



Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ

February 2021

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

EBOE President Serves as Panelist of Amistad Forum

EPS recognized by panel as a model district in its efforts to promote Black History education

Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry D. Jacobs served as one of four panelists of the Amistad Commission Black History Education Virtual Forum on Monday evening held in honor of Black History Month.

The forum, hosted by New Jersey Assemblywoman Annette Quijano who sponsored the recent amendment of the Amistad law, was an informational session about the importance of the Amistad law signed into place by Governor Phil Murphy on January 7 that made New Jersey the first state in the nation to mandate Black history in education. The discussion covered the extent of the new law, including its future impact on students and teachers throughout the state.

The panel included Jacobs, United Youth of New Jersey Founder Charlotte Brown; New Jersey Association of Black Educators President James Harris; and New Jersey Education Association Manager of the Human and Civil Rights, Equity, and Governance, Gary Melton. Assemblyman William D. Payne, an original sponsor of the Amistad law, also joined the panel to provide insight on the importance of the Amistad law.

The Amistad bill (A1301), which became law in 2002 under legislation sponsored by Assemblymen Payne and Craig A. Stanley, called on New Jersey schools to incorporate African-American history into their social studies curriculum in recognition of the integral part African-Americans have played at every turn in United States history. This legislation also created the Amistad Commission, a 23-member body charged with ensuring that African American history, contributions, and experiences are adequately taught in the state's classrooms.

In 2020, a new bill (S1028) amending the law related to the Amistad Commission and the Amistad curriculum, was sponsored by senators Teresa Ruiz, Shirley K. Turner, and Troy Singleton and Assemblywomen Quijano, Angela V. McKnight, and Britnee N. Timberlake. Governor Murphy signed bill S1028 into law on January 7, which allocates Amistad Commission in but not of the Department of Education, requires the Amistad Commission to elect a chairperson and appoint an executive director, and requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to American society.

The newly adopted law requires all school districts to include instruction in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited

to, the areas of industry, military, government, and the professions; local communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in America.

Elizabeth Public Schools has been one of the leaders in advancing black history instruction into its curriculum, having established a collaboration between members of the community and the district in developing a curriculum of inclusion that embraces the spirit of the Amistad mandate.

“I want to talk about the people who came before me who were involved in our city and were involved in getting the Amistad Commission and one of those people is Charles Harris,” said Board President Jacobs. “Charles Harris was a resident of Elizabeth. He definitely was very instrumental in trying to get the curriculum of inclusion included in the Elizabeth curriculum and he did much work in trying to make that happen.”

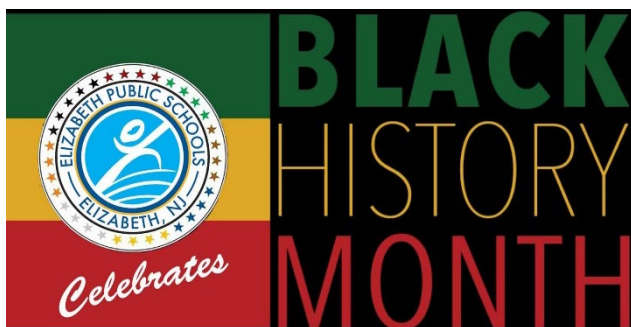
“Also, I want to bring it forward to my colleagues, (Elizabeth Board of Education members) Stanley Neron and Charlene Bathelus, who had started before me and were very active in trying to get the Amistad mandate included in our curriculum. I am the newcomer, but we finally were able to make some progress. We’re working with the community, with the (Elizabeth Amistad) Collaborative and the forum they had in November 2019, and I’m happy to say that we’ve had tremendous success over this past year in being able to implement the Amistad Commission into our curriculum.”

Among the goals of the instruction is to emphasize the personal responsibility of each citizen to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens and to uphold the national ideals of freedom and justice for all.

“Black history is American history,” said Board President Jacobs. “It’s more important that all of our children, especially in these days and times and the events that have happened over the past year, that all of our children can understand each other and each other’s history. When we have that complete knowledge, that cuts down on the racism and the other problems that we may have facing our children.”

Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer acknowledged the importance of providing instruction representative of the diverse student population and greater community the district serves.

“Meaningful representation of various cultures, including Black History, will certainly help create stronger engagement in classroom instruction as well as greater empathy and understanding among students of different heritages,” said Hugelmeyer. “I applaud Board President Jacobs for participating in this very important forum and also would like to thank Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood, a truly wonderful educator, for her role in assessing and providing recommendations designed to increase achievement of Amistad-related initiatives within our schools. Her knowledge and insight have been invaluable to the development and enhancement of our curriculum of inclusion.”



During the month of February, teachers and students throughout Elizabeth Public Schools are participating in lessons and activities sharing, celebrating, and honoring the societal contributions of prominent figures in Black History.

For more info on school activities, please visit:

www.epsnj.org/BHM

Two EPS Schools Named 2021 NJ School of Character



Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy were among 21 schools to be recognized as a 2021 New Jersey School of Character by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD).

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development, which has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. There were 76 schools and one district in 14 states overall selected as state schools of character for 2021.

The 21 schools selected as 2021 New Jersey Schools of Character have been forwarded to Character.org, a national character education advocate, and are in the national evaluation process for consideration to be 2021 National Schools of Character. Elizabeth Public Schools can now claim twelve district schools that have been designated as state schools of character, eight of which received national school of character honors as well. School No. 51 and Hamilton Preparatory Academy will retain the NJ School of Character status for a period of five years, through 2025.

“With the addition of Hamilton Preparatory Academy, as well as with Donald Stewart School No. 51 being recognized for the second time, nearly one-third of our district schools have been honored as a State School of Character by the NJASECD,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “Character education continues to be a hallmark of instruction in our schools as we prepare our students for their college and career endeavors and develop them into caring, reliable young men and women.”

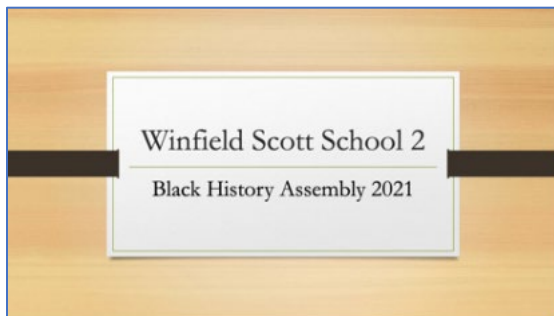
“As the great Dr. King once said, ‘Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education,’” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Jerry Jacobs. “It is vital that we are teaching not only lessons in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, but also in character education so that our students leave our schools with the confidence to succeed and a greater sense of purpose.”

George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1

School celebrated Black History Month in the year 2021 by all Team Members receiving a daily Black History Month Quote.

Teachers and students learned about Ruby Bridges and the and the and desegregation in schools. Other students had the opportunity to learn about a plethora of African American and their contribution to society. Teachers also educated students on politics about Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Barack Obama

Pre -kindergarten student learned about inventors and wrote about what they aspire to as adults.

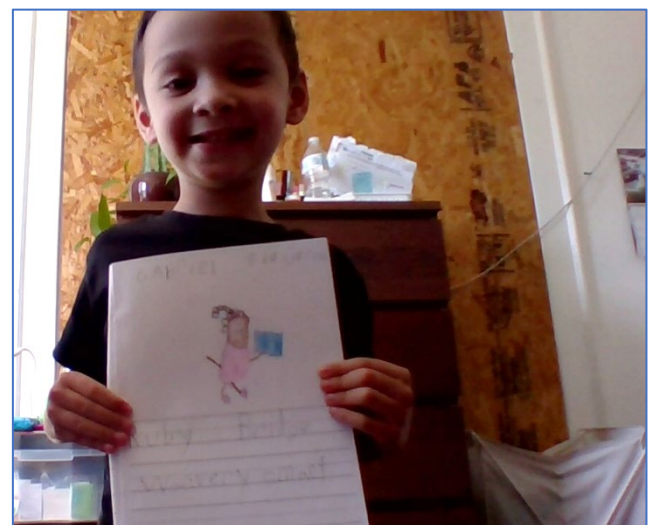
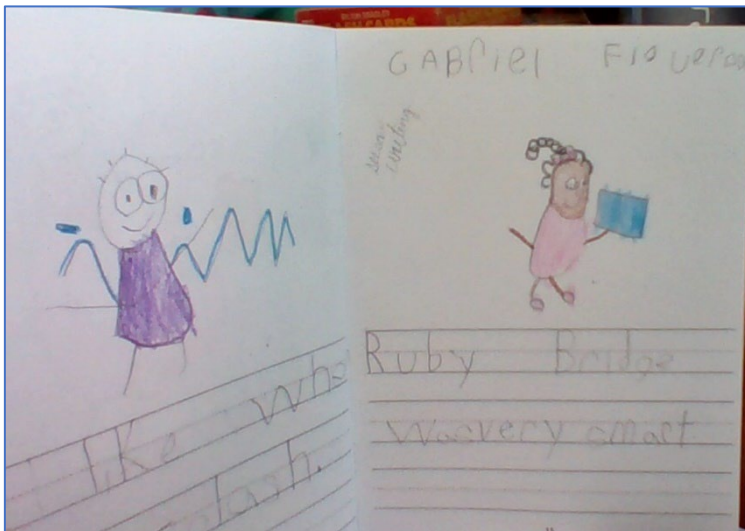


Winfield Scott School No. 2

School-wide virtual Black History Assembly will take place tomorrow, Friday February 26th at 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

What Black History Means to You?

Students participated in **Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5's** Black History Month Virtual Museum. Students viewed the video of Amanda Gorman reading her poem at the inauguration for inspiration and then were able to choose a famous African American Musician, artist, sports player, painter, inventor, etc. Dress up (if possible) to represent your person. Record yourself reciting a quote from this person and giving a summary of who they are and their contribution to the world. Students then wrote a poem about "What Black History means to you" and recorded themselves reciting the poem.



Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3

The theme for this year is "S.T.E.A.M."-ing through Black History (Science/Sports, Technology, Engineering, /Entertainment, Arts, Math/Music & More!) All teachers were provided with a PowerPoint presentation to show each morning which included a daily quote and brief bio for each day of Black History Month. Additionally, at the end of the month a virtual assembly will be shared with all students and team members.

Viewpoints of Fourth Grade Students

Fourth grade students at **Terence C. Reilly School No. 7** took Black History Month very seriously and compassionately through the preparation and presentation of an assignment entitled: "Ending Racism & Bigotry-From the Viewpoint of a Nine or Ten-year Old."

Students were given the task of expressing their thoughts through Wall Art, music, dance, poetry, Minecraft, Power Point, Keynote, collages, children's story book, or whatever medium they were comfortable using.

Luna Gomez composed a song with music and recorded it for the classes. Sydney Francisco created through time-lapsed photography, a beautiful work of art, using the comparison of two frames—one with only blue string, the second with strings of color and different accoutrements attached representing diversity.

Another student created a tree that demonstrated the diversity of humans growing together. A sample of one student's poetry:

Ending Racism & Bigotry

By: Brooklynn Briana Daley Small

Racism is a deep stain in our society.
that leaves People of Color in a constant state of anxiety.
It follows them through every sector of organized systems.
From education, healthcare, economy... that all just dismiss them.
Even a minor traffic stop.
Could lead to an encounter with a racist cop.
One wrong move or flinch
can result in a modern-day lynch.
No, judge, jury or prosecutor.
just one trigger-happy executioner.
It is time for Racism to an end.
We, as a people, can stand together & defend.
Everyone's right to not be judged or compared by their hue.
But to be seen as a whole person
And be given their just due.
Ending Racism & Bigotry

Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

Pre-K-3

Celebration of Black History Month by sharing read aloud books, research activities to learn more about African American achievements, videos that celebrate African Americans and their impact on history today.

My class has been watching and discussing the moments in history on PBS. They are sharing their feelings about the historical events in short sentences on the white board. The class is viewing and video documentaries and answering question on Kahoot. We also watched the animated story based on Martin Luther King's Junior's life. Also, they have watched Ruby Bridge's at age 6 integrate on November 14 ,1960 New Orleans movie reenactment and compared their experience to her struggles with segregation.

At the Library we kicked off this week by reading a non-fiction title about Ruby Bridges. We are discussing what makes Ruby a hero.

For Black History month, we are reading important facts about black people who have changed our society. Many of the people chosen are hidden figures in history but made a huge contribution to society either through inventions or deeds.

Our class will be exploring the lives of African Americans through reading books on EPIC and watching videos lessons through our Social Studies Class Page. We will then write and illustrate a report/poster on one of the African American figures and share with the class.

We are celebrating Black History Month by watching short bio videos of famous black Americans. We are also reading through different kid appropriate books that tell stories of the black experience here in the United States.

We will watch short YouTube videos about famous black Americans and read books written by black authors.

Art-Poems and illustrations from the poetry book, Under the Sunday Tree.

For black history month, we will be researching as a class and go over the important of this month and why we celebrate it. We will watch educational videos and read stories that we can further engage in discussions.

We are celebrating Black History Month in our autism classrooms by reading The Colors Around Me an interactive story about colors and friends. The children will also be using an interactive adapted book to learn about Rosa Parks.

The Chalk Doll, by Charlotte Pomerantz and illustrated by Fran  Lessac. The Chalk Doll is a children's story about Rose who has a bad cold and her mother tells her the story of how, her mother, as a child, grew up in Jamaica. She was very poor and could not afford to buy a doll, so she made a doll with her own mother. We read the story together and students draw a scene of Jamaica and any toy that they may make without buying it.

Students in 226 will be conducting their own research on a historical character that worked to promote equality among the people in our country. Students will use Epic and the Elizabeth Public Library resources. They will submit a video and written report on Class Dojo as a final project.

Grades 4-8

Each day at the start of social studies class, I share a quote from a well-known African American and give a brief synopsis of their contributions to society. In eighth grade, we are learning about the 1920s and we have been focusing on the Harlem Renaissance and contributions made by other African Americans during the time in several of the lessons.

In AVID, we are doing a poetry reading this Friday and the students are choosing poems written by African Americans that they will read to the class. In addition to reading the poem to us, the students are expected to share why they selected the poem they did.

I have a Unified Classroom page that included videos explaining the importance of Black History Month. I also will discuss different famous African American each week. My students must select a famous African American person to do their PowerPoint project on that will be due at the end of the month.

We will be doing a brief research project on a famous Black History figures and the students will be reading independent stories on getepic.com as well as completing activities on ReadWorks.org about important figures in Black History.

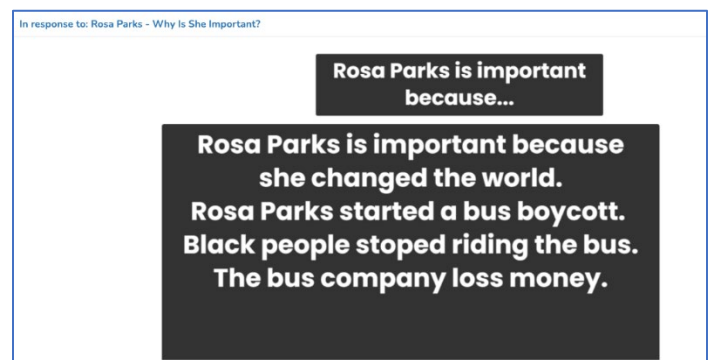
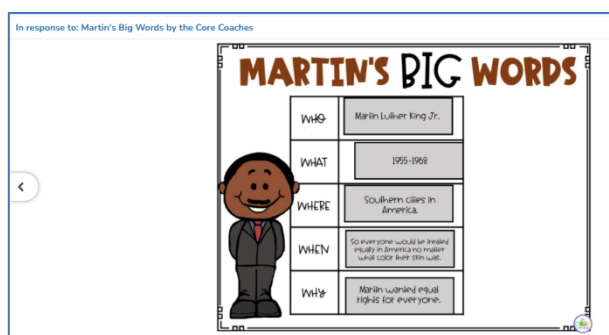
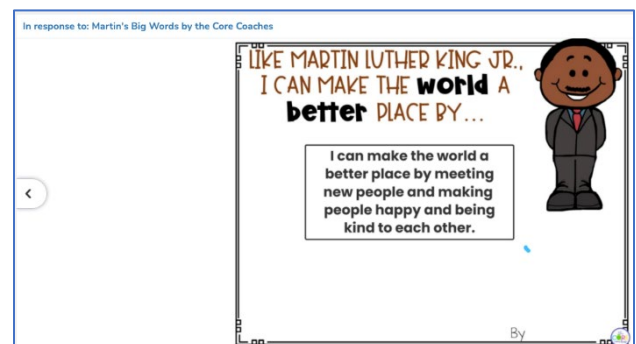
We watched a rap video on Booker T Washington and WEB Du Bois perspectives on equality. Both men wanted equality but had different ways of going about it. This led to discussion on multiple solutions to a problem and point of view/opinion.

In LAL we have already done an article about Honoring Dr. King and the purpose for the Dr. King holiday. Next week we will be researching Famous and Inspirational African Americans for a writing project. If you need more details, let me know.

I have created a Social Studies Class page in Unified Classroom dedicated to Black History Month. The page contains a video about Black History Month for students to view. There is a mystery cards assignment. Students will read description of various notable African Americans on activity cards, and then log their answer on a recording sheet. Students will complete a project as well. They will choose a famous African American from American History. Next, they will do research on the person using the internet and approved websites to gather information about the person. Then, they will create a Power Point Presentation containing at least 4 slides which provide interesting facts about the person they chose to research. A rubric is also provided.

iPrep Academy School No. 8 Held Several Activities for Black History Month

1. Shared a link of past students conducting activities in school; shared a video of students from past years of the activities they have done such as creating their own raps, dancing, and reading poetry.
2. Kindergarten students watched a video and read the story Mae Among the Stars; Mae Among the Stars is a children's book that was inspired by Mae Jemison, the first African American Woman in space. Student then created work on what they could accomplish if they believed in themselves as Mae did.
3. Our librarian Mrs. Larson read African American Folk Tales to students during library time.
4. Shared Jerry Jacobs video with the staff to share with the students in which he spoke about Artifacts and African American Tales, African American Inventors and African Tales and Proverbs.
5. 7th Grade Social Studies Curriculum which includes African American Life from 1900-1920's, African American Civil Rights, the migration of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North and the Harlem Renaissance.
6. 4th grade students looked at the ABC's of Black History Month and pulled out 5 Historical African Americans and how they contributed to our history.
7. 4th grade students looked at Dr. Martin Luther's Nobel Peace Prize Speech and discussed why it was such a powerful speech, and what was he communicating that was so important.
8. 2nd grade students learned about George Washington Carver and Harriet Tubman, they read about them, conducted Brain Pop activities on them.
9. 1st grade students did an MLK flipbook, read stories about MLK. They did a Ruby Bridges project because she was also a 1st grader, a graphic organizer on why she was brave.
10. 5th grade students did a PowerPoint project on influential leaders of the Underground Railroad. Researched influential African American scientists and inventors.
11. 6th grade students learned about African American inventors and their impact.



Virtual Black History Museum at School No. 9

A school social worker in the district, the mental health department and intern social workers were able to lead a discussion about Black History Month as they opened students minds to equity and inclusion.

They provided background information about the famous revelations piece created by the amazing Alvin Alley, the story of Rosa Parks, former President Barack Obama, and iconic icons such as the late Cicely Tyson, Chadwick Boseman, and political leader Shirley Chisholm. It was a wonderful learning experience for the 6th and 7th graders at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9.





ELMORA SCHOOL NO. 12

MELISSA RULICK PRINCIPAL *A Place to Soar* FRANCESCA FERRERA VICE PRINCIPAL



Social Emotional Learning in Pre-K



In Mrs. Fernandez's Pre-K class, students read "The Feelings Book" by Todd Parr then engaged in a discussion about common emotions they experience on a daily basis. Students were then challenged to utilize Play-Doh, markers, or crayons to display these emotions.

honoring DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

JANUARY 19, 2021

Students in Mrs. Duda's Fourth Grade Math Class celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the impact he had and continues to have on our country. Mrs. Duda presented her class with two of MLK Jr.'s most famous quotes. After a whole class discussion, students created a multiplication Paint By Number activity utilizing Microsoft Paint 3D.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1963

Positive Affirmations

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Character Education Empathy



The Golden Rule

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VOLUME I

JAN. 2021

Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

Black History Month Activities 2021

February 1 st -February 26 th	Morning quotes/Morning Message-Discussion or writing activity based on the quote shared with students
Monday, February 1 st	Begin Research of athletes/activists and present-day leaders
Friday, February 5 th	Interactive Museum Tour
Tuesday, February 9 th	Howard University Virtual Tour Speaker 2-3pm
Wednesday, February 17 th	6-8 Platform Discussion-Race Culture, Ethnicity
Friday, February 19 th	Lunch Bunch-Food from different cultures
Tuesday, February 23 rd	Movie-Ruby Bridges
Friday, February 26 th	Culminating Program (Presentation of athletes/activists and present-day leader videos)

Robert Morris School No. 18

Black History Month Activities

- Mrs. Green and Ms. Romano's Pre-k class
 - Reading books by African American authors.
 - Special guest- African American author and Elizabeth teacher, Mrs. Qiana Davis, read her book Love is Me to the class.
- Research and Biographies in all grades
- Music- Practicing jazz "scatting"
- Middle School Social Studies- Informative Trading Cards using influential Black/African American people
- 8th grade Black History Poem Analysis Freedom Riders and Individual poems created by students, close reading to the lyrics of "What's going on?"; Nonfiction reading on Emmitt Till, Freedom Rides, and Tuskegee Airmen, creating a poem related to Black history/historical figure.
- 7th Grade-Black History Month Project- PowerPoint Project
- 6th Grade-Cite Text using RACE: Barack Obama, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman
- Daily "Do Nows" using blackfacts.com.
- Culturally appropriate videos about Black contributors
- Persuasive Writing pieces (Why should Jackie Robinson be allowed to play baseball in the MLB? for example)
- Rosa Park portraits
- Letters to the Ruby Bridges foundation
- Historical Figures Project Shares
- Song-[Best Black History Month Song! | Celebrate Black People Who Change the World | Miss Jessica's World - YouTube](#)
- Middle Passage slave trade in the 1840s from the Amistad Curriculum
- Post-Revolutionary War slavery and its effect on the US economy
- Brain Pop video and quizzes
- Class readings and discussion about slavery, the Underground Railroad, the abolitionist movement, and the end of slavery.

Christopher Columbus School No. 15

K: Students will read and discuss books about the African American experience such as “Amazing Grace”. They will make connections, draw, and write about what they have learned.

1st Grade: Students will read about and discuss various prominent African American figures. They will then write about their favorite African American figure.

2nd Grade: Students will be asked to research an African American person who had a very important impact on our History. The students are using a graphic organizer to begin learning research and their organization skills.

3rd Grade: Students are currently doing a research project and watching videos about prominent African Americans.

4th Grade: Students are reading a book of their choice from getepic.com and creating a PowerPoint slide show to share with their class.

5th Grade: Students have read the books *Freedom Crossing*, *40 Acres*, and *Maybe a Mule*, *The Story of Oney Judge*, *Henry's Freedom Box*, *Island-born*, etc. and have looked at various works of art. The students are going to be analyzing the influence of Black art throughout the diaspora more specifically, Latin America. Lastly, they have compared past events to current events (attempts at reparations, voter suppression, etc.).

6th Grade: In their Science class, students will watch and discuss a video titled *Black Inventors of the 20th and 21st Century*. In their Mathematics class, students will research and present a PowerPoint Presentation on Black Mathematicians or African American Mathematicians or Engineers. In their Language Arts class, students will also read poems, short stories, and biographies on African American history and written by African American authors. Students will create a PowerPoint about one prominent figure in African American history and they will teach the class about who that person was and what they did in history. In their Social Studies class, students will do a research project about one African American in History or about the Slave life during the Ancient History and examine the affects it had on society.

7th Grade: Students have read an article titled "Life of a Slave in a Southern Plantation". They will also watch a video on the Little Rock Nine and discuss how the struggles of African Americans continued much longer after slavery was abolished. They will complete a Nearpod activity on Black American Inventors. As part of their Social Studies class, students will do a research project called Bio Poems. They pick a figure and then research certain aspects of their lives and create poems. They will be creating "interviews" based off their research.

8th Grade: Students will do a research project called Bio Poems. They pick a figure and then research certain aspects of their lives and create poems, and they will be creating "interviews" based off their research.

Abraham Lincoln School No. 14

Schoolwide-Students:

To honor all the black Americans who have helped to, and continue to, change, and shape our country, we hosted a student contest.

Scholars in all grades highlighted a black American who they believe made an important impact on our country and asked to be creative. Students were able to:

- Draw a picture. ed
- Write a sentence (K-2) or an Essay. Students may choose to read it aloud and record themselves or simply submit their writing to be read aloud.
- Create an iMovie.
- Write a poem- Students can opt to read the poem aloud and record themselves.
- Create a song- Students may choose to sing it and record themselves.

Class level Activities:

In Kindergarten, students read and wrote about famous Black Americans.

Middle school students are learning about Jazz and listening to the best African American jazz musicians of all time. Students are then creating their own jazz song on bandlab.com.

Third grade students are doing research into famous black individuals. Once completed, students will be presenting this information to class. Seventh and eighth grade scholars are participating in a Black history Month Home Scavenger Hunt. Students are presented with a bio on 5 black inventors and then are asked to identify items that matched their invention.

Special Guest Reader

Board President Jerry Jacobs was a surprise virtual guest reader for Pre-K students at **Woodrow Wilson School No. 19**. Board President Jacobs read a book about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by joining Ms. Stephanie Sganga's, Ms. Maria Roses', Ms. Theresa Mazza's, and Mrs. Janet Hasegawa's virtual classes. He emphasized the importance of acceptance, embracing diversity, and following one's dreams.



John Marshall School No. 20

Students chose an African American of their choice. They then wrote an informative piece about the person. They had to give all background information as well as discuss specifically what contributions the person made to African American culture.

- Students created flip grid designed to inform about the African American of their choice and their contribution to society.
- Hank Aaron tribute
- Cicely Tyson tribute

School No. 21 Celebrates Black History Month

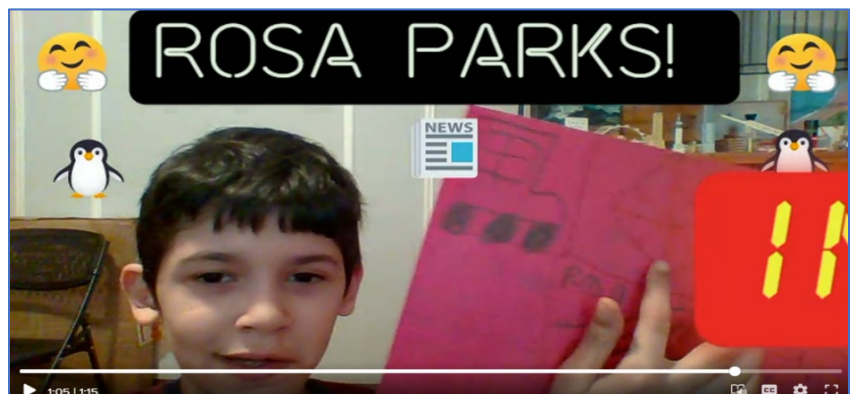
Students at **Victor Mravlag School No. 21** celebrated Black History Month by participating in a wide range of lessons and activities.

Kindergarten students viewed a Black History Month power point presentation and listened to a read aloud of "I Am Enough" by Keturah Bobo. Second grade students viewed videos on Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. and engaged in discussions about their contributions to equal rights. Third grade students viewed Black History videos from Board President Jerry Jacobs and read books about Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. Fourth grade students learned to play the song "Amazing Grace" on the recorder. They also learned about the song's history and its importance in the Civil Rights Movement. Fifth grade students read poems, song lyrics, and stories from African American authors and folklore during their study of figurative language. Middle school students completed Amistad curriculum activities on Jackie Robinson and Willie O'Ree – the first African Americans to participate in Major League Baseball and the National Hockey League, respectively.

School No. 22 Scholars Celebrate Prominent African American Figures during Virtual Learning!

William F. Halloran School No. 22 students celebrate the lives and accomplishments of prominent African Americans and their renowned contributions to our history. The students in Pre-K class learned about Garrett Morgan and created their own traffic signals based on his important invention. They also watched a video of the story "Mae Among the Stars" and created their own rocket ship like the prominent astronaut!

The older scholars had many virtual projects. Classes created biographical brochures of prominent African Americans and presented them to their peers via TEAMS video. Students created Flip grid videos on the life of Rosa Parks, PowerPoints on famous authors and poets like from the past and present like Langston Hughes and Michelle Obama. In the visual arts classes, they studied talented artists like Jacob Armstead Lawrence, an American painter known for his portrayal of African American historical subjects and contemporary life and created their own inspired artwork and shared it with their peers.



Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

Black History Month was celebrated in a variety of ways across all classrooms. Teachers were asked to use a resource from CNN that provided daily biographies of notable black Americans. This was also supplemented with biographies from local figures from Elizabeth.

- Students completed research projects as well as presented via written reports and PowerPoint presentations on influential Black Americans and their contributions.
- Teachers/ students used their virtual backgrounds to celebrate via a quote or image that were researched.
- ELA classes played Kahoot games about the civil rights movement and black history events.
- Art - Students celebrated by selecting an activity to represent a black figure for example: designing a stamp design a daishiki, a quilt or a poster about a black figure or African Kings / Queens.
- Music - Students learned Negro spirituals.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27

Black History Month Fun Facts for Morning Announcements “DID YOU KNOW...?” or “ON THIS DAY...” Students and teachers brainstormed ideas and decide what to plan to present (by grade level). A reader/presenter announced the fun fact to the entire school.

T-Shirt Designing Contest- Open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Students submitted an original design that must fit on the provided template. The theme for the design was: Racial Equality, Diversity, and/or Social Justice. The design must contain Dr. Antonia Pantoja School 27. The winner of the contest received a free T-Shirt and a gift card. Students researched African American musicians, then created PowerPoint presentation and come up with their own songs in their groups.

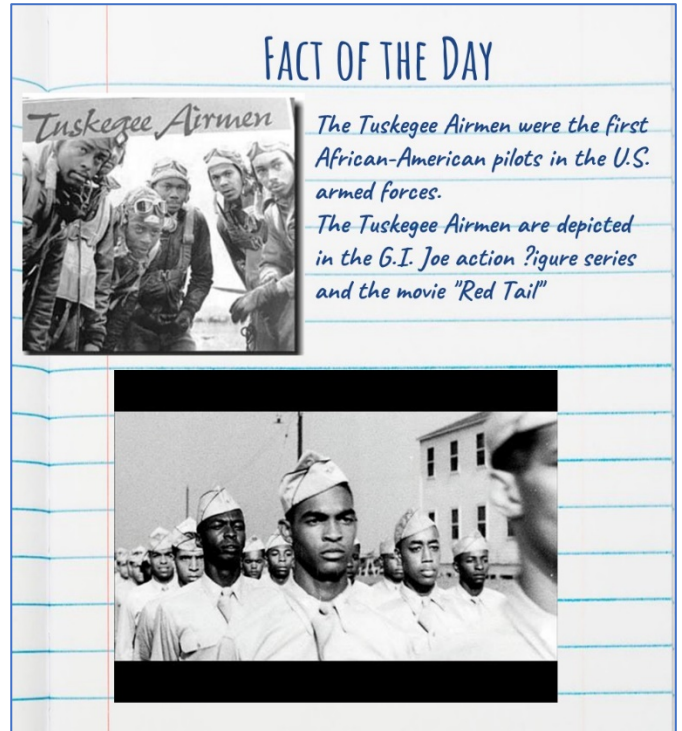
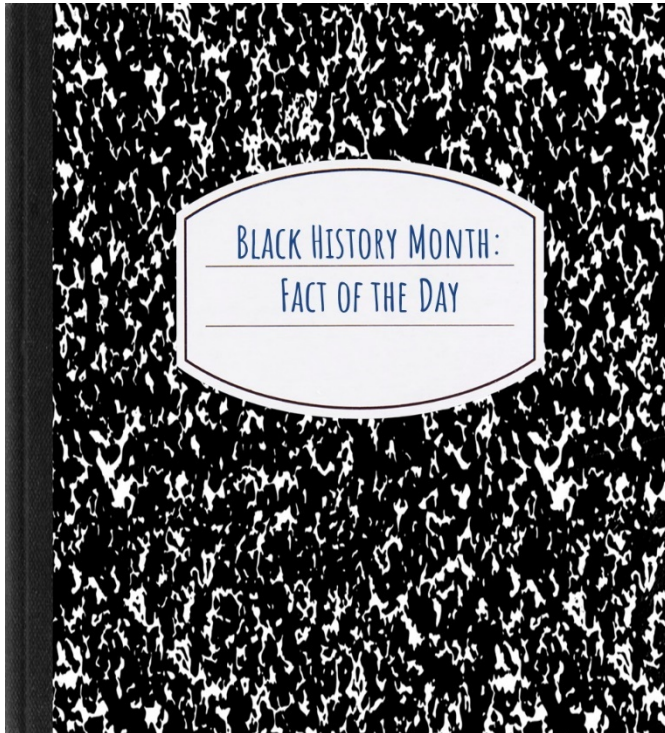
Students watched a video on Garrett Morgan's life and his many contributions. As an Art and Literacy project, they will reproduce the modern traffic light and write the corresponding action words (Stop, Slow, Go).

Students listened to a book written about various African American musicians.

Students watched a video about Historic Heroes and completed a directed drawing of each historical figure. Student added important facts that they learned to their drawings and shared their creations in breakout rooms.



Madison -Monroe School No. 16

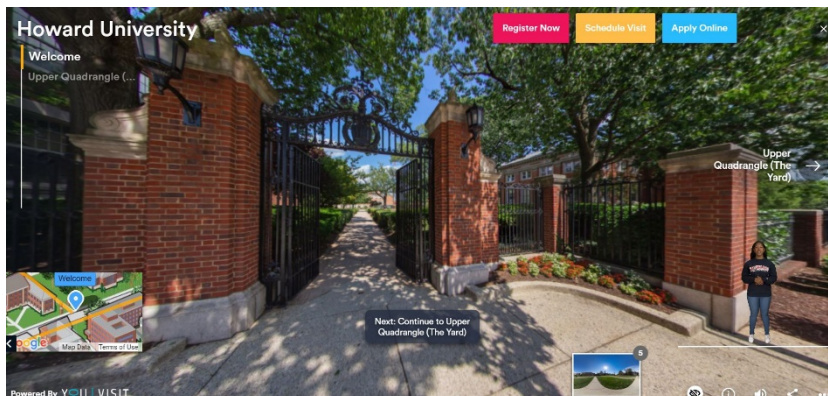


During Black History Month, School No. 16 will be honoring a famous Black American during homeroom each day of February. Students in all grades will be participating in a drawing contest and students in the upper elementary grades will be participating in a writing contest. Both contests will promote noted figures and significant events in Black History.

Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25

Students at School No. 25 read and discussed stories and poems written by Black writers, listened to stories by Black authors shared for World Read Aloud Day.

They research famous Black Americans; discuss famous Black athletes who changed the sports we watch today and their current influence on social justice; create virtual collages of black individuals for whom they hold in high regard; and complete research projects on important Black Americans with a focus on the sciences.



Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

During the month of February, teachers did many activities to help students learn about all the amazing contributions made by African Americans to our country.

1st grade

In honor of Black History Month, the first grade used our Social Studies periods to focus on achievements on famous black Americans. After each video lesson, we discussed what we learned and then we completed a timeline of key events in that person's life. The individuals we focused on were Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Ruby Bridges, Garrett Morgan, and George Washington Carver.



3rd Grade

Grade 3 students in Mrs. Boydston's class made use of EPIC, a free-online library to read a book of their choice about a notable figure for Black History Month. Students then reflected about what they had learned and focused on the contributions made by the notable figure and life lessons they learned from them.

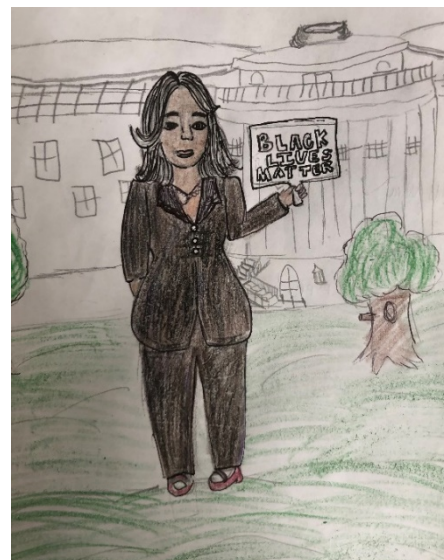
5th Grade

Students have studied/read/written about: Martin Luther King Jr., Ida B. Wells, and Rosa Parks. Afterwards students wrote letters and drew pictures that the teacher will be mailing next week to newly elected US Vice President, Kamala Harris.

6th Grade

Students in Mrs. Berberian's class learned about entrepreneur, Moziah Bridges, founder of Mow's Bows. Teachers discussed his early ambitious start at age 9, fashioning bow ties in his grandmother's kitchen table. Then we discussed his next step, presenting his bow ties on Shark Tank, and securing mentorship from shark Damond John, black entrepreneur of FUBU. Since Shark Tank Moziah's success continues. At the young age of 19 he is already a role model for children everywhere. Students in Mr. Baranek's class learned about famous African American athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Ora Washington, and Wima Rudolph.

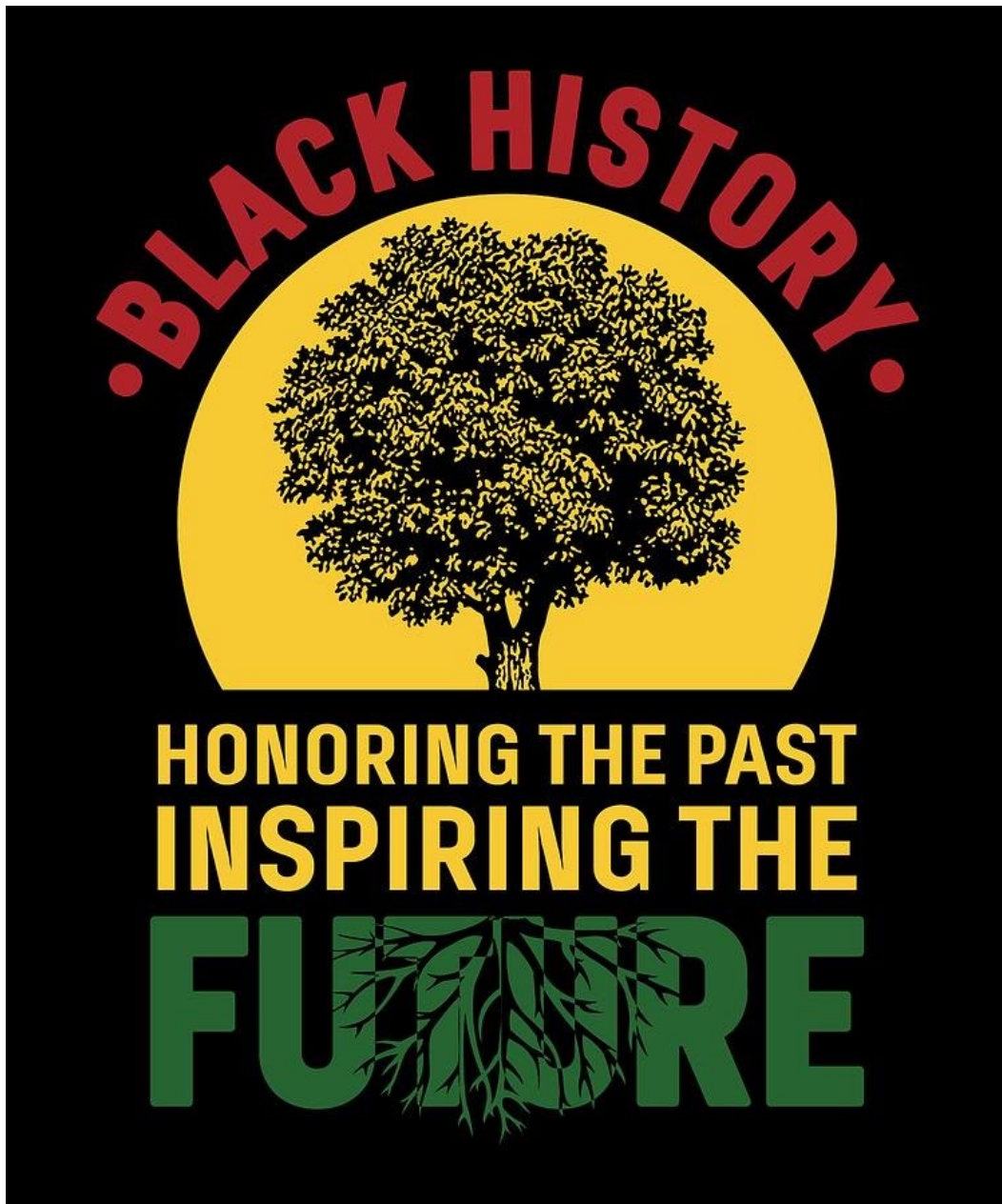
The Celebration of Black History Month at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy began and continues with various lessons and discussions highlighting the achievements of African Americans throughout our history and present day including but not limited to Civil Rights leaders, Poets, scientists and inventors, athletes, entertainers, the Harlem Renaissance, etc.



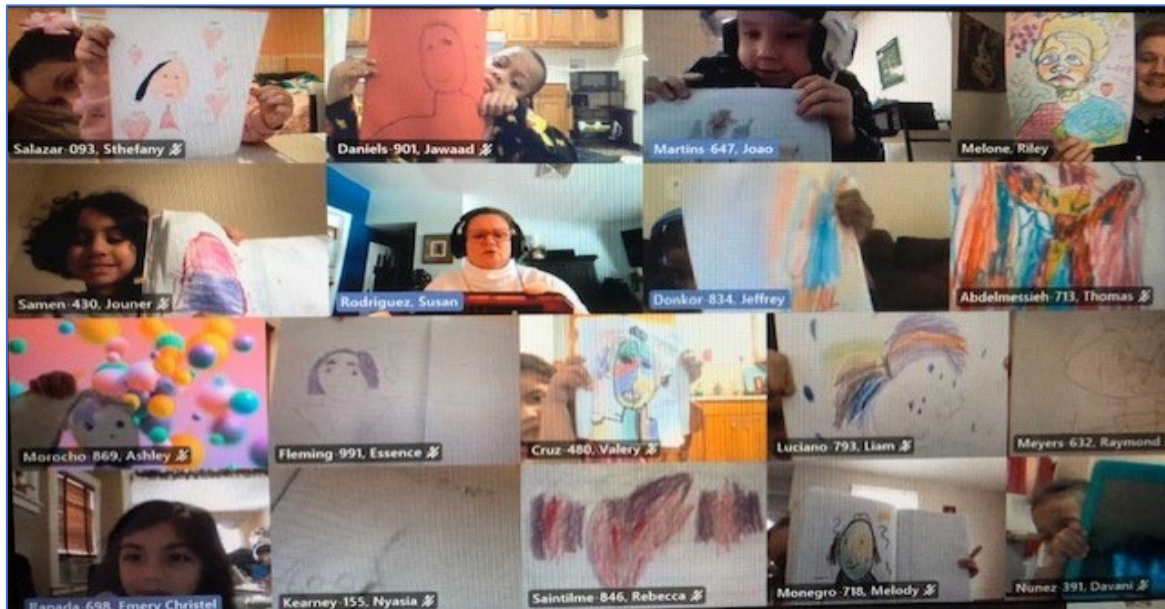
School No. 28's Black History Living Museum

February is Black History Month - a time to celebrate the many achievements, contributions, and culture of Black Americans.

With the help of your teacher, choose a Black American that you will represent in the museum. After conducting your research, record a video of yourself DRESSED as that person and speaking as though you are them (first person). Share with us your name, date of birth and what you are famous for. Be sure to include some rarely known facts about this person as well. Your video should be no longer than 2 minutes long. All videos must be submitted no later than Friday, February 19, 2021. All videos can be submitted through Flipgrid at this link: <https://flipgrid.com/6ff6155c>



School No. 29 Honor Black History Month



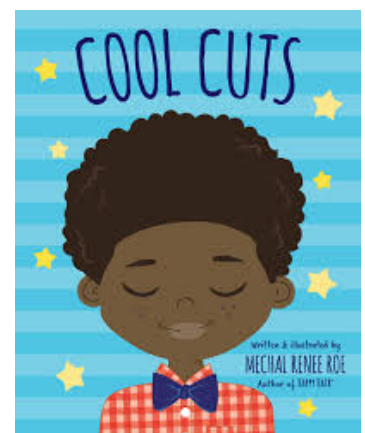
Dr. Albert Einstein School No. 29 Celebrated Black History Month by learning about the many important African American influencers and contributors through classroom discussions, student research, and art projects. Specifically, every morning our autism class highlighted a different person for black history month, watched a video and had students share something at home from any of the inventors, such as George Washington Carver who invented peanut butter, and Elijah McCoy who invented a lubrication system for trains and students displayed toy trains, as an example. First graders engaged in an 'I Have A Dream' writing on what they dream would make our world a better place. Third grade class did research and biography presentations and similarly, second graders watched several YouTube biographies and provided with a list of several Black History Influential Leaders. Students chose 5 leaders and completed Power Points and had the opportunity to present their projects in class.

Elementary art classes celebrated the art and life of Painter/artist Jean Michel Basquiat and students created lively self-portraits using symbolism and expressive lines and shapes to emulate Basquiat's style.

Special Guest Reader

Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 Celebrated Black History Month with a multitude of school wide activities, art, music, social studies, language arts, physical education, and mathematics.

The height of our celebrations was featuring Chessie Dentley Roberts who read "Cool Cuts" by Mechal Renee Roe. Mrs. Roberts read to our kindergarten, first grade, and special education classes. She was joined by her daughter Adrian Byrd. She shared her experiences with former President Obama and Michelle, Mary Bethune- Cookman, Leontyne Price, and Judith Jameson. These people were trailblazers just like Chessie.



Creating Your Own Guitar

Ms. Musheerah Harris's Pre-K classes, from **Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50**, were introduced to two black musicians, Dizzy Gillespie and Stevie Wonder. The children created instruments with recycled materials around the house and once completed put on a class virtual concert for parents. It was fun and the children loved it.



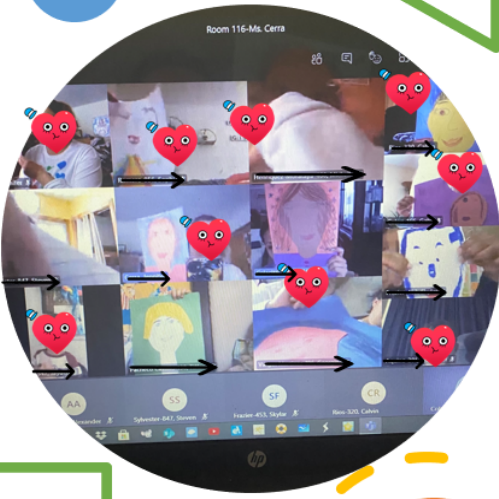
Donald Stewart ECC School No. 51

For music: The teacher will teach the students about the music Blues (a music genre^[3] and musical form which was originated in the Deep South of the United States around the 1860s^[2] by African-Americans from roots in African musical traditions, African-American work songs) and the students will be able to create their own with the help of the teacher.

A video created by two of the teachers was created and shared with teachers, parents, and students. It is about famous African-descent blacks that have made an impact on our society and the world. (The video includes pictures of formal students dresses as the famous blacks that have made the contributions.

Teachers are conducting cross-curricular instructions about famous/influential blacks (incorporating them in Math, Reading, Social Studies, Science, Music, Art). A video will be created with the students work.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ECC School No. 52



Classroom 116

February 2021

Unique In Our Own Way

During our virtual small group time, we read the book, "I Am Human" by Susan Verde. After reading the story, we had a class discussion about our similarities and differences. The story provided students the opportunity to share why they are unique and special. The students were then asked to create a self-portrait of themselves using crayons, construction paper, scissors, glue, and various collage materials (buttons, pipe cleaners, pom-poms, beads, etc.) to make facial features. This activity allowed us to communicate freely about celebrating our differences and proudly accepting ourselves and others.

Elizabeth High School- Frank J Cicarell

Black History Month Activities:

Physical Education and Health department has integrated the AMISTAD curriculum into their lessons, instead of following this more obvious strategy, we took a more complex challenge. The Amistad goal is to change the landscape for the study of United States and history by placing Africans and African Americans at the center of the narrative as agents rather than as bystanders or victims who live on the margins of the United States and the world.

Jackie Robinson lesson: This lesson targets SEL, empathy, respect, civil rights, racism, equity, and Amistad compassion. Students read articles and create a pop quiz for other students.

1968 Olympics: Students reenact the 1968 Olympics where an Olympic boycott by African American athletes began to foment on the campus of San Jose State University, where sociologist Harry Edwards desecrated the accomplishments of Black athletes amidst wider social inequity: “What value is it to a black man to win a medal if he returns to a hell in Harlem?” Lee Evans, John Carlos, and Tommie Smith – all members of the SJSU track team – were among the most vocal of the boycott’s supporters. They decided not to boycott the games, and instead used their opportunity atop the Olympic podium to make a poignant political statement. As the US national anthem played, both men averted their gaze from the rising American flag and raised their gloved fists in the air – a lasting protest abysmal human rights conditions in the US and beyond. Students also film their reactions to the event on Flipgrid.

NBA 2020 Boycott: A panel of students are created in a fishbowl style activity where they share their feelings about the horrific Jacob Blake event that triggered an NBA boycott in 2020.

African American Studies:

Students created Flipgrid videos on the Impact of Black Authors on today’s culture as well as short biographies about the authors. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

Economics:

Students watched PBS BOSS: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS

Analyzing the importance of African American entrepreneurship in the early days of American Society and the impact of African American consumerism on the economy.

English Honors:

Students attended a virtual field trip with Flip Grid. Students listened to Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson, talk about activism and the role her father played in baseball. Students will be able to make connections to the current reading *Fences*.

Drawing and Painting:

Draw/Paint 1 has a different art quote by a black artist every day in February.

Draw/Paint 2 Inspired by black artists students will be creating portraits in the style of Faith Ringgold’s quilt paintings.

Clubs:

Afro-American Society Club:

Class of 2022: A reading of the poem, *I Rise*, by Maya Angelou

Black History Month Through the Eyes Of JEDTA

During Black History Month, students and staff at **John E. Dwyer Technology Academy** participated in a variety of activities meant to showcase and highlight Black Innovators, Artists, Creators, Authors, and Musicians. Teachers across all content areas developed a variety of activities for their disciplines.

The Art department did an in-depth study on the work of Faith Ringgold and Jean-Michel. The students learned about their lives, art process, and artistic style. This culminated in students creating Faith Ringgold and Jean-Michel inspired artwork that will be combined into a collaborative Microsoft SWAY presentation in the style of a quilt.

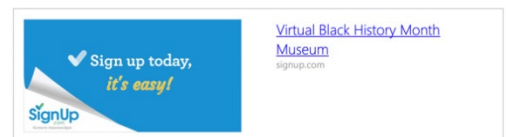
The Science department was to conduct research on notable Black scientists, who have made significant contributions to Chemistry as a science. Students were asked to give a presentation highlighting their selected Chemist's Biography, contributions to the field of Chemistry, and challenges they had to overcome. One of the activities in the English department required students to use the website Pixton to create comic strips that highlighted Notable Black men and women.

The Math department was to create a presentation detailing the achievement and contribution of "Hidden Figures" women in the fields of aeronautics, space research, and computer technology. One of the many activities in the ESL department was to research and create a media presentation on Notable black authors, poets, or playwrights.

In the Social Studies department, students participated in a virtual game of Jeopardy that focused on the Harlem Renaissance. In World Language, students were tasked with finding a daily inspirational quote from a Black man or woman. Students were then asked to read and discuss their quotes in the Target Language. The Physical Education Department focused on researching Notable Black athletes and their contributions to the community. Students were asked to put together their findings into a PowerPoint.

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

Virtual Black History Month Museum with Flipgrid Video exit slip included:



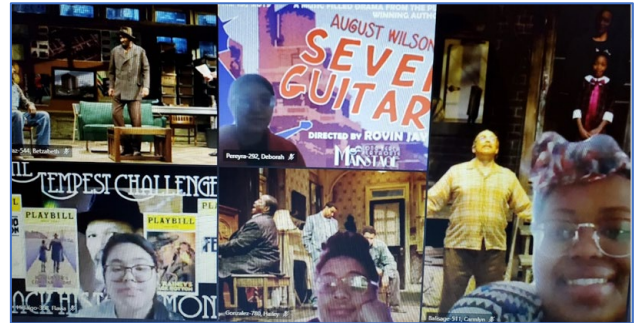
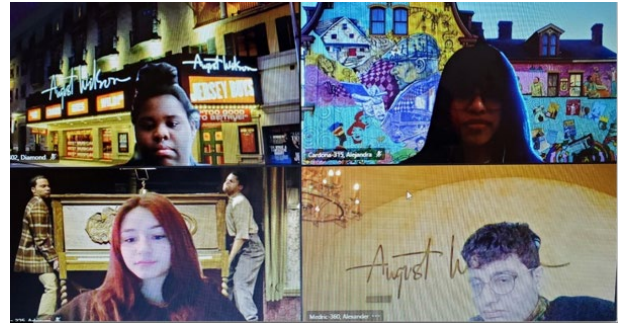
- Students read and discussed Amanda Gorman's Poetry
- Trivia Fridays- Students received trivia questions about Black Americans in history
- Researched the Harlem Renaissance and Great Migration through art, poetry, and other stories.
- Read Morgan Freeman's Views on Black History Month
- Created African American fact sheets.
- Studied African American artists and their contributions.

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Morning announcements

- Senior Kayly Hernandez has led the school in a daily announcement via social media about Black History Month. Announcements have included inspirational messages, little known facts, and biographical sketches of African Americans from throughout history.

In recognition of Black History Month, theatre students at Jefferson Arts have conducted an in-depth study of the works of August Wilson—often referred to as "theater's poet of Black America."



- Students have studied and virtually produced THE PIANO LESSON and SEVEN GUITARS. As part of these performances, students created virtual sets using background images on MS Teams and performed each play for audiences of performing arts students.

Thomas Edison Career & Technical Education Academy: Black History Month Activities

Graphic Print: Students selected an African American male or female whom through their actions or words have made a positive difference in today's world. Students wrote a brief biography and indicated their view on the positive impact they have made.

Visual Arts: Students completed an African American artist research project and presented their findings in class with a PowerPoint and personal art response to the work created by the historical artist of their choice.

Visual Arts: Students created a digital collage based on the black American artist Romare Bearden.

Visual Arts: Every Friday all art classes will high light a black artist and discuss their works in class. Artists highlighted Jacob Lawrence, Jean Michel Basquiat, Augusta Savage, Kara Walker

English: Black History Month Daily Writing Prompt – Students studied the work of Langston Hughes and analyzed “Harlem A Dream Deferred.”

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy

In the month of February, Halsey Academy highlighted notable African Americans daily in Social Studies / History classes and in other classes on a weekly basis.

Students were able to virtually visit a Black History museum in their virtual classes where they learned about advocates of Black History as well as movements in Black History.

Additionally, many team members volunteered to be “celebrity announcers” by creating videos to highlight notable African Americans, their contributions, and their impactful quotes. These Staff videos were shared on a regular basis throughout the month, and they were created for and shared with all students and Staff to increase awareness of and celebrate Black History month.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy



ALEXANDER HAMILTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH A SCHOOL-WIDE INITIATIVE. AS A SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND STAFF VIEWED A VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERS IN HISTORY. ALL AHPA CLASSES TOOK PART IN A REFLECTION WHILE DISCUSSING AND WRITING ABOUT THESE INFLUENTIAL LEADERS THAT HAVE MADE SUCH A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON OUR WORLD TODAY.

[CLICK HERE](#)



District Professional Development Day: February 22, 2021

Social Studies PD

On Monday, February 22, 2021, Social Studies teachers in grades 6-8 and Social Studies/LAL teachers 9-12 received Professional Development in the areas of the Amistad Mandate and Holocaust Remembrance Day. The session included presentations from teachers that have worked on curricular enhancements to further EPS's compliance with the Amistad mandate.

This past fall, our Amistad Curriculum Team was challenged by Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood to develop a curriculum that presents the African American experience at the center of the American experience. Lessons shared by teachers included the following:

Middle School

Daniel Sevila	African Civilizations and their Impact on Western Civilization
Rahshen Barber	The African Experience and Incorporating African American History in 7 th Grade.
Beverly Jones	Ida B. Wells, African American Women in the Suffrage Movement, The Great Migration, Marcus Garvey

High School

Jennifer Craven	The 1619 Project and Black Wall Street
Edwidge Nonez	The Gullah Culture and its Influence
Michelle Panichi	African Americans in the American Revolution, The Voice of Solomon Northrop, Breaking Bias and Criminal Justice

Finally, Social Studies teachers presented lessons that they have used in commemoration of the Holocaust. These teachers included:

Middle School

Margaret Margadonna	Every Single One Was Someone
Aracelis Sevila	Getting a Holocaust Guest Speaker for Your Classes
Beverly Jones	Working with Facing History and Ourselves/Resources/PD Opportunities, Working with the Anti-Defamation League/Resources and PD Opportunities

High School

Robert Negron	The Camps of World War II, Children's Poetry from the Holocaust
Brendon Meade	The Holocaust and AP Lessons

The Social Studies department will continue to develop curriculum in area of the Amistad Mandate and Holocaust Remembrance.

District Professional Development Day: February 22, 2021

Early Childhood Department PD

On Monday, February 22, 2021 all Pre-k teachers, CDAs, and early childhood support staff attended a Professional Development Day on “Anti-Bias Curriculum”.

All attendees watched two webinars, “Having Conversations about Race, Bias, and Equity” and “Anti-bias Lessons Help Preschoolers Hold Up a Mirror to Diversity”.

Both webinars addressed how children construct their belief system and provided fundamental ideas about how teachers can address self-identity, as early as in the preschool years.

Afterwards staff read two, NAEYC articles, “Understanding Anti-Bias Education: Bringing the Four Core Goals to Every Facet of Your Curriculum” and “Building an Anti-Bias Education Program: Clarifying and Brave Conversations with Children”.

Staff were then asked to self-reflect on their own beliefs and teaching practices and were encouraged to describe what changes they could make in their classrooms in accordance with the anti-bias framework discussed.

The culminating activity was for all teachers to create a resource about celebrating differences.

All these resources were uploaded to a shared, Pre-K library so classroom staff can utilize these activities throughout the year to address, reinforce and celebrate diversity.

Learning About Colonies

Seventh grade students at **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27** in Mrs. Johanna Garcia's Social Studies class are exploring the wants and needs of new colonies. To further their learning experience, the students created a 14th colony on Minecraft and provided a virtual tour to their classmates, pointing out the colonist's sources of food, water, government, and more!



EPS Celebrates Career and Technical Education Month

CTE Practices of EPS Teachers Featured in NJDOE CTE Podcast

The practices of five Elizabeth Public Schools teachers are featured in the New Jersey Department of Education's Career and Technical Education celebration podcast as part of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month.

The NJDOE produces a podcast named DOE Digest that focuses on statewide issues in education. The podcast, which was released on February 11, highlights CTE best practices in schools throughout the state, amplifies the voices of CTE educators, and puts a spotlight on students in CTE programs. According to the NJDOE, in New Jersey, there are currently 76,743 secondary students participating in CTE career pathways aligned to New Jersey's key industries, such as Construction & Energy, Finance, Health Care, Technology, Manufacturing, and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics.



The Elizabeth Public Schools teachers whose practices are featured in the podcast include Thomas Urban of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, Faheemah Walton of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy, Donnielle Turturro and Michael Westervelt of Edison Academy, and Alyssa Milanes of J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy.

The district's CTE department is also celebrating CTE by participating in NJ SAFE Career Exploration courses, which highlight the benefits of work-based learning as well as prepare students for entering the workforce.

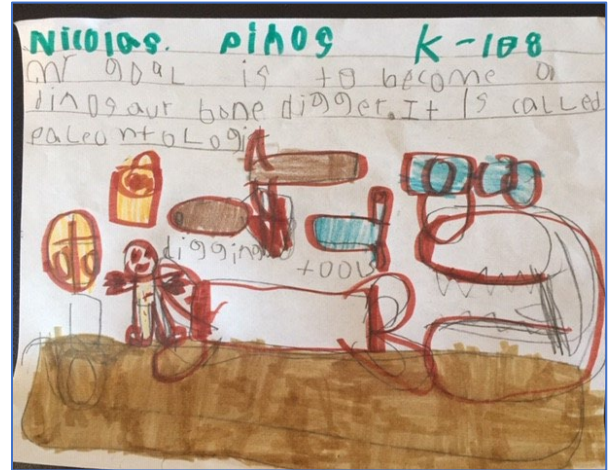
Lighting Up the New Year with Goals

Every month at **Nicholas S. La Corte – Peterstown School 3**, the Character Education Committee creates a school-wide activity for students to complete, which focuses on the character word of the month.

For the month of January, the character word focused on goal setting. Students decorated a light bulb that displayed their New Year's resolution. A short video presentation was created and shared to the school community that displayed students' 2021 goals. Every homeroom that participated received a Character Education award.



Setting Goals



Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6's students have started the year off focusing on *GOAL SETTING*. Students have attended lessons with Guidance Counselors, Daniela Damiani-Paternostro and Chanise Hurst and School Social Worker Christine Rappa. These lessons have included the concepts of defining, developing, and persevering with GOALS. The youngest students were encouraged to draw pictures of themselves achieving their goals.

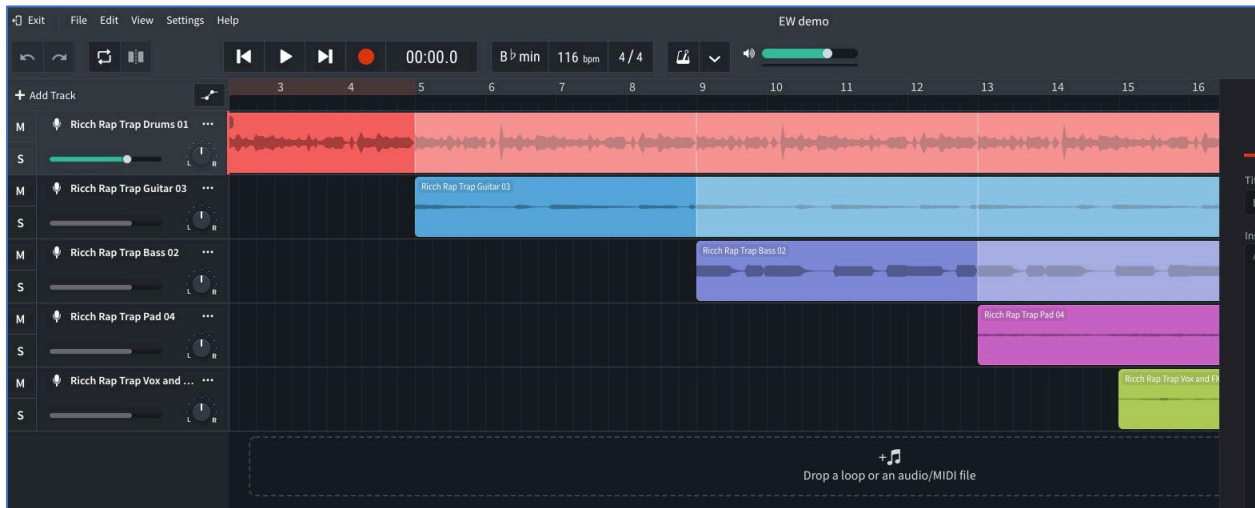
Spreading Kindness Through Art

Featured Artwork by Jaylah Goode, Grade 6 and Cheidy Rivera, Grade 7

Visual arts students at **William F. Halloran School No. 22** used their artistic talents to help spread kindness and respect throughout the school community! After reading and discussing the story, *"The Crayon Box that Talked"* by Shane DeRolf, Visual Arts Teachers Ms. Demattia and Ms. Digeronimo challenged their students to create and design their own pictures of kindness and respect. Students connected their illustrations to the theme and conveyed the true meaning of kindness and respect through their art. Once completed, all student artwork was shared in a beautiful PowerPoint to the school community.



Exploring the Music Industry



The 8th grade music students at **Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27** have taken over the music industry. Each student has chosen a career track, exploring their choice of music production, audio engineering, marketing, or label/project management, and are simulating the music business with their own songs, album covers, playlists, marketing campaigns, and contracts. Over the year, students will be able to indirectly ask questions about the industry to professionals who are currently in the business themselves.

Making Snow

Pre-K students in Ms. Margiotiello's class, from **William F. Halloran School No. 22**, explored the winter season by making "snow" at home. Ms. Margiotiello worked closely with parents in getting the materials needed for this project. Students and parents did a wonderful job in completing the task. A special thanks to Pre-K parents for doing a wonderful job being teachers at home.



EPS to Present with CALTA21, Visual Art Center of NJ at NYCMER '21 Conference

A select team of Elizabeth Public Schools bilingual (BL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers will be joining Cultures and Literacies Through Art for the 21st Century (CALTA21) and the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in presenting at the New York City Museum Education Roundtable annual conference, which will be held virtually on May 17.

The theme of this year's conference is "Reflect, Reinterpret, Represent: What's your Re__?". Presenters are asked to join in the discussion by reflecting on lessons learned and reinterpreting the fundamentals of museum education in striving towards a renewed and more representative museum field. The Conference Committee seeks presenters to represent the interests of institutions of varying size and discipline, as well as the experiences of informal education professionals at all career levels. Breakout session will include interactive, practical, and replicable content that help support educators' professional development and skill-building.



CALTA21, and the Visual Arts Center of NJ, and EPS BL/ESL teachers will focus their presentation on re-thinking and re-designing an existing community partnership program given COVID 19 - not just converting into a digital offer, but changing the theme and focus, in part because of how the new COVID and virtual learning conditions affected the students and teachers.

The mission of CALTA21 is to serve as a national model and catalyst for the self-empowerment of immigrant English language learners and their families through the development of collaborations amongst museums, institutions of formal education and literacy organizations.

The mission of Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is to nurture the capacity for personal expression, expand the creative experience, and foster stronger communities by empowering people to see, make, and learn about art.

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