

GARFIELD-PALOUSE SCHOOLS

OUR MISSION: Provide educational programs of the highest quality for all students in order to prepare them for their future.

Zane Wells-Garfield Superintendent, Middle School & Elementary Principal

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Dear Garfield Elementary School Families:

On August 24th, the Whitman County Department of Health announced that elementary schools could open for in-person instruction in Whitman County. On Thursday August 27, the Garfield-Palouse joint board decided the following: Garfield and Palouse elementary schools will open for in-person instruction on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Garfield-Palouse Middle and High Schools will open with On-line/Distance learning on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. We will continue to monitor this situation and follow state and local guidelines. We understand that this is a drastic turn of events, and a difficult decision for many families. As a district we want our kids back in school and want to provide a meaningful educational experience for all of our families. We feel that this decision best meets the needs of our students and communities.

With that being said, there are a few important details that must be followed for elementary students to be back in the building on Tuesday, September 8:

1. Cloth face covering/Masks will be worn in the building at all times. Families are responsible for providing a proper cloth face covering/mask for their student(s).
2. All classrooms desks will be physically distanced at 6 feet spacing.
3. Students will be in cohorts, (kept together) with their classroom teacher to prevent movement among groups.
4. We have added a new 1-2 grade class to insure smaller class sizes.
5. Most specialist will be eliminated to start and then gradually brought back into the schedule.
6. All students will be screened by the school and classroom teacher daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 including temperature checks.
7. Recesses will be staggered by classroom teachers to allow for proper physical distancing
8. Breakfast/Lunch will be eaten in the classroom.
9. A distance learning option will be available for families who choose not to send their student(s) to school for in-person instruction.

We are excited to welcome our elementary students and families back to school for the 2020/2021 school year. Although this is an ever-changing situation, and adjustments will have to be made constantly, we look forward to getting back to work and teaching. Over the next few days, please visit our website and look for additional information on our reopening.

Please contact the Garfield School if you have any questions. Thank you for your on-going support for our school and students.

Zane Wells: Garfield Superintendent/Principal