



Tuesday Take Home - October 1, 2019

Gordon Russell Middle School Weekly Newsletter

Phone: 503-667-6900

Web Address: <http://russell.gresham.k12.or.us>

 <https://twitter.com/GRMSTBirds>

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| Wednesday | October 2, 2019 | Fundraiser Kick Off!!!! | |
| Monday | October 7, 2019 | SUN Term Starts | |
| Thursday | October 10, 2019 | No School-Standards & Assessment | |
| Friday | October 11, 2019 | No School-Statewide Inservice | |

HEALTH CONCERNS AROUND VAPING

Over the past few years I have seen an increase of students using and talking about vaping in school and at home. GBSD middle school principals have felt it necessary to draft a combined letter to parents about this topic. Please see the attached letter and as always, please call if you have any questions - Rolland Hayden.

SCHOOL WIDE BINDER SYSTEM

Organization is one of the most important parts of being an effective student. Management of time and energy and learning to set priorities can make the difference between success and failure at school. This year GRMS will be teaching and promoting the uses of binders as an organizational tool. Teachers will use the binder as a part of instruction to better keep students organized and help them manage their time and energy. Thank you for your support in this area.

UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember us if you or your family's contact information changes. Please call the main office to update your student's records.

STUDENT PLANNERS

An important part of helping our students develop responsible habits that promote success is the effective use of the student planner. The student planners were presented to students during the first week of school. Please ask to see your student's planner and look to see if they are using it to record homework, project due-dates, and important school events. This is a key organizational strategy for continued success.

SCHOOL/PARENT COMMUNICATION

The Tuesday Take-Home is a weekly newsletter that will be sent electronically and/or is sent home with each student on every Tuesday of the school year. The Tuesday Take-Home highlights events, procedures and PTC

information and occasionally has important items attached that are to be delivered home.

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>.

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

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.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

During the first week of school, staff presented student behavior expectation lessons to students as part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) Program. During this time, the Student Handbook portion of the planner will also be discussed. Finally, the Parent's

Rights and Responsibilities booklet will be reviewed. Each student was asked to deliver the Rights and Responsibilities booklet to parents. Please take the time to review the planner and the Rights and Responsibility booklet together. Sign and return the required form on the back of the booklet to your students 1st period teacher ASAP. Returning this form is very important!

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 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 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!

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. 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.

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR GORDON RUSSELL

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.)

APPROPRIATE DRESS

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 and masks 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.

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.

I LOVE YOU GUYS

The safety of your student/students at school is our number one priority. This past year our school district, along with our local fire and police departments, have adopted new protocols and procedures. The protocols were created by the "I Love You Guys" Foundation, which was developed following a fatal school shooting. It is becoming a standard regionally and nationally. The protocol's curriculum, materials and posters are free to download and duplicate. The protocol features four standard emergency responses: Lockdown, Lockout, Evacuate, and Shelter. Your students will be given a training on the new protocols and an informational letter is attached.

MORNING ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

Please do not drop your children off at school in the morning before 8:40 a.m., unless they have made prior arrangements with a teacher or are part of a supervised activity. There is no supervision available for students prior to 8:40 a.m. Thank you for your consideration.

CROSSING GUARD ON POWELL

Due to the increased number of Russell students who cross Powell Valley Road to get to our school, we have a crossing

guard to assist students before and after school. Stationed at the crossing area just south of our property, a school staff member will stop traffic while assisting students who need to cross the street. We will be adjusting the crossing guard times to meet the needs of the students. To start with we will have a crossing guard on duty from 8:40 – 9:00 am and 3:35 – 3:50 pm.

DAILY ATTENDANCE AND NOTIFICATION

Gordon Russell Middle School continues to use an **every period attendance system**. This will not only allow us to more closely monitor students in the building, but will also enable us to communicate student attendance more effectively with families. We will be making calls to parents throughout the day to ensure an open line of communication while students are at school, or confirming that they have an excused absence.

NEWS FROM THE CAFETERIA

Good News! This year breakfast is FREE for everyone! That's right! Free, Reduced and Paid students all receive a free breakfast during the 2019-2020 school year! The Kitchen staff is looking forward to seeing you for breakfast before school! A friendly reminder from the Kitchen. Please remember to ask your student about their lunch balance or have them ask the Lunch Ladies about their account balance. You can access it through the school website with Mealtime Online.

FUNDRAISER PLANNED

The students will again be selling cookie dough, kitchenware, snacks and magazines amongst other items through Evergreen Fundraising. We will hold our annual "Kick-Off" assembly on October 2nd. Students are not asked to go door to door but rather to sell to family and friends. Profits from this school wide effort provide the funds to support major activities and purchases that supplement your student's education. For example, we could use the money for an iPad Lab, computer lab, library books, or other classroom resources. The fundraiser will end on October 16th and goods will be delivered on Thursday, November 7th, at the end of the school day. Please plan accordingly. Thank you in advance for your support of this important activity.

STUDENT STORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our student store would like to open soon, but we are in need of parent volunteers. This is a great way to help support GRMS! There are several different days and shifts available. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Caryn Brown at 503.502.8295

**OCTOBER 10TH, STANDARDS & ASSESSMENT DAY
OCTOBER 11TH, STATEWIDE INSERVICE DAY**

A reminder that Thursday, October 10th and Friday, October 11th there will be no school for students. On the 10th the staff will be completing progress grades and be involved in professional development. The 11th is a State-Wide In-Service day and a non-contract day for teachers.

SAM BARLOW ATHLETIC EVENTS

We appreciate and look forward to your attendance at Sam Barlow High School Athletic events. We wanted to let you know that the football season is underway and that there has been a change in attendance rules. All middle and elementary aged students must be accompanied by an adult in order to be admitted to the game. This policy has been put in place by the Mount Hood Conference and is designed to help us host a safe event. We look forward to seeing you at our athletic events, and Go Bruins!