Happy September, Gifford Park Families from Ms. Jones and Gifford Park Staff!

We are extremely proud of our Gifford Park students and how smoothly our school year began. Our beautiful building is full of excited staff members and students who arrive daily eager to teach and eager to learn! We have been focusing on our MTSS-B goals of “Being our Gifford Park BEST and doing this THE GIFFORD WAY!” Being our B.E.S.T focuses on: Being Responsible, Encouraging Kindness, Safety First, and Trying our hardest each and every day! Members of our MTSS-B team worked hard this summer to create our building-wide procedures and routines, and lessons for our staff to teach so that all students receive the same message, which will lead to consistency.

If you have not yet turned in your Student Information Packet that you received the first day of school or at Safe Routes to School in a brown envelope, please make sure all completed forms are turned in by Tuesday, 9/3/19.

We have many new faces at Gifford Park. We have brought students together from Dundee, Field Club, Wakonda, Benson West, Kellom, Liberty, Edison, and many other schools in our district, as well as out of district. Our staff has brought their experience from: Kellom, Franklin, Crestridge, Minne Lusa, Miller Park, Skinner Magnet, South High, Central High, Prairie Wind, Rose Hill, and we have a few new teachers! Our staff was selected because of their belief in working as a team to meet the needs and build relationships with each and every student every day, and creating a safe and secure environment where every student wants to be every day!

Thank you to Creighton students and faculty who painted the wonderful sensory activities on our sidewalks! This will provide students fun activities to do while anxiously awaiting our two new playgrounds! We also had some great family volunteers-thank you!

MAP Testing begins September 4th through September 30th for all students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Knowing where each child is at academically helps us plan and differentiate our instruction to meet each and every child’s needs!

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 10th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. We will be holding our Dedication Ceremony in the gym from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and our annual Open House from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will have a DJ playing music and face painting from 6:00-8:00 p.m. You will also have the opportunity to visit your child’s classroom during this time and see what they are learning.

Safety is our first priority: Our doors are always locked, per district policy, and for your child’s safety. If you arrive at school between 8:50 a.m.-4:05 p.m. you must buzz into the office, report directly to the office to sign in and receive a visitor pass, which you must wear. Staff has been trained to stop visitors without passes in the hallway and direct them to the office to sign in. Because our teachers are busy teaching during the day and put their students’ learning first, phone calls will not be put through to the classrooms. Messages can be taken in the office. Teachers check email and voicemails after school hours. Conferences should be scheduled with your child’s teacher ahead of time. Please feel free to share concerns and proactively and positively problem solve solutions with your child’s teacher. You are always welcome to visit classrooms to observe your child learning, but this is not the time to conference with staff. On the average, if a teacher is interrupted during instruction it takes approximately ten minutes to get the full attention of the students and get back to learning!

Arrival and Dismissal: Please remember that the west entrance is one way only. Driving slowly is the expectation for the safety of our kids! Please help with a quick drop off and pick up so the traffic patterns keep flowing.

PTO: We encourage all of our families to get involved at Gifford Park and join us for our first PTO meeting on Thursday, 8/19/19 at Gifford Park Elementary at 5:30 p.m.!
FUN PICS OF OUR FIRST 3 WEEKS!

A great start to a great year!

Thank you, families and staff!