



GMS Pride Blast

Sunday, March 10th, 2019

The Githens Pride Blast is distributed most Sundays during the school year. If you have any news you would like to share with the Githens community, or if you no longer wish to receive the Pride Blast, you can send an email to: githensprideblast@gmail.com. Please let friends know they can receive weekly Blasts by emailing: githensprideblast@gmail.com.

Spanish translations of the Pride Blast are available on the PTA page of the Githens Middle School website (<http://githens.dpsnc.net>).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Githens at Disney. The Githens 8th Grade Band is in Florida this week. They are taking part in a Disney music workshop and will perform several songs. Go Raiders!

7th Grade End of Year Trip. This year 7th Graders will be going to Galaxy Fun Park on Monday, June 10th, 2019! The cost for each student is \$66.00. The cost includes an all day gaming experience, lunch, and bus fare. Students may pay in one lump sum or make payments on a monthly or weekly as described below. All final payments **MUST** be turned in to the school by May 1st, 2019.

Monthly Payment Schedule: March 1st- \$22; April 1st- \$22; May 1st (final payment)- \$22

Biweekly Payment Schedule: March 1st- \$11; March 15th - \$11; April 1st- \$11; April 15th- \$11; May 1st (final)- \$ 22

Refund Policy: In order to keep cost affordable, refunds will not be provided and funds are non-transferrable.

Eligibility Requirements: From March 1st, 2019 until the field trip date , June 10, 2019, students may not have more than three office discipline referrals. If your child exceeds the parameters outlined above, they will only be allowed to accompany us on this field trip if they have a parent or adult guardian as their chaperone. All chaperones will also need to

pay applicable admission fees. From March 1st, 2019 until the field trip date , June 10, 2019, students may not have out of school suspension. If your child exceeds the parameters outlined above, they will not be eligible to attend.

FREE Math I Tutoring. From now through May 9th, Ms. Wooding will be available for Math 1 tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 2:30 - 3:45 in Room 102 (Underneath the Library).

REMINDERS

Morning & Afternoon Carpool Reminder. Our students and staff safety is very important to us. Please remember that the staff parking lot is for staff and visitor parking only. Parents just a reminder that all students should be dropped off and picked up in front of the building for morning and afternoon carpool.

Githens Career Day. On Friday, March 22th, 2019, our school will be hosting a Career Day. We will invite community members to share their career experiences in order to give students the opportunity to explore careers that they might potentially pursue in the future. We would love to have you participate in Career Day! If you are willing to participate, please see the Volunteer section below.

Spring Picture Day. Our Spring Pictures with Strawbridge Studios will be this Friday, March 15. Flyers will be sent home prior to that date. Only students who bring their picture payment and order or proof of online orders will go to the photographer on March 15th. We still need volunteers to help- please see Volunteer section below.

Engineering Field Trip to Carowinds. Ms. Brown and Mr. Watkins are taking students in first semester and second semester classes to Engineering Day at Carowinds on Friday, May 3, 2019. The cost of the trip is approximately \$80. Students must have an A or B average and not have any suspensions. Parents interested in being a chaperone and/or assisting with transportation costs, should contact Ms. Jackie Brown at jacqueline.brown@dpsnc.net or Mr. Brandon Watkins at brandon.watkins@dpsnc.net. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Recruiting for 2019-2020 PTA Volunteers & Officers. The PTA Nominating Committee has begun recruiting for new officers, committee chairs, and event support volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year. There are jobs for people with all levels of skill and available time. Please send an email to githensptapresident@gmail.com, and we'll find a place for you to use your skills!

Keeping Up With Academics. Please continue to check Power School regularly to make sure your child is keeping up with classes. If you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teachers, please call or email Ms. Felicia Boone. Parent teacher conferences are held every Friday.

Alaska Trip. If you need information about next year's Alaska Trip, please contact Mrs. Burns, rebecca.burns@dpsnc.net, or call Worldstrides directly at 1-800-468-5899. Or use the following link and scroll down to Alaska. <https://resources.worldstrides.com/parent-presentations/>

8th Grade End of Year Field Trip to Carowinds. Here are some of the details for the 8th Grade end of year field trip:

- The 8th Grade Field Trip to Carowinds will be held on Monday, June 10, 2019
- All Final payments will be due by May 3rd.
- The trip is \$95, which includes the cost for Amusement park entry, lunch package, charter bus fees. Deposits are due by April 10th to reserve spot.
- Payment plan options: Students may pay for the trip in full or through the use of a payment plan. The payment plan is as follows: March 18th \$32, April 19th-\$32, May 3rd-\$31. All final payments are due by May 3rd.
- Students must meet the end of year celebration criteria. Students must pay by the set deadlines established by PBIS.

PBIS End of the Year criteria: Students must attend two (2) PRIDE Parties; Students who receive major referrals in the fourth quarter (April 1st to June 10th) resulting in OSS will NOT be allowed to attend the field trip and will NOT receive a refund for any payments made.

ATHLETICS

Athletics at Jordan High. If you have a rising freshman interested in playing sports at Jordan next year, you should consider joining the Jordan Sports Boosters Club. The JHS Boosters Club support is integral to the maintenance of fields and equipment at the high school for all sports, and relies on strong parent members. Currently, the club is looking for a treasurer for next year. If you've got an accounting background, or any experience as a treasurer, please share your talents!! Follow up by emailing: githensprideblast@gmail.com. The club holds board meetings on the first Monday evening of the month at 6:30pm in the Jordan Media Center. All are welcome.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Monday, March 11, 2019

Boys and Girls Track Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mrs. Stackhouse's Classroom

Lacrosse Practice

2:30 – 4:45pm

Health Classroom (Small Gym)

Boys Tennis Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Meet in Mrs. Strongoli's Classrom

Pick-up at **Garrett Road Park** (across from Jordan High School)

4:30pm - Baseball, Softball and Girls Soccer vs DSA at Githens

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Baseball Practice

2:30 – 4:45pm

Mr. Arnstein's Classroom

Softball Practice

2:30 – 5:00pm

Mrs. Strongoli's Classroom

Girls Soccer Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mr. Elroy's Classroom

Lacrosse Practice

2:30 – 4:45pm

Health Classroom (Small Gym)

Boys Tennis Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Meet in Mrs. Strongoli's Classrom

Pick-up at **Garrett Road Park** (across from Jordan High School)

4:00pm - Boys and Girls Track Meet vs Lucas at Lucas

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Boys and Girls Track Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mrs. Stackhouse's Classroom

Lacrosse Practice

2:30 – 4:45pm

Health Classroom (Small Gym)

Boys Tennis Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Meet in Mrs. Strongoli's Classroom

Pick-up at **Garrett Road Park** (across from Jordan High School)

4:00pm - Baseball, Softball and Girls Soccer vs Lowe's Grove at Githens

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Baseball Practice

2:30 – 4:45pm

Mr. Arnstein's Classroom

Softball Practice

2:30 – 5:00pm

Mrs. Strongoli's Classroom

Girls Soccer Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mr. Elroy's Classroom

Boys and Girls Track Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mrs. Stackhouse's Classroom

Lacrosse Practice

2:30 – 4:45pm

Health Classroom (Small Gym)

Boys Tennis Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Meet in Mrs. Strongoli's Classroom

Pick-up at **Garrett Road Park** (across from Jordan High School)

Friday, March 8, 2019

TBA

VOLUNTEERS / DONATIONS NEEDED

Card Stock for Front Office. The front office is asking for donations of card stock in various colors. Thanks in advance for any donations- we appreciate your support!

Githens Career Day. Please consider participating in Githens Career Day!! If interested, please fill out the following form via Google

Docs: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1InKCLuIS7c3drZcPPg5wWoTCIUA763YQz2C6aletLag/viewform>. If you have any questions, please contact Dionne Jimenez at Dionne.Jimenez@dpsnc.net; or Antia Thomas at Antia.Thomas@dpsnc.net.

Spring Picture Day. Come help out at our Spring Picture Day on Friday, March 15th. We still need volunteers to work the 7:30-9:30 shift. Please contact Susie Hill at susiewhill@gmail.com, or at the front desk 919-560-3966 ext 66224. Thanks!!

Supporting Githens Teachers & Classrooms. Githens teachers can always use your support. You can check with your child's teachers to see whether classroom supplies are running low. In addition, some Githens teachers put requests for special projects on [Donor's Choose](#). Currently, Ms Berry, Ms. Bethune, Ms. Brickhouse, Ms. Burns, Ms. Crosson, Ms. Strongoli, and Mr. Murrill have projects needing funding.

See <https://www.donorschoose.org/donors/search.html?includeNearbyLocations=true&school=1461>

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Digital Families Community Event. Raising children in the age of smartphones and social media brings new challenges and concerns for all families. That's why we are inviting you to join Durham Council of PTAs on March 16, 2019 from 8:30am - 12:30pm at Brogden Middle School, 1001 Leon Street, Durham 27704 to our Digital Families Community Event, which promotes safer and more responsible use of online technology among children and families. Continental breakfast, childcare, and language interpretation

services will be provided. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-families-community-event-evento-comunitario-de-familias-digitales-tickets-56723585772>.

Questions? Email durhamptacouncil@gmail.com.

SPLASH @ Duke: March 31st. Splash is a fun and educational event where middle and high school students are invited to Duke's campus to attend classes taught by Duke students. Classes can be about anything, from biological research to K-Pop dancing to cookie decorating! It's a great opportunity for middle and high schoolers to learn about topics that interest them from passionate college students.

This semester's Splash will be on Sunday, March 31st from 8AM-3PM. Registration opens on March 3rd and the cost is \$5 per student (we offer financial aid). Lunch will be provided. For more information about the program, feel free to check out this link: <https://dukesplash.learningu.org/>.

Emily K Scholars to College Program. The Emily Krzyzewski Center is a non-profit organization that serves as a college access hub in Durham, North Carolina, propelling academically-focused, low-income K-12 students and graduates toward success in college through its K to College programs.

Scholars to College serves students in grades 9-12. Students receive holistic support in the areas of college planning, personal management and leadership, academic skill development, and career exploration. Scholars to College students have access to a variety of opportunities and resources in areas critical to successful college readiness: leadership training, financial literacy development, STEM enrichment activities, public speaking, SAT/ACT preparation, and financial support for summer and enrichment programs.

Eligibility & Application Process. Rising 9th graders who reside in Durham County with demonstrated financial need are eligible to apply. Students are often referred to the Center through nominations from school staff, community members, and various community agencies. Families are also welcome to 'self-nominate' their student(s).

Academically focused students with robust family support are considered strong candidates. Additionally, students must demonstrate personal character, work ethic, and integrity as evidenced by teacher recommendations, personal statements, and an interview process. Application Materials (PDF versions) available at emilyk.org.

AIG Students: Summer SPARK Camp. If your child is currently a 6th or 7th grader and identified as AIG in Math, ELA, or both, then they qualify for SPARK Camp! During this four day camp, students rotate through two classes based on their interest. Camp classes this year will include topics such as Can You Escape; Evolution of Rock n Roll; History, Mysteries & Conspiracies; and Roller Coaster Craze. A reminder flyer will be sent home on

Monday with your child. SPARK Camp will be held June 24th-27th from 8:15-3:30. For registration information, see <http://central.dpsnc.net/advanced-academics/spark-summer-camp-for-gifted-students>.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholars Program. The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective 5-year, pre-college scholarship for high-performing 7th grade students with financial need. It provides comprehensive academic and college advising, as well as financial support for school, Cooke-sponsored summer programs, internships, and other learning enrichment opportunities. The deadline for the Young Scholars Program application is March 14, 2019 at 12:00pm (noon) EST. All application materials and recommendations must be submitted by the deadline for the application to be considered. To apply, visit: <https://www.jkcf.org>

Kramdem Instiute Spring Encore Course. FIVE SPOTS LEFT!!!! Kramden Institute will offer a video game design course Spring 2019 through the Encore program. Applications are currently available and the course will begin in March. This 8-week afterschool program for GMS students will give students a start on game design as a career or hobby. No coding experience needed. For Grades 6 – 8. For more information, email classes@kramden.org or call 919-293-1133, kramden.org.

STEMville Science Symposium. Morehead Planetarium and Science Center would like to share an exciting science enrichment opportunity for your 4th-7th grade students: the 2019 STEMville Science Symposium!

The Symposium is a half-day science conference for 4th-7th graders that is designed to be just like a professional conference for career scientists. The conference will feature a light breakfast reception, a keynote address in the GSK Fulldome Theatre, and breakout sessions facilitated by researchers from local universities. This event has a target focus on underserved and underrepresented groups in STEM education—specifically female, Latinx, and African-American students as well as those of lower socioeconomic status, but registration is open to all students.

Date of event: Saturday, April 6, 2019

Time: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$25 per student participant (non-refundable)*

Location: Morehead Planetarium & Science Center on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's campus

Online registration is open:

4th/5th Grade Link: <https://78835.blackbaudhosting.com/78835/STEMville-Science-Symposium-2019---Grades-4-5>

6th/7th Grade Link: <https://78835.blackbaudhosting.com/78835/STEMville-Science-Symposium-2019---Grades-6-7>

Durham Council of PTAs present A Digital Families Community Event. Raising children in the age of smartphones and social media brings new challenges and concerns for all families. That's why we are inviting you to join Durham Council of PTAs on March 16, 2019 from 8:30am - 12:30pm at Brodgen Middle School, 1003 Leon Street, Durham 27704 to our Digital Families Community Event, which promotes safer and more responsible use of online technology among children and families.

During this event your family will learn together about the importance of digital safety and online behavior through various workshops. Some of the things you can expect to talk about are password security, online communication, and how to be a connected as a family online. 98% of kids 8 years and younger have access to a smart device. It's important that our families know how to keep each other safe and be the best versions of ourselves online. We hope to see you March 16th to get the conversation started! Continental breakfast, childcare, and language interpretation services will be provided. Questions? Email durhamptacouncil@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Like us on Facebook! Remember to "Like" and "Share" posts so that these keep bubbling to the top of your feed. You can also click on "notifications" to receive these posts.

Share your Githens photos by emailing them to githenssocialmedia@gmail.com

- **Githens Middle School PTA**
- **Githens Middle School Band**
- **Githens Raider Orchestra**
- **Githens Middle School Athletics Boosters Club**

FREE MONEY FOR GITHENS

MENCHIE'S Frozen Yogurt at Patterson Place— every Thursday, Menchie's will donate 20% of your purchase to Githens. All you have to do is mention "Githens Middle School" when you pay. Offer good every Thursday during the school year. Patterson Place location only. *Hours on Thurs: 12pm – 10pm*

Box Tops for Education®: With more than 250 participating products, collecting Box Tops is an easy way to help fund our school. Each Box Top is worth \$0.10! Box Tops do have expirations, so don't forget to clip and send them in with your student every

Friday during the school year. And now there's a new app that lets you earn bonus Box Tops in combination with the on-pack Box Tops clip and any other coupon, discount, store program or promotion!.The app, which is available for iPhone and Android, lets you scan your receipts to get bonus Box Tops – more information is available at www.BoxTops4Education.com under “Earn Box Tops.”

Remember to re-enroll NOW in these programs:

Harris Teeter: Ask cashier to register your VIC card with Sherwood Githens code #2516 or register online at <https://www.harristeeter.com/manual-link#/app/cms>

Kroger:Ask the cashier to register your Kroger Rewards card with Sherwood Githens NPO number #89005 or register online at <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

Office Depot: At Office Depot, you can register your card with the Sherwood Githens Code: #70060926.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

March 9-13: 8th Grade Band Field trip to Florida

March 13: Regular School Day (early release cancelled to make up for 12/12 snow day)

March 15: Spring Pictures

March 18: Field Trip to NC State Hunt Library (Ms. Berry's students)

March 18, 6:00 pm: PTA Meeting in Media Center (ALL are welcome!)

March 20: 6th grade Zoo Field Trip

March 22: 8th Grade Career Day

March 22: End of 3rd Quarter

March 22: Saludos y Company Performance

March 25 - March 29: Spring Break (no school for students)

APRIL

April 3: FULL SCHOOL DAY (early release cancelled due to Hurricane Michael)

April 9: Report cards distributed

April 10: Chorus Field Trip to UNC-G

April 11-13: Orchestra Trip

April 12: Ms. Snow's Class Visits Maple View Farms

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS: ALL WELCOME!

Faculty meetings - 1st Monday of the month

School Improvement Team meetings - 2nd Monday of the month at 2:50 in the Media Center

PTA meetings - 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm in the Media Center

Athletic Boosters Club –Last Monday of the month at 6pm in the Media Center

To view the minutes from our previous meeting, please click [here](#)

For an up-to-date PTA calendar, please click [here](#)

You can access the most recent SIT meeting minutes from the “About Githens” page of the school website: <https://www.dpsnc.net/domain/577>

Our mailing address is: githensprideblast@gmail.com

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