



Gaines Elementary Family Newsletter

Issue Published: August 19, 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,

Welcome to Gaines Elementary for the 2026–27 school year! I am incredibly excited to begin this school year as a new member of the Gaines Elementary family.

While I am new to Gaines, I am certainly not new to Swartz Creek! You may recognize me from the halls of the Virtual Learning Center or SCMS, perhaps even from one of

the local ice cream places! 🍦 I am excited to get to know our Gaines students, families, teachers, and staff and to become part of this wonderful school community.

Before stepping into my Director role at the VLC last year, I spent 15 years as a middle school ELA teacher and two years as the SCMS Instructional Coach. These experiences have reinforced for me just how important the elementary years are. The relationships, confidence, curiosity, and love of learning that children develop in grades K–5 provide such an important foundation for everything that comes next.

I earned both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Michigan...Go Blue! 💙💛 I am passionate about education and especially about creating schools where children feel safe, valued, encouraged, and excited to learn.

Outside of school, I am a proud mom of five children and four bonus children, and I am incredibly lucky to have a supportive family network. We recently went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to watch the Detroit Lions

preseason game one! 🦁🏈

I also believe that life, and elementary school, should include plenty of opportunities to laugh, celebrate, and have fun! I look forward to getting to know your children, cheering them on, and celebrating all of the little and big accomplishments that happen throughout the year.

As a parent, I know how important it is to trust the people who care for and educate your children. My hope is that every Gaines family feels welcomed, heard, and connected to our school community. I look forward to partnering with you throughout the year because when families and schools work together, our children truly benefit.

I am so excited to begin this new chapter at Gaines Elementary and cannot wait to see the smiling faces of our students in the hallways!

Here's to a wonderful 2025–26 school year filled with learning, friendships, growth, and lots of reasons to celebrate our amazing Gaines kids!

Welcome to Gaines Elementary! 🐉

— Kellie Robertson
Principal of Gaines Elementary



Upcoming Events & Planning Ahead

Date Event

August 27 - Open House 6:00-7:00 PM
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](#)

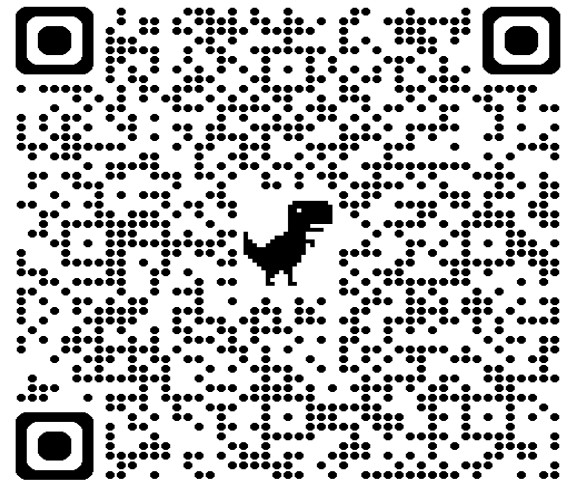


Food Service

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



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 krobertson@swcrk.org Call:(810) 591-1076

Laura Lohorn, Secretary

llohorn@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!

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or social media platform of your choice:

