

Parent Partnerships

Issue 9 June, 2024



**"Stand Up For Pride" logo designed by
Tahmari Farrell, 8th grade**

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Save the Dates!

Wednesday, June 5th	5th & 6th Grade Field Trip to the Bronx Zoo
Thursday, June 6th	7th & 8th Grade Field Trip to the Bronx Zoo
Thursday, June 6th	Sports Banquet at 5:00-7:00 PM
Tuesday, June 11th	End of Trimester 3 Free Dress Down Day for Students of Parents who completed the 2023-2024 Parent Survey
Wednesday, June 12th-20th	PRIDE SPIRIT "Around the World" Games & Activities
Wednesday, June 12th	June 12 - Field Day & Cookout (Rain Date for Field Day is June 13)
Monday, June 17th	Half-Day Dismissal for Students at 12:30PM
Tuesday, June 18th	Half-Day 12:30 Dismissal for students at 12:30PM 8th Grade Graduation Social at 5:30-8:30PM
Wednesday, June 19th	School Closed in observance of Juneteenth
Thursday, June 20th	Half-Day 12:30 Dismissal for students at 12:30PM Trimester 3 Honor Roll Awards Ceremony at 11:30AM Report Card Distribution from 1:30-4:00 PM 8th Grade Graduation Commencement at 6 PM (**Must have a ticket to attend Graduation)



Pride Parent Survey 2023-2024

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 or June.

Parent Survey!

If you haven't yet completed this year's Parent Survey, please take the opportunity to complete it! 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 May.

LINK to Survey: <https://forms.gle/g6uPhRYeAugj9BDa6>

Pride Spirit Around the World!

At Pride Academy, we want to celebrate our students who have been working hard all year to demonstrate the effort and attributes of being SHINING SCHOLARS! We do this by preparing fun and educational games and activities for the end of the school year. This year, we will be celebrating different countries and cultures through our theme, "PRIDE SPIRIT Around the World" Some of 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.
- Daily Cultural Trivia Questions for House Points, as well as a variety of cultural snacks provided by our Pride League of Leaders - LOL!
- Kidpreneur, a non-profit organization co-founded by Class of 2012 Pride alumni, Tanasia Lark and Kadesha Layne who will be presenting a workshop on "How to be a BOSS!"
- In celebration of the Summer Olympics being held in France this summer, scholars will participate in an art class led by Pride Alumni, Ms. Lynee Phillips. Ms Phillips will introduce scholars to Fauvism, known as the first avant-garde movement and known for its strong colors and brushwork.
- Caribbean Dance Party - Pride scholars 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 participate in a variety of Dress Down Days during Pride Spirit Games.
- Two ADD-ON Dress Down Days, where scholars and staff can add items to their uniform: -SUMMER SHADES DAY where scholars wear their favorite fun sunglasses and PRIDE

SPIRIT GEAR DAY where scholars are in Pride Lions Spirit Gear and Colors such as red bead, face paint, etc...

- Two FULL PRIDE SPIRIT Dress Down Days, where scholars and staff are completely dressed down (in accordance with our dress down guidelines): 80s DRESS DOWN DAY and CULTURAL DRESS DOWN DAY

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. The Pride Scholar Chart points for the last 5 weeks of the school year, will determine scholars' participation in Pride Spirit Games and Activities. (See the charts below for a more clear understanding of how it will work.)



How scholars can earn their way to PRIDE Spirit Games Activities

# of weeks making 285 or more points	ADD-ON DRESS DOWN DAYS	FULL SPIRIT DRESS DOWN DAYS	BUCKETS AROUND THE WORLD	PRIDE FIELD DAY	CARIBBEAN DANCE PARTY
ALL FIVE WEEKS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 out of 5 weeks	☹️	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 out of 5 weeks	☹️	☹️	✓	✓	✓
2 out of 5 weeks	☹️	☹️	☹️	✓	✓
1 out of 5 weeks	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	✓
Don't make your points any of the five weeks	You are not able to participate in any of the events or dress down days. ☹️				

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

* 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 participate in these events in order to work on their academic skills.

Our goal is to have all 300 Pride Scholars enjoy all the wonderful games and activities together, therefore, we encourage our scholars to make good choices for the rest of the school year so that we can FINISH THE YEAR STRONG!

Our Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray was a Huge Success!

On Saturday, May 18th, the Pride Academy Parent Council and the 36Five Inc. Foundation hosted a Designer Bag Bingo and Tricky Tray that raised \$2,365 for the Friends of Pride Academy Foundation "Hopes & Dreams Fund."

It was a fun event where those who attended won amazing prizes including designer bags from Coach, Kate Spade, and more. The Tricky Tray was also a big hit with winners receiving amazing prizes including art materials, Keurigs, Spa Gift Certificates, and a wide-screen smart TV.

Pride Academy would like to thank the Pride Parent Council for organizing this important fundraising event and for your ongoing effort and dedication to the Pride Academy community of scholars, families, teachers, and staff.

Thank you to the Phillips, Lefleur, and Richardson families for donating the food, special thanks to the Earle Family and proprietors of the Ameri-Guyanese Cuisine restaurant in Newark, NJ for donating the chicken.





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 82% of Pride Academy's 8th grade scholars achieved acceptance to boarding, parochial, independent, magnet, charter, and technical highschools. 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 27, 2023. Approximately 20 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, February, and March of 2023 & 2024, 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 2024-2025 school year beginning in August. This will allow time to prepare for High School Night, which will take place in September of 2024. 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 2024!

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!

Sunny Days..Summer Dreams: Boosting Literacy Throughout Summer! by Mrs. Wilson

Summer is a fantastic time for our scholars to dive into books they love, explore new interests, and enjoy themselves! Reading during the summer is crucial for preventing learning loss — research indicates that summer reading can significantly boost a student's overall academic performance in all subject areas, especially when starting a new school year in the fall. This year, our school is placing a heavier emphasis on literacy, and it begins with our summer learning assignments. You and your family will receive more information in the coming weeks. To support our efforts, there are several ways you can encourage your child to read and enhance their reading and writing skills over the summer. By encouraging your child to engage in summer reading activities, you'll help them find enjoyable ways to incorporate reading throughout the summer while maintaining their reading skills! Get READ-y to enjoy a wonderful summer!

Some free Summer Reading Programs with incentives for your child you may explore:

1. Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Program:

<https://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our-stores-communities/summer-reading-program/>

2. East Orange Public Library: <https://www.eopl.org/>

3. NJ State Library: Adventure Begins At Your Library!

<https://www.njstatelib.org/news/2024-summer-reading-program-for-children-and-teens/>

4. Pizza Hut Summer Reading Program: <https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>

5. SUN Bucks: Summer Grocery Benefit for Kids

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sunbucks>



MORE TIPS FOR READING SUCCESS

Prioritize Reading At Home	Great Summer Reading Habits
<p>During the busy summer months, it can be challenging for you and your child to find time to read. Set aside a quiet time each day specifically for reading and include "reading time" when planning summer activities.</p>	<p>Be a Reading Role Model: Let your child see you reading and writing, whether it's reading the morning newspaper or making a shopping list. Talk with your child about what you are currently reading and share books you enjoyed as a child. Turn off the TV for some quiet reading time. Showing that reading is an important part of your life helps children understand that it can be an important part of theirs too.</p>
<p>To encourage reading at home, keep a variety of reading materials throughout the house, including newspapers, magazines, and brochures. Have fun items on hand too, like word games, puzzles, or the kids' section of the newspaper. This increases your child's access to books and printed material, providing more opportunities to practice reading.</p>	<p>Keep It Fun: Avoid setting strict rules about reading for a certain amount of time or a minimum number of pages. Don't use reading as a punishment. Keep it enjoyable so your child looks forward to it and wants to keep reading!</p>
<p>Help your child find books that interest them — especially on rainy days! These could include non-fiction books, fun fact books, arts and crafts books, hands-on activity and project books, or kid-friendly cookbooks.</p>	<p>Talk About What Your Child Is Reading: Discuss the books you and your child have read together — what you liked, what you didn't like, or your favorite characters. Ask your child to tell you about what they are reading. Libraries may also offer book discussion groups for children or online book chats with authors.</p>
<p>Find time each day to read aloud to your children; even the older ones. Reading aloud benefits all children, particularly those who are struggling readers. Read aloud in different places, from the porch to the park, and don't be afraid to use silly voices and act out the story!</p>	<p>Give Your Child a Chance to Read Aloud to You: Encourage your child to read aloud to practice their reading skills. Support rereading of favorite books they can read easily. For older kids, ask them to read things that interest them, such as the newspaper sports page, a detective novel, or a music magazine.</p>
<p>Introduce your child to new words every day. Discuss what these words mean and how they are used.</p>	<p>Listen to Audiobooks: If you're spending a lot of time in the car or at home, borrow books on tape or CD from the library and listen together. This can encourage language development and help children enjoy stories.</p>
<p>Keep writing materials handy, such as journals, pencils, paper, and crayons, so that your child can practice writing. Encourage them to write letters or postcards to friends and relatives over the summer, keep a journal, make a summer scrapbook, or write stories and poems</p>	<p>Connect Books to Summer Activities and Travel: Read books related to your summer activities and trips. For example, read a book about dinosaurs after visiting a natural history museum, or a story about sandcastles while at the beach. Connecting books with experiences builds vocabulary and makes activities more meaningful. Older children may also enjoy helping research summer plans at the library or online.</p>



June Nutrition News!

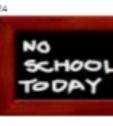
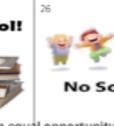
Please visit our [Pride Academy school website](#) for information about our Breakfast and Lunch program and nutrition services. Students can order their lunch via an online portal and they will do this on a monthly basis. If you would like to support them in their ordering, please reach out to Ms Oates, our Main Office Coordinator.

Breakfast Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 100% Grape Juice W/G Frosted Flakes w/ Vanilla Bear Grahams, Applesauce Cup Milk	4 Milk 100% Apple Juice W/G Superdonut Diced Peach Cup	5 100% Grape Juice W/G Corn Flakes Cereal with Vanilla Bear Graham Peach Applesauce Cup Milk	6 100% Strawberry Kiwi Juice W/G Rice Krispies w/ Banana Muffin Diced Peach Cup Milk	7 100% Fruit Punch W/G Corn Flakes Cereal with Vanilla Bear Graham Peach Applesauce Cup Milk
10 100% Fruit Punch Honey Wheat Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Mixed Fruit Cup Milk	11 100% Fruit Punch W/G Corn Flakes Cereal with Vanilla Bear Graham Peach Applesauce Cup Milk	12 W/G Frosted Mini Wheat with Apple Cinnamon Muffin Mandarin Orange Cup Milk	13 W/G Honey Scooters Cereal W/G Chocolate Loaf Fresh Orange Milk	14 100% Grape Juice W/G Superdonut Mixed Fruit Cup Milk
17 W/G Fruit Loops Cereal Blueberry Muffin Rit Fresh Apple Milk	18 W/G Toasted Oats Cereal with W/G Cinnamon Tiger Bites W/G Chocolate Tiger Bites Fresh Pear Milk	19 	20 100% Strawberry Kiwi Juice W/G Krispy Rice Cereal corn Muffin Diced Peach Cup	21  TEACHER IN SERVICE DAY NO SCHOOL!
24  NO SCHOOL!	25  NO SCHOOL!	26  NO SCHOOL TODAY	27  No School!	28  NO SCHOOL TODAY

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Lunch Menu (Hot)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Teriyaki Beef Dippers with Black Bean, whole Wheat Dinner Rolls Veggie Nuggets with Black Beans W/W Wow Butter Grape Jelly jammer with 3 Bean Salad Cup Milk	4 Beef Nacho w/ Cheddar Cheese Sauce Baby Carrots Mini Cheese Quesadilla w/ Mashed Potatoes Sliced Chicken and Cheese on a W/W Potato Bun with Black Bean & Corn Strawberry Applesauce Cup Milk	5 5TH AND 6TH GRADE TRIP. (ONLY 7TH AND 8TH GRADE SHOULD ORDER!!!!) All Beef Italian Sub (Beef Bologna, Beef Salami, and American Cheese) Milk	6 7TH AND 8TH GRADE TRIP. (ONLY 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS SHOULD ORDER!!!!) Sliced Chicken and Cheese on W/G Kaiser Roll Milk	7 Domino's Pizza Slice Romaine Salad w/ Dressing Milk
10 Chicken Tacos w/ Shredded Cheddar Cheese on a W/G Soft Taco Shell, Black Beans Mini Cheese Quesadilla with Red Kidney Beans W/G Wow Butter & Strawberry Jelly Jammer with Black Bean & Corn Salad Diced Pear Cup Milk	11 Jamaican Beef Patty w/ Cheese Stick Cheese Ravioli w/ Spaghetti Sauce Turkey and Cheese on W/G Bread with sliced Cucumber w/Dip Fresh Banana Milk	12 FIELD DAY BBQ	13 Breakfast For Lunch French Toast Sticks w/ Turkey Sausage Links & Syrup French Toast Sticks w/Syrup, Veggie Sausage Patty Turkey Ham and Swiss Cheese on W/G Potato Bun Mandarin Orange Cup Milk	14 Domino's Pizza Slice Romaine Salad w/ Dressing Milk
17 Half Day Snack to Go- Grape Juice with Animal Crackers	18 Milk Half Day Snack to Go- Strawberry Kiwi with W/G Chocolate Bear Grahams	19 	20 Half Day Snack- Orange Tangerine Juice with W/g Alphabet Snackable Milk	21  TEACHER IN SERVICE DAY NO SCHOOL!
24  NO SCHOOL TODAY	25  No School!	26  No School!	27  NO SCHOOL TODAY	28  NO SCHOOL!

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Practicing Peace – Have a Safe, Bully-Free Summer! By Ms Brower

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!**

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 is designated to handle inquiries regarding our non-discrimination policies or grievance procedures:

Ms Robin Brower

117 Elmwood Ave,

East Orange, NJ 07108

973-672-3200 ext. 203

Please review our 2023-2024 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct and HIB reporting processes 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.