

Carl A. Furr Elementary School

Parent/Student Handbook 2025-2026



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Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear Carl A. Furr Families,

We are so excited to kick off another amazing year at Carl A. Furr Elementary! A special welcome goes out to all of our new Falcons and their families—we're so glad to have you join our Furr family.

At Furr, we believe that student success is rooted in strong partnerships between families and educators. When we work together with shared goals, we can create the kind of learning environment where every child can thrive. Our focus is on providing a school experience and academic program that supports each student in reaching their full potential as a lifelong learner.

For this partnership to be successful, we need your continued involvement and support. Your child's teacher will play a key role this year—be sure to stay informed about classroom expectations and school policies. If any concerns arise, please reach out directly to your child's teacher so we can work together to find solutions that are in the best interest of your student.

The information in this handbook includes important guidelines and procedures that will help your child have a successful school year. Please take time to read through the handbook with your student. If anything is unclear, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the front office. Ongoing communication between home and school is essential to student success—be sure to check Parent Square regularly for updates and announcements.

We also encourage you to get involved! One of the easiest and most impactful ways to support our school is by joining the PTO. Whether you're able to volunteer at school or help in other ways, your involvement makes a big difference.

We look forward to a year filled with growth, achievement, and celebration. Help us support your child's success by encouraging reading at home, ensuring daily attendance and punctuality, and becoming an active member of our school community. On behalf of the entire Carl A. Furr staff, welcome to a school year full of joy, learning, and connection!

Warmly,

Beth Foster, Principal

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

7:45 AM - Students are welcomed to campus, and breakfast is served.

8:10 - Latest arrival time to ensure students are in class before instruction begins at 8:15.

8:15 AM - The tardy bell rings. All students are in their classrooms and ready to begin their morning meetings. Car rider line closes and parents must park and sign in students in the front office.

3:00 PM - All students are dismissed.

MISSION

Carl A. Furr Elementary School embraces diversity and fosters inclusion while encouraging risk-taking. We prioritize strong character, promote love and care among our school family, while believing all students will exceed their potential.

VISION

Through innovative teaching, collaborative partnerships, and a nurturing environment, Carl A. Furr Elementary School will inspire lifelong learners who will embrace differences, welcome challenges, and contribute positively to their community.

ABSENCES and TARDIES

If a student is unable to attend school, parents must notify the school with a note or [electronic form](#) found on the CAFE website. A student must be in attendance more than one-half of the school day before he or she can be counted present for that day. This would mean that a child would need to stay in school until 11:40 am to be counted as present. Your child's presence in school for the entire school day is vital to his or her success. Early check outs, even those that occur after 11:40, are recorded as 'tardies.' Information regarding tardiness and unexcused v. excused absences can be found on the CCS Policy website (Policy 4400: Attendance).

We ask that you plan your vacations and travel during times when school is not in session; however, if it is necessary for your child to miss school for these reasons, you may pick up a Request for [Prior Approval of Absences form](#) in the office, or on the Furr Elementary webpage. This form must be returned to the teacher or our data manager in the office prior to the absence(s). The principal will determine if the absence(s) will be excused. No more than 5 days per year will be excused for vacations. Also, no requests will be approved for students who have accumulated 15 or more absences.

Students should arrive at school on time. Students who arrive via car should try to arrive around 8:00 so the student has time to get to class before instruction begins at 8:15. Students are considered tardy if they are not in the building when the bell rings at 8:15. When a Cabarrus County bus is late and students ride that bus, they are not counted tardy. If a student arrives by car after the 8:15 bell, the parent and student must park and sign in at the office. A tardy slip will be issued at this time. Excessive tardies and early check outs may result in a referral to the school social worker for investigation.

BIRTHDAYS

Students may bring in a store bought pre-packaged treat to share with their classmates for their birthday. This will be handed out during the last five minutes of lunch. The ingredient list must be included on the packaging. Parents should check with the classroom teacher prior to the birthday about any allergies. In an effort to protect the academic day, birthday parties will not be permitted during the instructional school day. Students should not bring goody bags or multiple treats to share on their birthday.

The delivery of balloons, gifts, flowers, etc. to school is not allowed. No items will be delivered to students during the school day. Items will be kept in the office until the

end of the day and then sent home with the students. Balloons, flowers, baskets, and other large gifts are prohibited on the bus.

If a student is planning to hand out invitations at school they must bring an invitation for each student. If all students are not invited to the party then invitations should not be brought to school.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Students are allowed to bring a lunch box or bag lunches to the cafeteria; however, glass bottles are not permitted. Students are not allowed to use the microwave. They should be able to open all items they bring to school.

Parents are welcome to eat lunch in the cafeteria. Parents must bring an ID and sign in at the main office. They will be allowed to go to the cafeteria at the start of the student's lunch block and sit at the guest tables. At the end of the lunch period, your child will rejoin his or her class. The parent should then report to the main office to sign out. Any person listed in Infinite Campus will be permitted to visit a child for lunch whether or not they are accompanied by the parent/guardian. Individuals not listed in Infinite Campus will not be allowed to visit for lunch unless the parent/guardian is also present. Students may only sit at the guest table with adults listed in Infinite Campus. Friends may not join at the guest table with other families. Family members are not allowed to be at the regular cafeteria tables. Parents are discouraged from bringing soft drinks or fast food items for their children at lunch.

Parents of students in grades 1-5 may start visiting during lunch on Monday, August 25th. Kindergarten parents may start joining for lunch on Monday, September 8th. We do not allow parents at first so students can learn lunchroom procedures.

BUS EXPECTATIONS/DISCIPLINE

Each school day our bus drivers are committed to providing safe and dependable transportation for our students. In order for this to happen, we rely on a partnership between the driver and the students. Please help support school bus safety by reviewing these bus safety rules with your children.

Carl A. Furr Elementary

Bus Behavior Expectation for Daily Transportation and Trips

Bus	Safe	Orderly	Act Responsibly	Respectful
Waiting for the bus 	Stay behind the white line and off the street. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self. Follow the driver's instructions the first time given.	Create a safe environment for everyone.	Follow the driver's directions. Line up properly.	No spitting. No bullying or threatening.

Entering the Bus 	Hold the handrail. Follow the driver's instructions.	No pushing or shoving.	Be seated quickly and carefully. Remain seated.	Keep hands and feet to self.
Riding the Bus 	Stay seated. Keep aisles and emergency exits clear. Keep self and objects inside the bus.	Stay seated, facing forward in your assigned seat. Talk at a level 1 and stay level 0 when lights are on.	No food, drink, toys, or games. No buying, selling, or trading items. Take care of the bus. Keep the bus neat and clean.	Use kind words to others. No bullying or threatening others. No spitting. Keep hands and feet to self.
Exiting the Bus 	Exit carefully – front to back. Move to a safe spot away from the bus. Hold the handrail.	No pushing or shoving.	Stay seated until door opens. Get off at your assigned stop. Take belongings with you.	Create a safe environment for everyone.
Evacuation 	Stay quiet. Listen for directions. Leave belongings on the bus.	No pushing or shoving.	Follow driver's directions.	Help others when appropriate.

Students who are referred to the office for bus misbehavior will meet with an administrator. With any situation, we always want to be fair. An administrator will investigate the misconduct and allow the student offender(s) to respond. Parents will be notified either by a phone call or Parent Square message. Continued discipline referrals can result in your child being permanently removed from the bus. Serious misbehavior or safety violations will result in immediate discipline that may include suspension from the bus.

In cases of extreme or deliberate misbehavior on the bus, the school bus driver has been instructed to return to school. If this situation occurs, the children who are having difficulty will be removed from the bus. Parents of children removed from the bus will be called and will be expected to pick them up from school. The bus will return as quickly as possible to its scheduled drop-offs.

Cabarrus County School policy prohibits students from riding home with friends. Due to buses running at capacity your child must be registered in order to ride the bus. You may register your child for the bus by either calling or stopping by school. At that time they will be assigned to a bus based on available space. If no seats are open they will be placed on a waiting list. It takes approximately ten days for students to be assigned to a bus.

CAR POOL SAFETY RULES

We ask that parents who drop off and pick up children follow the following guidelines:

Drop Off:

1. Students may not be dropped off before 7:45.
2. Keep your position in the line of traffic.
3. Pull up as far as possible and close to the curb.
4. Follow the directions of the staff members.
5. Please have your student ready to exit your vehicle without assistance. Staff members are present to help ensure students' safety and improve efficiency. They should not be relied upon to open doors or unbuckle your student.
6. Parents should not get out of the car.
7. In order to ensure students are in class before the 8:15 bell and ready to learn, all students should be dropped off prior to 8:10.
8. Any student still in a car at 8:15 will need to be walked into the office to sign in tardy.

Pick Ups:

Each parent will receive a tag with a number for your family. There is one number for all siblings. Please hang this tag from your rear view mirror. When you arrive this number will be entered and children will meet you at the corresponding colored cone. If a parent does not have their tag they will have to park, walk into the building, show ID, and sign out their student. The tag should stay visible until your student enters the car.

1. Stop your vehicle at the next colored cone. Please make sure to pull all the way up so we can load multiple cars at one time.
2. Do not exit your vehicle.
3. Wait for the staff member to load your child into the car.
4. We expect the car rider line to end by 3:15 so please make sure to arrive between 3:00 and 3:15. If a parent is late they will have to park and walk into the building to sign out their student.

Please note that neither the bus parking lot nor the cafeteria parking lot are to be used to drop off or pick up students.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are permitted wireless devices on school property as long as such devices are not activated, used, displayed, or visible while on campus. For the purpose of this policy electronic devices include but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic readers, electronic watches, laptops, iPads, and similar cellular/wifi/bluetooth-enabled devices of any type not owned by Cabarrus County Schools.

The use of cellular phones or electronic/media devices by students during instructional time is disruptive to the educational environment, not conducive to productive learning experiences, and often the source of disciplinary intervention.

Therefore, any use of an electronic device while on campus is prohibited. Students are required to power off and securely store their cell phones away from their person.

Cabarrus County Schools has provided computers for every student to use individually. Students are expected to use the CCS-provided device for all educational activities. Accordingly, there should be very limited circumstances in which a student may use a privately owned electronic device at school. Administrators may authorize students to use personal electronic devices for communicating during a crisis.

If the cell phone is seen or heard it will be collected by the teacher who will contact the student's parent. If a smart watch is used as anything other than a watch it will be collected by the teacher who will contact the student's parent. If the cell phone/ smart watch is seen, heard, or used on more than one occasion, the electronic device will be collected by the teacher and kept until the parent comes to pick it up. Additional consequences may be given to the student as well.

CHAPERONES

We welcome parents and volunteers as chaperones on field trips with classes. All parents who accompany students and classes on field trips are defined as chaperones. Parents must have a background check, linked [here](#), conducted and approved by Cabarrus County Schools before they may chaperone a trip. Each accompanying parent will receive the procedures and guidelines for acting as a chaperone prior to traveling on the trip. Chaperones will be asked to sign a statement saying that they have received and understand the procedures and guidelines.

Parents who serve as chaperones may not bring older or younger siblings. The field study trip is considered an extension of the classroom instruction and is linked to the standard course of study. Siblings, older and younger, distract students from engaging in the full purpose of the field study trip.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE

Please notify the teacher and the data manager of any change of address or phone number as soon as possible. Address verification is required to make the change. Accurate records are necessary to be able to notify parents in case of an emergency. Please contact our data manager, Cheryl Gulledge, for instructions on how to complete your change of address through Cabarrus County's on-line self-service application, Scribbles. You may also use this link to access your Scribbles account: <https://ccsprogramchoice.scriborder.com/> Should you choose to access your account directly, you will still need to contact the data manager so that she is aware of the change.

CLASSROOM VISITATION

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom and should adhere to the following procedures when doing so:

1. Make an appointment with the teacher ahead of time to let them know you would like to visit.
2. Report to the office and get a visitor's pass before going to the classroom.
3. During visits, avoid engaging the teacher in conversation while they are instructing or supervising their class.
4. Parents cannot walk their child to the classroom when they bring them to school. Parents should allow their child to walk in by himself/herself at the front door if they arrive before the tardy bell, or from the front office if they arrive after the tardy bell.
5. Kindergarten parents may walk their student on their staggered entry day only. There are adults staggered throughout the hallway to help all students find their classroom.

COMMUNICATION

Good communication between home and school is vital to a successful school experience for each child. Students have a Gold Communication Folder. Please check your child's book bag daily. Inside this folder will be a character card. Please check the and sign the character card daily.

For larger school wide communication we will be using a pre-recorded phone message system as well as text messages. All of the phone numbers associated with a student in Infinite Campus will receive prerecorded messages. We will utilize this for school closings and emergencies during the day. If you need to update/edit your phone numbers please reach out to the front office.

COMPUTERS

Cabarrus County Schools students are each assigned their own device. Devices and their chargers or accessories become the responsibility of the student and/or their guardians upon receipt. Damages and negligence that require repair will be at the expense of the user and should be reported to the school via our technology work order system. Students should protect their devices by keeping them away from food and beverages and always carrying them in a safe and secure manner. Students are responsible for any technology that is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Students in elementary school have curricular objectives that address the operation of computers, the ethics of using computers, digital citizenship, online safety, and typing/word processing skills.

CONFERENCES

Our teachers strive to maintain open lines of communication. Please feel free to address any concerns with the teacher first in an effort to quickly and effectively solve any potential problems. Parents can reach out to teachers via Parent Square, email, or a note in the child's communication folder.

Teachers are busy teaching during the day and unable to answer the phone. Please leave a message on their voice mail and the teacher will respond to your request within 24 hours.

Near the end of the first quarter, each parent is given the opportunity to discuss his/her child's progress in an individual conference with the teacher. We believe that the educational success of your child is a joint venture between school and home, and we want to keep communication lines open. Additional conferences throughout the year may be initiated by the parent, teacher, or administrator and held at mutually agreeable times.

CORE BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND SUPPORTS

Core Behavior Expectations and Supports is a proactive, school-wide approach to promoting a positive and safe learning environment. It focuses on clearly defined behavior expectations, consistent instruction, and supportive interventions that address current social and educational challenges. This collaborative process emphasizes prevention, teaching, and reinforcement of positive behaviors using strategies backed by research. Our goal is to support all students and staff in building a respectful, responsible, and inclusive school community.

	Playground	Hallway	Cafeteria	Bathroom	Classroom
S-Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Leave rocks, dirt and mulch on the ground *Stay where adults can see you *Keep hands, feet and all body parts to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Use quiet walking feet *Keep eyes and body forward *Level O at all times *Keep your hands, feet, body parts and objects to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Stay seated at all times and face forward.-"Once you sit, that's it." *Use walking feet *Keep hands, feet, and food to yourself *Carry your tray with two hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Quiet walking feet *Keep hands, feet, and body parts to yourself *Follow stall routines and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use Walking Feet *Keep your body and other objects to yourself *Use classroom tools for their purpose *Remain in your designated area
O-Orderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Patiently wait your turn for equipment *Follow routines for entering and exiting *Use playground equipment appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Walk in a straight line and walk on the right side *Use stop and start points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eat quietly on a Level 0, Level 1, or Level 2 * Talk only to people at your table. *Follow entry and dismissal routine *Raise your hand if you need an adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Level O *Wait your turn *Leave restroom neat and clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Stay on task *Keep your area clean *Put classroom supplies in their designated place *Use appropriate voice levels, as directed by the teacher *Transition within the classroom appropriately
A-Act Responsibly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Report problems to adults after trying to solve with words first *Take care of playground equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Report problems to a teacher * Follow teacher directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Clean up area before leaving *Bring nametags *Put appropriate trash in trash cans and sort dishes * Do classroom jobs in a timely and appropriate manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Flush the toilet *Wash your hands *Leave the restroom neat and clean *Use soap (2 pumps) and paper towel (2 pulls) and throw away *Report problems to adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Completing work to the best of your ability *Be prepared for class by having all materials *Finish work in a timely manner *Follow directions
R-Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Share with others *Be a team player and a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Maintain personal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use good manners *Have courteous and kind conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Value the privacy of others * Exit the bathroom and rejoin your class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Listen to others thoughts and ideas

	*Invite others to play with you *Use kind words	*Refrain from touching others' work property	* Use food utensils appropriately *Only eat your food.	*Follow teacher directions	*Treat materials that belong to others nicely *Raise your hand to speak during instruction
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The four core values that our plan is based upon are: **S**afe, **O**rderly, **A**ct Responsibly, and **R**espectful. Those four values form the acronym 'S.O.A.R.' and staff teach students to show 'S.O.A.R. behavior.' Students can uphold these four core values by meeting the expectations in the following matrix.

All staff members are encouraged to recognize students who meet these expectations and award SOAR tickets. Students can use tickets to receive various prizes and earn "Fun Friday." We encourage you to review the expectations in this matrix and discuss them with your student. We also suggest you periodically ask your student how many tickets they have received. Your discussions will help encourage your student to meet expectations and be more successful at school.

DRESS CODE Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is substantially disruptive;
3. is provocative or obscene;
4. depicts or promotes gang affiliation (for information on gang-related attire, see Policy [4328](#), Gang Prohibition); or
5. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

All students who do not follow clothing guidelines will either call home for a change of clothes or borrow clothes from the Carl A. Furr Clothing Closet.

DISCIPLINE

We believe that all students have the right to learn in a safe, warm, nurturing environment. We also believe in providing a climate that is conducive to learning and free of disruptive behavior. The faculty and staff work hard to create a positive atmosphere in which students can learn. We believe that students are responsible for their own behavior and academic success. It is our duty to help students become more responsible for their own behavior. The school has expectations for behavior and voice levels in the classroom, the cafeteria, the hall, the gym, and the playground. Each classroom has a written set of rules for behavior.

Carl A. Furr Elementary has a school-wide approach to provide students with consistency across grade levels. Strategies such as class meetings, time out, behavior

cards, parent contacts, student and parent conferences, in-school suspension and out-of-school suspensions are used to help students learn to behave responsibly.

Carl A. Furr Elementary has Core Behavior Expectations for all students and all areas. We focus on creating and sustaining school-wide, classroom, and individual systems of support that improve the educational environment for all children. We hope to reduce school and classroom behavior disruptions and educate all students about acceptable school behaviors. Parents should check the character card daily to see if their student earned SOAR (Safe, Orderly, Act Responsible, Respectful) each day. If a student does not earn a letter there will be a note explaining why that letter was lost. Parents should initial this card daily.

Student discipline is the joint responsibility of the school and home. Parental support for good discipline enables us to maintain a wholesome environment for learning.

See the Cabarrus County Schools Student Code of Conduct for more details.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students will only be released to their parent/guardian and individuals added to Infinite Campus. When coming to sign a student out please have a photo ID. This is to ensure the safety of your child. Students will be called to the front office after the adult arrives and shows ID. Should the student return to school again that same day before the school dismissal, the student shall report first to the office before going to the classroom. If it is necessary to take your child out of school early, please do so before 2:30. Student check out after 2:30 will not be allowed unless in an extreme emergency with approval from administration.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

On the first day of school, parents are asked to determine who will be the emergency contact for their children. The emergency contact is called only when you cannot be reached. If you change the name of the emergency contact, please notify the school as soon as possible. For the safety of your child, it is imperative that the school has the name, address, and phone number of your designated emergency contact.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If a decision is made to close school due to inclement weather, it will be posted on the Cabarrus County Schools webpage. Also, a prerecorded phone call will be made from our County Office informing all parents of the change in schedule. Please do not call the school number for early closing information.

EARLY DISMISSAL

We will follow the directions that you have provided to the homeroom teacher if we have to dismiss early. In the unlikely event that school is dismissed during the school day, please help us by talking to your child in advance about emergency procedures and discussing with your child which neighbor's homes he/she should go to if your home is locked.

FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are supplemental learning activities that support the curriculum. Written parental permission is required for any field trip.

Parents are sometimes asked to chaperone; however, younger/older siblings may not accompany the parent on the trip.

Children are required to ride the activity bus with the class to the field trip destination. Students must provide written permission from their parent prior to the trip to ride home with their parent if he/she is a chaperone. The parent must sign a roster indicating that their child is riding home in their car. You are not allowed to take home children other than your own, even if that child's parent grants you permission.

HEALTH (NURSE/MEDICATION)

To provide the best environment for your child's learning experience and to protect the health of others, please only send your child to school when he or she is feeling well. Should symptoms of any oncoming illness be displayed, keep your child home for observation. Fill out the [online absence form](#) to indicate that your child will not be in school.

Never send a child to school with a fever, with a cloudy discharge from the nose, earache, or with stomach/intestinal distress. If your child contracts a contagious disease, please notify the school office, so that other children in that classroom can be observed more closely. Return your child to school only after all infectious and contagious symptoms have disappeared (NO FEVER FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS).

When your child returns to school, send a written note or complete the online attendance form, signed by the parent/legal guardian, indicating the days of the child's absence and the reason for the absence or complete the online absence form.

When a child becomes ill at school, he/she is referred to the school nurse. The nurse will make the preliminary determination on whether the child needs to go home. When called, the parent should make arrangements immediately for the student to be taken home.

No medication can be given to a student without the written permission of the physician. This rule includes over the counter medication such as Advil, Benadryl, Pepto-Bismol, etc. A specific form must be completed by the physician, signed by the parent, and brought or faxed to the school.

HOMEWORK POLICY

At the School Improvement Team meeting held on August 2, 2022 and reviewed July 14, 2025, the Team decided that the only homework that will be given at Furr Elementary will be nightly reading for K-4. In 5th grade, students will have nightly reading along with weekly practice in math and science. For the second semester of 4th grade students will also have weekly homework practice. In accordance with board policy, these assignments need to be a review of skills that have already been taught in class.

Nightly reading will be assigned to: encourage reading, build students' reading stamina, increase fluency and develop comprehension. Teachers may choose to have students/parents complete a reading log documenting their reading time. Grades will

not be given for completion of the log nor will students be penalized for failing to complete the log. Teachers are encouraged to give a reward to students who complete the reading log as an incentive to encourage nightly reading. The rewards could be: a SOAR ticket, trip to the treasure box, choice/free time, etc.

Parents need to be informed of their student's academic progress and the standards that are being taught on a regular basis. Teachers shall communicate the standards that are being addressed on a weekly basis via email, website, on Parent Square or other communication tools. Teachers are encouraged to create videos showing students demonstrating mastery of the standards or completing problems using the strategies they have been taught. Teachers should also send home classwork products to keep parents informed on their child's learning and progress. Teachers need to make available activities and assignments to any parent who requests additional work and create an accessible location for additional assignments.

IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Each child will be provided with an identification badge at the beginning of the year. The student should wear the badge at all times unless directed otherwise by the teacher. It will be used for identification, library check out, and to purchase lunches. **If the badge is lost or broken it will be replaced for a \$5.00 fee.** Student ID badges should remain at school. Students will be given a breakfast ID tag on their bookbag.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Carl A. Furr Elementary is organized to include Kindergarten through Grade 5. In general, grades K-4 are self-contained classrooms. However, teachers are encouraged to work together and classes may be grouped together to participate in specific activities. We are implementing departmentalization in grade five. The instructional program at Carl A. Furr Elementary is based on North Carolina Standard Course of Study to include the following: math, English/Language Arts, social studies, science, health, arts, music, physical education and information skills (this includes media and technology). North Carolina's Essential Standards can be found at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website.

KIDS PLUS

Kids Plus is a before/after school daycare program that is licensed through the North Carolina Division of Child Development. The program is open from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. In addition to before and after school care, the program provides care for students on Teacher Work Days. After school, the Kids Plus program provides purposeful activities in a caring environment. For more information about the CAFE Kids Plus Program, call (704) 260-6127.

LOST AND FOUND

Clothing and personal items that are brought to school should be labeled with the child's full name. Found articles are turned into the lost and found bins or hung on the rack. Unlabeled or unclaimed property is donated to a local agency.

MASCOT/COLORS

Falcons/Garnet and Gold
Names: Flash and Fiona (Fi-Fi)

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Cabarrus County Schools and Carl A. Furr Elementary School not to discriminate against any qualified disabled person solely by reason of his/her disability, in admission, or access to, or treatment in, any program, or activity sponsored by the school. Inquiries regarding compliance to the policy should be directed to the principal.

PARKING

There are limited parking spaces at Carl A. Furr Elementary, so please adhere to the following procedures when you visit the school:

1. Parents and visitors are asked to park in designated spaces only, if any are available.
2. For programs and special events such as open house, the bus lot will be opened for parking.
3. Parking in any area which blocks others from entering or leaving campus could result in a fine and/or having your car towed. If in question about where to park, please report to the office and a staff member will assist you.
4. No parking is allowed in the car circle. This area is clearly marked as a fire zone and cars parked in the zone are subject to a fine. Three parking spots near the car circle have signage designating them as spaces for student drop off/pick up during the instructional day.
5. When parking in the neighborhood please do not block any driveways.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Carl A. Furr Elementary has a very active Parent Teacher Organization. All parents automatically are a part of the PTO. The PTO holds four general meetings a year for parents as well as monthly board meetings.

The PTO also supports a number of other programs and fundraisers including but not limited to dining out nights, school beautification projects, cultural arts programs, spirit wear, family nights, etc. The money raised by the PTO goes to help the school with the purchase of instructional materials, technology and improvements, additions to outdoor play areas and more. Without the help and fundraising of this organization, many of the materials and resources used by our students would not exist.

For information about becoming involved in the PTO, please stop by their table at Open House and Curriculum Night, view their Facebook page, or email PTO at FurrPTO@gmail.com to learn more about how you can help.

PETS AT SCHOOL

Because of the number of students with allergies or asthma and the possibility of disease transmission, pets are not allowed at school.

RETENTION/PROMOTION

Retention and promotion recommendations are made by teachers after reviewing both the student's classroom work and the student's scores on the End-of-Grade tests for children in Grades 3-5 or the End of Year Assessments in Grades K-2.

North Carolina law says that the principal makes the final decision in promotion and retention decisions.

SCHOOL NURSE

The school nurse is located in the administration office and is available during student school hours. Her responsibilities include administering medication, monitoring students with chronic health problems, communicating with parents concerning health problems, providing parents with information concerning health issues and checking students who become ill at school or become injured at school.

No medication may be given at school without the appropriate forms completed and signed by the child's attending physician.

SCHOOL VOICE LEVELS

Carl A. Furr Elementary School has school-wide expectations for behavior and a school-wide voice level policy.

Voice levels are cued according to the following: Level 0= Silent; Level 1= Whisper; Level 2 = Inside Voice; Level 3 = Outside Voice

STUDENTS SELLING ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Students ARE NOT permitted to bring items to school to sell or to take orders for items during the school day. (Examples include: Girl Scout cookies, magazines, candy, walk-a-thons, etc.).

SUPPLY FEE

The Cabarrus County Board of Education has reinstated a \$30.00 school supply fee for all students. This fee may be paid in cash or check made out to Carl A. Furr Elementary. Parents may elect to pay \$15.00 per semester or \$30.00 at the beginning of the year. All supply fee money remains here at Carl A. Furr and supports our instructional program.

TELEPHONE

Children are permitted to use the school telephone only in an emergency situation. The classroom teacher must grant permission if a student is to use the telephone. Forgotten papers, instruments, or school materials do NOT constitute an emergency.

TEXTBOOKS/ MATERIALS

Textbooks, calculators, and other materials issued are the property of Cabarrus County Schools. They are provided to enhance the education of your child. They should

be used with care and returned in good condition. Students are responsible for any texts/materials that are lost, stolen, or damaged.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Please send a note with your child to the teacher concerning any change from the normal procedure of transportation home in the afternoon. Without written instructions students will go home each day in the manner indicated by parents at the Open House.

Should an emergency happen and transportation plans need to be changed, parents will need to call the school office. Please do not directly message the classroom teacher because they may not see the message until after dismissal. All changes should be sent through the front office.

Students who have not been assigned to a bus may not ride a bus. Students may not ride a different bus from the one to which they have been assigned.

UPDATING INFORMATION

It is very important that we have current information in the office concerning how parents can be contacted during the day. Please notify the school immediately if there is a change in status during the school year:

- Address (to change in the system, proof of verification must be turned in)
- Home phone number
- Work phone number(s)
- Cell phone number(s)
- Employer
- Emergency Contacts
- Other information that could be helpful to the school and your child

VALUABLES

Students should not bring large sums of money or items of value to school. The school will not take responsibility for lost items. Students should only bring toys or games to school if there is a special day/event where the teacher has given permission. If students bring something without permission the parent will be required to come pick it up.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents are encouraged to volunteer at school. Parents must complete an [on line volunteer background check](#) which is located on the main CCS website. Parents may not volunteer until they receive their volunteer card through CCS. Parents and other volunteers must come to the office and sign in before going to the classroom. Volunteers must wear their volunteer badges while working at the school. Volunteers cannot bring younger or older children to the school during their volunteer time. This could be distracting to students and to teachers. There are parent volunteer opportunities for parents who need to work at home. Contact the PTO parent volunteer coordinator to put your name on the list.

In Carl A. Furr Elementary School 2025-26

Parent/Community Involvement and Compact

Carl A. Furr Elementary School strives to maintain open and timely lines of communication. We send home weekly posts through Parent Square to inform families of school-wide events. In addition, many fliers, memos and other informational materials are sent home every week via your child's communication folder. Electronic media is used extensively here at Carl A. Furr. We update our school's web page often, teachers utilize Parent Square, and email is used frequently. We also maintain a Facebook page with information about our school. We send phone, text, or email messages to all parents in English and Spanish to invite them to events and share important information. Student academic and behavior updates are communicated through mid-grading period progress reports, and end-of-quarter report cards. Academic information is also shared throughout the year during parent-teacher conferences. Each parent will have a conference with their child's teacher at the end of the first grading period. Other conferences will be held at the parent's or teacher's request as needed. Within the first month of the school year, a Curriculum Night will be held. All parents are invited to learn more about the instructional program, NC Essential Standards, and our expectations here at Carl A. Furr. Other PTO meetings and informational nights will be conducted throughout the school year. At these meetings, updates on school-wide projects, standardized testing results, and many other topics will be shared. Our school's performance on standardized tests can also be found on the state report card website. Parents will receive their child's standardized testing results via written reports.

Many of our pieces of communication are translated into Spanish. We have a translator at our school as well as other staff members who can translate when needed.

All parents are invited to participate in school activities. We strive to have representation on our School Improvement Team, PTO Board that is reflective of the community we serve. Our School Improvement Team meets on the first Thursday of each month at 3:20 and our PTO Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. If you would like to participate on any team group, please contact a school administrator. Parents are always welcome to volunteer at the school (with an approved background check on file), visit the classroom, or have lunch with their student. If you have any questions regarding how you can become more involved in your child's education, please contact the school at any time.

Parent/Student/Staff Compact

This compact is an agreement between students, their parents, and all staff members. We believe that it takes the combined efforts of all those parties in order to allow our students to reach their full potential. This compact contains the roles and

responsibilities of those parties and is a promise from each party to meet this commitment.

As a PARENT/GUARDIAN, I want my child to achieve high levels of success. Therefore, I will support him/her by:

- Assuring that my child arrives at school on time and attends school regularly
- Supporting the teacher and school by reinforcing the Dress Code, Student Code of Conduct, school rules and classroom rules
- Maintaining regular communication with my child's teacher
- Checking my child's book bag nightly to review and sign the Character Card
- Attending school functions including PTO meetings, Curriculum Night, etc.
- Checking for virtual communication (Parent Square, emails, etc.) often
- Listening to my child read or read to him/her daily

As a STUDENT, I want to work to the best of my ability. So, I will:

- Attend school regularly and be prepared with all the materials
- Be respectful to all adults and classmates
- Follow all classroom and school rules
- Complete all classroom assignments to the best of my ability
- Ask for help when I don't understand an assignment
- Read daily or have my parents read to me
- Always put forth my best effort
- Talk to my parents about what I learn in school each day

As a STAFF MEMBER, I will help each student reach his/her potential. To achieve this I will:

- Have high expectations for all students
- Provide encouragement for students as they work toward new challenges
- Conduct lessons that are rigorous and aligned with North Carolina State Standards
- Maintain open and frequent communication with parents, provide regular updates on their child's progress, utilize Parent Square
- Create a nurturing, supportive and structured classroom environment
- Enforce the Student Code of Conduct, school rules and classroom rules through effective implementation of Core Behavior Expectations
- Work collaboratively with other staff members
- Utilize proven methods including: Science of Reading, Standards Based Instruction/Grading/Reporting, Multi Tiered Systems of Support, and Title 1 assistance

By completing the accompanied Scribbles form, parents acknowledge that they have read the entire handbook, including rules, policies, and compacts and understand Carl A. Furr Elementary School expectations for the 2025 - 2026 school year.