



Our mission is to achieve educational excellence and to inspire a life-long passion for learning.

Lisa Pikop, Principal
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320-762-3350

August 15, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the staff at Garfield Elementary, I am happy to welcome you to the 2018-19 school year!

We know a strong partnership with you will make a difference in your child's education. There are many wonderful opportunities awaiting your children. Our goal is to help each student grow and meet their potential. We depend on parents to communicate with us to help each student reach their potential. Please contact us with any concerns, questions or celebrations at any time.

Summer updates: Garfield Elementary School is in the process of renovating the media center. We hope it is completed before orientation and all of the new furniture arrives. If it is not complete we will schedule a grand opening. Fingers crossed everything is here for orientation!

Staffing updates: Michelle Hanson will be our science teacher and math interventionist. Following is some information regarding Ms. Hanson: 'I grew up in Leaf Valley and was a Garfield grad, as well as an Alexandria Public School graduate. I attended college at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN. Thirty years later I received my Master's Degree from there as well. Are you noticing a pattern? I seem to always go back to where I began! ☺

I have taught Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 5th grades during my career. Is there a favorite, many people ask? Each grade level has a wonderment of its own. Children, in general, make me smile. I really hope to get to know and make connections with the students here.

My own children, Logan (26) and Kristin (23), are both in the working world and think it's pretty funny that I am back at my elementary school. I have a part-time job at the movie theater in Alex, so I may look like the ticket lady to you. You would be right. I am! I am also making coffee at Caribou a couple of mornings a week, in the summer. I found an empty nest is boring!

Please, stop in and say hello when you come into the building. I am so looking forward to getting to know your child(ren) and you.'

Information regarding Raymond Noble, who will be our new music teacher: 'Hello Garfield Students and Families! My name is Raymond Noble, and I will be your new music teacher. I have lived in Alexandria for the past 6 years. You may recognized me from my involvement with the AAHS Musical, CLSO, Andria Theatre, L'Homme Dieu Theatre, Lakes Area Radio Theatre, Calvary Lutheran Church, or I may have been your substitute teacher a couple years ago. I love singing, playing guitar, and making new friends. I am so excited to start the year with all of you!'

Kala Hjelle will continue to be our second grade teacher, but will also be the Garfield School Dean of Students. The school board recognized the need for additional support in the Garfield, Carlos and Milona Schools, since I am not able to be in all buildings each day. We are hopeful this will help with consistency, communication and support for students and teachers.

I hope you all had a chance to unplug and spend time together to make special memories this summer. I am excited and looking forward to the 2018-19 school year!

Partners in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Pikop', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Pikop, Principal



Garfield Elementary School Back-to-school 2018-19

Pictures:

School Pictures are scheduled for Tuesday August 28th for all students K –5th Grade. Pictures will be taken from 3:30-7 PM. Please bring your child dressed in picture-taking attire. The photographer will take only take **two** photos for you to choose from. Information enclosed provides options for ordering. Please have your child's picture taken even if you don't want to order a picture package. We use the pictures in the school yearbook and for other activities during the school year. **Picture Retakes will be on October 16th.**



New Families: A very special **WELCOME** to our new families to the Garfield Elementary School! We are happy to have you join our school. Please let us know how we can be of service to you.

Garfield Staff 2018-19

We have an amazing staff in place ready to meet your child's needs! We have several new faces that will be joining us. Please take some time during orientation to introduce yourself to our new staff.

Kindergarten teacher	Donna Edmunds
First grade teacher	Callan Olson
Second grade teacher	Kala Hjelle
Third grade teacher	Greg Toivonen
Fourth grade teacher	Abby Furth
Fifth grade teacher	Joe Hurlbut
Special education	Melissa Biehl
Reading Interventionist	Tammy Nelson
Music	Raymond Noble
Physical Education	Chris Janssen
Science Teacher/ Math Interventionist	Michelle Hanson
Art Teacher	Kristina Peabody
Media specialist	Pam Thompson
Social Worker	Kristin Welle
Secretary	Arlene Ludwig
School Cook	Diane Brickwig

Fall Conference scheduling: Please sign up for your fall conference at open house. The sign-up sheets will be available in the lobby. The dates for fall conferences are November 19th and 20th from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM and November 21st from 7:30 to 11:30 AM.

Transportation: If you have made daycare changes or have moved to a new address, please notify the transportation department **immediately** regarding bussing at 320-762-3317 and also contact the school at 320-762-3350.

Newsletters: A monthly newsletter is given out to all families at the beginning of each month. For the 2018-19 school year, the newsletter will be sent out as a paper copy the first month. Starting in October, it will be sent electronically to all parents who have email addresses listed in the database. Please confirm your email address on your student's profile sheet provided to you in the Orientation packet.

Kindergarten parents are reminded to return their child's completed *immunization sheet* to school before school starts, if you have not done so already. Please pay for *Kindergarten milk*, if you want your child to have milk during break. The cost is \$12.00 for the school year and must be paid for by September 4th. Please make the check out to ISD 206 Food Service. Do not include it with lunch money-it must be a separate payment.

Breakfast is free for ALL kindergarten students.

Milk Prices for students not in kindergarten will be .50 cents per carton.



School Hours: School begins at **7:55 AM** and dismisses at **2:25 PM**. Breakfast is served after morning recess. **Supervision is available at 7:25 AM. Children dropped off prior to 7:25 will need to enroll in compass. Students not picked up by 2:25 PM will need to enroll in compass.** Contact the Community Education office at 320-762-3310 to enroll your student in Compass.

Parent Pick up: Parents who pick up students after school are asked to do so behind the school. Staff is assigned to assist with parent pick up. We ask that parents do not come into the building to pick up students unless it is an emergency or there is a scheduled meeting with staff as the lobby is very hectic at that time of day.

Attendance: Excellent attendance is a huge factor in helping children to meet their full potential! Being on time and being in school every day is critical. Please help your child develop this habit. If your child will be late or absent, we must receive a phone call **by 8 AM**. The office answering machine is active 24 hours a day-feel free to leave a message at any time. If we are unable to locate a student's whereabouts, we call **Law Enforcement** to do a child welfare check. We take your child's safety very seriously and need to know he/she is safe. We appreciate your help on this matter.

Garfield Compass: Garfield School has child care available each day before and after school beginning at 6:30 AM and in the afternoon it runs until 5:30 PM. Students are provided a snack, homework help and supervised play. If you are interested in the program, please contact Community Education office at 320-762-3310 for more details. We will be having three late starts this year and Compass will be open during those mornings for supervision also. More details will be coming out prior to the late start dates.

Families in Transition:

Do you live in any of these conditions?

- In a shelter or temporary housing program
- In a motel, hotel or weekly rate housing
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing
- Is your child in foster care

The federal **McKinney Vento Law** ensures that Children & Youth in Transition have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment
- Making transportation arrangements
- Assuring that your child has school supplies and other basic needs as well as school meals.
- Assuring that Title I services are available
- And more

School District 206 will assist families in transition. An array of services are available. Please contact the building principal, Lisa Pikop, or the school social worker, Kristin Welle, if you would like more information.

Box Tops for Education: The Garfield Elementary PAC (Parent Activity Committee) will be holding contests for Box Tops for Education in the spring. Families will be notified the dates of the contest. Money received from the program helps buy new playground balls, jump ropes and other items for our students. So please be saving your General Mills Box Tops!

Important Dates 2018-2019 School Year

Kindergarten Orientation	August 23
Open House	August 28
School Starts	September 4
Two Hour Late Start	September 26
Picture Retakes	October 16
MEA Break – No School PreK-12	October 18-19
Professional Development Day No School PreK-12	November 5
End of First Trimester	November 16
Fall Conferences – No School PreK-5	November 19, 20 and 21
Thanksgiving Holiday – No School PreK-12	November 22 and 23
Winter Break - No School PreK-12	December 24 – January 1
Professional Development Day - No School PreK-12	January 21
Two Hour Late Start	February 6
End of Second Trimester	February 14
Conferences PreK-5 – No School PreK-12	February 15 and 19
No School PreK-12	February 18
Spring Break No School PreK-12	March 22 and 25
Two Hour Late Start	April 3
Spring Break – No School PreK-12	April 18, 19 and 22
Memorial Day No School PreK-12	May 27
Last day of School	June 4