

Pride Parent Newsletter

September 2024

www.prideacs.org



Important Links to Pride Family Resources

Online Code of Conduct

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy

[Link to Harrassment Policy](#)

To Report an HIB Incident

[Link to Harrassment Reporting Forms](#)

Online Uniform Guidelines

[Link to Uniform Guidelines on Website](#)

Technology Use Policy

[Computer and Internet Use Policy](#)

Monthly Lunch Calendars

[Link to Access Menus](#)

Pride Building Hours

Monday - Thursday

7 am - 5:30 pm

Fridays

7 am - 4 pm

Half Days

7 am - 1:30 pm

Our New Principal

Mr. Asgeir Ofstad

"I am grateful to be able to continue to serve at Pride Academy as the new principal. It is an honor to continue the greatness and legacy established by Mrs. Thomas. Pride Academy is a special community as all of what we have achieved throughout the years has been a result of teamwork. Our staff have been preparing for the students all summer and we look forward to their arrival September 3rd".

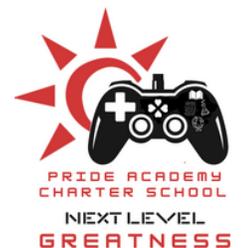


Mr. Asgeir Ofstad was born and raised in Trondheim, Norway. He attended a teacher academy in Norway for three years prior to finishing off his bachelor's degree at Caldwell University in New Jersey. In 2008 he relocated to New Jersey and has worked at Pride Academy since 2010. At Pride, he has served as a math teacher, department chair, data manager, and as a vice principal. In addition to working at Pride, Mr. Ofstad has worked as a soccer coach both for New York Red Bulls and for Caldwell University Men's Soccer. Mr. Ofstad has his Masters of Educational Leadership from Caldwell University and is currently pursuing is Doctoral degree. He lives in West Caldwell with his wife, Donna, and two kids Julian (6) and Alana (4).

Next Level Greatness

This Year's Theme

This year's theme challenges our school community to take our legacy of academic achievement to the NEXT LEVEL, as well as introduce our scholars and families to a new approach that we will be applying that focuses on recognizing GREATNESS in others. Please see the article on the next page for a brief introduction to the Nurtured Heart Approach.



**For Upcoming Events
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Upcoming Events

Parent Orientation Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 4 @ 6 pm
• **Link will be sent on Tues. 9/3**

Interim Assessment Testing
Tues, 9/10, Wed 9/11, Thurs 9/12

These are our first Interim Assessments that serve as baseline data for our teachers.

Half Day for Prof Development
Tues, Sept. 17 – 12:30 Dismissal

This is a half-day for students. Teachers will be working on analyzing interim assessment data.

Back to School Night
Thurs. Sept. 19 @ 3:45 – 6pm

Pride Families will receive important information and resources and have an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet teachers.

High School Night
Wed. Sept. 25 @ 5:30 – 7 pm

We will have several high schools present to share information about their schools and their programs.



Next Level ATTENDANCE!

Based on Pride Academy's NJSLA scores for 2023, the more days that students are absent, the less chances they have for passing the NJSLA.

School Wide	Perfect	1-5 days	6 - 13 days	14-18 days	+19 days
ELA	77%	68%	59%	43%	32%
Math	62%	46%	38%	35%	27%
Average	69.5%	57%	48.5%	39%	29.5%



As you can see from the chart above, scholars who had perfect attendance had an almost 70% chance of passing the NJSLA, whereas scholars who were absent for 6-10 days only had a 48.5% chance of passing. The more scholars are absent the greater their chance of not passing. So do everything you can to get your children to school every day and reach out to us if you need support in any way.

Nurtured Heart Approach



Pride Academy Charter School was a recipient of a DREAMS School Grant which provided us with training and funding to implement a program centered on the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) at Pride. NHA is a research-based, trauma-informed program focused on helping staff and students manage their intensity and self-regulation and make better behavior choices while also demonstrating and building their inner wealth. This initiative is possible through a partnership between Rutgers University, NJ Department of Children and Families, & NJDOE.

"The Nurtured Heart Approach consists of strategies that assist children in further developing their self-regulation and has been found effective with children of all ages. It focuses on transforming how children perceive themselves, their caregivers, and the world around them. Children learn that they will receive endless amounts of praise, energy, recognition, and reward through the positive behavior they display. This helps children build a positive portfolio of themselves, which NHA calls Inner Wealth™."

We are excited to apply NHA practices in our classrooms to support our scholars' social-emotional development, academic learning, and character-building. Over the next few months, Pride family members will have opportunities to learn about this NHA and consider ways it can be used at home.

A Snapshot of the Nurtured Heart Approach® Copyright: 2022 Howard Glasser | www.NurturedHeartInstitute.com

Pride Scholar Clubs & Activities



*****Dreamality Choir:** Grades 5 -8
Permission Slips out Tuesday, September 3rd
Meeting Days & Times: Tues & Thurs 3:30 to 4:30pm



***** Co-ed Flag Football: Grades 6 -8**
Permission Slips out First of School
Meeting Days & Times:
Tryouts - Mon. 9/9 3:20 to 4:20 / Practices: Mon & Wed: 3:20 - 4:20



***** Cheerleading:** Grades 5-8
Permission Slips out Second Week of School
Meeting Days & Times:
Tryouts- Wed. 9/18 3:20 to 4:20 / Practices: Wed: 3:20 - 4:20



*****Please note that the Charter School Athletic League only allows for participants in grades 6-8.**