



GATE TALES

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE ESE TSA

Dear families,

As we approach December, we have the opportunity to look back on 2025 and reflect on the tremendous accomplishments we've achieved together. As a school, we developed a new vision and mission, earned an A rating, and truly embodied the three E's—Embrace, Empower, Excel. December in a school is always filled with joy—whether it's the exciting activities or the anticipation of the upcoming holidays. As we move through these next few weeks before break, take time to enjoy the little things: Winter Spirit Week, the Winter Band Concert, Underground Spirit Day, and the small moments that still carry a bit of magic.

Pause to appreciate the smiles, the energy, and the hopefulness of our students from Pre-K through 8th grade. These are the moments that make this season truly special. As we head into the Winter Break, give yourself permission to slow down. Take time to breathe, recharge, gather with loved ones, and celebrate all that you've accomplished—both personally and professionally.

Truly,

Wendi Todd

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

DECEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	<p>1</p> <p>Back to School!</p> <p>PTO HOLIDAY SHOP STARTS</p>	<p>2</p> <p>GRADES 3-5 FAST READING PM2 DAY A</p>	<p>3</p> <p>GRADES 3-5 FAST READING PM2 DAY B</p>	<p>4</p> <p>GRADES 6-8 FAST RDG PM2</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6-8 MOM @10AM 76TH DAY OF SCHOOL - FOUNDING FATHERS DAY</p>
7	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7TH GRADE CIVICS MID TERM EXAM US HISTORY MID TERM GRADES 3-5 FAST READING</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7TH GRADE CIVICS MID TERM EXAM 8TH GRADE US HISTORY MID TERM EXAM FAST MATH PM2</p>	<p>11</p> <p>GRADES 6-8 FAST MATH PM2</p>	<p>12</p> <p>K-5 MOM @10AM IN CAFETERIA PTO HOLIDAY SHOP ENDS 7TH GRADE ELA MID TERM</p>
14	<p>15</p> <p>HAPPY HANUKKAH 7TH GRADE ELA MID TERM SPIRIT WEEK</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6TH GRADE SCIENCE MID TERM EXAM 7TH GRADE SCIENCE MID TERM WORLD HISTORY MID TERM</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PBIS DANCE GRADES 5-8</p>	<p>19</p> <p>EARY RELEASE 2PM</p>
21	<p>22</p> <p>winter break begins</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>HAPPY KWANZAA</p>
28	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p>		

Natalie's Elf Shelf Holiday Shop is Coming to Our School!



DATES

DEC. 3rd – DEC. 10th

Has Arrived...



Dear Parents,

As announced earlier we have chosen to offer our children the opportunity to purchase gifts for their moms, dads, brothers, sisters and friends this year through a service program called **Natalie's Elf Shelf**® **Holiday Store**.

The shop will be set up in the school in just a few days and will be run under the supervision of parents and grandparents.

The gift items are "Kid Priced", with most of the items being \$1.00-\$13.00 range.

It is our hope that through this program our children will learn about handling money and receive the joy of being able to select a special gift for a loved one.

There might be additional details on the back or attached to this letter.
(Example: eWallet information, forms of payment, dates, etc.)

Ha llegado...

Estimados padres:

Como se anunció anteriormente, hemos decidido ofrecer a nuestros niños la oportunidad de comprar regalos para sus mamás, papás, hermanos, hermanas y amigos este año a través de un programa de servicio llamado **Natalie's Elf Shelf**® **Holiday Store**.

La tienda se instalará en la escuela en solo unos días y estará bajo la supervisión de padres y abuelos.

Los artículos de regalo tienen "precios para niños", con la mayoría de los artículos en un rango de \$1.00 a \$13.00.

Esperamos que a través de este programa nuestros niños aprendan a manejar dinero y experimenten la alegría de poder elegir un regalo especial para un ser querido.

Puede haber detalles adicionales en el reverso o adjuntos a esta carta. (Por ejemplo: formas de pago, fechas, etc.)

THE EASY WAY to make the most of your kid's favorite day!



Less Hassle— with Elf Wallet!

No more Cash lost in backpacks! At *Natalie's Elf Shelf® Holiday Store*, kids shop without cash thanks to eWallet, a digital payment account for purchases at the holiday store. Family and friends contribute funds.



Create Account



Add Funds



Shop

Follow these Steps:

1. Visit www.elfshelfwallet.com or scan the QR code with your phone.
2. Create eWallet Account
3. Choose "Add Child" on Dashboard
4. Fill out Child's Name, Grade, School, Teacher Name
5. Add Funds
6. Complete gift guide envelope that was sent home with this parent letter. Please return the gift envelope back with your child to shop in *Natalie's Elf Shelf® Holiday Store!*



Parents/Guardians: transactions can be looked up by the chairperson if eWallet is lost or destroyed.

Please make sure your child spends all of the funds uploaded for them on their Elf Wallet account.

All sales are final and any unspent funds will be donated to the school!

LA MANERA FACIL de aprovechar al maximo el dia favorito de su hijo!

Sin complicaciones— con Elf Wallet!

¡No más dinero perdido en mochilas! En *Natalie's Elf Shelf® Holiday Store*, los niños compran sin efectivo gracias a eWallet, una cuenta de pago digital para compras en la tienda navideña. Familia y amigos contribuyen con fondos.

Luego, los niños eligen sus propios regalos. Es conveniente, simple y seguro.



Cree una cuenta



Agregue Fondos



Tienda

Siga estos pasos:

1. Visite www.elfshelfwallet.com o escanea el código QR con su teléfono.
2. Crear una cuenta de eWallet
3. Elija "Añadir a Niño" en el panel de control
4. Complete el Nombre del niño, Grado, Escuela, y Nombre del maestro
5. Agregue fondos
6. Complete el sobre de guía de regalos que se envió a casa con esta carta para padres. Por favor, devuelva el sobre de regalo con su hijo para que compre en la Tienda Navideña.



Padres/Tutores: las transacciones pueden ser verificadas por el encargado si el eWallet se pierde o destruye.

Por favor, asegúrese de que su hijo gaste todos los fondos cargados en su cuenta de Elf Wallet.

¡Todas las ventas son finales y cualquier fondo no gastado será donado a la escuela!



Kindergarten

It's the most wonderful time of the year... and one of the busiest for the Kindergarten Family!

We first would like to thank our families for the outstanding support during our Boosterthon! It was a huge success all around for our school and our littles loved participating in the Fun Run! Also, we are so proud of all our kinder littles who did an outstanding job in our "Biggest Little Thanksgiving Show" and a big thank you to the families who came to support them!

In reading/ELA our kinders are mastering beginning/ending sounds with independent use, focusing on C-V-C (consonant/vowel/consonant) words, differentiating consonants and vowels and practicing all of these skills through their writing, as well as, during their instructional small groups (reading block). We are also practicing to reach mastery on all quarter 2 high frequency words.

In math, our kinders are continuing to learn about addition through math vocabulary, addition sentences and practice to 10. We are also starting to learn about collecting data and graphing, mastering recognizing, writing and counting to 25. We will soon begin our chapter about subtraction.

Looking ahead: Our Holiday shop is coming! The info will come home after our break regarding specific classes and their scheduled days), Please look for our "SCHOOL WIDE" December dress up days that will take place the week of 15th-19th The kindergarten teachers would like to wish all our families a joyous holiday filled with family and making memories! Thank you always for your continued support!

First Grade



Happy Holidays to our amazing first-grade students and families! December is here, and we are ready for a month filled with learning, endless smiles, laughter, and holiday cheer!

We are busy wrapping up our First-Grade Signature T-Shirt Fundraiser and are excited to see our Mustangs showing off their school spirit. If you haven't ordered yet, there is still time! Please use the QR code that was sent home to preorder your child's shirt by Thursday, December 4th.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce our upcoming field trip to the Brevard Zoo on Thursday, March 12th! We can't wait for a wild day of adventure where we will be meeting over 900 incredible animals and exploring hands-on exhibits that make learning come to life.

In Reading, our first graders are moving into themes 4 and 5 "Stories Have a Narrator" and "Technology at Work." We are focusing on story elements and increasing our academic vocabulary. Our Mustangs have enjoyed reading their favorite books to the administration team, staff, and teachers to build fluency, confidence, and a love for reading. Way to go!

In Phonics, we're mastering long vowels and learning the difference between hard and soft c. Be sure to check your child's yellow communication folder for home connection practice sheets, and don't miss out on our favorite song links on Class Dojo. Thank you for helping your child practice their high frequency words daily.

In math, we are working hard to identify numbers to 120. We are counting forward, backwards, by 2's to 20, by 5's to 100, and by 10's to 120. Students are actively figuring out numbers that are 10 more, and 10 less than a given number as well as using place value to read, write, compose and decompose numbers.

As we wrap up 2025, we want to wish all our families a restful winter break and a happy, healthy new year. Thank you for your continued support!



Second Grade

It's the most wonderful time of the year... As we prepare to go on winter break, please remember that the Hobe Sound Farm permission slip and payment is due next month January 22nd. We also have an exciting fundraiser coming up. Keep an eye out for more information coming home soon. Please continue to check Class Dojo and our monthly newsletter for all news related to second grade. Thank you

Third Grade



Our 3rd-grade readers will be wrapping up our second fiction unit in early December. Next, we'll dive into an exciting non-fiction unit focused on advancements in technology. We've all been enjoying *The Wild Robot* and can't wait to reach the end of this wonderful story! We're also looking forward to coming together for our movie night on December 11th.

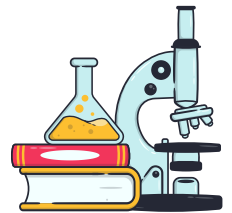
In math, we will be completing Unit 5 before winter break. Students will be using equations and patterning when solving problems. These problems can involve all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) and can be presented as word problems or equations. As always, we will continue to fill in and use our multiplication charts to improve our fluency.



Fourth Grade

🍂 Reminder: St. Augustine Fieldtrip is on December 18th

Fifth Grade



DON'T FORGET THAT FINAL PAYMENTS FOR THE WONDERWOKRS FIELD TRIP IS DUE DECEMBER 12!!!!

In AMP math, students will work on unit 5, which is topic 6. In this topic, 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.

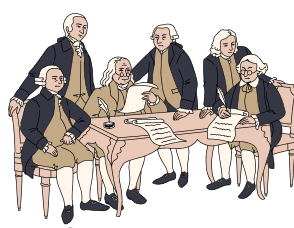
In 5th grade math, students will work on topic 7. Topic 7 focuses on developing an understanding of coordinate grids (planes) and the patterns that they showcase. Students will extend their patterning understanding to defining the rule as a one- or two-step algebraic expression.

In science, students will work on unit 4. Students identify the different kinds of rocks and how they are formed. Students model and describe how weathering and erosion slowly change Earth's surface. Students identify and explain the advantages and disadvantages of using Earth's renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. Students identify Florida's natural resources and how humans rely on them.

Writing classes are focusing on Argumentative writing. Students will be reading Social Studies content in the DBQ (Discipline Based Questioning) booklet. They will then have to analyze the documents, find evidence to use to prove the point in their paper, and use their evidence to write their final essay. Before Christmas break we are taking some time to write Narrative stories! These will be fun and festive!

In reading, we are working on Unit 4: Author's Point of View in literature. We will focus on theme, perspective, and plot. Students will set goals for our FAST PM2, which will occur the first week of December. In Unit 5, students will learn some interesting facts about the Industrial Revolution through informational text with a focus on text structure and central idea. Students will complete a book report project, in class, the week of December 15th. They are responsible for choosing a fictional chapter book that must be read in its entirety by December 12th.

Sixth Grade



Our 6th grade ELA students have just wrapped up two weeks of focused writing practice, culminating in the completion of their argumentative essays. We are now shifting gears to prepare for the upcoming Reading Progress Monitoring 2 (PM2) assessment on December 4, 2025. Students are reviewing key skills aligned with the Florida BEST Standards, and we're committed to making reading both fun and interactive as we strengthen comprehension and critical thinking.

This month in World History, students are learning about Judaism and the Israelite kingdoms. They are exploring the beliefs of the Israelites and how other ancient cultures were directly influenced by Judaism. They are gaining insight into the migratory patterns of the Hebrews from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt and back to Canaan and the Diaspora after Roman rule.

In Science this month, students are exploring how Earth's surface changes through weathering, erosion, and deposition. They are learning how these processes work together to shape landforms over time.

Please note: There will not be a district unit exam for this topic, but it will be included on the semester exam scheduled for December 16th, along with material from previous units. Encourage your students to review their notes regularly to stay prepared!

In Math class both Accelerated and On Level students will learn about equations and inequalities. Students will apply properties of equality to solve equations. They will write and solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations with rational numbers. Students will understand and write inequalities and learn how to represent a solution to an inequality. We will have our Semester exam in December.

Seventh Grade



Mathematics

- **7th Grade Advanced:** We will begin Topic 5: Understand Linear Relationships. Students will explore how variables relate and learn to interpret and create graphs.
- **7th Grade On-Level:** We are finishing Topic 4: Write Algebraic Expressions in Equivalent Forms, focusing on simplifying and rewriting expressions.

English Language Arts

Students are wrapping up the reading of a well-known drama. We've been learning the elements of drama and analyzing character development. Our discussions center on the question: Can people really change, and how?

- **Upcoming Assessments:**
 - **Unit 2 Assessment:** Second week of December
 - **PM2 State Assessment:** December
 - **Midterm Exam:** Details coming soon
 - **Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes each evening.** Students can also use IXL at home for individualized practice aligned to standards.

Civics

We are reviewing everything from the first six units in preparation for our Mid-Year Check Exam (about 50 questions over two days). Students have a study guide that should be completed over Thanksgiving break so we can address any misconceptions before the test.

Science

We are finishing Unit 5: Energy and Matter and preparing for the midterm exam. Details will be shared with students soon.

Thank you for your continued support! Please reach out if you have any questions. Let's finish the semester strong!

Eighth Grade

ELA- Our 8th grade students are continuing their study of The Diary of Anne Frank. Current instruction emphasizes understanding the elements of drama and analyzing character development. In writing, students are practicing the RACE strategy: Restate, Answer, Cite Evidence, and Explain/Elaborate to strengthen their responses. As we approach Reading PM2 on December 4, we are encouraging students to pay close attention to vocabulary within test questions to improve comprehension and performance.

Math-Pre-Algebra will be studying Unit 4, understanding linear relationships. We will learn how to use proportional and non proportional relationships to solve problems, and we will solve systems of linear equations.

Algebra will review exponent rules and discover exponential functions on a graph. We will compare functions we have learned along with rate of change and transformations of all functions. There will be a 30- question District Test before Winter Break on the first 5 Units. Students will start this on PM2 Math Day and complete December 16th & 17th.

Geometry will dive into rules and characteristics of Quadrilaterals and be able to solve problems and proofs with certain rules of different 4 sided figures. There will be a 30- question District Test before Winter Break on the first 6 Units. Students will start this on PM2 Math Day and complete December 16th & 17th.

Science News:

8th grade started Unit 5 last week. We will be in this unit until after winter break.

Unit 5: Properties and Changes of Matter

Chapter Big Idea: Matter, which includes all elements on the periodic table, can be classified using properties that are measurable, testable, and observable. Every type of matter has unique, characteristic properties.

- Lesson Essential Question: How do the structure, shape, volume, and kinetic energy of solids, liquids, and gases compare?
- Lesson Essential Question: How are physical properties different from chemical properties?
- Lesson Essential Question: How are physical changes and chemical changes different?

U.S. History Update

We are wrapping up the semester with our final unit, The New Republic, which explores the challenges faced by the United States after winning the American Revolution. Students are preparing for the midterm exam scheduled for December 10th.

Additionally, please check in with your student regarding their progress in Xello, our Career Planning component. Completion of Xello activities is required for promotion to high school, so your support in monitoring this is greatly appreciated.

Gradventure- Please turn in at least partial payment or 3 pages of Gradventure paperwork signed and notarized to hold a spot on this 8th grade Field Trip to Universal Studios.



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

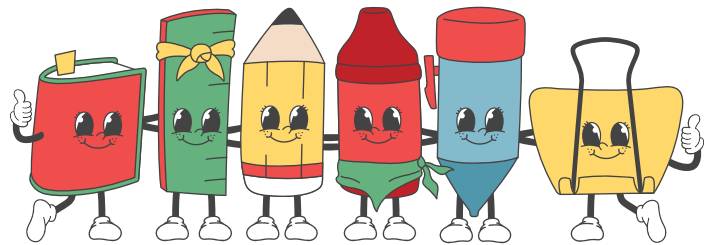
GRADVENTURE 2026

E-mail: Dana.Jeffries@stlucieschools.org

Electives



Mr. Calvo's STEM classes are buzzing with curiosity and hands-on learning! Middle school students are diving into exciting science projects, such as testing which colored light helps beans grow fastest and exploring how video games before bed affect sleep patterns. They're also erupting volcanoes and observing the decomposition of bananas in different environments to understand real-world scientific processes. Meanwhile, our 3rd and 4th graders are discovering the wonders of plants, learning about seed dispersal, and identifying the parts that make up a plant. Fifth graders are taking a deep dive into geology, studying rocks and minerals, and investigating how weathering and erosion shape our planet. Each grade level is engaged in experiments that spark critical thinking and creativity. These projects encourage students to ask questions, make predictions, and analyze results like true scientists. In Mr. Calvo's STEM classes, learning is an adventure that connects science to everyday life!



SAC

The next SAC meeting is December 19th at 8:30am



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
<p>Tops - Shirts and Blouses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have sleeves, reach hips, & have school appropriate logos, images, and phrases. <p>Bottoms - Pants, Joggers, Jeans, Capris, Shorts, Skirts:</p> <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. <p>Dresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have sleeves and be loosely fitted. • Must be fingertip-length or longer. <p>Sweaters, hoodies and Jackets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be worn with a school appropriate shirt underneath. • Hoods must remain down while on school grounds. <p>Shoes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All footwear must be closed-toed and have a back or strap. <p>Head Attire/Jewelry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headbands (non-distracting) must be worn on top of the head and not on the forehead. 	<p>Clothing:</p> <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. <p>Shoes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No flip flops, house slippers or slides. • No shoes with wheels <p>Head Attire/Jewelry:</p> <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.