



Save the Dates

- **8th Grade Graduation Pictures:** Thurs. 4/1 at 1:00-6:00PM
- **Trimester 2 Awards Presentations:** Thurs. 4/1 at 12noon. Grade Level Zoom links will be sent out by Tues. 3/30.
- **Change of Schedule:** Thurs. 4-1. Office Hours and Study Hall will be cancelled and students may begin their Spring Break starting 12:45PM.
- **Read-A-Thon:** Thurs. 4/1 to Fri. 4-16
- **School Closed for Spring Vacation:** Fri. 4/2 to 4/9
- **Remote Only School Opens:** Mon 4/12
- **Trimester 3 Progress Report Cards Distributed:** Thurs. 4/22
- **Parent-Teacher Zoom Conferences:** Mon 4/26 –Thurs 4/29
- **LOL! Read-A-Thon Game Night:** Wed. 4.21 @ 7 pm
- **LOL! Read-A-Thon Movie Night!:** Fri 4/30 at 7 pm



PARENT SURVEY

Please take the opportunity to complete this year's Parent Survey which will be distributed via email this month! Your feedback will be shared with the Board of Trustees and with our administration and faculty as we reflect on our success and set goals for continued improvement and growth as a school community.

Pride Academy Read-A-Thon Launches April 1st!



What better way to encourage our scholars to read than with a READ-A-THON! And, what better time to get students reading than during Spring Break! Read-A-Thons actually get readers excited about reading and it gives friends and family the opportunity to encourage your child to read even more.

Our Read-A-Thon starts Thursday April 1st 2021 and will run through Friday April 16th. Parents will need to register their child into the Pride Academy Read-A-Thon Dashboard. Once your child is registered, they will be able to record how many minutes they read at any time. You and your child will also be able to use the Read-A-Thon website to invite family and friends to donate through ready-to-go emails, texts, and Facebook posts. You will also be able to view and track their reading progress, as well as the amount fundraised.

Scholars who are registered by their parents will be invited to attend a special LOL! Read-A-Thon Game Night. Those who invite 10 people to donate by email or through Facebook will be invited to attend a special LOL! Read-A-Thon Movie Night. The top 5 readers in each grade and top 3 fundraisers will earn gift cards. As great as these prizes may seem, the prize that has all of our Pride Scholars excited is the Pie-In-the-Face Challenge! The grades with the most donations raised will get to vote for 10 teachers and staff to get a PIE-IN-THE-FACE!

We hope EVERYONE participates. Our goal is to raise \$20,000, which will help us to get our building ready for in-person instruction as well as acquire all the necessary materials and resources needed to get our scholars back on track academically and emotionally. We also hope that this Read-A-Thon provides our scholars with some much-needed fun and inspires a love of reading!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Dumenigo by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org or text or call her at 862-400-7293.

Trimester 3 Progress Report Card Conferences

Some tips to help prepare for Progress Report Card Parent Conferences on during the week of 4-26-4-29:

- Let the teachers know what your concerns are and what you feel is important for them to know about how your child learns.
- Ask to look at your child's work.
- Be open-minded in working with the teacher to develop an action plan to help address any concerns that you may have.
- Share your expertise about your child and anything that may be going on with them at home to help the teachers understand how best to work with your child.
- Be prepared to hear good news as well as news that may be disappointing or surprising. Your children's teachers may have insights and knowledge about your child's learning that you may not have heard before. Be open to discussing these calmly and professionally.
- After the conference, be sure to celebrate GREAT accomplishments and action-plans for improvement with your child!

POWER HOUR+ with Ms. Brower

Beginning April 13th, 2021, Ms. Brower will host bi-weekly open Zoom meetings on Tuesdays for 5th & 6th Grades, and Thursdays for 7th & 8th Grades, from 6-7:30 p.m. to support students who would benefit from a structured time during which to complete assignments.

Teachers will recommend students they would like to participate and contact parents to share their recommendation with you for your agreement and support for your child to attend these evening sessions.

Students who plan to attend, must arrive on time, remain on camera, and attend the full session. During the session, in order to receive credit points for attending, students are expected to work diligently and submit completed work at the end of the session. Please reach out to Ms Brower at rbrower@prideacs.org with any questions.

Keeping You, Your Loved Ones, and Our School Safe!

Here at Pride, we are continuing to take actions to prepare the school building and practice actions that reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 to prepare for our potential April 19th Phase 1 in-person learning program. We know that the virus that causes COVID-19 is mostly spread during close contact by respiratory droplets released when people talk, sing, breathe, cough or sneeze. The virus that causes COVID-19 can sometimes be spread through the air by airborne transmission or through touching contaminated surfaces or objects. There for, personal prevention practices and environmental cleaning and disinfections are important principles that we will implement here at Pride.

In order to keep you and your families safe and reach our goal to begin our Phase 1 in-person program, it is important to adopt and consistently implement actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our households, community and school. This means that we all must take actions to protect ourselves and others where we live, work, learn and play.

These practices are **REQUIRED** within the school building at all times:

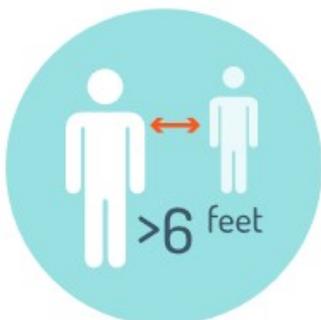
- ♥ Wearing masks appropriately, covering the nose at all times
- ♥ Staying home when sick with fever and cold/flu-like symptoms
- ♥ Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently
- ♥ Social distancing – 6 feet apart



This action is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**:

- ♥ As soon as you are eligible, get your **COVID-19 Vaccination**

Please read the information below and reach out to Nurse Evans 973-672-3200 ext. 202 or Mrs. Thomas ext. 201 with any questions or concerns.



“Vaccines (shots) are one of the tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease. Vaccines work with your body’s natural defenses so your body will be ready to fight the virus, if you are exposed (also called immunity). **Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.**

These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself. **The vaccines are safe.** All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as any other vaccines produced through the years. Different types of COVID-19 vaccines will be available. Most of these vaccines are given in two shots, one at a time and spaced apart. The first shot gets your body ready. The second shot is given at least three weeks later to make sure you have full protection. **If you are told you need two shots, make sure that you get both of them. The vaccines may work in slightly different ways, but all types of the vaccines will help protect you.**

Even after you get your vaccine, **you will need to keep wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth, washing your hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you do not live with.** This gives you and others the best protection from catching the virus. Right now, experts don’t know how long the vaccine will protect you, so it’s a good idea to continue following the guidelines from CDC and your health department. We also know not everyone will be able to get vaccinated right away, so it’s still important to protect yourself and others.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/facts-covid-vaccines-english-508.pdf> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/facts-covid-vaccines-spanish-508.pdf>



#20 Spotlight on Safety: Gangs

As the weather improves with the advent of Spring, our children spend a greater amount of time outdoors and in public spaces. In most instances, a great time is enjoyed by all. In some, however, conflict may arise with bystanders caught in the midst. It is critical that our children are equipped to prevent their involvement in violence and conflict as well as to respond appropriately if or when it occurs. One of the most important things for children is to make positive choices about how and with whom they spend time. It is important for educators, parents and guardians to know about children's/students' friends and warn them away from anyone involved in unsafe activities like gangs.

Gang Facts: A street gang can be described as a group of individuals who share a unique name or symbol, attempt to control certain territory ("turf") in a community and engage in a variety of violent or illegal behaviors that effect the general population (vandalism, drug dealing, assaults, drive-by shootings).

Gang Presence: People often assume gangs are a 'big city' problem. The truth is that gangs are present everywhere in America, from major urban areas to surrounding suburbs and rural communities. Gangs have been glorified through music videos, and movies, and have made their way onto the internet - hosting web sites, or creating profile pages on popular networking sites to lure recruits. They have even established a global presence. Gangs are breaking through racial, cultural and socio-economic barriers to grow their memberships. Young people from all economic and social backgrounds have been lured into gang life, from as early as age six or seven.

Gang Activity: Today's gangs participate in a number of destructive and violent behaviors that target rival gangs and impact innocent bystanders. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, gang members participate in "a variety of anti-social behaviors, including battery, mayhem, sexual assault, damage to property, larceny, murder, gang wars and other criminal activity". Gangs profit from criminal acts, such as narcotic sales, robberies and auto thefts. They vandalize property with gang graffiti. They may possess assault weapons and deadly firearms to use on the streets or in drive-by shootings. Gang-related crimes devastate our families and unravel the fabric of our communities.

The Three R's of Gang Life – Reputation, Respect, and Retaliation: Reputation is especially important for gangs and gang members. A reputation determines status within the gang and community. Respect is important to a gang's overall reputation. Gangs and gang members will demand respect from their own crew, their rivals, and the community at large. If gangs or gang members feel disrespected, retaliation is a guarantee. Disrespect may take the form of a verbal comment, or it can be an act, such as when a rival gang tags over another gang's graffiti. Retaliation can happen immediately, or it may occur later. Retaliation can range from a beating, vandalizing property, intimidation, extortion, and arson, all the way to murder of the rival, their family, friends, or loved ones.

Gang Names and Nicknames: Gangs use various names to represent their gang, crew, or clique. The gang name may have reference to a commonly-known gang ("Crips", "Vice Lords"), while the clique name may have a connection to the gang's neighborhood (street name, geographic location). Most gang members adopt nicknames when they are recruited to a gang. These nicknames might identify certain physical traits ("Shorty"), describe a skill or the recruit's personality. Two rival cliques or gangs of which we have recently become aware are DTH and Sheed Side (SS). These groups are geographically based and comprised, according to law enforcement officials, of both children and adults.

Please be mindful of any references made to these groups or graffiti, and refer concerns to Ms. Brower, Mrs. Thomas or Mr. Ofstad immediately.





NJ 2019-2020 School Performance Report Results!

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the School Community,

I am writing to provide you information about the 2019-2020 New Jersey School Performance Reports, which will be released during the week of April 5th and will be available on the NJ School Performance Reports webpage at www.njschooldata.org.

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education. We encourage you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about your school and district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify what schools are doing well and where they can improve

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the way the NJDOE was able to measure school performance and student achievement in the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports. Some data is not available at all and other data, while available, may not look the same as it did in prior years. The NJDOE also recognizes that our existing data can't begin to measure the hard work and perseverance of the students, families, educators, and community members during this difficult year.

While this past year has been unlike any other, and the NJDOE believes that it is critical to use the available data in the reports, along with other information collected directly within districts and communities, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and continue to find ways to address the impacts of COVID-19 and ensure all students receive the support and resources that they need. Also, the School Performance Reports can and should be used in conjunction with available school and district data to identify priorities for summer and school year programming and the use of state and federal dollars.

Notes are included throughout the School Performance Reports to explain where data is missing or impacted by COVID-19 and a new [Impact of COVID-19 on Data Availability](#) resource is available to summarize this information.

Enhancements to the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports

The 2019-2020 reports include changes that respond to stakeholder feedback collected over the last several years and during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes include:

- **New report design** with improved visuals and new navigational tools
- **Additional data** about graduation cohorts to provide more information about students who do not graduate
- **New resources** to help explain the impact of COVID-19 on the availability of data in the reports
- **A new narrative field, "Learning During COVID-19"**, to give districts an opportunity to share information on how they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic

The NJDOE continues to seek public input on ways to improve future reports. Please complete the [School Performance Report feedback survey](#) or email reportcard@doe.nj.gov with feedback and suggestions. Please also reach out to us if you have any questions or have difficulty accessing the full performance report for our school (973-672-3200 Ext. 201).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas, Principal