

GARFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

34 OUTWATER LANE, GARFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07026

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are most likely aware, the Garfield School District is in the process of opening a new elementary school located on 55 Lincoln Place. We are pleased to share with you that, at this current time, the school is scheduled to open in September 2018. The name of the new school is James Madison School #10 and it will house students in K through grade 5 for the 2018-2019 school year. The school has a capacity of 350 students and will provide our students with a 21st century learning environment.

The opening of the additional school affords us the opportunity to accommodate less students in each of our existing elementary schools so that every school can make use of the much-needed additional space for educational purposes. As is the case with the opening of an additional school, redistricting of students is necessary. Redistricting is a process in which students may be assigned to a different school based on revised boundary lines in the city.

We have analyzed our current school boundaries and enrollment patterns when conducting the redistricting process. We have taken many factors into consideration such as the following:

- Predicted enrollment at each school based on the current boundaries
- Class size targets set for the elementary levels
- Functional capacity for each school
- Continuity of placement of Special Education students in the schools they currently attend
- Keeping siblings together in the same school when possible
- Proximity of school to student's residence
- Continuity of established fifth grade classes for the 2018-2019 school year

On a positive note, redistricting will help to reestablish neighborhood schools. Neighborhood schools can often be reached on foot and serve to help our children strengthen ties to neighbors, both adults and children, giving them a connection to the community. Exceptions are made for certain children with IEP's, who will be assigned to the same schools in which they are currently enrolled. Fifth grade students have not been reassigned to other schools so that they may finish elementary school with their classmates.

Letters have been mailed to the homes of students who are affected by the redistricting and are assigned to a different school for the 2018-2019 school year. Additionally, the redistricting process does not affect our students who are currently attending Garfield Middle School and Garfield High School or those students who are scheduled to attend Garfield Middle School and Garfield High School in September 2018. If you did not receive a letter, your child will be attending the same school next year.

On behalf of the district administration, we want to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe summer! We look forward to a productive 2018-2019 school year for all our students and school families.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Perrapato

Superintendent of Schools

Anna Sciacca

Assistant Superintendent of Schools