



GATE TALES

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

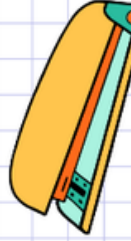
Welcome
Mr. Cobb



Hello West Gate K8 families!

My name is Kyle Cobb, and I'm excited to join the West Gate K8 community as one of your Assistant Principals. As a product of Saint Lucie Public Schools, I am proud to serve the community that I come from. This is my 14th year in education, having served most recently as an Assistant Principal at Lincoln Park Academy. In my time with Saint Lucie Public Schools, I have been both an elementary and a high school teacher and was named Teacher of the Year at Fort Pierce Westwood Academy in 2022. As a parent of two children myself, I know that the relationship between the school and community is essential to our children's success.

I look forward to working with and serving the West Gate K8 community.



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1  NO SCHOOL	2 6-8 FAST TRAINING	3 K-5 MOM @10AM IN CAFETERIA	4 6-8 FAST PM1 READING	5	6
7	3-5 FAST PM1 MATH	9 3-5 FAST PM1 MATH & 5-8 PICTURE DAY	 NO SCHOOL 10 FOR STUDENTS	11 6-8 FAST PM1 MATH 	12 K-4 PICTURE DAY	13
14	FAST MAKE UPS START Colors of Our Heritage Day	16 STAR MATH GRADE 1	17 STAR MATH GRADE 1	18 STAR MATH GRADE 2	19 STAR MATH GRADE 2	20
21	22	23 	24	25 Parent Curriculum Night Title 1 Night 5:30-7:00pm	26 FAST MAKE UPS END	27
28	29	30				

WEST GATE K-8

SEPTEMBER 15TH & 17TH
4:15-5:30PM

JOIN OUR FALL

VOLLEYBALL CAMP 2025

6TH - 8TH
AGE GROUP
GRADE



Registration Fee

 \$10.00

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS AND HAVE FUN
BEFORE TRYOUTS

Must have Athletic Physical

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Fitness & conditioning drills
- Skill development
- Try-out Readiness

M.S. VB TRYOUTS

- Grades 6th - 8th

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24
4:15-5:30PM

See Coach Jeffries - Room 2-230

West Gate K-8 presents...

Colors of Our Heritage Day



When: September 15th

What: Wear the colors that
represent your heritage
DRESS CODE MUST BE FOLLOWED

Hispanic Heritage Month

We are excited to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month beginning September 15th with our Colors of Our Heritage Day! Students are encouraged to wear the colors that represent their family's heritage and culture. In addition, we will be launching a special art contest to showcase student creativity—more details will be shared soon.



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

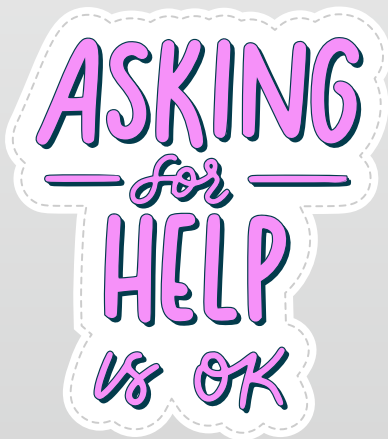
- Verbal warning and opportunity to correct dress code
- Parent Contact
- Conference with administration AND Lunch detention
- Saturday school/In School Suspension
- Violations may result in a modified dress code determined by administration (examples include but are not limited to the requirement of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

MENTAL HEALTH

Suicide Prevention Month

Suicide Prevention Month, observed every September, is a time dedicated to raising awareness about suicide, reducing stigma, and promoting resources that support mental health and well-being. It serves as a crucial reminder that suicide is a serious public health issue that affects individuals, families and communities. Throughout the month, organizations, advocates, and communities come together to share stories of hope, highlight warning signs, and encourage open conversations about mental health. By promoting education, compassion, and access to support services, Suicide Prevention Month aims to save lives and remind those who are struggling that they are not alone, and help is always available.



NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
MONTH



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/>



ESE Department

Supporting Every Learner: What Parents Should Know About Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

Every child learns in their own way — and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) is designed to make sure that students with unique learning needs get the support they deserve to thrive.

What Is ESE?

ESE provides specialized instruction and services for students with disabilities or gifted learners. It supports areas like learning disabilities, autism, speech/language delays, behavioral challenges, and more.

How Can Parents Support Their Child?

- Stay informed and attend IEP meetings
- Communicate with teachers regularly
- Focus on your child's strengths
- Ask questions and advocate confidently



Connect with other ESE families for support

Final Thought

ESE is about creating the best path for your child. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to our school's ESE team — you're not alone in this journey.



Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Teachers and their littles have started the school year off with lots of learning and energy too! We are excited to work with you and your child as they embark on their academic journey! We urge all families to join the communication platform (Dojo, Remind etc.) for your child's teacher AND check it often. Also, please join West Gate K-8 Facebook page as this is the most up to date for "EVERYTHING" throughout the school year. Our Kinder classes have all been very busy mastering daily classroom routines, expectations and following directions. We have enjoyed exploring our new "BIG school", singing new songs and meeting new friends! Lastly, we are learning to be independent while adapting to our kindergarten/school family! Of course, lots and lots AND LOTS of hugs are shared daily to help get through each day these first few weeks! Thank you to our families for all your continued support to ensure your child's success thus far! ❤️

First Grade



We are off to a wonderful start in first grade! The pods are already buzzing with excitement, as students settle into their new routines and build connections with their teachers and classmates. It has been heartwarming to see their confidence grow each day as they embrace new challenges and celebrate small victories.

This year promises to be full of meaningful milestones such as reading independently, solving problems with perseverance, and forming lasting friendships. Your children are adjusting beautifully, and we could not be prouder of their enthusiasm.

We are looking forward to a successful year of learning together. Thank you for being such an important part of your child's educational journey! Please remember to check the yellow communication folder and ClassDojo daily to stay informed about classroom news and important updates.

The following is a peek of what your child will be learning during the month of September:

Reading: In Unit 1, we will dive into informational text about animal and plant life cycles. Unit 2 will take us on a journey through fairy tales, fables, fantasy, and realistic fiction, where characters face and overcome challenges. **UFLI (Phonics):** We will be starting with short vowel sound review, the FLSZ spelling rule, and word endings like -all, -oll, -ull, and -ck. Look out for practice activities sent home to reinforce these skills. **Writing:** Students are learning to write complete sentences using a capital letter to begin, proper spacing between words, inventive spelling to stretch out the sounds they hear in words, and end punctuation. **Math:** We are building a solid foundation in addition and subtraction within twenty using hands-on manipulatives and problem-solving strategies. **Science:** Our focus this month is on the practices of science, with exciting explorations into Earth and space.



Second Grade



Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year Second grade families! We started the school year with a fresh start and a smooth transition! Kudos to your children for remembering many of the schoolwide rules and procedures. In September we have Star math assessments on the 18th and 19th you can communicate with your child's teacher for specific details on the day and time if interested.

Supplies: If you have not done so, please send in your child's supplies as soon as possible as your child will need the items on the list for their classes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher on Class Dojo. Hope to see you all for curriculum night on the 1st of October!

Third Grade



We are excited to be back at school! Students have become familiar with the expectations of third grade. We are having fun getting to know each other!

In Reading, students started Benchmark Advance. Students are building comprehension skills learning central idea and relevant details and text structure. In Writing, students are starting to develop complete sentences with subjects and predicates. Students have been introduced to 3 paragraph essays. In Social Studies, students are having fun learning about maps and globes and finding their way around the world! In Math, students started an 8 week unit which covers multiplication and division. We are practicing our factors up to the number 12. Please work with your child to help them learn their multiplication facts.



Fourth Grade



Welcome back to a new school year! 🎉 We're thrilled to partner with you to help your child thrive in 4th grade. This year promises to be full of growth, discovery, and exciting learning opportunities. Here are just a few things to look forward to:

Math Focus

- **Daily Practice:** Students are expected to practice their multiplication facts every day to build fluency and confidence.
- **iReady Diagnostic:** Once the initial diagnostic is complete, students will begin working on personalized lessons in both math and reading through iReady. These lessons are tailored to meet each child's individual learning needs and help them grow at their own pace.

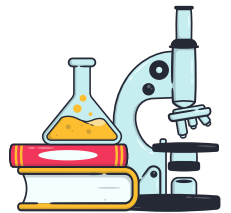
Reading Goals

- **Essential Ideas & Details:** Students will learn how to identify key ideas and supporting details in both fiction and nonfiction texts.
- **Purpose & Perspective:** We'll explore the author's purpose and point of view to deepen comprehension and critical thinking.
- **Figurative Language:** Students will be introduced to similes, metaphors, idioms, and more to enhance their understanding and appreciation of language.
- **Summarizing:** We'll practice summarizing texts to help students focus on main ideas and improve retention.
- **Vocabulary Building:** Each week, students will encounter and work with new vocabulary words to expand their language skills and reading fluency.

Field Trip Reminder

For those of you who marked "Yes" for the upcoming field trip, the permission slip packet will be sent home at the beginning of September. Please review, sign, and return it by the due date to ensure your child is able to attend.

Fifth Grade



In Reading students are working on Unit 1 of the Benchmark Reading Program, titled Cultivating Natural Resources, 5th graders are exploring how people interact with the environment to meet their needs. Through engaging texts, students learn about different types of natural resources—like water, soil, and plants—and how these resources are used, conserved, and sometimes challenged by human activity. They practice key reading skills such as identifying main ideas, analyzing text structure, and using evidence to support their thinking. This unit encourages students to think critically about sustainability and the role they play in protecting the planet, while also building vocabulary and comprehension strategies that support deeper understanding across subjects. Also in reading, we are continuing our informational unit on natural resources, focusing on central idea, text structures, and summarizing. We will also begin unit 2, studying character development, perspectives, and theme. We are excited to increase our vocabulary with engaging activities each week. To help at home, have your child start using some of our new words when speaking.

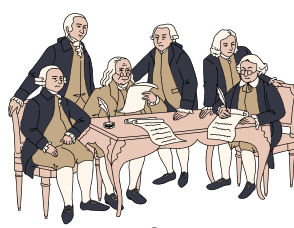
In writing classes, we are working on Expository writing. Students have read prompts, identified important language in their prompts, and will be working together as a class to create an Expository essay.

In Science, Paper airplanes were flying around as students investigated the perfect airplane design for a fast straight flight! They will be learning about Space in September.

AMP: Students began the year solving operations with positive rational numbers. In September, we will begin discussing both positive and negative rational numbers and learn how to work with numbers with negative values.

In math we are wrapping up Unit 1: Place Value with Multi-Digit and Decimal Numbers. We have been engaged in questions using vertical white boards and doing small group instruction. Our next unit starts this week which will be Adding and Subtracting Decimals. Please continue to have your kids study multiplication facts as everything in 5th grade comes back to multiplying and dividing.

Sixth Grade



In ELA, middle schoolers are diving into an exciting season of learning! We're preparing for Progress Monitoring 1 (PM1) to showcase their growth and understanding. Students are building their vocabulary skills to strengthen reading comprehension and expression. They are also exploring new writing techniques as they transition into confident, capable middle school writers. We're proud of their hard work and can't wait to see their progress!

In World History, students are learning the parts of maps and globes, i.e. Legends, keys, compass rose, cardinal directions. Also, general world geography: 7 continents, major oceans, equator, prime meridian, latitude, longitude, 6 countries that will be studied throughout the year. Next, students will learn about landforms, climate and weather and how that affects human settlement, cultural practices and architecture.

September is the time when we launch on an exciting journey to discover the world of integers. Students will extend their previous understanding of numbers to define integers. They will learn that integers can represent quantities such as temperature, sea level, financial transactions, and many other quantities. In this comprehensive exploration, they will learn everything about integers, including their properties, operations, and their crucial applications in various real-life scenarios, helping them understand the importance and relevance of the subject.

In Science, students will engage in class discussions, group collaborations, videos and presentations to further understand how scientific knowledge is built and shared, fostering a deeper appreciation for the nature of science. There will be hands-on investigations to explore how science relies on evidence, logic, and critical thinking. Students will likewise learn to differentiate between observations and inferences, and practice recording accurate data. Students will utilize knowledge and skills in analyzing results and communicating findings derived from using tables, graphs, and written explanations.

Seventh Grade



Dear Seventh Grade Families,

We're off to a wonderful start to the school year! Our seventh-grade Superstars are settling into routines, engaging in learning, and showing great enthusiasm across all subjects. As we move forward, we ask for your continued support in helping students:

- Turn in assignments on time
- Arrive each day with the appropriate school supplies
- Be present every day—missing even one day means missing a lot

We love seeing everyone's happy faces in class, and daily attendance is key to success.

Civics Update

We've moved into Unit 2, where students are exploring how Ancient Greece and Rome influenced the development of democracy in the United States. Unit 1 assessments have been completed, and grades are posted in Skyward. Please check Skyward weekly to ensure your student is keeping up with assignments and progress.

Math Update

Advanced Math: Students have completed Topic 1 and taken their assessment. We begin Topic 2: Apply Laws of Exponents tomorrow, starting with Lesson 1.

District Test Dates: September 30 – October 1

On-Level Math: Students are continuing with Topic 1: Use Rational Number Operations.

District Test Dates: September 16 – 17

Topic 2, Lesson 1 begins on September 18.

ELA Update

ELA is currently in Unit 1, focusing on the theme:

“What can one generation learn from another?”

Students are analyzing:

- How setting impacts plot and character development
- The role of an unreliable narrator and its effect on the story
- Verbal irony as a rhetorical device and its effectiveness in literature

Reminder: All students must have a notebook to use as their journal.

ELA PM1 Assessment: September 4

Science Update

Currently in Science we are closing out unit one which covered the scientific method. Our second unit will be covering the geosphere.

Science Assessment: October 1

Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep the momentum going for a successful and enriching school year.

Eighth Grade

Parents, please check Skyward for initial assignments and grades this school year. Your student has upcoming State Tests and Unit Tests in September. The ELA FAST PM1 is Thursday, September 4th. The Math FAST PM1 is Thursday, September 11th. Algebra and Geometry students will work on their IXL Diagnostic.

ELA- Students have been covering standards on the interactions between story elements (1.1) and perspective (1.3) for the last two weeks. We will begin to integrate a focus on symbolism (3.1) and theme (1.2) while we begin to read "The Medicine Bag". There will be a 1 page assignment that students will produce to synthesize their learning through creativity. The text can be found through their Savvas.

Math- Geometry and Algebra will test for Unit 1 on September 8th and 9th. Weekly Homework is assigned on Savvas for practice. Pre-Algebra will test for Unit 1 on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd. Any missing assignments should be turned in ASAP.

Science- We will be working in Unit 2 (Sun-Earth-Moon System) from 8/25/25 - 10/1/25. Our Unit 2 Test (the first science test of the year) will take place on Thursday 9/25/25 with a make-up day on Friday 9/26/25.

ALSO, 8th grade students will be creating a STEM FAIR Science Project this year. This will be a part of their grade in Science. More details will be coming in September.

Social Studies- Letters have been sent home for National History Day. Unit 1 projects on the Columbian Exchange should be completed and turned in. The 13 Colonies/Colonial Development unit is next.

Spanish- Hispanic Heritage month runs from Sept. 15- Oct. 15. Our students will be introduced to various Hispanic facts and culinary fares.

Electives

🏃♂️ Middle School PE News 🏃♀️

📌 Absences:

Students who are absent from PE for non-school-related reasons must complete and submit their make-up work within three days of returning to school.

🔒 Locks:

If your student purchased a lock but hasn't received it yet, or is interested in renting one, locks will arrive within 7–10 days.

👕 Uniforms:

PE uniforms are available for purchase throughout the school year. If an item is lost, visit the West Gate website under Parent Resources and use the QR code to order replacements.

🚫 Footwear Reminder:

Crocs are not permitted in PE class. Please ensure your student wears athletic sneakers for safety and participation.



Guidance

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.