

Garfield-Palouse



Cooperative Schools

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August 10, 2021

Dear Garfield-Palouse Parents!

We hope this letter finds you able to relax and enjoy the last few weeks of summer. The purpose of this communication is to provide information concerning certain educational issues/legislation as we enter the 2021-2022 school year.

1. 4-12 Sexual Education

A. The sexual education materials currently taught by our school nurse, in the Garfield and Palouse School Districts are available for your review at any time. Each year before the material is taught, **parents are notified and given the opportunity to exempt their child from the instruction if they so choose. This will not change.**

2. K-3 Sexual Education

A. **There is no sexual education taught to students in grades K-3.** Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), is the new and only requirement. This requirement is not scheduled to take effect until the 2022-2023 school year. Social and Emotional Learning is a process of building awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships, and making responsible decisions that support success in school and in life. We have used the Second Step Program in Gar-Pal for years and will continue to do so. This curriculum meets the state requirements and is taught by our counselors. Nothing will change. As always, this curriculum is available for your review.

3. Senate Bill 5044

A. Senate Bill 5044 mandates that starting in 2021-2022, school districts in the state of Washington, every other year, provide staff, administration, and school boards with training regarding equity for all students. CRT (Critical Race Theory), is not referenced in the bill nor is it mandated to be taught at any grade level. **The Garfield and Palouse School Districts will not be teaching Critical Race Theory.** We will continue to teach the curriculum that has been approved by our local school boards.

4. Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities

A. As for extracurricular and co-curricular activities, we will update you when the WIAA/DOH releases their guidance, but for now will treat these activities as an extension of the classroom and therefore when outside masks will not be required.

Thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult and often emotional times. We are honored to serve the communities of Garfield and Palouse. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Zane Wells
Superintendent, Garfield

Mike Jones
Superintendent, Palouse