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**School Pays**

The School Pays program will be used to encourage students to arrive on time and attend school on a daily basis. As you know students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not make school attendance a priority. Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school career. Parents who emphasize the importance of regular school attendance help their children to accept responsibility thus helping their children to learn an important lesson for a successful life. Research proves that children who miss school are more likely to fall behind and struggle to keep up with their peers. Unfortunately this increases the likelihood that they will eventually drop out of school. Our data indicates that GES has issues with students attending school. In order to encourage school attendance the last Friday of each month a grade level drawing will be held during announcements. In order to qualify for the drawing you must arrive at school on time and stay all day (no check-outs). A list of students who have **perfect** **attendance for the month** will be printed by grade level. One name per grade level will be drawn during morning announcements. The winner from each grade level will be awarded $5. We will begin looking at attendance on 9/13/12! Be sure to be at school on time! I would like to say a Special Thanks to the GES PTO for supporting our efforts to increase student attendance at GES!

Michelle Taylor

Guidance Counselor