

# NEWS<sup>2023</sup> LETTER

May



## Meet The Staff



**Julia Cook-Jones**  
Career & Life Skills Coordinator

Greetings, students, families, and volunteers! I am **Ms. Julia Cook-Jones, Career & Life Skills Coordinator** of GAPS. I was born and raised in Chicago, IL. I have a five-year-old son that loves sports, Spider-Man, and has inspired my journey daily. However, moving to Indiana during middle school became a huge part of my heart. Indiana believed in my career aspirations and taught me that anything is possible. I am a proud alum of Purdue University Northwest as I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a Master's in Business Administration.

GAPS accepted me into the family in April 2023 and I'm so excited to make an impact on our scholars. As a First-Generation College Student, I want to make a difference in education. I have a passion for advocacy, mentorship, and event planning. My expertise is in high school academic counseling, and five years of post-secondary engagement and retention will lead students to embrace their true potential. I look forward to building connections and navigating our GAPS scholars on the road to success.

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### What do these students have in common?

Syrae Bilal, Jamari Bond,  
Sha'Niyah Hearst, Ta'Kiyah  
Hearst, Latysha Leshore, and  
Heaven Quinn

**Look inside to find out!**

# Student Spotlight

## National Honor Society



**Inductees** -Being inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) in high school is a big deal! It means that the student has shown excellence in their studies, leadership, service, and moral character. Plus, there are some benefits to being inducted:

- A student is seen as a high achiever.
- They have access to scholarships specifically for NHS members, possibly helping one pay for college and keep down debt.
- Students are required to do community service, making a positive impact on others' lives.
- They develop leadership skills through the many opportunities given to NHS members, preparing them for future roles.
- It also allows the student to connect with other high-achieving students, building relationships for years to come.

Let's encourage our students to strive for excellence in order to receive this distinctive membership! **At GAPS, we're proud of our 13 students who were inducted into the NHS on April 27, 2023!**

**Congratulations to: Jade Washington, Jaelyn Clark, Reniya Adams, Venay Wright, Elisha Almore, Amari Anderson, Jermeicia Barnes, Sha'Niyah Hearst, Ta'kiyah Hearst, Jaylin Murray, Yasheica Sanders, Darius Sherrell, and Emmanuel Smith.**





# Student Spotlight

## Job Readiness

**Junior Achievement (JA)** - Ms. Peterson & Ms. Cook facilitated a discussion with students about the importance of *email etiquette* and *business attire*. The students applied their knowledge by sending a practice **email** to GAPS due to missing a workshop. The students were amazed at how an email could impact their image as a person.

Also, students gained an understanding of the saying "**dress to impress**" and how to use this saying in the future. Ms. Peterson & Ms. Cook also conducted advising sessions with scholars on core 40, graduation pathways, community service, and the 21st Century Scholars program.



**WELL!**  
**Done!**

**Congratulations** to the following students for being recognized as **April Students of the Month**:

- *Syrae Bilal*
- *Elisha Almore*







# Student Spotlight

## BOSS Students Participation Recognition



# Congratulations

Our BOSS students earned certificates of recognition for their active participation in the BOSS program. They are proud of their accomplishments and so are we. Please join us in applauding **Kaya Coleman, Preston Dandridge, Courtney Davis, Javonna Dixon, Antonio Fisher, Trey'Vian Guy, Sha' Niyah Hearst, Ta'kiyah Hearst, Kiara Horne, Ciara James, Jeremy Jones, Jewaun Jones, Desiree Martin, Shyonna McDuffie, Angel Montgomery, Malachi Moore, Mitchell Morris, Jaylin Murray Heaven Quinn, Yasheica Sanders, Teshya Settles, Darius Sherrell, Jason Simmons, Makesha Sykes Tierra Taylor, Amaya Thomas, Arkeya Travis, Jade Washington, Demarion Webb, Xavier Webb, Deveon Willhite, Akria Williams, Jaytrell Williams, Destiny Wooden, and Marisa Wyatt.**





# Student Spotlight



GAPS Student, **Jerrina Benard** is one of the recipients of the **Guthrie Family Scholarship** this year. The Guthrie Family Scholarship (GFS) Fund was established to honor the legacy of Mary and Willie Guthrie. Both were raised in Lithonia, GA, the children of sharecroppers, and both were the first in their large families to attend college.

The young family moved north in 1953 to escape racism and settled in Gary, IN where they spawned a multi-generational, extended family of achievers.

The Guthrie Family Collective (GFC) honors the legacy of their parents, Mary and Willie Guthrie by annually providing \$2,000 in financial support and mentoring to graduating seniors of African American descent from Gary (IN) West Side Leadership Academy and South Haven (MI) High School. Son, Carlton Guthrie is a founding member of the GAPS organization.





# GAPS Calendar Of Events

DATE	CATEGORY	TOPIC
June 5 to June 8, 2023 June 12 to June 15, 2023 June 20 to June 22, 2023 June 26, 28, 29, 2023	SAT	SAT Prep Academy at WSLA 9-2
June 5 to June 8, 2023 June 12 to June 15, 2023 June 20 to June 22, 2023 June 26, 28, 29, 2023	STEM	STEM Academy at McCullough, Banneker, GPS 8-12



## GAPS

### SAT Prep Academy

### Summer-School Program

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Session I: June 8th-29th  
Session II: July 7-28

**NEW**

*An academic support program free for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning June 5, 2023!*



Students participating in the program will receive:

- a tailored practice plan based on a diagnostic or their SAT or PSAT/NASQT score

Contact the WSLA Main Office at (219) 413-9870 to register **ASAP!**



## GAPS

### STEM Academy

### SUMMER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

McCullough, Banneker, and GPS  
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
June 8th-29th

**NEW**

*An academic support program free for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning June 5, 2023!*



Students participating in the program will receive:

- multidisciplinary, interactive experience
- and hands-on lessons that foster creativity and guide them through real-world problem-solving.

Parents, contact the Main Office of your student's building **ASAP!**





# Student Spotlight

## What do these students have in common?

Syrae Bilal, Jamari Bond, Sha'Niyah Hearst, Ta'Kiyah Hearst, Latysha Leshore, and Heaven Quinn

**GAPS**

**LEVEL-UP TUTORING**

**After-School Program**

Monday-Thursday, May 8th-25th  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Room 117  
Permission slip required

*An academic support program free for 9th-12th grade students beginning May 8, 2023!*

Program will help students in the following subjects:

- Algebra 1
- English 9
- Geometry
- World History 9

Contact the GAPS Office at WSLA, room C142, or call (219) 881-5445 ASAP!

GAPS launched the Level-Up Tutoring Program from May 8 to May 25, 2023. BOSS students **Syrae Bilal, Jamari Bond, Sha'Niyah Hearst, Ta'Kiyah Hearst, Latysha Leshore, and Heaven Quinn** served as Peer Tutors.

Level-Up Tutoring was a free academic support program for 9th-12th grade students in which our students served as *peer tutors* for students recommended by WSLA teachers. The subjects in which tutoring was offered were Algebra 1, English and World History 9, and Geometry. **Job Well Done!!!**





# Student Spotlight

## Special Expression To Our Graduating Seniors



As you stand at the threshold of a brand-new chapter in your lives, we want to extend our warmest congratulations to **Jerrina Benard, Fred Buckhana, Jaelyn Clark, Trey’Vian Guy, Marianna Montgomery, Brady Rockett-King, Javarla Sanders, Alexis Torrence, Xavier Webb, and Venay Wright** on successfully completing our program. This milestone marks the culmination of hard work, dedication, and growth. As you embark on the exciting journey ahead, we invite you to reflect, embrace the possibilities, and take meaningful action to shape your future.

- 1 Embrace Your Passions: Follow your passions relentlessly, allowing them to guide your path and make a meaningful impact on the world around you.
- 2 Cultivate a Growth Mindset: Adopt an attitude that embraces challenges, values perseverance, and seeks constant self-improvement, understanding that failure is a stepping stone towards success.
- 3 Build a Supportive Network: Surround yourself with mentors, peers, and a diverse support network that will uplift and inspire you on your journey of discovery. Congratulations and may your future be filled with boundless success, happiness, and fulfillment!

*P.S. GAPS is here to help you on your journey.*







# Student Spotlight

## CPR Certifications!!!!!!



*For several months* BOSS students have been working to acquire a life-saving skill and we at GAPS are so excited to report that are now certified. To have this life-saving skill is a major accomplishment. We acknowledge:

- Trey’Vian Guy
- Akira Williams
- Tierra Taylor
- Destiny Wooden
- Antonio Fisher
- Xavier Webb
- Jerimiah Clark
- Jaelyn Clark
- Heaven Quinn
- Demarion Webb
- Kaya Coleman
- Shyonna McDuffie
- Darius Sherrell
- Jontel Ruffini
- Jaylin Murray
- Mitchell Morris
- Jade Brown
- Emmanuel Smith
- Sha’Niyah Hearst
- Ta’Kiyah Hearst
- Jewaun Jones
- Yasheica Sanders



Our school and community are fortunate that these students are now able to step in and save a life if needed.





## GAPS Student Workshop Facilitator Request

Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of young people in your community? Join our GAPS program and share your skills, knowledge, and abilities with high school students. As a volunteer, you'll inspire and guide the next generation, helping them develop the skills and confidence to succeed. [Don't wait - sign up now and be a part of something truly meaningful!](#)

## 2023-2024 West Side Leadership Academy Career Fair Registration Form

Are you passionate about empowering young people to achieve their career goals? Join us for our upcoming fall 2023-2024 Career Fair at West Side Leadership Academy! As a partner, you'll have the chance to share your expertise, network with students, and help shape the future of our community. [Fill out the form today](#), and join us in providing Gary students with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed!



## News Bytes



[INDIANA'S NEW FLEXIBLE 'SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS' FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVIDE OPINION](#)

[WITH EYE TOWARD FUTURE ECONOMY, PROGRAMS ENCOURAGE STEM INNOVATION IN INDIANA SCHOOLS](#)

[SUMMER TO-DO LIST FOR NEW COLLEGE PARENTS](#)

[BEST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL](#)

[GARY SCHOOLS MANAGER MCNULTY TO END TENURE WITH DISTRICT JUNE 30, 2023](#)

[INDIANA HIGHER ED COMMISSION LAYS OUT EARLY PLANS FOR UNIVERSITY FUNDING, NEW CAREER PROGRAMS](#)

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