

GREATER ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY BEREAN CHRISTIAN JUNIOR ACADEMY

GAAA/BCJA—A Black History Month Newsletter Edition

News FLASH!

GAAA's STEM
class wins
\$2,500.00 grant
for Campus
Outdoor Garden.



7th Grade students in class

“UP FROM SLAVERY THROUGH THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLKS TO FUTURE DREAMS AND VISIONS”

EDITORIAL

GAAA and BCJA are celebrating Black History month. In this, we embody the spirit and thrust of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois in their twin emphasis on work (Up from Slavery) and also academic excellence (The Souls of Black Folks) to the dream (Martin Luther King) of a future. Likewise, GAAA/BCJA/BCDC stand at the crest of a digital, academic, and musical wave to make a telling difference in Adventist Atlanta. We have not merely taken our cue from the Civil Rights, and the memories of our South, but we rest assured that we are made in God's image.

It is important as an institution that we integrate black history with present academic achievement for it is the quest of academic excellence that should make a decided difference. While students are showcasing historical and cultural highlights, it is the academic accomplishment that has been the avenue of the historical climb to freedom, coupled with our renewed work-study program and our penchant for speech and musical arts. We hear the “caged bird” singing (Maya Angelou), denoting the witnessing and our mission-driven stance. We share a calendar of activities and memories this month as we honor our parents who have selflessly and sacrificially made their mark this year at GAAA, BCJA and BCDC to allow us to have arrived at this vantage point:

**GAAA/BCJA/BCDC stand at the crest of a digital,
academic, and musical wave to make a telling difference
in Adventist Atlanta**

February 1, Honors Convocation and IPAD Launch
February 2, GAAA Choir sings at Maranatha SDA Church
February 5, Senior Night—the Senior Class comes forth—a game
February 6, BCJA Field Trip
February 9, Lithonia Church all-day celebrations
February 11, All-day Joint Faculty In-Service Training



Contact Us

GAAA/BCJA

401 Hamilton E. Holmes Dr. NW
Atlanta GA 30318

Phone: 404-799-0337

Website: www.gaaaschool.org
www.bcjaschool.com

February 16, Pine Forge Academy Choir and GAAA Choir – Joint program at Atlanta Berean SDA Church

February 17, Flipper Temple AME Church, morning worship, Choir

February 20, Academy Day with a guest Black Choir from Atlanta, performing at 2-3 pm, at the end of Academy Day

February 21, GAAA Field Trip—Civil Rights

February 24, St. Phillip AME Church, 4:00-5:00 pm, GAAA Choir

March 1, GAAA African-American Wax Museum Display, Gym

March 2, LakeView SDA (morning); Oratorical, 7:30 pm Benjamin Mays High School, Atlanta

March 16, Education Day, Atlanta Berean, Choir Afternoon Concert

Academic News

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE—CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

GAAA continues to grow in its ‘culture of excellence’ emphasis in academic rigor and content and an entire approach to research where students in classes must adopt a research approach to learning. Recently, the Science Department has published an entire series of research papers, now proudly displayed in the main corridors. GAAA operates on four academic segments:

In Grade 11, 12% of the junior class scored between 85% and 93% in English and Reading on the PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test with the highest overall scores ranging between 87% and 91%. In the 10th to 11th Grades, 10% of the combined group also scored between the 85th and 94th percentile in Reading, English and Science while one student scored at the 96th percentile in Math.

1. Legal and scientific research
2. The Integration of technology and academics to forge a digital community
3. Heightened performance in English and Reading linked to oratory and speech and choral performances
4. A renewed emphasis on the whole student through athletics, health and its work-study program

In this way the twin themes of work and academics are well represented in Booker T. Washington’s Up from Slavery approach (through work), and WEB Dubois’ academic approach in The Souls of Black Folks.

Honors Convocation--At GAAA’s recently held Honors Convocation, 45% of the student body performed at B or better in the first term’s academic work, with 12% of the overall student body making the Principal’s list and the other students earning honors and high honors. GAAA follows both the SAT and ACT in their full and pre-entry forms in preparing its students for college entry, and our students do as well as the very best schools everywhere, a well-kept secret.

In grade 9, 10% of the freshman class scored at 87% and upward on the PSAT in English and Reading, meaning that only 13% of the students in the United States who took the test did better than they did. On the ACT Aspire for 9th Graders, 10% of students scored between the 95 and 99th percentile in English, with one student Ivan Warren scoring at the 99th percentile, meaning that only 1% of the students who did the examination nationwide scored better than he did. Grade 9 students are performing comparably on both the



GET THE NEW GAAA IPAD

GAAA GETS MOOT COURT APPOINTMENT

The GAAA Legal Studies class has received a court appointment for early April in the Atlanta courts where the classes will take sides to argue the case State of Georgia v. Daniel Capulet, where one GAAA team will defend the plaintiff and another the defendant, in a murder trial.

BCJA REMODELS 6TH TO 8TH GRADE SCHEDULE



BCJA has split the 7th and 8th grade into two separate classes with the vice-principal teaching Social Studies, and each teacher instructing in Bible in his/her homeroom. There are specialist teachers teaching Language Arts and Reading from grades 6-8, Science and Mathematics, Computer Sciences, Art, Music, and Spanish. This move is a strengths-based approach whereby teachers teach to their strength, rather than the accustomed model of “one teacher teaches all the subjects in a grade”. The support services specialist teacher along with the Title 1 teachers pull out students for special tutoring as needed. Adjustments were made to provide for smaller class segments in computer science. Spanish and Art are supported along with a Bible/Baptismal class for the upper grades.

BCJA receives over \$200,000 in grants and aid from governmental, church and private sources, representing 27% of its overall budget. Coming soon will be robotics and the new BCJA IPAD program.

COMMUNITY AND MARKETING NEWS-NOTES

Parents' Meetings

1. Parents' Advisory will be set up to advise the school administration
2. Electronic form placed on website for parents to send input directly to administration
3. Parents start Gym Restoration Fund
4. Parents' Meeting every other month
5. Principal to meet parents from each class grade

Websites—our new websites have been launched

1. BCJA—is now www.bcjaschool.com
2. GAAA is now www.gaaaschool.org
3. Our next mission is to create two apps for the school
4. The BCJA cash-app now has a new nomenclature—see it at \$bcjaschool with your donation

Cafeteria Gets Equipment Upgrade

The Campus complex recently acquired a new oven-stove, a deep fryer, a waffle maker and a hot chocolate dispenser, compliments of an anonymous donor.

BOARD NEWS

Joint Board Recommendation, One Business Manager for the Complex—both GAAA and BCJA Boards have recommended to the conference that study and exploration be given to the appointment of a single Business manager over the three schools namely BCDC, BCJA and GAAA expected for the new school year. The Berean Church had already voted to do the same for its two entities. Now there is a collaborative effort between all the entities.

BCJA Personnel, 2019-2020-- Board votes to recommend all teachers return for the new school year but recommends to the K-12 Board, adjustments to its administrative line-up.

BCJA Board Setting up Parent-to-Board and Teacher-to-Board Day—the Board has returned to a former custom where there will be an Open day for suggestions to the Board on the school.

BCJA/GAAA Principal presents workshop on “Bullying and the Law”— the South Atlantic Principals’ Conference; power-point available--<file:///C:/Users/slash/Downloads/Anti-Bullying--SACED%20-02.pdf>

GAAA Personnel 2019-2020—

1. **Certification**--GAAA Board recommends an all-teacher return but with qualifications for certification and training of any teacher without the requisite certification to be completed during the summer as a condition of continuation, and/or for any replacement teachers at the start of the school year, with a “job-embedded” improvement plan. Teachers will now do an embedded in-year certification if requirements are not met before the start of the school year, as a condition to continued employment.
2. **Personnel Adjustments**--GAAA Board recommends certain specific personnel adjustments to put more emphasis on technology, recruitment and student support services for 2019-2020, especially in the new focus on the 1-1 IPAD program.
3. **General Diploma**--Meanwhile, the Board has decided to give further study to the concept of a General non-college preparatory diploma. To gain further input from parents.

RECRUITMENT CALENDARS (BOTH SCHOOLS)

February

1. February 2, Maranatha SDA Church
2. February 9, Lithonia SDA and Mountainside churches
3. February 11, School Technology Inservice
4. February 16, Atlanta Berean (Pine Forge and GAAA Choirs perform at Atlanta Berean).
5. February 17, AME Church Choir Appointment—Morning Service
6. February 20, Academy Day & Visiting Black Gospel Choir Concert, 2:00-3:00 pm
7. February 23, New Hope SDA Church
8. February 24, Open House from 10:00 am—Parents and AME Choir Appointment, 4:00-5:00

March

9. March 1, Historical Wax Museum Presentation—GAAA Gym
10. March 2, Lakeview SDA, Noon-Hour

Oratorical Contest, 7:30 pm, Benjamin Mays High

11. March 16, Education Day, Berean—all-youth choir afternoon program—choirs from around the area

April-June

12. April 6, SAC Youth Preaching Day, BOMC

13. April 10, Academy Day

14. April 14, Open House

15. April 15-19, Spring Break

16. April 25-29, Choir Tour

17. June 1, Education Day, Maranatha

18. June—Camp Meetings

GAAA's Ten Commandments--[The Ten Commandments](#)—see GAAA's Rules, all one page—and just ten of them.