

Garton Families-

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I am very excited to start a new school year with you and rest of our school family. I am so excited to hear about your summer adventures and look forward to greeting students and families each day!



### Meet the Teacher

I cannot wait to connect with all our families during Meet the Teacher night on Monday, August 23 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. You can bring your school supplies and meet your teacher. We will have kindergarten students and families enter the building using the doors on the southside of the building. We will meet 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and families outside the building. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers will be in the south parking lot, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers will be in the front of the school, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> teachers will be in the north parking lot.

### First Day of School

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 25. The school hours at Garton will be 7:45 AM-2:40 PM. Student drop-off time is 7:30 AM. We will serve Breakfast in the Classroom starting at 7:30 AM and the school day begins at 7:45 AM. The office will be open from 7:15 AM-3:15 PM.

### Student Drop Off/Pick Up

Please see the picture below for the parking lot you will use for student drop off. We will use the parking lot off Hull Ave for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and the south parking lot for Kdg-1<sup>st</sup> grade students. We need your help to ensure the safety of all students during pick up and drop off times. *Students should enter/exit on the passenger side of the car (curb side).* If you need to park, please use a designated parking spot. The busses will utilize E. 24<sup>th</sup> for drop off and pick up. If your child attends Metro you will pick up using the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade entrance.



## New Staff

Please welcome the following new staff members to the Garton Elementary school family:

- Ryan Pirtle-Associate Principal
- Alisha Parmerlee-kindergarten
- Sarah Dace-4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Shelbie Haidsiak-4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Jaime Griffin-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Sydnie Wohlert-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Regan Blume-Behavior Strategist
- Ann Jensen-Behavior and Academic Interventionist
- Madeline Schrier-Academic Interventionist
- Rae Mackey-Special Education Teacher

## Mitigation Strategies

DMPS will continue measures to minimize the spread of the virus within our buildings. This includes steps such as:

- continuing greater air circulation,
- maintaining hand sanitizing stations,
- enhancing day-to-day cleaning,
- continuing the process of replacing water fountains with bottle filling stations.

## Face Masks

At this time, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. In Iowa it is now against the law for schools to require face masks. DMPS encourages people to listen to the health experts and voluntarily do the right thing and wear a mask in order to keep themselves and others healthy.

## Visitors

At this time visitors to the building will be by appointment only. Please call the office or your child's teacher if you need to meet face-to-face. Families may enter the office to talk with office staff, but you will not be able to leave the office area.

It is truly a privilege to be part of a community where students, teachers, and families care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [andrea.safina@dmschools.org](mailto:andrea.safina@dmschools.org) or 242-8408. Once again, welcome back! Let's make it another great year at Garton together! Go Wildcats!

Respectfully,

Andrea Safina

***be the SPARK!***

***Safe   Productive   Always Respectful   Responsible   Kind***

