



Garden City Community School

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 10, 2010

Hello to all our GCCS Families!

Hope you've been having some wonderful times together with your children this summer! Since school starts **Monday, August 23**, I felt there is some information you would like to have to help you and your students prepare!

BUS SCHEDULE This is the route and times we will use the first two weeks of school for our students riding the bus. If you feel a justifiable change needs to be made, please contact me and I will discuss this with our bus driver, Gaylen. The route will stay as shown unless we notify you differently. (For safety purposes, I do not make this schedule available publicly.)

SUPPLY LIST Please see the school website for this. Copies are available in the office.

CLASS LIST This is enclosed. We have such an incredible staff that I know every child will be thrilled with their placement. The number of students in each class tends to vary the first couple weeks so numbers may change. We still have a few spaces, so have your friends contact me if they'd like more information about the school.

LUNCHESES are available for 1-8 grade students.

MENUS - These are already posted on the school website. Copies are available in the office, if needed.

HOT LUNCH - Our federal lunch program is catered every Monday through Thursday and costs \$3.50.

Individual milk is 50 cents. We ask that students bring payments for this to our business manager, Michele Roth in her office before school starts in the morning. She will credit the money to the student's account. This makes it easier for the lunch monitor, Michelle Rollins, to check them through the lunch line process.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCHESES Yes - these are available for everyone who qualifies. *We ask that ALL GCCS families complete and return the enclosed form as - whether you want the coverage or not - this information helps us with our much needed Title I funding.*

SACK LUNCH FRIDAYS - Every Friday students need to bring a sack lunch. Please mark this on your calendar so they don't go without lunch or mooch from other children. Help them learn to pack healthy lunches that include a healthy drink.

DROP OFF/PICK UP DIRECTIONS *For safety purposes, it is very important that everyone who is not riding the bus follows the map and instructions.*

MORNING DROP OFF Please drop off your child at the SOUTH back gate of the playground - as per the map - and drive out by going around the east building. Students start their day by meeting with their class in front of the teacher's sign on the playground. A safety monitor starts on the playground at 8:30AM so please do not leave students prior to this time. Teachers will meet students at 8:40AM to begin "Great Morning Starts" and head into their classrooms. Great Morning Starts is a required part of our Healthy Schools curriculum and grant expectations and is important for your child to attend to get their brains and bodies ready to learn.

PICK UP At 3:15PM (or 11:45 for kindergarten) teachers bring and stay with their students on the playground for the "family approved and designated person" to pick them up at the SOUTH gate. Unless it is their parent/legal guardian, anyone picking them up **MUST** be listed in their student file. We are extremely careful about this and allow no exceptions to this rule...again - for safety purposes! If you want to allow your child to ride the bus or go home with someone else, remember to send a dated and signed note to the office secretary.

FIRST DAY TRANSITION

- **Younger & New Students:** On the first day some parents of younger students like to stay with their child to help them understand what to do. Parents are welcome to enter the playground with their child the first day and stay with them while the teacher walks them to their classroom. At this point, we ask that all parents leave so the teacher can help the children adjust to their school life. After the first day, all guests are required to sign in at the office before entering the playground or school. Our teachers are very caring and highly trained to be sensitive to make this an easy transition for all ages. Trust me – it will be much harder for YOU to let go than the child as the teachers have a fun, busy first day planned and the children don't have time to worry about being away from you! (Stop by if you need me to give you a reassuring hug as I still remember my son's first day going to school and how difficult it can be to let them grow up!)
- **Healthy Starts:** Please remember that all students are exhausted the first week as they get back into the school schedule, so sometimes they are emotional when you pick them up. This is very common, so plan to expect anything from no talking to tears to pent up energy needing to be let loose! Meanwhile..... please get started now on an earlier bedtime schedule so the first week will be easier. Grades K-8 need 10-12 hours of sleep each night and a healthy breakfast to be ready to learn!

BUILDING COMMUNITY At GCCS the majority of the first two weeks is spent “building community”. Students and teachers get to know each other and the school, develop class policies and plans, learn their interests and strengths, etc. Research has proven a child must feel valued and safe before their mind can open to learning any types of academic subjects. This is one of our school's greatest qualities, so I hope you'll appreciate this and not expect them to be bringing home stories of math problems or research projects immediately!

ALL-SCHOOL VOLUNTEER FORM

Opportunities - Your child's teacher will be sending you information about how to volunteer in their classroom. The form that is enclosed with this letter is for volunteering in ways that benefit the entire school – versus one classroom. Volunteering is expected – and needed - at GCCS. You will find it allows you to get to know the staff and school faster and greatly improves your own child's school experience. Students love having their parents involved, so check out the list to find something that interests you and matches your schedule! Musicians, actors, visual artists and dancers are needed to help with our Art Studio experiences, also!

Siblings - We love to have you volunteer, but it is very distracting for the teacher and students if younger siblings come with you. We ask you to make arrangements to volunteer when someone can help you babysit. We have liability challenges when little ones are around, plus it makes your child feel “extra special” when you can volunteer “just for them”! A great idea some parents use it to trade play days with each other so they can have a cost-free babysitting trade while they volunteer stress-free!

OFFICE OPENING The office will be open from 1:00PM – 3:00PM this Thursday (8/12) and Friday (8/13) and from 9:00AM – 2:00PM the following Tuesday (8/17), Thursday (8/19) and Friday (8/20). Our office and teaching staff will be involved in professional development during the days we are not open. Be sure to call to leave messages and we'll get back to you as quickly as possible.

Staff has been preparing for students by attending workshops and classes a good part of the summer and is very excited to have everyone back to school! Don't forget the **Open House, Thursday, August 19 from 6:00-7:00PM** to say hi to the teachers and check out the classrooms! I'm looking forward to a great new school year starting Monday, August 23! Continue to watch our website for current information! *Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns as I love to hear from both the students and their families!*

Sincerely,

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