Galion Intermediate School

Newsletter

Courage to Climb

August

Welcome Back, Tigers!

Dear Galion Intermediate Families,

We are excited to welcome our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students back for another amazing school year at Galion Intermediate! As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, we are focused on creating a school community where every student feels safe, supported, challenged, and inspired to grow.

Our district's Courage Compass provides a shared direction for students, staff, families, and the community. Grounded in our mantra, "Courage to Climb," it reminds us that learning thrives when we pair high expectations with strong support, build meaningful relationships, and help students develop the knowledge, character, and resilience needed for success.

Throughout the year, our building and district will continue aligning our practices to the Courage Compass. This work is already underway through our focus on restorative practices, creating irresistible learning environments, and building strong relationships with students, families, staff, and community members. The four-day school week also provides teachers with dedicated time to plan engaging, authentic learning experiences and collaborate around student data to drive growth and achievement.

In addition, our district's grading guidelines have been revised to provide clearer and more meaningful feedback to students and families. Our goal is for grades to accurately communicate student learning while supporting growth, reflection, and continuous improvement. Teachers will clearly communicate learning expectations and provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding throughout the learning process.

Thank you for your partnership and support. Together, we will make this a year of growth, achievement, and opportunity for every Tiger.
With Tiger Pride,

Matt Dick
Principal
Galion Intermediate School

Our Courage Compass

GALION CITY SCHOOLS
COURAGE TO CLIMB

Mantra: Courage to Climb

Vision (what we hope for the future):

Develop students' knowledge, character, and courage to strengthen our community and shape the future.

Mission (what we do every day):

Engage every student in rigorous, meaningful learning that builds knowledge, character, and resilience.

Our Core Beliefs

Every person has value, potential,and worth.

Learning requires both high expectations and strong support.

Character and integrity matter as much as achievement.

Learning should be authentic, engaging, and meaningful.

Strong relationships and community partnerships strengthen learning.

Learning prepares everyone to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Our Roles

Students
Take ownership of learning, persevere through challenges, and contribute positively to the school community.

Educators & Staff
Design engaging learning experiences, build relationships, and support student growth.

School &District Leaders
Promote the Courage Compass by creating conditions for success through trust, communication, and support.

Superintendent
Serve as the intellectual leader to establish and sustain a unified direction, improve system capacity, and empower stakeholders to thrive.

Board of Education
Uphold the Courage Compass, ensure accountability, and be a vital link and advocate between the schools and the community.

Families
Partner with schools to encourage learning, maintain communication, and support student growth.

Community Partners
Provide opportunities and support that strengthen student learning and community pride.

Our Learning Commitments

Learning is meaningful and authentic.

Every student is known, supported, and challenged.

Students are active participants in their learning.

Learning develops the whole child.

Learning prepares students to contribute to their community and larger society.

Our Leadership Promises

Lead with trust and professional respect.

Model the Courage to Climb.

Pair high expectations with strong support.

Address challenges through Restorative Practices.

Keep students at the center of our decisions.

Communicate with transparency and listen with curiosity.

Our Norms for Working Together

Be solution-oriented

Own & reflect on your impact

Be present

Use "what if" thinking

Share the air

Ground statements in evidence

Assume positive intent

Seek first to understand

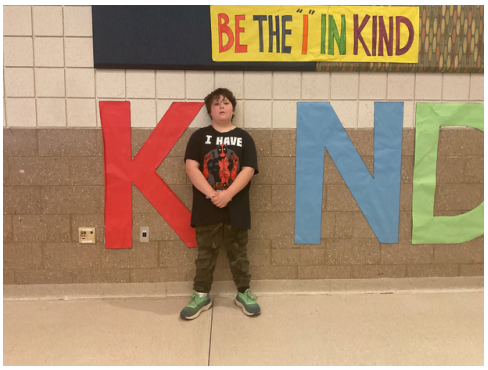
Opportunities For Leadership

Student Council

- Approximately 3 students in each grade
- Applications will be filled out during the leadership block in August
- A team of teachers selects students by the end of August.
- Student Council Activities
  - Service at Pancake Breakfast, Choir Concerts, Passion Night, and Veterans Day.
  - Provide Student Voice to GIS and have 3-5 meetings with the superintendent throughout the year.
  - Kindness Week and other anti-bullying activities during lunch, recess, and class time.
- Safety Patrol
  - 4th Grade students sign up in May.
  - 10-15 Students selected through application and teacher recommendation.







Service

Library Shelvers
Cafeteria Sweepers
Student Lead Initiatives
Mentoring with GPS
Passion Projects



Reminders

Band/Choir

5th Grade Band will now be part of our specials rotation for students who sign up. This gives our young musicians the chance to grow their skills during the school day while still experiencing a full range of specials classes. In addition, Choir will take place during our morning leadership block, allowing students to explore their voices and creativity without missing core instruction. At Galion Intermediate, we believe in supporting the arts and giving students meaningful choices for involvement. By offering both choir and band, we are opening doors for students to discover their passions and shine in new ways.

Extra Recess

This year, Galion Intermediate is adding a second recess to the school day. We know that kids need time to move, play, and recharge in order to do their very best in the classroom. The extra recess is not just about fun–it's about creating a better overall learning experience for students.
In addition to giving students more opportunities for active play, the second recess will serve as an important tool for teachers. It allows time for restorative conversations, catching up on make-up work, and clarifying expectations and routines when needed. By building in this balance of play and purposeful support, we are empowering both students and teachers to make the most of each day.

HB 8

Pursuant to HB 8, Galion City Schools works with a variety of health care partners to offer comprehensive support services for students. These include Akron Children's Hospital, Ohio Guidestone, and Community Counseling. If you wish for your student not to have access to these services, please contact your child's building principal.

Signs in Rooms

Three signs are posted in every room in the building. Tiger Tip line for open communication. Norms for making sure we are living out the behaviors we want. Courange to Climb our new Focus.. Every student, staff, and stake holders needs the courage to grow and know that we believe in each other.

COURAGE TO CLIMB

Tiger Tip Line
513-916-1080
tigertipline@galionschools.org

Be present
Share the air
Be solution-oriented
Use "what if" thinking
Assume positive intent
Seek first to understand
Own & reflect on your impact
Ground statements in evidence

Attendance and Chronic Absence

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Why Does Attendance and Chronic Absence Matter?

Promoting daily attendance starts with effectively making the case that attendance matters. Research has found that families have high hopes for their children yet did not always realize that showing up nearly every day to school was crucial to academic achievement. Many families thought absences were not a problem unless they were unexcused. Most often, they did not realize how many days their children had missed and did not recognize that missing just two days a month could cause their children to fall behind.

- Starting as early as kindergarten, chronic absence is a sign that children will be off track for reading by the end of third grade, achieving in middle school and graduating from high school.
- When students are chronically absent, they miss opportunities to learn, build relationships, develop their mental health and well-being, and access critical resources available at school campuses.

What is Chronic Absence?

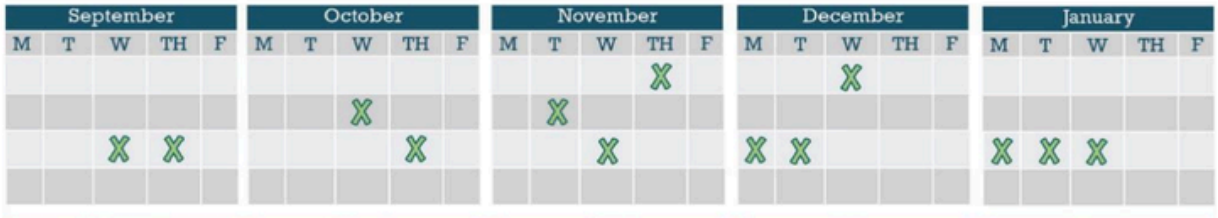
Chronic absence operates as an early warning metric. Identifying students who miss 10% of school at any point in the year is an effective early indicator that the students are headed off track academically. They have missed so much school it is affecting their opportunities to learn and thrive. The earlier attendance problems are identified, the sooner schools can reach out to identify and address barriers to getting to school before absences add up and before a student has lost out academically.

Students missing two to four days in September are five times more likely to be chronically absent throughout the school year.

A student's prior history of chronic absence is highly predictive of future chronic absence. This means providing support even before the first day of a new school year is critical to change a student's attendance trajectory.

Chronic absence often is overlooked because it can be caused by sporadic absences rather than missing many consecutive days.

Missing just two days a month can lead to chronic absence.
10% of the school year = ~18 days of absence = almost one month of missed learning.



BEHAVIOR CORNER

PBIS AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

At GIS, we want every student to feel respected, safe, and valued. Through PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), we explicitly teach, model, and recognize what it looks like to be **Respectful, Responsible, and Safe** throughout the school day.

When mistakes or conflicts happen, we use Restorative Practices to help students understand how their actions affect others, take responsibility, repair harm, and learn from the experience. We also help students recognize the difference between everyday conflict, unkind moments, or patterns of behavior that may be bullying. Our goal is to build positive relationships while helping students develop the skills to make better choices moving forward.

Galion Intermediate uses **AttendanceK12** to help keep families informed about discipline referrals. Families may receive an AttendanceK12 email with incident details and next steps. These emails will be used alongside phone calls and Rooms messages to provide timely, consistent communication.

It's about helping students grow and learn from mistakes

MINORS

Minors are small behavior problems like not following directions, talking out of turn, or being off task. These are usually handled with reminders, lunch detentions, or short after-school detentions.

MAJORS

Majors are more serious behaviors like fighting, disrespect, or repeated misbehavior, and they may lead to after-school detention, in-school detention (ISD), or out-of-school suspension (OSS).

INCENTIVES

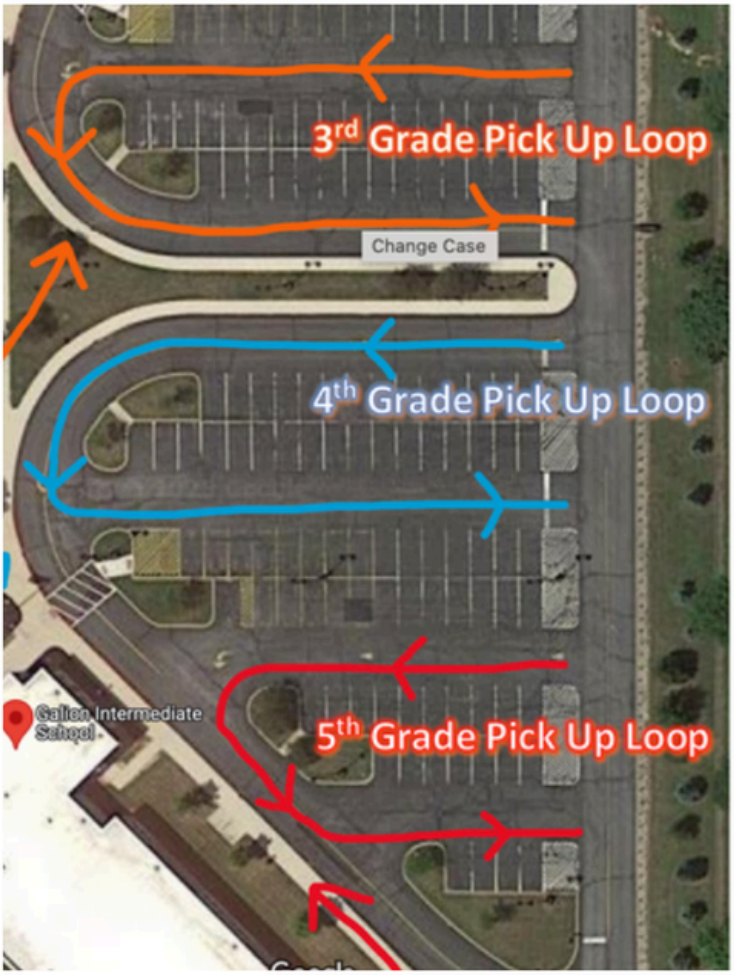
Incentives are special rewards that encourage students to make positive choices and follow school rules. They help build a fun, respectful school environment where students are excited to do their best. **Students who do not receive any minors or majors during the month** can earn these monthly rewards.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

-Drop off & Pick Up Procedures: Our doors open at 7:50 a.m. and the tardy bell rings at 8:05 a.m. The end of the school day is at 3:05 p.m.

Please see the map below for drop off and pick up lines.

- **3rd Graders** will be dismissed through the **cafeteria** doors. Parents may walk to the cafeteria doors to meet their student for parent pick-up or may use the pick up line on the Primary side. Once parent pick-up is complete, parents who are waiting in cars can drive up to the sidewalk area and students will be dismissed by car.
- **4th Graders** will be dismissed through the **art door** and will wait for their car to pull up to the front of the building.
- **5th Graders** will be dismissed from the **5th-grade hallway doors** and will wait for their car to pull up to the sidewalk closest to the Intermediate building.



Stay Connected:

Phone: 419-468-3676

Intermediate Facebook

District Apple App

Intermediate Website

District Google Play App



2026-2027 Important Dates

August

- **17:** Open House (4:30pm-6:30pm)
- **19:** 2-hour Delay / 3rd-Grade First Day
- **20:** All Students Report
- **24**: First Blended Learning Monday

September

- **7:** Labor Day – No School
- **18:** Elementary Night (5pm)
- **22-25:** Start with Hello Week
- **29:** World Heart Day (Wear Red)

October

- **2:** Fall Dance (3pm-5pm)
- **9:** 3rd-grade Wax Museum (2pm)
- **15:** Tiger Tailgate Night (Family Enrichment Night)
- **16:** Last Day of the Quarter / Early Release
- **21-22:** 3rd-grade Fall OST
- **29:** Spooktacular at GMS

November

- **3:** No School (Election Day)
- **6:** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **7:** No School
- **19 & 23:** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **24-27:** Thanksgiving Break
- **30:** Picture Day

December

- **10:** 2-hour Delay
- **15-18:** Christmas Spirit Week
- **18**: Last Day of the Quarter / Early Release
- **21-Jan. 4:** Christmas Break

No School Dates

Sept. 7 – Labor Day
Nov. 3 – Election Day / Teacher In-Service
Nov. 24-27 – Thanksgiving
Dec. 21-Jan. 4 – Winter Break
Jan. 25 – MLK Day
Feb. 15 – Presidents' Day
March 26 -April 2 – Spring Break

Incentives

subject to change based on weather/funding

- **Aug/Sept:**
  - Sterkel
    - (All Students Attend)
- **October**
  - Campus Hayride
- **November**
  - Bowling at Victory Lanes
- **December**
  - Christmas Movie/Popcorn
- **January**
  - Movie @ Cinemark
- **February:**
  - Dodgeball
- **March**
  - Altitude Trampoline Park
- **April/May**
  - Luau

Stay Connected

SAFE SCHOOL REPORTING

513-916-1080
tigertipline@galionschools.org

Canvas Parent

Galion City School District

2026-2027 District Calendar - Galion City Schools

July 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jul 4 — Independence Day

August 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

Aug 14 — Staff First Day
Aug 17 & 18 — Staff In-service Days - No school for students
Aug 19 — Two Hour Delay & Staggered Start **ONLY** for K, 3, 6, 9
Aug 20 — Regular Schedule & First Day for **ALL** Students K-12
Aug 24 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus

September 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sept 7 — Labor Day - No School
Sept 14, 21, 28 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus

October 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Oct 16 — End of 1st Quarter & Early Release
Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus

November 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — Blended Learning - Limited Student on Campus
Nov 3 — Election Day & In-service Day - No school for students
Nov 19 — Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov 23 — Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov 24-27 — Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Dec 7, 14 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus
Dec 18 — End of 2nd Quarter & Early Release
Dec 21-31 — Winter Break- No School

January 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jan 1 — Winter Break Cont'd.
Jan 4 — In-service day - No school for students
Jan 11, 25 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus
MLK Day - No school for students & staff

February 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Feb 4 — Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb 1, 8, 22 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus
Feb 15 — President's Day - No School

March 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Mar 1, 8, 15, 22 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus
Mar 12 — End of 3rd Quarter & Early Release
Mar 26-31 — Spring Break - No School

April 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Apr 1-2 — Spring Break Cont'd - No School
Apr 5, 12, 19, 26 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus

May 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

May 3, 10, 17, 24 — Blended Learning - Limited Students on Campus
May 23 — Graduation
May 27 — Student Last Day & End of 4th Qtr & Early Release
May 28 — Staff Last Day (Half Day)
May 31 — Memorial Day

June 2027

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Jun 19 — Juneteenth

Staff Inservice | Staggered Start & Student First Day | Blended Learning Days | Parent-Teacher Conferences | Holiday - No School | Breaks - No School | End of Quarter & Student Last Day | Staff First Day & Staff Last Day

Open House & Important Information

- Aug 17: Open House for GHS, GMS, GIS
- Aug 18: Open House for GPS
- Aug 19: Two Hour Delay & Staggered Start ONLY for Grades K, 3, 6, 9
- Aug 20: Regular Schedule - First Day for ALL Students K-12

COURAGE TO CLIMB