



Gaines Gazette

SLCSB

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

All children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS! This is the Kids at Hope philosophy Samuel S. Gaines Academy has adopted. Our goal is to encourage all of our students to believe in themselves. We want all students to be confident leaders with a healthy self-esteem and an attitude that they can be successful. Each morning, students recite the 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 every day."

Home to school communication is critical to the success of our students. Family Access is a web-based tool that allows parents to view progress reports, homework assignments and special messages from the teacher in the convenience of your home. All you need to do is provide a copy of your driver's license and an email address to the front office. When you register, we will provide further instructions. There is also Skyward Mobile Access for your smartphone or tablet. It is the fastest and easiest way for you to access your data anywhere, anytime.

Another way to know what is happening at school is to follow our website and me on Twitter. Our website is updated frequently with article and upcoming events. Visit our website at <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/SGA>. My twitter handle is Traci Wilke@SGA_Principal to receive up to date information about school happenings.

Administration, teachers, and staff want you to know we believe in all of our students and look forward to our partnership to ensure all students are successful; no exceptions!

Believe in...Gains at Gaines!

Sincerely,

Supervision of students begins at 9:00 AM. Please do not drop students off prior to 9:00 in the morning.

For those using the Parent Pick-up just a reminder to have your child's name on a window tag and to remain in your car! For the safety of everyone's children we do not allow parents to park and walk up to get their children.

EMERGENCY!
If there is an emergency with your child do we have current phone numbers and addresses??? Contact the office to be sure we have accurate information!



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
9:30-4:00**

College Bound COLTS!

Spirit Shirts are available for sale in the front office \$10 each

Great Things Happen at Sam Gaines...Power Up!



“Dads Take Your Child to School” Day took place on Wednesday, September 30th.

Fathers and other male role models streamed into Gaines Academy on Wednesday morning. They were treated to donuts and an inspirational message followed by smiles and laughter as they created a vision board with their child. Before leaving, the men signed the pledge to support and encourage

their child's suc-



October is

Disability Awareness Month and Gaines Academy is celebrating this important month. Did you know that 1 in every 5 Americans have a disability based on information from the US Census Bureau? Webster's dictionary defines disability, in part, as "The condition of being unable to do things in the normal way." Let's take a moment this month to celebrate our differences and appreciate each other and our children for his or her individuality.



PRINCIPAL'S READING CHALLENGE

There was an exciting announcement at the Gaines Academy Parent Night. If our students reach 250,000,000 reading steps this school year, our principal will be doing a cheer leading routine to the Whip/Nae Nae. Better start practicing, Ms. Wilke because I'm sure our SGA schol-



[Imagine Learning](#) is a program of computer-based tutorials that supports the development of language and literacy skills for students. Instruction addresses reading, vocabulary, grammar, speaking, and listening skills, and is targeted to meet the needs of English language learners, struggling readers and Response to Intervention programs. The software is research-based, instructionally differentiated and fun to use. Gaines Academy's innovative use of the program during the 2014-2015 school year earned them the status of **Imagine Nation Top Ten percent**. The most exciting aspect of this award is the tremendous language development growth seen in the participating students.

School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

We have plenty of opportunities for you to be involved in our school!! No experience is necessary for you to be part of **SAC** or **PTO**. Both groups require minimal time (about 1 hour a month).

SAC is an advisory group for the principal. This group learns more about the decisions made at the school as well as having a voice in some decision. We meet once a month at a time be determined by the Council.

PTO is a new group. We are looking for a group of parents who just want to help out and be involved. This group can help fundraise for programs, sell concessions at our intramural games, and help us create a welcoming climate for new families.

Please call Mrs. Tisheh at 463-8863 if you want more information!.

How do I get help for my child?

The main goal for parents and schools is for children to be successful. If your child is experiencing problems at school or not processing as you expected, you should contact the teacher and schedule a conference.

The conference will give you an opportunity to meet the teacher and discuss ways you can help your child so that your child will have a positive experience in school. It is important for parents to prepare to a conference with the teacher. The following tips can help you get the most out of the time you have with the teachers:

Discuss the conference with your child: Your child will be able to tell you how he/she is doing. Try to listen to the hidden messages your child may send, like "Ms. J. is going to tell you that I am a messy person. She is always telling me to clean up my desk".

This may mean your child needs help with organizational skills. This would be an area to discuss with the teacher.

Ask Questions: Have a list of questions ready such as:

- How is my child going in reading, mathematics, science, etc.?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- Does my child do their best at school?
- Does my child have friends at school?
- Does my child listen in class?
- How often are tests given in the class?
- Is my child keeping up with the class work?

Share information about your child with the teacher:

You are your child's first teacher and know him/her best. Tell the teacher their likes and dislikes, favorite subjects, hobbies, etc. It is also important to share information about your child's home situation which may affect their school work (such as, a recent divorce/separation, death or serious illness in the family, loss of a job, special health issues or medications, etc.)

This information will help your child's teacher provide additional support as needed to help your child.

Make a plan: Discuss what you can do to help, make plans for a follow-up meeting, see if there are extra tutoring services available.

Discuss the conference with your child: After the conference your child will be curious. Tell your child the positive things

Power Up!!!

Samuel S. Gaines Academy K-8 Dress Code 2015 - 2016

We have a Dress for Success code at Samuel S. Gaines Academy. Students are required to be in dress code every day, unless there is a PBS event that allows them to be out of code.

Our code is quite simple:

- * Collared shirts (solid, striped or plaid)
- * Shirts tucked in
- * Belts with belt loops
- * Bottoms may be shorts, pants, capris, jumpers.
- * Pants worn appropriately
- * No rips or tears in clothing
- * Closed toed and heeled shoes, with heels less than 1 inch (Sandals are not appropriate. Sneakers are the best/safest option)
- * Students may wear jeans any day
- * Students may wear Gaines Academy spirit shirts any day



(This is not a complete list. Please contact the office for a copy of the full policy)

Students who do not comply with the dress code will have consequences. Please be sure to check their attire every

NO BULLY ZONE!!!

Our school is a **NO BULLY ZONE!** St. Lucie County defines bullying as, "...systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees."

Bullying is repeated, intentional and one-sided.

We have a plan in place to eliminate bullying from our school and it requires your support. Please be sure to talk to your child about school. If you hear anything that sounds like bullying please call us and let us know. We have a procedure we follow when investigating these concerns. Suggesting a child handle it themselves often prolongs the problem and can lead to other issues. We are glad to help reteach behavioral expectations to stop bullying.

We also ask that you discuss bullying with your child so they know they can not partake in bullying behavior. Students need to be taught how to treat others fairly and how to accept difference in others. By working together we can stop bullying in our school.

Together, we CAN make a difference!

Important Information

VOLUNTEERS

We have seen excellent results when students receive individual help and we would like to be able to offer this educational opportunity to more students. If you feel that you could volunteer to work with students in a classroom, or help prepare materials for instruction, we would be happy to hear from you. You can reach our volunteer coordinator by calling 462-8888. We ask that all of our volunteers dress professionally while working in our school. Volunteers are not allowed to volunteer in their own child's class or bring younger siblings that are not school aged to

Checkout During the School Day

Parents must come to the front office directly to sign a student out, and the student will be notified to come to the office. Teachers are not allowed to dismiss students from the classroom, cafeteria, or playground without prior notice from the office.

There will be no dismissal of students allowed after 3:30 p.m. unless there is a documented family emergency. Parents must send a written note to school to let the teacher and office know the student will be leaving early.

Students will only be released to adults whose names appear on the emergency card. Parents must notify the office **immediately** of any changes in legal custody. Anyone checking out a student may be asked to show identification if they are

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.

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/>

