

Parent Partnerships

Issue 7 April, 2023



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Save these April Dates!

Thursday, 4/6	Half-Day 12:30 dismissal 7PM-10PM -Pride Academy Charter School 15th Anniversary Celebration at the Morris Museum in Morristown, NJ. For more information: www.prideacs.org .
Friday 4/7-Friday 4/14	Spring Break (School Reopens on Monday April 17th)
Monday 4/17	School Reopens after Spring Break / 15 Day Countdown to NJSLA begins
Tuesday, 4/25	Spring Pictures / Graduation Re-Takes / Clubs & Teams Pictures
Thursday, 4/27	Third Trimester Progress Report Card Parent Conferences from 3:35PM-6:00PM Community Mental Health Fair from 3:35PM-6:00PM in the Common Room



Progress Report Card Parent-Teacher Conferences & Pick-Up


Progress Report Cards for Trimester 3 will be distributed during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday 4/27 from 3:35PM-6:00PM. Some tips and suggestions as parent conference night approaches:

1. **Finding time to meet may be more difficult than usual.** You may have more to juggle these days, between your job, your child's learning, and other family demands. Your child's teacher is probably juggling many of the same things. If the proposed conference time does not work for you, please let the teacher know so that you can come up with a mutually convenient time to meet.
2. **You have essential information to share with your child's teacher.** You may be seeing strengths and struggles the teacher doesn't see. The more you share with your child's teacher, the more you can work together to help your child thrive. Your child's teacher may also ask you for specific feedback on their instruction. Please share what's working and what isn't.
3. **All questions are good questions.** You may have questions about your child's academic skills and progress and social-emotional well-being. You might want the teacher to show you how to get into PowerSchool, Schoolgy or another online platform. It's OK to ask about those things, too.
4. **Building a relationship with your child's teacher.** Use this meeting as a time to share your needs and also any positives. Teachers will appreciate your acknowledgement of their hard work and care for your children.

Community Mental Health Fair

COME ONE, COME ALL!

PRIDE Academy Charter School
invites you to its



**COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH
FAIR**

During Report Card Night

**Invited Vendors
Includes:**

* East Orange Community Development	* Clara Maass Hospital * Family Connections	* East Orange Family Success Center
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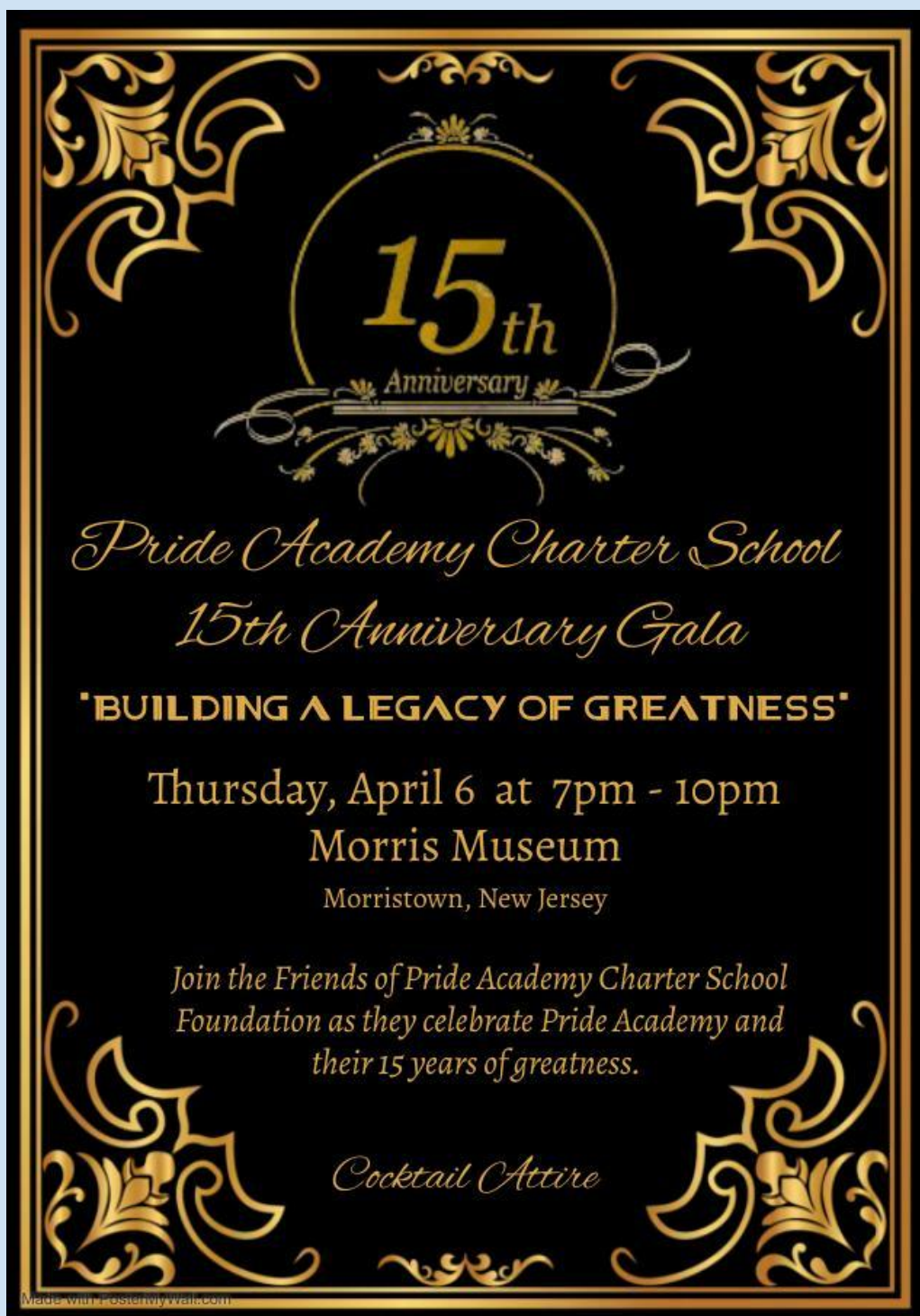
AND MORE!!!

Thursday, April 27th 3:30 pm - 5:30pm	117 Elmwood Avenue East Orange, NJ 07018
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973 672-3200 • nfarl@prideacs.org • www.prideacs.com
jcharles@prideacs.org

A Special Thanks You to All Health Fair Sponsors & Vendors

Pride Academy Charter School 15th Anniversary Gala



For more information and ways that you or your family and friends might like to support, please visit our School Website: <https://prideacs.org/>



“GREATNESS IS MY LEGACY” 15-DAY COUNTDOWN

At Pride Academy Charter School, we work hard to get our scholars excited about state testing. We see the NJSLA as nothing to dread or be anxious about, instead we see it as an opportunity to show the state and the world how much our Pride Scholars have grown academically. That is absolutely something to be proud of.

As our school celebrates our 15th Anniversary, we take pride in our “Legacy of Greatness” and years of excellent test scores. To commemorate this moment in Pride history, the theme of this year’s 15-Day Countdown to the NJSLA is “GREATNESS is My Legacy.” The countdown will start on our first day back from Spring Break, and will go on for the 15 days leading up to the **NJSLA Pep Rally on May 5th**.

During those 10 days, our scholars will start their day with a chance to win fun prizes for answering sample test questions. Each day has a specific focus: Math Monday will involve practicing solving equations and reviewing math. Text Clues Tuesday will provide scholars with opportunities to define vocabulary words using the context clues within a sentence. Word Problem Wednesday will challenge scholars with math word problems. Thoughtful Thursday will support ELA goals by having scholars responding to writing prompts. Finally, Fantastic Friday will challenge students to improve basic sentences and make them FANTASTIC using creative and descriptive vocabulary words.

At the end of the 15 days, we’ll have the whole community participate in NJSLA Pep Rallies where we will recognize scholars who had the Top Scores and showed the Most Growth in our last interim assessments. This will help give our scholars the motivation and confidence they need as they begin their NJSLA testing.

CALLING ALL PRIDE PARENTS & FAMILIES

One special state testing tradition that Pride Academy has is our daily letters of encouragement. These letters come from their teachers and staff, but the most important letter is the one they receive from their parents and family members. For many years, our scholars have been truly inspired by these letters and they have helped them to stay determined and work hard during the long hours and days of testing.

Soon you will be receiving a notice asking you to take a moment to write a letter or card for us to present to your child during their NJSLA testing. Please be sure to send us your letter in a sealed envelope with your child’s name on the front no later than May 2nd. We thank you in advance for your support with this important initiative to support and encourage your child.



Pride Parent Survey 2022-2023

Parents/Guardians: Please read each statement and select the choice that most matches your response. We appreciate the time and grace that you will bring to sharing your reflections with us. Students of parents who complete this survey will be provided with an opportunity to Dress Down on a designated day in April.

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. Students of parents who complete this survey will be provided with an opportunity to Dress Down on a designated day in April.

LINK to Survey: <https://forms.gle/Mc8TYdksCTtJaeU46>



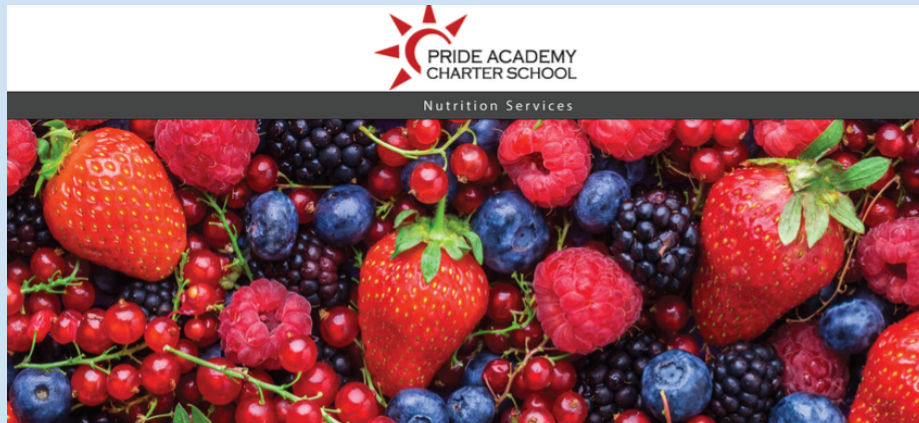
Reminders about Wearing Masks in School!

Thank you to all parents for supporting our mandatory mask wearing this year! Effective **Monday March 6th**, wearing masks will be optional and no longer required **EXCEPT** for the following:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, after 5 days of quarantine at home and 24 hours fever free, upon return to school they are required to wear an N95 mask consistently for the next 5 days after their return.
- If your child's physician or our School Nurse recommends continued mask wearing based on cold, flu or other symptoms, they should wear a mask while attending school.
- If NJDOE, NJDOH, East Orange Department of Health, or our School Nurse and School Safety Officer recommends and advises that we move back to universal masking due to elevated risk of contracting COVID-19 or other highly communicable illnesses.

PLEASE NOTE: mask wearing will still be permitted and supported at school, however, we will no longer be providing or distributing masks to students. If your child needs to or wants to wear a mask in school, they must use their own masks brought from home.

Nutrition News!

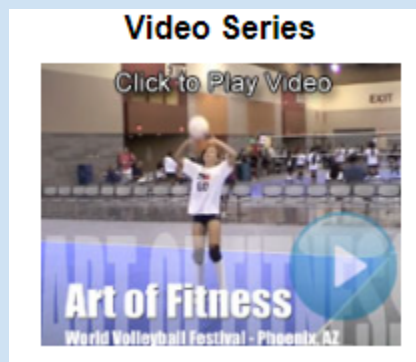


Please visit our [Pride Academy school website](#) for information about our Breakfast and Lunch program and nutrition services. Students should continue to order their breakfast/lunch via an online portal on a monthly basis. If you would like to support them in their ordering, please review this [tutorial](#) shared by Ms Oates, our Main Office Coordinator.

April Lunch Menu:

 [Lunch Menu](#)

[Sports Nutrition](#)





Spotlight on Safety!

Be Aware: As the weather improves with the advent of Spring, our children spend more time outdoors and in public spaces. In most cases, 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 avoid involvement in violence and conflict and 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.

Gang Membership is considered a Major Infraction under the Pride Academy Student Code of Conduct. As a community committed to scholarship, safety and the core values of peace and respect, gangs and gang activity are strictly forbidden. Students may not be affiliated with gangs, wear gang colors or bandanas, use hand signs that imitate or imply gang affiliation, recruit other students for gang membership, intimidate or coerce others with real or implied threats of gang retaliation, or promote gang membership in any way. 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 violence and 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 affect the general population (vandalism, robberies, 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 social media 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 fellow gang members, 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.

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:

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 gangs' 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. Falsely claiming association with a gang may be received by actual gang members as disrespect. It may also cause the individual falsely claiming gang membership a target of rival gangs.. Retaliation for disrespecting a gang 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.

Please reach out to Ms Brower and Mrs Thomas immediately if you have concerns about gang related issues or references in our school and continue to closely supervise your child's use of social media, group chats, tiktok and other platforms. Please also review the following resources and information about what parents should know about gangs and your children's safety:

<https://www.njoag.gov/nj-gang-free/parents/>

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjmkdTM54j-AhWCmlkEHUWSDwIQFnoECAkQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nj.gov%2Fips%2Fgang-signs-bro.pd&usq=AOvVaw2Fu5MC0Z417DmE1HIPcRsy>

Affirmative Action Procedures at Pride

Grievance Procedures

Under Title IX, each school district must have a written, publicized grievance procedure for handling complaints alleging sex discrimination. Students, parents, and employees must be fully informed of the steps in the grievance process. It is strongly recommended that discrimination grievance procedures allow for complaints on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, affectional or sexual orientation, ancestry, socioeconomic status, as well as sex. Title IX does not specify a particular structure for the grievance procedure; it does require that the procedure provide for the "prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints." Therefore, all procedures must include reasonable timelines for the initiation and resolution of a grievance. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the Department of Education at the same time a grievance is filed during or after the grievance process, or without using the school district process at all. A person may also file a grievance with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. Please reach out to Ms Brower at 973-672-3200 ext. 203 for more information, support or guidance.

Notice of Statement of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

PRIDE Academy Charter School adheres to the laws and regulations set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.8; Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; N.J.S.A. 10:5, and Equal Pay Act 1973, and is committed to ensuring equality in Educational, Employment, and Contract Practices for all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status.

The following staff member is our Affirmative Action Officer and designated to handle inquiries regarding our non-discrimination policies or grievance procedures: **Ms Robin Brower 973-672-3200 ext. 203 or rbrower@prideacs.org** Please review our 2022-2023 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct available on our school website: <https://prideacs.org/policies-reports/>



We Need Your Help to Reinforce High Expectations for Learning and Behavior at School

- ❖ Attendance matters and students should arrive on time for school BEFORE 8:00AM each day. If they plan to eat school breakfast, students should arrive at least by 7:45AM so that they have time to eat their breakfast before the start of their school day at 8:00AM.
- ❖ Students should wear a Pride Dress Uniform or Gym Uniform each day to school. Non-Pride uniform sweaters or hoodies may not be worn during the school day. **If you need any support with providing your child with a uniform, please reach out to Ms. Dumenigo at ext. 210 or by email at rdumenigo@prideacs.org.**
- ❖ Students should bring to school: their own face mask and extras in case they need replacements during the day, their School Agenda, pens, pencils, paper, & headphones for use with their school laptop when required. They must also bring a backpack to school so that they are prepared to carry their school laptop in their backpack from class to class and also to lunch/recess. PLEASE NOTE: Students may not carry their cell phones on their person during the school day or in their backpacks/purses or fanny packs.
- ❖ **Scholars must have the essential school supplies needed for learning, such as pencils, pens, loose leaf and more. Please be sure to replenish these supplies as the school year continues.**
- ❖ Students may not bring lunch or snacks that include nuts of any kind, sunflower seeds, candy/chocolate bars, carbonated drinks, and they may not share food items from home or school breakfast/lunch with others.
- ❖ If cell phones are brought to school, please know that they may not be used in school at any time (including before school and after school activities and during classes, transitions in hallways, restroom visits, lunch and recess) and must remain locked up in lockers. Cell phones will be confiscated due to lack of compliance with our expectations, and the school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.
- ❖ Students must demonstrate the core values of Peace, Respect and Empathy in their words, actions, and interactions with each other and all members of our Pride family. Students may not play fight or hit, touch, slap, kick etc. and must follow the practice of keeping their hands, feet, and belongings to themselves.
- ❖ Students should respect and take care of our school property including their school laptop learner, supplies, furniture and restrooms.
- ❖ Students must follow these practices with regard to their use of our school restrooms to respect the privacy of others, maintain a high level of cleanliness and sanitary conditions, and protect the destruction of property, fixtures and plumbing:
 1. They may only use the stalls by themselves and never be in a stall with other individuals.
 2. They may not stand on the commode or look over or under the stall doors/walls into other stalls.
 3. They may not place items of food or other objects in the commodes or urinals.
 4. They may not urinate or defecate on the floor instead of in the commode or the urinal.
 5. They may not vandalize the walls, doors and other areas of the restroom with graffiti.
 6. They may not go to the restroom with their cell phones to use their phones and/or video record themselves or others.
 7. They may not arrange with others to meet up or congregate in the restrooms at any time during the school day including class time, homeroom time, transitions, and lunch/recess, and after school activities.

For more detailed information about all of our expectations and code of conduct, please review our 2022-2023 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct available on our school website: <https://prideacs.org/policies-reports/>



Questions and Suggestions?

Your thoughts, questions and feedback are important to us. Please reach out to Mrs Thomas via email at ftomas@prideacs.org or call at 973-672-3200 ext. 201 if you would like to set up a time to meet or share about your experience at Pride so far this year.