

James A. Garfield Middle School

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Go G-Men!



August 5, 2026

Middle School Families:

With summer break winding down I hope you all share in my excitement for the upcoming 2026 / 2027 school year here at James A. Garfield Middle School. Our theme on campus this year will focus on our Core Value of Teamwork, and we look forward to highlighting it throughout the year as our students, staff, and various groups demonstrate the power of working together toward a common goal. Teamwork is about supporting one another, valuing each person's strengths, communicating effectively, and celebrating success as a team. Whether in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, or in our community, we are stronger when we work together. As we celebrate these moments across campus this year, I encourage you to reinforce the importance of teamwork at home as well. By working together as families, staff, and students, we can continue to strengthen our school community and help every G-Man succeed.

As the students and teachers took some much needed time away our campus remained alive over the summer months hosting community events, holding summer camps for our student athletes and musicians, checking off summer maintenance requests, giving our classrooms and common areas a deep clean, and completing a major overhaul in our 1:1 device program. Thanks to the hard work from our Tech Department students will be greeted on campus this year with a brand new ChromeBook as well as a redesigned protective case to use throughout the school year. Parents, let's use our Core Value of Teamwork to encourage our students to take good care of these devices both on campus and at home so that we can get good use out of these assets for years to come.

Instructionally our teaching staff has continued their commitment to becoming lifelong learners by completing various tasks over the summer months including developing new courses, renewing educator and coaching licenses, completing graduate-level courses, and staying up to date on the ever changing world of educational interfaces. We are excited to offer a total of three new middle school course offerings this year including Art History, the History of Sport, and Career Connections. The first two courses will replace French and run opposite of our English 9 course while Career Connections has found its place in our 7th grade wheel lineup for all incoming 7th grade students. In Career Connections, students will have the opportunity to learn about Ohio's 16 Career Clusters while exploring career fields that might fit their futures based on their interests and aptitudes. These exciting additions provide students with new opportunities to discover their passions, explore future career pathways, and engage in meaningful learning experiences that extend beyond the traditional classroom. We are also thrilled to welcome back to our Middle School Staff Team Mrs. Peggy Shay. Mrs. Shay worked in the Middle School Office prior to a successful career teaching 5th Grade Science at our Elementary School for many years and will be joining our High School and Middle School Teams this year to teach a variety of technology and career related courses. Once things get rolling we look forward to the positivity, engagement, and team-first attitude that Mrs. Shay will bring to our buildings over here on the other side of the lot.

While it is bitter sweet to say goodbye to summer, I can't wait to bring everyone back on campus for our Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 27th beginning at 6:00 pm. Like last year, your child's schedule is enclosed for your convenience. As you enter the building we will begin with a brief welcome speech in the Iva Walker Auditorium. From there the building will be open to tour, meet the staff, catch up with friends, and practice those locker combinations! Our first day of instruction is Monday, August 31st and our stage is set for what is sure to be a year filled with new learning opportunities, new challenges to overcome, new lessons that allow our Core Value of Teamwork to shine, and many new JAG memories to share along the journey.

To stay up to date on Middle School News and Information please visit our website at www.jagschools.org, download our mobile app, connect with us on Facebook at James A. Garfield Local Schools, and follow us on X @JAGMS1. If you have any questions as we get started please feel free to reach out to me directly at 330.527.2151, tbartz@jagschools.org, or stop in to the Middle School Office at your convenience. It's a great time to be a G-Man... see everyone in a few short weeks!

Go G-Men,

Tom Bartz, Principal
James A. Garfield Middle School



It's a Great Time to be a G-Man!



2026 Back to School Checklist

*A digital version of this list is available on the Middle School Website under **Documents** → **Back to School Information***

- [] Complete All **Student Information and Forms** for the Upcoming School Year in [Final Forms](#)
- [] **Review** [Supply List](#) by Visiting the School Website
- [] Determine [Bus Routes](#) by Visiting the School Website or by Calling the **Bus Garage** at 330.527.4250
- [] Set Up **Lunch Account** by Visiting [My School Bucks](#)
- [] **Review** [Breakfast / Lunch Menus](#) by Visiting My School Menus
- [] **Review** [Student / Parent Handbook](#) by Visiting the School Website
- [] Log In to [ProgressBook](#) to Stay Up-To-Date with Your **Student's Grades**
- [] Download the **G-Men Mobile App** by Visiting the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
- [] **Follow Us** on Facebook by Subscribing to [@JAGSchools](#)
- [] **Join Us** for the [Back to School](#) Bash presented by G-Men University on August 16th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on the **Front Campus Lawn**
- [] **Join Us** for [Meet the Teacher Night](#) on August 27th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the **Iva Walker Auditorium**
- [] [Set Your Alarm](#), Get Out Your **Black and Gold**, Gather Your Supplies, and Join Us for a Great Year Beginning August 31st

