



# Samuel Gaines Academy K-8

## Believe in Gains at Gaines!

### Gaines Gazette

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2015

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year! My Administrative Team and I are honored to be the instructional leaders of Samuel S. Gaines Academy.

We have a dedicated and skilled staff that is committed to developing "College Bound Colts" by becoming Successful Scholars. Through rigorous academics, our goal is to prepare our students with the knowledge and skills they will need for college and a career. As a Kids at Hope School, all Gaines Academy faculty and staff are treasure hunters. We believe all students are capable of success, no exceptions!

Students will be coming home the first few weeks with many important documents for you to review, such as the dress code policy, student handbook and the code of conduct. Please read all communications thoroughly and return signed forms as appropriate. Each K-8 student will receive a daily planner on the first day of school. The planner is used to record homework assignments. It is also an excellent tool to promote parent-teacher communication. Parents are encouraged to review and sign the planner each night. All K-8 students will have daily homework assignment requiring a minimum of 30 minutes of reading.

There are many opportunities to become involved at Gaines Academy. We welcome parents to join our PTO and School Advisory Council. Parents are also invited to volunteer at the school. Contact the front office for more information.

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time for students as they meet new friends and anticipate the learning activities their teachers have planned for them. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure a positive educational experience.

Believe in...Gains at Gaines!

Sincerely,

Traci Wilke  
Principal and Treasure Hunter

#### Kids at Hope Pledge:

*I am a Kid at Hope.*

*I am talented, smart, and capable of success.*

*I have dreams for the future and I will climb to reach those goals and dreams everyday!*

*All Children are Capable of Success,*

*No Exceptions!*



#### School hours

**9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

#### ATTENDANCE

Parents and families are essential partners in promoting good attendance. They have the bottom-line responsibility for making sure their children get to school every day. Parents/ Guardians should focus on how their children are performing academically, and set expectations for good attendance. They need to monitor their children's absences, so that missed days don't add up to academic trouble. If your child is absent please make sure to send a note within 3 days of the absence. Your note should include the first and last name of the child along with the day of the absence. Should you have any questions please call our Attendance Clerk, Rosa Armengol at 462-8864

# Classroom News



VPK is busy introducing children to school routines and to the learning adventures that they will encounter as they begin their educational journey. During the first five weeks of school the children will be learning about the school and their classroom, the five senses, and feelings. Throughout each day VPK students are learning essential skills to prepare each and every student for kindergarten.

## KG

Welcome to Kindergarten! We have been busy learning the routines and procedures so that we will have a successful year. We started Second Step, a social skills program. Foundations was also started, this program will teach us the letters and letter sounds. In math we are learning the numbers 0-10; how to count out objects and write them. In Reading we have started learning the characters, setting and events. We are off to a great start!



## First Grade

We have had an amazing few weeks of school so far. We are so impressed with how student's are following our SGA expectations! We are beginning our math unit on Place Value where your child will be learning how to show tens and ones with numbers up to 20. Please make sure your child returns their homework folder by Friday each week and is practicing their sight words at home! We are looking forward to a great year!

This has been an exciting start to the new school year for our "Superheroes in Training". Our Super Second Graders have been powering up by practicing expectations and routines. They have also been participating in class building activities to create safe and caring classroom communities. Our superhero recruits will begin strengthening their powers of adding and subtracting within 20 in math as well as finding the main topic of text, finding the focus of a paragraph, and locating key details in reading. They will explore citizenship and government in Social Studies.



Third grade is working hard! This month students will work on multiplication strategies and develop beginning level multiplication fluency. Students are also using newly acquired text marking skills to identify main idea and key details in complex text. Our third graders are looking forward to working with our older buddy classes!



# Classroom News



Hello 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents. Our scholars are off to a wonderful start of the school year. They have been learning the expectations of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade Avid scholar and have been working hard to meet those expectations. We look forward to an exciting year with your student. This coming month students will be learning text marking and active reading strategies that they will use throughout the entire year and beyond. In writing the students have spent the first few weeks showing us what they know already and in the month of September we will be working with them as we begin to build their writing skills. Please follow up with your student nightly to ensure they are completing all homework. Reading is a daily requirement and students are asked to read for 30 minutes nightly and have a parent or guardian sign off on their log. Again we look forward to working with your 4<sup>th</sup> grader this year and please do not hesitate to contact us if needed. Ms. Trabal, Mrs. Ebersole, Ms. Moyer, Ms. Kagan and Mrs. Collette



What a superior start to the school year! Fifth grade has spent the first few weeks Powering Up by practicing rules, expectations and procedures. Now, we are ready for anything that comes our way! In the coming weeks, we will be barreling through fall benchmark testing, diving into division and numerical expressions, marveling at matter and how it changes, as well as reasoning with relationships between concepts in informational text. As we charge through the school year, please remind your COLT to Power Up every night by reading for at least 30 minutes (2 steps for 100 Book Challenge) and completing any homework. We look forward to a SUPER school year!

## Believe in Gains...at Gaines



What a great start to the year in the sixth grade NSU Sharks pod! Students are learning to work effectively within teams in each of their classes. Our students are really beginning to shine while transitioning throughout the pod and around campus. Our student's drive to be successful is evident and the NSU Sharks pod teachers are excited to help them grow

The 7th Grade Hurricanes are off to a wonderful start to the school year! The students are settling into their daily routines, classes, and school work very well. We are so excited for all of the students and know they will all succeed this year in all of their classes.

In Mrs. Granger's Science class the students are busy learning about the earth's changing surface. They work hard creating colorful diagrams of the earth and the many surfaces it has. In Civics, with Ms. Moise, the students are learning about citizenship and the process of being a natural citizen or a native citizen. In Mr. Bove's Language Arts class the students are becoming familiar with the Reading Edge program and their assigned team roles in table talks. Mrs. Bevacqua's Language Arts classes are using a wonderful textbook, new to our school this year, called the Florida Collections. Also, our 7th grade students are working hard with Ms. Hess to learn all about integers. It is so exciting to see all the amazing learning going on in our pod! Parents and guardians, please ensure your 7th grader is reading at home for 30 minutes each night to earn their reading steps! We appreciate your support in getting our students to read, read, read!



# Classroom News



Our Gator Pod students are off to a fantastic start! Our students and teachers have been working together to build relationships and a positive pod culture. Students are getting better and better at transitions each period. Our students are working hard to work in teams in all of their classes, and our teachers are so proud of the students' accomplishments. Interactive Notebooks have been set up in Science and World History, and they look great! Our Successful Scholars have been practicing goal setting, facilitating different roles to build their study skills, learning the Habits of Highly Effective People, and taking Cornell Notes. Our mathematicians are learning how to multiply double digit numbers with decimals. Language Arts students are working on citing text evidence to support their claims.

Mrs. McCray-Moore, Ms. Collins, Ms. Krencik, Mr. Smith, and Mrs. McCarthy are all so proud of the students and can't wait to witness the phenomenal gains they make this year!



This year in Eighth Grade Language Arts our aim is to involve the students in applying their skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing; all of which will be done in an independent manner through purposeful interdisciplinary tasks. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in both classical and contemporary selections from our new book (Florida Connections); the emphasis is placed on moving from the literal to the abstract, the goal is to use the students' critical thinking skills to harness their full potential in the use of the English language.

This semester in 8th Grade US History students are covering the Americas, beginning with the European exploration of the New World and the establishment of America's first 13 colonies. Currently in class we are delving into occupation of South America by Spain (Cortes who conquered the Aztecs in Mexico and Pizarro who conquered the Incas in Peru). Students are able to not only learn about history through our text but also in group settings and through interactive technology which allows the hands on opportunity for engagement. As the year goes on our students will be provided with more and more opportunities to display their knowledge all of the great themes that we are studying in 8th grade US History.

Zahid Stewart M.A.T, M.Ed

This year, the 8th grade math course will be focused on learning pre-algebraic concepts and to expand upon previously learned skills through the use of the Pre-Algebra curriculum. The Pre-Algebra course is to serve as a bridge between elementary mathematics and Algebra. This course will build a foundation of algebraic concepts through the use of technology, manipulative, problem solving, and cooperative learning... Students are currently working on rational and irrational numbers in preparation for the upcoming unit. We all are very excited about the coming year and of course we anxiously await every opportunity for the students to show off what they know.

8th grade Science is all about inquiry-based instruction as a critical way of developing conceptual understanding of the science content that is vital for success in the twenty-first century... Students in 8th grade Science are working on un-wrapping the atom into its smaller subatomic particles. The students are learning about the charges of each particle and how they work together to create different elements. Most of their work is done in small groups using learning strategies such as Think-Pair-Share to chunk the data that they are receiving. We can't wait for this year's Science fair!

My Classes are using the Reading Edge Program. The objective of the program is to improve the students' reading and thinking skills. Throughout the program questioning, clarifying, summarizing, and predicting strategies will be implemented. In each lesson, the students are engaged in collaborative teamwork and discussion. We are currently using the clarifying strategies to clarify words and ideas and identifying central ideas. As the year progresses the students will work on topics such as: Interpret Information, Word Choice, Create a Summary, Analyze Story Elements, Drawing Conclusion from evidence, Reading plays, and Research.—Ena Stewart

# Important Information

PreK	Kindergarten	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 & 10	11 & 12 <sup>®</sup>				
RTM	1-3Y	1G	2G	1B	2B	1R	2R	Wt	Bk	Or	Pu	1Br	2Br	Si	Gl

100 BOOK CHALLENGE is an independent reading program designed to complement the school's reading curriculum. Its goal is to develop avid, lifelong readers, students whose proficiency in and love of reading enable them to flourish throughout their lives—in the classroom, on standardized tests, at the college of their choice, and in a life-enriching career—allowing all aspects of their experience to be enhanced by the information and perspectives gained from reading.

100 BOOK CHALLENGE does this by dramatically increasing the amount of reading a student is expected to do. The program's high standards require a minimum of 60 minutes of independent reading a day in school and an additional 30 minutes of reading at home. It provides each student with a selection of hundreds of books matched to their reading level (each reading level is designated by a different color) and allows students to choose the books they want to read. Students track the amount of reading they complete on log sheets that are signed by parents and are reviewed daily by their teacher. Teachers regularly hold individual conferences with students to be sure they are engaged with their books, to assess the students' understanding of the material they've read, and to set goals for future reading.

## Coupons for Classrooms Coupon Book



Samuel S. Gaines Academy is excited to present to you the Coupons for Classrooms coupon book that offers hundreds of buy one get one free discounts, along with many other great discounts! The funds generated from your support will be used for Teacher/Staff and Student Incentives that will directly be of benefit to Samuel S. Gaines Academy as well as the St. Lucie County Education Foundation.

**ATTENTION: THIS IS A FUNDRAISER. COUPON BOOK IS JUST \$20.**  
(Flyers will go home with more information)

Things we collect...

### Box Tops for Education!

Please send us your Box Tops! We change these directly into cash to benefit our classrooms. Just clip them and send them in with your student.

Thanks for your help!



PICTURE DAY

OCTOBER 15TH  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

OCTOBER 20TH  
ELEMENTARY



2250 S. Jenkins Road, Ft. Pierce, FL, 34947

Phone: 772-462-8888

Fax: 772-468-5004

Website: <http://schools.stlucie.k12.fl.us/sga/>

