

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Enrollment
Tuesday, Aug. 9 from 11am - 6pm
Wednesday, Aug. 10 from 7am - 2pm
GMS gymnasium

First Day of Classes
Wednesday, August 17

RVH Back to School Bash
Friday, August 26 from 6 - 8pm
RVH south lawn

No School - Labor Day
Monday, September 5

No School - Staff Development
Wednesday, Sept. 21

*Welcome Back,
Students & Staff!*



Girard Unified School District No. 248
415 N. Summit
Girard, KS 66743

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Fall • 2016

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the additional space they occupy, high school students will no longer be allowed to eat lunch in GHS hallways. Students who choose to remain on campus during lunch will have the option to eat in the school cafeteria or in the new commons area. The campus remains open at lunch for those who wish to go off campus during the lunch period.

At RVH Elementary, there will be a considerable amount of change. One significant change is the front entrance, which has moved from the south to the north side of the building. **Parents and guardians who drop off students in the morning and/or pick them up in the afternoon will continue to do so at the usual location on Prairie St. (the south side) under the awning.** However, between 8:15am and 3:00pm, gates will close off Prairie Street creating a safe, paved play area for students.

Parents bringing students after 8:15am or picking up students before 3:00pm, as well as RVH visitors, must use the north entrance between these times.

When classes resume on August 17, student pick up and drop off will be at the usual location despite the fact that the old awning is no longer there. There may be a period of two to three weeks, during construction of a new awning at that location, when student drop off and pick up will take place at the southeast corner of the school. RVH staff will assist in the drop off/pick up process to ensure a smooth transition. This will be a temporary arrangement until the new awning is complete, at which time we will return to the original location for students' entry and departure.

"We're just rolling with the punches," RVH Principal Mark LaTurner said. "It's not ideal to have to move our drop off location, but we

understand that it's necessary and we will make the best of it."

Mr. LaTurner and the RVH students and staff have endured a significant amount of upheaval and may have to remain patient for a few more months. Work at RVH Elementary could possibly creep past the anticipated completion date of August 17 because of multiple obstacles and delays.

"That's just part of it," said USD 248 Superintendent Blaise Bauer. "There's always unforeseen circumstances that hinder your progress and you can't really do much about it."

An open house for the public will be offered sometime this fall when all projects are complete and district staff have had a chance to get settled into their new spaces. The district appreciates the support of patrons and looks forward to inviting them in.

SUPERINTENDENT

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Construction Projects Bring Progress, Change

After many months of disruption and accommodation, USD 248 students and staff are most likely anxious to begin the 2016-17 school year in orderly, construction-free spaces. Although most construction and remodeling projects are expected to be completed by the time students return for classes on August 17, there will still be some flexibility required for students, staff and patrons, as they adapt to new facilities and become accustomed to new procedures.

The most notable change for GMS and GHS patrons is their new commons area and campus entrance. The two schools, which share a common campus, have close to 20 exterior doors. This fact was a major security concern for the schools. With the completion of the new commons area, all visitors will be required to enter the building through the front doors of the commons area

during the school day. Students parking in student lots can request entry through a camera security system linked to the main offices. From the commons area, patrons pass through the main offices of both the middle and high schools before entering the schools. The new commons area also houses approximately 100 student lockers, and has a large concession stand for extracurricular activities.

Another significant change for middle and high school students will be the new lockers. Prior to the 2016-17 school year, Girard schools have never had lockers. In the past, students have carried backpacks with them throughout the day. With the new lockers, students will be required to leave their backpacks in their lockers, only removing them before and after school, and at lunch time. This new policy is also due to safety and security concerns.

"Our students will have to adjust to not having their backpacks throughout the day," GMS Principal Randy Heatherly said. "But the sad reality is that backpacks have become a safety concern in schools across the country."

Middle school lockers are located in the GMS hallways and are 5 feet tall with a combination lock built in. High school lockers are located in the GHS hallways and also in the commons area. They are approximately 2.5 feet tall, also with a built-in combination lock. The reasons for the smaller lockers in the high school are narrower hallways which restricted the number and location of lockers, and also the fact that they use fewer traditional text books and thus do not need as much storage space. High school text books are all contained on the students' iPads.

Because of the new lockers and
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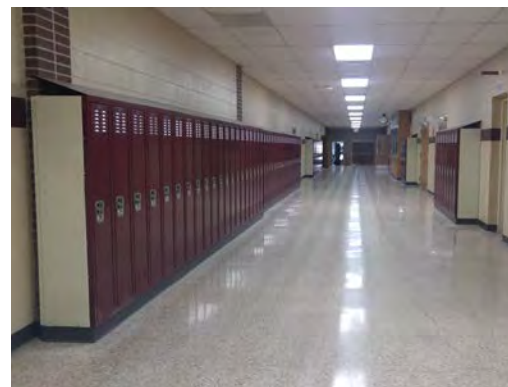
New Lockers First Ever for Girard Schools

Girard middle and high school students will have lockers for their backpacks, school supplies, coats and other personal items for the first time ever when school resumes for the 2016-2017 school year. With the bond construction projects, approximately 675 new lockers were installed in GMS and GHS hallways, as well as in the new commons area that the two schools share.

One of the few districts in the area to not have lockers, Girard schools took pride in the fact that students could leave belongings safely in the hallways without concern of theft or damage. Unfortunately, schools nationwide have encountered various safety issues attributed to backpacks, and district administrators felt the need to address potential problems and take precautions.

"We appreciate the uniqueness of Girard students and the proud history that is associated with our schools and our community," USD 248 Superintendent Blaise Bauer remarked. "But you have to be proactive when it comes to the safety of your students and staff."

Backpacks will be required to remain in lockers during the school day, with the exception of the lunch period.



Enrollment Information for USD 248 Students

USD 248 enrollment will be held Tuesday, August 9th from 11:00am to 6:00pm, and Wednesday, August 10th from 7:00am to 2:00pm. Enrollment packets were sent to students grades 6 and up. Parents can expedite the enrollment process by having forms filled out and ready. Parents enrolling students should also bring their child(ren)'s immunization records. All students grades K-12 will enroll in the GMS gymnasium. Each building will have an individual table set up for collecting forms and fees. Mandatory text book rental fees of \$30 per student will be collected at this time. Credit cards will be accepted for an additional 2.4% fee.

Parents of students grades 5 through 12 will have the option of paying an additional \$50 technology fee which allows their child 24/7 access to the iPad checked out to them. Please note that this technology fee is an annual usage fee only, which helps offset the cost/depreciation of the iPads. It is not an insurance

policy, does not purchase the iPad, and will not be applied toward any necessary repairs to the device. Damage to the device will be charged to the parents. Students grades 5 and up will be issued an iPad upon enrollment. If the iPad user policy has been signed by both the student and the parent, and book rental fees and the technology fee have been paid by the first day of school, the student will be allowed 24/7 access to the device. If not, the student will check in the iPad at the end of each school day. Students with 24/7 access will be issued a charging cord for the device at enrollment. ***This cord will not be replaced if it is lost or damaged.*** Students will be expected to replace their cord if it becomes inoperable for any reason. In order that students are prepared to use their iPads when classes begin, parents of students in grade 5 will be asked to create an Apple ID on the child's behalf. Students grades 5 and up will also be asked to log in to iCloud and

iTunes App Store using their Apple ID and password. Students must be able to log in and log out using their Apple ID in order to use FindMyiPad, back up files, and download apps as needed.

For parents' convenience, food services director, Sherise Beckham, will be available at enrollment with information and forms. Parents wishing to apply for free/reduced school meals for their child(ren) should come prepared with their income value in order to avoid late charges when school begins. Food services will also be accepting payments toward student meal accounts. Transportation department director, Rick Neil, will be available to answer busing questions. School district nurse, Christine Call, will also be on hand to address any questions or concerns regarding immunizations and medical issues. Please bring a copy of your child's immunization records if there are any additions from last year.

RVH News

WELCOME, MRS. REED!

RVH welcomes Mrs. Amanda Reed to our staff. Mrs. Reed will be teaching 3rd grade. She comes to us from Atchison, KS, where she also taught 3rd grade. Mrs. Reed, a Neodesha native, is a 2013 graduate of Newman University in Wichita. We are pleased to welcome her to our RVH family and look forward to having her on board!

PTO NEWS

RVH PTO Back to School Bash will be held on Friday, August 26th from 6:00 to 8:00pm. We will have hot dogs and drinks for 50¢ each, inflatables and activities, music and entertainment, as well as an opportunity to learn more about PTO and how to help this great organization continue to make a positive impact on our school.

Parents who pre-ordered school supplies for their child(ren) through the RVH PTO in May, can pick up those supplies at enrollment. If you did not pre-order but would still like to order, contact Becky Herlocker at bbherlocker@ckt.net. Packages are \$25 and will be ready at Open House.

The first PTO meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 13 at 6:00pm.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Our drop off and pick up locations will not change from previous years. We will still utilize the south entrance on Prairie Street for parents that drive to drop off or pick up students. The road will remain as one-way traffic proceeding west, just as in the past. However, at 8:15am, gates will close on the east end of Prairie St., providing a safe, paved playscape for students throughout the school day. Parents that arrive after 8:15am or need to pick up a child before 3:00pm will need to use the new main entrance on the north side of the building where the administrative offices are located. All other aspects of loading and unloading will remain the same, including bus drop off and pick up on the west side of the building. We will provide maps and information at enrollment as well. We are looking forward to a great year at the new and improved RVH!

GMS News

WELCOME, MISS DRENICK!

Miss Anna Drenick will be joining our GMS staff this fall. Miss Drenick will be teaching English. She is a recent graduate of Pittsburg State University. Miss Drenick is a St. Mary's - Colgan graduate and did her student teaching in the Riverton school district. She will replace Mrs. Megan Stoneberger-Johnson, who accepted an English position at GHS.

iPAD INFORMATION

During the two-day enrollment period, we will distribute a brand new iPad to each student coming through enrollment. The new iPad Pro has a larger screen than the iPad Mini that was used the past three years. The iPad will be in a new case and will have a new charging cable/adaptor that the student will use over the four year cycle. One other change - with the new and improved iPad, the repair fee paid by parents if an iPad is damaged has increased to \$125 per incident.

WEDNESDAY EARLY RELEASE

We will continue the early dismissal of students at 2:00pm on EVERY Wednesday during the 2016-17 school year. Typically the first and third Wednesday of each month is delegated for teacher staff development - and all students are dismissed at 2:00pm on these days.

The big change for 2016-17 relates to the Wednesdays that are delegated for "student tutoring". On these tutoring dates, usually the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, we will have middle school athletic practice. We respect the fact that some families are committed to having their children attend after-school church programs on Wednesdays. If a student chooses to attend an after-school church program and miss all or part of an athletic practice on a Wednesday, it will be considered an "excused" absence and not be held against the student-athlete. All other student-athletes will be expected to stay for athletic practice on these tutoring dates. Student-athletes will be supervised from 2:00 to 3:00pm by certified staff members prior to the start of their athletic practice.

GHS News

DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES

The following concurrent enrollment 3-college-credit classes will be offered to GHS juniors and seniors during the 2016 fall semester, through Pittsburg State University and Fort Scott Community College, as noted: English 101 (FSCC), American Government (FSCC), General Literature (FSCC), College Algebra (FSCC), Performance Appreciation (PSU), and American History (PSU). Students taking a class for college credit for the first time, must apply for admission online at www.fortscott.edu, or www.pittstate.edu, by August 15.

When applying to FSCC, you will need your social security number, will be asked to create a 4-digit pin number and password, and upon completion, will be given a student ID - all of which you need to write down and keep in a safe place (or save them on your phone). After you have applied, go to the enrollment/pre-enrollment screen, where you will carefully select the course(s) that you need to enroll in. Click the pre-enroll button. FSCC will then generate an online bill for you, which you may pay one of several ways: online with a credit/debit card, your parent may call and pay over the telephone, you may send a check, or you may set up a payment plan. Cost for each 3-credit class is \$291 (\$97/credit), and is due in August.

Students taking a class through PSU will enroll for the classes in August when a representative from PSU comes to GHS. Those taking a dual-credit class for the first time must apply online, at www.pittstate.edu. On a desktop or laptop, hover over the word "Admission" on the left side of the screen. Select "Apply for Admission", then, on the next screen, choose the option "Non Degree Seeking Student". At the end of the application process, there is a prompt for you to pay a \$30 application fee. Cost per class is also \$291 and may be paid with cash or check in August or through your GUS account online.

Finally, don't forget that you have to qualify to take these classes either via the Compass Test or an ACT Test. You will need to provide these scores to Mrs. Hey prior to or at enrollment.

For more information, see Mrs. Hey during HS enrollment.