



# Student Summer Newsletter - 2020 - 2021

Gordon Russell Middle School Phone: 503-667-6900

Office Phone Hours: 8:00 - 4:00 Web Address: <http://russell.gresham.k12.or.us>

<https://twitter.com/GRMSTBirds>

<https://www.instagram.com/gordonrussellthunderbirds>

<https://www.facebook.com/GordonRussellMiddleSchool/>

## WELCOME BACK!!!

With summer rapidly coming to an end, we are preparing for the approaching school year. This letter contains information to assist you with your child's transition back to school. We are looking forward to strong partnerships with parents and the community which support the success of all students at GRMS as well as the opportunities and challenges that present themselves in the coming school year.

### eGBSD

This fall will be different from Spring 2020. Our comprehensive distance learning instructional focus will be known as **eGBSD** and feature:

- An online Learning Management System (LMS) that better communicates with families and students
- A regular and predictable individualized schedule for daily online classes and meetings with teachers and classmates (more information to follow)
- Improved engagement with classroom and group activities
- Consistent and regular teacher feedback on academic work and real academic grades (A-F)
- Regular group check-ins with a teacher advisor for social and emotional connection
- Support for technology usage for students and families
- A district issued device for all students and wifi (hot spot) where needed
- Attendance-required daily, attendance taken in individual classes.

To sum things up, expect a rigorous, academically aligned online educational program focused on teachers consistently connecting with students and families. This Fall at Gordon Russell we will provide a meaningful learning environment where students feel connected, creating a seamless transition back to in-person learning.

### ONLINE REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION

We wanted to remind you that Parent Verification for the 2020-2021 School Year opened August 15, 2020.

Before the beginning of every school year, we request that parents/guardians review and/or update their family and student information.

Keeping your family's information up to date is crucial to receiving timely communication from Gresham-Barlow School District and ensures that you can be contacted in case of an emergency. This year all updates can be done online through your ParentVUE account.

After logging in to ParentVUE, click on the "Online Registration" tab in the top right-hand corner to start the verification process.

Don't have a ParentVUE account or have other questions? Please contact the school to obtain your activation code.

### COMPUTER PICK-UP

Families will be receiving communication about where and when to pick up computers for students from GBSD. School supplies will be included during the pickup (at no charge). Please check your email for updates.

## 1st DAY OF SCHOOL

### September 14th - All students

We are working hard to complete student schedules. They will be available prior to the first of school and viable in StudentVie or ParentVue.

### SCHOOL OFFICE PHONE HOURS

8:00 am - 4:00 pm School Days

The GRMS building is closed to the public. If you feel there is a need to come to the building, please contact the front office to schedule an appointment. For the safety of our staff, do not drop by the school without prior approval.

### SCHOOL/PARENT COMMUNICATION

**The Tuesday Take-Home** is a weekly newsletter that will be sent electronically on every Tuesday of the school year. The Tuesday Take-Home highlights events, procedures, PTC information and occasionally has important items attached. Copies of the TTH can be found on our webpage under "Our School".

**ParentVue** is a tool with our student information system that will allow parents to access their student(s) ongoing progress and final grades, current attendance reports, and have the ability to update demographic data (i.e. address, phone, etc.). Parents or guardians should have an access code, but if you do not please call the main school office number at 503-667-6900 for an activation code.

The **GRMS website** is an online resource that includes information from both of our newsletters, as well as other school-related information. <http://russell.gresham.k12.or.us>

GRMS is also on **Social Media**.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GRMSTBirds>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/gordonrussellthunderbirds>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GordonRussellMiddleSchool/>

### MEAL INFORMATION/FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS\* (Please use link below)

<https://www.gresham.k12.or.us/domain/41>

*\*Applications must be completed every school year to maintain enrollment in the federal program.*

### DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

In a digital environment it is important to remember ways to maximize the time spent online.

Tips for Being Successful

- Be Prepared (remember to charge devices at night and have class materials ready)
- Stay On Task (avoid distractions and give your full attention to the class)
- Be Visible
- Mute your microphone when starting a class meeting. Turn it on when needed.
- Use appropriate language when speaking
- Wear school appropriate clothing
- Academic Integrity-avoid plagiarism, copying, or turning in work that is not your own.
- Report any problems immediately to an adult

We support our students' right to free expression and the right to dress in a comfortable manner. It is critical to keep in mind that we are a public school and an academic setting.

### CLOSING COMMENTS

I am extremely excited for the upcoming school year. Gordon Russell is a quality school with a staff that is committed to providing an outstanding middle school experience. There is an authentic belief that all students will succeed and I am proud to be part of this community. I look forward to partnering with you all for the 2020-2021 school year to make it a great experience for all.

Sincerely,

Rolland Hayden  
Principal