

October 2017



S L C S B

# Gaines Gazette

## Principal's Message

Dear Colt Families,

We are off to a great start this year. Our students are demonstrating improvement compared to last years' unit assessments. We encourage you to continue supporting our efforts to educate our future leaders.

Samuel Gaines Academy is fortunate to have committed parents and business partners who support our efforts to supplement and enhance our community of learners. Join us on our journey toward reaching academic excellence. You are invited to become a district approved volunteer in an effort to be part of our learning community on campus and take part in our field trips (call us for more details). You are invited to be part of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) which meets once a month on the following dates this year at 10:00 AM: 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, 3/23, 4/20, and 5/18.

This newsletter serves as a means to inform families of monthly and marking period academic focuses, scheduled parent meetings, and up-coming student activities. Stay tuned for future Parent Newsletters. A copy of the complete Newsletter will also be available at our website found in the St. Lucie County School Portal and clicking under "Our Schools" or at <http://schools.stlucie.k12.fl.us/sga>.

Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,  
*Roberto Bonseñor*  
Principal and Treasure Hunter



**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.**

**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-  
ryday!  
All Children are Capable of  
Success,  
No Exceptions!*

**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!



**School hours  
9:30-4:00**

**College Bound COLTS!  
Spirit Shirts are available for sale in the front office  
\$10 each**



## Parent Involvement

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help, but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversations starters that will help you stay involved.

### ***“Let's see what you brought home.”***

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well he/she's doing. You could comment on their math work or social studies project, for instance. (“You know a lot about our state's history!”) Also, respond to notes from their teacher, and sign their weekly folder or daily planner if required.

### ***“Show me what you have for homework.”***

It's your child's job to do his/her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure they know what they are supposed to do by having he/she explain the assignments to you. After they finish their homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

### ***“Describe a book you enjoyed today.”***

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what they like to read tonight. Encourage their reading and listening skills by reading aloud to them and letting your child read to you.

### ***“Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about.”***

Use their interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If he/she likes geometry, you might hunt for shapes together, If they are fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take them to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals.”



Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he/she asks to stay home “just because,” remind him/her of what he'll/she'll miss, such as his reading group or PE class. Explain that they can be absent only if he/she is sick or if there's a family emergency. Often, the number of days that students are absent and/or tardy can accumulate rapidly. Make sure that you arrive at school and to class in a timely manner.



Every year, thousands of children miss valuable time from the classroom because of the dreaded flu. It hat is not bad enough, they also carry it home, infect loved ones and cause everyone to miss school and work. Based on the data from other counties within the State of Florida and in other states, we know the in-school flu vaccination program works. As we move into the 2017-2018 flu season, there are changes to the vaccination program. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) do not recommend using the flu mist as a vaccine, so the only vaccine available for this year will be administered by injection. Trained skilled staff of nurses will be providing the flu vaccine at our school on Tuesday, October 17th from 11:45—3:00 pm. The vaccine consent form and Notice of Privacy Practices were sent home. There will be no out of pocket expense for services provided and the benefit is providing better protection against the flu this season. If you have any questions please contact the school clinic at 72-462-8872

## Important Information

### 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 to 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. Meeting dates are: **10/13, 11/9, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, & 5/11**. Please call 462-8888 if you want more information!.

### 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!**

### 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 school while volunteering.



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

Phone: 772-462-8888

Fax: 772-468-5004

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



### Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Just a reminder that students may not use their cell phones during school hours. Students who use their phones (for calls, texts, music or other activities) may have them confiscated. It will then be the responsibility of the parent to come to school to get the device.

We do not permit electronic devices on campus. This includes PSPs, Tablets, etc. We do not accept responsibility for these items. If a student uses one of these at school it will be confiscated. It will then be the responsibility of the parent to come to school to get the device. Please note; administrators and deans WILL NOT investigate missing devices. We assume no responsibility in monitoring these electronics.