



July 2024

Greetings Tiger Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! Our community celebrated Gale's 50th anniversary in January 2020, and as Gale's proud principal, I'm excited to invite you to continue the rich tradition of family engagement events, starting with our Open House Ice-Cream Social on July 30 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. This year marks the beginning of my eighth year at Gale, and it is an honor to be part of such an amazing learning community.

I am confident that the unwavering dedication of our teachers and staff, coupled with strong family partnerships, will ensure the success of our students. By now, you should have received a welcome letter from your child's teacher along with a supply list. To foster a smooth transition back to campus, we will continue with the same bell schedule. Our first bell rings early, at 7:40 a.m. Therefore, it is important that you support your child's success by establishing weekday routines to ensure they arrive on time and ready to learn. Attached, please find key information to support a smooth transition and first day.

As always, we are equally committed to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We ask that you adhere to safety protocols when entering our building, which include ringing the doorbell at the main entrance, identifying yourself, and waiting for our office staff to buzz you in. Please never hold the door for another visitor. While this may seem contrary to our usual welcoming culture, this protocol was developed out of an abundance of caution for the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

Should you need assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at (520) 731-4500, (520) 731-4502, or you may reach me on my direct line at (520) 731-4504.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin our new school year.

In partnership,

Principal Osollo

## First Day Key Information:

- **If eligible, determine/review your child's transportation option in ParentVue.**
- **Meals Program:** All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch, no need to apply. You may drop your child off in the front loop at 7:15 if they are eating breakfast. There will be staff ready to greet them and guide them to the cafeteria doors. If your child is not eating breakfast, please drop them in the south valet loop (with colorful flags). I will be there to greet them. Students will be allowed to spend time on the playground until the bell rings but should not be on campus earlier than 7:15.
- **Bring a refillable water bottle to use. We have several touchless filling stations.**
- **Our dismissal system has not changed and is as follows:**

**Students walking** will exit through the back gate on Blacksburg Street.

**Bus or Daycare Van riders** will walk out together through the back gate and board buses or daycare vans on Blacksburg.

**All other students must be picked using our valet system in the south lot.**

Please print the name of your child in big letters and place the paper on your dashboard so that teachers working the valet loop can easily read it. Our AMAZING Team volunteers with this task during their planning time, so please be patient and remain in your vehicle. The process gets more efficient every day.

**Note:** Kindergarten students and siblings should be picked up in the overflow lot (Kinder teacher letter for details). Again, for the safety of our students, we ask that you do NOT use the valet system for picking up your child. You should park in the overflow lot, get out of your vehicle, and wait at the gate with the sign provided by your child's teacher at the Ice Cream Social.

- **If you are not able to attend the ice cream social on July 30, please refer to the welcome letter that your child's teacher forwarded to you for class specific information.**