September 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am very excited about the 2020-2021 school year! The teachers have worked extremely hard to prepare for the year and school is already off to an excellent start. We have approximately 454 Yellowjackets enrolled and several new staff members. Our new staff members are Jenna Berens (4th Grade), Ashley Prothe (3rd Grade), Elyse Gates (Computer Lab), Kiersey Rogers (Office Secretary/Lunch Duty).

The James Griffith Intermediate PTO is an integral partner in our successful school community. They generously provide us with funds and volunteers to support our educational efforts. Additionally, their input regarding our program is of great value to us as we all work together for the success of our students. We welcome input and ask that you please consider joining them this year and support their work.

There are many factors that contribute to the success of our school. I would like to thank the staff for their dedication to setting up their classrooms and preparing for the start of the school year. I also want to thank the many parents who helped to prepare for the start of school. Another huge thank you goes out to our wonderful custodial staff for getting our site ready for the entire staff and all of our JGI students. We couldn’t have done it without each of you!

One factor contributing to the success of your student is attendance. Instruction begins once the students enter their classes. Having your child at school on time and here every day is the best way to ensure that he/she receives the most out of the educational time at school. If your child arrives at school late, he/she could be missing important instruction, as well as disrupting the class as he/she enters. Leaving early also affects your child’s education. They will miss instruction that could interfere with their understanding of the presented curriculum. We ask that you try your best to schedule all appointments for after school so that your child will be as successful as possible in the classroom. Please remember that our start time is 8:35 a.m. Also, please keep in mind the importance of picking your child up on time after school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you to make your child’s school year a success. Please see below for important dates to reference.

Sincerely,
Amber Balderrama
Principal

**Dates to Remember:**
- Sept. 4: Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser Begins (disregard dates printed in packet letters)
- Sept. 7: NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- Sept. 14: Picture Day - Blue Group
- Sept. 17: Picture Day - Gold Group
- Sept. 18 & 22: Progress Reports (Gold 9/18 & Blue 9/22)
- Sept. 24-Oct. 2: Book Fair: Online & In-person (brick & mortar)
  - Small groups & during the school day
  - More information coming from Mrs. Mathis
- Sept. 25: Otis Spunkmeyer Order Forms Due