



GATE TALES

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As we step into November, a season rich with reflection and gratitude, we pause to celebrate the incredible spirit that defines our campus. As an A-rated school, our success is a direct result of the dedication, creativity, and collaboration that fill our hallways each day.

This month, we remain committed to our mission to Embrace, Empower, Excel. We embrace every learner's journey, empower their growth, and excel together through meaningful experiences both in and out of the classroom. One of the highlights this month is our "Chapters of Tomorrow" Literary Fall Festival on November 13th from 5:30-7:30. This event not only celebrates the joy of reading and storytelling, but also connects literature to career exploration, helping students imagine the many paths their passions can lead them toward. It's a powerful reminder that every chapter they write today shapes the future they'll lead tomorrow.

As we give thanks this season, let us also recognize the everyday moments of excellence happening all around us. Whether it's a kind word, a breakthrough in learning, or a shared laugh in the lunchroom, gratitude lives in the details. Thank you for being part of a school community that continues to inspire. Together, we Embrace, Empower, Excel.

Warmly,

Leslie M. Taylor

Assistant Principal

MISSION:

REACH OUR

GOAL!



Your paragraph text

Share your page

mybooster.com

Not registered yet? Head to **MyBooster.com** to join the fun and help fund student and staff incentives, field trips, school activities, testing and attendance rewards, and school events.

CHAPTERS OF TOMORROW

WEST GATE K-8

FALL LITERACY FESTIVAL

SOME
ITEMS FOR
PURCHASE

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13

5:30 PM
TO
7:30 PM

FREE
ENTRY

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

BOOK FAIR - MR. CALVO DJING - ACTIVITIES -
FOOD & DRINK VENDORS -
GAMES - PRIZES - FIRST RESPONDERS -
CAREER SHOWCASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Books

CALL +772-807-7600

MENTAL HEALTH

Men's Mental Health Awareness

Men's mental health awareness is an important movement that aims to break the stigma surrounding emotional struggles and encourage men to seek help when they need it. Many men face pressure to appear strong and self-reliant, which can make it difficult to talk about feelings or mental health challenges. Raising awareness helps promote open conversations, early intervention, and access to support systems. By normalizing mental health care for men, society can help reduce rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide, while fostering healthier relationships and communities.

Statistics about men's mental health:

-Nearly 1 in 10 men report daily feelings of anxiety or depression, though less than half of that report talking to a professional or using medication.

-In the past year as of 2024, the highest rate of any mental illness was the 26-29-year age group at 32%, 10% having serious mental illness

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/>



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



Florida Diagnostic & Learning
— RESOURCES SYSTEM —

November Parent and Family Virtual Learning Opportunities

Visual Supports for Families 11/04/2025 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Four supportive steps to help children learn about their feelings, gain self-control, and reduce challenging behaviors. F-Feelings, L-Limits, I-Inquiries, P-Prompts. Learn the FLIP IT steps and get started changing behavior.

Link: [Visuals Zoom](#)

Executive Functioning for Families 11/04/2025 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join us for a research-based professional learning opportunity focusing on how students with executive functioning needs can be supported in all learning environments. Examples are how to get organized, take notes, help with working

Link: [Executive Functioning Zoom](#)

Sensory Island for Family 11/12/2025 6:00pm – 7:00 pm

Join us for a parent learning opportunity to assist your child who may exhibit sensory integration difficulties. You will leave with an understanding of sensory systems and how they may impact your child's learning and behavior. Finally, you will learn multiple ways to address sensory needs in the home setting.

Link: [Sensory Zoom](#)

Behavior Strategies in the Home 11/12/2025 7:15 pm – 8:15 pm

Join us for a quick journey on The Road to Behavior Strategies: Tips and Tools for Families and Caregivers. We will learn how to examine challenging behaviors and utilize behavior strategies to help your children at home.

Link: [Behavior Zoom](#)

If you are reading this on a printed flyer, please go to fdlrsgalaxy.org click on the calendar and locate the event to access the zoom link.

FDLRS is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B and State General Revenue funds.

ESE Department



Reading can be a journey, but for some students, it may present challenges and obstacles. Fortunately, there are several ways you can support your child at home to help make reading a fun and enjoyable experience. Consider the following tips:

1. Read every day, even if it's just for a few minutes. Over time, this can gradually increase to longer reading sessions.
2. Offer choices in reading materials. Let your child select what they'd like to read. It's important to remember that reading should be a pleasurable experience.
3. Read together and engage with the story. Ask questions, make comments, and discuss what's happening in the book to deepen understanding and connection.
4. Listen to audiobooks. These can provide comfort and reduce the stress of decoding text, especially for struggling readers.
5. Celebrate reading successes often. This could include finishing a book, making predictions, or answering questions about the story correctly.



Kindergarten



Our Kindergarten Mustangs have successfully completed their 1st nine weeks of their educational journey here at West Gate K-8 with success! The Kinder Teachers want to thank all kinder families for your amazing support for the past 9 weeks for your children and teachers! We appreciate y'all!

This month in reading, students will learn about CVC words, beginning and ending sounds, and distinguishing between main characters and meaningful story events. In math, we will be learning to collect and sort objects into categories, graphs, and essential addition. In writing, we are learning to write a complete sentence using an uppercase letter to begin, proper spacing between words, and using end punctuation.

Now, for our BIG NEWS!!!!

Our annual Kindergarten "Biggest Little Show" will take place on Wednesday November 19, 2025 @10:00am. Please check your child's red communication folder daily! More Information about our upcoming show, BOOSTERTHON events and any other communication will be sent home soon! Thank you again for all your support!

First Grade



West Gate first graders are off to a wonderful start to the second quarter! In reading, we are diving into Unit 3: "Being a Good Community Member" and Unit 4: "Learning How Stories Have Narrators." Through these units, students are discovering what it means to contribute positively to their community and how stories come to life through different voices and perspectives.

We are especially excited about a new opportunity for our students to read aloud to staff members across our campus. This experience will help build confidence, improve reading fluency, and foster a lifelong love for reading. It's heartwarming to watch their enthusiasm and pride shine as they share their growing skills!

In UFLI, our students are focusing on -ng and -nk endings, digraph review, and the long a sound. Please continue working on high-frequency and heart words daily! By memorizing these words, your child will boost both their reading fluency and comprehension.

In Math, students are learning about place value and extending the counting sequence. These foundational skills help strengthen number sense and prepare students for more complex math concepts. I-Ready is a wonderful tool to use at home for extra practice and review of standards being taught at your child's level. Our weekly goal is to complete 45 minutes in both reading and math!

In Social Studies, we are excited to begin learning about our patriotic symbols and what they represent. This unit helps students develop a sense of pride and understanding about our country and its history.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's educational journey!



Second Grade



Hello 2nd grade families! We would like to remind you that we have our fall festival on November 13th. We hope to see you there. Also, continue to practice the weekly UFLI lessons at home and the math additional practice. Please continue to check Class Dojo and our monthly newsletter for all news related to second grade. Thank you!

Third Grade



Third grade students are growing quickly into confident, independent learners! Each student is working hard demonstrating responsibility.

We're excited to share that our third graders have just wrapped up Unit 2 in Reading, which focused on fiction reading and storytelling skills. The students explored characters, settings, and plot development with great enthusiasm! We are now beginning Unit 3, which shifts our focus to nonfiction texts aligned with third-grade standards. This unit will help students build skills in identifying central ideas, using text features, and understanding informational content. As part of our reading journey, we hope everyone is enjoying *The Wild Robot*! We're looking forward to having meaningful conversations with students about the book and seeing how it connects to our learning. In math, we are finishing up our place value unit. Next, we are moving onto adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers within 1,000. We will also focus on rounding and estimation with these numbers. We keep circling back to multiplication fluency as well.



🍁 Happy Fall, 4th Grade Families! 🍁

Fourth Grade

We're working hard every day to help your child succeed and grow! Please continue to encourage daily reading, regular math practice, and time on iReady. These habits make a big difference in building strong academic skills.

Math Update – Growing Minds at Work!

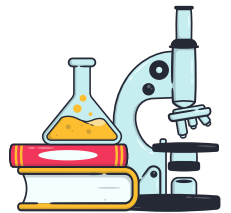
Our students are expanding their math skills every day! They've mastered division and are now diving into operations with whole numbers and exploring patterns. As we move forward, we'll continue reinforcing multiplication facts to ensure they are fully memorized—this foundation is key to future success in math. Keep practicing at home and celebrating their progress!

Reading Update – Building Strong Readers!

Our students are growing as readers every day! They are developing key comprehension strategies, exploring text structures, and learning to identify main ideas and supporting details. We're also working on fluency and vocabulary to strengthen their understanding and confidence. Encourage nightly reading at home to help reinforce these skills and foster a lifelong love of reading!

Thank you for your support and partnership in your child's learning journey!

Fifth Grade



Argumentative essay writing here we come! Students will have opportunities to participate in different kinds of debates. They will be asked to choose a side and give reasons for why they have chosen that side. Teachers will be focusing on the evidence students are finding in the documents given to them, to make sure they are choosing critical information to back up their position. DBQs will begin too, these are disciplined based questions that students will have to answer and argue with evidence to prove their side

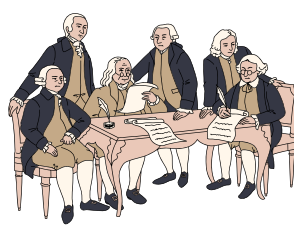
Science: Students will work identify the organs in the human body and describe their functions. Students will compare and contrast the functions of animal structures and the functions of plant structures.

AMP: For the first part of November, student will work to understand evaluating numerical and algebraic expressions and writing algebraic expressions in equivalent forms. Then, students learn that a problem situation can often be represented by an equation or an inequality that includes a variable. The equation or inequality can then be solved to find a solution to the problem situation.

In math, we are working on multiplication of whole numbers and decimals. We will also start division of whole numbers and decimals. Please continue to be sure your child is studying their facts at home for fluency.

In Reading we are wrapping up unit 2 this week which was Realistic Fiction. We will begin unit 3 which is nonfiction on The Constitution. We will be working on finding and using text evidence.

Sixth Grade



The 6th grade ELA students have successfully completed their first unit assessment! We will continue to follow the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for instruction, incorporating differentiated learning strategies daily to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

In World History, students are analyzing the relationship of the physical geography to the development of Egypt. They are examining how the flooding of the Nile River directly affected the people of ancient Egypt. Students are also learning about the contributions of key figures from the three eras of the ancient Egyptian Kingdoms from monumental architecture to the advancement of writing, record keeping, and art.

Math this month is filled with lessons designed to strengthen students' critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and overall confidence in mathematics.

We will begin the month by continuing Topic 3: Simplifying Algebraic Expressions, where students learn how to combine like terms and apply the distributive property to simplify expressions. This foundational skill sets the stage for more advanced algebraic thinking.

Starting in the second week of November, we will transition into Topic 4: Solving Equations and Inequalities. In this unit, students will explore how to solve one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities and apply these skills to real-world scenarios.

Our 6th grade scientists have been diving into the fascinating world of weather and climate! From exploring how clouds form to understanding the difference between daily weather and long-term climate patterns, students are building a strong foundation in Earth science.



Reminder: The next District Science Assessment is scheduled for Thursday, November 6th. Please encourage your child to review their notes, complete any study guides, and get plenty of rest the night before. We're excited to see all their hard work shine!

Seventh Grade



Dear Families,

As we move into November, here's a look at what your student will be learning across core subjects. We're excited to continue building skills and exploring new concepts.

Advanced Math:

Students are beginning Topic 4, which focuses on analyzing proportional relationships. Key concepts include:

- Equivalent ratios
- Constant of proportionality
- Customary units
- Graphing proportional relationships

At the end of this unit, students will take the District 2 Assessment, which covers Units 3 and 4.

On-Level Math:

Students will wrap up Topic 3 on proportional relationships and take the District 2 Assessment, covering Topics 2 and 3.

Next, they'll begin Topic 4, which focuses on writing algebraic expressions in equivalent forms. Students will:

- Generate, simplify, expand, add, and subtract expressions
- Analyze and write equivalent expressions

Civics

We're diving into Unit 6: How Government Works. Students will explore:

- The structure, function, and processes of the U.S. federal government
- How the Constitution establishes these systems
- The levels of courts at both the state and federal levels

Important Note:

There will be no unit exams in November.

Instead, students will take a Mid-Year Check in December, covering Units 1–6.

Test Window: December 10–19 (Exact date to be announced soon)

Seventh Grade



Science

Students are beginning Unit 5: Energy and Matter. They'll investigate:

- Forms of energy
- Energy transfer
- Conservation of matter

Unit Test: Scheduled for December (date to be announced)

ELA (English Language Arts)

In November, students will continue their drama unit by reading A Christmas Carol.

They'll focus on:

- How setting impacts character and plot development
- Author's purpose
- Perspective and point of view
- Theme

Unit 2 Test: Scheduled for early December (exact date to be announced)

If you have any questions or would like to check in on your student's progress, feel free to reach out. We're looking forward to a productive and engaging month ahead.

Eighth Grade

ELA Information:

We are beginning our study of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, with a focus on standard R.1.1—examining character development, setting, and plot. In addition, students will explore the structural elements of drama and gain a deeper understanding of what makes up a play.

In writing, we will be reviewing and practicing extended written responses using the R.A.C.E. strategy: Restate, Answer, Cite, and Explain. This approach will help students develop clear, well-supported responses to text-based questions.

Math Update:

Pre-Algebra- Students move on to Solving Equations and Inequalities, then Understand Linear Relationships. There will be a Unit Test for the last two units.

Algebra- Students will be discovering solutions with 2 Linear Equations, called Systems of Linear Equations then move on to Inequalities. Be prepared for one homework assignment per week, and a Test around November 18th/19th.

Geometry- In Unit 5, we will discuss Relationships in Triangles. We know how to prove congruence, but now we deal with perpendicular bisectors and angle bisectors inside the triangle. Geometry students will discover how sides, segments, and angles of triangles are related.

In Science News:

We are well into Unit 3, The Solar System, and about to start exploring Unit 4, Stars and Galaxies. These units are combined given their nature. Students will have a Unit 3 & 4 test on Thursday, November 6th (with a make-up day on the Friday the 7th).

Unit 3 Big Idea: The components of our solar system have specific patterns of movement, organization, and characteristics.

Unit 4 Big Idea: Different characteristics are used to describe the universe and the relative scale of its components, including stars and galaxies.

The Unit 4 test is scheduled for 11/5/25. Make sure your student is completing all Penda assignments on time!!

Spanish:

Students should be studying their Spanish vocabulary. Spanish 2 students should be working on their project.

8th Grade U.S. History Update:

Please make sure your student has completed all Xello lessons for career planning that were due on 10/14.

In class, we're diving into the American Revolution through project-based learning! Ask your student about:

- The greatest break-up letter of all time
- Washington crossing the Delaware
- The role of women in the war

We're excited to see their curiosity and critical thinking shine!



WEST GATE **8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP** **GRADVENTURE**

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST, 2026

\$300 TOTAL OR 2 PAYMENTS OF \$150

INCLUDES MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION,
ALL ADMISSIONS
(UNIVERSAL & ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE) & TAXES,
ONE MEAL AND T-SHIRT



THINGS TO KNOW:

MUST RIDE BUS TO AND FROM UNIVERSAL
BUS LEAVES AT 2PM- RETURNS AT 2AM
STUDENTS MUST WEAR T-SHIRT PROVIDED

SIGN UP BY FRIDAY, NOV. 20
ONE PAYMENT OR TWO PAYMENTS ALLOWED

*FIRST PAYMENT DUE 11/20/25

*SECOND PAYMENT DUE 2/26/26

FULL PAYMENTS DUE BY THURSDAY, 2/26/26

FIELD TRIP REVOKED IF STUDENT RECEIVES
6 DISCIPLINE POINTS STARTING SEPT. 1, 2025
NO REFUNDS/NO EXCEPTIONS

GRADVENTURE 2026

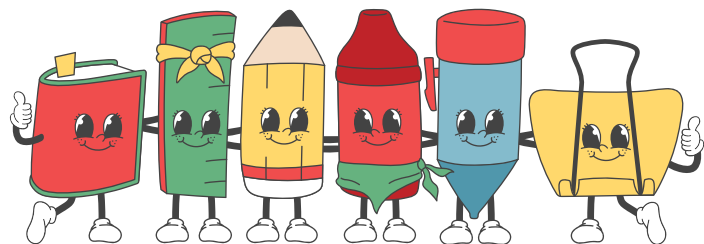
E-mail: Dana.Jeffries@stlucieschools.org

Electives



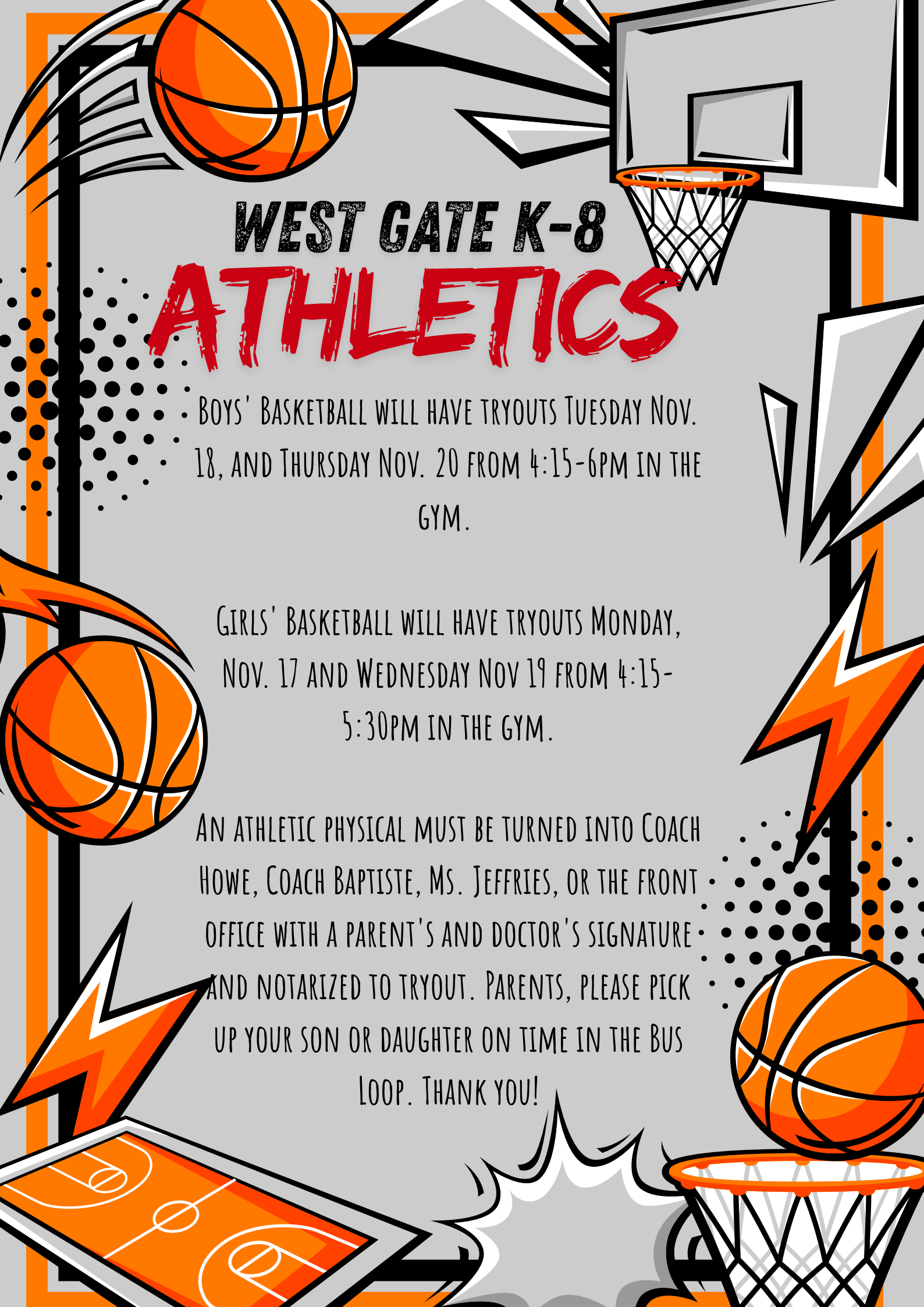
The West Gate K-8 Band program has been working hard throughout these last few weeks on music for our Winter Concert, which will be held on December 10th, at 6:30PM. Location of the concert is still to be determined, so please keep a lookout on our social media for further details. There will be a variety of music that will be played, and the concert will feature our beginning, concert, symphonic, and jazz band students. The concert will be free of charge, but we will be accepting donations to support the band and keep it thriving. Students in the band should have already received their shirt order slips to order their black polo shirts for the concert, which will be \$25.00. The link is on Schoolpay, and the slips have a QR code which brings you directly to the link. Students are expected to wear this polo shirt for the concert to ensure we are all in uniform.

That being said, we are also still in need of used instruments such as flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and xylophone mallets to be donated to our program for our students. A few students are sharing with other classmates, and we would love to see every student have their own instrument. Please reach out to Mr. Halle at tanner.halle@stlucieschools.org if you have any questions about this. We appreciate your support and hope you can join us next month for our concert, for it will certainly have you feeling holly AND jolly!



SAC

The next SAC meeting is November 21st at 8:30am



WEST GATE K-8 **ATHLETICS**

BOYS' BASKETBALL WILL HAVE TRYOUTS TUESDAY NOV. 18, AND THURSDAY NOV. 20 FROM 4:15-6PM IN THE GYM.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL WILL HAVE TRYOUTS MONDAY, NOV. 17 AND WEDNESDAY NOV 19 FROM 4:15-5:30PM IN THE GYM.

AN ATHLETIC PHYSICAL MUST BE TURNED INTO COACH HOWE, COACH BAPTISTE, MS. JEFFRIES, OR THE FRONT OFFICE WITH A PARENT'S AND DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE AND NOTARIZED TO TRYOUT. PARENTS, PLEASE PICK UP YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER ON TIME IN THE BUS LOOP. THANK YOU!



FALL FEST CANDY DRIVE

PLEASE DONATE INDIVIDUALLY
WRAPPED CANDY!

OCTOBER 27–NOVEMBER 10

THERE WILL BE A WINNER FOR
PK-2, 3-5 AND 6-8

THE CLASS WITH THE MOST
CANDY WILL WIN A SPECIAL TREAT!

DROP OFF CANDY TO YOUR DESIGNATED
GRADE GROUP REPRESENTATIVE:

PRE-K- 2ND: MRS. BERNIER (ROOM 3-156)

3RD-5TH: MS. A. TAYLOR (ROOM 1-110)

6TH-8TH: MS. STEFANCIK (ROOM 2-232)



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: • Must have sleeves, reach hips, & have school appropriate logos, images, and phrases. Bottoms - Pants, Joggers, Jeans, Capris, Shorts, Skirts: • 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: • Must have sleeves and be loosely fitted. • Must be fingertip-length or longer. Sweaters, hoodies and Jackets: • Must be worn with a school appropriate shirt underneath. • Hoods must remain down while on school grounds. Shoes: • All footwear must be closed-toed and have a back or strap. Head Attire/Jewelry: • Headbands (non-distracting) must be worn on top of the head and not on the forehead.	Clothing: • 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: • No flip flops, house slippers or slides. • No shoes with wheels Head Attire/Jewelry: • 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.