



# **GATE TALES**

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**Happy New Year!**

**We hope you have had a fun-filled family holiday season. We are super excited to be back at school and anxious to hear all the exciting things your students will share about their holiday. We would also like to say a special thanks to the students and families that supported our noodle drive. At West Gate, we feel that it is important to enable students to have the opportunity to participate in charitable work. As a school, we frequently benefit from business partners and community volunteers supporting our school needs, so the opportunity to give back helps build our collective self-esteem and partnership with each other.**

**As we return to school, I would also like to remind you to check the dress code. Now that the holidays are behind us, all students will be expected to be in dress code regardless of the weather conditions. If you are unsure, you are welcome to call. Or, you may want to keep dress code clothing in your students' bookbag. Additionally, if your student has a new jacket, sweater, or spillproof water bottle, please make sure you have placed their name on the item. While we do have a Lost & Found, it is very difficult to find items with the number of students we have on our campus.**

**Finally, we have a busy second semester planned for WGK8. Whether participating in the MLK parade, Basketball/Football/Cheerleading, Band Competitions, STEM Fair, students have a lot on their plate academically and socially. Please reach out to your child's teacher, school counselor or administration for any assistance you might need.**

**Mrs. Ingersoll**

# 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](http://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.

- Valentine's Dance (February 12)

- Mustang Melee (Middle School Field Day, March 5 & 6)

- General Meetings every month at 10:00am on: 1/29, 2/26, 3/12, 4/30, and 5/28.

**Attendees need to sign-in at the front desk. The meeting is held in the cafeteria**

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](mailto:pslwestgatek8pto@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook: West Gate K-8 Port St. Lucie- PTO

**Need Help? - Jessica Yerk 772-807-7603 email: [jessica.yerk@stlucieschools.org](mailto:jessica.yerk@stlucieschools.org)**

# ESE Department



Consistent attendance is a cornerstone of success for students in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs. Regular participation in the classroom ensures that students benefit fully from individualized instruction, specialized therapies, and targeted support services designed to meet their unique learning needs. Each day of attendance provides opportunities to reinforce academic skills, strengthen communication and social development, and build upon prior progress. Moreover, consistent presence fosters meaningful connections with teachers and peers, cultivating a sense of belonging and confidence that is essential for growth. By prioritizing daily attendance, families and schools together help create the stability and continuity that empower ESE students to reach their fullest potential.



# Kindergarten

Happy New Year to all our Kinder Littles and their families. The Kinder teachers are recharged and ready to welcome our students back to school! We are beginning the third nine weeks with lots of new academic standards ahead! We are zoning in on vowels and the importance of their two different sounds in ELA, and the importance they play as we are beginning readers. We will continue with short vowels and move into long vowels. We are practicing both sounds and ways to recognize which vowel sound to use when reading simple texts. In math, we will be digging deeper into addition and subtraction to 10. In writing, we are putting emphasis on properly writing 3-5 simple sentences- starting with a capital letter, finger spacing and using punctuation. Lastly, reminder our upcoming field trip to Legoland in Orlando is on Thursday, April 2, 2025 chaperones should already be approved or at least have the district procedure started as it takes time to complete. Thank you always for your continued support with your child's education.

# First Grade



The first-grade team wishes our students and families a happy, healthy New Year! We look forward to welcoming students back and hearing about their winter break adventures.

Our annual field trip to Brevard Zoo is scheduled on Thursday, March 12th. All trips will need to be paid in full on or before Friday, February 6th. Parents that are interested in being a chaperone must sign up with your child's teacher, complete the volunteer application online, and visit the St. Lucie County School District office between the hours of 8:00 - 2:00 p.m. to complete the Level 2 background screening, and fingerprinting. The cost is seventy-five dollars plus the annual volunteer badge fee.

In Math, students will plot, order, and compare two-digit numbers using place value in Topic 9. This unit will continue to build your child's understanding in place value as well as prepare them for adding two-digit numbers. At the end of the month in Topic 10 we will be exploring addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers to 100.

In Reading, students will be comparing selections in Unit #5 about advanced technology, such as computers and robots to understand how technology makes a difference in our lives. Daily UFLI lessons really are making an impact on your child's reading success. They are actively reading, spelling, and writing words with u\_e, VCe, \_ce, soft g, -es, and -ed patterns this month. Please check the yellow communication folder and Class Dojo regularly for at home practice sheets, and music and movement songs that your child is learning in class. High Frequency Words should be reviewed daily to build fluency.

In Science, students will learn and understand the differences between living and non-living things.



## **Second Grade**

**Happy New Year Second Grade Families,**

**Cheers to a new quarter and new learning experiences! This month we have our grade fundraiser. We're raising funds for fun engaging end of year activities and snacks. Your kids will be taking home a "Fart Monster" catalogue for sales to begin 1/19/26 until 1/30/26. All transactions will be through School Pay to facilitate things.**

**Field Trip forms and payments are due no later than 1/22/26. Please make sure to fill out the forms entirely. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher.**

**We thank you for your time and collaboration.**

**2nd Grade Team**

## **Third Grade**



**We are excited to continue our nonfiction unit in reading! This month, students will take their Unit 4 and Unit 5 assessments. After that, we'll begin Unit 6, which focuses on fiction. During this unit, students will explore a variety of realistic fiction stories.**

**Happy New Year! For math, we will be learning all about fractions in January. We are going to talk about how they are used in real world situations. We will use tools like fraction tiles, rulers, measuring cups, and number lines. Of course, we are still working on our multiplication fluency. Please encourage your children to continue working on iReady math. Thank you!**

# Fourth Grade



Dear Families,

The first half of the year has flown by! We are so proud of the hard work and growth our students have shown. As we move into the second half, it's time to channel that energy and dedication into giving their best effort. There are still many exciting learning opportunities ahead, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish!

## Math

We'll continue exploring fractions in depth. Students will learn:

- Multiplication of fractions
- Identifying and creating equivalent fractions
- Ordering fractions from least to greatest
- Adding and subtracting fractions

These skills will build a strong foundation for future math concepts.

## Science

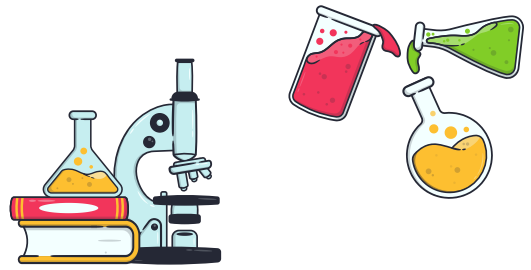
Our next unit is Survival in Ecosystems. Students will investigate the fascinating life cycles of plants and animals native to Florida. They'll gain a deeper understanding of each stage—from germination to adulthood—and discover how living things adapt to survive in their environments.

## Reading

Students will embark on a literary adventure! This unit focuses on fictional stories told from various perspectives. They'll step into the shoes of both human and animal characters, developing empathy and understanding for different viewpoints while strengthening comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Thank you for your continued support! Together, we'll make the second half of the year just as successful and rewarding as the first!

# **Fifth Grade**



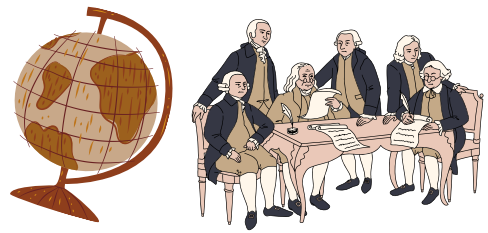
**Happy New Year! We will be starting Unit 8: Add and Subtract Fractions in math. Please continue to use the Family Engagement Links on Savvas Realize for extra support at home. Always practice multiplication and division facts as well.**

**In reading, we will continue with our informational texts about the Industrial Revolution. Our much-anticipated vocabulary bee will be held in class on January 16th. We are looking forward to a figurative language parade during literacy week at the end of the month. Please continue to encourage reading daily!**

**The new year will bring students back to Expository writing prompts, plans, and rubrics. Students will be given many different opportunities to write to Expository prompts. The students will be working with peers to edit and share ideas for their essays. They will also have practice using the state writing rubric to evaluate sample essays.**

**We will finish up studying the diversity of living things where students describe how differences among living things cause them to either survive or die when their environment changes. They will also analyze the structures and functions of different species to identify how different organisms survive in the same environment. Additionally, students will compare and contrast traits that allow living things to survive and reproduce.**

# Sixth Grade



The 6th Grade ELA team has completed Mid-Terms, Unit Assessment 2, and PM 2. Moving forward, our focus will be on class instruction aimed at achieving proficient scores by PM 3 and the End-of-Year Writing Assessment. To reach this goal, we will implement differentiated learning strategies, provide corrective feedback, and incorporate study practice. Additionally, we will continue meeting our weekly targets of 40 minutes and 3 lessons passed on IXL. Together, we are committed to ensuring student success!

In World History students will be learning about Ancient India and how its culture had a major influence on the development of other Asian societies. Students will recognize the political and cultural achievements of the Mauryan and Gupta empires and understand the spread of the various belief systems that took root in India (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism). They will study the geographic features and boundaries of the Indian subcontinent including the importance of the Indus and Ganges rivers in the development of Indian culture.

In January, our 6th graders will dive into the fascinating world of energy transformations! Students will explore how energy changes from one form to another, like how chemical energy in food becomes kinetic energy when we move. Through hands-on activities and real-world examples, they'll discover why energy is never lost, just transformed.

In math, the focus is Understanding and Using Ratios and Rates, a skill relevant to everyday life.

Students will learn how to:

- ✓ Compare quantities using ratios
- ✓ Find and interpret unit rates (like “price per pound”)
- ✓ Apply these concepts to real-world situations such as recipes, shopping and sports.

# Seventh Grade



## Civics

This month, students will focus on how people influence government and how the Constitution protects (and sometimes limits) individual rights.

### Unit 7: Influencing the Government

- Students will learn how media, individuals, and interest groups monitor and influence government (including the media's “watchdog” role and how the 1st Amendment supports freedom of the press).
- Students will practice spotting bias, symbolism, and propaganda in political communication and discuss how these can shape public opinion.
- Students will learn how citizens can address a local/state problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying the right government agency, and choosing a course of action (such as petitions or public meetings).

Unit Test: January 20 (this date may be subject to change).

### Unit 8: Individual & Constitutional Rights

- Students will apply the Bill of Rights (especially the five freedoms of the First Amendment) to real-life scenarios and discuss how rights are protected and where limits can exist.
- Students will learn the amendment process (Article V) and why changing the Constitution is intentionally difficult.
- Students will examine how the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments expanded participation and civil rights in the U.S.

Unit Test: To Be Determined

# **Seventh Grade Continued....**

## **ELA / Reading**

**ELA/Reading activities for January 2026 will be guided by the theme “Imagining the Future.” Students will explore a variety of assigned texts, including: “Earth View,” “Leaving Main Street,” “Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed,” “Poetry Collection,” and “Mars Can Wait, Oceans Can’t.”**

**Students will also focus thoroughly on Persuasive and Argumentative Writing, strengthening skills such as writing clear claims, supporting ideas with evidence, and explaining reasoning.**

**Diverse teaching and learning activities will continue to include concept maps, learning charts, mini-projects, games, and vocabulary maps to improve and strengthen spotlight benchmarks:**

**R.1.1, R.1.2, R.1.4, R.2.2, R.2.3, R.2.4**

## **Science**

**This January, our 7th-grade scientists will delve into the fascinating world of waves. Students will discover how energy moves through different mediums, explore the properties of sound and light, and learn how these phenomena shape the way we experience the world. Through hands-on activities and engaging experiments, they’ll investigate concepts like frequency, amplitude, reflection, and refraction—building a strong foundation for understanding technology and nature.**

## **Math**

### **Accelerated**

**We will begin Topic 6, which focuses on defining, evaluating, and comparing functions. At the end of the month, students will take the District 3 test covering Topics 5 and 6.**

### **On Level**

**Students will begin Topic 5, which focuses on solving problems using equations and inequalities. At the end of the month, they will take the District 3 test covering Topics 4 and 5.**

# **Eighth Grade**



## **ELA**

**Students will continue to work on writing activities, focusing on both argumentative and informational essays. A key emphasis will be placed on developing strong counterclaims to strengthen their arguments.**

**In reading, students will explore literary themes, analyze poetry, and examine rhetorical devices to deepen their understanding of the texts read in class.**

## **MATH**

**Pre-Algebra- In Unit 5, students learn about functions, which are mathematical relationships with exactly one output (result) for each input.**

**Algebra- Students will learn Unit 6 Polynomials and identify the parts and factors of polynomials. They will understand how to factor trinomials using the greatest common factor, binomial factors, and special patterns. Then, we will introduce how to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials.**

**Geometry- Unit 7 is all about Similarity instead on Congruence. We will review knowledge on dilations and transformations. These concepts are then applied to triangles; students examine the criteria for proving two triangles similar, including applications of the geometric mean. Finally, students consider proportions in triangles.**



# WEST GATE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD TRIP GRADVENTURE

THURSDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 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

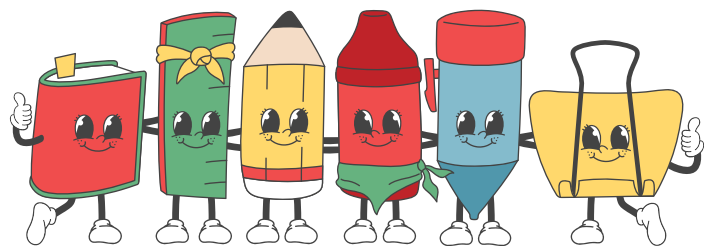
## GRADVENTURE 2026

E-mail: [Dana.Jeffries@stlucieschools.org](mailto: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 January 30th 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><b>Tops - Shirts and Blouses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have sleeves, reach hips, &amp; have school appropriate logos, images, and phrases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bottoms - Pants, Joggers, Jeans, Capris, Shorts, Skirts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be worn at the waist and be fingertip-length or longer.</li> <li>• Any clothing with frays or distressed material must <u>not</u> reveal skin.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dresses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have sleeves and be loosely fitted.</li> <li>• Must be fingertip-length or longer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sweaters, hoodies and Jackets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be worn with a school appropriate shirt underneath.</li> <li>• Hoods must remain down while on school grounds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All footwear must be closed-toed and have a back or strap.</li> </ul> <p><b>Head Attire/Jewelry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headbands (non-distracting) must be worn on top of the head and not on the forehead.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clothing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No spandex, tight fitting, see-through.</li> <li>• No leggings, pajama pants, jeggings, onesies, yoga pants, biking/compression shorts.</li> </ul> <p>*Leggings/bike shorts may be worn only when under a dress/skirt or shorts of appropriate length*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No flip flops, house slippers or slides.</li> <li>• No shoes with wheels</li> </ul> <p><b>Head Attire/Jewelry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No kerchiefs, caps, hats, sunglasses, bandanas, doo-rags, sweatbands, and combs on hair or similar items are permitted.</li> <li>• No spiked jewelry.</li> <li>• No headphones, Air Pods, earbuds</li> <li>• Shower caps</li> </ul>

**\*\*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.***