



Gaines Elementary Family Newsletter

Issue Published: September 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,

What a wonderful Open House we had at Gaines Elementary! It was such a joy to welcome our families into the building, see so many familiar faces, and meet so many new members of our Gaines family. There is something special about the energy of a school filled with excited students, proud families, and teachers eager to begin a new year together.

A huge thank-you to our amazing Gaines staff for all of the time, preparation, and hard work that went into making Open House such a success. From preparing classrooms and materials to welcoming families and getting everything ready for the first day, your dedication truly makes a difference. We are so fortunate to have such a caring and committed team!

🎉 School Starts Monday!

The wait is almost over! School begins this Monday, and we cannot wait to welcome our students back through the doors.

As we begin the school year, please take a moment to review one important reminder regarding cell phones and personal electronic devices.

📱 Cell Phones & Electronics

Under state law and school expectations, cell phones are not permitted to be used during instructional time. Our goal is to keep classrooms focused on learning and to minimize distractions so that every student can be fully engaged.

For that reason, we strongly encourage families to leave cell phones and other personal electronic devices at home whenever possible. If a student has an approved medical need that requires an electronic device, please communicate with the school so appropriate arrangements can be made.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us establish a positive, focused learning environment from day one.

Thank you, Gaines families, for helping us start the year strong. We are looking forward to an incredible school year filled with learning, growth, friendships, and lots of reasons to celebrate!

Welcome back, Gaines! We are so glad you are here! 💙

Warmly,
Kellie Robertson
Principal of Gaines Elementary

Upcoming Events & Planning Ahead

Date Event

August 31 - 1st Day of School Half Day PM Only!

September 1 - Full Day of School

September 4 - No School - Labor Day Weekend

September 7 - No School Labor Day Holiday

October 1 - Picture Day

[District Calendar 2026-27](#)

[K-12 Handbook](#)

[Beginning of Year Information](#)



Social Spotlight

September — Building Routines & Connection

As we settle into a new school year, children may experience big emotions as they adjust to new routines, teachers, classmates, and expectations. Try to:

- Keep morning and bedtime routines predictable.
- Spend a few minutes each day asking about their school experience.
- Praise effort, flexibility, and problem-solving—not just good behavior.
- Remind your child that it is okay to need help.



Thank you!

Chelsea Paull, LLMSW

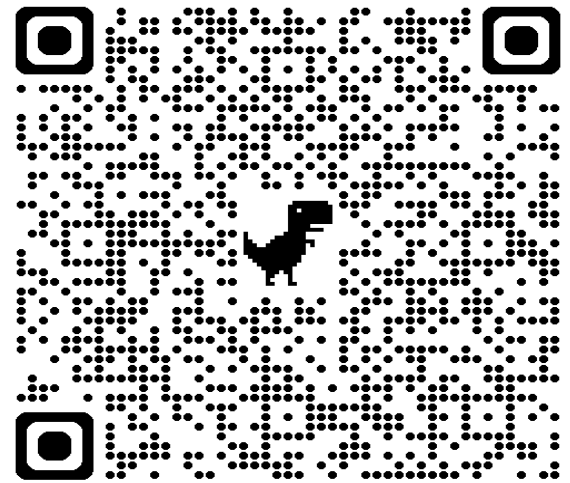
School Social Worker...(810) 591-4094

Food Service

Scan and Complete Family Portal

Instructional support videos of these instructions can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/WvE3bDCw0s4>
<https://youtu.be/gj8483mcfng>



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.

HOCO



Volunteering

A **Volunteer/ ICHAT form** is encouraged to be submitted yearly for those parents wishing to volunteer for certain events. These forms are kept on file at the school in anticipation of those opportunities.

A background check **is required to be completed 5-7 days prior to EACH event.** (By having the form on file it speeds up the process when background checks need to be run.) Here is a link to the Gaines volunteer form

 [Gaines Volunteer Form 2026/27](#)

Transportation

Dear Swartz Creek Families,

If your child will be riding a school bus this school year or will be attending AM and/or PM Latchkey, please take a few minutes to carefully review the link with transportation instructions and complete the required Transportation Change Request form in your PowerSchool/PowerParent account (only if there are changes).



Please note the following important reminders:

- You must answer "YES" to the question asking if your student needs transportation. If you do not select YES, your child will not be assigned to a bus.
- Complete the form carefully, selecting the appropriate transportation option (AM, PM, or both) and the correct pick-up/drop-off location.
- Transportation requests may take up to 5 business days to be processed and assigned.

The 2026-2027 Transportation Instructions link also includes:

- StopFinder setup instructions for families using the district's bus tracking app.
- Latchkey transportation instructions for students attending AM and/or PM Latchkey.

2026-2027 Transportation Instructions

[<https://files-backend.assets.thrillshare.com/.../Transpor...>]

Thank you for completing these steps as soon as possible to help ensure your child's transportation is in place before the start of the school year.

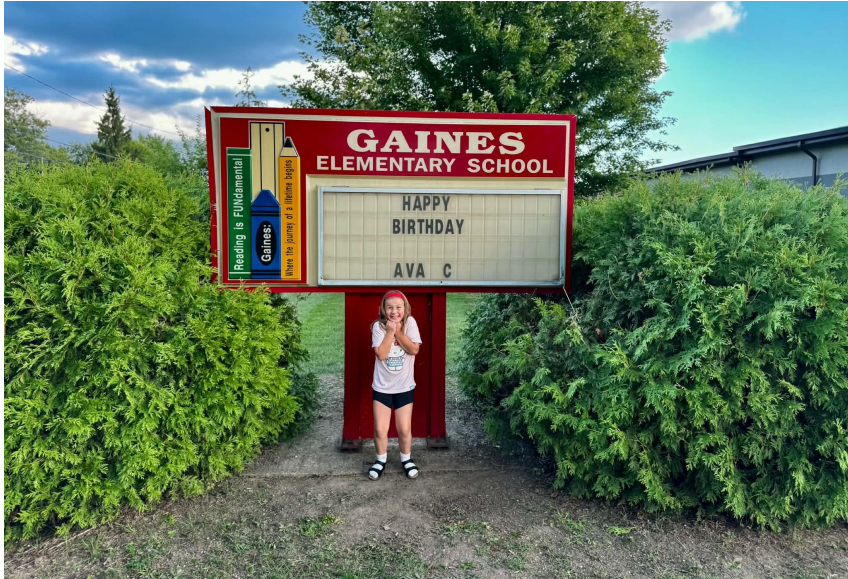
If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate staff listed in the instructions.

Thank you,

Swartz Creek Community Schools



Birthday Message for \$25



Marquee

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



All messages are \$25

Message orders must be received at least one week before the message will appear on the marquee for one full week. Need more information? Contact us with questions... 116

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



venmo

Gaines Elementary

@GainesPTO



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

jmiehm@swcrk.org 810-591-2113

Stay Connected With Us!

Click on the icons to check us out on the web or social media!

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

