

News Flash

Dr. Kamela Patton to participate in eyeglass distribution funded by Naples Children & Education Foundation's vision initiative

WHAT: School Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton will join Principal Jon Bremseth, other officials and parents on Sept. 18 for a unique event celebrating the gift of good vision for children. After opening remarks, nearly 100 underprivileged and/or at-risk children attending Golden Gate Middle School will simultaneously put on their new prescription eyeglasses and discover what it's like to see with clarity.

The students are among 7,500 Collier County children who are undergoing vision screenings, with almost 20 percent expected to be flagged for a comprehensive eye exam. If the students' eyesight warrants eyeglasses, they are fitted for the proper prescription. Within two weeks, they receive two pairs of eyeglasses – one for home and one for school – thanks to a vision initiative funded by Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of Naples Winter Wine Festival. Through festival proceeds, NCEF has raised \$750,000 to fund vision screenings and eye care for the county's neediest children.

WHO: Children marveling at improved eyesight
Dr. Kamela Patton, Collier County Superintendent of Schools
Principal Jon Bremseth, Golden Gate Middle School
Kelly Haynes, executive director of Florida's Vision Quest
John Scot Mueller, Naples Children & Education Foundation trustee

WHY: The problem is clear: If kids can't see, they can't learn. With a disproportionately high percent of Collier County students in low-income schools and early childhood centers needing glasses, and little possibility of getting them, NCEF stepped in with a vision initiative. It is part of NCEF's strategic focus on providing a social safety net for the area's most at-risk children.