2019-20 Open Enrollment/Inter-District Transfers

Many of our Gaston School District students come to us from outside the district boundaries through either the Open Enrollment or Inter District Transfer process. Oregon Department of Education has announced the sunset of Open Enrollment and unless the decision is overturned during the legislative session currently happening in Salem, districts will not be able to offer Open Enrollment as an option for families for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. Students already attending Gaston School District through Open Enrollment will be “grandfathered” in and it will not affect their enrollment status.

School Districts will still be able to offer Inter District Transfer as an option for attending school from outside the district boundaries. For a FAQ sheet on Inter-District Transfer process, please visit [https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/Documents/faq-for-interdistrict-transfer-formatted.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/Documents/faq-for-interdistrict-transfer-formatted.pdf).

Did you know the GSD Board has Goals?

- Improve facilities to provide a safe, quality learning environment
- Support the improvement of teaching and learning to prepare students for college and career
- Support a positive learning environment and culture within Gaston schools

Volunteers are wanted to participate on a Playground Committee. This committee will develop a vision for indoor and outdoor recess spaces. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Knights of Pythias will be partnering with GSD on this venture.

If you would like to be part of the Playground Committee, email your interest to Susy McKenzie at mckenzies@gastonk12.org.

“Life’s too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right, forgive the ones who don’t and believe that everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said it’d be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.”

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THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- To volunteer you must first pass a background check, forms are available outside the main office
- All who enter the building must sign in at the main office and wear a badge during their stay
- Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible while you are on campus
As principal of Gaston Elementary School this year, I want to let parents know how much I am enjoying this part of my job! It has been a pleasure to get to work with students, families and staff at the elementary level. My favorite part of each day is the daily morning meeting in the Commons Gym when I get to see bright and shiny faces!

As an administrator with a few “hats” to wear, some folks have asked where they can reach me as principal. About 95% of the time, I am at the elementary school. When there are district level meetings, they are held at the District Office. Please call the elementary office if you need to meet with me. The secretaries have access to my calendar and help with appointments.

As a small school district, the elementary principal position has almost always been coupled with another duty, such as Federal Programs Director or Special Education Director. There have also been times when it was a part time position with no other duties. To my knowledge, we haven’t had the position coupled with Superintendent before, but it has worked well this past year. We plan to do this again and I look forward to another great year at the elementary school! Thanks for making me feel so welcome as principal. I really enjoy being around the children and working to make our elementary school an even greater place!

Susy McKenzie

**Attendance Update**

During February, the following classrooms had the least amount of absences and won the weekly Attendance Award.
- Mrs. Westcott—1st grade
- Mr. DeWolf—4th grade
- Mrs. Ruiz—5th grade — won 2 times!
- Ms. Stewart—5th grade

**Behavior Update**

We are excited to share that after reviewing behavior data for this year, we have had a dramatic decrease of major and minor referrals!

Staff and students have worked hard on implementing consistent routines and procedures, clarification on rules and re-teaching moments.

**Great progress Gaston Elementary!**
A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the Knights of Pythias Gaston Lodge #104 for sponsoring this amazing opportunity for Kinder-2nd grade students! For every 15-20 minutes they read students receive a ticket which will go into a drawing. At the end of the contest, one boy and one girl from each class (K-2) will win a brand new bicycle!

Addison Schanderl
Addison S. is an All-Star Student. She shows great empathy towards other, kindness to all and strives to be the best she can be in all academic areas. Addison has many positive attributes that makes her a leader in her classroom.

Keira Worst
Keira's has a positive attitude & takes advantage of each learning opportunity provided to her. She takes pride in her work & loves to read. She is a leader in the classroom & on the playground. Keira is a trusted, reliable friend to many of her peers.

Naomi Yates
Naomi is respectful and responsible in all of her classes. When a student asks her for help, she has no problem taking the time to assist them. Naomi always puts her best effort forward in school, whether it is learning a new concept, drawing for a project, or playing an instrument in Ensemble. She is an all around All Star!
## March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>Spirit Day</strong> – wear Gaston spirit wear/green/yellow/gold</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Preschool &amp; Kinder Roundup 5:00—6:00 pm</td>
<td>4/29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>SBAC Testing Grades 3-6</td>
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<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Classified Employee Week Love your Ed Assistants!</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00 pm</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00 pm</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Grading/Planning Day</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>Spirit Day</strong> – wear Gaston spirit wear/green/yellow/gold</td>
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<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4th-12th Grade Instrumental Concert 7:00 pm</td>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>SBAC Science Testing 5th grade</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Grading/Planning Day</td>
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<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Kindergarten Field Trip OMSI 8:30 am — 2:45 pm</td>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parent Conferences 12-4 pm <strong>PreK-6th gr 11:30 dismissal</strong></td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Teacher Appreciation Week</td>
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<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>PTO Hat Day</strong></td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 pm</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>iReady Math Testing K-6th</td>
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<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Science Week</td>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>Spirit Day</strong> – wear Gaston spirit wear/green/yellow/gold</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School-wide Assembly OMSI Science Circus: The Physics of Fun 1:00-2:00 pm</td>
<td>17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>PTO Hat Day</strong></td>
<td>17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>PTO Hat Day</strong></td>
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<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Spring Break</td>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Secretary’s Day</td>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Dibels Literacy Screener K-20</td>
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<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Memorial Day</td>
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## April 2019

**Check Out What’s Coming Up…**

**Wednesdays are 2:30 Dismissal**

Call Before 2:00pm with going home changes
March’s Problem of the Month

Kinder—6th graders solve this problem:

I reached into my pocket and found that I have only dimes and quarters.
I have $2.00.
I have 11 coins.
How many dimes do I have?

Remember to explain how you found the answer and how you can be sure it is correct.

March’s prize will be a Spring Break game & candy pack

February Math Problem Winners

Congratulations Winners!

K-2—Addison Schanderl—the answer 12 people can fit in the theater

3-6—Taya Walter—the answer was 12 dimes, 10 nickels, 6 quarters, 32 pennies
If you would like to have an event or information published in the newsletter, please send the information to Mystie Taber at taberm@gastonk12.org by the 20th of the month for the following newsletter.

Enjoy the sounds of spring at the Gaston 4th-12th grade Instrumental Concert.

Music will begin at 7:00 pm in the Commons Gym.

Remember to turn in Pre-Arranged Absence Forms when your student will be out for more than 1/2 day. If you do this, you will not receive the attendance phone call. Win-win for both of us!

Forms are located in the paper sorter outside the office, or on the GSD website under Elementary, then Parents. Thank you!

Class of 2019 Grad Night Dinner & Auction
Saturday, March 16th
Commons Gym

Dinner 5-7  Catered by Miget’s Island Grill
Auction 6-10

Tickets: Family of 4—$35
Individual $10 in advance / $12 at the door

Advance tickets can be purchased from any senior

SAFETY REMINDER

We recognize that the end-of-day pick up is a hectic time; students are being picked-up, people are walking to cars, and crosswalks are busy.

When picking up students from school, please remember to continue circling on the inside lane until you see your student at the curb.

Carefully pull in to the outside lane where students can load-up quickly and you can carefully return to the inside lane for departure.

Keeping everyone safe is the top priority, so your heightened awareness is appreciated.