



# GMS Pride Blast

## *Sunday, April 28th, 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](mailto:githensprideblast@gmail.com). Please let friends know they can receive weekly Blasts by emailing: [githensprideblast@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Wednesday, May 1st: No School.** This Wednesday, May 1st, will be a Teacher workday.

**Carowinds Trip this Week.** We are looking forward to Engineering Day at Carowinds this Friday, May 3, 2019. All students going on the trip should meet us in the Cafeteria at 7 a.m. and should be picked up in the bus parking lot by 6 p.m. (Note: The bus will not wait and refunds will not be given to any student who is not present when we leave.) To help facilitate communication on that day, we are using "Remind" to send updates about the trip. We are asking that all parents and students who will have cell phones to please sign up for "Remind" prior to Friday for Engineering Day 2019 notifications by visiting: <https://www.remind.com/join/c83e3g>. Drinks will be provided, but students need to bring lunch/ spending money. Any student who receives free or reduced lunch will receive a lunch if the student gives us his/her lunch # by Thursday, May 2, 2019. Lastly, all students are asked to wear a Githens' shirt if you have one. If you do not have one, please let Ms. Brown or Mr. Watkins know as soon as possible. Thank you from Ms. Brown ([jacqueline.brown@dpsnc.net](mailto:jacqueline.brown@dpsnc.net)) and Mr. Watkins ([brandon.watkins@dpsnc.net](mailto:brandon.watkins@dpsnc.net)).

**8th Grade Formal.** The theme for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Semi-Formal has been revealed:

A Night In Cannes

Friday May 31st

6:30 - 9:30 pm

Tickets \$ 10

Sherwood Githens Middle School

Semi-Formal Dance - Class of 2019

**7th Grade Parents: Save the Date to Help @ 8th Grade Events.** As the 8th grade students prepare to leave GMS, there are two big events that need parents' support. Our tradition at GMS is that the 7th grade parents help with those events so that 8th grade parents can enjoy them. One is the 8th grade dance, where parents help decorate and the other is the 8th grad picnic after promotion ceremony practice. If you are a 7th grade parent (or any other parent that wants to help), please mark the afternoon of May 31 to help decorate for the dance and the morning of June 11 to help at the picnic. Details to follow.

## REMINDERS

### **Band: Upcoming Dates.**

*Band @ Durham Bulls.* Come out to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park this Friday May 3rd and support the Githens Middle School Band! \$3 of every ticket sold will go to the Band Booster Club. Arrive early as the band will perform the National Anthem before the game! Stick around after the game for Durham's best fireworks show! <https://groupmatics.events/Githensmiddle>

*Spring Showcase.* Our final concert will be May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Jordan HS auditorium. Everyone is welcome!

*Concert Rehearsals.* Beginning Band will have their required afternoon concert rehearsal immediately after school until 4pm on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup> Advanced Band will have their required afternoon concert rehearsal on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> immediately after school until 5:15pm. There will be NO 7<sup>th</sup> Advanced afternoon concert rehearsal.

*Band Boosters.* If you are interested in serving on the board for the Band Boosters next year, it is imperative that we have all spots filled. Most especially needed for next year is a treasurer. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the board for next year. Our next meeting and elections for next year will be Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Band Banquet.* Our annual Band Banquet will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Githens Cafeteria. Students will receive a free dinner ticket, but anyone else planning to eat will need to purchase a ticket, \$7 in advance, and \$10 at the door.

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony.* Rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Band members will be required to perform at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**NJHS NEW MEMBER NOMINATIONS.** NJHS is accepting nominations for new members (rising 7th and 8th Graders) from teachers, students, parents, and administrators. Criteria includes: good character, leadership qualities, A-average (90 or better with no C's or D's for all 3 quarters of 2018-19 school year), community service minded. See NJHS site for detailed criteria. Please send nominations to: [Harlyn.strongoli@dpsnc.net](mailto:Harlyn.strongoli@dpsnc.net).

**Costa Rica Trip with Ms. Jimenez.** The skills gained through foreign travel can provide your child with life-long benefits. Now Githens students have the opportunity to try it out as Githens teacher Ms. Jimenez will be leading a week-long trip to Costa Rica!!! This is a structured program and a great chance for a first travel experience. For more information, see Ms. Jimenez in Rm AA4B or email [Dionne.jimenez@dpsnc.net](mailto:Dionne.jimenez@dpsnc.net).

**Keeping up with Academics.** 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.

**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).

**EOG Study Help.** Interested in previewing sample EOG Test Items and Answer Keys? Click the link so your children can prepare for the EOG:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms>

**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](mailto:githensptapresident@gmail.com), and we'll find a place for you to use your skills!

## END OF YEAR EVENTS

**8th Grade End of Year Events & Behavior Requirements.** As a team of 8<sup>th</sup> grade

teachers we want to alert you about the expectations and requirements regarding attendance of many end of year events. We want to reward those who have honestly and respectfully earned the privilege to attend. We ask for your support in helping us honor the following expectations.

#### PRIDE Field Trip to Carowinds – June 10, 2019 8:00am - 7:45pm

- Students must pay by the set deadlines established by PBIS.
- Students who do not reach the two (2) PRIDE Party attendance limit or receive a major referral resulting in OSS after April 1 will NOT receive a refund for any payments made.
- Please be on time to pick up your child.
- The cost of the trips is \$95 (which includes park entry, lunch, charter bus fees)

#### Semi-Formal – May 31, 2019 6:30-9:30 pm

- Any student suspended on or after April 1, 2019 will **not** be allowed to attend the semi-formal.
- No tickets will be sold at the door (all tickets need to be purchased in advance). Tickets will be sold **May 20-24th and Wednesday May 29th only**. The cost of a ticket will be \$10 per student.
- School and District dress code still applies. Dresses should be age and length appropriate. Dresses cannot be revealing or tight. Students can be denied admission into the semi-formal based on this violation WITHOUT a refund.
- Students will be expected to be in attendance the ENTIRE day of the semi-formal. Students who are absent will not be able to attend. Missing school or leaving early the day of the semi-formal to get hair and nails done is unacceptable.
- In order to purchase tickets, students will need to have all required signatures.
- The semi-formal will begin at 6:30 and will end at 9:30. Please be on time to pick up your child.

#### Promotion Rehearsal & Picnic June 6, 2019 8:30-2:20

- Please ensure that your student is at school and on time, so they will be prepared for the promotion ceremony.
- **Any student who was absent for an EOG tests WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE because they will need to make up the EOG.**
- Students serving any kind of suspension (ISS /OSS) the last week of school WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

#### Promotion Ceremony – June 7, 2019 9:00-10:00 am

- This event will be held at Githens Middle School in the Gym.

- Black and White dress is encouraged. White Dress shirt and a tie for all male students.
- **Any student who was absent for an EOG tests WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE because they will need to make up the EOG on Tuesday.**
- Students serving OSS on June 7th WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE in the graduation ceremony.
- Each family will be allotted ***two*** tickets for entrance into the promotion ceremony.
- Pickup locations following the ceremony are as follows: **Ravens - Cafeteria;**  
**Hawks -- Homerooms; Ospreys-- Small Gym.**

**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.

## ATHLETICS

### THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

#### Monday, April 29, 2019

4:00pm - **Boys Tennis** vs Voyager Academy at Githens (Garett Road Park)

4:00pm - **Baseball Semi-finals** vs Carrington at Githens  
Admissions - \$5 for everyone Elementary School and Older

4:00pm - **Girls Soccer Semi-finals** vs Lucas at Githens

Admissions - \$5 for everyone Elementary School and Older

5:30pm - **Lacrosse Championship** vs Neal at Githens

Admissions - \$5 for everyone Elementary School and Older

### **Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

4:00pm - **Boys Tennis** vs Carrington at Githens (Garett Road Park)

4:00pm - **Baseball Finals**

Admissions - \$5 for everyone Elementary School and Older

4:00pm or 4:30pm - **Girls Soccer Finals**

\*\*\*Time depends on if DSA wins or not

Admissions - \$5 for everyone Elementary School and Older

### **Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

NO SCHOOL - Teachers Workday

### **Thursday, May 2, 2019**

4:00pm – **Boys Tennis** vs Carolina Friends at Githens (Garett Road Park)

Admissions - FREE

### **Friday, May 3, 2019**

4:00pm - **Boys Tennis** vs Carrington at Carrington (Northern High School)

Admissions - FREE

## **VOLUNTEERS / DONATIONS NEEDED**

**Teacher Appreciation Week.** Teacher Appreciation week is next week, May 6th-10th!!

Show your teachers some love that week with flowers, notes, gift cards, etc!

And please consider signing up to help with one of the PTA events that week.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9AC2BA6F58-teacher3>

**EOG Proctors Needed.** Proctors for the EOG Test coming soon at GMS. We will need 20 for each day. Times are 745 until 1130 each day. Dates are: Wednesday, May



29; Thursday, May 30; Friday, May 31; Monday, June 3; Tuesday, June 4. Please let us know if you can help. Contact Susie Hill at: 919-560-3966

or [Susiewhill@gmail.com](mailto:Susiewhill@gmail.com), [Susan.Hill@dpsnc.net](mailto:Susan.Hill@dpsnc.net) or Kate Murphy 919-560-3966

or [Kathleen.Murphy@dpsnc.net](mailto:Kathleen.Murphy@dpsnc.net)

**Food Pantry Items Needed.** The Githens Backpack Program is in urgent need of your help. We will be conducting a food drive for food donations that are portable and easy to prepare. Examples include canned vegetables, ravioli, tuna, boxes of macaroni and cheese, packs of snack crackers, granola and cereal bars, single serving oatmeal packs, fruit cups and medium-sized jars of peanut butter are also good. Please leave all donations in the office. Thank you for your help in making sure that all of our students have plenty to eat over the weekend when they're not in school.

**Formal Wear Donations?** We are in need of semi-formal dresses and white shirts and ties for 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the semi-formal dance. Please reach out to Ms. Megan Shulse.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Tuition-Free STEM Camp for Minority Males.** The Verizon Innovative Learning Summer Camp at North Carolina Central University, in partnership with the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation, Inc., is a **FREE** dynamic, three week summer program for **100 middle school boys in grades 6 through 8**, where the students will learn design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality and social entrepreneurship, attend field trips and participate in mentoring. **To complete an application, [apply here](#). Select "North Carolina Central" in the application. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 30, 2019.**

The Camp dates are June 17, 2019 - July 5, 2019 with lunch provided over the summer. Classes are held Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the summer and one Saturday a month throughout the school year.

To learn more about Verizon Innovative Learning, visit [www.VerizonInnovativeLearning.com](http://www.VerizonInnovativeLearning.com).

**MANCODE @ NC Central.** Mancode is a 1-day technology conference aimed to provide technical, education, and life skills training to underrepresented young men in middle and high school. There will be classes in coding, web design, and professional development. Registration is free and lunch is provided. The event is this coming Saturday, May 4th, from 10am to 2pm and will be held at NC Central. To register, please go to: [aka.ms/MANCODENC](http://aka.ms/MANCODENC).

**Free Math Camp for Rising 9th Grade Girls.** *Girls Talk Math* is a FREE summer day camp for rising 9th-12th grade students in the Triangle area who identify as female or an underrepresented gender. Daily lunch and afternoon snacks will be provided for all participants at no cost.

The program challenges campers to explore advanced mathematics, research a female mathematician, and create a **blog post** and **podcast** to share what they learned. Visit the camp **website** to learn more.

This year camp will run July 8-19, Monday to Friday, from 9:00am-4:00pm. Before and after camp supervision will be provided beginning at 8:30am and ending at 5:00pm. Camp is held in the Mathematics Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**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>.

**AP Summer Scholars Camp.** This year rising 8-10th graders will have the opportunity to select courses based on interest. Whether students are registered for the course or not, they will be introduced to various AP content and work on developing specific strategies and skills.

Rising 8th – Rising 10th DPS Students

Monday – Thursday July 15- July 18th  
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

\$75 Includes daily lunch and t-shirt

Jordan High School, 6806 Garrett Road, Durham

All students interested should register online between Mon., April 15th and Wed., May 1st.  
Register at: <https://goo.gl/forms/gmMDKNWW8iOOvE6t1>

## 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](mailto: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](http://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

### APRIL

April 30: 6th - 8th Grade CTE Field Trip to Durham Bulls Park for Education Day

## **MAY**

May 1: **No School-- Teacher Work Day**

May 2: 6th Grade Awards Ceremony during Power Hour

May 3: 7th Grade Awards Ceremony during Power Hour

May 3: Progress Reports distributed

May 3: Engineering Day at Carowinds

May 3, 7:00 pm: Band plays anthem at Durham Bulls

May 6: 8th Grade Awards Ceremony during Power Hour

May 7, 7:30 pm: Orchestra Concert at Jordan HS

May 13, 6:00 pm: PTA Meeting in Media Center (ALL are welcome!)

May 16, 6:00 - 7:30 pm: Orchestra Banquet (Githens Cafeteria)

May 20, 7:00 pm: Githens Band Showcase at Jordan HS

## **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS: ALL WELCOME!**

Faculty meetings - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

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

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

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

PTA meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6pm in the Media Center

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

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

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