



Tuesday Take Home - September 10, 2019

Gordon Russell Middle School Weekly Newsletter

Phone: 503-667-6900

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

 <https://twitter.com/GRMSTBirds>

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

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

Wednesday	September 18, 2019	Picture Makeups	9:00 AM
Wednesday	September 18, 2019	PTC Meeting	7:00 PM
Thursday	September 19, 2019	Ice Cream Social	6:00 - 6:30 PM
Thursday	September 19, 2019	Open House	6:30 - 8:00 PM

OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 19th

Please reserve time to attend 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, parent club representatives, counselors and administration and SUN. 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.

WELCOME BACK

We want to express a hearty “WELCOME BACK” to all of the Gordon Russell Middle School students and families. The beginning of the school year is always a great time with a built in “fresh start”. It was awesome to see our newest group of Thunderbirds work with the Leadership students on the first day for sixth graders.



The entire staff is looking forward to an exciting and successful school year for every student and we are “**Fired Up**” for the new school year!! All of our teachers have spent considerable time preparing for the year and we have set some high goals for ourselves. We will be working harder than ever this school year to make the most of your child’s experience. Please feel free to stop in and say hello before or after school or call with any questions.

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.

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.

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 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.

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!

PARENT TEACHER CLUB (PTC) NEWS

The Gordon Russell Middle School Parent Teacher Club have already begun 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 18th 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 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.

PICTURE MAKE-UPS

We will be having Picture Make-ups for students on Wednesday, September 18th. This will be for any student that has not taken a photo or would like a redo.

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.



STANDARD™ RESPONSE PROTOCOL

STUDENT SAFETY

A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fire, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by students, teachers, staff and administration.

SRP

Our school is expanding the safety program to include the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). The SRP is based on these four actions. Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter. In the event of an emergency, the action and appropriate direction will be called on the PA.

- LOCKOUT** - "Secure the Perimeter"
- LOCKDOWN** - "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"
- EVACUATE** - "To the Announced Location"
- SHELTER** - "For a Hazard Using a Safety Strategy"

TRAINING

Please take a moment to review these actions. Students and staff will be trained and the school will drill these actions over the course of the school year. More information can be found at <http://iloveugays.org>

LOCKOUT SECURE THE PERIMETER

Lockout is called when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

TEACHERS

- Recover students and staff from outside building
- Increased situational awareness
- Do business as usual
- Take roll, account for students



LOCKDOWN LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT

Lockdown is called when there is a threat or hazard inside the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence

TEACHERS:

- Lock classroom door
- Lights out
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Wait for First Responders to open door
- Take roll, account for students



EVACUATE TO A LOCATION

Evacuate is called to move students and staff from one location to another.

STUDENTS:

- Bring your phone
- Leave your stuff behind
- Form a single file line
- Show your hands
- Be prepared for alternatives during response.

TEACHERS:

- Grab roll sheet if possible
- Lead students to Evacuation Location
- Take roll, account for students



SHELTER FOR A HAZARD USING SAFETY STRATEGY

Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary.

SAMPLE HAZARDS:

- Tornado
- Hazmat

SAMPLE SAFETY STRATEGIES:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room

STUDENTS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies

TEACHERS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies
- Take roll, account for students

