



Sa'ili Le Atamai

GEAR UP NEWS



GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE

GEAR UP serving 1171 ninth graders

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The Territory of American Samoa has a widespread and critical need to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Poor remedial skills and low standardized test scores among 11th and 12th grade students seriously threaten the territory's ability to generate college-bound youth.

Although an average of 900 American Samoa students graduate from high school each year, less than 30% (300) enter post-secondary education and approximately 90% of those (270) require remedial education prior to enrolling into their college courses. Of those who enter college, more than 75%

drop out because they lack the study skills needed to succeed in a college setting as well as comprehend or master the college curriculum (American Samoa Community College assessment, 2004). This is approximately 25% higher than mainland statistics for first-year students who drop out of college.

School Year 2008-2009 GUAS has started working with eight American Samoan High Schools. From 2006-2008 GUAS worked with 13 Elementary Schools with a cohort group of 863 students and now that we have entered the High School level, our 9th grade cohort classrooms total 1171 ninth grade students.

Through a partnership

with AS DOE, GUAS is able to employ 56 part-time Vice Principals, Counselors, Teachers, Librarians and Bus Drivers to provide activities and services after-hours for our students. The GUAS goal is to enhance the teaching and learning of our cohort group. Educating our students involves a broad spectrum of services from increasing parent involvement, enhancing the classroom environment to training the classroom teacher.



Inside this issue:

- *GIAS High Schools* 1
- *Homework Sessions* 1
- *ASCC "Lion King"* 2
- *Technology* 2
- *GEAR UP Partners* 3
- *AutoDesk Software* 3
- *Teacher Education* 4
- *GUAS Summer Camps* 4

Before & After-School Homework Sessions

As a result of lessons learned from the many after school activities, GUAS has started the "Before-School Homework Session" to help those students who are not able to attend the "After-School Homework Sessions". By helping students complete their homework, their overall

grades and attendance improve.

To help support the effort, GUAS is offering incentives for students who attend the BSHS or the ASHS. During these sessions, students are able to spend more time receiving a one-on-one teacher student relationship.

After attending six Homework sessions, the student will be given a GUAS incentive, such as a phone card, McDonald or Carl's Jr. certificate or a movie pass certificate. The incentives are given to help increase and retain attendance of the homework sessions.

GEAR UP American Samoa Website
www.gearup.as

GEAR UP High Schools: What's it all about?

GUAS provides services to target the conditions and skills that assist students in enrolling and reaching success in post-secondary education. It also aims to increase the expectations of students, that is, as a result of their participation in GEAR UP they aspire to go to college and seek higher education. These services include tutoring and mentoring students, technology support, teacher training and instructional support, and providing information on college preparation.

School Year 2008-2009 GUAS cohort students are in the ninth grade attending eight High Schools.

1. Samoana High School.
2. Tafuna High School.
3. Nu'uuli Voc. Tech. High School.
4. Kanana Fou High School.
5. Iakina Academy.
6. Mamumalo Baptist Academy.
7. Leone High School.
8. Fa'asao Marist High School.

The GUAS has helped to initiate several programs that focus on enhancing the motivation of both the GUAS students as well as the 9th grade English, Math and Technology classroom teachers.

GUAS has put into place:

1. AS DOE and ASCC partnership.
2. Before and After-School Homework programs.
3. Technology Learning Software.
4. Instructional classroom supplies.
5. Electronic grade book program.
6. Parent Wrap Around Service Programs (WAS).
7. Local Partnership support.
8. Teacher Education Training.
9. School Coord. monthly meetings.
10. Partners monthly meetings.
11. Summer Camps and student activities.
12. Access to ASCC tours.

GEAR UP students earn tickets to ASCC "Lion King"

Hey GEAR UP students! Do you want to earn free tickets to the ASCC Performing Arts Production this Spring 2009? The performance will be at the Governor Rex Lee Auditorium on April 30, May 1 and 2, 2009. Here's what you need to do: Get a American Samoa Feleti Barstow Public Library Card. Read from a list of suggested books; see your GEAR UP English Teacher for the suggested

books. Write a short book report on each book and turn it in to your school GEAR UP Coordinator (half-page report). Start reading now and you will receive one free ticket per book to the ASCC Drama Play "The Lion King". You may choose to attend any one of the three nights of the performance. All book reports must be turned in to your GEAR UP School coordinator by April 24, 2009.



GEAR UP Identifies Technology Learning Websites

GEAR UP has identified several student learning programs that we encourage teachers to use or refer to in working with their students. The key is accessing the Computer Lab and/or having your students' access the Computer Lab during the After-School Homework Session.

GUAS has provided School Site License for Math Trek Algebra and Al-

gebra 1. We are providing TALL (Technology Assistive Language Learning), an English language learning program whose instructions are given in the Samoan Language. Math Trek and TALL is fully sponsored by GEAR UP, FREE for GEAR UP students. If you are interested in the learning programs, please contact the GEAR UP Office. 699-9155.

We encourage you to visit the following sites where GEAR UP will be training Teachers and students to access, learn and enjoy. And be reminded—they are free.

<www.inedapencil.com>

<www.examenglish.com>

<www.highschool.com>

<www.esl.about.com>

Parents Access Kid's Grades <www.gearup.as>

GEAR UP American Samoa is proud to share access to our GUAS website <www.gearup.as>. The website gives the information to our goals, mission, objectives and activities that we are implementing with our schools, teachers, students and parents.

GEARUP.AS is a website where all our GUAS clients can find information on areas of high school to college academic enhancement, teenage social concerns, teacher professional development and parents with teenagers support and concerns.

GEARUP.AS is proud to highlight the many community partners who share their time and expertise in working with our GUAS clients. The Partners provide content presentations to engage Gear Up students and parents, and share im-

portant information on available programs and services that support youth and their families.

To further assist the teacher and monitor classroom performance, GUAS purchased user licenses to use MarkBook (MB), an electronic classroom management program that helps to track all their students' grades, attendance, personal information, ranking and rate of performance. The program can hold information on any number of classes, with a maximum of 200 students per class.

GUAS parents and students will be able to access their students Math & English grades and their attendance at the After-School Homework Session in "real time" by accessing their child's user name and password. Visit <www.gearup.as>, log in to your

child's GUAS school, and you will be able to see your child's grades and progress. Listed below is an example of what you will find.

ASCC ACADEMY GEAR UP - COMBINED REPORT - Mar 24, 2009
ASCC_GUAS - 2008/2009 - Mr. Smart Samoa

SAM FIAOLA

OVERALL: **87%** (Range: 66-100%) Class Avg: 71% Median: 75%

Mathematics: **80%** Class Average 72% % of Overall: 40.8%

Category	% of MATH	Student Average	Class Average	% of Overall
Final	81.0	76	79	17
Quiz	95.0	77	78	1
Test	95.0	76	79	11

English Assessments: **88%** Class Average 80% % of Overall: 49.8%

Category	% of ENGL	Student Average	Class Average	% of Overall
Final	88.0	75	75	15
Quiz	95.0	86	86	0
Test	95.0	86	86	0

Records of Homework: **95%** Class Average 97% % of Overall: 15.6%

Category	% of HWWR	Student Average	Class Average	% of Overall
HWWR	100.0	95	87	0

GUASAttSchAttendance: **100%** Class Average 78% % of Overall: 5.8%

Category	% of ATT	Student Average	Class Average	% of Overall
Attendance	100.0	100	78	22

Calculated numbers are rounded.

tion, Feleti Barstow Public Library, KHJ Radio, Dept. of Marine and Wildlife, Samoan Business and Culture Inc., Samoa News, and members of the House of Representatives.

Partner meetings raise social concerns that assist GUAS families, and also provide counseling as well as professional education and career pathway opportunities.

GEAR UP Partners

GEAR UP has had the honor of soliciting 15 local partners to provide professional development presentations to parents, teachers and students. On the 1st Monday of each month, the GUAS Partners meet to discuss the needs of our students and their families.

Our major Partners are AS DOE, AS DOH and AS DHSS. Associate Partners are ASCC Institute of trades and Technology, ANZ Bank, Blue Sky Communication, AS National Olympic Committee, Taitaitama, Toa Com, National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administra-

ITT Partnership: AutoDesk for GEAR UP



On March 9, GEAR UP and the Institute of Trades and Technology began the first AutoDesk training session for GEAR UP students. The first session packed the ITT Computer Lab with 25 students. Autodesk is a vocational software that enables users to design in a three-dimensional program. Students can create various models of building and mechanical design, even for items like clothing and jewelry.

GEAR UP Teacher Education



GEAR UP instructors are visiting different GEAR UP High Schools to provide professional development sessions in Math and English. These classroom visits have been a great experience for both the High School Teachers and students. Many of the teachers are noticing a change in their freshmen students who participate in the GEAR UP program. Since the implementation of the GEAR UP incentives for participating students, GEAR UP has noticed an increase in the number of students attending. By participating in the GEAR UP program, students are able to build better relationships with their teachers, who provide one-on-one mentoring. This enables students to transform poor grades into higher grades that they can feel proud of.

GEAR UP would like to acknowledge a teacher who truly demonstrates a dedication to her students. Mrs. Annie Anderson is an English teacher at Tafuna High School. While observing and assisting in Mrs. Anderson's class, GEAR UP could clearly see the passion she has for teaching. The most incredible thing about Mrs. Anderson is that she has taken in students who other teachers didn't want to take on. "We challenge each other. I challenge them to do their best, and they challenge me to be a good teacher." Mrs. Anderson revealed that 13 of the National Honor Society (NHS) candidates at THS for 2008-2009 were her former students, including some of the same ones that no other teachers wanted to take on, "Can you believe it? My students are making it into the NHS!" It is awesome to witness a teacher who is so willing to put in the extra time to make sure that her students excel.

GEAR UP Summer Camp: June 12 TO July 3

GUAS will be conducting three one week Summer Mini Camps for GUAS students June 15 through July 3, 2009. There will be five separate Mini Camps that will run during three consecutive weeks, offering the same camp each week to accommodate as many GUAS students as possible.

Each Camp will host 450 students for five days to a total of 25 contact hours. ASNOC, ASCC Sports, AS DOE Athletics, and Samoa Bowl will coordinate our Sports Camp. ASDOH will provide health screening and Taitaitama will conduct peer support groups for all Camp participants. Each of the three week Mini Camps will be five hours per day for five days. All participants must submit a parental consent form. We ask all of our partners to participate and help to support the GUAS students. Taitaitama's Pre-

vent Underage Drinking Initiative facilitated sessions will focus on the Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) curriculum and foster youth leadership, advocacy, self-esteem building and public speaking skills for GUAS participants. Research shows that tobacco continues to be the gateway drug of youth ages 12-19, immediately followed by alcohol and marijuana use.

Summer Camp registration will be held at the ASCC Gymnasium June 1 to 12. All participants must have a signed parent consent form identifying the Camps that the student will be participating in.

Tentative Camps will be:

1. Sports Fitness Camp
2. Algebra Camp
3. Autodesk Camp
4. Marine Science Camp
5. Agriculture Camp

