



GMS Pride Blast

Sunday, April 14th, 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

Three-Day School Week. School will be in session Monday through Wednesday this week. Githens will be closed Thursday and Friday.

May 1st: No School. Wednesday, May 1st will be a Teacher workday. Please support our teachers!!

AIG Parent Survey. Is your child currently enrolled in an AIG class? Is your child AIG identified? Even if your child is not officially identified, but still taking classes we still want you to take about 5 minutes to complete the DPS AIG Parent Survey by Monday, April 15. The link to this parent survey is located on the Githens webpage under "NEWS". It is labeled Parent Survey. Thank you for your continued support. Your input is very important as we review and revise how to meet the needs of advanced learners in DPS.

Confirm Registration for Fall. Parents please check your child's fall registration selections to ensure they are accurate.

Engineering Field Trip to Carowinds. Permission slips and money for the Engineer Day Trip to Carowinds with Ms. Brown and Mr. Watkins is due on Monday, April 15th. To be eligible to attend, students must have an A or B average in Ms. Brown or Mr. Watkins' class

and they could not have received In School or Out of School Suspension from the beginning of the Second Semester (January 28, 2019) to April 15, 2019. Students who are eligible, but have a financial hardship need to notify their teacher as well as bring in a signed permission slip.

Also, we are accepting assistance for the students with a financial hardship. The trip is \$80 per student and any assistance would be welcome.

For questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Brown (via e-mail at jacqueline.brown@dpsnc.net or telephone at 919-560-3966) or Mr. Watkins (via e-mail at brandon.watkins@dpsnc.net or 919-560-3966).

Conservation Project. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Strongoli led two classes in the Shad in Classroom Conservation Project. Their 8th graders raised fish and released them in the Neuse River Last week. It was a rainy but very fun Friday!

Art @ Northgate. Make sure to check out the Raider art on display at Northgate Mall.

REMINDERS

8th Grade Cap and Gown Photos. 8th Grade cap and gown photos will be taken on April 22nd. Please note that boys should wear white shirts with ties. The caps and gowns will be provided but the process runs smoother if the boys are already dressed appropriately. Help is needed- please sign up in the Volunteer section below. We would really appreciate any help we can get!

Dress Code at Githens. Parents we appreciate your efforts to ensure your children wear appropriate attire to Githens. As the weather warms up, sometimes our students get a little tempted to wear things that are not permitted. The following specific items are not permitted at school:

1. clothing worn in such a manner so as to reveal underwear, cleavage, or bare skin between the upper chest and mid-thigh;
2. bare feet, bedroom slippers;
3. spaghetti straps, strapless tops, halter tops;
4. see-through, mesh garments;
5. trousers, slacks, shorts worn below hip level;
6. clothing that is excessively baggy or tight;

7. skirts and shorts shorter than mid-thigh;
8. sunglasses worn inside school building;
9. hats, caps, hoods, sweat bands and bandanas or other head wear worn inside school building.

Report Cards. Report cards went home on Tuesday, April 9. 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).

Band @ Bulls. The Githens Band will perform the national anthem at the Durham Bulls game on Friday, May 3rd at 7:05pm! EVERY Band student (including beginners) is eligible to perform at this event, provided they can play it 100% perfectly from memory, so there will be a lot of Githens kids out there. Tickets are \$15 each, with \$3 coming back to our Band program, and may be purchased online here: <https://groupmatics.events/event/Githensmiddle>. We have only been allotted 400 tickets this year (we usually sell more!), so please go ahead and get your tickets ASAP if you would like to join us!

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!

END OF YEAR EVENTS

8th Grade End of Year Events & Behavior Requirements. As a team of 8th 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.
- The theme of the semi-formal is top secret.... be on the lookout for the reveal!

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;**

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

Swing Pals Opportunity for 6th Graders. This year all our 6th grade students graduated from SwingPals, a program which taught them golf while developing their leadership skills and teaching them mindfulness. Students are now invited to come to the Hillandale golf course to continue in the program. It is after-school, April 17th, 18th and 19th, and runs until 4:30pm. SwingPals is a free program, transportation and snacks are provided. To reserve your child's spot: email doug@swingpals.org (or for Spanish speaking families, ocaly@swingpals.org).

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Monday, April 15, 2019

Boys and Girls Track Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mrs. Stackhouse's Classroom

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 Rogers-Herr at Rogers-Herr

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

4:45pm – **Lacrosse** vs Staford Middle School at Githens

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

Tuesday, April 16, 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)

4:00pm - **Boys and Girls Track Meet** vs Lowe's Grove at Githens

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

4:00pm – **Boys Tennis** vs DSA at DSA

Admissions - FREE

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Boys and Girls Track Practice

2:30 – 4:30pm

Mrs. Stackhouse's Classroom

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

4:00pm – **Boys Tennis** vs Smith at Githens (Garrett Road Park)

Admissions - FREE

4:00pm – **Lacrosse** vs Rogers-Herr at Rogers-Herr

Admissions - \$3 for everyone Elementary School and Older

VOLUNTEERS / DONATIONS NEEDED

Honor Roll Ice Cream Party - Servers Needed. t's Honor Roll Ice Cream Party time!

Each quarter, the PTA does something special for the Honor Roll students. The PTA needs volunteers to scoop ice cream and sprinkle toppings from 1:00-2:15 Wednesday, April

17th. Thanks for coming out to help celebrate the hard work of these

students. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ba9ac2ba6f58-honor8>

Food Pantry Items Needed. Githens Food Pantry is need of donations for the weekend backpack program. This program provides lunch and breakfast for students for the days when they are not in school. Please consider donating the following items:

Macaroni & Cheese

Canned ravioli or spaghetti

Soups

Canned vegetables

Individual packages of oatmeal

Individual cereals

Individual fruit cups or applesauce

Individual snack (pudding cups, goldfish, pretzels, peanut crackers, etc)

Granola and cereal bars

Donations can be dropped off in the front office. Thanks for your support of this program for our children!

Formal Wear Donations? We are in need of semi-formal dresses and white shirts and

ties for 8th graders for cap and gown pictures and the semi-formal dance. Please reach out to Ms. Megan Shulse.

8th Grade Cap and Gown Photos. Please help with the 8th Grade cap and gown photos on April 22nd!! We will need 5 volunteers for each shift to help with the outfits, registration, photographs. It is a fun day especially for proud parents of 8th graders!!!! The times are Shift 1 from 7:20am- 9:45am. Shift 2 from 10:45am-12:15 Volunteers can contact Susie Hill at Githens 919-560-3966 in the morning or Susan.Hill@dpsnc.net or Susiewhill@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Free Math Camp for Rising 9th Graders. *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 11th & 12th graders will have the opportunity to have focused instruction and strategy building on Wednesday with access to teachers for summer assignment support on Thursday.

AP Summer Scholars Camp will help students:

- prepare for academic excellence in AP courses
- learn how to manage a demanding course load with organizational and study skills that apply to high school and college.
- see an overview of several different AP courses
- have assistance on AP summer assignments.

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

Rising 11th – 12th DPS Students

Wed., July 17th 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Thurs., July 18th 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Summer AP Assignment Help

\$35 Includes lunch and t-shirt

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

- **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

APRIL

April 15, 6:00 pm: PTA Meeting in Media Center (ALL are welcome!)

April 17: Spring Sports Pictures

April 17: Honor Roll Ice Cream Celebrations

April 18-19: Teacher Workday & Spring Holiday (no school for students)

April 22: 7th Grade Field Trip to Marbles Museum (also 4/25)

April 22: 8th Grade Cap & Gown pictures

April 23: 8th Grade Film Field Trip: "The Best of Enemies"

April 24: Ms. Snow's Class Field Trip to Maple View Farms

April 25: 7th Grade Field Trip to Marbles Museum (also 4/22)

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

MAY

May 1: Early Release 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 - 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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can **[update your preferences](#)** or **[unsubscribe from this list](#)**