



Student Summer News - August 2019

Gordon Russell Middle School - *Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day*

3625 E. Powell Valley Rd, Gresham, Oregon 97080

503-667-6900

www.russell.k12.or.us



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.

6th Graders, please read this letter carefully. It contains information necessary for your first day of middle school.

GRMS IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Gordon Russell families! Want to know up-to-date information about what is happening at GRMS? Check out our activities on our social media pages:

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

Instagram:

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

Facebook:

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

REGISTRATION and PICTURE DAY - AUGUST 20th

On August 20th beginning at **11:00 AM through 7:00 PM** all students are expected to register and have their school photo taken. Parents, it is critical that you utilize this time to get your student registered. Translators will be available to assist non-English speaking parents. At registration you will:

- Update student enrollment forms
- Please be prepared to have your student's portrait and school I.D. taken during this registration time. Please be sure to dress based on the Gordon Russell dress code for your school pictures (see later in letter).
- Complete emergency school closure form
- Complete athletic participation forms (optional)
- Pay the necessary fees (see fee schedule)
- Obtain information about instrument rental
- Turn in/fill out applications for free/reduced lunch eligibility (optional)
- Complete the SUN Registration form

CAN'T MAKE IT TO REGISTRATION

Our school office will be open regular business hours after August 20th, from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. **Unfortunately, we will be closed on August 28th between 8:00 am - 11:00 am.**

1st DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day for **6th** graders is Tuesday, September 3rd. Thunderbird Leaders will provide our new students with activities designed to welcome them to GRMS and familiarize each student with the school building, staff, and school operation procedures (lots of locker practice).

The first day for **7th and 8th** graders is Wednesday, September 4th at 10:05 (late start).

FEES

All students are required to pay a basic fee prior to the beginning of the school year. Please be aware that Gordon Russell Middle School will accept **cash, checks (no convenience fees apply) and credit/debit (convenience fees apply)**. The basic student fee covers:

- Student Body activities
- The student planner, an organizational guide to assist all students with class/homework planning. As well as, supplemental materials.
- Student body card, used for lunch and Media Center identification and account access.

- We also expect that if your student(s) have outstanding fees or fines from the previous school year that you will take care of these at this time.

A summary of fees collected at registration includes:

Required by ALL students

- *Basic Student Fee - \$25
- *Outdoor School (6th grade only) - Free
- PE uniforms (if needed) - New-\$16

PE uniforms are required by all students and consist of black shorts and a red shirt. These may be purchased at GRMS or any retail store that carries clothing such as this.

Optional fees (if participating)

- *Athletic Participation Fee – Basketball (7th & 8th)
- Track and Field (6th – 8th) - \$80 per sport

Optional purchases

- Yearbook (advance purchase) - \$20

**Eligible for reduced fees. See the next article on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.*

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

Free and reduced lunch program applications are assessed by a District Office computer and delivered to the school to verify applicant eligibility. If you feel you might qualify, please apply to potentially gain additional resources to support your student. Processing takes about a week. Families will be notified of their status as soon as possible. We ask that you please be patient with this process.

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

If you have already received notice of qualification, please bring that paperwork with you to registration. If you qualify for the program after registration, you may then bring verification of your eligibility to our office and receive the appropriate refund.

FIRST DAY BUS INFORMATION

Most likely you have received information from First Student regarding the times for student pick up. If not, or if you have questions, please feel free to contact them at 503-665-8193. Those parents, who will be driving their children during those first few days of school, please remember to arrive no earlier than 8:40 a.m. Students who arrive early will be asked to wait outside until that time.

OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 19th

Please plan on attending the 2019-2020 Open House on September 19th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. At the Open House, parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to meet teachers, PTC representatives, counselors and administration. Open House is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the GRMS staff that will be working with your student. Please come early (6:00 p.m.) and join us for an Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Parent Teacher Club. Parking is at a premium, so please carpool, walk or be prepared to park on Powell Valley Road if our parking is full.

PARENT TEACHER CLUB (PTC) NEWS

The Gordon Russell Middle School Parent Teacher Club will begin their planning for the 2019-20 school year. Key areas of concentration for the coming year include:

- Financial support of GRMS programs via grants to staff projects, ongoing programs and specific activities,
- Support for activities and events via organization, refreshments and supervision,
- Coordination of all volunteer activities - recruitment, training, and recognition,
- Community events that will involve students and families in a healthy and enjoyable activity.

The PTC will meet for the first time on September 25th at 7:00 pm. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend our PTC meetings.

MEDICATION REMINDER!

School personnel may not give children medication without written permission from the parent/guardian and doctor. Parents must bring the medication to the school office and complete the required district form before the medication can be given. Students may never transport medication.

Prescription medication must be prepared and labeled by a pharmacist at the direction of a physician. The district requires a signed permission form and instructions from the student's parent, which includes: name of the student, name of medication, route, dosage, and frequency of administration will be needed.

Prescription medication must remain in the original container from the pharmacy or doctor's office. Nonprescription medication must be brought to school in the original container or packaging and must follow recommended guidelines for dosage. Nonprescription medication means only commercially prepared, non-alcohol based medication to be taken during school hours that is necessary for the student to remain in school.

SAVE MAGAZINE ORDERS FOR OUR FALL FUNDRAISER!

Each fall we kick-off our magazine subscription and cookie dough fundraiser to benefit our students. The success of the program depends on your participation! Our fundraiser this year will also include a few other special items that could make excellent gifts!

Please save your magazine subscription renewals for our sale. When you renew directly through our program our school receives 45% profit from your order.

Plan ahead and help even more!

Consider giving magazine subscriptions, cookie dough or other items featured in our fundraiser as gifts this year! Purchase subscriptions for the school, your office or your business!

Let friends and family know about our fundraiser and ask them to save their orders for our program!

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 and PTC information and occasionally has important items attached. Copies of the TTH can be found on our webpage under "Our School".

GRMS also has **Social Media** pages.

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

Instagram:

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

Facebook:

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

The **GRMS website** is an online resource that includes information from both of our newsletters, as well as information related to athletics, lunches, buses, student grades/progress, and more. Check it out at <http://russell.gresham.k12.or.us>.

ParentVue is a tool with our student information system that will allow parents to access their student(s) ongoing progress, midterm, and trimester grades, current attendance report, and have the ability to update demographic data (i.e. address, phone, etc.). Parents or guardians will be given an access code at registration that will enable them to access this system as well as create a personalized password.

Student Planner purchased at registration (basic student fee) and will be given to students the first week of school. The planner includes preface pages highlighting school expectations, a full-year calendar overview, and procedures/policies. In addition, this planner will allow your student to communicate daily academic information from every class.

WHAT IS APPROPRIATE DRESS AT RUSSELL

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

1. To ensure adequate coverage of the body at school and school activities, the following articles of clothing are not permitted:
 - See-through garments
 - Backless or strapless dresses or tops
 - Bare-midriff tops. (Tops and bottoms must touch when student is standing.)
 - Muscle shirts or sleeveless undershirts that expose the torso
 - Shorts, skirts, pants and tops that fail to conceal undergarments when the student is standing or sitting
 - Shorts, skirts or dresses that expose undergarments when standing or sitting. These articles must provide full coverage of the body at all times
2. Shoes shall be worn at all times. Shoes that interfere with safe play and instructional activities are inappropriate.

3. Clothing, accessories and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures, symbols, or any other insignia that are crude, vulgar, profane, obscene, libelous, slanderous, or sexually suggestive. Clothing, accessories, or jewelry that degrade any cultural, religious or ethnic values, that advocate racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice or discrimination, or that promote sex, the use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol or any unlawful acts are prohibited.
4. Hats, caps, hoods, masks, flags and blankets shall not be worn.
5. Dark glasses shall not be worn indoors, except for valid medical reasons authorized by the principal or administration and verified in writing by a physician.
6. Gang-related clothing or accessories, including but not limited to bandannas, or other symbols, emblems or insignia are prohibited. School officials shall use information obtained from community resources and the local gang task force to make judgments on what items and accessories are gang-related.
7. Items of clothing or accessories with spikes, safety pins, or chains, including wallet chains, are prohibited.
8. Pajamas or slippers may not be worn.
9. Excessive sagging or baggy pants are not to be worn. Undergarments may not be exposed.
10. Any clothing or accessory that inhibits the safety of the student or others.

All decisions regarding inappropriate dress and/or grooming are at the complete discretion of the school administration.

Students who are out of compliance are asked to change into appropriate clothing. If they do not have additional clothing, they will need to call home for clothing. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary consequences.

We will work with our students to help them meet school expectations. We attempt to always interact respectfully with each individual as we address

concerns. We ask that parents support our efforts through regular discussions with students about school behavior and proper attire. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

SUN SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Our school offers SUN programming. We will offer a range of athletic and interest-based classes including homework support in three sessions throughout the school year. Programming will run Monday through Thursday. A participation fee will be charged with reduced rates for those eligible for free and reduced lunch. An activity bus will be available to transport students to their neighborhood following programming.

Our belief is that by partnering with community programs such as those listed above, as well as others, our middle schools can offer even more after school activities than before. Even better, more students will have the opportunity to participate because the offerings will be much more than a standard athletic program. As we all know, the more students we have engaged in positive after-school activities, the better it is for them, their parents, and our community.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS REQUESTED

Our Parent Teacher Club is looking for school supply donations to help our most needy families offset some of the costs of school supplies. When you come to registration, please bring any extra school supplies for donations! Stop by our PTC table display to leave items such as notebooks, pencils, eraser pens, erasers, Kleenex, markers, etc. **ANY** little bit can help our GRMS families who are in need. Thank you for your assistance to help our Thunderbirds start the year off right!!

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR GRMS!

While shopping for school supplies (list included) if you purchase supplies at the Office Depot, please give them the GRMS school identification # **70083784**, or mention to them that you're a GRMS student, and 5% of your purchase amount will be credited to a merchandise account for our school.

Last year we received several hundred dollars worth of supplies as a result of this program. (The GRMS Supply List is posted on our school website and will be available at registration.)

COMMUNITY CARE DAY



Each year the Community Care Day event is put on by the East Hill Church Family to clean up and beautify school campuses and other community sites. With the goal

of supporting the community in a hands-on way, local churches and organizations come together with the East Hill Church Family to spend the day serving at various sites in the Gresham area. It's a great opportunity to save schools a lot of work, time, and money, as well as build relationships across the community. Please join the movement by volunteering with us at your child's school or your closest neighborhood school this year on Saturday, August 24th from 9am-12:30pm. Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, etc. and we'll provide your lunch!

CLOSING COMMENTS



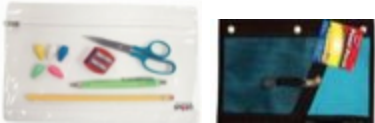





I am extremely excited for the upcoming school year. Last year was very successful and both the staff and I are anticipating another great year of student growth. Gordon Russell is a quality school with a staff that is committed to providing an outstanding middle school experience. There is an authentic 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 2019-2020 school year to make it a great experience for all.

Sincerely,

Rolland Hayden
Principal

Required Supplies for ALL GRMS Student Universal Binder System

At GRMS we are standardizing our supply list for all grade levels. GRMS will use a specific organizational method. This supply list will prepare you for your classes.

Quantity	Item	Example
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Good quality 3-ring binder 3 inches (with D rings preferred) <i>You can choose the style but do not choose a style with built-in accordion folders! (Trapper Keeper style is fine as long as there are no built in folders)</i></p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Colored tab subject dividers to separate each academic and elective classes (not physical education).</p>	
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Zipper pouch to store supplies. <i>You can choose the style. Heavy duty is best.</i></p>	
3 or more	<p style="text-align: center;">Large glue sticks</p>	
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Single subject notebooks with 3hole punch</p>	
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Handheld pencil sharpener with cover to catch pencil shavings</p>	
2 or more	<p style="text-align: center;">Pens (a variety of colors is helpful)</p>	
12 or more	<p style="text-align: center;">#2 Pencils</p>	

1 or more	Package of colored highlighters	
1 box	Colored pencils (12 count)	
1 roll	Scotch tape (for taping handouts in notebook)	
1 package	Loose leaf college ruled filler paper	
1	Scientific calculator TI30XA recommended	
1	Ruler (metric & standard measurement – 3 hole punched)	
1	Eraser (Pink Pearl)	
1	Scissors	

Accepting Donations of:



Tissue



**Dry
Erase
Markers**



**Color Non-
Permanent
Markers**



**Reams of
8 ½ x 11
Copy
Paper**



Protractors



**Black Fine
Tip Markers
Non-
Permanent**