

High School Spotlight by Mr. Geiger



Save the Dates:

- Field Trip Week: **Mon. 6/5- Thurs. 6/8**
- Field Day: **Tues, 6/13**
- Parent Tricky Tray: **Wed 6/7 at 5:30pm**
- Have Your Say Ubuntu Parent Meeting: **Thurs. 6/8 5:30pm**
- 3rd Trimester Ends: **Fri. 6/9**
- Future Me Dress Up Day: **Fri. 6/9**
- Parent Council Meeting to Select 8th Grade Scholarship Winners: **Wed. 6/14 5:30PM**
- Spirit Week Activities: **6/12-6/16**
- 8th Grade Awards Dinner: **Thurs. 6/15**
- 8th Grade Graduation Trip: **Fri. 6/16**
- 8th Grade Dance: **Mon. 6/19 6:30-8:30pm**
- Trimester Awards Ceremony: **Tues. 6/20 11:30-12:30**
- 8th Grade Graduation: **Tues. 6/20 6pm**
- Last Day of School and Report Card Distribution: **Tues. 6/20 (1:30pm-4pm)**
- Half-Day 12:30 Dismissals: **Fri. 6/16; Mon. 6/19; Tues. 6/20**

High School Placement is one of the most important processes our Pride Scholars participate in while attending Pride Academy. Prior to 8th grade, our scholars have the opportunity to apply to various scholarship organizations, such as The Wight Foundation, NJ S.E.E.D.S, and A Better Chance. These groups assist middle school students to gain acceptance into boarding, independent day, and community schools. It is vital for parents to begin the high school placement process immediately following the admission of their child into Pride Academy. Beginning in the 5th grade, parents should speak with their children regarding high school options, potential career interests, and goals for their educational future.

Our goal is to provide Pride Academy with a stronger and more superior process with each passing year. This year, approximately 90% of Pride Academy's 8th grade scholars achieved acceptance to boarding, parochial, independent, magnet, charter, and technical high schools. Currently, almost all of our 8th graders have registered at the high schools of their choice and they will soon see their hard work pay off!

Every year, the High School Admissions process commences with High School Night, which usually takes place during the last week in September. This year's High School Night was on September 22, 2016. Approximately 25 high schools from the surrounding area, along with NJ SEEDS and Wight Foundation were in attendance and met with our 7th and 8th grade scholars. Following High School Night, Mr. Geiger spoke with our 8th grade scholars and their families about the high school options available to them. In November, The COOP Exam was administered to many of our 8th grade scholars. This voluntary exam aims to help students gain admission to the parochial schools in the area. Many of our scholars also chose to take the Essex County Vocational School Exam in January and February of 2017 in order to help them to obtain acceptance at those schools as well.

It is vital for our 7th grade scholars to begin preparation for the high school placement process over the summer. Students should actively research high schools in order to discover which schools may offer them the greatest opportunities. Family members should discuss all of the options with their child and guide them in their decision-making. Together, you can choose a high school that best suits the needs and interests of your child.

Mr. Geiger will schedule meetings with the 8th grade families for the 2017-2018 school year beginning in August. This will allow time to prepare for High School Night, which will once again be held at the end of September. We look forward to working with next year's 8th grade scholars, and we wish all of our Pride families a fun and relaxing summer!

Thank You to our Families!

Our faculty and staff were truly grateful for all the expressions of appreciation and gratitude that our parents shared during Staff Appreciation Week in May. Staff enjoyed the beautiful gift, delicious luncheon, and celebration of their work with your children!

We appreciate all our parents and family members and wish you a safe and rejuvenating summer!



**Congratulations
Class of 2017!**



Juneteenth- June 19th

In the long memory I have cultivated over my lifetime, the “Juneteenth” of my pre-adolescent years will always linger.

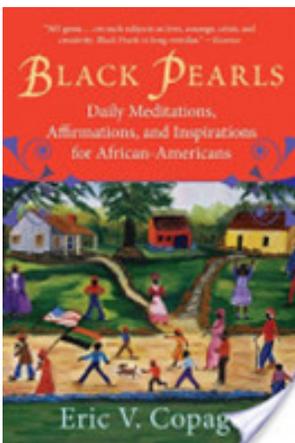
Even in our youth, we were not only learning our roots, we were also planting seeds: in our own inherited land, and in our own time.

-James Thomas Jackson

“Juneteenth” commemorates the day black Texans learned about the Emancipation Proclamation. For years it was an official holiday, celebrated with gatherings of family and friends. Our special holidays are wonderful opportunities to celebrate our history, but let’s not wait for a specific date to teach our children about their heritage.

On this day, (June 19th), I pledge to pick up a book, take in a museum exhibit or go through the family photo album. We can create our own special days to bring family members together and talk about the family history that has such relevance for our lives and the lives of our children.”

-Eric V. Copage



A Season of Learning by Mrs. Wilson

As we prepare to close our doors for the academic year, our scholars and families anticipate joys of the impending days of summer vacation. It will be a change from the daily routine of going to school, doing homework, taking tests, working on projects, and exercising the brain to develop strong habits of mind and critical thinking skills. At Pride Academy, we continuously emphasize the value of learning! According to research from Ron Fairchild, Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning, the following trends arise over the course of summer vacation:

- All students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer;
- On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during the summer months. This is almost an ENTIRE trimester at Pride;
- Studies show that out-of-school time is a dangerous time for unsupervised children and youth;
- Only about 10 percent of students nationwide participate in summer school or attend schools with non-traditional calendars;
- A majority of students (56 percent) want to be involved in a summer program that “helps kids keep up with schoolwork or prepare for the next grade”;
- Research shows that teachers typically spend between 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.

It is imperative that our Pride Scholars do not experience any loss of learning. The Administration and teachers at Pride are committed to your children and you, and want to ensure that no opportunities for learning escape when they are away from us this summer. Therefore, we will be providing each scholar with enrichment activities and assignments in the areas of Language Arts and Math. **These summer learning assignments will be collected when the scholars return to school in the fall, and will account for a portion of their first trimester grade. Please be sure that your child receives his/her assignments before leaving for the summer.** We thank you in advance for your support as we work diligently to provide your children with further opportunities to deepen their learning and promote higher levels of academic success so they can be better prepared for not only the next grade, but beyond, in our fast changing diverse world.

Here are some other suggested activities that we encourage you to explore with your child during the summer:

- Bring summer learning alive in your own home! Activities like cooking and board games are fun and educational. The kitchen is a great place to apply math and science skills while also teaching your child about health and nutrition. Board games provide opportunities for problem solving and critical thinking
 - The Science of Cooking by the Exploratorium provides recipes and activities that help children understand the science behind food and cooking.
<http://www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/>
 - Cooking With Kids provides kid-friendly recipes. <http://www.childrensrecipes.com/>
 - Spatulatta is another site with recipes suitable for children. <http://www.spatulatta.com/>
 - 25 Activities to Keep Kids' Brains Active in Summer by Education World provides a list of activities that covers all subjects and grade levels.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev073.shtml
 - Experiments by Steve Spangler Science offers various fun science experiments and projects.
<http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments>
 - Kids' Summer Crafts and Children's Activities by Creative Kids at Home encourages children to use a wide variety of materials to create and explore.
<http://www.creativekidsathome.com/summerkidsactivities2.html>
 - The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge is a free online reading program that provides kids, educators and parents with tools to get excited about reading over the summer.
<http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2016>
- *If you need additional ideas, please visit this link: <https://y4y.ed.gov/summerlearning#learning-at-home>

As we celebrate our graduates and scholars this month, let’s also take time to remind them of how important it is to make each day of learning count, whether we are here at school, or enjoying the sun-filled days of summer!



Parent Partnerships

Old School Spirit Week

Every year, Pride Academy goes back in time to celebrate and learn about a musical era during Spirit Week. This year, our Spirit Week theme is “Old School Spirit” and we will be learning about the origins and history of Hip Hop. In addition to doing special lessons and activities related to the theme, each team will be assigned a special song from the era to perform a dance for as part of the Musical Review.

Other events during Spirit Week include Motivation Monday, Field Day, and the Hip Hop Dance Party.

Parent Tricky Tray

Pride Academy Charter School will be hosting its annual Parent Appreciation Tricky Tray Event on **Wednesday, June 7 at 5:30pm**. The purpose of the event is to show our appreciation to Pride parents who have been involved in their child’s education and in the Pride Academy community by attending report card nights, Parent Council meetings, Parent Parties, and school-wide events such as helping us in fundraising activities.

We congratulate you for taking an active role in your child’s education. For your involvement and support, you have earned the chance to win prizes such as household items, appliances, health and beauty supplies, gift certificates, and more at our Parent Appreciation Tricky Tray. The Parent Council also has designed a new T-shirt for this year’s Tricky Tray, which is a giveaway (while supplies last) to parents who attend the event!

Sharing some 2016-2017 Generations Dance Moments!





Spotlight 24: Practicing Peace – Have a Safe, Bully-Free Summer!

As we head into summer vacation, please remind students of the tools and strategies they have learned at Pride Academy to help them avoid and resolve conflict. Encourage students to demonstrate the “Pride Scholar” difference by modeling the core values of peace, respect, integrity, determination and empathy and making positive choices this summer.

Following are a few reminders and practical tips that can help ensure our kids return to school happy and healthy in September!

- 1. Cyberbullying is ALWAYS A NO-NO!** It is never ok to treat others with disrespect, to share inappropriate or embarrassing images, or to bully online. Although students may be in class together over the summer, they can remain in touch through social media. The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights is in effect every month of the year. It mandates that schools respond to incidents of cyberbullying, if they meet the criteria specified under the legislation, irrespective of when or where it takes place. If a student returns to school in September feeling unsafe, unable to learn, or in conflict with peers because of online bullying, Pride Academy administration will address the issue, in accordance with the law.
- 2. Avoid Conflicts**
 - Offer a sincere apology when appropriate or when an apology will end conflict.
 - It takes one person to start an argument but it takes two people to keep an argument going. Walk away.
 - Treat others with respect. When in doubt, be nice.
 - If it feels wrong, it probably is. If whatever you are witnessing makes you feel uneasy, uncomfortable or bad, it's probably because whatever's going on is not okay. Trust your gut instincts.
 - It's as simple as that. Do the nice thing whenever possible.
- 3. Don't put yourself in a dangerous position, but don't ignore bullying.**
 - Do not be afraid to go get an adult or someone else nearby to help if it feels like you can't handle it on your own.
 - If others are arguing or a fight is about to happen, leave immediately. Bystanders can be injured or killed. Violence is not a spectator sport.
 - Call 911.

ONLY spend time with people who make positive choices.

Parents: Please monitor your child's online, telephone and text activity closely.

Parents: Please be vigilant. Bullying can occur anywhere, including in camps, sports, and summer activities. Only public schools are covered by the Anti- Bullying Bill of Rights. Keep open lines of communication with your children and inform supervising adults of any bullying or safety concerns you or your child may have.

Follow these tips and you will be well on your way to having a safe summer. Remember—YOUR CHOICES CHANGE THE GAME. Have a great summer!

Sources:
www.cops.usdoj.gov
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org
www.gangfree.org
www.Violencepreventioninstitute.com
www.fbi.gov

