Dear Parents

On behalf of the Pirie Staff, we would like to WELCOME you and your family back to school! For those families who are new to Pirie, WELCOME to our family! Pirie has been providing quality education to the Chatham Community since September of 1962. We are proud and pleased to celebrate 55 years of educating students and preparing them for college and their future careers!

Pirie School’s MISSION is to enhance the academic success of ALL students through the integration of fine arts and data driven instruction in order to promote college readiness at all grade levels. Our goal is to ensure that every student is given an opportunity to learn in an environment that is safe and provides a challenging instructional program that is differentiated, integrated, and meets the academic and social emotional needs of all students to promote success in future educational and life endeavors. We encourage all students to be creative in a positive learning community with the goal of enhancing academic success and promoting lifelong learners.

I would like to begin this year by celebrating the success of our students as measured by the Spring 2017 DIBELS and NWEA assessments. Based on our data results from the NWEA, we had 49% of our students in grades 3rd-6th to meet their growth projections in Reading. We had 54% of our students meet their growth projections in Math. Based on the NWEA Spring Data, we had 62% of our 2nd-6th Grade students at or above grade level for Literacy and we had 50% of our 2nd-6th grade students at or above grade level for Math. We had 76% of our K-2 students reading at the proficient or above level and we had 66% of our K-2 students at or above proficient level as measured by the mClass Math assessments. Our student attendance rate for 2016-17 was 94.5%.

We had some decreases in our student achievement for Reading and Math in all grade levels and our goal for this year is to increase the percentage of students meeting their end of the year targets between 5-10%. Our students have started out this year on the right track by coming to school each day. Our attendance rate dropped by 1% last year and we didn’t meet our target of 96%. We are striving to have the best attendance in Network 12 this year, so we are pushing to have more than 96% of our students in attendance each day!

Parents, thank you for all your support in your child’s educational journey. As we lay the foundation of preparing our students to become college and career ready, we have set some high expectations in the areas of social and emotional learning, academics, and attendance for this school year. We have changed some of our organizations for 3rd-6th grade by adding a Departmental Program which will give students exposure to changing classes and getting prepared for junior high and high school. With your continuous support and working alongside with us, our students will continue to move in the right direction.

During the first week of school we sent home several letters and forms that we’re asking to be signed and returned to school by this Friday. Please read over the parent attendance handbook carefully so that you are informed of the CPS and school wide attendance policies. A monthly calendar and newsletter will be sent home each month so that you are aware of our monthly school activities and recognitions. You may also check Pirie’s face book page at https://www.facebook.com/PirieSchool and Website at pirie.cps.edu for information, updates, and school events.

Our motto for this year is “Stand Together, Build Together…BE THE CHANGE!!”
Welcome of New Staff Members
Please welcome Ms. Kaylyn Wilke to our Pirie Family. She will be our new Kindergarten teacher this year. We are also in the process of hiring a new Pre-K teacher for this school year.

Pirie LSC Members
Our Pirie LSC Members are as follows:
Qiana Carr, President
Cynthia Scott, Vice President
Jermicka Clark, Parent Representative
Tita Jackson, Community Representative
Natalie McKnight, Community Representative
Stacie Bell, Teacher Representative
Andrea Woodard, Teacher Representative
Antron Moore, PSRP Representative
Senalda Grady, Principal

Our first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21st at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. All parents are welcome to attend our monthly meetings.

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)
Our school receives Title 1 funds which are used to support Parent Programs and school wide programs for all students. In order to maintain our Title 1 funds, we must have an active Parent Advisory Council. The P.A.C. parents meet once a month and participate in various parent workshops that provide instructional resources for parents to use at home when working with their children. This year we will need to elect officers for the year after the Annual Title 1 meeting is held with the principal. The Annual Title 1 meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 9:20 a.m. We must have at least 6 parents present to conduct the meeting. At this meeting, the principal will explain the By-Laws, Parent Compact and Parent Involvement Policy to all Parent Advisory Council members and parents in attendance. I will also share the budget information and procedures for spending the allocated funds for the school year. If we do not have an active Parent Advisory Council, we will lose the funding which may also affect other instructional programs.

School Schedule
All CPS schools are on the same calendar schedule. Our students must arrive by 9:00 a.m. and their day ends at 4:00 p.m. Students will eat breakfast between 9:15 a.m.-9:30 a.m. each day in their classrooms. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten students will eat breakfast in the lunchroom beginning at 8:50 a.m. Students arriving at 9:30 a.m. will not be able to eat breakfast. Students will enter the building through the main doors at 8:35 a.m. then will not go outside until 8:40 a.m. Students will have a 20-minute recess and a 25-minute lunch period following their recess.

Arrival/Dismissal Times
Students do not have to report to school until 9:00 a.m. Children may report to school as early as 8:35 a.m. each day. Unfortunately, staff is not available to supervise students arriving sooner than 8:30 a.m. To ensure all students are safe and supervised at all times, please adhere to this policy. Students may not wait in the office at any time before school starts. Please make sure you pick your child up on time at 4:00 p.m. each day. Any student not picked up before my staff comes back in the building, must come back in the office to call a parent. Students may not wait for their rides in the park or on the corner by themselves.

Early Dismissals
In accordance with the CPS school policies, all students must receive 360 minutes of instruction each day. A student is considered absent for a half-day when he/she arrives after 9:30 a.m. or leaves before 4:00 p.m. Please remember late arrivals and early dismissals disrupt the instructional process for not only the child, but for the entire class. Important information is communicated first thing in the morning each day, and vital instruction is given at the end of each day. Please ensure that your child is present for the entire school day as often as possible. If an early dismissal is needed, students will have to receive their homework on the following day if it is not ready for them to take home.
**Attendance Counts**

Our attendance goal for this year is to have at least 96% or more students in attendance every month. Last year our attendance rate was 94.5%! We must raise the bar to ensure our children are coming to school every day. If your child is absent due to illness, or another excusable reason, parents must complete the cause of absence notice so that each absence will be excused. We have created a Parent Attendance Handbook which highlights the additional district and school-wide policies being implemented this year. The handbook will be sent home this week. Students arriving at 9:31 or leaving before 4:00 p.m. will be marked absent for a half day.

**Dismissal Time/Traffic Safety**

The Church parking lot, just north of St. Mark Church is available for Pirie parents to park their cars when picking up your children at the end of the day. You may also park your car in front of the church or on 85th Street, however there are limited spaces. **Please do not park** (illegally) in front of the crosswalk at the corner of 85th and St. Lawrence. Children cross the street at all 4 corners on St. Lawrence.

Parents, we need your help in keeping students, staff, and parent volunteers safe! Additionally, we ask that during dismissal, please do not DOUBLE PARK your car or leave your car unattended in front of the school. Double parking may result in your car being ticketed or towed by the 6th Ward Police Department. Do not allow your child to run out into the middle of the street to get into your car. Please do not enter the Chatham Senior Co-Op parking lot to turn around or to park your cars. That is private property and the seniors will come out and have you move your cars. Thank you for your support in this matter and ensuring everyone remains safe and respects the community residents.

**Cellular Phones**

Possession of cell phones or pagers is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. A written request from a parent or legal guardian stating that there is a medical emergency or a family emergency must be submitted and approved by the principal. We may not keep cell phones in the office. Students caught using cell phones inappropriately in the building or during instructional time is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate incident that disrupts the educational process such as the use of profanity, indecent gestures or pictures sent through text messages, face book, or any other social media sites, may result in suspension.

**Progress Notices**

5th Week Progress Reports will be sent home with all students each marking period notifying you of your child’s progress for that marking period. All student records and grades are completed online. Please schedule a conference with your child’s teacher as soon as you receive the Progress Notice to discuss your child’s academic needs and accomplishments. A personal learning plan will be created for students at risk of failing the grade. This plan will be developed by the teacher and discussed with parents to enhance the learning of your child. Review all schoolwork and homework and communicate with your child’s teacher regularly. Parents can monitor students’ grades in the Parent Portal Gradebook system for 1st-6th grade only. Each parent must set up an account first. Once the account has been created, you may view your child’s progress weekly. If you need assistance in setting up your account, please come in to the Main Office and Mrs. Bell, our technology coordinator will assist you in setting up your account. If you do not have a computer at home, you may come into the school and use our computers. You may also use the computers located in a Public Library. A guide on how to set up your account will be sent home along with the student PIN numbers.
**Computer Technology**

CPS Internet Usage Policy states that parents must give permission for students to use the internet. Please sign and return the media consent form, granting permission for your child to use the internet in the computer lab and in their classroom for research. Without the signed consent form, students **will not** be allowed to surf the internet or work on the technology programs. Students must also have a parent’s consent to be videotaped, recorded, or photographed for school projects or events. These consent forms were sent home last week. Technology instruction will be provided by each classroom teacher. Students will be evaluated on how well they complete various assignments in all subject areas utilizing the internet and educational software as they incorporate technology during their computer lab time each week. Students in 2nd-6th grade complete the NWEA and PARCC exams on the computer. If your child has access to a computer at home, please allow him/her to practice working on educational assessments online so that they can become familiar with the use of computers in school.

**Medication Policies**

Medicines may not be administered to students by any staff member. If your child has been prescribed a medication to take at school, you must have the proper forms on file with the school nurse. Our nurse is only at Pirie on Wednesdays. Cold medications must be administered by the parent only. Students may not eat cough drops during the day because that is also a form of medication.

If your child has any allergies or chronic illnesses, please notify our nurse immediately and it must be noted on the medical form which was sent home on the first day of school. The lunchroom manager will be notified of any student who has allergies. Parents may go on the CPS website to review the school breakfast/lunch menu and highlight meals that your children cannot eat due to allergies. The website is [www.cps.edu/menu](http://www.cps.edu/menu).

**2017-18 Assessment Schedule**

*Students in Grades 3rd-6th will take the PARCC assessments beginning in mid-March.* The PARCC assessments will be completed online and will include Reading and Math. K-2 students will complete the TRC and DIBELS assessments in the Fall, Winter, and Spring which measures baseline growth and progress monitoring information to guide instruction. Students in 2nd-6th will take the NWEA assessments in the Winter and Spring which focuses on Reading and Math skills. 5th Grade students will also take the Illinois Science Exam in May. More information will be given to all parents during our Open House event.

**Student Incentives**

Students’ names will be entered in an Attendance and Uniform raffle. Names will be called each week for students wearing the school uniform and/or having perfect attendance for the week. Students in grades Pre-K-3rd will receive prizes from the Treasure Chest each Friday for Perfect Attendance and students in the 4th-6th grades will have their names pulled from the attendance lottery box. Other school wide attendance incentives will be done throughout the school year to celebrate monthly attendance rates.

**Student Handbook**

We have included the student handbook in the beginning section of the student planners. I will send home a handbook with all Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade Students, since these students will not use the student planners. Please review the handbook with your family so that everyone is aware of our school policies.
2017-18 Grading Policy

Our grading scale for the school year is as follows: **100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F**. Weights have been added to all graded work. **Homework is worth 15% of your child’s grade, class participation is worth 10%, classwork is worth 20%, exams are worth 30%, and quizzes are worth 25% of the grade.** Please make sure you are keeping track of homework assignments by signing the homework planner each night for all 2nd-6th Grade students. Kindergarten and first grade teachers will send home monthly notices regarding homework assignments.

Parent Volunteers

We are looking for parent volunteers who will be able to assist each day during our lunch programs. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Ms. Grady.

Parents, we are also in need of volunteers to assist us before and after school on the school grounds and during the breakfast program in the lunchroom. We welcome all parent volunteers to assist our staff and students with school wide programs, field trips, family nights, etc. If you are interested, please visit the CPS.edu home page to complete the on-line volunteer application.

Parents interested in volunteering must complete a TB test and a background investigation. Parents cannot volunteer until the approval notification is received from the Department of Safety and Security. Chaperones for field trips or a one-time activity are not required to have a background investigation.

Parent & Community Involvement

Parent and community involvement provide strong, positive forces in the academic success of students. Research has shown that students benefit when parents, school staff, and community members work collaboratively. As a parent, there are many ways to be involved in your child’s educational experiences at Pirie School. Here are a few:

- **Join** the LSC or PAC council.
- **Volunteer** in your child’s school. You can be a guest reader, speak about your job for Career Day at school, help with class events, chaperone a field trip, become a mentor, and much more.
- **Communicate** with your child’s teacher about your child’s progress. Insist that your child promptly brings home school communications, such as the school monthly newsletter, to keep you aware of school meetings, event times, and dates.
- **Attend** parent-teacher conferences, request a meeting when you have concerns, and attend workshops or family night events at the school to learn about your child’s academic programs.
- **Support** your child’s academic success at home by talking about the value of education, creating a place for your child to do homework and study, monitoring homework to ensure it is completed, getting extra homework help if needed, and limiting TV time.
- **Learn** about what is happening in your school by visiting Pirie School, reading the school newsletter, and visiting the Pirie Website. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) supports numerous initiatives to engage families and community members in collaborative relationships within the school. They sponsor parental involvement workshops in which parents learn a variety of strategies that can be used to help enhance their child’s learning at home and in school.
**Visiting the School**

Upon entering the school building, please stop at the security desk, state the reason for your visit to the security personnel, sign in on the visitor’s log, and then proceed to the main office. The main office personnel will address your needs or concerns and direct you to the appropriate personnel. If you have a conference with a teacher, the teacher will come around and escort you to the classroom. A visitor’s pass will be given to you before you proceed to your scheduled appointment. Upon completion of your visit, return to the main office, turn in the visitor’s pass and exit the school building from the main lobby entrance.

**Dates to Remember**

- **Friday, September 15, 2017**
  - All forms that were sent home during the first week must be returned today.

- **Thursday, September 21, 2017**
  - LSC Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. All parents are welcome to attend our meeting. We are looking for 3 parent representatives to join our LSC Council.

- **Tuesday, September 26, 2017**
  - Open House event for all parents from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. We will begin in the Gymnasium and then parents will be able to visit all classrooms immediately following our program.

- **Thursday, September 28, 2017**
  - Title 1 Parent Orientation Meeting in Rm. 204 of our modular building. The meeting will begin at 9:20 a.m. The P.A.C. council meeting will begin immediately following the Orientation Meeting.

**Gym Uniforms**

Students will receive an order for Gym Uniforms as soon as we have the prices confirmed by the vendor. Parents may order from our school vendor or you may purchase navy blue shorts and white t-shirts from any retail store of your choice.
UNIFORM DRESS CODE POLICY

All students at Pirie must be dressed in uniform every day. The uniform consists of the following:

**Acceptable Top Colors:** White, Light Blue, Navy Blue  **Acceptable Bottom Colors:** Navy Blue

**Girls Uniforms:**
- Navy blue skirt, jumper or pants
- White, Navy, or Light blue blouse or polo shirt (turtlenecks may be worn in the winter). Blouses or turtleneck shirts must be tucked inside of pants or skirts.
- White or Blue socks or tights
- Dark, non-athletic style shoes or gym shoes

**Boys Uniform:**
- Navy blue pants
- White, Navy, or Light Blue shirts only (T-Shirts may only be worn underneath the shirt or polo.) All shirts must be tucked inside pants.
- Navy blue tie (optional)
- Dark, non-athletic style shoes or gym shoes

**Prohibited Items:**
(NO JEANS • NO SHORTS • NO CAPRIS • NO OVERALLS)
- Any articles of clothing outside of the uniform policy colors
- Leggings or stretch pants may not be worn underneath dresses or skirts while in school. Girls may wear stockings or tights.
- Hats, caps, bandanas, rubber bands and/or other non-uniform accessories are not to be worn in school.
- Earrings in boy's ears are not allowed.

**Important Reminder:**

**GYM SHOES** may be worn each day since we have recess and they must be worn on gym days.

Classroom temperatures are not always even. A navy blue cardigan sweater is recommended for both boys and girls. **Hooded jackets or hooded sweaters may not be worn in the classrooms.**

Parents please check your child's uniforms for the week to make sure they have enough clothes to wear for the full week. Many students do not inform parents that their uniforms need to be cleaned. Students may not wear HOODED jackets in the classrooms at any time. If it is cool in the classroom, he/she must wear a plain navy blue or white sweater. Hoods may not be tucked inside of their jackets. **Black pants are not a part of our school uniform colors.**

Students who come to school dressed out of uniform will receive an “Out of Uniform Compliance” notice and may be excluded from extracurricular activities or issued a detention. You will be asked to sign and return this notice indicating that you have been informed of the non-compliance.

Thank you for your cooperation and ensuring that All Pirie students are Dressed for Success!
JOHN T. PIRIE FINE ARTS & ACADEMIC CENTER
SCHOOL CALENDAR
2017 – 2018

HOLIDAYS - NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS

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<tr>
<td>October 9, 2017</td>
<td>Columbus Day</td>
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<td>November 22 - 24, 2017</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
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<td>December 25 - January 5, 2018</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
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<td>January 15, 2018</td>
<td>M.L. King Birthday</td>
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<td>February 19, 2018</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
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<td>March 26-30, 2018</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>May 28, 2018</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAYS

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REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION DAYS/PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS

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<td>April 18, 2018</td>
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SUMMER VACATION
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018 IS THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (Full Day Attendance for students)

Information regarding Summer School will be sent home as soon as those dates have been determined by CPS.