

## **Garfield Elementary School Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the attendance policy?**

Click on the **Attendance Policy** tab at the top of our website.

### **2. What time does breakfast start?**

Students in grades 1-5 have breakfast from 8:00-8:20 a.m.

Students in Kindergarten have breakfast from 8:20-8:35 a.m.

### **3. When is a student late?**

The late bell rings at 8:35 a.m. All students must be in their class when attendance is taken at 8:35 a.m., not walking in to school at this time.

### **4. What time is dismissal?**

Kindergarten students are dismissed at 2:05 p.m.

Students in grades 1-5 are dismissed at 2:40 p.m.

### **5. Can cars pull in the driveway to pick up students?**

No. The driveway is only for school buses, private transportation vans, or handicapped vehicles. For the safety and security of all, parents' vehicles should be entering the driveway to pick up their child.

### **6. How can I reach my child's teacher?**

The best way to contact your child's teacher is by email. Click on the **Faculty/Staff** tab at the top of our website to find email addresses. Teachers usually check their email in the morning and at the end of the day.

Teachers can also be reached by calling the main office at 781-286-8296. Calls will not be put through to teachers' classrooms during school hours, however. A message will be given to them to return the call either before or after school as they are busy teaching during school hours. Finally, you may always communicate with a teacher by writing a note.

### **7. What do I do if my child is sick and has to miss school?**

Please call the school before 9:00 a.m. at 781-286-8296 ext.50198 to report your child absent.

A sick student must stay home until he/she has been on antibiotics for a period of 24 hours or until vomiting or diarrhea has resolved for 12 hours. Students should also stay home if there is a fever of 100.<sup>0</sup> or if advised by the doctor. Remember to always send in a note from the doctor if your child was seen by a doctor. Please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns.

### **8. How do I log into the Parent Portal to view my child's grades?**

Click on the **District** tab at the top of our website. Then click on the **PowerSchool Parent Portal** tab at the top of the District website.

### **9. What is Open Circle?**

Open Circle is a curriculum used by all teachers at the Garfield Elementary School to address the social and emotional needs of students. For more information, please visit the [Open Circle webpage](#).

### **10. What is the 2015-2016 testing schedule?**

2015 ACCESS for ELL test for students in Kindergarten – Grade 5

- January 7 – February 10

MCAS Alternative Assessment for Students with Disabilities for students in Grades 3-5

- Portfolios are ongoing and will be submitted on March 31

PARCC Computer-based ELA and Math Tests for students in Grade 3-5

- April 25 – June 6

MCAS Science, Technology and Engineering Test for students in Grade 5

- May 10 – May 24

**11. What is the school uniform policy?**

Click on the **School Uniforms** tab at the top of our website.

**12. How do I join the PTO?**

You may notify your child's teacher or the school office if you are interested in joining the PTO. Membership forms go home at the beginning of each school year but you may join at any time!

**13. Where can I find the school lunch calendar?**

Click on the **Food Services** tab at the top of our website. This will take you to the site for Aramark, our food service provider. There is a link on their page that says school menu.

**14. When are the school vacations?**

Click on the **RPS 2015-2016 Calendar** tab at the top of our website.

**15. What if I want to take my child out of school to go on vacation or visit my country at a time other than during school vacation weeks?**

The school department strongly suggests that students use the school vacation weeks or the summer months for this. If a child is absent for more than 7 days in one trimester they will automatically fail that trimester due to absences (see student handbook policy). If an emergency arises, you must make an appointment to speak to the principal. Depending on the amount of days missed, your child may be withdrawn from school and will then have to re-register at the Parent Information Center. There is no guarantee that the child will be able to return to the same classroom if this occurs.

**16. Is there an after school program at Garfield Elementary?**

Yes, the RPS Afterschool Program operates at the Garfield Elementary School. Lillian Guido is the Program Administrator and can be reached at 781- 286-8296 ext 51392. The program runs from the close of school until 6:00 p.m. daily. During the afterschool program hours, students receive homework help, have academic enrichments, and participate in supervised games and activities.

RPS After School charges a monthly fee that depends on the number of days a week the student attends.

- \$280.00 - 5 days per week
- \$225.00 - 4 days per week
- \$170.00 - 3 days per week
- \$115.00 - 2 days per week

All monthly payments are due on the 10th of every month.