



Board of Education

TO: BOE
FROM: Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
DATE: 1/19/2023
RE: D33 Schools Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This memo is:

- Information only.
 Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
 Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: _____

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated. _____
 or attached to this memo

Basic information:
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday in the United States honoring the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement to end racial segregation. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the third Monday of January each year, which is closest to January 15, the King's birthday. This year it is celebrated on Monday, January 16th.
Background or historical information:
Martin Luther King, Jr. was the most influential of African American civil rights leaders during the 1960s. He was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, facilities, and employment, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the only three people who have national holidays in the USA, the other two are Christopher Columbus and George Washington. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The bill that established the holiday was signed by President Ronald Reagan on November 2, 1983. As of the year 2000, all of the states officially recognize the holiday.
Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:
We celebrate and honor his life in our schools to ensure that students understand the importance of his legacy for children everywhere. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.
Information:
Below is a summary of activities that are held to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday on January 15th.

We include examples of heroes, including Martin Luther King Jr., in our January review of Unit 1 and 2. We explore with students what it means to be kind and help one another. Students participate in acts of kindness in their classrooms and around the school. We will reference MLK and other heroes who have given us examples of kindness and service to each other.

Gary

Kindergarten: We will read a story, have a class discussion, and do a related craft.

1st grade:

2nd Grade: We will watch a Brainpop Jr. video on Martin Luther King and/ or do a read aloud on MLK, Jr. And follow up with an activity.

3rd Grade: We will learn about the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Then we will read Change Sings/ Let the children March.

4th Grade: We will watch a short video about "I have a dream" speech following a short activity.

5th Grade: We will watch a video and read an article about Martin Luther King. After, students will reflect with some guided questions.

Specials: All students will learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through age appropriate songs.

Currier

Kinder: Students will watch a Brainpop Jr. video introducing MLK. Caring School Community meeting: Being fair and MLK Journal entry: What do you know about Martin Luther King Jr.? Coloring page: MLK Count by 10's in math: MLK

1st grade: Will be watching the Discovery Streaming video, "Our Friend Martin". Students will turn and talk about powerful images and topics presented in the video. They will discuss how they would feel if they lived during that time.

2nd Grade: Will read and discuss a book on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and watch a short Reading Rainbow video on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. We will be discussing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream and students will write sentences about their own dreams.

3rd Grade: We will be completing a KWL chart in small groups based on the life of Dr. King. Students will be reading a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. biography passage and responding to some comprehension questions before completing the What I learned portion of the KWL. Students will also have the opportunity to cut, read, and color a book about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

4th Grade: During our literacy block the fourth grade will read several articles from ReadWorks.Org and Super Teacher that we can use during guided reading or shared reading as well as a short video clip from BrainPop about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life.

5th Grade: Discuss the Civil Rights Movement: Montgomery Bus Boycott, Brown vs. Board of Education, Sit-Ins, and issues occurring today that involve civil rights in America. Draw and Write: Famous African Americans. Teachers will Read Aloud, The Story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s. life. The team will include a BrainPop activity on Martin Luther King.

Turner

Kindergarten: The team celebrated with books and videos about Dr. King and his lasting impact on our country.

1st: The team used a mixture of Seesaw activities, books and videos to discuss and celebrate the life of Dr. King. One teacher also shared her personal photos from where she has been to his boyhood home, his memorial in Washington D.C. and the place from which he gave the "I Have a Dream" speech at the Washington Monument.

2nd: The team read the Scholastic News which featured articles focused on the life and work of Dr. King. They also used a Dr. King choice board in SeeSaw so students had the chance to learn about him independently. They have also done class read-alouds. These included biographies on other important African Americans too.

3rd: The team completed many read- alouds with their students on the topic of MLK and his life and work.

4th: The team utilized the MLK Brainpop as a way to inform their students about who MLK was. They also did an MLK read aloud.

5th: The team focused on using books and videos to teach about Dr. King. One teacher taught a two week unit on Civil Rights that covered the Montgomery Bus Boycott and continued until 1968. They completed writing assignments and a test to assess the learning.

SEL: Our SEL teacher and the SEL committee chose the word tolerance for January's SEL word of the month in order to tie in with Dr. King. They have discussed how it is okay to be angry but that you must have an appropriate response. She

compared Dr. King's speeches and marches to the events at the capitol on January 6th. She also taught that Dr. King's dreams were his goals and worked with the students on writing their own SMART goals.

Whole School: We will celebrate the whole week of January 17th. There will be special announcements on Friday, January 22nd about the life and legacy of Dr. King. It will include a fun song to sing to remember his significance. We will also be engaging in a school wide conversation about how MLK was not alone in his fight for justice. We will bring in Muhammad Ali into the conversation as the state of Illinois has passed a law to celebrate him.

Pioneer

Kindergarten: The Kindergarten team will be doing integrating activities where students learn about Martin Luther King Jr with a variety of activities including Read Alouds, Literacy, Art, and Math. Teachers sent supplies home for students to make their projects.

1st Grade: Students read the story *Feliz Cumpleanos Martin Luther King and El Dia de Martin Luther King Jr*. Teachers will discuss with students the importance of accomplishments in life and what Dr. Martin Luther King accomplished in his life. They will also discuss the potential of all the great things they (students) can do to make a difference in our society and their dream is never too big. Another class will make an "I Have a Dream..." project. We will read a book and write "our dream", we will also have take home books for students

2nd grade: We watch a variety of videos, conduct independent research on Epic, and present to the class using Seesaw. We also view the movie "My Friend Martin" throughout the week.

3rd grade: I have a book by Faith Ringold on Dr. King and will do a writing activity. Students will also be watching videos and reading books about Dr. King's message and his life.

4th grade: 4th grade will be learning about MLK and other Civil Rights leaders, then comparing and contrasting their work. We will end the study on how their work applies to our own lives.

5th grade: 5th grade will watch a video on MLK's life and accomplishments. Using the information from the video, students will make a collage with words that describe him as a change maker.

Art: will read: *Who was Martin Luther King Jr* by Lisbeth Kaiser.

Music: Grade levels will look at music that relates to MLK and his message of peace and equality.

Library: We are going to be listening to the book "Let the Children March". We will be completing activities in regards to civil rights, what we can do to make our space a respectful and peaceful environment, and the small things we can do to make a difference, no matter how small! The grade levels have different activities.

Indian Knoll

In Music Class students learned/reviewed the song "Sing about Martin" with American Sign Language, read aloud "We Shall Overcome, The Story of a Song," watched an excerpt from his "I Have a Dream" speech, and discussed his work for equal rights.

Kindergarten Read aloud - *Feliz Cumpleanos, Martin Luther King Jr./Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King Jr*. Then completed the white/brown egg experiment (different colors on the outside, but same on the inside) with students.

First Grade Read the book by Brad Meltzer's *I am Martin Luther King Jr* to read to the students and have a discussion of the text and provide them a better understanding of why they get a day off of school the following Monday!

Second Grade MLK read aloud: *Martin's Big Words* followed by MLK Brainpop video!

Third Grade watch a brainpop video and do a writing activity for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day and have a writing activity regarding their own dreams for the future.

Fourth Grade Will present slides that teach about MLK and then the students will do a writing activity.

Fifth Grade Watched a video on MLK and reflected on what we would want our legacy to be.

Wegner

Kinder - Whole class booklet Martin L. King & vocabulary activities, and "w" questions.

First - Whole class story: *Young Martin Luther King Jr*. by Mattern, take-home booklet: *Martin Luther King*

Second - Scholastic News article, movie, and vocabulary about Martin Luther King and heroes. Write *I Have a Dream...*

Third - Reading comp about MLK, poem and word scramble for keywords. Reading comp on MLK

Fourth - Read aloud: *Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.?* (biography). Additional activities on Seesaw to support the read aloud

Fifth - Collaborative mural of Martin Luther King in the fifth-grade hallway. Analysis of “Life’s Blueprint Speech”- Martin Luther King’s Speech to a middle school. Students will create their own speech on their own life goal(s). Various articles through Brainpop to introduce key events during Martin Luther King’s life.

LMS

6th grade SEL students are learning about bias, bullying, and prejudice. They will be discussing how Dr. Martin Luther King worked for justice and equality in the face of terrible prejudice. They will connect his actions to steps that can be taken now, in 2021, to confront bias and bullying.

7th Grade students will meet in the library and students will have the opportunity to choose 1 station activity which they would like to partake in that relates to the life of Martin Luther King. The stations are as follows:

Station 1- VR Experience- Students will take virtual visits through the Civil Rights Museum.

Station 2- Read Aloud with Mrs. Kennedy-Students

Station 3- Poetry analyzation and creation- Students will analyze or create poetry about Martin Luther King

Station 4- Activist Posters-Students will create an activist poster for a social issue they are passionate about

8th Grade In ELA Students are studying rhetorical devices in Martin Luther King’s speeches and letters and crafting arguments about the most influential Civil Rights leaders of our time. This includes analyzing the author’s purpose and point of view behind their work and writing. in Social Studies, specifically for MLK Jr. Day, we will be taking a virtual field trip to the MLK Jr. Memorial in Washington DC. We will also reflect as a class on the opportunities to serve the community on MLK Jr. Day and how to live out his message in our everyday lives.

School-wide A library display will honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King. Morning announcements will feature his quotes and will relate to our Leman Values.

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?:

While we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in January every year, our curriculum also acknowledges the numerous achievements of African Americans throughout history. As well, our curriculum includes anti-bias education through the social justice standards in our social-emotional learning curriculum. Social justice and anti-bias education should not be an annual event but an ongoing opportunity to teach our students skills in collaboration, problem solving and taking action toward a more just and peaceful world