

CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL

250 Jamaica Road, Carlisle, OH 45005 • (937) 746-4481 • www.carlisleindians.org

Dr. Matt M. Bishop
Building Principal

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Recipient of the **GOLD AWARD** from High Schools That Work

ACT VOCABULARY WORDS

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ABHOR to hate
ABSTINENCE deliberate self-restraint
ABSTRUSE difficult to understand
ACCLAIM to praise
ACCORD agreement
ACERBIC bitter
ACRIMONY hostility
ACUITY sharp perception or vision
ADEPT very skilled
ADMONISH to gently criticize or warn
ADORN to decorate
ADROIT very skilled
ADULATION excessive flattery
ADVERSITY great hardship
ADVOCATE to speak in favor of, promote
AESTHETIC concerning beauty
AFFABLE friendly
AFFLUENT wealthy
ALACRITY eagerness, enthusiasm
ALIENATE to make unfriendly or hostile
ALLEVIATE to make more bearable
ALTRUISTIC unselfishly concerned for the welfare of others
AMALGAM a combination of diverse elements
AMBIGUOUS unclear
AMBIVALENT having opposing feelings; uncertain
AMELIORATE to improve
AMENABLE open to advice or suggestion
AMIABLE friendly
AMICABLE friendly
AMORPHOUS lacking definite form
ANACHRONISTIC in the wrong time period
ANECDOTE a short account of an interesting or humorous incident
ANIMOSITY bitter hostility
ANTAGONISTIC hostile
APATHETIC lacking interest, concern, or emotion
APPEASE to bring peace, quiet, or calm to; to relieve

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APPREHENSIVE fearful
ARBITRARY determined by impulse or chance, without reason
ARCHAIC outdated; really old
ARDOR energy, intensity, enthusiasm
ARID dry
ARTICULATE characterized by clear and expressive language
ASCERTAIN to discover
ASPIRE to have a great ambition
ASSESS to make a judgment about
ASSIDUOUS hard working
ASTUTE having sharp judgment
ATROPHY to waste away
AUDACITY disrespectful boldness
AUGMENT to make greater in size or quantity
AUSPICIOUS favorable; successful
AUSTERE strict or severe in discipline
AUTONOMY independence
AVARICE greed
AVERSE reluctant
AWE a mixed emotion of respect, wonder, and dread
BANAL ordinary and commonplace
BANE a cause of death or ruin
BELIE to represent falsely
BELITTLE to speak of in an insulting way
BELLIGERENT eager to fight
BEMUSE to confuse, stun, or stump
BENEVOLENT inclined to perform kind acts
BENIGN kind; beneficial
BERATE to criticize severely or angrily
BOISTEROUS noisy; disorderly
BOLSTER to support; to reinforce
BOMBASTIC using arrogant or pretentious speech
BRAZEN rudely bold
BRUSQUE rudely brief
BUOYANT cheerful
BURGEON to grow
BUTTRESS to support or strengthen
CACOPHONY jarring, disagreeable sound
CAJOLE to persuade by flattery
CALLOUS emotionally hardened or unfeeling
CAMARADERIE goodwill among friends

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CANDID honest and straightforward
CANTANKEROUS ill-tempered
CAPRICIOUS impulsive, unpredictable
CARNIVOROUS meat-eating
CATHARTIC emotionally cleansing or relieving
CAUSTIC harsh, stinging; sarcastic
CENSURE to criticize severely
CEREBRAL intellectual
CHRONIC continuing or lingering
CIRCUITOUS being or taking a roundabout course
CIRCUMSPECT cautious and wise
CIRCUMVENT to avoid or get around
CLAIRVOYANCE the power to see things that cannot be perceived by the senses
CLANDESTINE kept or done in secret
COGENT forcefully convincing
COGNIZANT aware
COHERENT logically connected; making sense
COHESIVE sticking or holding together
COLLABORATE to work together
COMMEND to praise
COMPEL to exert a strong, irresistible force on
COMPETENT having adequate ability
COMPLACENT self-satisfied to the point of inactivity; unconcerned
COMPLICITY participation in a bad act or a crime
COMPOSED calm
COMPROMISE to expose to danger or suspicion
CONCEDE to acknowledge, often reluctantly, as being true
CONCILIATE to bring peace, quiet, or calm to; to relieve
CONCISE expressing much in few words
CONCORD agreement
CONCUR to agree
CONDESCEND to deal with people in a superior manner
CONDONE to excuse or overlook
CONFORM to be similar; to adapt
CONFOUND to confuse
CONJECTURE guesswork
CONSCIENTIOUS thorough and careful
CONSENSUS general agreement
CONSOLIDATE to combine
CONSTITUENT a component
CONSTRAIN to hold back; to restrict

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CONSTRUE to interpret
CONTEMPT a lack of respect and intense dislike
CONTEND to compete; to argue
CONTRITE feeling or expressing remorse
CONTRIVED obviously planned or made up
CONVIVIAL sociable
CONVOLUTED complicated
COPIOUS plentiful, abundant
CORDIAL friendly, warm, polite
CORROBORATE to strengthen or support with evidence
CREDIBLE believable
CUNNING clever, sneaky
CURSORY performed with haste and little attention to detail
CURTAIL to cut short
CYNICAL believing that people are motivated by selfishness; pessimistic
DAUNT to intimidate or lessen one's courage
DEARTH a scarce supply
DEBILITATE to weaken
DEBUNK to disprove or expose the falseness of
DECORUM correct or appropriate behavior
DECRY to condemn openly
DEFER to submit or yield to another's wish or opinion
DELETERIOUS harmful
DELINEATE to depict or describe
DEMEAN to lower in status or worth
DENIGRATE to attack the reputation of
DENOUNCE to condemn openly
DEPRECATE to mildly insult or belittle
DERIDE to speak of or treat with cruelty
DESPAIR a complete loss of hope
DESPONDENT depressed, having no hope
DETER to prevent or discourage from acting
DIFFIDENCE a lack of self-confidence, shyness
DIGRESS to stray from the main subject
DILATORY tending to delay; late or slow
DILIGENT hard working
DIMINUTIVE tiny
DISCERN to detect or perceive
DISCORD lack of agreement, quarreling
DISCREDIT to bring shame or dishonor on
DISCREET careful in one's conduct or speech

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DISCREPANCY an unexpected difference
DISCRETE separate; distinct
DISDAIN intense dislike
DISGRUNTLED unhappy
DISMISS to reject
DISPARAGE to speak of in an insulting way
DISPARITY the state of being different
DISPASSIONATE not influenced by emotion or bias
DISPEL to rid of
DISPOSITION one's usual mood
DISSEMBLE to conceal behind a false appearance
DISSEMINATE to spread out
DISSENT disagreement
DISSIPATE to disappear
DIVERGENT drawing apart from a common point; differing from another
DIVISIVE creating disagreement or dissent
DIVULGE to make known, reveal
DOCILE easily managed or taught
DOGGED stubbornly persevering
DOGMATIC stubbornly and arrogantly opinionated
DOUR gloomy
DUBIOUS doubtful, questionable
DUPLICITY deception, deceit
EARNEST showing deep sincerity or seriousness
EBULLIENT enthusiastic, lively
ECCENTRIC strange; unconventional
ECLECTIC having elements from a variety of sources
ECSTASY intense joy or delight
EFFACE to erase
EFFICACIOUS effective
EFFUSIVE overflowing (usually referring to emotions)
ELATED filled with delight
ELITE superior in status
ELOQUENT well spoken
ELUCIDATE to make clear
ELUSIVE tending to escape
EMBELLISH to add fictitious details to
EMINENT outstanding; distinguished
EMPIRICAL based on observation or experiment
EMULATE to equal through imitation
ENCOMPASS to enclose; to include

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ENCROACH to advance beyond limits
ENERVATE to weaken or drain of energy
ENHANCE to make greater or better
ENIGMATIC puzzling
ENMITY hatred
ENTHRALL to hold spellbound, captivate
ENTICE to lure
ENTRENCH to fix firmly or securely
ENUMERATE to specify individually; to count
ENUNCIATE to pronounce with clarity
EPHEMERAL lasting for a brief time
EQUANIMITY calmness
EQUIVOCAL uncertain, vague, misleading
ERADICATE to eliminate
ERRATIC irregular
ERUDITE scholarly, well educated
ESOTERIC understood by only a few
ESPOUSE to give one's support to
ESTEEM to value highly, to respect
ESTRANGE to cause to become unfriendly or hostile
EULOGY a written or spoken tribute (usually for someone who has died)
EUPHEMISM the substitution of inoffensive term for one considered offensive
EUPHORIA a feeling of great happiness
EVANESCENT fading away
EVASIVE tending to escape
EVOKE to summon or call forth
EXACERBATE to make more severe
EXACTING requiring great care or effort
EXALT to elevate, glorify, or praise
EXASPERATE to anger or irritate
EXEMPLARY worthy of imitation
EXONERATE to free from blame or responsibility
EXORBITANT excessive
EXPEDITE to speed the progress of
EXPLOIT to utilize fully or advantageously (often selfishly or unethically)
EXTOL to praise
EXTRAVAGANT excessive
EXUBERANT lively
FACILE simple; easy
FACILITATE to make easier
FATUOUS foolish, ridiculously stupid

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FEASIBLE possible, workable, practical
FELICITY great happiness
FERVENT greatly emotional or enthusiastic
FLAGRANT obviously bad or offensive
FLAMBOYANT highly elaborate; showy
FLORID elaborately or excessively ornamented; flowery
FLOURISH to grow well
FORTHRIGHT honest, direct, straightforward
FOSTER to promote the development of
FRENETIC wildly excited; frenzied; frantic
FRIVOLOUS unworthy of serious attention
FRUGAL careful with money, stingy
FUTILE having no useful result
GALVANIZE to stimulate
GARISH flashy, tastelessly loud and brightly colored
GARRULOUS talkative
GENIAL friendly, cheerful
GRANDIOSE falsely exaggerating one's worth
GRATE to irritate
GRATUITOUS unnecessary
GREGARIOUS sociable
GUILE skillful deceit
HACKNEYED overused
HAIL to salute or greet
HAMPER to prevent the movement or action of
HARANGUE a long, angry speech
HAUGHTY snobbish; overly proud
HEED to pay close attention to
HERETICAL characterized by departure from accepted beliefs or standards
HINDER to be or get in the way of
HOMOGENEOUS all of the same or similar kind
IDIOSYNCRATIC peculiar to an individual
ILLICIT not permitted by custom or law
ILLUSORY based on or producing illusion; deceptive
IMPARTIAL not biased
IMPASSIONED filled with passion
IMPASSIVE having or showing little emotion
IMPECCABLE perfect
IMPEDE to be or get in the way of
IMPERIOUS arrogantly authoritative or overbearing
IMPETUOUS impulsive, unthinking

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IMPUGN to attack as false or wrong, to challenge or question

INACCESSIBLE not easily approached, entered, or obtained

INCISIVE penetrating, clear and sharp

INCONGRUOUS inappropriate; inconsistent

INCONSEQUENTIAL lacking importance

INCONTROVERTIBLE impossible to dispute

INCORRIGIBLE incapable of being corrected or reformed

INCREDULOUS disbelieving

INDICT to accuse of wrongdoing

INDIFFERENT having no preference

INDIGENOUS native

INDIGNATION anger (over something unjust)

INDUCE to bring about the occurrence of;

INDULGE to please or satisfy

INFLAMMATORY arousing strong emotion, esp. anger

INGENUOUS innocent; honest and straightforward

INHERENT naturally occurring; essential

INHIBIT to hold back; to restrain

INNATE inborn

INNOCUOUS harmless

INNOVATIVE new and creative

INQUISITIVE showing curiosity

INSINUATE to suggest subtly; to hint

INSIPID lacking flavor or zest; dull

INSOLENT disrespectfully arrogant

INSTIGATE to stir up

INSULAR isolated; narrow-minded

INTELLIGIBLE capable of being understood

INTRANSIGENT uncompromising

INUNDATE to overwhelm with, to flood

INVIGORATE to give life or energy to

INVOKE to enforce or put into operation

IRATE enraged

JADED weary, worn out

JUDICIOUS having good judgment, prudent

JUXTAPOSE to place side by side

KEEN sharp, perceptive

LACONIC using few words (often rudely or mysteriously)

LAMENT to regret; to show grief for

LANGUID lacking energy or spirit

LATENT existing in hidden or dormant form

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LAUD to praise

LAVISH excessive; plentiful

LUCID clear

LUXURIOUS rich and superior in quality

MAGNANIMOUS noble and generous in spirit

MANDATE an authoritative command

MANIFEST to make evident or certain by displaying or demonstrating

MEAGER small, inadequate, or insufficient

MEDIOCRE ordinary; so-so

MELANCHOLY sad; gloomy

MERCENARY motivated solely by a desire for monetary or material gain

MERCURIAL changeable, erratic

METICULOUS extremely careful

MIRTH gladness, amusement, laughter

MITIGATE to lessen in force or intensity

MOLLIFY to soften, to ease the anger of

MOROSE gloomy

MUNDANE ordinary, commonplace

MUTABLE subject to change

NEBULOUS hazy, vague, or confused; lacking defined form

NEGLIGENT guilty of neglect

NEGLIGIBLE insignificant; really small

NONCHALANT casually unconcerned (sometimes falsely)

NOSTALGIA a bittersweet longing for the past

NOTORIOUS known widely and unfavorably; famous for something bad

NOVEL strikingly new or different

NURTURE to help develop, to nourish

OBDURATE stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing

OBLIVIOUS forgetful; unaware

OBSOLETE no longer in use or current

OBSTINATE stubborn

OBSTREPEROUS noisily and stubbornly defiant

OBTRUSIVE sticking out, noticeable; brash, meddling

OBTUSE lacking intellect

OFFICIOUS overly eager in offering unwanted help

OMINOUS menacing; threatening

OPAQUE not clearly understood, dense

OPPORTUNE suitable, occurring at an appropriate time

OPULENT rich or superior in quality

ORNATE excessively decorated

ORTHODOX commonly accepted; traditional

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PARADOX a seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true
PARTISAN devoted to or biased in support of a group
PATRONIZE to treat condescendingly
PENITENT feeling or expressing remorse
PERNICIOUS deadly or destructive
PERPETUAL continuing forever or indefinitely
PERSEVERE to be persistent, refuse to stop
PERSPICACITY a high level of perception or understanding
PERTINENT exactly relevant
PERVASIVE spread throughout
PLACID calm, quiet
PLAUSIBLE believable
PLIABLE easily bent or shaped
POIGNANT touching
POLARIZE to set at opposite ends or extremes
POMPOUS exaggeratedly self-important
PRAGMATIC practical
PRECARIOUS dangerously unstable or insecure
PRECIPITOUS extremely steep
PREDILECTION a preference; a tendency toward favoring
PRETENTIOUS claiming unjust standing
PREVALENT widely occurring
PRISTINE unspoiled, completely pure
PRODIGIOUS enormous; extraordinary
PROFOUND deep; far-reaching
PROLIFERATE to increase or spread at a rapid rate
PROLIFIC producing abundant works or results
PROPAGATE to transmit or cause to broaden or spread
PROPENSITY tendency
PROPRIETY the quality of being proper
PROSAIC lacking in imagination; dull
PROSPERITY success; being well-off
PROVINCIAL narrow-minded
PROVOCATIVE tending to stir to anger or action
PRUDENT wise; careful
PUGNACIOUS eager to fight
QUELL to put down forcibly
RANCOR hostility
RAVENOUS violently hungry or greedy
REBUKE to criticize or find fault with
RECIPROCATE to show or give in return

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RECLUSIVE seeking or preferring isolation
RECONCILE to reestablish a close relationship between
REFUGE protection or shelter
REFUTE to prove to be false
REITERATE to repeat
RELINQUISH to give up; to release
REMINISCE to recollect and tell of the past
RENOUNCE to reject, disown, or formally give up
REPREHENSIBLE deserving of criticism or disapproval
REPROACH to criticize or express disappointment
REPUDIATE to reject the validity of
RESENT to feel angry and bitter about
RESIGNATION acceptance of something as inescapable; submission
RESILIENT able to recover promptly
RESOLUTE firm or determined
RESOLVE to make a firm decision about
RETICENT restrained or reserved
REVERE to respect, honor or admire
REVOKE to void by recalling, reversing, or withdrawing
RUDIMENTARY being or involving basic facts or principles
SAGACIOUS insightful and wise
SANCTION to give official authorization or approval to
SANGUINE cheerful
SCATHING harshly critical
SCOFF to express or treat with disrespectful disregard
SCORN intense hatred or disrespect
SCRUPULOUS thorough and careful
SCRUTINIZE to examine carefully
SERENE calm
SHREWD smart in a sneaky or tricky manner
SKEPTICAL doubting, questioning, not believing
SMUG self-satisfied (especially in a mocking way)
SOLEMN serious and sober
SOLICITOUS anxious or concerned
SOMBER gloomy
SPECIOUS seemingly true but actually logically false
SPORADIC occurring at irregular intervals
SPURIOUS not genuine; false
SPURN to reject with disrespect
SQUANDER to waste
STAGNANT not moving, flowing, or developing

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STEADFAST firm and dependable
STOIC seemingly unaffected by pleasure or pain
SUBDUE to bring under control
SUBSTANTIATE to support with proof
SUBVERT to ruin; to overthrow
SUCCINCT precise expression using few words
SUPERFLUOUS extra, unnecessary
SUPPLANT to take the place of
SUPPRESS to put down; to hold back
SURREPTITIOUS done or made by secret or stealthy means
TACT sensitivity in dealing with others
TEDIOUS tiresomely long or boring
TEMPER to soften or moderate
TENACITY persistence, determination
TERSE expressing much in few words
THERAPEUTIC having healing powers
THWART to stop or prevent
TORPOR inactivity
TRACTABLE easily managed, led, or taught
TRANQUIL calm
TRANSIENT existing only briefly
TRANSITORY existing only briefly
TREACHERY deliberate betrayal of trust
TRITE uninteresting because of overuse
TRIVIAL insignificant, unimportant
TUMULTUOUS disorderly or noisy
UNASSUMING not showy or arrogant; modest; plain
UNDERMINE to weaken
UNDERScore to emphasize
UNIFORM always the same
URBANE polite, suave, and cultivated in manner
USURP to seize and take control without authority and possibly with force
UTILITARIAN having only a useful function; practical
VACILLATE to be undecided, to hesitate
VAPID lacking liveliness or interest; dull
VEILED concealed or disguised
VENERATE to respect
VERBOSE using more words than necessary
VERSATILE capable of doing many things competently
VICARIOUS felt or undergone as if one were taking part in the experience or feelings of another
VIGILANT alert; watchful

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VILIFY to say bad things about, to make into a villain
VINDICATE to clear of blame or suspicion
VINDICTIVE seeking revenge
VIVACIOUS lively
VOLATILE explosive, tending to change
VOLUBLE characterized by ready and rapid speech
VOLUMINOUS big; having large volume
VULNERABLE not protected against harm; easily injured
WARRANT to justify
WARY on guard, cautious, watchful
WAVER to be unsure or weak
WHIMSICAL impulsive, fanciful
ZEALOUS filled with or motivated by enthusiastic devotion