup mask, just in case.



### MASK INSURANCE

Having masks is one thing; making sure they don't fall off is another. Lanyards or other cords to keep masks around a student's neck are good solutions to this problem. A lanyard keeps the mask close enough and affords easy access in case of any sudden social distance deviation. Also, it prevents the mask from falling on the floor and getting dirty, in addition to keeping the mask within (the student's) personal space. Additionally, the mask lanyard could be a means for easing kids' anxieties about wearing masks; they could be decorative and personalized, which basically makes any item fun.



### CONFIRMING CONNECTIVITY

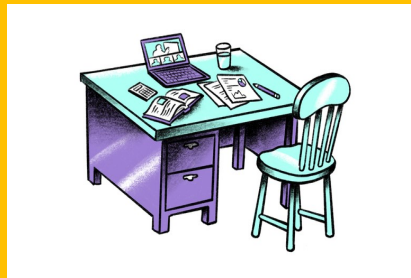
With a significant amount of learning happening online, it's important for students to be able to access the internet from home. This makes connectivity — reliable Wi-Fi or hard-wired Ethernet — a necessity.

## ONE DEVICE PER STUDENT

It is important to note that families of students who don't receive free devices from their schools should try everything possible to obtain one for each child to use as his or her own. Devices such as Kindles, smartphones and many tablets simply don't have the computing power necessary for virtual education.



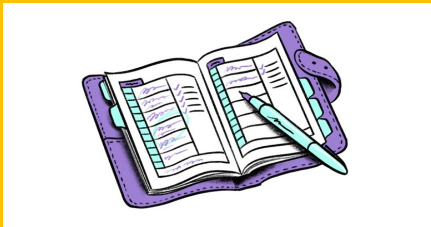
## A PLACE TO WORK



Families with enough space and resources may want to consider getting each child a desk OR designing/designating an area in a COMMON space (avoid bedroom set-ups as they are difficult to monitor and offer too many easy-out distractions) for each child.

## LIST OF THE DAY

Another strategy for putting at-home learners in a position to succeed is by listing the daily schedule and objectives on a whiteboard or flip-chart paper that is easily visible from wherever students plan to complete their work.



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES PER TEACHER/SUBJECT MATTER**  
Contact your child's teachers for the supplies required in their classes