



SHARK BITES SPECIAL EDITION

APRIL 23RD 2020

RECOGNIZING OUR PARENTS

Everyone's lives have dramatically changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that parents, in particular, were suddenly tasked with balancing remote work to make ends meet, parenting their kids and homeschooling them full-time. This has been challenging and difficult to say the least. But thankfully, this won't last forever. Remember to acknowledge the uncertainty and fear we're all experiencing these days and put your normal expectations on hold. As parents, you have a lot more on your plate. Take a deep breath. Recognize every day you and your children are able to get the work done. Today, we want to recognize YOU. We want to take a moment to let you know that we think you are doing a great job! Four weeks down, 5 more to go—YOU CAN DO THIS!



The Avant Garde Administration

STUDENT RECOMMITMENT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

Each year we ask families to recommit to AGA for the upcoming school year to save your student's seat. The link below will take you to a form to let us know if your student(s) will be returning to AGA for the 2020-2021 school year. One form per student is required.

If you have multiple students that attend AGA THIS school year you will need to fill out the form multiple times. Please copy and paste the link below into your browser to complete the form.

<https://forms.gle/kBFxxcd9pxBPFhqG8>

3RD QUARTER REPORT CARDS

- Report cards for the Third Quarter marking period are now available online.
- Parents can log into Virtual Counselor here: <https://bcps.browardschools.com/VirtualCounselor/>
- Once in Virtual Counselor, if you do not immediately see the marking period grades, on the Student Info drop down, select Marking Period Grades to view grades.
- Students username is their student number and password is their birthday in the MM/DD/YYYY format.

REMOTE LEARNING WHAT TO EXPECT

(WEEK OF APRIL 27TH -MAY 1ST)

We are heading into week five of remote learning.

Note: All of this information is on the AGA website

COVID-19 UPDATES

BORROWED DEVICES

Due to schools being closed until the end of the current school year, families will not need to return school devices until this summer. More information will be provided as we approach the end of the year.

NOTE: Past COVID information can be found on our website: agabroward.org

FIELD TRIP AND EVENT REIMBURSEMENTS

All field trips and events through the end of the year have been cancelled. It is uncertain yet if we will be able to host graduation for our seniors.



We are currently working with EZpay to electronically refund any payments that were made for field trips or events. We anticipate for those funds to be returned within the next three weeks. Any payments made in cash will be processed through our business office. Families will receive a refund check in the mail in approximately three weeks.

If you made a cash payment make sure you have updated your contact information with us using the following Google form

<https://forms.gle/eAiKX3WPfAXVZL5N9>

EMBRACE THIS TIME AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO BETTER

While we continue to normalize our days, I stumbled upon this piece that is eloquently penned by an educator to parents. This article was written by Shunda Howard, M.A. in Reading Education.

PARENTS:

Since becoming engaged in Distance teaching and learning, I definitely see a lot of good this has been for teachers, parents, and students. Let's take advantage of this unfortunate situation...This is NOT the time for us to recess or take a vacation. This is the time for all stakeholders to push up and through, elevating our students by preparing them for next year. Here's how....

Parents, this is your opportunity to:

See what your child is made of...how they learn, listen, communicate, follow directions, stay on task, and complete assignments. If you see your child is unable to sit and learn, now would be the time to make an appointment to see your child's pediatrician, expressing your concerns about your child's lack of attention, ruling out any Attention Deficit Disorder.

If your child is an SWD, Student With Disabilities, teachers are required to adhere to what is on your child's IEP. Although you should have a copy of your child's IEP, if you don't, call, email or text your child's teacher for a copy. You need to have access to your child's IEP at all times! Make sure the recommendations, goals, assessments, accommodations, and or modifications are being followed.

If your child is on medication by a professional, please continue to administer the doses as prescribed as this ensures a continuity of medication management and care, and is needed for concentration and learning to take place.

If your child is a retention grade, grade three for elementary, and you received notification of the possibility of your child staying back...Now is the time to make sure your child continues to receive additional instruction like Tier II, and or Tier III support. This additional instruction should be given by your child's teacher, and or possibly an instructional coach. Ask for what your child will need in order to succeed. This is over and above what other students are receiving academically. Ask! Demand! Follow through!

If your child is behind because of poor attendance including tardiness, improve NOW!!! Get your child up, showered, dressed, feed breakfast and get ready for instruction with all the necessary school supplies. Push!

If you see your child is exhibiting signs of a learning disability for example, letter reversals, poor eye/ hand, coordination, not comprehending, or if your child is having difficulty completing assignments...Send an email to your child's teacher, administrator, and or school psychologist requesting a psychological evaluation...Do it now! Everyone is getting paid, so they should also be working.

If you see your child has most answers correct, succeeds in learning, does work faster than other students and with accuracy. Now would be the time to request psychological testing for your child to qualify for the Gifted Program. Ask. Demand!

If you've noticed your child asking for directions two or more times, responding "huh", holding one ear towards the speaker or constantly looking at a speaker's lips. Now is the time to make an appointment with an audiologist requesting a thorough hearing test.

If you witness your child skipping words or sentences while reading, holding material close to the face, eyes watering while reading. Now is the time to schedule an appointment to an ophthalmologist, or an optometrist for a detailed vision examination.

Remember the exams given in school are SCREENINGS!

Last but certainly not least...NOW is the time for you to check out your child's teacher...Learn what she or he's about, how he or she delivers instruction, and how willing are they to go that extra mile to assist your child in learning, mastering all the necessary skills. We are paid during this Distant Learning time, which in my opinion is an opportunity for ALL to learn to succeed.

All State tests for this year have been cancelled, but trust me, this will not be the last you hear of this. Everyone is confused and in shock...but wait until those wheels start turning ...Education will NEVER be the same POST CoVid-19...Get ready for this looonnnngg 2020-21 school year ride.

Ms. Rubino and Dr. Harper, Social Emotional Learning

Do Better. Be Better.

JUMPSTARTING THE CLASS OF 2021! PRE-PLANNING FOR AGA JUNIORS

Welcome all AGA rising seniors! Here are a few tips to help you get a head start on planning for life after high school.

- Take the ACT this summer! The ACT will be offered on June 13, June 20, July 18 and July 25. Register at www.act.org. Please contact Ms. Klein at mklein@agabroward.org to determine if you are eligible for an ACT test fee waiver.
- Get an estimate of your eligibility for Federal Financial Aid by completing the free FASFA4Caster at <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate>
- October 1st Save the Date: Complete a Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FASFA) at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Parents and students must have separate accounts. Parents, make sure you have filed your 2020 tax returns.
- October 1st Save the Date! Complete the free Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) at www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org Parents, make sure you have filed your 2020 tax returns.
- Open a free scholarship account at RAISE.ME and starting earning scholarships from colleges you are thinking about. Visit www.raise.me.
- If you are interested in Science and Math, contact Barry University about their new **Engaged STEM Scholars** program which provides financial assistance, academic support, and connections to careers in STEM, for students entering college in Fall 2021 and majoring in Biology, Chemistry (including Biochemistry specialization), Math, Computer Science, or Computer Information Science. A live webinar will be held on **Saturday, April 25th @ 10:15am**: Register at <http://www.barry.edu/engaged-stem-scholars/information-sessions.html> or visit their website at <http://www.barry.edu/engaged-stem-scholars/>

Dr. Williams
BRACE Advisor

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT - OSWALD PROANO

Oswald "Ozzy" Proano, is captain of the AGA Soccer team. A soccer player since the age of nine, he is the recipient of numerous Most Valuable Player and Player of the Game trophies, awards and honors. One of the biggest challenges he faced was overcoming what would typically be a career-ending injury to a tendon in his Achilles heel that required him to wear a boot for six months and undergo grueling physical therapy. Ozzy's determination to heal and get back on the field was rewarded recently when he was named to the 2020 All Broward Boys Soccer 4A-2A Second Team as a Forward.



An Honor Roll student, Ozzy has earned college credit through dual enrollment at Florida International University. He also plays volleyball and is a Student Government Representative. Ozzy plans to major in Business at Broward College and transfer to Florida State University to earn a degree in Accounting. He serves our community by volunteering at AGA special events and assisting with set-up during AGA's Saturday School.

LEADER IN ME GLOBAL CONNECTION

This month we have learned and discussed Habit 6: Synergy (Together is Better!)



Although we may think about specific global issues like health, conflict, economy, and the environment as separate – and perhaps unrelated! We may even feel the need to manage those issues as independent issues, but it is quite far from the reality. As a community and society we need to understand that we are all deeply connected, and our understanding, appreciation, and responses can make a positive or negative impact on the world and even in how we shape our future generation.

Global Example Habit 6: If we all stay home, we all help flatten the curve, which means we can all be healthy and then go out!

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics to guide student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. At Avant Garde Academy, STEAM is how we engage in real-world applications and promote meaningful collaboration.



EARTH DAY RECOGNITION

Just in time for Earth Day, the annual City of Hollywood Drop Savers' Poster Contest announced their winners for their water conservation contest. The City of Hollywood is in partnership with local school teachers to help students design creative and informative posters that promote water conservation. The winning artists are congratulated by the Mayor and City Commission and awarded prizes during a Commission Meeting.



Selected water conservation art pieces from grade 6-12 students were to be further showcased at an annual gallery show at ArtsPark at Young Circle Gallery. But unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the gallery show has been cancelled.

Nevertheless, we would like to take the opportunity to officially congratulate our Avant Garde High School art student gallery showcase winners:

- Gavin Anderson 9th Grade
- Maria Belousova 10th Grade
- Zhaniya Dyussebayeva 11th Grade
- Andrea Gomez 11th Grade
- Fabrizio Liberatore, 9th Grade

Congratulations on a job well done!

FRIENDS MAKING MEMORIES HISTORY

A great deal of work went into creating the 2019-2020 yearbook, a historic and passion-filled project covering the first day of school to the events unfolding now.

Your student's time at school mattered. They made friends, learned valuable lessons, created a life for themselves and made many memories. Memories that will be captured inside the pages of the PISTRIS yearbook.

The 2019-2020 yearbook is a historic and passion-filled project covering the first day of school to the events unfolding now. Stand with your student and pay tribute to their year by reserving a copy of the Avant Garde Academy yearbook today.

Don't wait to purchase at school, with new developments happening daily in the global fight against COVID-19, this may be your only way to order.

yearbookforever.com
CODE: AGAUPPER or AGALOWER

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Outback at Dania Pointe, was a new partner with AGA this school year. By a way of thanking them, they are our featured restaurant for a virtual family spirit night. The one difference is, AGA will not be receiving a percentage back of the profits as we want to help our community in these uncertain times.

