

## Black History Month

**These are just a few of the events, studies, and projects our students will be working on this month, to celebrate, honor, and inform students on African American Culture and History.**

### **Technology Classes:**

They will be creating a Comic Life on an important African American person who inspires them. They will add pictures and description bubbles explaining their importance in history and explaining why that person inspires them.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade math:** Highlight African American inventors and mathematicians.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade LA/Reading:** Highlighting on the news Black History facts and PSAs. Created a Gallery Walk of Important people. Some classes will be exploring West African myths and legends and discuss how it influenced African American culture.

**Media Center:** Classes will be visiting to do research over the month for various classes

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted:** They will be highlighting author Jason Reynolds. He is a new middle school author.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies:** They will be watching short videos on famous African Americans including Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, the Buffalo Soldiers, the Tuskegee airmen, and the Civil Rights Era in the 1960s. They will be writing reflective essays as well as tackling the topic of racism and what it means to them and how it affects society. They will also create a front page newspaper describing events and people throughout history.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade LA/Reading:** We will do a unit on the civil rights movement, specifically focused on the Children's March, Maya Angelou's encounter with MLK, and Barbara Johns, a high school student who was part of Brown v. Board of Education. They will also work on an article on Emmett Till and look at poetry by Langston Hughes. They will also be reading Monster by Walter Myers in Ms. Schuh's class. In Mr. Williams' class they are reading To Kill A Mockingbird as well. Both novels include court cases that take a look at racism, racial injustice, and civil rights. They will also be looking at articles detailing the fight for justice in the 1960s. Some classes will be doing a short research project on famous African Americans.

### **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Math:**

Students will watch Hidden Figures and look at the influence in math, physics, and engineering. Some math classes will also be looking at abstract artists and how it relates to geometrical shapes.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics:**

In civics, we will be discussing how voting rights have been granted to different groups including African Americans over time. We also spend time on the civil rights movement.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra Honors and Geometry with Mrs. Olsen:** The students will be studying a group of mathematicians

**8th Grade Language Arts/Reading:** Will be covering Unit 9 in the CodeX-the Little Rock Crisis. Examining through articles, stories and videos how this school integration shaped America's educational system. Some classes will be reading *A Raisin in the Sun* and studying non-fiction texts as well. They will look at the economic, political, and social aspects that affected African Americans in the 1950s. Focus on Harlem Renaissance, looking at both black authors and artists. There will also be a focus on argumentative essay writing on the Little Rock Nine and Civil Rights. They will also watch the documentary "Eyes on the Prize."

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:** Watch *Hidden Figures* as it applies to the Laws of Motion. Also they will be highlighting scientists who contributed to current topics. Some classes will be exploring current scientists and inventions.

**Functional Unit:**

African American Scientists, Authors, and important people and their contributions

**Theater Classes:**

Students will be working on various plays and skits for the month. Each of my classes will be celebrating through in-class performances of skits, poetry, history monologue/scenes. Working on a living Wax Museum project. Introducing students to African American playwrights, writers and the History of African Americans on Broadway and their works.. 8th Graders are working on an adaptation of the Tony-Winning musical ***THE WIZ***.

**Art classes:** Students will be shown the documentary about Romare Bearden titled "The Art of Romare Bearden". We will discuss the Harlem Renaissance and Bearden's lasting legacy and influences. Students will work in groups to create a collage that depicts one of Roamer's themes introspectively. This will take 3-4 days and will take place in all classes.

2) Over the course of the month students will be introduced to 6 African American artists: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Amy Sherald, Kehinde Wiley, Jacob Lawrence, Henry Taylor, and Faith Ringold. This will take about 20 minutes in 6 different classes. The last 3-4 days of February the students will work in groups to choose one of the artists that was presented and do further research on the chosen artist. The students will read articles provided, study the artist style, and understand the content of the artist's work. On the last day each group will present the chosen artist to the class. I will have examples of these artists work displayed on a Bulletin Board in the hallway as well.