



GATE TALES

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL

As we continue moving through the school year, I want to take a moment to thank our families for their ongoing partnership and support. One of our top priorities is maintaining a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment for all students. When students feel safe, they are better able to learn, grow, and thrive.

We encourage our students each day to make good choices, treat others with kindness, and be positive influences on their peers. We remind them that true leaders stand up for what is right, model expected behaviors, and make choices based on values—not pressure. Our goal is to help every child learn how to be a leader rather than a follower, both in and out of the classroom.

As Spring Break approaches, we hope your family enjoys this well-deserved time to rest, recharge, and spend quality time together. When students return, we encourage them to come back refreshed and ready with the mindset to finish the school year strong. Together, we can ensure a successful and positive ending to the year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

**Warm regards,
Melissa Hutchings
Assistant Principal**

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.

- Mustang Melee (Middle School Field Day, March 5 & 6)
- General Meetings every month at 10:00am on: 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 or find us on Facebook: West Gate K-8 Port St. Lucie- PTO

ESE Department



March is a time to celebrate growth, inclusion, and continued progress for all learners across our K-8 campus! Our ESE team remains committed to providing meaningful support so every student can access learning, build confidence, and continue making progress at every grade level.

This month, instruction will continue to focus on:

Strengthening early literacy, reading and math skills

Supporting communication and social/emotional skills

Incorporating sensory-friendly strategies across classrooms

Building self-advocacy and independence

Supporting student health, safety and engagement

We encourage families to stay connected and take advantage of inclusive community opportunities across the Treasure Coast. Working together helps ensure every student feels supported, capable, and successful.

March Family Resources:

www.surfersforautism.org

- Surf/Paddle/Swim lessons
- Sensory Ranch
- Equine-Assisted Learning Program
- Community Garden

Places to explore in nature (for all)

- Oxbow Eco-Center (Ft. Pierce)
- Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
- Mckee Botanical Gardens (Vero Beach)



Family Tip of the Month!

Consistent routines at home and school help ESE students thrive. Simple supports like visual schedules, first-then language, and predictable routines can make a big difference in student confidence and independence.

A poster for 'Sensory Friendly Days' at the Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast. The poster features a sun icon, puzzle pieces, and a list of dates for 2025. It also includes information about admission fees, registration, and capacity.

Sensory Friendly Days

For families with children with special needs

\$1 Admission Fee Per Person

No registration required at this time. Monitor our website for changes.

Maximum capacity of 75 guests on a first come first serve basis for our young guests with sensory needs and special needs.

Dates for 2025
Sundays 9:30 am to 11:00 am

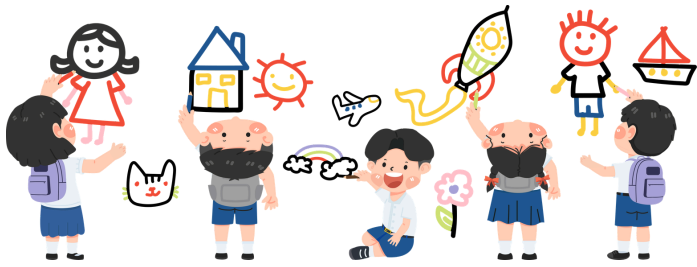
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

Colorado Pawn & Jewelry

Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast

1707 NE Indian River Drive

Jensen Beach, FL 34957



Kindergarten

Kindergarten is looking forward to 2 very fun events approaching- Field Day and Lego Land! We also continue our learning journey through our daily academic goals that make us shine bright as we close out the 3rd nine weeks!



Our 1st exciting event is FIELD DAY! We are going to have our field day on March 12th! We are excited for a fun day outside! Please look for further details sent home in the coming days with specific details regarding shoes, attire, etc.

We will be going on our field trip to LEGO LAND on Thursday, April 2! If you have not yet paid for your child and/or chaperone for Lego Land, please do so ASAP. If you originally responded that your child and/or you were chaperoning BUT YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR PLANS WILL NOT BE ATTENDING PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN MAKE THESE CHANGES for busses and ticket purposes.

Check out below what we are reviewing and learning as we close out the 3rd nine weeks in kindergarten....

READING: We are reviewing quarter 3 high frequency words, beginning, middle and ending sounds. We are working on blending words as we become readers. We will also begin exploring diphthongs, blends and digraphs.

MATH: We will be reviewing addition and subtraction, sorting and comparing numbers, and solving word problems and beginning 3D shapes.

WRITING: We will continue to explore independent, creative, and opinion writing. We will continue using our phonetic spelling through writing as well as our writing targets: Capitalize the first letter, spacing between words, and using punctuation.

CONTENT: Women's History Month

The kinder teachers want to thank all our families for their continued support!



First Grade



First Grade March News

First grade is looking forward to a fun-filled month in March. We are incredibly proud of the hard work our students have shown throughout the third quarter. Their perseverance truly paid off as they demonstrated growth on their PM2 assessments, including, Star Reading, Star Math, I-Ready, and Dibels. To celebrate their achievements, students enjoyed selecting a special activity in one of our seven first grade classrooms in late February. Celebration options included a Book Café, Dance Parties, Directed Drawing, Karaoke, STEM room, and a movie.

On Thursday, March 12th students will be going to Brevard Zoo. Please be sure to wear your favorite Mustang t-shirt and be ready to make unforgettable memories with your friends and teachers. Buses will leave West Gate at 9:50 PROMPT! Students will go straight to their classrooms for check in. Check your child's yellow communication folder for more information! In reading, students will be finishing up the nine weeks in Unit #7 where they are reading and comparing selections about different celebrations around the world. At West Gate K-8, we believe all children can be authors! During the month of March, first grade students will be asked to write and create their own book at home as part of our Young Authors project.

A rubric and project guidelines will be sent home this week. Completed books are due on Thursday, April 2nd.

In math, students will be learning how to count coins and dollar bills as well as telling time to the hour and half hour. Please continue to practice basic math facts to build fluency.

In science, your child will continue to learn that plants and animals closely resemble their parents. In social studies, students will understand the key elements of maps and globes and will be able to identify physical features and locations using a map and a globe.





Second Grade

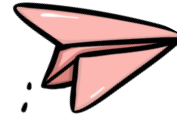
Hello Second Grade Families,



Our class field trip is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th. Buses will depart promptly at 9:45 AM. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time so they do not miss the departure. We anticipate returning to campus by 2:45 PM.

Field Day will take place on Wednesday, March 11th. Please have your child wear comfortable clothing and sneakers appropriate for physical activity. Each class has been assigned a specific color, so make sure to reach out to your child's teacher for what color to wear. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions.

Third Grade



In math, we are finishing up our unit on collecting, representing, and interpreting data. We have learned about different types of graphs such as scaled bar graphs and pictographs. Next, we are moving into our measurement unit which includes time to the nearest minute, elapsed time, customary units, and metric units. We encourage our students to complete lessons at home on iReady math and continue practicing their multiplication facts.

This month we are exploring various texts to learn about different communities. Students are reading a variety of texts and practicing our skills to identify the central idea, authors claim, and the authors' purpose. We are continuing to strengthen our poetry skills as well. Be sure to ask your student to share some interesting facts about St.

Augustine!

Fourth Grade



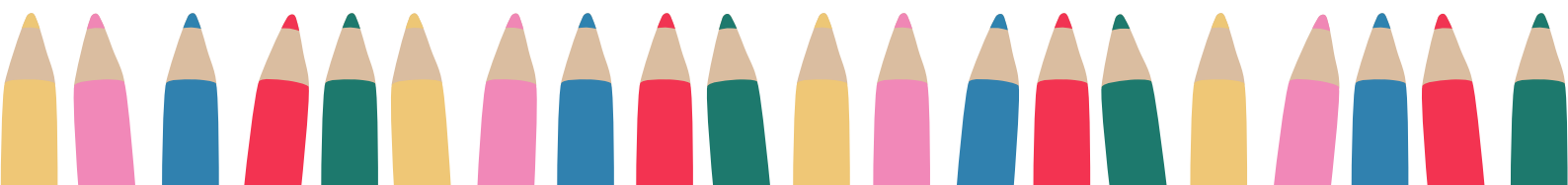
4th Grade News

Fourth grade is hard at work this quarter, and students are tackling several important skills across subjects. In math, we have been diving deeper into fractions—learning how to add, subtract, and multiply them while building a strong understanding of how fractions relate to whole numbers. Because these concepts take time and repetition to master, we strongly encourage students to practice at home. Continued review of multiplication facts is also essential, as these skills support all of the fraction work we are doing in class.

In reading, students are focusing on strengthening their comprehension by examining key story elements such as character traits, setting, conflict, and theme. They are also learning to identify the text structures found in nonfiction—like cause and effect, compare and contrast, and problem and solution—which helps them make sense of informational texts more effectively. These strategies are important building blocks for the more complex reading tasks they will encounter later in the year.



Please make sure students complete their homework each night. These assignments offer valuable extra practice, reinforce what we are learning in class, and help students build the confidence and independence they need to grow in all subject areas. Your support at home truly makes a difference!



Fifth Grade



Reading Update:

This month, our class will dive into informational texts about the American Revolution, exploring the people, events, and ideas that helped shape our nation. Students will also begin a special Women's History Project, highlighting influential women and their contributions throughout history. Review Coming Soon! Right before Spring Break, we will begin our 5th Grade Reading Standards Review. This focused review will help students strengthen key skills and prepare for end-of-year assessments. Attendance Matters! As we move into this important part of the school year, consistent attendance is crucial. Every day of learning makes a difference!

In 5th grade writing, we are going to be going back to Informative writing to complete an essay on Government. Then, we will be moving onto a fun courtroom debate for our next Argumentative writing topic, which will be on the topic of Zoos closing or staying open. Fun, fun writing 😊

Science:

Students describe the basic forms of energy. They will also explain how energy can cause motion and change in a variety of ways. Students will identify the requirements for a functioning electrical circuit. Additionally, students will compare and contrast conductors and insulators and identify how electrical energy can be transformed.

5th grade continued...



AMP:

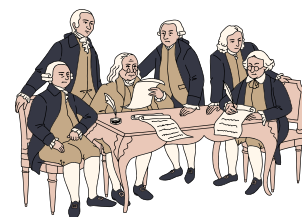
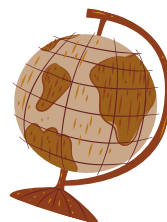
Students will finish up unit 7 where students extend their understanding of proportional relationships to percents. They progress from writing percents as proportions to using the percent equation to solve real-world problems. Then they will work through unit 8. In this unit, students explore two-dimensional figures both on and off the coordinate plane. They then progress to learning about three-dimensional figures, including nets, which are patterns for three-dimensional figures, and the surface areas of those figures. The topic ends with a lesson on volume.



Math:

Unit 11 focuses on two-dimensional and three-dimensional geometric figures. Students will be defining and classifying two-dimensional shapes based upon their attributes. Three-dimensional shapes will be reviewed from previous grades and new shapes introduced. The attribute of volume of right rectangular prisms will be explored and determined.

Sixth Grade



In World History, students will Compare the emergence of advanced civilizations in Mesoamerica and South America with the four early river valley civilizations (Maya, Aztec, Inca, Olmec, Zapotec, and Chavin with Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China). They will examine the physical characteristics and boundaries of these civilizations, their cultures and customs. They will explore the cities of Tenochtitlán and Machu Picchu as well as great rulers (Pachacuti, Atahualpa, King Pakal).

6th grade continued...

We're starting Topic 7: Model and Solve Problems Involving Geometry in our math class. In the next few weeks, students will see how geometry helps us solve real-world problems. We'll use hands-on activities, visual models, and practical examples to build strong reasoning skills.

Students will learn how to find the area, perimeter, surface area, and volume of different shapes, and use these skills to solve real-world problems.

In Science over the next few weeks, students will dive into an exciting new unit on Classifying and Exploring Life. They will investigate what it means to be alive, explore the characteristics all living things share, and learn how scientists organize the incredible diversity of life on Earth. Students will practice using classification tools—such as dichotomous keys—and will make connections between structure, function, and survival in different organisms.

This unit builds important science skills, including observation, critical thinking, and comparing and contrasting. We're looking forward to lots of hands-on activities, meaningful discussions, and curious questions as we explore the living world together!

In 6th grade ELA, we are focusing on essential reading strategies, including effective note-taking, decoding vocabulary using context clues, and strengthening time-management skills as we prepare for the upcoming PM3 assessment. Students are also exploring poetry by learning about various poetic forms and practicing comprehension strategies to deepen their understanding, all while keeping learning engaging and fun!





Seventh Grade

Civics Update:

This month we will begin Unit 10: Florida's Government, where students will explore how government works at the local, state, and national levels and how the U.S. Constitution and Florida Constitution are similar and different. Students will learn about federalism, the powers of different levels of government, amendment processes, and the services government provides to citizens in daily life. 24-25

Civics Unit 10 Overview

Our instructional window for this unit runs from March 9 – early April, and we will be building strong connections to content that appears on the Civics End-of-Course (EOC) exam. SS07_2025_26 Calendar_Unit_10

Unit 10 Test: around March 31

Looking ahead:

This will be the second-to-last unit test of the year. After one final unit, we will shift into full EOC preparation and review to help students feel confident and ready for the state assessment.

Tutoring: Tutoring will begin when we return from Spring Break. Please look out for more information coming soon.

Spring Break: April 16th–20th



As always, continued support at home—asking students about what they're learning and encouraging them to review vocabulary and notes—makes a big difference.



Math:

In advanced math students will be completing Topic 8 and taking their District Math Assessment right before Spring Break. The assessment will cover triangles and their angle measures, as well as how triangles are used to analyze polygons with more than three sides. Students have also explored two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures, including quadrilaterals, composite figures, circles, and scale drawings. Additionally, they learned how cylinders and prisms are related. When we return from Spring Break, we will begin Topic 9. In this new unit, students will study transformations, congruent figures, and similar figures.



7th grade continued....

On level math students will be finishing Topic 7 and students will take their District Math Assessment before Spring Break. This test will cover probability, including determining the likelihood of events and calculating both theoretical and experimental probability. Students have also learned that as an experiment is repeated, the experimental probability approaches the theoretical probability. In addition, they extended their understanding of data and data analysis by working with numerical and categorical data sets and choosing appropriate ways to display the data. When students return from Spring Break, we will begin Topic 8, where they will explore geometry. This unit begins with two-dimensional figures and moves into three-dimensional figures, including quadrilaterals, composite figures, circles, scale drawings, and the relationships between cylinders and prisms.



Science:

Over the next few weeks, students will begin a new unit exploring the Theory of Evolution. Our focus will be on helping students understand how scientists study the natural world and use evidence to explain the diversity of life on Earth. Students will learn about concepts such as variations within species, natural selection, adaptations, and how fossils provide clues about organisms from long ago.



English Language Arts:

Students will continue practicing Argumentative and Expository writing. The tentative window for the Unit 3 Test is February 27 – March 4.

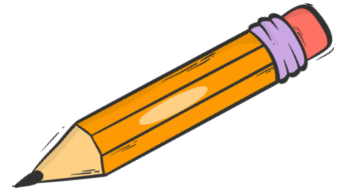
Topics that will be reviewed include:

- How individual text sections and/or features convey a purpose in texts
- Tracking the development of an argument and analyzing types of reasoning (abductive, inductive, deductive) and their effectiveness
- Analyzing the impact of setting on character development and plot in literary texts
- Comparing two or more themes and their development throughout a literary text
- Explaining the influence of narrator(s), including unreliable narrator(s), and shifts in point of view

Students are also encouraged to review critical content through Canvas.



Eighth Grade



Math:

Pre-Algebra students will dive into Unit 7 on Congruence and Similarity. They will discover transformations such as translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations. Pre-algebra students will then decipher between shapes between congruent or similar using equations, lengths, angles, and proportional fractions. The District test for Unit 6 and 7 will be at the end of March.

$$(\sqrt[n]{a})^m = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = a^{\frac{m}{n}}$$

Algebra continues to discover how to Solve Quadratics by finding x-intercepts, which are also zeroes, solutions, or roots. First, Algebra students use tables, graphs, and factoring. Then, they learn how to solve using quadratic equations and square roots, completing the square, and the quadratic formula. The Unit Test will be right before Spring Break.

Geometry students will be finishing up an important unit on Circles, including finding lengths, area, and utilizing new equations while using prior knowledge. This Unit 9 district test will be right before Spring Break. The next unit for Geometry is 2D and 3D figures from surface area to volume. We can prepare for the EOC afterwards.

Science:

Unit 7: Mixtures, Solubility, and Acid Base Solutions, began 2/19/26. This is a shorter unit than the last. Our test in this unit will be on Thursday, 3/5/26.

Chapter Big Idea: Matter can be classified based on its properties and can undergo changes.

- Lesson Essential Question: How can physical properties be used to distinguish between pure substances and mixtures?
- Lesson Essential Question: How do concentration and solubility differ?
- Lesson Essential Question: How can the properties of acids and bases be compared?

Spanish:



We are working on expanding our knowledge of vocabulary and grammar in order to move to the next level.

Gradventure: The field trip is May 21st, 2026. All paperwork and monies were due February 26, 2026. We are full at this time. Reach out to Dana Jeffries with any questions.



8th grade continued...



ELA students are learning about archetypes, which are common character types found in stories. They are also studying logical fallacies to help them recognize weak or faulty arguments. These lessons are helping them become stronger readers and writers. All of this is preparing them for the State Write Test at the beginning of April.



US History & Career Planning Update:

This month, our students are engaging in important work that supports both their academic growth and their future readiness. In Career Planning, our school counselors are leading students through Xello, where they are completing course selection for high school, learning about GPA, and understanding how high school credits work. These lessons are designed to help students feel confident and prepared as they begin the transition to high school.

In US History, students are exploring Westward Expansion through interactive and engaging lessons that help them understand how this era shaped the nation's development. By the end of March, we will move into our next unit, The Changing American Identity, where students will analyze how culture, values, and perspectives in the United States have evolved over time.

We're excited to support students as they learn, plan, and navigate these important steps in their educational journey!





ART



On display in the West Gate Art Gallery for primary artists are Gustav Klimt Inspired Trees. The students used drawing, painting, cutting, gluing and tracing skills to create these. The lesson began with reading “Mouse Paint” and artists learned about using primary colors to create secondary colors. Artists were also introduced to organic shapes inspired by natural forms. They got to practice their knowledge using both traditional tempera paint and were introduced to using tempera paint stick and oil pastels. Student’s viewed the tree symbol from Kilmt’s icon “Tree of Life” Masterpiece to guide transforming their paintings into trees. We discussed the tree as a symbol of growth, power, beauty and of course creativity.



WE ARE SELLING!



Chocolate Bars

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SUNSHINE
COMMITTEE FACULTY/STAFF
APPRECIATION FUN. THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WEST GATE!

FLAVORS INCLUDE

- MILK CHOCOLATE
- CRISP
- CARAMEL
- WAFER
- ALMOND
- PRETZEL

FROM 9:05AM-9:30AM
ALL OVER CAMPUS

FOR ONLY
\$2.00

STARTING MARCH 2ND -WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

MUSTANG MELEE 2026

The West Gate K-8 PTO, administration, and teachers are excited to announce the 3rd annual Mustang Melee! In short, the Mustang Melee is an obstacle-style event that will take place in the gymnasium and outdoors on various school fields. The day will be filled with team-based competitions that include complex puzzles, brain teasers, and physical challenges similar to what you would see on MTV's The Challenge, Fear Factor, and Survivor. The event will take place over two days: **Thursday, March 5th and Friday March 6th** during the school day (possible rain date to be determined). The Melee will occur in three waves. Grade 7 will Melee from 12:45pm-3:45pm on Thursday, Grade 8 will Melee from 9:30am-12:30pm on Friday, and Grade 6 will Melee at 12:45pm-3:45pm on Friday.

For the event to be successful, we are asking for each student to raise \$5 to offset the associated costs. This will give each student entrance into the competition, a team bandana, and a refreshment after the event. Any proceeds/donations above \$5 will go directly to the grade level corresponding to the student.

Additionally, we will need parent volunteers to assist at stations. **All volunteers must be cleared through the district, and have a district issued badge.** Information on how to become a volunteer can be found on the St. Lucie Public Schools website:

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

To sign up for a time slot and station or if you have questions regarding this event, please contact the PTO at pslwestgatek8pto@gmail.com or the West Gate K-8 main office at 772-807-7600. This will be a great opportunity to support our children, volunteer alongside teachers and administrators, while coming together as a community to cheer on our students. We promise an incredible day of FUN! More information about this exciting event will be sent home with students next week.



**Thank you from the West Gate K-8 PTO.
We appreciate your continued support!**





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.