

James A. Garfield Middle School

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Go G-Men!



August 4, 2025

Middle School Families:

With summer break winding down I hope you all share in my excitement for the upcoming 2025 / 2026 school year here at James A. Garfield Middle School. Our theme on campus this year will focus around our Core Value of Kindness and we will look to highlight this throughout the year as our students, adults, and various groups demonstrate this important and contagious trait. Kindness comes in all shapes and sizes, can be random or intentional, and adds a sense of joy and excitement to our everyday tasks. While we celebrate these acts around campus this year, I encourage you to do the same at home to allow our values to shine and to help us strengthen our school community.

As the students and teachers took some much needed time away our campus remained alive over the summer months hosting community events, holding summer camps for our student athletes and musicians, checking off summer maintenance requests throughout the building, and completing stage two of an impressive renovation to our Commons Area. The new space includes an expanded seating area, updated signage throughout the commons and serving kitchen, additional furniture, and more electrical outlets so kids can recharge their bodies and devices in this welcoming space. Other renovations you may notice around campus include new bleacher seating in the high school gymnasium, new gym doors for both the High School and Middle School, and updates to our ever expanding Veteran's Wall. Along with a great Garfield education, keeping up on our community asset and creating a space our students, alumni, and community can be proud of is an important part of this special place we call home.

Instructionally our teaching staff has continued their commitment to becoming lifelong learners by completing various tasks over the summer months including revamping old lesson plans, renewing licenses, completing graduate courses, and learning a few new curricular materials and interfaces. New to this year our ELA Department, with the support of our Director of Teaching and Learning, has selected Amplify ELA for their core instructional materials across grades 6 – 8. With a combination of digital and print lessons, a fresh set of new and exciting reading materials, and more consistency across the grade band we look forward to seeing the benefits of these new tools in the months to come. We are also excited to announce the addition of a new Math Department this year bringing in over 25 years of both internal and external instructional experience to the Middle School hallways. Joining us for 8th Grade Math will be Mr. Minnick. Mr. Minnick has been a long standing High School Math Teacher for us here at Garfield teaching classes such as Algebra 2, Advanced Algebra 2, Geometry, and Mathematical Reasoning. He brings with him a love for math, teaching, and music and we are excited to have him move in to Room 16. On our 7th Grade Team we welcome Ms. Urban to the JAG Family. Ms. Urban comes to us from Windham Junior High School where she taught 6th and 7th Grade Math for the past 5 years. Ms. Urban has a Master's Degree in Learning Experience and Design and looks to bring with her a mix of creativity, teamwork, and technology to keep students excited and engaged during her math lessons this year.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 21st 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 25th 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 X @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!



2025 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 **Student's Grades**
- [] Download the **G-Men Mobile App** by Visiting the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
- [] **Follow Us** on Facebook by Subscribing to [@JAGSchools](#)
- [] **Join Us** for the [Back to School](#) Bash presented by G-Men University on August 17th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on the **Front Campus Lawn**
- [] **Join Us** for [Meet the Teacher Night](#) on August 21st 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 25th

