



GATE TALES

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As we move into October and near the end of the first nine weeks, it's a great time to reflect on how we're supporting our children—both academically and emotionally. One of the most powerful tools we have is conversation. Asking questions like “How was your day?”, “Who did you sit with at lunch?”, or “What was your favorite thing you learned today?” can open doors to deeper understanding and connection. These small moments help children feel seen, heard, and valued.

Encourage your child to share both the joyful and challenging parts of their day. Ask what stood out most, or if they noticed someone who might not have been having a great day—and why. These conversations help children reflect, empathize, and grow.

We also want to empower our students to take ownership of their learning and behavior. Let's guide them to embrace differences, build friendships across backgrounds, and challenge assumptions. It's okay to have big emotions—what matters is learning how to channel them in healthy, respectful ways.

As we approach the end of the first grading period, we encourage all families to closely monitor Skyward Family Access for updates on academic progress. This is a valuable tool for staying informed and supporting your child's success.






Together, we can help our children understand that being respectful, responsible, safe, and ready to learn is a recipe for success—not just in school, but in life.

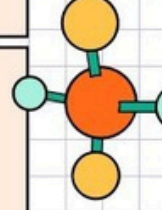
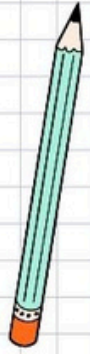
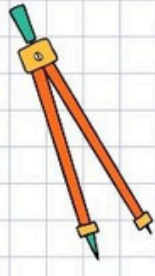
Thank you for being our partners in this journey.

Warmly,

Melissa Hutchings
Assistant Principal

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			K-5 MOM @10AM IN CAFETERIA	 NO SCHOOL	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	END OF 1ST 9 WEEKS	
12 	TEACHER WORK DAY & 6 TH GRADE FUNDRAISER @DAVE & BUSTERS	STUDENT HEALTH SCREENINGS K, 1, 3, 6	15	3 RD GRADE TEXAS ROADHOUSE FUNDRAISER & SCOUTS REG. FOR FAMILIES FROM 6-7PM IN CAFE	Wear Pink Breast Cancer Awareness	18
19	20 PHOTO RETAKES	21	22	50TH DAY OF SCHOOL - 1 ST GRADE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PARENTS NIGHT 5- 7PM	50TH DAY OF 24 SCHOOL - 1 ST GRADE	25
26 	27	28	EARY RELEASE 2PM	30	CHARACTER DRESS UP DAY & BOOSTERTHON KICKOFF	



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Illness Awareness

Mental Illness Awareness Month, observed every October, is dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of mental health conditions and the challenges faced by those living with them. It highlights the importance of compassion, education, and support in breaking the stigma that often surrounds mental illness. Throughout the month, advocates, organizations, and communities work together to share stories, provide resources, and promote access to treatment, reminding everyone that mental illness is common, treatable, and nothing to be ashamed of.

Mental Illness Awareness week is observed from October 6-12, and World Mental Health Day is October 10th. October is also recognized for National Depression and Mental Health Screening.

Here are some statistics from the US and National Data:

-About 4.4% of children (3-17 years of age) in 2016-2019 were diagnosed with depression, 3% in males and 6% in females. For children aged 12-17 years, about 15.1% had a major depressive episode in 2018-2019.

If you or your child knows anyone who may need help St. Lucie Public Schools has resources offered to students, that can be found on our district website under “Student Services”.

<https://988lifeline.org/>

<https://mhanational.org/>

<https://jedfoundation.org/>

<https://www.youthsuicidewarningsigns.org/>



OCT 14
2025

WEST GATE

K-8

*The Mustang
Way*



GRADES
K, 1, 3, 6

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Screenings done by
HEALTH DEPARTMENT NURSES

IMPORTANT

**GUARDIANS MUST COMPLETE FORM IN
SKYWARD WEB BROWSER ONLY
NOT ON THE APP**

Location: • SUNSHINE ROOM •



PTO

**ALL FIELD TRIP CHAPERONES, EVENT VOLUNTEERS, & PTO MEMBERS
MUST COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

Are you interested in getting involved with your child's school?

An approved volunteer application and badge will get you clearance to attend school field trips, field days, and other school wide events happening throughout the year. Visit the district website to learn more.

www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/our-district/volunteers

Did you know there are other benefits of having a volunteer badge? You can also attend upcoming PTO events! Pick and choose whichever events are convenient for you, no other commitments required.

- Fall Festival (November 13)
- Holiday Shop (December 3-10)
- Valentine's Dance (February 12)
- Mustang Melee (Middle School Field Day, March 5 & 6)
- General Meetings every month at 10:00am on: 10/30, 11/20, 12/18, 1/29, 2/26, 3/12, 4/30, and 5/28.

Want to help but don't have the extra time?

You can help in other ways. Reach out to us via email to see how: pslwestgatek8pto@gmail.com or find us on Facebook: West Gate K-8 Port St. Lucie- PTO

Parents Please join us in dressing in
your career/job uniform/attire for
our Fall Literacy Festival

“Chapters of Tomorrow”

Hosted by West Gate K8

November 13, 2025

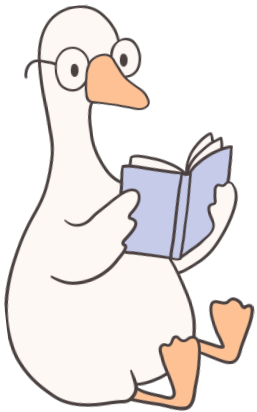
5:30-7:30PM



ESE Department

Ways ESE Parents Can Use Everyday Imagery to Support Reading Fluency

A way for parents to support reading fluency at home is to incorporate evidence-based strategies into everyday activities and routines. Environmental print is defined as text and imagery found in everyday life. Parents can let their children create a shopping list using pictures from a circular and gluing them onto a piece of paper. Reading street signs, traffic signs, and exit signs while driving is an additional way to enhance reading fluency using everyday imagery. Just taking your child along food shopping and having them read and locate items and logos in a store is an easy way to incorporate this evidence-based strategy into everyday life. Environmental print is an excellent, feasible way to encourage confidence in all emerging readers.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten is looking forward to a spooktacular month through academics, our 1st PBIS event, as well as Fall fun days!

In reading, we will be focusing on beginning and ending sounds, differentiating letters from words, vowels and consonants sorts and tracking print as a beginning reader.

In math, we are mastering counting, writing, and recognizing numbers to 10. We are working on counting using a number line and creating patterns independently.

Please continue to practice writing your first and last name and strengthening fine motor skills. Thank you for your continued support to all our kinder families! Happy Fall y'all!!!

First Grade



October is going to be an exciting month in first grade! We have wrapped up our beginning of the year testing, and MTSS is now in full swing. Our students are diving deeper into their reading skills with a daily 30-minute UFLI lesson, in addition to their 90-minute literacy block. These small group sessions are helping each student grow where they need it most! Please continue checking your child's yellow communication folder daily for important updates from your child's teacher, follow up math and UFLI practice sheets, and completed assignments.

Reading: We're learning all about characters and working hard to build strong classroom communities. Please continue practicing high frequency and heart words at home! Once your child can read all Quarter 2 words, they are encouraged to begin working on spelling them as well.

Phonics & Writing: Students are mastering the digraphs sh, th, ch, wh, and ph. They are also working on writing complete sentences using a capital letter to start, finger spacing between words, inventive spelling, and proper punctuation at the end of the sentence.

Math: Students are adding and subtracting within 20 and learning how to collect and interpret data.

Science & Social Studies: First graders will be studying Earth & Space and learning about important historical figures and events that helped shape our world!

Mark your calendars for October 23rd we will be celebrating the 50th Day of School in true 50's style! Students and teachers are invited to dress up in 1950s attire and rotate through fun filled classroom centers including: making root beer floats, dancing at a sock hop, creating a special craft and more! We're so proud of our first graders and all the progress they have made so far. Thank you for your continued support at home, it truly makes a difference!



Second Grade



Happy Fall 2nd grade families! This October we have a Fall Holiday on the 2nd, Scholastic Book Fair from 10/6-10/10, and an early release day on the 29th. **Field trip notice:** We are planning our field trip for March 2026 but are organizing the event in a timely matter. Please look out for notices in your child's folder and messages from your child's teacher on Class Dojo. Further details to follow.

Volunteers: If you are interested in joining us on our field trip in March 2026, please make sure you apply through the school district website as you will need to get fingerprinted and an ID card this year. **Supplies:** If you have yet to send in your child's headphones please do so as soon as you can. Your child will need it for ELA and Math centers and testing. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your child's homeroom teacher via Class Dojo.

Third Grade



We are over a month into school, and everyone is settling into Third Grade academics and expectations.

In Reading, students will be reading a range of famous poems, folktales and myths. We will be learning about how characters shape stories, how character actions influence stories and how characters develop throughout a plot.

In Math, we will continue to improve our fluency with multiplication facts in math in October. We are starting a new geometry unit about quadrilaterals, area, and perimeter. Next, we will work on place value with numbers up to one million.



In Social Studies and Science, students finished up their unit on maps and globes and started their Practice of Science unit. The students are learning how observations are made and how to ask questions about the natural world.

Please encourage your children to read and learn their multiplication facts.



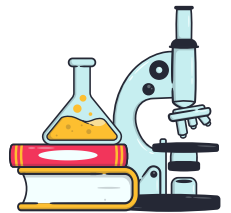
Fourth Grade

School is in full swing, and most subjects are now beginning their third unit of study. Here are a few important reminders to help support your child's learning at home:

-  **Daily Reading:** Encourage your child to read every night to build fluency and comprehension skills.
- $\times \div$ **Multiplication Practice:** Practicing multiplication facts daily will strengthen math foundations and boost confidence.
-  **iReady Homework:** Most students have completed their iReady diagnostic assessments. They can now work on math or reading lessons at home as part of their homework routine.
- **St. Augustine Field Trip**
- Field trip packets were sent home only to parents who returned the interest form. If you would like a permission slip, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.
- All payments are due by the end of October.
- **Book Fair**
- Our school Book Fair will begin at the start of October. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to support your child's love of reading!

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child succeed!

Fifth Grade



5th grade is planning our February 19, 2026 field trip to WonderWorks which is located in Orlando. Please look for the field trip packet in your child's red folders for information.

In math, we are starting Units 3 and , which is multiplication of whole numbers and decimals. Be on the lookout for the Savvas Family Engagement links for extra support at home. Make sure your child is studying their multiplication facts at home.

In Writing students are moving on to Text-Based Expository essays where they will be citing evidence from specific sources and elaborating on that evidence. This will help them prepare for the Social Studies DBQ writing tasks which takes place from 10/6-10/24. Write on!

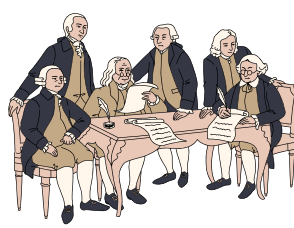
AMP students will understand solving problems involving rational numbers and the four operations and students work with numerical expressions that have more than one operation. They then extend that knowledge to work with algebraic expressions, which include at least one variable, or unknown quantity.

In science, students identify the organs in the human body and describe their functions. Students compare and contrast the functions of animal structures. Students compare and contrast the functions of plant structures.

In Reading students are wrapping up our Unit 1 on Cultivating Natural Resources this week. We will end it with a popcorn celebration. In Unit 2 Titles: Characters' Relationships- we will be shifting from nonfiction to fictional text where students will analyze character relationships, draw inferences, and understand how story elements influence the plot.

In Social Studies students will be starting Chapter 2 soon. This chapter looks at physical features and regions of the United States. Students will locate, analyze and interpret various regional maps and their physical characteristics.

Sixth Grade



In 6th Grade on level and Accelerated Math students are working on Topic 2 - Understand Integers and Rational Numbers. Students will learn how to extend their previous understanding of numbers to define rational numbers. They will practice plotting, ordering, and comparing rational numbers on the number line. They will also learn how to find and interpret absolute value. Students will practice all four operations - adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing rational numbers. We will end the Topic by solving word problems involving Absolute Value.

In World History, students are learning how geography and climate influenced human migration and settlement during the Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic eras. They are comparing the lifestyles of hunter-gatherers and early agricultural communities and identifying the factors that led to the emergence of civilization.

In ELA, students are currently reading prose and poetry text to determine the theme as well as text structure. More specifically, they are learning how to explain how individual text section and/or features convey meaning in a text. In writing, students are working on argumentative text-based writing. Students are learning claims with valid reasons supported by evidence within a text. They will also learn to counterclaim and counterargue in their writing.

In 6th Science, students are exploring the dynamic systems that shape our planet — the biosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and atmosphere — and how they constantly interact in sustaining the Earth, making it a livable planet. From volcanic eruptions and hurricanes to the water cycle and climate change, learners study and investigate real-world phenomena and discover how Earth's systems are interconnected.

Seventh Grade



October is full of learning and growth across all subjects in 7th Grade! Here's what your student will be working on this month:

Civics:

We're delving into the origins of the U.S. Constitution, examining its structure, the three branches of government, and how checks and balances function between the three branches.

Unit Test: Around October 8

Math

On-Level Math:

Wrapping up Topic 2: Proportional Relationships and beginning Topic 3: Analyze and Solve Percent Problems.

Accelerated Math:

Starting Topic 3: Solving Equations and Inequalities.

Science

We're beginning a new unit on apparent and absolute magnitude and distances in space.

Next Unit Test: Date will be announced in class.

English Language Arts (ELA)

We're finishing Unit 1 with the essential question:

"What can one generation learn from another?"

Focus skills include:

- Central Idea
- Author's Purpose
- Text Features



District Unit Exam: Week of October 7–11



Reminder: Students should read at least 20 minutes each night to build fluency.

Eighth Grade



ELA- Students have been working on rhetorical appeals and argument writing. In this upcoming week, we will be reviewing the standards that we have focused on so that they can take their unit one exams. While at home next week, have students study their reading notes.

Math- Geometry unit 2 is parallel lines cut by transversals, perpendicular lines, and triangle angle relationships. Students are learning to prove these theorems and properties. Next, we will learn Transformations: translate, reflect, rotate, and dilate.

Algebra is reviewing linear equations and then discovering linear functions. The next unit test is on Tuesday, October 7th.

Pre-algebra is finishing a unit on exponent rules then diving into solving equations and inequalities.

Science- We are wrapping up our Unit on understanding the relationship between the earth, sun and moon. Our unit 2 test will be Tuesday, Sept 30th. We then begin to explore our Solar System as a whole in Unit 3.

Spanish- We are still learning about Hispanic culture in our Spanish classes. The students have had multiple opportunities to bring up / maintain their grades for a healthy first quarter report card. Please continue to check Skyward.

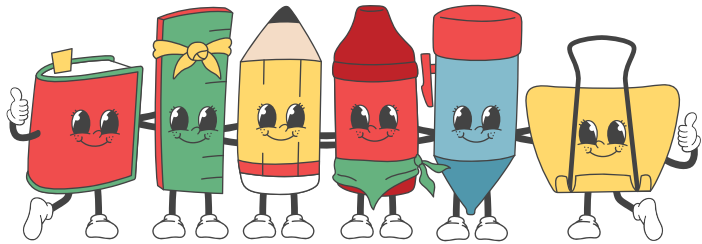
U.S. History- In Social Studies, our students are stepping into the shoes of historians and detectives as they investigate the causes behind the Salem Witch Trial hysteria of 1692. Through critical thinking and analysis, they're crafting essays that explore this fascinating and eerie chapter of American history. Up next, we'll be sharpening our research skills in preparation for the History Day project, an exciting opportunity for students to dive deep into topics that matter to them. Then, we'll launch into Unit 3: The Road to the American Revolution, a unit packed with engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and meaningful discussions. Be sure to ask your student what they're learning —there's a lot to talk about!

Electives



West Gate's media center is off to a strong start with over 1,500 book checkouts already! Students visit the library during resource (grades K-2), scheduled class time (grades 3-5), or open library from 9:05-9:25 (grades 3-8). This year's Sunshine State Young Reader Award books are the most popular. Check out FAME's website for the current list!

Our fall book fair will run from November 12th-20th, with a family night during our Fall Fest on the 13th. Students will visit during their media or STEM resource. Middle schoolers are invited to visit during morning hours of 9:00-10:00. Look out for flyers and permission slips to go home about a week prior to the fair. Proceeds from the book fair go towards media supplies, books, and sponsor programming such as book clubs and the Sunshine State Young Reader Award initiative. This is a great opportunity to purchase holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Thank you for supporting our library!



SAC

Join us for the School Advisory Council!

SAC is the sole body responsible for final decision making here at West Gate K-8. Parents and guardians are invited and welcome to attend the monthly SAC meeting and be a part of this process. Meetings are held the last Friday of each month at 8:30 AM in the Sunshine Room, unless otherwise noted.

Meet The Team

SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S



Jennifer Votino, the counselor for grades K-2. I am in charge of K-2 placement's, initial 504 meeting's and am the Counselor Lead.



Zoie Griffiths, counselor for grades 3 & 4 and do their placement's as well. I am also the contact person for ESOL.



Vernetia Coawrt, counselor for 5th and 6th grade. I do 5th grade placements and 6th grade scheduling.



Christine Derry, the counselor for 7th & 8th grade, middle school scheduling



Dress Code

2025-2026



We encourage students to take pride in their attire as it relates to the school setting. Students are to dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the safety, health, and welfare of self and others, and does not disrupt the learning environment. **Appropriateness of dress shall be determined by the school administration** per Governing Board Policy. If there is a dress code violation, the student will be allowed to change clothing to correct the dress code violation

Permitted	Not Permitted
Tops - Shirts and Blouses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must have sleeves, reach hips, & have school appropriate logos, images, and phrases. Bottoms - Pants, Joggers, Jeans, Capris, Shorts, Skirts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be worn at the waist and be fingertip-length or longer.• Any clothing with frays or distressed material must <u>not</u> reveal skin. Dresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must have sleeves and be loosely fitted.• Must be fingertip-length or longer. Sweaters, hoodies and Jackets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be worn with a school appropriate shirt underneath.• Hoods must remain down while on school grounds. Shoes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All footwear must be closed-toed and have a back or strap. Head Attire/Jewelry: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headbands (non-distracting) must be worn on top of the head and not on the forehead.	Clothing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No spandex, tight fitting, see-through.• No leggings, pajama pants, jeggings, onesies, yoga pants, biking/compression shorts.*Leggings/bike shorts may be worn only when under a dress/skirt or shorts of appropriate length*• No clothing with alcohol, drugs or weapons references or anything profane, obscene or indicating gang or criminal association. No visible undergarments. No clothing with holes, rips, frays or tears that expose skin. Shoes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No flip flops, house slippers or slides.• No shoes with wheels Head Attire/Jewelry: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No kerchiefs, caps, hats, sunglasses, bandanas, doo-rags, sweatbands, and combs on hair or similar items are permitted.• No spiked jewelry.• No headphones, Air Pods, earbuds• Shower caps

****State Law – Each student is prohibited from, while on school grounds during the regular school day, wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or in a manner that disrupts the orderly learning environment. A student who violates this dress policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary actions as outlined by the Code of Conduct.**

Disciplinary Action/Consequences

- Verbal warning and opportunity to correct dress code
- Parent Contact
- Conference with administration AND Lunch detention
- Saturday school/In School Suspension
- Violations may result in a modified dress code determined by administration (examples include but are not limited to the requirement of wearing belts, clear backpacks, zippered jackets, etc.)

Due to rapid changes in our society, it may become necessary to modify the dress code or to include additional items at the judgement of administration.