

GARFIELD SPECIALISTS

September News

We are all excited for a new year at Garfield!

MUSIC with Mrs. Cooper

Music is kicking off really well! We're diving into all kinds of skills. In Kindergarten, the kiddos are learning to keep the beat, play instruments in the music room, and have fun with music games. First graders are figuring out the difference between the beat and rhythm. Second graders are getting the hang of half notes and half rests. Third and fourth graders are busy jamming with a new song on the xylophones. The fifth and sixth graders are all about team building in the music room, playing cooperative games and creating some trust through drumming. I can't wait to see where this year takes Garfield's musicians!



GYM with Mr. Geck

Down in the gym we've been focused on reviewing our rules and procedures to start off our school year. Students in grades K-2 are also working on their spatial awareness as well as some fun and cooperative tagging games. 3-6 students have been participating in cooperative learning activities and challenges that are helping to build a strong foundation for our classroom community.

TECH Class with Mr. Tomnay

In Tech Class, students are diving into Google Slides to showcase their creativity and individuality! They're learning how to design personalized slides, where they highlight what makes them special. From inserting images to crafting thoughtful text, students are gaining essential tech skills while expressing what makes them unique.



STEAM with Mrs. Strotman

Engineers have been hard at work in STEAM! Students have been engaging with tools that help them explore concepts in science, technology, engineering, art and math through hands-on learning. Using tools like legos, magnetiles, KEVA planks, and brain flakes fosters creativity, collaboration and curiosity while also developing problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Second graders used legos & magnetiles to design and build mazes, blending creativity with engineering skills. Through this activity they learned about structure, spatial awareness and problem solving as they created pathways and obstacles. Students were constantly testing and refining their mazes while offering one another feedback on their designs.

First graders designed and built ramps for Hot Wheels Cars which introduced them to basic physics concepts like force, motion and gravity. By experimenting with ramp angles, heights, and materials, students explored how these factors affected the speed and distance of their car.

In the Piggie and Gerald STEAM challenge, Kindergarten students were tasked with designing and building shelters for Piggie, inspired by Moe Williams' beloved character! Students used a variety of materials to plan and build their designs while engaging in playful, imaginative learning.





THINK TANK with Mrs. Jenkins

Students have been busy in Think Tank with Mrs. Jenkins engaging in AAP Critical and Creative Thinking strategies. Students showed their creativity by making a Mind Map about themselves. A Mind Map is a graphic organizer that uses pictures, color and creativity to show ideas. Students also used their questioning skills to solve Stories with a Hole. Teams of students asked questions in which a 'Yes' or 'No' response was needed to help them solve the missing part of the story. We have gotten off to a great start in Think Tank! We will have lots more thinking adventures to come!



ART with Mrs. Dovey

We've had a great start in art!

Kindergarten and 1st grade students are creating self-portraits and family portraits! We are learning about shapes and patterns! Students in grades 2nd, 3rd and 4th are developing their artistic skills by creating paintings and drawings with the themes of community, culture, and time.

Some students in 5th and 6th grades are working collaboratively on posters and displays for Back to School Night, while the other students are creating designs for the 2024 - 2025 Garfield Elementary yearbook!



LIBRARY with Mrs. McKeon

I am excited to see all of our returning students and meet new students this year! We're off to a great start in the library as students hear engaging stories and choose books each week to check out. These past few weeks younger students have been learning about taking care of their library books while older students have been reviewing how to use the online catalog to search for books. In the library we'll continue to foster a lifelong love of reading and learning in a welcoming and supportive environment! It's going to be a great year!

