



Gaines Elementary Family Newsletter

Issue Published: October 1, 2026

District Mission Statement: *Swartz Creek Community Schools is a family committed to excellence, instilling the values of integrity and compassion, and encouraging every individual to embrace challenges through continuous learning*

Principal's Message



Gaines Families,

October is here, and with it comes all the fun, excitement, and school spirit that makes this time of year so special! As the leaves begin to change, our Gaines family continues to grow stronger through the kindness, teamwork, and CREEK Core Values our students demonstrate every day.

One of my favorite things about Gaines is that we all pitch in and help each other. This month, our students have been showing that in such a meaningful way. Our amazing students have been helping sanitize their tables after lunch, and I have loved seeing students from every grade level taking responsibility and helping care for our school. These small acts of teamwork make a BIG difference and remind us that we truly are a family at Gaines! ❤️

I also owe a BIG THANK YOU to our 5th graders for inviting me to join them during their silent reading time this week! 📖 There is nothing better than seeing students completely lost in a good book. I loved being part of their reading time and seeing their love of literacy firsthand.

And, of course, we LOVE seeing those **Gaines Goodness** moments that bring our CREEK Core Values to life! Whether it is helping a friend, showing kindness, taking responsibility, or simply doing something thoughtful for someone else, those moments matter. Please continue to celebrate and encourage these acts of goodness at home, too!

Let's make October a month filled with **kindness, connection, learning, and lots of Gaines Goodness!**



Go Dragons! 🐉

Warmly,
Kellie Robertson
Principal of Gaines Elementary

Upcoming Events & Planning Ahead



Date Event

October 1 - Picture Day

October 1 - Literacy Night at Morrish

October 7 - Count Day: Be present at school TODAY:~)

October 9 - [Gaines Fun Run](#)...during school

October 9 - Pickle Pizza for lunch!

October 20- Family STEM Night at SCMS 5:00pm-6:30pm

October 23 - [Gaines Lock-In 3:30-6:30pm](#)

[District Calendar 2026-27](#)

[K-12 Handbook](#)

[Beginning of Year Information](#)

Here is a link to the Gaines volunteer form ... [PDF Gaines Volunteer Form 2026/27](#)



Social Spotlight

Big Feelings, Strong Skills

Children experience big emotions every day, and sometimes they may not have the words to explain how they're feeling. One simple way to help is to talk about emotions during calm, everyday moments—not only when your child is upset.

Make emotional check-ins part of your everyday conversations. Talk with your child about what they're feeling, what may have caused the emotion, and how they notice it in their body. Encourage them to think about what helped them feel better and what they could try the next time they experience a similar feeling.

Remember: All feelings are okay! When children learn to recognize, name, and express their emotions, they are building important skills for managing big feelings, solving problems, and making healthy choices.

Chelsea Paull, LLMSW
School Social Worker
(810) 591-4382



Attendance - Every Dragon. Every Day.

Please call in all absences to the school office by 8:30 am.

Absence line is available 24-7: (810) 591-1078.

All absences require a phone call, note, or email (llohorn@swcrk.org) to be excused.

Gaines' Goodness

At Gaines, we all pitch in and help each other. Our amazing students have been assisting with sanitizing their tables after lunch. Every grade level has been helping, and it just makes our family stronger!

In addition, I owe a BIG THANK YOU to 5th grade for inviting me to their silent reading time this week!!

We LOVE our Gaines' Goodness acts of CREEK core values!



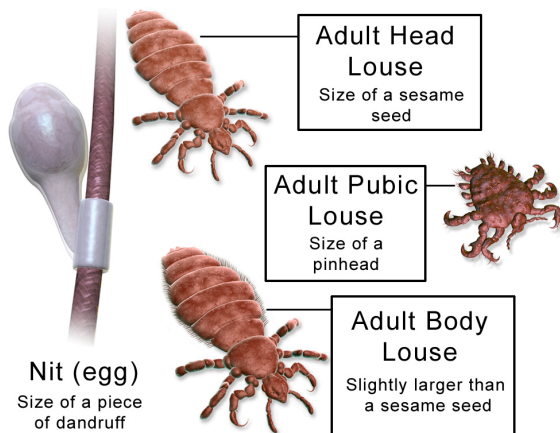
Lice Prevention & Awareness

Head lice are common among school-aged children and can occur in any family, regardless of personal hygiene or cleanliness. Head lice are not a serious medical condition and do not transmit disease. They also do not live on or spread from dogs, cats, or other household pets.

How Do Head Lice Spread?

Head lice are primarily spread through direct, head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact with a person who has live lice. This type of contact can occur during play, sports, sleepovers, camps, and other activities where children are in close contact.

Head lice crawl—they do not jump or fly. Although less common, lice may also spread through sharing recently used items such as hats, scarves, hair accessories, combs, brushes, towels, clothing, or bedding.



What Should I Look For?

Check your child's scalp regularly, especially if they have been in close contact with someone who has head lice.

- Adult lice are about the size of a sesame seed and can be difficult to see because they move quickly and avoid light.
- Nits (lice eggs) are tiny and firmly attached to individual hair shafts, usually within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the scalp.
- Nits are often found behind the ears and

near the back of the neck.

- Unlike dandruff or other particles, nits are firmly attached to the hair and are difficult to flick or brush away.
- The best way to confirm an active infestation is to find a live crawling louse or nymph.

If You Find Head Lice

1. Begin appropriate treatment at home using an over-the-counter or prescription head-lice treatment. Follow all package or healthcare-provider instructions carefully.
2. Check all household members and close contacts for live lice. CDC recommends checking household members every 2–3 days when an infestation is present.
3. Treat individuals who have live lice or nits within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the scalp, according to the treatment product's directions.

4. Some treatments require a second treatment approximately 7–9 days later, while others may not. Follow the specific instructions for the product being used.
5. After treatment, continue checking the hair and removing lice/nits as directed. CDC recommends checking and removing lice/nits every 2–3 days for the next 2–3 weeks, depending on the treatment used.
6. Please contact your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are unsure which treatment to use, if treatment does not appear to be working, or if you have questions about treating a young child.

Returning to School

Children with head lice do not need to be sent home early from school. According to current CDC guidance, a student may return to school after beginning appropriate treatment at home. Upon returning to school, any student with no live lice or nits within a quarter inch of the scalp can return to class.

Help Prevent the Spread

- Avoid head-to-head or hair-to-hair contact during play and other activities.
- Avoid sharing hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, barrettes, combs, brushes, and towels.
- Avoid sharing beds, pillows, or other items that have recently been used by someone with an active infestation.
- Keep long hair pulled back or contained during activities where close head-to-head contact may occur.
- Check your child's scalp regularly, particularly after known exposure to head lice.

Cleaning Your Home

CDC recommends washing and drying clothing, bedding, towels, and other washable items used during the two days before treatment using hot water and high heat drying. Items that cannot be washed or dry cleaned can be sealed in a plastic bag for two weeks. Combs and brushes can be soaked in water at least 130°F for 5–10 minutes. Vacuuming areas where the person sat or rested may also be helpful.

Do not use fumigant sprays or fogs. They are unnecessary and can be toxic.

Remember:

Head lice are common and not a reflection of cleanliness or parenting. With prompt identification and appropriate treatment, families can help minimize the spread while keeping children healthy and learning.

Thank you for your partnership and support in helping keep our students healthy and ready to learn!

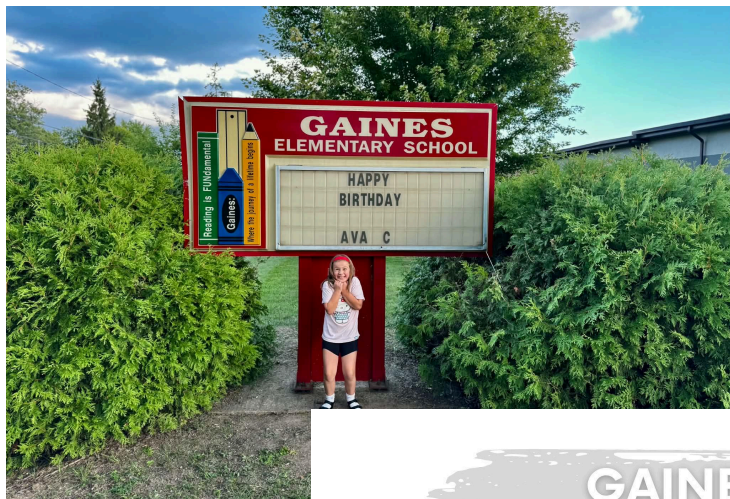
More Information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/lice>
- <https://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/home/head-lice>

References:

1. https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder2/Folder41/Folder1/Folder141/MI_HL_Manual_Final_2013.pdf?rev=0d98bd1c91e149d2b727edb96b95cf84&hash=A7660E3004BAB2EF83CD24736DED54F9
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/lice>
3. <https://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/home/head-lice>

Birthday Message for \$25



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEND A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO YOUR FAVORITE STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER?



All messages are \$25 each

Message orders must be received at least one week before the requested date. Message will appear on the marquee for one full week. Need more information? Contact us with questions... llohorneswork.org

Return this portion with your payment to the office

Gaines Marquee

Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Requested Week: _____

Weeks will run from Friday to Friday

Name for Message: _____

It will appear on the marquee, "Happy Birthday _____"

Gaines Elementary
@GainesPTO



Gaines Elementary

@GainesPTO



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CREEK Expectations

- C**-Commit to Learning
- R**-Respect
- E**-Everyone is Responsible
- E**-Everyone is Safe
- K**-Everyone is Kind



Staff Directory and Contact Information

If you are looking for contact information for any of our teachers and support staff, please follow this link: <https://gaines.swartzcreek.org/o/ges>

Kellie Robertson, Principal

Text: (810)-553-6080 kr Robertson@swcrk.org Call:(810) 591-1076

Laura Lohorn, Secretary

llhorn@swcrk.org (810) 591- 1078

Mr. Delgado, Food Services

adelgado@swcrk.org 810-591-1858

Mr. Miehm, Transportation Coordinator

jmieh@swcrk.org 810-591-2113

Stay Connected With Us!

Click on the icons below to check us out on the web or social media platform of your choice:

