

Parent Partnerships

Issue 9 June, 2023



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SAVE THESE DATES THIS MONTH!

Friday, June 2nd	Wear Orange Dress Down Day and Snack Sale for "Stop Gun Violence" 7th Grade Project Pride Service Project
Tuesday, June 6th	Art Show & Food Drive for Imani Church Food Pantry 6th Grade Project Pride
Wednesday, June 7th	5th and 6th Grade Field Trip to Liberty Science Center
Thursday, June 8th	7th and 8th Grade Field Trip to Liberty Science Center
Tuesday, June 13th	End of the Marking Period / Alliance House Trip to Morris Museum
Tuesday, June 13-June 15th	Field Day and Pride Spirit Games Events and Activities (Rain Date for Field Day is June 15)
Monday, June 19th	School Closed in observance of Juneteenth Pride and Imani Church Community Juneteenth Celebration 12PM-3PM
Tuesday, June 20th	Half Day 12:30 Dismissal for students Graduation Social for 8th Graders at 5:30PM-8PM
Wednesday, June 21st	Half Day 12:30 Dismissal for students and last day of school for students 3rd Trimester Honor Roll Awards Ceremony Report Card Distribution and Pick-up from 1:30-3:30PM 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony at 6PM * <i>Must have a ticket to attend graduation.</i>

HIGH SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT by Mr. GEIGER!

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 and NJ S.E.E.D.S. These organizations 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 91% of Pride Academy's 8th grade scholars achieved acceptance to boarding, parochial, independent, magnet, charter, and technical high schools. Currently, most of our 8th grade scholars have registered at the high schools of their choice and they will soon see how their hard work pays 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 28, 2022. Approximately 15 high schools from the surrounding area were in attendance and met with our 8th grade scholars and their families. Following High School Night, Mr. Geiger spoke with our 8th grade scholars and parents/guardians about the high school options available to them. In November, The COOP Exam was administered to some of our 8th grade scholars. This voluntary exam aims to help students gain admission to the parochial schools in our area. Many of our scholars also chose to take the Essex County Vocational School Exam in December, January, and March of 2022 & 2023, in order to help them obtain acceptance at those schools as well.

Mr Geiger assists the 8th grade scholars with researching high schools, application essays, high school applications and mock interviews in his High School Placement classes on Fridays during the 1st and 2nd trimesters. In the third trimester, Mr Geiger prepares our scholars for transitioning into the high school environment by leading various lessons on the skills needed to be successful in high school such as organization and responsibility. Mr Geiger also has invited a number of Pride Academy alumni to speak to the 8th grade to offer advice on how to be successful in high school.

It is very important 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 virtual and in-person meetings with the 8th grade families for the 2023-2024 school year beginning in August. This will allow time to prepare for High School Night, which will take place in September of 2023. We look forward to working with next year's 8th grade scholars, and we wish all of our Pride families a fun and a relaxing summer!

**Good luck to our graduating class of 2023!
We are so proud of the determination, effort, and resilience you have shown this school year! We will miss you and look forward to your visits back to Pride Academy to share your success and achievements!**



PRIDE SPIRIT GAMES & FUN!

At Pride Academy, we want to celebrate our students who have been working hard all year to be real SHINING SCHOLARS! We do this by preparing fun and educational games and activities for the end of the school year. This year the events include the following:

- ❖ **Field Day** - Fun and competitive games at Elmwood Park
- ❖ **Pride Family Cookout** - On Field Day, we will be providing our scholars with a cookout for lunch.
- ❖ **Collaborative Wings Mural Project** - We will have an artist working with all of our scholars to create a wings mural that will permanently be displayed in the vestibule of the Great Room and serve as a backdrop for our weekly award winners and other special events.
- ❖ **Soul Step Classes** - Soul Step is a professional dance group that will be teaching our scholars how to Step Dance, which is a traditional dance popular among Black Fraternities and Sororities
- ❖ **DJ Dance Party** - scholars and their teachers will gather in the Great Room for a DJ Dance to celebrate the end of the school year.
- ❖ **Theme Dress Down Days** - Scholars will have three opportunities to Dress Down Day on Anime Day, Twin Day, and Switch Day (students will dress like teachers and teachers will dress like students).

In order to earn the privilege of participating in these End-of-Year events, scholars must work to make sure that they make their Pride Scholar Chart points. Starting on **Monday, May 22nd**, which marks the last 4 weeks before Pride Spirit Days begin, scholars will work to earn at least **285 points a week** and be in uniform **every day**. Scholars who don't meet the expectations will risk not being able to attend all the events and activities that have been planned. (See the charts below for a more detailed view of how this incentive system will work.)

How to earn your way into these Special Pride Events & Activities.				
# of weeks making 285 or more points	SOUL STEP CLASSES	PRIDE WINGS MURAL	PRIDE FIELD DAY	PRIDE DANCE PARTY
ALL FOUR WEEKS	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 out of 4 weeks	X	✓	✓	✓
2 out of 4 weeks	X	X	✓	✓
1 out of 4 weeks	X	X	X	✓
Don't make your points any of the four weeks	You are not able to participate in any of the events.			



****Scholars who don't earn these special events will be completing assignments in an assigned room.


LOL Dress Down Days			
# of days in PERFECT UNIFORM	DRESS DOWN DAY #1 Anime Day	DRESS DOWN DAY #2 Twin Day	DRESS DOWN DAY #3 Switch Day
10 or more Days in Uniform	✓	✓	✓
7 to 9 Days in Uniform	X	✓	✓
4 to 6 Days in Uniform	X	X	✓
Less than 4 Days in Uniform.	You are not able to participate in any of the special LOL! themed dress down days.		

****Scholars who don't earn these special theme dress down days will be expected to come to school in uniform.
 *** If you come dressed down without earning it, you will not be able to participate in the fun activities on that day.



* Please note that scholars who make serious poor behavior choices may also lose the opportunity to participate in special events. Additionally, scholars who are failing classes and in danger of retention may not be able to participate in these events so that they can spend the time working on their academic skills. Our goal is to have all 300 Pride Scholars enjoying all the wonderful games and activities together and so we request you to please encourage your children to make good choices for the rest of the school year so that we can FINISH THE YEAR STRONG!

END OF YEAR PRIDE GAMES & FUN

LOL Dress Down Days


HOW SCHOLARS CAN ENJOY ALL THE EVENTS & DRESS DOWN DAYS

- Live the **CORE VALUES** of Peace, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy **ALL DAY** and **EVERY DAY** so that they can earn all their points and be SHINING SCHOLARS!
- Be mindful of their **Pride Scholar Chart** and **DON'T LOSE IT**. Use the new folders that they have been given by their teachers so the charts are secure.
- Be in **FULL UNIFORM** every day. This includes wearing **predominantly black sneakers** on dress uniform days and **NO bracelets or jewelry**.
- If scholars are absent, they must **get a note from your family** so that you earn all their points for the day.

PODCAST FOR PARENTS: Considering the Impact of Extensive Social Media Use on Youth

“As you observe your kids on social media, are you seeing them engaged in entertainment and social connection or are they engaged in distraction from boredom, anxiousness, or distress? Mental health counselor, Leah Jacobs, describes how parents can engage with their young ones in reflection creating mindfulness. What are we modeling in our own social media use?”

<https://barkleypd.com/blog/podcast-considering-the-impact-of-extensive-social-media-use-on-youth/>

Steve Barkley
**PONDERS
OUT LOUD**

Parent Wellbeing and Student Learning

*Considering the Impact
of Extensive Social Media
Use on Youth*

WPU WELLNESS WEDNESDAY PARENT PROGRAM

The June 14 workshop topic will be: Summer Reset.

**WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY**

Are you ready to reflect on your year and use summer as an opportunity to reset? The summer months offer us a chance to create adventures and rebalance ourselves. Especially for parents/caregivers, who now have their children on summer break, summer is a time to invest in family. Topics will include but are not limited to: how to embrace a summer reset, ideas to create fun and lasting summer traditions with your family, how to balance relaxation with adventure, and how to encourage your children to reach outside their comfort zone and

experience new horizons. This workshop is for anyone who wants to make the most out of their summer and engage in a healthy balance between relaxation and adventure, while also modeling these healthy habits for their own children. It is our hope that this workshop will offer anyone who has been seeking a sense of community for creating a balanced summer, some extra support and a safe space to dialogue with members of the community who are living the same experiences.

<https://wpconnect.wpunj.edu/continuing-education/programs/Wellness-Wednesday-Parent-Program-June-14-2023-Summer-Reset-/39713/>

PRIDE CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH TOGETHER AS A PRIDE FAMILY!

This year we are excited to announce that Pride Academy Charter School and Imani Baptist Church will be co-hosting a special **JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION** on **Monday, June 19th from 12 to 3pm**. We hope that this will be a fun and educational experience for everyone. We also look forward to connecting with our families and community neighbors. We hope that you will be able to join us for this important event in our community. Please see the flyer on the next page.

Please carefully read all the guidelines listed below.



- This is a NJ holiday that school will be closed for. Scholars are not required to attend, but we hope that our Pride families will join us in celebrating Juneteenth together.

- Teachers and Staff are not required to attend and may have other plans with their families and friends. Teachers and Staff who choose to attend may be supervising and enjoying their own children and families that will be joining us. **Therefore, we are not able to provide supervision for any scholars that attend on their own.** For these reasons, **scholars may only attend if they come with a parent or guardian.**

- If a Pride parent accepts the responsibility of supervising a child whose parent is not able to attend, then that parent may also bring that scholar. **They must be able to supervise their safety, as well as bring the child and ensure that they go home safely.**

- There is a small admission fee of \$10 that will cover the cost of your lunch, which will consist of BBQ chicken, potato

salad, corn bread, beverages, and dessert. The fee will help also us provide all those in attendance with games and entertainment, which will include DJ, an African Dance performance, fun lawn games and prizes for us to celebrate and enjoy our time together as a community.

Pride Academy will be able to provide tables and chairs for families that pay the admission fee for the event by the **June 16th deadline**.



JOIN US FOR JUNETEENTH

**Pride Academy and
Imangi Baptist Church
Community Celebration**



FEE \$ 10 PER PERSON

COST INCLUDES:

***LUNCH - BBQ CHICKEN,
POTATO SALAD, CORNBREAD,
BEVERAGES, AND DESSERT.***

***ALSO INCLUDED: DJ, AN AFRICAN DANCE
PERFORMANCE, FUN LAWN GAMES, AND
PRIZES***

PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE BY JUNE 16TH

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.

June Lunch Menu:

[Lunch Menu](#)

<https://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/webmenus2/#!/view?id=646784c0e96f1eb7729ea3df&siteCode=24300>

[Get kids started on a healthy eating adventure with these games and activities](#)

<https://www.myplate.gov/life-stages/kids>



AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS PROCEDURES!

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. 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/>

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY!

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 children 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 and 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!**



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 & SUGGESTIONS?

Your thoughts, questions and feedback are important to us. Please reach out to Mrs Thomas via email at fthomas@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.

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