

# KNIGHT LIGHTS



## Honor's Night

Wed., May 11  
7:00 p.m.  
Murray Theater

## Talent Show

Thurs., May 12  
7:00 p.m.

## Visions of the Future

Sat., May 14  
10:00 a.m.  
Grady Old Gym

## Last Day of School

Wed., May 25

## 2016 Graduation

Thurs., May 26  
3:30 p.m.  
Georgia World Congress  
Center

## Letter from the Principal

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to thank the PTSA and parent volunteers for their support this year. Specifically, I would like to praise the PTSA Board, staff on the *GradyGram* and *Knight Lights*, CCC volunteers, chaperones for field trips, Local School Council members, Booster Club volunteers, and all others who supported our academic and extra-curricular programs. Many of our parents have truly epitomized our slogan, "Individually we are different; together we are Grady."

Our Seniors also deserve congratulations. They are working tirelessly in the last few weeks to reach the finish line. This Senior class includes so many intelligent, talented, hard-working, and creative young people. I am certain that many of our graduates will be future leaders, helping to make the world a better place. We have students who will be attending Ivy League Schools, Gates Millennium Scholars, students receiving Athletic and Arts Scholarships, and many others receiving full or partial awards. As I type this note, Grady's students have cumulatively received over \$11,000,000 in scholarships. That number is increasing by the day. We also have some 12<sup>th</sup> graders who are struggling to make it to the finish line, but we have confidence that they will get there. For those students, remember that graduation is called "commencement" for a reason. Though one chapter in your life is complete, commencement signifies a new beginning for you. With perseverance and thoughtful action, you can achieve success in life, regardless of what has happened in the past.

In the last few weeks of school, it is especially important that students continue to display exemplary behavior. Incidences of vandalism historically increase toward the end of the year. Though sometimes considered "pranks" by our students, there will be zero tolerance for any acts that deface school property or lead to school disruption. Any involved students will receive disciplinary consequences up to and possibly including tribunal, and will be referred to APD for criminal matters. Senior violators will not be allowed to participate in graduation activities, and a letter will be attached to the student's final transcript noting the infraction. Parents, please talk with your children so we can prevent any negative occurrences. As always, it is our goal for our students to end the year on a positive note.

Please frequently check the Grady website for important school updates, listen to the Grady "Robo-calls," and subscribe to the weekly *GradyGram*.

Thank you for your support in the last two weeks of school. I look forward to partnering with you in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,  
Timothy J. Guiney, Principal

## May 2016 College & Career Center News

### **The CCC congratulates our seniors!**

We've seen how hard you've worked and how your college and career planning efforts have paid off. We are so proud of you and grateful that you let us play a role in your future!

### **Summer Advice to Rising Seniors**

This fall will be a very busy time for you, but there are many things you can do over the summer to get a head start on college applications.

- **Start working on your college essay**

Through the Common Application website, you can apply to over 600 colleges ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)). Part of the application is to write an essay, and you can find the prompts on the website. If you'd like some feedback or advice, even over the summer, you may email a draft of your essay to [cccessayhelp@gmail.com](mailto:cccessayhelp@gmail.com) and someone will get back to you. Visit the CCC's website to find essay tips and links to great sample essays that will inspire you.

- **Complete your resume**

There are links to templates on the CCC website. You'll need this in the fall when you ask your teachers and counselor for a letter of recommendation.

- **Visit some colleges**

Plan a trip to visit specific schools you're interested in, or just visit any of the many colleges in Atlanta to get a feel for different types of campuses.

- **Plan to complete your testing**

If you still need to take the SAT or ACT, do some prep over the summer (there are many options, including free online test prep and paid classes).

- **Sign up for Remind 101 texts**

To make sure you receive information about fall workshops, college visits, and more important information, text this number: 81010. In the message line type @ccc2017 (for seniors).

### **Thank You, Volunteers!**

The CCC could not run without the committed service of our many volunteers, and we thank them enthusiastically, as well as our wonderful College Advisor, Jenae Herrington.

Steering Committee: Jessica Heilweil, Duggan Lansing, Patti Lombardi, and Lisa Pittman

Volunteers: Karen Carroll, Anne Christopher, Sue Collins, Jennie Damiani, Becky Fite, Morna Francis, Connie Freightman, Suzanne Haerther, Cindy Hulbert, Robin Hutchinson, Emily Kropp, Melissa Kriest, Julie Kuehnert, Christa Martin, Severina Menor, Britt Menzies, Cay Mims, Ginny Munger, Nancy Maignan, Lisa Ohno, Jiffy Page, Laura Palickar, Melissa Pressman, Gail Price, Michele Scollard, Molly Smalley, and Hope Stevenson

College Visit Coordinators: Jennifer Pye, Annie Stern, and Jocelyn Challas.

We especially recognize Lisa Pittman and Duggan Lansing, our longest serving volunteers, who have each given seven years of service!

Altogether these volunteers have logged well over 2,000 combined hours this year, making possible over 4,200 individual student visits and facilitating over 120 college visits, plus numerous workshops, College in the Courtyard, and our first Career Expo.

We always need new volunteers who are willing to take a weekly two-hour shift. If you'd like more information, email [gradynextstep@gmail.com](mailto:gradynextstep@gmail.com), or watch for information in the fall.

Anna Winer and Anita Downing  
CCC Co-Chairs

## Congratulations Students!

### Honors Night

Please note that Honors Night has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Vincent D. Murray Auditorium. Come and celebrate our students' accomplishments!

### Governor's Honors Program Participants

Out of the 16 APS students selected to participate in the 2016 Georgia Governor's Honors Program, 9 are from Grady High School. The Grady students and their fields are: **Mei Nathan**, communicative arts; **Alexandra Schneider**, dance; **Walden Jones**, mathematics; **Carolyn Capelouto**, **Bailey Damiani**, **Gregory Fedorov** and **Sam Lombardo**, social studies; **Orly Mansbach**, world languages (Latin) and **Kendall Stroud**, music (voice, alternate).

The Governor's Honors Program is a four-week, summer residential program designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching educational opportunities. Students will live on the Valdosta State University campus for four weeks, June 19–July 16.

In its 53rd summer, GHP is the longest continually running program of its kind in the nation. Georgia high school sophomores and juniors are eligible for nomination in one of 20 curriculum areas. Over 3,000 students from across the state applied this year. Since GHP is fully funded by the Georgia General Assembly, there is no charge for students to attend.

### National Merit Scholarships

Grady High School is proud to announce its students who met the requirements to enter the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are **Julia Borthwick**, **Caroline Bray**, **Joseph Cochran**, **Harper Gambill**, **Denis Goldsman**, **Benjamin Grady**, **Noah Hammond**, **Kassidy Kelly**, **Orly Mansbach**, **Clarissa Mullig**, **Mei Nathan**, **Taylor Nchako**, **Lena Rosen**, **Allie Schneider**, **Emma Slutsker**, **Erik Tischer** and **Anna White**. Help us recognize and honor these academically talented students! They were among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants out of the roughly 1.5 million juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT last October. Semifinalists and commended students learn of their standing in September and have a chance to compete for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2017. Details about the competition and levels of recognition can be found at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).



### Student Spotlight

Traveling this summer?

Be sure to look for GHS Student, **Maia Keith** a rising Senior, G3 Robotics and Drones for Good Team Member, in the Hartsfield - Jackson International Atlanta Airport baggage claim area and terminals promoting Women In Technology programs.

## School & District News

### Letter from District 3 APS Board member, Matt Westmoreland

Matt Westmoreland, our District 3 representative on the APS Board of Education, shares the following details about an important vote coming up this month:

On May 24, voters go to the polls to decide whether to renew the Education Special Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST). That's the one-cent sales tax that funds capital projects across Atlanta Public Schools. Among the projects included in this E-SPLOST proposal are:

- \$33 million to renovate and add to Grady High, adding 18 classrooms, 3 laboratories and a new administrative suite.
- \$47 million to renovate and add to the David T. Howard Building to become the cluster's new middle school (plus \$5 million from the current SPLOST).
- \$20 million to renovate Morningside Elementary to address recommendations from the 2015 Facilities Conditions Assessment.

Plans for the Grady Cluster also include using \$8 million from the current SPLOST for athletic practice fields at the Walden site in Old Fourth Ward, and using the Inman facility for additional elementary capacity for the cluster in the future.

If passed, this renewal would fund major construction and renovation projects in seven of nine clusters across APS. The new E-SPLOST would also include technology upgrades across the system, replacement of aging school buses, upgrades to athletic fields and stadiums, and investments in safety and security systems.

Voting takes place at your regular polling place on May 24. Early voting runs May 2 - 20 at certain locations. Contact the Fulton County or DeKalb County Elections Office for more information.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Matt Westmoreland  
404.408.0980

### Join the Grady HS Foundation!

The Grady High School Foundation exists to support and foster academic excellence at Grady High School, through a collaborative effort of alumni, teachers and parents. Our school is facing the loss of more than \$150,000 in Title 1 federal funds in the coming school year. The Foundation is ready to help bridge that gap, but we've got work to do and we need your help! Please consider joining the Foundation Board or serving on one of our committees. Join our effort to keep Grady STRONG! Please email Elizabeth Rogan, Grady Foundation Board Chair at [gradyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:gradyfoundation@gmail.com) for further information.

### Free E-Books!

Announcing Open eBooks: Your resource for thousands of free eBooks!

The collection contains a wide range of genres including classics, popular young adult fiction, biographies, and nonfiction. These eBooks are accessible via the free Open eBook app and your individual code and PIN.

To get started:

1. Get the app on Android or Apple. Search for "Open eBooks"
2. Request a code from Ms. Taft at: [taftl@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:taftl@atlanta.k12.ga.us). Be sure to send your student's full name. Enter your code and start reading!

Happy Reading!

## G3 Wins FIRST Chairman's Award

Grady High School's G3 Robotics FIRST team competed in the International FIRST

Championship in St. Louis, April 27 - 30, 2016, wrapping up a phenomenal season. The team qualified to compete at the international level based upon robot performance throughout the season and a win of a district-level Chairman's Award.

On March 10, 2016, G3 Robotics traveled to Columbus, GA for their first 2016 district competition. Competing against 40 other teams, we ranked 10th in the qualifiers and moved on to semifinals. In addition to our successful robot performance, G3 Robotics won the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious award in FIRST! This award is given to the team that is most qualified to be a role model for other teams and best demonstrates the purpose of FIRST. Leading the effort to win Chairman's Award was team captain, and senior, **Sajjad Ali**.

A week after the Columbus competition, the team again competed in Albany, GA, where they placed 5th in the qualifiers and were chosen by the 1st place alliance, advancing to finals. In addition to incredible robot performance, G3 won the Industrial Design Award, which is given to an effectively designed robot that handles the game challenge best. Senior **Steffen Martin** led the engineering design effort that led to this award. Additionally, **Ellie LaRocca-Pitts**, a student leader in G3, was chosen as a FIRST Dean's List finalist. This is given to an outstanding, passionate student who demonstrates exemplary leadership and pursues FIRST's ideals.

In addition to the team's competitive activities, G3 also hosted its second annual Drones for Good (DFG) competition from January to March! The DFG competition is the first of its kind: a program for middle and elementary school students to learn how to build, fly, and use drones. DFG launched last year by G3 students after they formed a partnership with MARTA to make the subway system safer through drone usage, and then competed at the 2014 Drone Prize. This year's DFG competition was a great success! All the teams flew skillfully with exceptionally designed drones. We expect to add more teams to the competition next year, and reach out to kids in the greater Atlanta area. The success of this far-reaching program would not have been possible without the leadership of senior **Gabriel Kupersmith**.

We are also very proud of the performance of our two mentored teams from Maynard H. Jackson and Booker T. Washington High Schools. Jackson's team completed their second year, and Washington completed their rookie year. Both teams qualified for the Peachtree State Championship and proudly represented APS along with G3. Washington's robot was deemed the "best little toaster" of Georgia FIRST Robotics because of their effective use of the rookie kit drive train in defensive game play. Washington ranked high in both of their qualifying events, and captained the 8<sup>th</sup> seeded alliance at both. Jackson's team had a rough start this season, but ended their second qualifying tournament with a strong showing as the third robot of the winning alliance at the Albany qualifying tournament. We are very proud of these teams, and are hopeful that their success will continue in the years to come with the support of the schools and the district.

It is our hope that FIRST Robotics will continue to grow throughout the district at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. We will be working with our friends at Washington and Jackson to grow programs in our clusters and across the district.





## From the President

Dear Grady Knights Families,  
I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve as your PTSA president this school year. It is hard to believe how rapidly this year has flown by. You may have found yourself wanting to get involved but have never taken the time to do such. I'd like to leave you with a few words of encouragement so that next year, you are enticed to jump on board!

One of the benefits of volunteering and becoming a member of GHS PTSA is that you are on the front line for information, involvement opportunities and having your voice heard. You become a true advocate for each Grady student. Further, PTSA volunteer functions allow you to meet other parents, teachers and students. By volunteering with PTSA, you become part of the solution in helping make positive change in the school, in the community and in your child's life.

Although 2016-2017 executive officer positions may be filled, there are always endless opportunities to volunteer. If you have any interest in volunteering or questions about what the responsibilities of serving as an officer, on a PTSA board, a committee or a sub-committee may include, please just ask via email: [gradyknightsptsa@gmail.com](mailto:gradyknightsptsa@gmail.com).

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve as your President. I would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee Members, as well as all of my Board Members for a job well done!

Debra Coleman  
PTSA President, 2015-2016

Congratulations  
to the  
Class of 2016!  
You did it!



### 2015-2016 PTSA Executive Committee Officers

Seated (l-r): **Erlese Caruth**, VP Fundraising & Special Events; **Timothy Guiney**, GHS Principal; **Debra Coleman**, President; **Hope Stevenson**, VP Operations & School Support

Standing (r-l): **John Earles**, Parliamentarian; **Liz Opsahl**, Secretary; **Liz Keith**, VP Communications

Not pictured: **Florina Veira**, Treasurer; **Becky Fite**, VP Family Engagement



## GO TO BAT FOR GRADY BASEBALL & SOFTBALL.

### HELP FUND GRADY'S FIRST-EVER ON-SITE BATTING FACILITY.

Grady High School is the only traditional high school within Atlanta Public Schools without an on-site or adjacent baseball or softball field or practice facility. Grady High School is a flagship, inner-city Atlanta school and its baseball program has played a significant role in the history of Georgia baseball. The prestigious Georgia Dugout Club (<http://www.gdcbaseball.org>) was co-founded in 1962 by the then coach of Grady High baseball – E.E. Red Whitsett. Until the 1990's Grady had access to the large city park across the street – Piedmont Park. Despite years of parent advocacy, our players are still excluded from playing in the park and still don't have an adjacent home field, and no baseball or softball practice facility on site. Instead, our players are bused to a shared field across town for practice and games (16 miles roundtrip). This adds additional hardship on our student athletes. Our players must wait for an afternoon bus to return to Grady after it makes an after-school route. This means a 45-minute (average) wait after school before making a minimum 30-minute, one-way commute in afternoon, interstate traffic, through Atlanta's dangerous 'Grady Hospital curve.' This results in practices beginning late, thus ending late, which cuts into academic time. It is the mission of the newly revitalized Grady Dugout Club to help each baseball and softball player grow and develop individually, and as a team, by funding an on-site, indoor batting cage and bullpen.

#### The Grady facility will allow the players to:

1. Begin practice directly after school while waiting for the bus to transport them to the off-site field.
2. Hold a productive practice on days when the off-site, shared field is not available or it's not playable.
3. Have an area to warm up prior to games — Grady's shared, off-site "home" field is not equipped with a batting cage.

To achieve our goal, we need the help of our community and anyone who loves the sport of baseball and/or softball. While Atlanta Public Schools is allowing us a site to house the indoor batting cage, the Grady Dugout Club is solely responsible for funding. Total expenses are estimated at \$80,000. This includes materials for the physical structure, concrete foundation, turf, lighting and electrical, construction, netting for two batting cages and a bullpen lane, with a portable mound. This is a long-term investment in the students of the Grady cluster and in the Grady High School baseball and softball programs.

*All donations are tax deductible, payable to Grady Grey Knights Athletic Booster Club, a 501C3.  
Send check c/o Treasurer 1036 Cumberland Road NE Atlanta GA 30306*

**For more information, please email [gradyknightsbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:gradyknightsbaseball@gmail.com). To donate online, go to [crowdrise.com/gradybaseball](http://crowdrise.com/gradybaseball)**

## May Dates to Remember

May 2 - May 13

5/7, <b>Sat</b>	7:00 p.m.	Georgia Milestones, End of Course Tests (EOCT) & Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
5/9, <b>Mon</b>	5:00 p.m.	Senior One Act Plays
5/9, <b>Mon</b>	6:30 p.m.	Math Curriculum Writing Meeting (E206)
5/10, <b>Tue</b>		Robotics Booster Meeting (Cafeteria)
5/10, <b>Tue</b>	5:30 p.m.	Band of Champs (Band Room)
5/11, <b>Wed</b>	7:00 p.m.	PTSA Executive Committee Meeting (Cafeteria)
5/12, <b>Thu</b>		<b>Honors Night</b> (Murray Theater)
5/12, <b>Thu</b>	7:00 p.m.	Band of Champs (Band Room)
5/13, <b>Fri</b>	6:00 p.m.	Talent Show
5/14, <b>Sat</b>	10:00 a.m.	G3 Gaming Gauntlet (Theater)
5/17, <b>Tue</b>		<b>Visions of the Future</b> (Historic Gym)
5/18, <b>Wed</b>	11:30 a.m.	Band of Champs (Band Room)
5/18, <b>Wed</b>	6:00 p.m.	Great Grady Book Swap (Courtyard)
5/19, <b>Thu</b>		Grady Ultimate Gauntlet (GUG) Banquet (Cafeteria)
5/21, <b>Sat</b>	11:00 a.m.	Band of Champs (Band Room)
5/23, <b>Mon</b>	7:00 p.m.	Jesters Speech and Debate Award Banquet and Officer Luncheon (Cafeteria)
5/24, <b>Tue</b>		CINS Meeting (Cafeteria)
5/25, <b>Wed</b>		Band of Champs (Band Room)
5/26, <b>Thu</b>		<b>Last Day of School</b>
5/26, <b>Thu</b>	3:30 p.m.	Band of Champs (Band Room)
		<b>Graduation</b> (Georgia World Congress Center)





## PTSA Executive Committee

**President:** Debra Coleman, debracolemanPTSA@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Liz Opsahl, esopsahl@msn.com

**Treasurer:** Florina Veira-Corbett, five@msn.com

**Parliamentarian:** John Earles, john.a.earles@gmail.com

**VP Communications:** Liz Keith, keithliz2022@gmail.com

**VP, Family Engagement:** Becky Fite, beckyfite@gmail.com

**VP, Fundraising & Special Events:** Erlese Caruth, ecaruth@comcast.net

**VP, Operations & School Support:** Hope Stevenson,  
hopelynn.stevenson@gmail.com

## Grady PTSA Communications Team

***Knight Lights*** Monthly Newsletter

**Submissions:** gradyknightlights@gmail.com (monthly deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)

**KL Editors:** Lisa Pittman, planfp@bellsouth.net, Sarah Zaslaw,  
s.zaslaw@comcast.net, and Melissa Pressman, melissadpressman@yahoo.com

**KL Layout and Design:** Laura Kish, laurakish5@gmail.com

**KL Printing:** Bonnie Jokl, bonniejokl@gmail.com

**KL Distribution:** Karen Carroll, knbcarroll@bellsouth.net

***GradyGram*** Weekly Newsletter

**Submissions:** gradygram@hotmail.com (weekly deadline 5:00 p.m. Thursdays)

**Editors:** Vickie Hunter, gradygram@hotmail.com,

**Layout and Design:** Gena Skelton, grhskelton@gmail.com

**Website:** Brian Montero, bmontero@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Facebook, Instagram, Website Social Media Platforms:**  
gradyptsacomunications@gmail.com (photos must be jpg/png format)

## Administrative Contacts

**Principal:** Mr. Timothy Guiney, tguiney@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Assistant Principal:** Dr. David Propst, dpropst@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Registrar:** Ms. Chinaester Holland, cpholland@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal:** Carrie MacBrien, cmacbrien@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal:** Rodney Howard, rdhoward@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal:** Raymond Dawson, rdawsons@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal:** Willie Vincent, vmvincent@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Main Office:** 404-802-3001

**Website:** <http://srt5.atlantapublicschools.us/grady>

## GHS Counseling and Guidance Team

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Dr. Shaketha Blankenship, sblankenship@atlanta.k12.ga.us, 404-802-3052

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Sheila Oliver, soliver@atlanta.k12.ga.us, 404-802-3020

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Nicole Hines, nhines@atlanta.k12.ga.us, 404-802-3018

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Lamar Young, ljyoung@atlanta.k12.ga.us, 404-802-3019

**Graduation Coach:** Charmaine Gray, cgray@atlanta.k12.ga.us

## Faculty Contacts

**CTAE** (Career, Technical and Agricultural Education): Mr. Marlon Pilson,  
mpilson@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Fine Arts:** Mr. John Brandhorst, jbrandhorst@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Foreign Language:** Mr. Scott Allen, scallen@atlanta.k12.ga.us

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**JROTC:** Lt. Colonel Charles Johnson, cejohnson@atlanta.k12.ga.us

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**Mathematics:** Mr. John Rives, jrives@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Science:** Dr. Jormell Cofield, jbcofield@atlanta.k12.ga.us

**Social Science:** Mr. Lee Pope, rpope@atlanta.k12.ga.us

## Stay In Touch



Grady PTSA Facebook Page

"Like" Grady High School  
PTSA to keep up with  
everything going on at  
Grady!

Go to the Infinite Campus  
Parent Portal for student  
schedules, attendance, and  
grades.

The Parent Portal web  
address is

[https://ic.apsk12.org/  
campus/portal/atlanta.jsp](https://ic.apsk12.org/campus/portal/atlanta.jsp).  
Site Activation Key: Email  
bmontero@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

The *GradyGram* e-newsletter  
is sent weekly during the  
school year. Sign up on  
Grady's website. Send current  
news to  
gradygram@hotmail.com by  
Thurs. at 5:00 p.m. for the  
next edition.

**PTSA**  
everychild.onevoice.®