



# GMS Pride Blast

## Sunday, September 8, 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

**Githens Performance Data:** Last week, the State of North Carolina released our school's performance data for last school year. It's official for the third year in a row Githens has met growth and our rating has been upgraded to an overall C rating. This year we are striving for continuous improvement. We know how important it is that every child learns and grows in our school. The state's accountability standards are one way that we track our progress, but it's just as important that you feel satisfied with your child's individual academic progress and engaged with our school community. Our teachers and staff will work with you and your child to meet these high standards and ensure that our students will leave Durham Public Schools ready for college or the workplace. If you would like additional information about our school performance data and what they mean, we will host a **Parent Information Session at September 25 at 5:00 pm**. We will also have information available on the Durham Public Schools website at [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net)

**Alaska Trip Information Meeting:** Ms. Burns will be leading a student trip to Alaska in June. We will be whale watching, exploring a glacier and Denali National Park, learning about tsunamis at the tsunami warning center, visiting the sled dogs, and more! The adventure begins June 16, 2020! Packets will be going home next week to provide details and answer some basic questions. If interested, please attend the information meeting on Sept 17, 5:30-6:30pm in the Media Center. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Burns ([Rebecca.Burns@dpsnc.net](mailto:Rebecca.Burns@dpsnc.net)).

**Give to Githens Fall Fundraiser begins on Wed, Sept 11th:** Families have two ways to participate in the fundraiser, either by direct donation or selling cookie dough. There are individual prizes, grade level prizes and if we meet our goal, each student will receive a homework pass. We are asking ALL Githens families to participate so that we can reach our \$15,700 goal. Your dollar will go directly to help students and teachers at Githens. Please look out for the informational packets coming home with students this Wednesday. You can send in your contribution to your child's homeroom teacher or online at <https://www.paypal.me/githenspta>. No gift is too small (or too large!). Thank you for supporting Githens students and teachers!

**AIG Night/Student Lead Conference Night on Sept 25, 5-7pm:** We are extremely excited that Githens community partners will be participating-Jordan and Hillside High School, Duke TIP, NC School of Science and Math, Shodor Institute, Kramden Institute and many others!

**Lunch orders from outside vendors:** We kindly request that students refrain from ordering lunch from outside vendors. NO outside deliveries would be accepted for students. Parents are allowed to bring a student lunch, but delivery services will be turned away.

## REMINDERS

**Student Council Meeting:** Any students interested in helping Githens grow and improving their own leadership skills should come to one of the two interest meetings for Student Council on September 10th and September 17th. We will go over what Student Council is, and does – as well as the qualifications for candidacy for Student Council offices. Meetings will be held in B11 with Mrs. Pulliam from 2:30 – 3:15. Students must have a ride pick-up at the carpool lane by 3:15. Contact [Amanda.Pulliam@dpsnc.net](mailto:Amanda.Pulliam@dpsnc.net) with any questions.

**Costa Rica Trip Information Meeting:** 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. There will be a meeting for interested parents on September 19 at 5:30-6:30pm in the Media Center. For more information, contact Ms. Jimenez ([Dionne.jimenez@dpsnc.net](mailto:Dionne.jimenez@dpsnc.net)).

**Vaccination Requirements for 7th Graders:** Durham Public Schools wants all 7th grade students to be in compliance with the NC vaccination requirements. By law, all 7th graders must have one dose of the Tdap vaccine and one dose of the meningitis vaccine **by Tuesday, September 24th**. Durham Public Schools' 7th graders who have not received the required vaccines are at risk for suspension on September 25th until documentation of required vaccines is provided to the student's school. If you have any questions, please contact Nurse Hoose.

**Latino Parent Night:** There will be a Latino Parent Night on September 26 at 6-8pm in the Media Center.

**Join the PTA!** Please join the Parent Teacher Organization. The PTA gives money back to teachers for their classrooms, offers funds for creative endeavors by teachers, works as an ally and advocate for all students, and much more. We need every voice and we'd love to you have join us! It's only \$5 to join, you can leave cash or check at the front office in an envelope with your name and email. Or you can pay via PayPal on [www.githenspta.org](http://www.githenspta.org).

**PTA Meeting:** Please join us for our first PTA meeting on September 16 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](#).

**Dress Code Reminder:** 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. Just a reminder, the following specific items are also not permitted:

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

**Githens Carpool Instructions for Morning Drop-off.** In order to move the morning line along quickly, and to make it safer and more pleasant for everyone, please read and follow these guidelines:

- Leave yourself plenty of time for morning drop-off. The line is MUCH shorter at 7:00AM than it is at 7:20AM.
- Be patient and courteous.
- Follow the instructions of the officer directing traffic.
- Do not block the entrance to the side lot, as teachers need to pull in and other cars will need to get out.
- As you move forward, if you are the first car, pull all the way up to the cone before stopping. All other cars should then let children out of their cars as soon as the line has stopped. If you are beside a sidewalk, you should let your children out of the car. Ideally, there will be out 8 cars letting students out simultaneously.

**Githens Carpool Instructions for Afternoon Pick-Up.** In order to ease up congestion in our afternoon pick-up line, and to make it safer and more pleasant for everyone, please read and follow these guidelines

- The RIGHT lane is for WAITING.
- The LEFT lane is for PICK-UP.
- Please do not move into the LEFT lane until you see your child.
- Order of dismissal: 6th grade, then 7th grade, then 8th grade

***More Details for Carpool:***

- Let's be kind and courteous in the carpool line. The line will move safely and efficiently if we all follow the same rules.
- Do not ever drive the wrong way around the circle driveway! Safety is our goal!
- Do not drive aggressively in the school parking lot.
- If you arrive at Githens before afternoon dismissal begins at 2:15, please form a car line in the RIGHT lane of the school's front driveway, beginning just before the blue front doors.
- If you arrive for the afternoon pick-up and the RIGHT lane is full, form a line in the road. The police officer directing afternoon traffic will signal when you can and should pull into the school driveway.
- In forming a car line in the RIGHT lane, please leave a space for cars to come and go from the side faculty/staff lot.
- Please leave the LEFT lane clear and DO NOT pull into the LEFT lane until you know your child has come outside.
- Note that 6th graders are dismissed first, followed by 7th graders, then 8th graders over a 5-10 min period of time.
- Sometimes the police officer in the road will direct you to pull from the road into the LEFT lane of the school driveway to allow local traffic to pass.

- If BOTH LANES of the carpool have become congested, please allow drivers who are in the RIGHT lane to move over to the left when they see their children ready for pick-up.

**Link your VIC Card to Githens today!** FREE MONEY FOR GITHENS: Please link or re-link your Harris Teether VIC card to our school (code 2516). If you've done it in the past, you still need to re-link it each year. Only 104 people had us linked last year and there are WAY more Githens families at our school. Thanks from the PTA!

*More details:* Connect your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school's Together in Education account. When you purchase certain products including Harris Teeter Brand, H.T. Traders, Harris Teeter Farmers Market, and Harris Teeter Organics, a percentage of those purchase dollars comes back to Githens. They have also added in-store Pharmacy purchases to the program, so all prescriptions filled at Harris Teeter will also earn money for Githens.

**Online instructions:**

1. Log in to your Harris Teeter profile at the top of [harristeeter.com](http://harristeeter.com).
2. Click on My Account once logged in.
3. In the Together in Education section, type the school name in the School Search toolbar.
4. Once the school name generates, click on the school name and then Add a School.

**In store:** ask your cashier to link your VIC card to the Githens TIE code (which is 2516).

**Note:** You must re-link your VIC card to Githens annually, and a VIC card can be linked up to 5 schools. Thank you for supporting Githens!

## ATHLETICS

\*\*\* No Updates This Week\*\*\*

## VOLUNTEERS/ DONATIONS NEEDED

**Gift Cards for Faculty:** Githens PTA needs gift cards of \$5-10 amounts for Monday's first Githens Faculty Meeting. Please sign up and bring one by for the teacher giveaway. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9AC2BA6F58-september5>

**Are you interested in volunteering at the School Media Center?** We would love to have your help to support the students of Githens by helping in the library this school year. Please email Mrs. Berry for more information [Barbara.berry@dpsnc.net](mailto:Barbara.berry@dpsnc.net) or stop by the Media Center at the front of the school. Thanks!

**Volunteers for Fall Picture Day on Monday, Sept 23:** We will need 12 volunteers to sign up for 2 shifts (6 volunteers for each shift). Shift 1 starts at 7.20-10.30 and Shift 2 starts at 10.30-130. Volunteers may contact Susie Hill at the Githens front desk, 919-569-3966 or [Susan.hill@dpsnc.net](mailto:Susan.hill@dpsnc.net) or [Susiewhill@gmail.com](mailto:Susiewhill@gmail.com).

**Request for Composition Notebooks:** Math teachers will have students create math interactive journals. We kindly request parents donate black and white composition notebooks. We will need approximately 3000 books this school year.

**Request for 7th Grade Science Labs:** 7th Grade Science Teachers would love the following donations for science lab: 300 Empty rinsed 2 liter bottles. They would like for

parents to fill out the parent information on Githens home page if they have not already completed it.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Black Parent Empowerment Workshop:** Access to Advanced Academics - Student Breakout Sessions Too (September 19, 6pm-8pm: WG Pearson Center (600 E. Umstead Dr). This event is hosted by Parents of African American Children and Village of Wisdom.

*Intended Outcome:*

- Students using their voice to bring light to disparities
- Students will gain support from other students
- Students will learn the tangible benefit of taking advanced courses

*Breakout Facilitators:*

- NCCU honor students
- Dr. Karen Keaton Jackson, NCCU Dir. Univ.Honors Program Dr.
- Harvey Hinton, III, CAARE Executive Director

*Informed Panel:* Principals, teachers, and students to share their experience and their impact on addressing access for Black students. **Register:**

<https://www.facebook.com/PAACEduc/> (Food and childcare provided)

**Blooming with Books (September 14, 10am – 1pm):** Join Duke Gardens, Durham's Partnership for Children, and other community partners in Duke Gardens for a celebration of reading. Free children's books, activities for all ages, storytellers, readings by local authors, and more! Bring a blanket and a picnic, and spend the day reading together and exploring the garden. This event takes place outside and will be canceled in the event of rain or inclement weather. **Click here** to access fliers in English and Spanish.

**Durham County Teen Court - New Volunteer Training (Sept 12th and 19th, 5:30-7:30pm):** Durham County Court House, Court Room 6A, 510 South Dillard St. Come out and join our Teen Court Volunteers as they explain how teen court is a real justice program run by teens for teens. More about Teen Court: Juveniles aged 10 thru 17 who have committed misdemeanor crimes appear before a jury of their peers. In Teen Court, teen volunteers perform the roles of the prosecuting and defense attorneys, bailiff, clerk, and jury. The judge is the only adult directly involved in the court proceedings. Benefits of volunteering at Teen Court include: 1) giving back to your community by helping your peers become responsible citizens; 2) Teen Court experience is a prestigious accomplishment to be put on college applications; 3) Teen Court volunteers will gain knowledge of the judicial system and gain experience acting as attorneys, bailiff, or court clerks; and 4) opportunity to attend the state level Teen Court summit. For more information please contact Kernis Shaw, 919-682-1960, [Durhamteencourt@gmail.com](mailto:Durhamteencourt@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 16, 6pm:** PTA Meeting, Media Center

**September 18:** Early Release Day

**September 23:** Fall Picture Day

**September 25, 5-7pm:** AIG Night/Student Lead Conference Night  
**September 26, 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm:** Latino Family Night  
**September 27:** Progress Reports Disseminated  
**September 27:** PBIS PRIDE Party-Kona Ice (Approximate Cost \$3 to \$5)  
**September 30:** PBIS School Store open during lunch

## 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

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