

SOCIAL NETWORK

SEPT. 18, 2012 STUDENTS RECEIVE GLASSES THANKS TO FLORIDA VISION QUEST PROGRAM



initiatives



Photos: Dania Maxwell (5)

On Sept. 18, 100 Golden Gate Middle School students each received two free pairs of glasses — one for home and one for school — through the Florida Vision Quest program, which has screened and outfitted more than 170,000 at-risk or underprivileged students across the state since its inception. “Oh my God, I can see,” 13-year-old Victoria Marez said after shoving a pair

of pink translucent frames onto her face. “I can see all the way over there.”

Trustees with Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of Naples Winter Wine Festival, raised \$750,000 to pay for testing and frames for Collier County students. About 7,500 Collier County students were tested and about 20 percent are expected to need glasses.

1. Students of Golden Gate Middle School try on brand-new seeing eyeglasses for the first time.
2. Darina Decembre, center, tries on a new pair of seeing eyeglasses at Golden Gate Middle School. Decembre is a student participating in a vision initiative, funded by Naples Children and Education Foundation.
3. Manecha Bouche, LaQuanda Burton, Yveleissa Martino, and Doreen Joseph (left to right) sit in the Golden Gate Middle school cafeteria waiting to receive yeglasses.
4. Students sit with a brand new pair of eyeglasses in the cafeteria at Golden Gate Middle School.
5. Briana Desravines tries on a new pair of eyeglasses. “Whoa, it’s so clear,” she said. The vision initiative, funded by Naples Children and Education Foundation, provided around 100 students from Golden Gate Middle school with two prescription eye glasses. The students are among 7,500 Collier County children who are undergoing vision screenings.