

## ***National ACE “Special” Science Teacher:***

**Marian Gilmore**

**PreK-Post Graduate Science/Growth House Teacher,  
Silver Sands School Ft Walton Beach, FL**

**M**s Marian Gilmore has a passion for all things science and has impressed that love upon the students and staff at [Silver Sands School](#), starting with the CAP ACE program! As the science teacher for Silver Sands, which is a Title I school for students with severe intellectual and physical disabilities in grades PreK-post graduate, she looks for ways to incorporate STEM activities in a modified or accommodated way so that all of the school’s students can benefit from the experience, but without significantly “watering down” the science. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year (before she was even the Science Teacher), she began incorporating STEM initiatives at the school by requesting they register to be an ACE school with CAP. These lessons have been valuable in engaging all the students in science concepts through real-world examples and activities they could do at home during COVID closures. Ms Gilmore has a way of “connecting” all the aerospace topics found in the ACE program with many supplemental enrichment resources! Everything connects to aerospace, says Ms Gilmore!

Ms Gilmore brings a love of all things NASA and space to Silver Sands. She has participated in the Houston Space Conference for years and brings back ideas to incorporate into her lessons while using the ACE lessons as a primary focus. In spite of the COVID restrictions of not allowing visitors, she still arranged to have Zoom conferences with two astronauts (Don Thomas and Marcia Lindstrom), as well as have a guest presenter via Zoom for our Virtual Science Fair and STEM Night, Ms Janet Ivey of Janet’s Planet. The students enjoyed these experiences and asked great questions of the astronauts during the Zooms, as well as participated in the ACE lessons virtually using materials that were sent home with students for the STEM Night event. Ms Gilmore led teachers through the ACE lessons as they demonstrated live for students and families on Facebook.

Ms. Gilmore has found a way to bridge the gap between school and home by recording science videos and posting them to the [Silver Sands School YouTube channel](#). She has included both students and staff in videos and projects throughout the year, incorporating the people on campus for implementation and “special” ACE presentations. Videos were added to the YouTube channel with employees acting as guest scientists to demonstrate the ACE lessons. She is always looking for resources and ways to improve her program to make science as engaging as it can be for these students with special needs.

As stated by her principal, Ms Stephanie Wheat, “You will not find a more energetic and passionate Science Teacher than Ms. Marian Gilmore., particularly when it comes to Aerospace Science!”

**For her passion and resourcefulness to ensure ACE lessons continued in a virtual manner, *CONGRATULATIONS, Ms Marian Gilmore!***

# Silver Sands Facebook Page articles, videos, and events from 2020-2021 school year:

Silver Sands School  
Published by Stephanie Wheat · January 19 ·

We finally got our rocket art hung from the ACE Lift-off day. Isn't it a perfect background for our National ACE School of the Year banner?



Silver Sands School  
Published by Stephanie Wheat · October 28, 2020 ·

In recognition of being named the National ACE School of the Year for 2020, Silver Sands had an ACE Lift-Off celebration day on Monday, Oct 26th. Students went to 7 different science stations: Straw Rockets, Drone demo, Balloon Rockets, Bottle Rockets, Spin Rockets, Egg Drop, and Rocket Art. The day was made extra special with a helicopter landing and visit from special guests, including Cappy the ACE Mascot!

[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/ACE\\_Liftoff\\_Silver...](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/ACE_Liftoff_Silver...) See More

Silver Sands School  
Published by Stephanie Wheat · November 11, 2020 ·

From our ACE Lift-off event in October!

<https://www.cap.news/ace-program--lifts-off-for-2020-/>

[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/.../ACE\\_Liftoff\\_Silver...](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/.../ACE_Liftoff_Silver...)



CAP.NEWS

ACE Program Lifts Off for 2020-2021 School Year

Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program for grades K-6 has launch

+148





Silver Sands School

Published by Stephanie Wheat · September 4, 2020 · 🌐

We're getting our science on at Silver Sands!

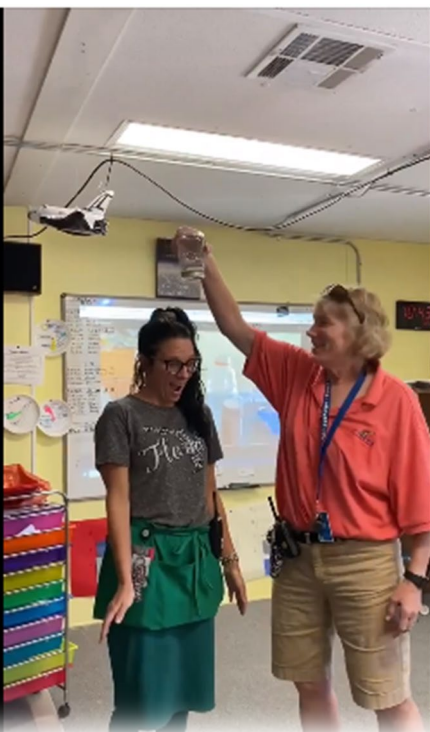
Ms. Gilmore is ready to do an awesome science lesson 🧪



Silver Sands School

October 1, 2020 · 🌐

A little science with Ms. Gilmore and Ms. Jordan. Way to trust your experiment!!!



Silver Sands School

Published by Stephanie Wheat · October 12, 2020 · 🌐

The power of air!!! Our students (and staff) had so much fun experimenting with air last week. 😊

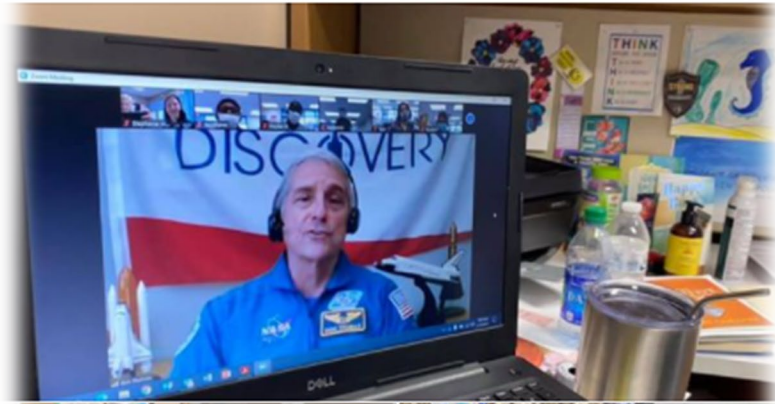


The Seahorse Scientists finished their unit on The Power of Air



Silver Sands School  
Published by Stephanie Wheat · 4d ·

Perseverance is landing on Mars today!  
We hosted Astronaut Don Thomas today to tell us more about it!



Silver Sands School was live.  
Published by Stephanie Wheat · January 15 ·



Silver Sands School  
Published by Stephanie Wheat · February 17 at 4:39 PM ·

The High School and School-To-Work classes had a great time talking to Marcia Lindstrom who leads the Strategic Communication Team for NASA. Marcia talked to us via zoom about the Artemis Mission and returning humans to the Moon.

