

Black History Month Activities February 2021



Listed below is a sampling of just some of the activities taking place in our schools to celebrate Black History Month.

Carrolltowne Elementary School

- Kindergarten teachers will be teaching social studies lessons on Jackie Robinson and Ruby Bridges.

Century High School

- Culture Appreciation Week will be held from February 22-26.
Monday – Thursday: Interactive After School Virtual Workshops; open county-wide
 - *Monday, Feb. 22nd 5 p.m.* – Kamdi Okonjo, South African college student and leader of an advocacy group called Africans for Africa
 - *Tuesday, Feb. 23rd 5 p.m.* – *Meet the Police: Culture, Policy and Training*
 - *Wednesday, Feb. 24th 5 p.m.* – Ntambo, professional singer and recording artist
 - *Thursday, Feb. 24th 5 p.m.* – *Virtual Watchparty – “[BSU Cultural Week Arts Showcase](#)”*
 - *Friday, Feb. 26th 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.* – *Culture Fair in Rotunda and Afrobeats Dance Workshop*
- Quotes, bios, poems and messages of historical or current figures and future disruptors, entertainers or activists in the African American community will be shared on the announcements during each school day in February and video of members reading the quote will be posted to social media.

Cranberry Station Elementary School

- Kindergarten students will listen to read alouds about Ruby Bridges, an American Civil Rights activist known for being the first African-American to attend an all-white school in New Orleans in 1960.
- First grade students will watch videos and listen to small books about Civil Rights as they talk about the leaders. They will also read a Scholastic News article about Kamala Harris. While reading text independently, students will learn about Misty Copeland, an African American ballerina following her dreams.
- Students in second grade will listen to read alouds and read text independently about slavery and the Underground Railroad. They will learn about Harriet Tubman, Henry’s Freedom Box Underground Railroad, and Civil Rights Activist Ruby Bridges’ bravery.
- Third grade students will be exploring flight while focusing on the first African American aerospace engineer and Guion Bluford, the first African American to go to space. Students will listen to read alouds and explore text independently.
- Fourth graders will research famous African American inventors and discuss the Slave Trade and the Civil Rights Movement.
- Fifth grade students will begin reading the historical novel Chains, about a 13-year-old African American slave girl in 1776 New York. The novel is set during the Revolutionary War.
- In Music, fourth graders participated in The Spoons Project in which they learned about playing the spoons in America, got to see professional Black musicians play the spoons, learned about how enslaved Africans used the spoons to continue their musical traditions after losing their right to play drums, writing poems based on the spoons and performing. Fifth graders will participate in The Banjo Project, where they learn about the history of the banjo, learn the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation, get to see professional black musicians using the banjo, and understand how the banjo in America was taken from slave culture and integrated into bluegrass.

Francis Scott Key High School

- A scavenger hunt of various household items that were invented or developed by Black Americans will be held in the FSK Culture Celebrations Google Meet on Wednesday, February 3. The student with the most points will win a \$20 gift card to Olive Garden.
- Students will participate in virtual field trips during Key time: Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Museum (Feb. 5), Frederick Douglass Driving Tour (Feb. 12), and National Museum of African American History and Culture (Feb. 19).
- The Poetry Out Loud group will discuss the significance of Amanda Gorman's moving poem "The Hill We Climb" from the Biden and Harris Inauguration on Monday, February 8. This will take place in the FSK Culture Celebrations Google Classroom on Monday, February 8.
- Colors of the Pan-African Flag Day will be held on Tuesday, February 9. Students will show off their red, black, and green clothes and accessories.
- Mrs. Gore's Drama II class will present two African folktales on Thursday, February 11.
- An advisory lesson entitled "Things Should be Better" will be presented to all students on Wednesday, February 17. Students will watch videos by Kid President and Mike Rowe and discuss ways in which we can all make a difference in our neighborhoods and communities. These ideas will hopefully then be incorporated into plans for an FSK Day of Service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day next year.
- Music that celebrates Black culture will be played during lunches on Thursday, February 18.
- The media center has created a list of books written by black authors and/or about black culture. Each student will read their book throughout February and share their thoughts with other students at a "Book Share" during Key Time on Tuesday, February 23.
- The second annual FSK African American Read-In will be held on Thursday, February 25, in the FSK Culture Celebrations Google Meet. Students will read their favorite poems or book excerpts by black authors.
- Students are submitting questions and will participate in a Black History Month Jeopardy game during Key Time on Friday, February 26. Students whose questions are selected will win a \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card.
- Students may complete a Black History Month canvas painting kit to be displayed in the school lobby.
- Displays throughout the school will feature artwork by second semester art students and highlight the contributions of African American scientists.
- Photos and updates on these events will be posted daily on FSK's Twitter (@CCPS_FSKEagles and @CCPSShannonZepp) and Instagram (mediafsk).

Freedom Elementary School

- First grade students will watch spotlight videos at the beginning of every class.
- In fifth grade Humanities, students will be doing a research project about a famous African American with biography and quotes. Their projects will be posted around the school.
- African American scientists, engineers, and inventors will be spotlighted each day with a 3-5 minute video. Students will contribute to a shared Jamboard with facts about the person of the day, printing it out and posting it for a display.
- The media specialist has created a series of informational videos highlighting important African American figures from past history and today. The videos will be shared twice a week on the morning news during the month of February.
- Also in media, students in fourth and fifth grades recently wrapped up a biography/autobiography unit that allowed them to choose an important figure from the past to research. Second and third graders will participate in a similar activity in the coming weeks.
- Music classes will be highlighting African American composers and musicians.

Hampstead Elementary School

- Kindergarten students will be reading Ron's Big Mission by Rose Blue. This is a true story of one of the astronauts who became part of the crew on Spaceship Challenger. He was able to change the unfair law that

only white people could borrow books from the library in his community. He was only 9 when he stood up for his beliefs.

- Kindergarten, first, and second grades will have a read-along lesson with The Colors of Us that will be continued with an art project creating hands that represent each student.
- Third, fourth, and fifth graders will participate in a book club discussing The Boy at the Back of the Class.
- Students in the autism class will be learning about a different famous African American each week of the month of February (Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Ruby Bridges, and Martin Luther King, Jr.). They will be reading text, watching informational videos, and completing a poster using the theme "I Can Change the World with My Words" in which students will pick a short phrase/word describing how they feel they can change the world or rise above.
- Pre-K students watched a video about Martin Luther King, Jr. and shared stories about how to be kind to one another.
- There will be a "Kahoot" game regarding African American history during the virtual assembly at the end of the second quarter.
- The reading specialist is planning an African American Read-In activity.

Liberty High School

- This year, Liberty High School will be celebrating Black History month by exploring our National Parks which honor, celebrate, and remember the contributions of African Americans. They will be using a video called "Twenty and Odd" made by the National Park Service as the starting point in the journey. Students will watch the video, explore symbols and connections to Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise", and explore 4 National Parks each week extended over 4 weeks. They will dedicate the 4 Advisory lessons on Wednesdays to this study. Some of these parks are located in Maryland, and to encourage COVID-friendly family learning, students might be inspired to visit some of our national parks and learn more about our African American history.

Linton Springs Elementary School

- The 5th grade ELA team regularly includes a meaningful quote at the beginning of its daily slide show. For the month of February, quotes from African Americans such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Mohammad Ali, Oprah, the Obamas, and more will be featured.
- The 4th grade team will be reading informational text on African Americans, which is part of the curriculum: inventors, pioneers in space, and activists for change and justice.
- Third grade STEM teachers will be reading from What Color is My World? The Lost History of African American Inventors throughout the month.
- Instruction related to African American music is not designated to any particular month. The regular repertoire includes African American children's songs and games, a concentrated unit on the development of Jazz music from the African experience, the African American spiritual as code songs for the Underground Railroad, and the African American Spiritual and Folk Music that was a large part of the Civil Rights movement.
- Kindergarten students will learn about Ruby Bridges.

Manchester Elementary School

- A bulletin board inspired by Amanda Gorman's Inaugural poem will be on display.
- Quotes from notable African Americans will be featured daily on the announcements.
- Collaborative posters with notable quotes that align with the daily quotes will be provided.
- Teachers will be provided with resources such as interactive slides and linked resources to share books with students.
- Book talks featuring books by African American authors will be offered to staff through the Equity Team.

Manchester Valley High School

- Business classes will share a lesson on Vernon Jordan, known as the "Rosa Parks of Wall Street."

- MVHS Black Student Union advisors and students will be meeting virtually with the Carroll County NAACP during February.
- Famous African Americans will be featured on morning announcements.
- A Dance class unit will focus on African American dance, the diversity of Africa, and the famous African American dancers who brought cultural dance styles to America.
- English classes are sharing lessons on the first Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, and on her poem, *The Hill We Climb*. This poem is especially useful as ninth graders are taught to connect to archetypes and our collective heroic journeys as we face adversity and seek transformation. The English 9 students also read *The Secret Life of Bees* and supplemental texts by African American poets. The students researched allusions to famous African Americans and events of the Civil Rights era featured in the novel.

Mt. Airy Elementary School

- Fourth graders will be starting their next novel, Eliza's Freedom Road, in mid-February. The novel tells the story of Eliza, a slave, and her journey to find freedom during the 1850s.
- Fifth grade students will start the novel Chains, which focuses on the life of a slave in Colonial America.
- Classes will be assigned a research project on famous African Americans using resources from PebbleGo.
- The picture book 28 Days will be used to share information about famous Africans daily on the school's stream.

Runnymede Elementary School

- First grade students will learn what Black History Month is and have lessons on Martin Luther King, Jr., Barack Obama, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, and Kamala Harris. They will conclude their lessons by doing research projects on African Americans who have made contributions in many fields, including athletics, Civil Rights, explorers, inventors, business leaders, scientists, politicians, and the arts.
- Art classes will have lessons featuring Black artists: portraits with Amy Sherald and Kehinde Wiley, landscapes with Horace Pippin and Grandma Moses, and quilts with the Gee Bend community in Alabama.
- Second graders will continue inferring feelings and character traits using biographies to celebrate the month.
- Fifth grade students are reading and discussing an article on inventor George Washington Carver.
- Health classes will read a book called Patricia's Vision about Ruby Bridges and a book about Jackie Robinson. At the end of the month, students will make a quilt square out of paper that will be used to make a quilt on a bulletin board.

Sandymount Elementary School

- A "Hero a Day" slide show will highlight important African Americans throughout history. This PowerPoint can be displayed each morning or before each lesson to get students excited and engaged in conversation. There will also be a bulletin board highlighting each hero.
- Each grade level will have access to research projects about important people in African American history. The research will include reading biographies and using county resources such as PebbleGo and BrainPOP Jr./BrainPOP and digital resources created by the media specialist. At the end of the research, students will be able to select a person and create a project.

Shiloh Middle School

- "Did You Know" segments will be shared as announcements for students.
- Staff members will participate in professional development.

South Carroll High School

- Movies with Black actors will be featured during lunch.
- Students will listen to 18 songs, artists, and albums.
- A bulletin board by the cafeteria will feature a timeline with important people and events.

- The Book Club and Diversity Club will begin reading the book So You Want to Talk About Race.
- Inspiring quotes will be read on the morning announcements.
- Members of the Student Government Association will read the announcements.
- The media center will share social media posts.

Spring Garden Elementary School

- Students will continue lessons and activities focusing on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Students in grades K-2 will learn songs during music classes.
- Students in grades Pre-K-4 are reading biographical text, responding to reading, and discussing how we can help Dr. King with his “dream” of one day all people can live together in friendship and peace.

Westminster Elementary School

- Kindergarten classes have read and discussed literature and books and Pebble Go on Martin Luther King, Jr. and shared and discussed books by African American authors (Ezra Jack Keats and Donald Crews) that showcase African American characters. They are currently learning American symbols and what it means to live and be free in America regardless of race.
- Second graders will learn about famous African Americans by reading and discussing short biographies. At the end of the month, students will complete an informational writing piece on one of the people they learned about during the month.
- All 3rd grade classes did a lesson about the One Room Colored Schoolhouse in Sykesville. The lesson included a video of former students from the school sharing their accounts as children. Discovery Ed clips have also been shown on Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Fifth grade students are using multimedia explorations to learn about colonization and slavery. They also are participating in small group readings on historic influential African Americans.
- The media specialist will present a lesson on the history of the Coretta Scott King Literature Award from the American Library Association and read one of the picture book nominees.
- In art classes, students at each grade level are learning about different Black artists throughout the month: PreK, Frank Bowling and Julie Mehretu; 1st grade, Jean Michel Basquiat and Alma Thomas; 2nd grade, Romare Bearden and Faith Ringgold; 3rd grade, Horace Pippin and Minnie Evans; and 5th grade, Jacob Lawrence and Kara Walker. Students also will learn about Clementine Hunter and Monica J. Beasley and connect their artwork to Valentine’s Day.
- A teacher will be bringing in African American baseball memorabilia to put in the cafeteria showcases for the month.

Westminster High School

- A science meme about an African American inventor or scientist will be shared with science classes every day.
- The Concert Choir is singing an African American spiritual and discussing the history of the genre. Honors Festival Chorus is singing *A Change Is Gonna Come* by Sam Cooke and learning about his contributions to the Civil Rights movement. All chorus groups are watching a short video about the song *We Shall Overcome*.
- Business classes will study Black Americans in the accounting profession.
- LFI classes will share daily inspirations featuring famous African Americans from history and different fields. They also will read books from a Black History Month library.
- Daily announcements will highlight successful African American individuals.
- Specific lesson plans will be used within social studies classes
- A display featuring the history of African American baseball is being created.

Winters Mill High School

- Digital scavenger hunts will be held each week during Advisory. Students also will receive a list of Black History events in Maryland.

- Brief “read-in” videos will be featured during morning announcements.
- Each content area will highlight an African American who did work in his/her respective field.
- A bulletin board in the main hallway will highlight influential people relevant to content areas. The goal is to educate students, share information, and have a physical representation in the school for students to celebrate.
- Daily vocal and written announcements will celebrate the month.
- Black History Month pins will be distributed to all staff.
- The focus for the first week of February will be on the PBS.org video “Say It Loud.” Students will discuss why we celebrate Black History Month.
- During the second week, students will study poems by Amanda Gorman, including “The Hill We Climb” from the Inauguration and “The Miracle of Morning.”
- Week 3 will focus on black-owned businesses.
- During week 4, students will explore a variety of sites, including Black History in Maryland and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- The school will hold its first African American read-in on February 26. Students will read works by Black artists.

2/3/21