

KNIGHT LIGHTS



A Publication of Henry W. Grady High School PTSA

September 2013

Ways to Stay in Touch

Go to the **Infinite Campus Parent Portal** for students' schedule, attendance, and grades. The web address for the Parent Portal is <https://ic.apsk12.org/campus/portal/atlanta.jsp>. Site Activation Key: Email Mr. Montero at bmontero@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

The **Gradygram** is an e-newsletter sent weekly during the school year. Sign up is available online at Grady's website. Please send current Grady news to gradygram@hotmail.com.

Important Dates to Note

Labor Day Holiday

Mon., Sept. 2
No School

Grady PTSA Open House and Back-To-School Night

Tues., Sept. 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

LSC Elections

Tues., Sept. 17 from 7:45 am - 6:30 pm

Music Midtown

Fri., Sept. 20 & Sat., Sept. 21
Please see full article on pg. 5

Ga. High School Writing Test

Wed., Sept. 25
All Juniors

9th and 10th Grade Parent Night

Thurs., Sept. 26 @ 6:00 p.m.

Please see full calendar on pg. 7

Get Involved in Knight Lights

Knight Lights needs you! *Knight Lights* needs someone to copy the monthly publication. Supplies are provided and this job takes just three to four hours each month. We are also looking for volunteers to help with distribution day.

Please contact gradyknightlights@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer!

Letter from the Principal

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new faculty and staff. New teachers joining us this year are:

Shawna Brooks (Biology & Environmental Science); Benjamin Sellers (Science – Astronomy); Tracy Swift (Engineering); Harry Bowden and Carleatha Barbour (Law and Leadership Academy); Tamela Cosby, Carrie Rowe, Vicki Vinson and Richard Williams (Mathematics); Doris Elliott (PEC Language Arts and Social Science); Martha Jones (PEC MOID); Christopher Hall and Sara Looman (Social Studies); Brooke Ramey and Emma Watson (English/Language Arts); and Matthew Smith (Business and Entrepreneurship Academy).

In addition to these teachers, several support staff members have joined us: Ms. Margaux Williams, Behavior Intervention Specialist and Ms. Mylo Nixon, Cafeteria Manager.

Now that school is well underway, please check that your child has a course syllabus for every class, and that your child knows the day, time and location of after-school tutorials for all core subject areas and foreign languages. This should be a component of the course syllabi. However, if you do not see this item, please contact the department chairs:

Language Arts/English	Ms. Susan Mercer	smercer@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Mathematics	Ms. Linda Brasher	lbrasher@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Science	Dr. Jormell Cofield	jbcofield@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Social Science	Mr. R. Lee Pope	rpope@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Fine Arts	Mr. John Brandhorst	jbrandhorst@atlanta.k12.ga.us
Foreign Language	Mr. Scott Allen	scallen@atlanta.k12.ga.us

If you wish to schedule a conference with your child's teachers, please contact the counselors:

Biomedical Science & Engineering	Ms. Cassandra Bolding	cbolding@atlanta.k12.ga.us 404-802-3018
Business & Entrepreneurship	Mr. Lamar Young	lyoung@atlanta.k12.ga.us 404-802-3019
Communications & Journalism	Ms. Shaketha Blankenship	sblankenship@atlanta.k12.ga.us 404-802-3052
Law & Leadership	Ms. Sheila Oliver	soliver@atlanta.k12.ga.us 404-802-3020

Matters relevant to discipline issues, attendance concerns and cell phone violations should be brought to the attention of the assistant principals:

Mr. Rodney Howard	rdhoward@atlanta.k12.ga.us	404-802-3011
Dr. David Propst	dpropst@atlanta.k12.ga.us	404-802-3011

Of course, you may always contact me at:
vmurray@atlanta.k12.ga.us, 404-802-3009.

Vincent D. Murray, Principal

Grady High School Academy Updates

Biomedical Science & Engineering Academy

As our students start their journey to a great academic year, we celebrate the arrival of our newest Biomedical Science and Engineering teacher, Tracy Swift. Ms. Swift comes to us with a wealth of experience in electrical engineering, 20 years of military service and experience as an adjunct college professor teaching engineering. Ms. Swift will teach our upper-level Engineering Applications, and Research/Design & Project Management classes.

The BS&E academy would like to recognize two very special parents who are co-authors of the new BS&E newsletter. This wonderful newsletter is published monthly and filled with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) resources, such as internships, summer STEM camp programs, college scholarships, teacher and student recognitions and general information pertaining to the academy. We salute Paige Cucchi and Kimberly Boykin for taking the lead on this valuable project and helping to improve communication and awareness among Grady's BS&E community.

Raymond L. Dawson, Academy Leader:
rdawson@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Business & Entrepreneurship Academy

Congratulations to the following Business & Entrepreneurship Academy students who have been selected to participate in the 2013-14 Maynard Jackson NASP FAST Track business training program: **Cinquai Butts, Tarez Dixon, Sydni Dunovant, Jade Elliott, Marquise Eppinger, Bryce Harris, Simone Howard, Twainisha Ivey, Kailin Jones, Maya Pines, Laura Stallings and Jayla Tibbs.** We are very proud of these students who have decided to participate in this innovative business training program.

FAST Track, which stands for Finance and Scholastic Training, is a rigorous nine-month program that exposes talented high school students to the financial services industry. Beginning in September, students meet with mentors twice a month to develop skills in financial literacy and career/personal development. Students also learn about stocks, bonds, personal finance, business operations, real estate, resume writing, interviewing techniques, business etiquette, public speaking and networking, and will tour various financial institutions. In some cases, scholarships for higher education may be available.

Recruiting new FAST Track Students: Applications Due September 6

Students are usually selected for FAST Track in their sophomore or junior year based on academic performance,

recommendations and quality of application. Students who are interested in FAST Track must submit their applications by September 6. The program begins on September 14 and training sessions are held at Clark Atlanta University. Active participation contributes to success in Business & Entrepreneurship Academy pathway courses.

Willie Vincent, Academy Leader:
wmvincent@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Communications & Journalism Academy

Connect with Grady High School by reading and viewing the various publications and broadcast programs produced by students in the Communications and Journalism Academy. To purchase subscriptions to *The Southerner* or *Nexus*, Grady's magazine of art and culture, please contact Mr. Winter at dwinter@atlanta.k12.ga.us or speak with any publication staff member. It's not too late to get a copy of Grady's other publications from last school year. If you'd like a copy of the *Orator*, Grady's yearbook, please contact Ms. Mercer at sbmercer@atlanta.k12.ga.us. *The Unmasking* is Grady's literary magazine; please contact Mr. Needham at npneedham@atlanta.k12.ga.us to purchase a copy of this fine creative magazine. Finally, you can view Grady News Now (GNN) and Gametime, Grady's broadcast programs, from the link on the Grady website. Visit [http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/3087/Academies/Communication and Journalism](http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/3087/Academies/Communication%20and%20Journalism) - left side of page "GNN/ Gametime."

This year, the C&J instructional team includes Emma Watson (Oral/Written Communication, 10th Lit./Comp.), Mario Herrera (9th Lit./Comp. and Journalism), Nalin Needham (9th and 10th Lit./Comp. and literary magazine), Susie Mercer (American Lit. and the *Orator*), Thaddeus Roberts (broadcast/video production), Kate Carter (print journalism), Dave Winter (print journalism), Trisha Kendall (graphic design) and Paul Nicolson (graphic production). Students are scheduled into literature classes with this instructional team as much as possible, however, some students take classes outside of the academy if required by their individual scheduling needs. Shaketha Blankenship, the guidance counselor for students in the C&J academy, can be reached at sblankenship@atlanta.k12.ga.us or 404-802-3052.

Carrie MacBrien, Academy Leader:
cmacbrien@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Law & Leadership Academy

We have welcomed a new faculty member to our law pathway. An Inman parent and soon-to-be Grady parent twice over, Judge Harry J. Bowden is engaged in the Atlanta law community as a seated East Point Municipal Judge with a background in several other positions. Judge Bowden served as Legal Assistant to Judge Romae Powell (Juvenile Court), Assistant Public Defender, Assistant Defense Attorney (Fulton County D.A.'s Office), Associate Juvenile Court Judge, Special Assistant Solicitor, Contract Specialist with the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, and part-time in the Fulton County Magistrate Court. He has also worked in private practice and has created a criminal case management-consulting firm. In teaching the law, his primary focus is to get students to understand and apply the legal thought process. Judge Bowden has already established a positive rapport and mutual respect with the students after working with them last spring semester.

Students taking the Law and Leadership pathway courses will now have a lawyer and a judge who are both natives of Atlanta, and whose contacts and experiences directly benefit the students for internships. **Gregory Partridge** worked with the Atlanta Bar Association this summer.

Jayllyiah Obie was also able to intern with the Bar. **Maya Beatty** attended the Stanford University Summer Law Program. **Jameesha Lamar** was selected as a Fulton County Youth Commissioner, where she focused on social progress, legislative activism and public health. **Lendarious Farley** participated in the Fulton County Explorer program. We will continue having students page in the State Legislature, and participate in the Fulton County Juvenile Court's Teen Court program. We have planned 19 college tours to help our students build their vision of future opportunities and take active ownership in their academic success and choice of careers. Students are encouraged to visit the College and Career Center and to sign up to meet college recruiters that visit Grady.

Russell Plasczyk, Academy Leader:
rplasczyk@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Counselors' Corner

The Counseling & Guidance Team looks forward to a great school year! This year, the counseling team will continue to coordinate advisory by grade level based on positive student feedback regarding last year's advisory program. Advisory themes for the 2013-2014 school year are posted on the Grady website. Each week, the counseling team will supply a lesson plan targeting a specific advisory topic. Throughout the year, topics will cover both specific grade levels and school-wide interests.

The team will also work directly with advisement groups and conduct small group counseling each Wednesday. Groups will address topics such as wellness and self care, attendance and behavior, substance abuse and conflict resolution, to name a few. If you have students you would like to recommend for a group, please contact a member of the counseling and guidance team:

9th grade: Ms. Blankenship
10th grade: Mr. Young
11th grade: Ms. Bolding
12th grade: Ms. Oliver

Important Upcoming Dates

September 9-13: Georgia High School Graduation Test Re-Examination (selected seniors)
September 12: Summer Commencement Exercises,
6:00 p.m. at Therrell High School
September 25: Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test (all juniors)
September 26: 9th/10th Grade Night
October 10: 11th Grade Night
October 16: PSAT
October 29: 12th Grade Night
November 22: Community Service Deadline for Seniors
For more information, please contact Shaketha Blankenship,
sblankenship@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

9th and 10th Grade Night

On Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the school's auditorium, the counseling department in conjunction with Grady's small learning communities (academies) will host 9th and 10th Grade Night for parents and students. This is an informational session about course requirements, graduation information, community service, GA College 411, HOPE Scholarship, academy pathway choices, and other academic information pertinent to these grade levels. We encourage all parents of 9th and 10th graders to attend. Further information is available from the guidance and counseling department. Contact Lamar Young,
ljyoung@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

Dual Enrollment Is Back

This year Grady High School continues to be the site for college courses offered through Atlanta Metropolitan State College. The courses for fall are English Composition and college psychology. The spring courses are undetermined; students will get to vote on available choices later in the fall. To qualify, students must have a 3.0 GPA in their core classes and have earned a 970 on the SAT (reading plus math only), or a 20 composite on the ACT. Grady is one of the few schools in the metro area to actually conduct higher education courses. If students stay in the program for the entire year, they can earn 12 college credits before graduating from high school. Mr. Young encourages any interested student who missed the August 5 information session to see him for more information or email
ljyoung@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

College & Career Connection (CCC)

Stay in touch with the CCC!

We have a new system for keeping in touch with students using text messages. To sign up for text alerts, text the following number, 706-933-0984.

In the message line -

Seniors write: @CCC2014

Juniors write: @CCC2015

Sophomores write: @CCC2016

Freshmen write: @CCC2017

Volunteers write: @CCCgrady

Please join us in welcoming our new College Advisor, Ms. Peterson, to the CCC. Ms. Peterson is a 2013 graduate of the University of Georgia, and will be working as a college adviser with the Georgia College Advising Corps. She will be available to help students throughout the entire college application process.



Writing Center News

Fall Workshops

Fall at the Writing Center is filled with workshops aimed at two major needs: passing the GGT Writing Test (all juniors), and writing that important college essay. Workshops begin at 3:45 p.m.

- Wednesday, August 28: GGT workshop
- Tuesday, September 3: GGT workshop
- Wednesday, September 4: college essay workshop
- Tuesday, September 17: GGT practice
- Wednesday, October 2: college essay workshop

Continue your work with one-on-one assistance on college essays, or any school assignment, by dropping in Monday–Thursday, 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., inside the media center. No appointment necessary. Read through binders of writing samples and guide sheets on specific skills.

To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme? The first schoolwide writing contest of the year is for poetry, and the deadline is Wednesday, September 25. Rules will be in the *GradyGram* and on the Writing Center bulletin board.

Check out our ongoing First Lines of Novels contest for on-the-spot prizes as well as cumulative prizes for frequent winners. (Example: “Call me, Ishmael.” Answer: *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.)

On September 16, the Grady Book Club (for adults only) will discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. This Pulitzer-winning classic bears reading over and over. Suggestion: Rent the classic movie with Gregory Peck, or rent *Hey Boo: Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird*, a documentary about the novel’s author, its Southern context and the social changes the book inspired after publication. The book club meets every third Monday of the month in the homes of members. Selections include fiction, nonfiction and classic novels. All parents and community members are invited to participate.

Questions? Email gradywritingcenter@gmail.com.

Science Support Team

Support Science Education at Grady

Our world is increasingly shaped by science and technology. Now more than ever, a solid science education matters. We invite you to join Grady’s new Science Support Team and help ensure the highest quality science education across all academies at Grady High School. Visit the Science Support Team website (www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/35075) for web-based science resources to help students with homework and science projects, as well as interesting science news and enrichment activities. The web page also provides a listing of science-related volunteer, internship and employment opportunities. We also invite you to “like” our Grady Science Advocacy Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GradyScienceSupportTeam) for daily science-related news, information and resources.

The Grady Science Support Team is a great way to connect with other parents, students and teachers with a passion for science. If you would like to get involved, email Lynette Slovensky (lslovensky@earthlink.net) or Cindy Hulbert (petehulb@yahoo.com).

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement of Georgia is recruiting 9th through 12th grade students for its after school entrepreneurial program, JA Fellows.

JA Fellows is an 18-week program through which Atlanta-area high school students can learn the steps of starting and running their own small business. Meetings take place after school one day a week from October through February. Volunteer consultants guide students through lessons in capitalization, sales and the liquidation process. Students benefit from a competitive expo, a year-end celebration, and scholarship and internship opportunities.

There are multiple JA Fellows sites just minutes away from Grady High School. Sites fill quickly, so if you're interested, complete the new student application and parent consent form online (jasurvey.com/Surveys/FellowsStudentRegistration1.aspx). Be sure to click "Save" to submit.

Junior Achievement of Georgia is a nonprofit organization that inspires and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy. It focuses on economic, education and workforce development. For more on JA Fellows, contact Kristy Jennette (kjennette@georgia.ja.org).

Congrats Grady Gauntlet!

Ultimate National Championship

Please congratulate these Grady Gauntlet Ultimate team players for winning our first-ever national championship: students **Sebbi DiFrancesco**, **Riley Erickson** and **Michael Dillard**, along with alumni **Joe Lavine**, **Chris Carson**, **Caleb Shorthouse** and **Felix Jaffin**. Along with other top players from around Atlanta, our boys competed in Minnesota August 9 – 11 against the best players in the country, winning every game of the tournament but one during pool play.

The Gauntlet also had a number of players competing in the under-16 division. Their team ended up fourth overall after starting with an eighth seed. Please congratulate **Mack Hodges**, **Kiran Potula**, **Noah Li**, **Brandon Kleber**, **Drew DiFrancesco** and **John Roorbach**. Go, Grady Gauntlet!

Music Midtown

Plan Now for Music Midtown Traffic

Music Midtown will be held in Piedmont Park on Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21, affecting access to 10th Street and other streets around Grady from September 15 – 22. Organizers have indicated that on concert days 10th Street will be fully closed in front of the school from two hours before until two hours after the concert. Periodic 10th Street closures will also occur in front of the school September 15–22 for setup and takedown of the stage.

Students will need to be on time and present during that week. Music Midtown will not be a valid excuse for tardiness. Adjust your arrival and departure routine to make sure you arrive on time. Traffic will be very heavy with periodic street closures and with only three lanes available in front of the school. The lane from Monroe to Charles Allen alongside the park is now a designated bike lane.

Parking permits to access the school will be available for staff, student drivers and parents who pick up and drop off students on Friday the 20th. Permits may not be used for parking for Music Midtown. No varsity football games will take place at Grady Stadium that Friday night. Middle school games will be occurring Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Additional information will be on the Grady school website as well as in the *GradyGram*.



Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS)

CINS' "Annual Grady Cluster Principals' Forum"

Wednesday, September 11, 9:00 a.m. @ Centennial Elementary School, 531 Luckie St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30313

Please join the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) as it hosts the first community meeting of 2013-2014: The annual Grady Cluster Principals' Forum. Your school's principal will join the other principals in the Grady cluster to share his/her school's achievements, challenges and goals for the new school year. There is a lot of exciting news to hear about all of our schools, so please make plans to attend and show your support for your school and the Grady Cluster!

CINS' community meetings are always free and open to the public. CINS is a not-for-profit organization that has worked for more than 35 years to empower public schools in our cluster located in the heart of Atlanta. CINS' mission is to work with Atlanta Public Schools to foster the development of safe, quality education within the Grady cluster. For more information on CINS and its mission, please visit www.cinsatlanta.org. To join or add your name to the CINS eblast list, click on: <http://tinyurl.com/4xkvfqt>.

Abby Martin

2011-2013 CINS Co-President
404.234.7234

Julia Neighbors

2012-2014 CINS Co-President
404.625.9883

Elections will take place by secret ballot September 17 from 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Grady auditorium lobby. Each parent or guardian of a current student will be entitled to one vote for each vacant parent member position. You must present government-issued photo ID to verify eligibility.

Nomination forms are available in the main office and online. If you are interested in running or know of a qualified candidate, please complete a nomination form and submit it to the Grady LSC Election Committee via email, GradyLSC@gmail.com, or place a hard copy in the Grady LSC Drop Box in the main office. For forms and more information, see the Local School Council pages of the Grady website (www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/26476) or email the committee.

Local School Council News

Election on September 17

Elections for the Grady Local School Council will be held Tuesday, September 17. The nomination period was August 16–30. Nominations and statements of interest will be posted on the Grady website, in the *GradyGram* and outside the Grady main office September 3–17.

The Local School Council meets at least four times per school year. It is a legislatively mandated, collaborative group of parents, teachers, business partners and the school principal, assembled to address issues related to student achievement and school improvement at Grady.

Three seats are open for election:

- Seat 2: parent representative, one-year term ending May 2014.
- Seat 4: parent/business representative, two-year term ending May 2015.
- Seat 5: parent/business representative, one-year term ending May 2014.

This is a special election with shortened terms to allow for staggered terms and restructured election dates. These seats will revert to full two-year terms at the next election. Terms begin immediately after the election. Newly elected members must attend orientation training before participating in council meetings.

To qualify as a parent representative candidate, you must be the parent or legal guardian of a currently enrolled Grady High School student and have your nomination filed with the election committee by midnight August 30. You may not be related to the principal of Grady or an employee of the Atlanta Board of Education, or have been convicted of a felony.

Did You Know?

Grady's gone Hollywood. This month in 2000 marked the release of the Walt Disney Pictures film *Remember the Titans*, starring Denzel Washington. Some of the scenes were shot at our own Grady High School.

September Dates To Remember

Keep this Page Handy & Check the Website Weekly

Date	Activity	Location
1 - Sept., Sun.	PTSA Parking Fundraiser	
2 - Sept., Mon.	Labor Day Holiday	No School
2 - Sept., Mon. 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	SAT Success Prep Class Dates: Sept. 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30; Oct. 3	E202
5 - Sept., Thurs. 3:45 pm	Beta Club Meeting	Ms. Willocks' Room
5 - Sept., Thurs. 7:00 pm	Talent Show	Theater
9 - Sept., Mon. 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellesley and Wesleyan College Visit	Theater
9 - Sept., Mon. thru 13 - Sept., Fri.	Georgia High School Graduation Test Re-Examination (selected seniors)	
10 - Sept., Tues. 6:00 pm	PTSA Open House	Theater
12 - Sept., Thurs. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm	HOSA Blood Drive	
12 - Sept., Thurs. 6:00 pm	Summer Commencement Exercises	Therrell High School
12 - Sept., Thurs. 6:30 pm	Young Entrepreneur Parent Meeting	Mr. Pilson's Room
13 - Sept., Fri.	Yearbook Prices Increase to \$80	
14 - Sept., Sat. & 15 - Sept., Sun.	PTSA Parking Fundraiser	
17 - Sept., Tues. 7:45 am - 6:30 pm	Local School Council Elections	Theater Lobby
17 - Sept., Tues. 7:00 pm	Orchestra Concert and Parent Meeting	Theater
19 - Sept., Thurs. 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Last Day for Senior/Cap and Gown Pictures on Campus	
19 - Sept., Thurs. 7:00 pm	Coffeehouse	Black Box Theater
20 - Sept., Fri. thru 22 - Sept., Sun.	Music Midtown	
20 - Sept., Fri. & 21 - Sept., Sat.	Senior Pictures/Cap and Gown Pictures Taken at Cady Studios	September 21 is the last day to take a senior picture and still have it appear in the yearbook
21 - Sept., Sat.	ACT Administered (Off Campus)	
25 - Sept., Wed.	Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test (all juniors)	
25 - Sept., Wed. 3:30 pm	Drama Club Meeting	Black Box Theater
25 - Sept., Wed. 7:00 pm	Jazz Band Concert	Theater
26 - Sept., Thurs. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm	Underclassmen Picture Retake Day	Theater Lobby
26 - Sept., Thurs. 6:00 pm	9th and 10th Grade Parent Night	Theater
26 - Sept., Thurs. 7:00 pm	Cabaret Show	Metrofresh
28 - Sept., Sat. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Super Saturday (Urban League)	Theater

Tear off and keep for reference throughout the month.

PTSA Executive Committee

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If you have news or information to share, please send your
submissions to gradyknightlights@gmail.com. The deadline is the
second Monday of each month. All articles are subject to editing.

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