



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

JAMES A. GARFIELD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

8233 Park Ave.

Garrettsville, OH 44231

(330) 527-7436

WELCOME BACK!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our Intermediate School students and their parents for the 2010-2011 school year. We as a staff are looking forward to becoming acquainted with the incoming fifth graders and their families, as well as seeing the familiar faces of our sixth graders as they continue on with their educational journey. The Garfield Intermediate School Staff vows to work together and put forth our best effort toward the quality education of our students.

The Intermediate School personnel are ready, and so is our building. Custodians Rosie Farr, Brenda Benich, and Sandy Tate have our beloved building in excellent shape. Their hard work throughout the summer has a major impact on not only the appearance of our building, but also directly contributes to the positive influence and pride prominent within our walls.

I look forward to working with all the stakeholders of Garfield Schools to make this a banner year. Through our caring teaching staff, outstanding support personnel, and by an involved community that values education and realizes its importance; I am confident our 2010-2011 school year will be a very successful and enjoyable experience for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at (330) 527-7436.

Mr. Don Long, Principal

OAA Testing

The Garfield School District has obtained a state report card rating of Excellent with Distinction. All 26 indicators were met, as well as a Performance Index Score of 100.5.

The Intermediate School also achieved perfection, meeting six out of six indicators. This lofty accomplishment is a credit to our students, parents and staff. Congratulations and thank you for making GIS an "Excellent" building.

The results for your individual child, referred to as Family Score Reports, will be sent home on Friday, Sept, 3. Please take some time to look these over with your child. If you have any questions please call Mr. Long.

Student/Parent Handbook

Please take some time to read over the handbook that was given to your child. It is important to stay current on the rules, policies, and procedures that guide us here at the Intermediate School. The following are a few topics from that handbook that may assist you in providing a smooth start to the new school year.

Early Dismissal - Unless there is an emergency or medical appointment, students should not be taken out of school prior to dismissal at 3:10 p.m.

Picking Up Students - In order to maintain a structured learning environment during the dismissal process, the following guidelines have been established:

- Parents/guardians who choose to pick up their child on a daily basis **must notify the school office in writing**.
- When parents/guardians need to pick their child up only on occasion; please provide your child with a note to be delivered to the school office upon the student's arrival to school that day. If this is not possible, please call the school **before 2:30 p.m.** to notify the school that you will be picking up your child that day.
- Parents/guardians are to report to Room 37 (across from the office) at 3:10 p.m.
- Complete the "Sign-Out Sheet"
- Students will be called down to Room 37 at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Attendance - Please call 330-527-0027 extension 3000 if your child is going to be absent. When your child returns to school, please make sure to send a written note to include your child's name, date of absence and reason for absence. If a note is not turned in within two days, the absence will be counted as unexcused.

Permission Notes -

- Any bus change (a bus variation form must be turned in to the office **24 hours in advance and be pre-approved by the administration**), e.g. changes in child-care arrangements (Note: Requests to ride a different bus for social reasons **cannot** be honored. Also students **will not** be permitted to be dropped off by the shuttle buses at the elementary school. This is a serious safety issue that should not be left to the elementary school to monitor).

Meet the Teacher Night

The staff of GIS would like to thank all of you who attended last Thursday's Meet the Teacher Night. The event was an excellent opportunity for everyone to check out our building and become acquainted with the GIS staff. It was an enjoyable evening spent meeting some new faces and to welcome back familiar faces. The well-attended event proves once again the high level of community interest and support in our "Excellent" school district.

No School

In observance of Labor Day, there will be no school on **Monday, September 6.**

Band Open House

The Band Open House for 5th grade students and their parents/guardians will be **Tuesday, September 21 @ 6:30 p.m.** We wish to also invite any interested 6th grade students who were not in band last year. There will be an instrument rental company available to sign up for instrument rental.

Picture Day

Student pictures will be **Friday, October 1.** Picture forms will be sent home at a later date. Don't forget to wear your smiles.

Sources of Information

Two key sources of information for all parents/guardians of GIS students are the Garfield Website, located at www.garfield.sparcc.org, and the GIS Student/Parent Handbook. By familiarizing yourself with these sources you will gain important knowledge about dates/events, teacher expectations, school rules/procedures, and so on. Handbooks have been distributed the first day of school and will also soon be available online on our website. A monthly newsletter will also go home with students. This newsletter is distributed to our students before or on the 1st day of the month. Please remind your child to share it with you if they have not.

GIS Math Club

Mr. Kuhlman and Mr. Hatcher would like to invite all students to attend our first GIS math club meeting on September 14 at 8:00 AM in the library. We have new activities planned for this year and are excited to offer this club for the students. The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation has provided support for our club. We hope to see you there!

6th Grade Washington D.C. Trip

We will be doing a 2 day trip to Washington D.C. in May. The cost, date, and information will be given at the meeting in October. The date will be announced at a later time. The nonrefundable \$100.00 down payment is due the 1st week of November. We want to give you 2 months to start saving. The remaining cost of the trip will not be due till April and we will sell candy bars to offset the 2nd payment.

Upcoming Events at GIS

9/3 - Student Test Results will be sent home with students.

9/9 - Sixth Grade Band begins.

9/10 - GIS visits GHS for Band Performance @ 9:00 a.m. (refer to separate parent letter sent home w/student).

9/14 - Math Club begins in Library @ 8:00 a.m.

9/21 - Band Information Night for Parents @ 6:30 p.m.

10/1 - Picture Day