



Dear Parent(s),

As I write this the temperatures outside are in the 90's with heat indexes much higher! While I love the summer, I could do without the extreme temperatures. I hope this letter finds you having an enjoyable summer filled with fun.

We are ready to start our final year at Garfield Elementary. It will be a bittersweet year with a lot of excitement for moving to Trailside next year but also sadness that our time at Garfield will be coming to an end. We plan to make this year special, full of learning, fun and making memories. To that end we are kicking off the year with the theme, "One last year of s'more learning and fun". Students will receive a special treat at our school supply drop off event on Monday, August 21st from 4:30-6:00 or Tuesday, August 22nd from 10:30-12:00. During this event please plan to bring your student to Garfield with their school supplies. They can drop them off in their classroom, meet their teacher and perhaps run into old and new friends. We will also have extra staff on hand to help with Annual Verification if you haven't completed it already. And as has been the tradition over the past few years, take a family photo for our hallway.

We will continue to update you on the progress of Trailside. If you get a chance to drive by on 27th Street NE, you will see the progress being made. Plans to open in August of 2024 are on track.

If you haven't filled out your annual verification, please do so as soon as possible. **Log on to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to complete your Annual Verification today!** If you have forgotten your username and password, please call the school office and Paulette will be happy to reset it for you.

We welcome parents and volunteers at Garfield. If you are picking up a student for an appointment, you will need to come into the main office and sign your child out. Parents must stay in the office and wait for their child to be called to the office. Volunteers must register at this [site](#) in order to volunteer. Our volunteer coordinator Brooke Mullin will help you with getting signed up if you need assistance.

With every summer comes a juggling of staff to new roles, new homes and new hires. This year is no exception. Please welcome Ms. Hass and Ms. Bessman in 4th/5th grade. We will have 3 % combinations this year. Ms. Hass and Ms. Bessman replace Mr. Ramey and Ms. Bowdrie. Ms. Staab returns but is now Mrs. Morabito! Ms. Parlet will join Mr. Beach teaching 3rd grade. Ms. Parlet replaces Mrs. Lane. Mrs. Bradford replaces Mrs. Cochran in 2nd grade. Ms. Humphreys will still be in

the building but will now be our instructional coach replacing Mrs. Garbutt who is now an assistant principal in Iowa City. Mrs. Davis will be moving to 1st grade and teaming with Ms. Osmundson who also returns now as Mrs. Edwards. Ms. Fuller will be our sole Kindergarten teacher. We've also added a few para professionals to our building. Please welcome Stacie Merta and Kristen Leu to our building in this role.

At Garfield we enjoy celebrating our successes. I would be remiss to not mention a few of ours from last school year. We increased the percent of students proficient on FAST reading scores by 10% over the course of the school year. This tied for the 4th best growth in the district when compared to all other elementary buildings. Our ISASP data was promising in the area of Reading/Language Arts where we improved from 50% of our students proficient in grades 3-5 to 51% of our students proficient. We also grew in our Science proficiency improving from 19%-37% proficient and in proficiency from 28% to 45%. This is amazing growth. Rest assured we will continue to work on improvement. In addition, we ended the year with 80% of our students with 0-1 office referrals. Garfield kids are doing a great job and making amazing progress each year.

A copy of the attendance policy brochure is included in this letter. We are making attendance a priority this year and you may notice more phone calls when your child is absent. We can't teach your child if they aren't here and every day matters-even Fridays!! Please note absences are no longer by the day but by the hour. So if you pull your student out an hour early 7 times, this will be 7 hours and translate to 1 day of absences. This applies to tardies in the morning as well. I don't want to see anyone get into trouble for attendance this year, so please plan to have your child to school on time and stay the entire day and we will avoid any issues. If you have specific challenges regarding attendance. Please call Brooke Mullin at (319) 558-1531 and she will be happy to help. Please know that we will be monitoring attendance carefully. It is important that your child be at school every day!

Parent Communication-All classes will be communicating with you through an app called Seesaw. You can access this app on your phone or device. Teachers will also communicate important information with you in this app as well. In addition, student work and pictures can be posted so you can see what your student is working on while at school. We will be sending information later on how to sign up for Seesaw. This will keep you up to date on all of the happenings for the week as well as special events, etc. We will also send you a weekly newsletter by email which will provide you with information about the week's happenings.

Arrival

Each grade level will have a separate entrance as follows:

Kinder/1st: Door I-North side of the building near the kindergarten rooms.

Grade 2: Door G-Door at the back of the playground outside of Mrs. Reinert's room

Grade 3: Door D-Cafeteria doors

Grade 4/5: Door B-South end and East side of building facing Maplewood Drive

Staff will be at those entrances beginning at 8:40 each day. Students will not enter the building until 8:40 so it is suggested that you not drop your students off prior to 8:40 as there will be NO supervision prior to that time. Students will enter the building and go to their classroom. Students should wait outside of their assigned door until the bell rings. They should not be running around on the playground or playing on the equipment.

DISMISSAL: Dismissal is at 3:50. Our goal is safety first!! Please remember: No one should be getting out of their cars to pick up students. Unless you have specific business in the office at the end of the day, please do not try to come into the building. In general, we ask all adults to stay outside so we can better ensure the safety of all of our students. Thank you for understanding!!

The Dismissal process will be fairly similar to last year. The following procedure will be used for dismissal.

Walkers: Walkers will be dismissed at 3:45. Oakland Road walkers will exit the gym doors. They will be escorted to the crosswalk where we have a crossing guard. Parents may wait at the end of the sidewalk on the playground or meet their student at the Oakland Road Crosswalk. Parents MAY NOT park on Oakland Road. This is only for walkers!! Students will be escorted to these areas by a staff member and additional staff will be on the playground and out front to direct students.

Maplewood Drive students/parents will meet their student at the corner of Maplewood and J Ave. There will be a crossing guard at each location. **Parents please meet your walkers at these locations for the safety of all of our students. NO cars should be parked in the south parking lot.** You are welcome to park down Maplewood or up J Ave. to walk to the corner to meet your student.

Car Riders: Car riders will begin to be dismissed at 3:50. Parents who are picking up students in cars will enter the horseshoe driveway in the front of the building off of Maplewood in two lanes. Cars coming from the North should enter on the inside lane closest to the building. Cars entering from the South should take the outside lane closest to the street. There will be a line of cars on Maplewood waiting to get into the horseshoe driveway. Sometimes parents think this is a line of parked cars and try to go around it. This can lead to some upset people who have been waiting patiently for their turn. Please do not go around the line of cars in this way. (To be fair and courteous to all...Mrs. Long has been known to ask cars that do this to go around the block and join the line at the end.) Each family will be given a placard that has the student name on it. Please put that placard in your car window. Staff will be in the driveway with a walkie talkie and radio in the name on your placard. Those students will then be called out the front door (bus door for 4th-5th) and come to your car. You do NOT need to get out of your car. Staff will help get students across the lane of traffic for safety. Be aware that traffic does back up to get into the horseshoe driveway and you will likely have to wait for a few minutes (especially at the beginning of the year until the routine is solid). It is rare that we still have cars in line past 4:00 so please be patient with your fellow parents and with us!!

Bus Riders: This protocol is still under construction and will be based on the number of students who will be riding the bus. In general, bus students have their own exit that is used that gets them to the bus quickly and safely. This includes adult escorts.

Please understand how difficult it is to get 230 students safely to their dismissal plan. Having one plan that you use most of the time works best for all of us. We understand that occasionally there may be change in plans, please call the office and communicate the change before 3:30. If you call after 3:30 or during dismissal time staff will be too busy to answer your calls or communicate the change to staff.

SUPPLIES

A School Supply List is included with this letter. You may also go to the [Garfield website](#) to access the supply list. If you do not have access to the web, you can find the lists in the school supply aisle at Walmart and Target. Students will need these supplies to begin the school year. Please send your children's supplies on the first day of school.

FEES

Garfield is a CEP school which means that ALL of our students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost to families. It is still important for you to fill out Infinite Campus. If you qualify for free/reduced meals, your fees could be reduced or waived.

Fees are to be paid for consumable materials and book use. Fees may be paid through the Parent Portal on Infinite Campus or you may send a check to school with your child. Checks should be made to the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD)

ANY STUDENT KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 5.....	\$31.00
REDUCED PRICE BOOK FEES	\$19.00
WAIVED SCHOOL FEES	No charge

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price meals (even though you no longer have to fill out the form), the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived.

Please be sure to fill out the Permissions section on Annual Verification if you believe you qualify to have your fees waived. Your fees will not be waived unless you fill out this section.

EARLY DISMISSALS

During this calendar year there are early dismissal days **EVERY** Friday. Dismissal times on Friday will be at **2:20**. Lunch will be served on all early dismissal days.

Important Dates to Remember

August 2-20-Get that annual verification completed for us!! Call Paulette at (319) 558-2169 if you need assistance

August 14th Kindergarten Open House-5:30-6:30. Come meet your kindergarten teachers/staff and learn all about kindergarten.

August 21st-School Supply Drop Off 4:30-6:00 and August 22nd 10:30-12:00. Come meet your teacher and drop off your supplies. **Be ready for a family picture!**

August 23rd-First day of school. Early Dismissal

We are looking forward to an awesome school year. We can't wait to see you all!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Long