

**Student
and
Family
Handbook
2024
2025**



OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Gifford Park
Elementary**

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.

The Omaha Public Schools implements Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) to promote student use of positive behavior. Through this framework, Omaha Public Schools has committed to providing staff with tools and resources to positively engage students and families through implementation of school-wide positive behavior interventions. These practices are designed to support safe and encouraging learning environments.

We believe that we cannot “make” students learn or behave. But we can create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

MTSS-B is a research-based, highly effective behavioral framework that is designed for teaching and reinforcing students’ social, emotional, and academic learning skills in order to sustain academic achievement and support the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students. Consistent implementation of MTSS-B leads to:

- Improved school climate;
- Reductions in major disciplinary infractions;
- Improved academic achievement;
- Improved concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation.

Omaha Public Schools is committed to supporting students through behavior interventions and alternatives to exclusionary practices that require removal from the educational setting where the safety of the student and/or others is not of immediate concern.

MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports, and in our schools, this includes:



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

In addition to MTSS-B, Omaha Public Schools continues to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) development through curriculum, strategies, and resources. SEL is defined by the Collaborative of Academic Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) as the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

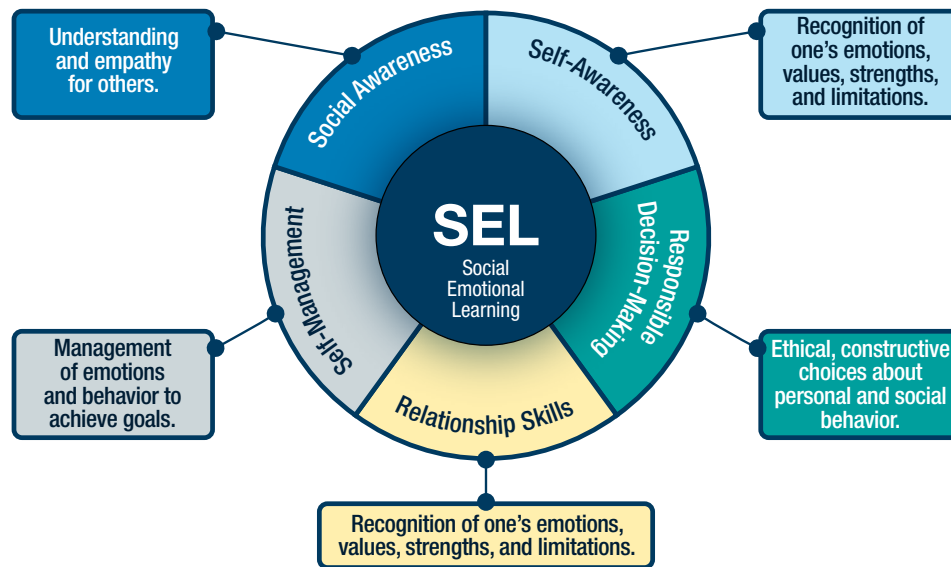
Within the Omaha Public Schools, our goal is to focus on CASEL's five SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

SEL promotes knowledge, skills, and attitudes that support lifelong success and advance educational equity and excellence.

How do MTSS-B and SEL Align in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs?

MTSS-B and SEL are frameworks that work together to provide an ethic of care for students and promote success in students' academics, behavior, attendance, and overall well-being. Combined they create positive learning environments where students and staff are equipped with resources and skills for successful school communities.



If you would like more information about how MTSS-B and SEL are implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



Gifford Park Elementary

Student and Family Handbook 2024-2025

717 North 32nd Street / Omaha, Nebraska 68131-2139
531-299-2040 / Fax 531-299-2058 / www.ops.org/giffordpark
FaceBook: GiffordParkElementary

This handbook is prepared to serve as a guide to Gifford Park Elementary students. In it you will find the policies and procedures that are followed at Gifford Park. We hope that you will find this handbook a convenient reference during the school year.



Mission Statement

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life.

Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

Table of Contents

Gifford Park Elementary Student & Family Handbook

Welcome to Gifford Park Elementary!.....	1	Items from Home.....	6
Omaha Public Schools Guiding Principles.....	1	Library Books	6
Vision Statement	1	Lost and Found	6
Mission Statement.....	1	Parent Visitation and Community Participation.....	7
School Colors and Mascot.....	1	Physical Education.....	7
History	2	PTO	7
Gifford Park Daily Schedule	2	Recess.....	7
Accidents	2	Report Cards.....	7
Adopt-A-School Participation.....	2	Safety Patrol.....	7
Animals on Campus.....	2	School-wide Discipline Expectations	8
Address Change	2	Suspension and Expulsion.....	9
Appointments	3	Bus/Van Safety and Behavior Rules.....	9
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:.....	3	Student Work Home	10
Bicycles.....	3	Use of Telephone	10
Birthday Parties and Treats	3	The Gifford Park Pledge.....	10
Cafeteria	4	Traffic Flow & Safety Tips-see the Gifford Park traffic flow map on the next page for more information.	12
Care of Property	4	Combined District and School	
Cell Phones.....	4	Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.....	13
Child Abuse/Neglect	4	Parent Right To Know Clause.....	14
Clothing	4	Gifford Park Elementary Parent Student Compact.....	15
Communication Home.....	5	Omaha Public Schools 2024-25 District Calendar	16
Complaint Procedure	5		
Counselor and Social Worker.....	5	District Student Handbook - Elementary	
Field Trips.....	6	Omaha Public Schools Student Code of Conduct	
Homework.....	6		

Welcome to Gifford Park Elementary!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Gifford Park Elementary, home of the Groundhogs! I look forward to working with the students and families at Gifford Park this year. Please stop by and visit!

This handbook is prepared for the parents of our students and the students themselves. The Gifford Park Student and Family Handbook contains important guidelines concerning Gifford Park Elementary. It also identifies our school expectations, which all students are responsible for knowing and following. The staff at Gifford Park understands and respects the importance of consistent expectations, procedures and routines for all students at Gifford Park.

I am here to support the students, staff, parents, and community in a safe, caring, and progressive learning environment. At Gifford Park, every staff member is committed to making this a successful year for your child, and to make Gifford Park a place where all students look forward to entering our doors every day!

Through teamwork, open communication, and a dedication to continuous improvement, we will make this school a place that children delight in, and develop a deep love of learning to meet their highest potential. The entire Gifford Park staff joins me in welcoming you to the new school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me at kimberly.jones@ops.org or 531-299-2040 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kim Jones, Principal

“All students will feel known, loved, and inspired-every student, every day!”

Omaha Public Schools Guiding Principles

Principle 1: Safe, Healthy, and Engaged Students

Principle 2: High Expectations, Rigorous Curriculum, and Effective Instruction

Principle 3: Committed, Diverse, and Effective Teachers, Administrators, and Staff

Principle 4: Equitable and Efficient Systems and Resources

Principle 5: Engaged and Empowered Parents and Families

Principle 6: Involved and Supportive Community Partners

Principle 7: Accessible, Transparent, and Two-Way Communication

Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

All students will feel known, loved, and inspired – every student, every day!

Mission Statement

The mission of Gifford Park is to cultivate a community that celebrates diversity while working to ensure academic and social success in a safe and nurturing environment today and every day.

School Colors and Mascot

We, at Gifford Park Elementary, take great pride in our school and community. School pride is important to each individual student. It instills the feeling of belonging and security. This feeling contributes to a positive and productive learning environment in the school. As part of our school spirit and pride, we have selected a “Groundhog” as our mascot. Our school colors are green, gold, and black. Every Friday we celebrate our school spirit and pride by wearing our school colors. This is a visible way of feeling a true sense of belonging to our school/community family.

History

Gifford Park opened its doors in August of 2019 after a dedicated community of Gifford Park homeowners and advocates for the community worked very hard to have a neighborhood school built, and to provide safe routes to our school every day. We celebrate our school's diversity and many languages spoken, and the community feeling that our school has. We have a high-performing staff that provides a quality education for our students every day, great parent and community support, and a large number of community partnerships. Thanks to everyone for all you do for Gifford Park!

Gifford Park Daily Schedule

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Principal and Secretary on duty
8:30 a.m. - 4:20 p.m. Teachers on duty
8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Grab & Go Breakfast Program
8:30 a.m. Students may report to classrooms
8:50 a.m. Tardy bell, All classes begin
4:05 p.m. All classes dismissed
4:30 p.m. Main Office Closed

Students should time their arrival so they do not arrive before 8:30 a.m. The school cannot assume responsibility for the supervision and safety of students arriving before this time. Staff is not on duty prior to 8:30 a.m. Parents should plan on picking up your child on time at 4:05 p.m. If you would like to meet with the principal or Gifford Park staff please call the school ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

General Information

Accidents

In case of an accident at school, emergency first aid will be administered and parents will be notified, if necessary. If we are unable to reach parents, the emergency numbers you have provided will be called. It is essential that parents keep the office informed of any change of address or telephone change. Physician's name or number and the name and number of a neighbor, relative or person who may be called if parents cannot be reached should also be current. In case of an accident at school, parents are responsible for determining if the child should visit the doctor.

Adopt-A-School Participation

Gifford Park is fortunate to have partnerships through the Omaha Public Schools' Adopt-A-School Program. Creighton Dental, Gifford Park Homes Association, TEAMMATES, Lozier Corporation, Completely Kids, Collective 4 Youth, Gifford Park PTO, Charles Drew Dental Van, and Partnership 4 Kids. These organizations provide educational activities for our students, provide preventative and restorative dental care, student recognition and goal setting, opportunities for reading and access to books both in and out of school, and a focus on learning beyond graduation.

Animals on Campus

In order to provide a safe environment for our students, animals should not be brought on school grounds during student hours. Any dog running loose on campus during the school day will result in a call to the Humane Society in order to keep our students safe.

Address Change

If you are moving, please notify the office as we are required to report a change such as this to Student Information Services. If you are moving from the district, an advance notice should be given to the teacher so the necessary paper work can be completed for the transfer. Two to three day notice is requested. iPads **must** be turned in prior to leaving Gifford Park if you are moving outside of Omaha Public Schools.

Appointments

Does your child need to leave for an appointment? Contact the office **ahead of time**. If you will be picking your child up early from school for an appointment, please contact the office and let us know (531-299-2040). When you arrive to pick up your child, we will call the classroom and have your child come to the front of the school to meet you. We will **not** have your child leave the classroom until you arrive and wait in the office. The office is a place of business and confidentiality. Having your child stay in their classroom until you arrive maximizes their learning time. **Please plan ahead.**

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:

Arrival: No student should arrive at school before **8:30 a.m.** Doors will not open daily until 8:30 a.m. and there will be no supervision prior to 8:30 a.m. **K-6 Students: ALL STUDENTS MUST ENTER THROUGH THE EAST DOORS INTO THE CAFETERIA BEFORE 8:50 a.m. After 8:50 a.m. students should enter through the main entrance on 32nd Street. Staff will escort students to their classrooms. Parents will not be allowed to visit classrooms without an appointment.**

Dismissal: A child will be released only to the parents, unless the school has been notified by the parent that they have granted permission for someone else to pick up their child. The school must know how each child gets home every day. We will follow the list we have on paper for dismissal. Please do not wait until the end of the day to plan play dates with classmates. This should be done prior to arriving at school for the day.

Parents must call the office before 3:00 p.m. if there is a change to your child's dismissal for the day. Please note which doorway your child exits and plan on meeting him/her at that location, if picking up. Check in and check out sheets will be used for students who ride the daycare van or ride the bus. If the person authorized to pick your child up changes throughout the year please make sure you call the office promptly to let us know of this change. If you choose to pick your child up early please note that each minute before 4:05 p.m. is counted against your child for attendance.

Regular dismissal time is 4:05 p.m. School personnel will call the parents of students who are not picked up from school by 4:15 p.m. If unable to reach a parent or guardian we will then try emergency numbers. The Omaha Police Department may be notified after 4:30 p.m. There will be no loitering or remaining on the playground by students after school. Walkers must begin walking home immediately following dismissal.

Student Conduct on the Way To and From School: Parents are responsible for their child's conduct coming to and from school. Unsafe behavior occurring off school property should be reported to the police.

Bicycles

Gifford Park is proud to focus on safe routes to school. We will have bike racks for students to store their bicycles in daily. Students are asked to bring a lock and lock up their bicycles during school hours. Gifford Park will not be responsible for damaged or stolen bicycles. If a student rides a bicycle to school they must also wear a helmet and practice bicycle safety. Scooters, skateboards, and rollerblades are NOT allowed at school.

Birthday Parties and Treats

By policy of the Omaha Board of Education, treats made at home may not be given at school. Students are not to bring treats from home for their classmates at any time unless they are approved by the teacher and commercially prepared and individually wrapped. Please contact your child's teacher ahead of time to let him/her know that treats will be delivered for your child's birthday. Treats will not be served until 3:45 p.m., right before dismissal. In order to avoid hurt feelings, please send birthday party invitations through the US mail unless there is an invitation for every student in the classroom. Gifts such as: Party favors, balloons, food, or flowers that are delivered to the building will be held in the office until the end of the day so disruptions to the classroom learning do not occur.

Cafeteria

Our cafeteria serves breakfast and lunch daily. Meals for the week can be found on our Facebook page and in our weekly e-mail home. Eating at school with other students can be enjoyable and a learning experience for all. We expect our lunchroom atmosphere to be a pleasant and relaxing time for children. Children are permitted to visit quietly while they eat. Children are not to leave their seat once seated. Adults deliver condiments to students. We expect the same courtesy and respect shown to all student personnel who assist in the cafeteria that we expect children to show to their teachers. Children are expected to follow all school and cafeteria guidelines.

Gifford Park participates in the "Grab n Go Breakfast Program." Students will pick their breakfast up in the cafeteria in the morning and take it directly to the classroom where they will have the opportunity to eat their breakfast while working on morning bell work. Classrooms will be monitored by the classroom teacher. Students arriving prior to 8:50 a.m. will have the opportunity to enjoy Grab n Go Breakfast. Students arriving between 8:50-9:15 a.m. will receive a light breakfast snack. Breakfast will not be served after this time.

Children may bring their lunch and buy milk or eat a hot lunch. Students bringing their lunch may not bring candy or gum, nor may food be shared with others. Fast food may NOT be brought into the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch. Drinks should not be carbonated beverages.

Please consider eating lunch with your child on his/her birthday. If the birthday is on a day when school is not in session, come another day. Please call the school in advance so we may plan for additional guests. Visitors will be charged the adult rate for a school lunch.

Care of Property

Gifford Park is a beautiful building. We must work at maintaining the building, grounds, and educational equipment and materials. We need everyone's help to preserve our school and avoid wasting valuable tax dollars on repair and replacement of damage due to carelessness and vandalism.

Students who damage school property are expected to pay for the damages. Please help your child understand that this is their home away from home, and school pride is instilled. When we are proud of a building, we take care of it!

Cell Phones

We understand that parents may feel it is important for their child to have a cell phone **at school for safety to and from school**. However, in order to focus on learning while at school, guidelines have been developed for cell phones at school. If a student is sent to school with a cell phone, the student is expected to turn their phone off and put it away. Misuse of cell phone or electronic device, including smart watches or other electronic personal devices will result in an individual or whole class plan to be in place. Gifford Park Elementary is not responsible for lost cell phones, stolen phones, or damage to cell phones that are brought to school. If a student does not follow cell phone expectations, the phone will be taken until the end of the day.

Child Abuse/Neglect

The law requires that public school nurses, teachers, any school staff and administrators contact proper authorities in the event of "suspected" child abuse or neglect.

Clothing

Hoodies are allowed, but hoods or other head apparel with the exception of hijabs (religious wear) will not be worn on the head during the day. Clothing guidelines are as follows: Tennis shoes are needed for days your child has PE. Girls are to wear straps that are at least three fingertips in width, No shirts that shows the belly, no low-cut tops, and shorts are to be fingertip length from waist to thigh. Boys guidelines are as follows: Jeans must be worn with a belt (or not sagging). No sleeveless undershirts will be worn at school. The wearing of clothing that has suggestive or objectionable language or graphics, or alcohol/tobacco logos is NOT permitted at school.

Face paint, tattoos, heavy make-up, hair color, etc. can also be disruptive to the learning environment. If anything disrupts the learning environment, **parents will be contacted to come pick up their children.** Students are welcome to return as soon as the disruption has been handled appropriately.

Communication Home

Our district-wide communication system is Blackboard/Messenger. This sends school and district emails, texts, and phone calls to families with important information. Please be sure the Gifford Park office has your updated phone number and email addresses. Most information from the school goes through Blackboard, including Mrs. Jones's Weekly Updates. If you are not receiving messages or the Weekly Updates please contact our secretary, Mrs. Pistorius, in the school office to update your account.

Thursday folders are sent home with completed student work and important handouts regarding upcoming school events. Please check your child's folder every Thursday evening and return to school on Fridays.

It is also important that we always have your current address on file in our office. If you have moved, or move during the school year, please bring in proof of address (lease agreement, utility bill, internet bill) to the office so we can update it.

Complaint Procedure

If parents have a concern regarding a situation with their child in school, they are encouraged to follow these steps:

1. Do not ignore problems or let them continue to grow and bother you and your child. Please feel free to call the teacher and express your concerns and possible solutions. Just as we try to teach children to talk to each other concerning their conflicts, we ask that adults model these behaviors by meeting with the teacher to initially seek a solution.
2. If the concern cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent should then schedule a conference with the principal. Your concerns are always important to us and we will make every effort to work with you to solve the concern.
3. If the parent still feels the problem has not been resolved, further assistance is available through the Student and Community Services.

Counselor and Social Worker

Gifford Park is fortunate to have both a guidance counselor and social worker on staff to work with our students in a variety of ways. Counselors conduct whole class lessons, as well as small group sessions. Our social worker is available for small group and individual counseling sessions with students. Both individuals work with attendance, and are wonderful community resources, as well. Parents may want to consult with a counselor or social worker if there are special concerns such as: Repeated requests to stay home from school, unhappiness or discouragement for long periods of time, changes in school performance, problems with friends, health problems, inappropriate behaviors (i.e. stealing, lying, extreme shyness, crying easily, cruelty towards others, etc.)

Bullying Information: If you feel that your child is being bullied by peers, please contact your child's teacher or the building principal, Mrs. Jones. All reported incidences of bullying/unsafe behavior will follow the protocol outlined in our Code of Conduct.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. To be considered bullying, the behavior must include:

- **Imbalance of Power:** Kids who bully use their power-such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity-to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.
- **Hurtful** aggressive physical and/or verbal behavior.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

As an added prevention piece, please discuss with your child adults in the building who they can talk to if they feel that they are being bullied or are in an unsafe situation. These people may include, but are not limited to, their teacher, principal, instructional facilitator, counselor, social worker, school psychologist, PAC Facilitator, or any other adult in the building that the child has built a positive relationship with.

Mental and Behavior Health Point of Contact

Your student's mental health is important to their academic success. If you have concerns about your child's mental or behavior health, you can contact the social worker at 531- 299-2040.

Field Trips

It is possible that children will have the opportunity to move beyond the classroom and into the community for educational study trips. Permission slips for these trips will be sent home. A parent or guardian must sign the permission form in order for the child to participate in the field trip experience. Parents may not ride a bus on a field trip. Verbal permission will not be accepted over the telephone. Money should never be brought on a field trip.

Homework

All Gifford Park students should spend 30 minutes reading or being read to at home as part of their daily routine. Additional practice with math facts and spelling will benefit your child. A designated time and place for schoolwork will help our children be successful. Parents should expect students to participate in approximately 10 minutes of homework per grade level. **Example:** *Grade 1-10 minutes, Grade 2-20 minutes, Grade 3-30 minutes, Grade 4-40 minutes, Grade 5-50 minutes, Grade 6-60 Mins. Each grade level has specific policies in place and this will be shared with you through grade level newsletters and at Curriculum Night.*

Items from Home

We ask children not to bring toys or money to school unless a request has been sent. We are not responsible for personal items that children bring to school or on field trips. Items not to be brought to school include electronic devices, laser pens, White Out, Sharpie markers, items resembling weapons or items that can be used to harm someone, ear bud, gaming systems, make-up, money, fast food, candy, jewelry, and all sports equipment. Backpacks will be kept in lockers. If these items are brought to school we will take them and hold them until the end of the day. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items. *See cell phone policies under "Cell Phones". Please label personal property. All coats, hats, book bags, etc. should have the name of the student written in them.

Library Books

Our library media center is open to students during the week. Each child has the responsibility to be sure that library books are returned in good condition on the date due. Students will need to pay for books that are lost, damaged, or not turned in for any reason.

Lost and Found

If your child loses any clothing article, the child should look in the Lost and Found. It is a good idea to label articles (mittens, scarves, lunch sacks, coats, sweaters, gym shoes, etc.) with your child's name. We are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen goods.

Parent Visitation and Community Participation

Parents are encouraged to visit their child's classroom at any time. Visitors who wish to confer with a teacher are asked to arrange for an appointment outside of the teacher's instructional time with students. All visitors are required to report to the office for a visitor's pass BEFORE going to the classroom. Visitors to the school must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum. Parent volunteers must schedule their volunteer time with the classroom teacher ahead of time. Visits to classroom should not exceed 30 minutes. Parents/community members who would like to volunteer at Gifford Park must apply at the Department of Human Resources, located at the TAC building at 3215 Cuming Street.

The office is a place used to conduct school business. Parents are asked not to remain in the office for extended periods of time due to confidentiality reasons. Phone calls WILL NOT be put through to a teacher's classroom during instructional hours. Our teacher's number one priority is teaching students during this time. We will gladly take a message and deliver it to your child at a convenient time.

Physical Education

All students participate in physical education classes. Any student unable to participate in this activity must bring a statement from his/her physician. Physical education is an integral part of all class schedules. For safety reasons, children are required to have gym shoes for these classes.

PTO

Gifford Park is fortunate to have an active Parent Teacher Organization that supports our Gifford Park families and staff.

Recess

Students in K-6 have two 15-minute recesses per day. If a student is not to participate in recess, per parent request, a note from their physician must be brought to school.

Report Cards

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled after the first and third quarters. The scheduled dates are listed on the calendar in the handbook. Report cards are sent home with students after second and fourth quarters. A report card is an attempt to give parents an honest, accurate assessment of your child's progress. A student's mark of academic progress comes from a variety of sources to include MAP data, formal and informal checks of understanding, daily school work, and graded work that is recorded in the gradebook including both formative and summative assessments. Report cards are distributed four times a year. Progress reports are provided once each quarter. At any time, if a parent/guardian has a question regarding the report card please feel free to contact the classroom teacher and/or Mrs. Jones.

Safety Patrol

Students serve on Safety Patrol for one reason-the safety of young children. Patrol members stand on their posts in hot, cold, wet and snowy weather. The Safety Patrol asks that students follow a few common-sense rules:

- Cross with the Safety Patrol
- Listen to the Safety Patrol for directions
- Do not push, shove, or run
- Walk while crossing the street
- Stand behind the Safety Patrol while waiting to cross
- Adults should model the above rules for their children

School-wide Discipline Expectations

We believe that a child learns best when he/she is happy and in an atmosphere of courtesy, safety, caring, respect, and discipline. The guidelines for student behavior have been established to help students to develop an increasing amount of self-discipline. The guidelines apply in the classroom, in the school building, on the school grounds, and at all school functions.

Appropriate behavior in our school is a responsibility to be shared by students, parents, teachers, principal, and the Gifford Park community.

As a parent, you have a very important role in helping us with this critical part of the educational process. Below are some ways that you can assist us in making Gifford Park the best it can be:

1. Read and review the school rules and regulations with family members from the Code of Conduct.
2. Cooperate with the school, teachers, and administration when discipline is necessary.
3. Seek from school and community agencies help in correcting a student's misbehavior.
4. Make sure the student attends school daily and on time.
5. Reinforce and practice the different life skills introduced and taught at school.
6. Follow the Title 1 School Parent Student Compact

All students have the right to pursue an education in an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, all students are expected to act in a way that does not distract from another student's right to learn. **All students are expected to know and follow school rules.**

Our philosophy of discipline remains consistent in targeting the development of strong self-discipline in every student. We expect Gifford Park Elementary to have a safe, positive atmosphere that promotes learning and helps students develop a feeling of responsibility. Our school-wide management plan includes many opportunities to build skills in solving problems. The plan will enable students to use these skills as life tools to benefit both themselves and the community.

Explanation of Rights and Responsibilities:

1. All students have the right to learn.
2. All teachers have the right to teach.
3. All persons have the right to feel safe, both in body and in feelings.
4. All persons have the right to be treated with respect.
5. All persons are to solve problems in such a way that does not cause additional problems for anyone else.
6. All adults in the building have the right to do their jobs without interference from others.
7. All persons are responsible for things that are used in school.

Reasonable guidelines for student behavior have been established to help students develop an increasing amount of self-discipline. The guidelines apply to the classrooms, school building, on school grounds, in attendance at all school functions, and on buses.

The guidelines for Gifford Park Elementary School are as follows:

1. Students are to behave in a manner that allows other students to learn. Behavior that distracts students or the teacher is not appropriate.
2. Students are to be cooperative with Safety Patrol and other adults in the building.
3. Students are to avoid using profanity and other inappropriate language.
4. Students should not throw objects at students, push students, or act in any manner that can bring harm to another individual.
5. Students are to behave in the cafeteria in a manner that allows others present a pleasant atmosphere in which to eat their meal.
6. Students are to dress in a reasonable manner that does not distract others from learning.
7. Students are to be prompt and consistent in their school attendance.
8. Students are not to leave the classroom, the school, or school grounds without permission from the office or principal. Leaving school grounds without permission will result in a 911 call.

Suspension and Expulsion

A principal (or designee) may determine that it is necessary to exclude a student from classes. The decision to exclude is made after the principal has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against him/her, and provided an opportunity for the student to present his/her version.

The range of possible exclusions includes short-term suspension, emergency exclusion, long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment. It is the principal's responsibility to determine the type of exclusion and/or action recommended.

1. Short-term suspension may be for a period of time up to five (5) school days.
2. Emergency exclusion may be recommended for a period of time as long as the student's presence in the school presents a danger to himself/herself or others.
3. Long-term suspension is for a period of time exceeding five (5) school days, but less than twenty (20) school days.
4. Expulsion is for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which the expulsion took effect.
5. Mandatory reassignment means transfer to another school within the system.

A student cannot attend school, take part in any school function, or be on school property during the duration of a suspension, exclusion, or expulsion. The student may, upon request, have a hearing on the specific charges, in cases of recommendations for long-term suspension, mandatory reassignment, exclusion or expulsion. Students are advised of this right when a principal decides to recommend one of the above actions. If a hearing is not requested within five (5) school days, the recommendation will go into effect.

Bus/Van Safety and Behavior Rules

Responsibility and Procedures

Parent support and cooperation are asked regarding bus/van rules and guidelines. The safety of all children is our primary concern. The bus/van ride is an extension of the classroom and thereby requires the same acceptable behavior as is required in the school and the classroom. The provision for transportation is a privilege offered and may be withdrawn if the student's misconduct warrants such action.

If a student fails to follow the generally accepted bus rules (i.e. – obey bus driver, remain seated, no fighting, no vandalism, no throwing objects from the bus, no head/arms outside of the bus windows, and no profanity or obscene language), the bus driver is required to "write-up" the student on a special Bus Conduct Report Form and submit it to the school principal. The principal will then request bus footage and view the footage as part of the investigation of the incident before providing a consequence.

Consequences for improper bus conduct are as follows:

One write-up:	The student is counseled, behaviors are retaught, a copy of the write-up is given to the student and parent contact.
Two write-ups:	Parent contacted by phone, student counseled, copy of write-up sent to parent, 1 day off bus.
Three write-ups:	Parent conference requested. Student consequence is 3 days off bus.
Four write-ups:	Parent conference. Student consequence increased to 5 days off the bus.
Five or more write-ups:	Parent involvement increases. Student consequences may be multiple days "off the bus", or for the remainder of the school year.

NOTE: It becomes the parent's responsibility to get the child to and from school if the student has been advised he/she is "off the bus." "Off the bus" does not mean that the student is suspended from school. Students who miss class because they are "off the bus" are required to make up all class work and are counted as absent.

We use a building-wide classroom management system at Gifford Park through our adoption of MTSS-B (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior). We have a building-wide focus of being responsible for our actions, being kind, being safe, and trying our hardest every day. Consistency of expectations across the building is essential. Teachers monitor student behaviors during the day. The goal is for students to remain in the classroom as active, engaged learners, focusing on the positive. In the event that off task behavior

is ongoing, and/or behavior occurs that disrupts the learning of other students, the student will be briefly removed from the classroom. In order to ensure your child, and all the students at Gifford Park, an appropriate climate for learning, social skills, and problem-solving activities will be discussed, taught, and reinforced. *All behavior resolutions follow the Code of Conduct.

Student Work Home

All students should bring graded student work home each week so parents/guardians can monitor how their child is doing at school. Students should bring home a Thursday folder on Thursdays, and a nightly agenda.

Use of Telephone

Messages for students may be taken when there is an emergency or when it is essential that a student receive information. Students are not called to the phone since office phones are reserved for school business, and pulling a child from the classroom interferes with learning. In addition, teachers are not to take phone calls during their instructional contact time with students. The secretary will take a message and the teacher will return phone calls at his/her earliest convenience. Please do not ask for phone calls to be put through to the classroom during the academic day as it disrupts the learning for students.

The Gifford Park Pledge

Today I will be my BEST.

I will be responsible.

I will be kind.

I will be safe.

I will try my hardest every day.

It's the Gifford Park Way!

Traffic Flow & Safety Tips-see the Gifford Park traffic flow map on the next page for more information.

To ensure safety for our children at Gifford Park, please adhere to the following safety procedures as you drop off and pick up your children. Please discuss these rules with your children so they understand their importance. Please also share this information with any grandparents, neighbors, relatives, or family friends who may pick your child up throughout the year.

- All parents should plan on not getting out of their car at arrival or dismissal. The cut out area on 32nd Street is reserved for Early Childhood buses, large school buses, and daycare vans.
- If you must leave your car, you will need to park in the parking lot on 32nd Street across from the school, the parking lot to the south of Gifford Park, or the parking lot on the east side of the building in a parking stall.
- Please wait for your child on the sidewalks around the perimeter of the school instead of waiting by the exit doors. This will help with visibility as we attempt to welcome and dismiss students calmly as a school community. All students are walked out daily by their teacher and must have contact with the teacher before leaving with a parent. Teachers are responsible for knowing who their students leave with each day.
- Do not park in "No Parking Zones" or "Reserved Parking". The departure and arrival lanes are reserved for dropping off and picking up students and should not be considered an area to park cars and exit the vehicle.
- Obey all traffic laws including:
 1. Students are only to exit a car from the passenger side (side closest to the sidewalk). They should not cross the street or lane to get out of the car or to a parent without being accompanied by an adult or Safety Patrol. **Children and adults must use the crosswalks at all times.**
 2. When you pick up on the 32nd Street side all vehicles must be facing North. Do not pull into the parking lane facing South.

3. Do not double park.
4. The east side is one way-follow the traffic pattern. The right lane is used for drop off and pick up. The left lane is used for through traffic only.
5. **Do not** pull around other cars to move further in the line when dropping off or picking up.
6. When dropping off or picking up on the east side of the building, always pull up to the farthest doors (closest to the playground) vs. stopping your vehicle when picking up or dropping off.
7. Your **PATIENCE** is appreciated!

Your patience is appreciated as we all work to follow the traffic patterns at Gifford Park. **We are trying to keep our students and staff safe!**

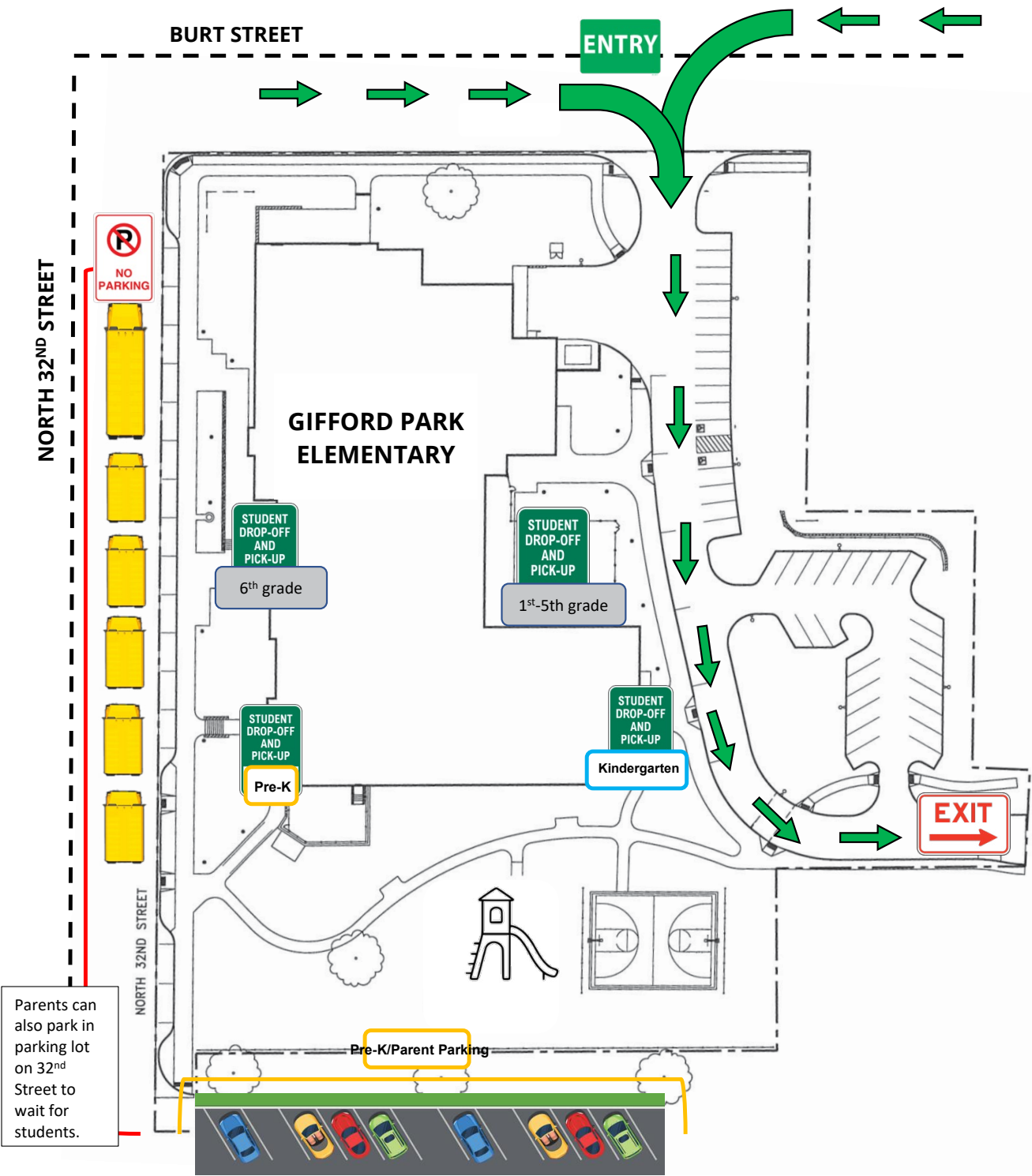




Gifford Park

Times: 8:35 am – 4:05pm

Arrival & Dismissal



Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Omaha Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.

In General

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - Back to School Night
 - School Open House
 - Title I Annual Parent Meeting
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Reading Night
 - Math Night
 - STEAM/STEM Night
 - Family Game Night
 - PTA/PTO – meetings & activities
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities
 - Climate Survey
 - Title I Annual parent meeting
 - Committee meetings
 - Development of the School Improvement Plan
 - Student Assistance Teams
- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand
 - The student handbook
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Standardized Tests results
 - Progress reports & report card
- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
 - Summer Reading Program
 - College and Career Academies and Pathways Night with The Empowerment Network

Parent Right To Know Clause

At the beginning of the school year, any District that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher and his/her qualifications, including certification and endorsements. Parents can also request information about paraprofessionals working with their children.

This Gifford Park Title I School-Parent-Student Compact has been jointly developed with parents and outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. At the annual parent-teacher conferences, the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.

Gifford Park Elementary Parent Student Compact

Teacher:

It is important that students achieve. I agree to do the following:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to enable children to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards.
2. Regularly communicate with parents on their child's progress.
3. Demonstrate professional behavior and positive attitude.
4. Develop a relationship with each student and family.

Parent / Caring Adult:

I want my child to achieve; therefore, I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

1. Communicate and work with teachers and school staff on an ongoing basis to be involved and support my child's learning.
2. Support your child's learning—volunteer in their classroom; participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their education, guide positive use of extracurricular time.
3. Make sure my child is at school every day and on time, unless he/she is ill.
4. Provide a quiet place and time to do schoolwork and encourage my child to complete schoolwork.
5. Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences and meetings concerning my child.
6. Make sure my child's iPad is taken care of, charged every night, and brought to school daily.

Student:

*I know my education is important to me. It is important that I work to the best of my ability.
I agree to do the following:*

1. Be at school every day and on time unless I am sick.
2. Come to school each day prepared with supplies and an attitude to learn.
3. Be responsible for my own behavior.
4. Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
5. Return completed schoolwork on time.
6. Read at home.
7. I will model MTSS-B rules.
8. I will take good care of my iPad, charge it every night, use it for instruction only, and bring it to school every day.

Omaha Public Schools 2024-25 District Calendar

District Student Handbook - Elementary

Omaha Public Schools Student Code of Conduct