

SCHOOL'S ORDERS? BREAK A WORLD RECORD

Goddard School locations will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for largest game of Simon Says.

By Eileen Oldfield • September 22, 2011



Simon says, "Break a world record."

That's precisely what students at the Goddard School across the country—including 28 from the Hillsborough location—will attempt Friday, as they try to break the Guinness World Record for Largest Game of Simon Says.

"We don't just challenge the children cognitively and developmentally," Susan Hoy, owner of the Hillsborough location, said. "We also try to challenge them socially, through play. ... We're really talking about the whole child, not just their brain."

The school's kindergarten classes, which includes 20 full-day students and eight who come to the school after their day at Hillsborough public schools, will make up the school's record-breaking team, along with several teachers, Hoy said. The game will take place in the school's gym, with an officer from the Hillsborough Township Police serving as the school's witness.

The number to beat? 12,215 participants, all playing the game at the same time. Coupled with other Goddard locations throughout the country, Hoy estimates that each school needs about 30 participants to be over 12,215 participants.

Beating the number isn't so simple, though. Guinness has several protocols that dictate how long the game must be, how often the non-Simon-says directions must be called and rules on repeating commands.

"It's quite a laborious process, in order to be certified," Hoy said. "It has to be a minimum of ten minutes without repeating cues. It's very different than we thought it would be."

The school's teachers have already been practicing with students, in anticipation of the Friday game. In addition, teachers have been reminding parents about the day—and the request that students wear their red Goddard School t-shirts— which has more excitement for the challenge.

"We all want to do it because if we accomplish it, we'll have done something that's recognized by Guinness," Hoy said. "Kindergarteners understand that."