

James A. Garfield Middle School



Tom Bartz, Principal

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August 1, 2023

Middle School Families:

As the calendar flips to August I hope you all share in my excitement for the upcoming 2023 / 2024 school year here at James A. Garfield Middle School. Our campus has been quite busy these last few months in preparation for the return of our students and staff. On the outside of the building, crews are finishing up a major overhaul on our roofs adding increased insulation and providing a new watertight seal for many years to come. Towards the back of campus the new track is scheduled to have its final coating installed within the next few days and is still on pace for our student-athletes to be able to compete on this spring. Inside the building, our air handlers and univent systems have been replaced building wide which are designed to draw fresh air from the outdoors to help cool down our classrooms during these summer months, the boiler systems have been updated to include individual thermostats in each classroom for a more consistent feel throughout the building, and our custodial and maintenance staff have been working around the clock on general upkeep and continuous improvement projects in our hallways, classrooms, and offices. By the time the seats are filled I am confident our Middle School and Campus will be a proud place to call home for the school year.

Instructionally, our teaching staff has also been fine tuning their craft over summer break attending various seminars and workshops to prepare for the upcoming year. Our Social Studies Department is welcoming a new curriculum this year to bring a 21st century spin to world and US history. With the new system, each student will have online access to the interactive eBook as well as a workbook that they can use in class on the new lessons and activities. Our Math Department completed more trainings over the summer as they dive into year two of their CPM Curriculum and our English Department continues to add to their book room so they can meet our students at their level while giving them greater choice in their learning journeys. Finally after a few years off, and back by popular demand, we are happy to be able to provide our 8th Grade Band Students the opportunity to enjoy the Friday Night Lights while marching alongside our High School Band Students for the upcoming fall season. All in all the stage is set for a successful year in the classrooms at GMS.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 24th beginning at 6:00 pm. Like last year, your student's schedule is enclosed for your convenience. As you enter the building we will begin with a brief welcome speech in the Iva Walker Auditorium. From there the building will be open to tour, meet the staff, catch up with friends, and practice those locker combinations! Our first day of instruction is Monday, August 28th for what is sure to be a year filled with new learning opportunities, new challenges to overcome, and many new JAG memories to share.

To stay up to date on Middle School News and Information please visit our website at www.jagschools.org, download our mobile app, connect with us on FaceBook at James A. Garfield Local Schools, and follow us on Twitter @JAGMS1. If you have any questions as we get started please feel free to reach out to me directly at 330.527.2151, tbartz@jagschools.org, or stop in to the Middle School Office at your convenience. It's a great time to be a G-Man... see everyone in a few short weeks!

Go G-Men,

Tom Bartz, Principal

James A. Garfield Middle School



It's a Great Time to be a G-Man!



2023 Back to School Checklist

*A digital version of this list is available on the Middle School Website under **Documents** → **Back to School Information***

- [] Complete All Student Information and Forms for the Upcoming School Year in [Final Forms](#)
- [] Review [Supply List](#) by Visiting the School Website
- [] Determine [Bus Routes](#) by Visiting the School Website or by Calling the Bus Garage at 330.527.4250
- [] Set Up Lunch Account by Visiting [My School Bucks](#)
- [] Review [Breakfast / Lunch Menus](#) by visiting My School Menus
- [] Review [Student / Parent Handbook](#) by Visiting the School Website
- [] Log In to [ProgressBook](#) to Stay Up-To-Date with Your Child's Grades
- [] Download the G-Men Mobile App by Visiting the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
- [] Follow Us on Twitter by Subscribing to [@JAGMS1](#)
- [] Join Us for the [Back to School Bash](#) presented by G-Men University on August 13th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on the lawn of the front campus
- [] Join Us for [Meet the Teacher Night](#) on August 24th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Iva Walker Auditorium
- [] [Set Your Alarm](#), Get Out Your Black and Gold, Gather Your Supplies, and Join Us for a Great Year Beginning August 28th

