



MSCS HONORS

BLACK

HISTORY MONTH

HONOR THE PAST, SEE THE FUTURE

**2024
TOOLKIT**

MSCS HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Memphis-Shelby County Schools is
EXCITED to celebrate the central role of
African Americans in U.S. History and
across the world.

We're elated to **HONOR THE PAST**
triumphs, forged in integrity, innovation,
artistry, determination, and leadership.

We're encouraged to **SEE THE FUTURE**,
taking action to build our hope on
excellence, inspiration, artistry, and
diligence.



Outreach Strategies

We want YOU to share your excitement during Black History Month and throughout the school year. Below you can find tips for communicating with your families.



- Engage with families by sending home event reminders, facts, affirmations, etc.
- Know your audience - identify your families, students, and staff.
- Take time to share what makes your school unique.
- Go mobile - Connect with your families online.
- Collaborate and partner with local organizations to support connections with students and their families.

"It's Black History Month!"

Click to download
English/Spanish
Texts



Click to download
English/Spanish
Robocall Scripts

"We look forward to seeing you at some of our events!"

"Let's join in to celebrate and honor Black History Month ..."

Click to download
English/Spanish
Email Scripts





Social Media



Follow our District social media pages each day
as we engage our community.

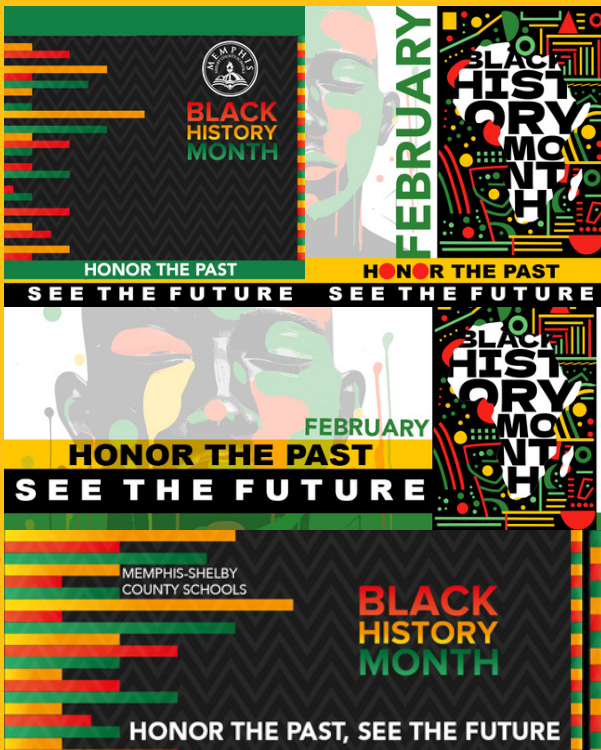
- **Mondays** - Honor the Past: If we do not learn from our history, we are doomed to repeat it. This year, we honor those who strategically and courageously laid the foundation upon which the legacy of MSCS thrives.
- **Wednesdays** - See the Future: We've come too far to stop now! We will celebrate the movers, shakers, and history makers.
- **Fridays** - Living the Legacy: (Hall of Fame Fridays) We will highlight legacy MCS and SCS graduates inducted into the MSCS Alumni Hall of Fame.



Tuesdays and Thursdays are YOUR time to shine!
How will YOU Honor the Past & See the Future?

Black History Month Graphics

Web banners and social media graphics have been shared with your webmasters.



Quotes

The quotes below are from Black writers, educators, and history makers. Feel free to draw inspiration, expound upon, or share with students and families during Black History Month.



"If you think you are leading and turn around to see no one following, then you are just taking a walk."
- Dr. Benjamin Hooks



"I want you to realize your voice matters."
- Angie Thomas



"I've achieved 'the American dream.' I feel it's my duty to help others achieve their vision, too - especially the youth."
- Joe Frazier



"Even in dark times, we not only dream, we do. We not only see what has been, we see what can be."
- Kamala Harris



"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."
- Ida B. Wells



"The time is always right to do what is right."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."
- Dr. Maya Angelou



"To be afraid is to behave as if the truth were not true."
- Bayard Rustin



"I knew then and I know now that, when it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it. You can't sugarcoat it."
- Claudette Colvin



"The Black church has been the conscience of America."
- Rev. Raphael Warnock

Black History Month Events

Check Out Upcoming Events this Month!



Sock Drive

Drop-off Location: Equity & Access, Attn: Dr. Michael Lowe - 160 S. Hollywood

Deadline: Feb. 23

The Equity & Access office will partner with Band of Brothers and nine (9) MSCS high schools to collect and distribute socks at three senior living facilities in the Mid-South.

"In slavery, the very act of learning to read had become a secret form of resistance, but in its aftermath freedpeople transformed the act of being literate from a clandestine act to one of life's necessities."

- Andrea Williams (Historian)

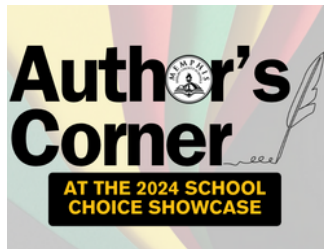
Author's Corner

During the School Choice Showcase

Memphis Sports & Events Center

Feb. 3, 2024 | 11 am - 2 pm

Students & families can fall in love with literacy by meeting and talking with authors who are native to and have an impact on MSCS.



For more school events, visit the MSCS Newsroom!

VIRTUAL VOTE: BHM and the Arts

Door Decor Contest

Kate Bond MS

[Click here to view & vote](#)

Winner Announced Feb. 23 | 9:30 am

In her book, *Becoming*, Michelle Obama wrote, "For every door that's been opened to me, I've tried to open my door to others. And here is what I have to say, finally: Let's invite one another in." Kate Bond MS invites you to celebrate the month with them online by gazing at their artistic homages to Black History!

Who am I?

A.B. Hill ES

Feb. 29 | 1:30 pm

Celebrate with A.B. Hill as they display their theme "Honoring the past, fighting for the present, securing the future."

Living Museum

Fox Meadows ES

Feb. 29 | 10 am - 11 am

Walk through this school's 'museum' where the historical figures come to life!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



2024



PRIORITY 1

EQUITY AND ACCESS BHM FINE ARTS CONTEST

Our Theme for Black History Month Is

" Black History makes me hopeful because..."

- Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.
- Students participate in the appropriate division for their grade: **(Grades 3-5), (Grades 6-8), (Grades 9-12)**, Special Artist (All grades welcome). Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may enter in the Special Artist Division or grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities.*



Charles Watson, Founder

SPONSOR

Contest Runs **Jan. 30 - Feb. 16**. Winners will be announced on **Feb.19**.

Email to : ourboysneedus@scsk12.org OR

Mail to : **Equity & Access Attn M. Lowe 160 S. Hollywood, Memphis, TN 38112**

PRIORITY 2

PARTNERSHIP WITH LITERACY MID-SOUTH TO IMPROVE LITERARY GENIUS



All students, schools, and families are encouraged to **read and share books that showcase Black contributions and beliefs** for liberation and cultivating genius.

PRIORITY 3

MOBILIZE FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Equity & Access office will partner with Band of Brothers and nine (9) MSCS high schools to **collect and distribute socks at three senior living facilities in the Mid-south.**

Sock Drop-Off Location:

Equity & Access Attn M. Lowe 160 S. Hollywood Memphis, TN 38112

MSCS EQUITY & ACCESS OFFICE PRESENTS

LIFT EVERY VOICE



CELEBRATING

BLACK EXCELLENCE & MOVEMENT IN SONG

FEB. 26

6PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2835 BROAD AVE

SPONSORED BY



SchoolSeed



LITERACY
MID-SOUTH

Black History Month Events



Super Saturday Brooks Museum

Feb. 3, 2024 | 10 am - 12 pm

Families are invited to enjoy free admission, art, and art activities! Explore the painting techniques of Black artists in the collection like Sam Gilliam and Rashid Johnson to make your own masterpiece in the studio!



**Memphis
Brooks
Museum
of Art**



MoSH

**“Portraits of Black Memphians” Art Contest
MSCS student submissions will be displayed**

Everyday People: Snapshots of the Black Experience Memphis Museum of Science & History During the Month of February

Visit an original exhibition of historical photographs of twentieth-century African American men, women, and families. Historical photographs give modern viewers a mysterious glimpse into the lives of African-Americans from the 1900-1950s.

Every weekend in February | 11 am & 1:30 pm

MoSH will offer a preview presentation of its African-American History Trail program focused on the lives and influence of Black Memphians throughout the City's history.

Black History Month Events



BLACK HISTORY MONTH MSCS SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Feb. 1-29

During Black History Month, NCRM can offer teachers \$3 off admission. They simply should show their MSCS badge on arrival. For MSCS teachers who book in advance online, they should use the promo code **"MSCSTEACHERS"**. We have an evergreen teacher discount of \$2 off all year.

I AM THE LEGACY POETRY COMPETITION

The **I AM The Legacy Poetry Competition** is a chance for teenagers to win cash prizes for original poetry submitted by video and the winners will perform at the museum during the **April 4** commemoration.

EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

free teacher workshops coming up, the first one being on **February 17** entitled **"Pedagogy of the Activated: Approaches to Inspiring Student Agency."** See our website for the **schedule of teacher workshops** here through **April 7**, along with ways educators receive professional development hours in PLZ for completed workshops.

BEYOND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MSCS teachers, especially social studies or history teachers, may schedule our museum educator to speak with classrooms or assemblies about civil rights history or social justice topics. Contact Dory Lerner at **dlerner@civilrightsmuseum.org**. There are also **educator resources** on our website.



88.5FM The Voice of MSCS turns 50! We're Celebrating All Year Long!

Memphis is known for its music, but MSCS continues to uphold a rich legacy of communication, culture, and collaboration!

Did you know that WQOX is one of only a handful of school-district-owned and operated FM radio stations in the country?

Tune in, send your well wishes, and set your dial to join the ongoing party!

Partner with Local Organizations

[National Civil Rights Museum](#)

[Ernest Withers Museum](#)

[Tom Lee Park](#)

[WDIA](#)

[WKNO](#)

[Civil Rights Trail](#)

QUICK
LINKS

For Staff:

HR Black History Weekly Trivia

Teacher Weekly (Every Wednesday in February)

Employees will test their Black History knowledge in one of the District's weekly publications.

Secure the Chalk PLZ #71432 (February session)

This Professional Development course includes understanding and valuing the cultural backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of students in urban environments. Help educators create inclusive and engaging learning environments that resonate with their students. Register in PLZ.

Movies:

Hidden Figures
Soul

The Princess and the Frog
Ruby Bridges

The Color of Friendship
The Great Debaters
Remember the Titans



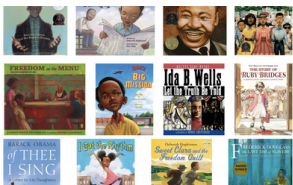
Living History Mural



Create a mural that illustrates key moments in Black History in education, such as the Little Rock Nine, the Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary efforts to close the achievement gap.

Black History Scavenger Hunt

Create a scavenger hunt that guides students through the school and community to learn about the history of Black History in education, and the actions being taken today to support Black students.



Book Club

Organize a book club for elementary students to read and discuss literature on Black History in education, such as "The Freedom Writers" or "March: Book One."

Wall of Quotes

Create a wall of inspirational quotes from Black historical figures. Students may choose to create visuals to accompany the quotes and then display them to families.





Resources

Band of Brothers

The **Band of Brothers** mentoring program is dedicated to supporting male students in grades 5-8 throughout the school year; not just for Black History Month!



Living the Legacy

Have students research and create a presentation on a member of the MSCS Alumni Hall of Fame to help students learn not only *Black* History, but Black Memphis History. **[View the HOF here.](#)**

Equity in Action

Create a **social action project** where students come up with ways they can support Black student equity (and equality) in their school and community.



Poetry of Black History

Encourage students to **write poems or songs** about Black historical figures, landmarks, and/or events and share them at a school event.

Art of Activism

Have students **create art pieces** that reflect our mission to Honor the Past & See the Future. You can display them in a school-wide exhibition!



Letter Writing Campaign

Encourage students to **write letters** to their elected officials, advocating for more resources and support for Black students and education equality.



Middle School Teacher Resources



- Create a timeline of important events and figures in Black History in innovation.
- Read and discuss books by Black authors that explore themes including the push for equality, such as *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis or *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.
- Watch and discuss documentary films such as "13th" or "I Am Not Your Negro," which explore the intersection of race and its impact on current social structures.
- Organize a field trip to a historic site related to Black History in education, such as the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.
- Invite a guest speaker from a Black student organization or a local Black-led organization to speak about their work in promoting educational equity.
- Create a visual art project that reflects on the theme.
- Research and present on the current state of educational opportunities for Black students.





High School Teacher Resources

- Create a **podcast or radio show** that explores Black History in education and interviews current historians and activists about their experiences and perspectives.
- Create a **virtual reality experience** that allows users to explore historical sites and learn about the Civil Rights Movement and desegregation.
- Write a **play or musical** that tells the story of Black history in education and the fight for desegregation.
- Create a **quilt or mural** that showcases the contributions of Black educators and activists in the fight for equality.
- Organize a **photo exhibit** that highlights the experiences of Black Memphians in the struggle for desegregation.
- Host a **poetry slam or spoken word event** that encourages students to express their thoughts and feelings about the theme.
- Develop a **social media campaign** that raises awareness about the ongoing impact of Black history in innovation.



Image: 360° Tour of National Museum of African American History