



NSPDK NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021



2021 is Here!

WHEW! OHHHH MY! SIGH! HOORAY! WOW! HALLELULAH!

Although January 1, 2021 is just one day later than December 31, 2020, we wake up with great anticipation for newness of life and a grand burst of excitement and joy. You want to sing, dance, call friends, eat the traditional foods, and carry out other family traditions. It is New Year's Day! The words above are words to express unexplainable feelings after a year of uncertainties. Maybe you feel like 2020 is over, but many of the things that weighed us down remain with us into the next day! Yes, into the next year! I need not write them or remind you of what they were, because there is something about the New Year that gives us HOPE as we leave unpleasant memories in the past!

January 2021 is packed with much anticipation of unprecedented events. We are waiting patiently to welcome the 46th President and Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on January 20, 2021, a history making team in more ways than one. For African Americans, there were three Presidential elections of years past that gave us a glimpse of what January 20th will look and feel like. Many of you probably do not remember when Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm of New York ran for President of the United States in 1972 as a Democrat. That was a milestone. Although we knew that she would not win because she was not the party favorite, it was still paving the way for the possibility of January 20th, 2021 to become a reality. The next milestone was in 1984 when Rev. Jesse Jackson ran for President of the United States on the Democratic ticket. He was not the party favorite but mounted an impressive run and brought many African Americans to the voting booth. The next milestone was in 2004, twenty years later, when Senator Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States. As a race the possibility became possible.

But 2021 will see the first elected "*Black and Asian-American*" woman Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris. For me, an African American woman, my granddaughter, my daughter, my mother, my grandmother, our African slave ancestors; and for you, the educators in this stellar organization, and all little black and brown girls yet to be born..... THIS.IS.THE.MILESTONE! (drop the mic) BOOM! **Welcome.....2021!**

Be Blessed!

Moving NSPDK Forward.....Together!

Etta F. Carter, Ph.D.
26th Supreme Basileus



REMEMBER THE DATES: JANUARY - JULY 2021

RESCHEDULED- VIRTUAL - 2021 SPRING (ONE -DAY) REGIONAL CONFERENCES

REGION	YOUTH CONFERENCE	REGIONAL CONFERENCE	K.O.T. CONFERENCE
Eastern	April 24-25,2021	June 18-19, 2021	June 18, 2021
Southeast	June 12, 2021	May 14-15, 2021	May 14, 2021
Midwest	March 26-28, 2021	April 30-May 1, 2021	April 30, 2021
Southwest	February 26-28, 2021	June 25-26, 2021	June 25, 2021
Far West	April 10, 2021	May 21-22, 2021	May 21, 2021

Virtual - NATIONAL FOUNDERS' DAY RITUALISTIC CEREMONY

THEME: One Heart, One Sisterhood, One Spirit, ONE TIME

Saturday, May 22, 2021

REGION	DATE	TIME	TIME ZONE
Eastern	May 22, 2021	12:00 PM	Eastern
Southeast	May 22, 2021	11:00 AM or 12:00 PM	Central or Eastern
Midwest	May 22, 2021	11:00 AM	Central
Southwest	May 22, 2021	11:00 AM	Central
Far West	May 22, 2021	9:00 AM	Pacific

VIRTUAL - NATIONAL MEETINGS

Organization	Day	Date	Time (Central)	Presiding
100 th Anniversary Centennial Committee	Thursday	July 15, 2021	10 AM-12 PM	Margarette Galloway, National Chair
Board of Trustees	Thursday	July 15, 2021	1 PM-4 PM	Charlotte M. Williams, President
National Anthropos Board	Thursday	July 15, 2021	1 PM – 3 PM	Alexander Smith, President
National Executive Council Pre-Conclave	Friday	July 16, 2021	10 AM-3 PM	Dr. Etta F. Carter, Supreme Basileus
Perpetual Scholarship Foundation Board	Friday	July 16, 2021	10 AM-12 PM	Lisa Frieson, President
National Executive Council Post- Conclave	Wednesday	July 21, 2021	9 AM-12 PM	Dr. Etta F. Carter, Supreme Basileus

Virtual - 98TH ANNIVERSARY CONCLAVE

Host Region – Southeast Host Chapter: Beta Xi Orlando, Florida July 17 - 20, 2021

<u>Saturday, July 17, 2021</u> National K.O.T. Conference 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	<u>Sunday, July 18, 2021</u> Worship Opening Ceremony - PM	<u>Monday and Tuesday</u> <u>July 19 -20, 2021</u> - Business Session - Special Events and Programs
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(Press ctrl key-cursor on Prayer Meeting-then enter key)

National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

COVID-19 PRAYER



Dr. Tonya Chestnut
National Chaplain



Dr. Etta Carter
Supreme Basileus

2nd Sunday Monthly Prayer Call

6:00 p.m. CST

Click here to join: [Prayer Meeting](#)

Dial in by telephone: 1-312-626-6799 or 1-346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 865 4028 4084

Passcode: 260801

Hosted by Regional Chaplains:

Sandra Crockett (SW), Maggie Burnes (MW), Debra Moody (FW), Jerrie Foster (SE) & Naydene Williams (E).

W
A
I
T



JOIN US W.A.I.T. TIME



WOMEN ANCHORED IN TRUST



**GOOD NEWS,
GOOD NEWS!!**



A fearless advocate with unimpeachable integrity and moral clarity -- there's no one better suited for the job of Secretary of State than [@AsmShirleyWeber](#).



Assemblywoman Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) is Gov. Gavin Newsom's choice to fill the post of California secretary of state. She would be the first Black woman in state history to serve in the office.
(Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press)

CALIFORNIA

Newsom names
Assemblywoman
Shirley Weber to
succeed Padilla as
California secretary of
state

National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. is extremely proud of our Soror, California Assemblywoman, Dr. Shirley Weber, who announced the electors' unanimous votes (55) for President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris!

#NSPDK proud! ❤️💛



Congratulations, Soror!

**GRANT AGREEMENT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO
RACIAL JUSTICE ENDOWMENT**

December 17, 2020
Cheryl McClellan
National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, San Diego Chapter
1335 Serena Circle, Unit 1
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Cheryl:

The First United Methodist Church of San Diego is pleased to inform you that a grant from our Racial Justice Endowment to the **National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Delta Upsilon Chapter, San Diego** has been approved in the amount of \$3,000 for the Y.E.S Program.

This letter outlines the terms and conditions of accepting our grant. Please read all the terms and conditions carefully, sign, and return the accompanying completed contract letter **no later than December 23rd, 2020**. After we receive your signed contract, we will mail you a check within as soon as possible. The funds must be used specifically for the above designated purpose(s) **by December 31st, 2021**. We understand the need for program changes and wish to be an active partner with you in your work. Please keep us informed via email if you wish to change the purpose of the grant or if the funds are not expended within the next 12 months.

Upon signing this contract, your agency states that you agree to notify us if there is any change in your public charity status. In addition, we will request a report (format to be supplied by FUMCSD) on the expenditure or projected expenditure of grant funds **by September 30, 2021**.

This agreement also gives the First United Methodist Church of San Diego your permission to use photographs, logos, published/printed information, and any other materials you supply, without further notice, in press releases and/or publications.

Congratulations on this recognition of your important efforts. We look forward to engaging further with you during the coming year, both with potential volunteer support from our church members, as well as opportunities to share your work with our congregation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Tucker, Sr. Director of Stewardship and Development

NSPDK and the pearls were with me as I was approved by the Board of Education as Principal of a high school in my district. I am told that I am the first woman of color principal at this school. Reppin' NSPDK !



Dr. Lavetta Scott Ross

From Soror F. Faulks and Soror P. Myles/Nu Chapter

Days Before Christmas

T'was days before Christmas,
And all through the towns.
People wear masks,
That cover their frowns.

The frowns had begun
Way back in the Spring.
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered
lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their nerve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from the caution,
Many folks had drifted.

****Now it's December**
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking
It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner-
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
Who will ever see it,
No one but me.

But outside my window
The rain gently falls,
And I think to myself,
We will deck the halls!

I gathered the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I played those old carols.
My happiness grows.

Christmas is not cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.

MERRY CHRISTMAS ... 'Cause
Jesus is the reason
For the season!!!

#WeAreinThisTogetherNSPDK,Inc
#GodLovesYouAndSoDoWe
#ThankfulGratefulAndBlessed

(Edited- Original Author Unknown. Edits from
Soror F. Faulks and Soror P. Myles/Nu Chapter)



It's Thursday

New Year's Eve
Heavenly Father,

It's the last day of **2020** and we just want to say,
Thank You for a year full of Blessings and Favor.
It hasn't always been easy, but You were always
there to whisper in our hearts "keep going, with
Me You can make it" We can honestly say that,

**WE NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE IT
WITHOUT YOU!**

We look forward to spending **2021** with You,
and all of Eternity. May we continue to become
more Christ-like, and walk in the Favor of
the Lord. Thank You in advance for keeping us
covered under the Blood of Jesus for the
upcoming New Year. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**LORD, YOU ARE
WORTHY OF
ALL PRAISE!**

**God's Spoken
Word Ministries**

God's Spoken Word Ministries

AMEN



MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

Students, parents, faculty, community, and staff across the five regions of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Observance Day, by reading for one hour. You can read individually, as a group, at school at home, or wherever you decide.



A DAY OF SERVING AND READING ACROSS THE NSPDK REGIONS

Our Literacy Initiative program encourages every chapter to participate in, "A Day of Serving and Reading Across NSPDK". Each Soror is asked to solicit as many individuals to drop everything and read for one hour. Solicit students, co-workers, families, churches, organizations, etc. to take time out of their busy schedules and read. You can read or be read to individually, as a group, at the library, or however you creatively decide. On MLK Day - just READ!

(Start getting pledgees to sign the Roster signature sheet on Page 2 as early as November to commit to reading on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday Observation Day. Make as many copies of the signature pages as needed)

Remember the following for this sororal year:

- 1) January (MLK's birthday) (Pledgees are to Read Across NSPDK).
- 2) One hour reading in one of the following ways:
One hour • two half-hour segments • four 15-minute segments • six 10-minute segments
- 3) **Chapter Deadline is February TBD** for chart of signature count to be sent to your regional Literacy chairperson. Report must be signed by the chapter Basileus.
- 4) Regional Literacy Chairs will forward their compilation chart to the National Reading/Literacy Chair by March TBD. Report must be signed by the Regional Literacy Chair.

HAPPY READING!!

Include in Activity Books the following items

- Photographs of participants reading,
- Flyers,
- News releases, and/or,
- Similar promotional documentation.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

U.S.

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day – January 9, 2021

Careers, Safety

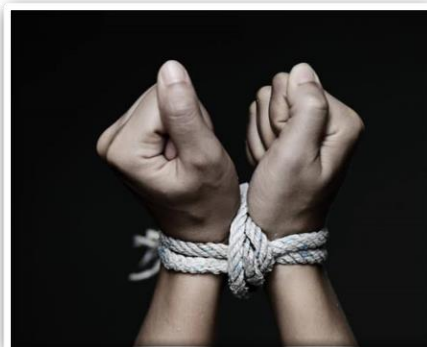


If you have a police officer as a friend or family member, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on January 9 is the perfect time to show officers we understand how difficult their job is. So it's important to show officers how much we understand their difficult work and appreciate their sacrifice and risk.

U.S.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day – January 11, 2021

Awareness



National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11 raises awareness of the persistent issue of human trafficking. Though the entire month of January has already been recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, this day is specifically dedicated to awareness and prevention of the illegal practice. This holiday is also separate from the World Day Against Trafficking Persons, as established by the United Nations. Since the Senate established this day of observance in 2007, it has drawn massive public support from individual donations to government-organized events. The horrific injustice of human trafficking can affect people of any race and background, and on this day, we are all called to fight human trafficking wherever it exists.

U.S.

National Pharmacist Day – January 12, 2021

Careers, Health, Work



Children can get up to 12 colds a year, while adults average two to four. Where would we be without our pharmacists? It's time to thank those friendly workers who keep us healthy throughout the year. Get ready to celebrate National Pharmacist Day on January 12. The day focuses on the importance of pharmacists, and it honors how much they impact our health and well-being. The #APharmacistIs campaign, launched just two years ago, links both photos (and words of thanks) to those who help us with our meds and so much more.

U.S.

Korean American Day – January 13, 2021

Cultural, Historical



On January 13 we celebrate Korean American Day to honor and highlight our friends of Korean descent who have made immeasurable contributions as small business owners, military service members, faith leaders, doctors, artists, and elected officials for over a century. Ever since the first immigration wave happened way back in 1903.

U.S.

Martin Luther King's Birthday – January 15, 2021

Birthdays, Historical



On January 15, we celebrate the birthday of civil rights leader, Martin Luther King. When we hear his name, we most often think of his legendary “I Have A Dream” speech, the civil rights movement, and, sadly, his assassination. When we celebrate his birthday, let’s take a few moments to investigate the personal story of the man himself.

U.S.

Michelle Obama’s Birthday – January 17, 2021

Birthdays, Celebrity

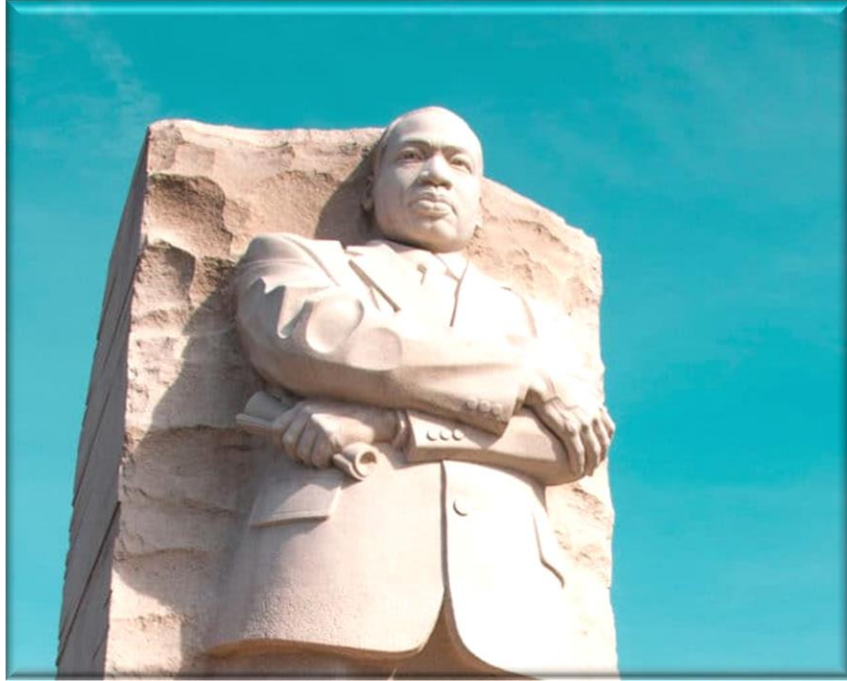


On January 17, we celebrate Michelle Obama’s Birthday! As first lady, Michelle Obama won our hearts with inspiring speeches and acts of kindness. She encouraged young women to believe in their futures — promising that hard work can lead to endless possibilities. “When they go low, we go high.”

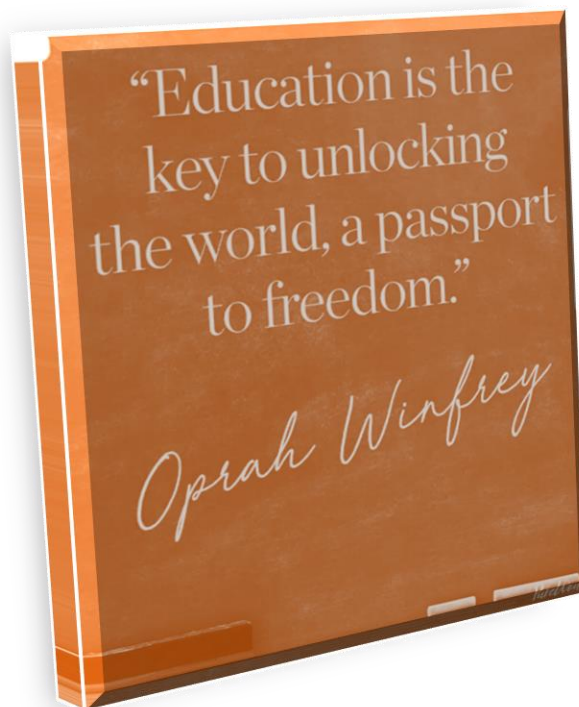
U.S.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 18, 2021

Historical



Each year on the third Monday of January we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and reflect on the work that still needs to be done for racial equality. This January 18 make the holiday more than just a day off and take time to reflect and act on civil rights issues across the globe.



January 20, 2021 ready. Wearing pearls and Chuck Taylors, I will walk into history with Madam Vice President Kamala Harris! Amen.



RESOURCES...

GEORGE LUCAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



TEACHING STRATEGIES

6 Exercises to Get to Know Your Students Better—and Increase Their Engagement

Celebrating your middle and high school students' unique identities can bolster connections and improve performance in school.

By [Nora Fleming](#)

November 12, 2020

Hindered by video screens, fluctuating schedules, and health regulations, teachers are up against the odds this school year when it comes to getting to know their students.

"It's hard to really get to know your students through a webcam," @mark_bevacqua wrote on Twitter, while @cheri_cheralex shared her struggles of seeing students in masks or "with eyes only."

While get-to-know-you activities are typically earmarked for the first weeks of school, they shouldn't end there, say educators and researchers.

Whether it's that they love to play baseball, have three brothers, or enjoy writing or photography, celebrating your students' unique experiences and identities [can bolster connections](#) that keep them [engaged and performing better](#) in school. Students who have a deeper sense of self—and [purpose](#)—are also better able to define their goals and stay focused on pursuing them, concluded a 2014 study from David Yeager, Angela Duckworth, and colleagues.

We collected an array of class exercises from interviews with teachers, online resources, and our archives that will help students develop greater self-awareness and purpose. These insights can also give you a better sense of who they are, so you can be responsive to their interests—even if you're separated by screens or masks.

REFLECTING ON EXPERIENCES: 'LAWS OF LIFE' ESSAYS

In the early 2000s, educators in an urban, high-poverty district in New Jersey gave their middle and high school students an interesting essay assignment: Write about the values and principles that guide your life.

The seemingly small activity, called "Laws of Life," is based on the work of philanthropist John Templeton, and it turned into a [much bigger project](#) that helped students develop a stronger sense of self, purpose, and possibility for the future, according to Maurice Elias, a psychology professor at Rutgers University. The project has since been replicated all over the world.

To [run the assignment in your class](#), Elias recommends asking students to reflect on their past—in and out of school—and the experiences and people that made them who they are. From there, have students discern key characteristics that have influenced their lives and then craft an essay—or create a video or other multimedia content—focused on the "laws" or principles that drive them.

Question prompts like "Who do you admire? List three of their admirable traits" and "Describe an incident or event from which you learned a lesson 'the hard way'" can help guide students. Periodically throughout the year, have students refer back to their essays to reflect on what they wrote and ask themselves, "What's changed?" and "What's stayed the same?"

EXPLORING IDENTITY—AND PERCEPTIONS ABOUT IT: IDENTITY CHARTS

To get to know her students and ensure that they felt seen in her classroom, middle school teacher Shane White [created a lesson](#) to help them explore their identities. First, White set a foundation for discussion by defining identity and explaining how identities can sometimes be visible, like age, or invisible, like a person's life experiences.

Then, with the permission of six of her friends, White shared photos of their faces and had students guess their "identity characteristics." Afterward, she revealed the true details and led a class discussion about making assumptions about others based on how they look or act. To finish the project, students drew their own "identity portraits" or a picture of their face with half the face showing visible characteristics and the other half showing invisible characteristics.



Courtesy of Shana White

Students' identity portraits hang on a wall in Shana White's classroom.

The education organization Facing History and Ourselves recommends a similar exercise called the ["Who am I?" activity](#) for middle school students. To start, select some key historical figures or fictional characters—think inclusively and avoid stereotypes, selecting a wide range of people from

different backgrounds—and ask students to discuss “factors such as religion, gender, and geography” that influenced their identities.

Next, have students read the chapter “My Name” from the book *The House on Mango Street*, where the main character, Esperanza, talks about her name, revealing details about her culture. Ask students to create an identity chart for Esperanza, answering questions such as “What is her family like?” and “What does her name reveal about her personality?” Guided by the reading, students can then create identity charts for themselves and share them with the class.

LEARNING IMPORTANT DETAILS: STUDENT INVENTORIES

Student inventories can help teachers quickly discern details and facts about students that shape who they are, and can be used to plan further class activities and lessons. Ask students to list their favorite musicians, songs, sports, activities, games, or food, for example, or probe deeper with questions about their culture, memories, and family.

Another option is having students write 20 sentences that complete the prompt, “I am someone who...” or asking a short list of thought-provoking questions in one-to-one [Hopes and Dreams](#) conferences. Target questions that tap into who students are now and who they hope to be, such as “What are some things that bug you about the world?” “What inspires you?” and “What dreams do you have after high school?”

Look for patterns in student responses, and use what you learn to [make classroom lessons and activities connected](#) to students’ interests, advises Rebecca Alber, an education professor in California, who says, “Students need to see connections between learning and their lived experiences.”

UNDERSTANDING INTERESTS: PASSION BLOGGING

In Allison Berryhill’s high school English class, literary analysis exercises left her students “frozen,” and free-writing assignments produced hard-to-read rants. Influenced by the book [Beyond Literary Analysis](#), Berryhill started offering a new exercise called “[passion blogging](#)” last year, in which students write about topics that interest them.



Courtesy of Allison Berryhill

A student in Allison Berryhill's class holds up her heart map. Students start by drawing “heart maps,” or large hearts filled with illustrations and words that represent their passions. Then, they select one or two topics to explore further and look for related articles, images, and videos.

Berryhill also gives accompanying class lessons on attribution of sources, texts, quotes, and imagery, and shares mentor texts to guide students’ writing.

Students' blogs have run the gamut in subject matter, from pheasant hunting to hunger strikes to hiking, and give them an opportunity to dive deeply into things they care about. As part of the process, students are also tasked with reading and evaluating several of their classmates' blogs. Overall, the low-stakes activity has served as a springboard to build students' literary analysis skills for harder assignments, says Berryhill, while helping her get to know them better.

DOCUMENTING YOUR LIFE: MOVIES, PHOTOS, AND PODCASTS

Though many teachers and students are feeling virtual brain drain, digital tools can provide new, creative outlets for students to share and define their interests and personalities. Teachers are having students create autobiographical [mini-movies or trailers](#) about their lives and [produce podcasts](#) or write articles for [digital school newspapers](#) on issues they care about.

Influenced by her community's experiences during the pandemic, Wendy McElfish, a high school teacher in California, taught a lesson on Dorothea Lange's famous black-and-white photography from the Great Depression. Then, she had her students take their own photos with phones to document their lives. She guided them with the themes "life outside your door," "through a window," "different life inside," and "porch photos of your family."

George Lucas Educational Foundation

<https://youtu.be/dNnOOJJwhg8>

High school students in Wendy McElfish's class documented their lives during the pandemic with photography.

"When kids are faced with terrible circumstances, sometimes it helps to take an artistic approach," she said. "A lot of kids aren't good writers, but they have an eye and they have a voice... [and] they can show the world what I see."

Similarly, Lori Wenzinger, a middle school social studies teacher in South Carolina, paired up with a local photographer to create a three-week multimedia project called "[Finding Your Joy.](#)" After the photographer taught two classes on photo composition and mood, students were tasked with taking photos that "capture joyful moments throughout their day," sharing and reviewing them as a class, and selecting their three favorites to keep in the class Google Drive.

HAVING FUN: ICEBREAKERS, GAMES, AND ACCOLADES

Courtesy of Cathleen Beachboard

A student in Cathleen Beachboard's class brings his dog to class for show-and-tell during remote learning.

In addition to more comprehensive assignments and lessons, teachers can build in short, entertaining activities that keep students engaged and reveal insights about who they are.

Trevor Boffone, a high school teacher in Texas, asked his students to submit their favorite song to a list at the start of the year. Now, at the beginning of each virtual class, he plays music to kick things off, incorporating students' picks and his own.

Throughout remote learning, Cathleen Beachboard, a middle school teacher in Virginia, says she's including fun activities like show-and-tells and theme days. This fall, she also adopted a practice that her



superintendent uses for staff meetings called "Three Cool Things I've Seen." Once a week, Beachboard

calls out three things she's observed about students from classes that week that recognize them for their individuality.

"I know a lot of teachers are struggling right now getting students pulled in. I found the more encouragement and authentic praise we give to students, the more they dive in," she said. "These are scary times, but by giving students time to showcase their individuality, they will feel safe and ready to fully engage in learning."

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Managing the Virtual and Hybrid Teaching Workload

Many teachers are finding their work to be more demanding this year, so looking for ways to simplify some of it is important. By [Beth Pandolpho](#) October 29, 2020



Maria Symchych-Navrotska / iStock

Teachers everywhere seem to be working twice as hard and feeling perpetually overwhelmed and dissatisfied. Students are also feeling stressed out and disconnected—we're all carrying an [intense emotional workload](#). Although there's much about the current situation that we can't solve, teachers can work to mitigate some of this stress by prioritizing what's most important—predictability, care, community, and learning.

These are a few strategies that I think can make the demands of this school year more sustainable over the long haul.

ESTABLISH A WEEKLY ROUTINE

Within the constraints of our hybrid and virtual schedules, work to create norms so students know precisely what is expected of them. Asking yourself these questions can help you think about how to organize your virtual space:

- Would a short (less than five minutes) weekly video summarizing the activities and projected learning outcomes for the week help both you and your students?
- Can you pre-record your mini-lessons so the synchronous time you spend with students is predominantly interactive?
- Should each week include a practice day and a review day?
- What day and time each week are assignments due?
- When and how can students talk to you and ask questions?

Whatever you decide, each class period should have well-established routines and predictable formats that students can count on. Students as well as teachers are managing more uncertainty than ever, so [creating order](#) will not only be calming for students but also provide guideposts that will aid in your planning and save time.

CHOOSE YOUR TECHNOLOGY TOOLS AND STICK WITH THEM

Clever technology tools are more abundant than ever, and our instinct is often to find the best and most effective ones to meet students' needs. However, learning new tools and adapting our existing

instruction can take hours of our time that may be better spent elsewhere. It’s good to remember that the [learning effect size](#) of technology is low, and according to [John Hattie](#), “What we do matters, not the medium of doing it.”

We can simplify our planning by choosing our primary technology tools and sticking with them. Beyond your district’s learning management system, find tools that allow students to collaborate, practice, review, and reflect. You’ll also need ways to give feedback and assess students’ progress.

Working with the same tools consistently all year has the benefit of allowing you to develop expertise with each tool as you master all of its nuances and updated features. It also enables you to concentrate your intellectual energy on what causes learning—being a well-prepared teacher, having a passion for your subject and a connection with your students, and providing choice and engaging learning activities, with time for feedback, reflection, and improvement.

GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENTS

It’s likely never been as important to get to know your students, nor has it ever been more difficult. Relationships with our students not only impact learning—they are the foundation and the joy of teaching.

To help build these relationships, we can use students’ names often. We can offer students choices and opportunities for them to explore their identities and interests, which will provide fertile ground for us to engage and connect.

Schedule time to talk to students about their progress. Consider using [conversation starters](#) so you can listen to students, forge connections, and offer feedback, all at the same time. As we grow in our knowledge of our students, we can more effectively engage with them in class. Students who are involved in the life of the class are students who are learning, and an interactive virtual class with student voices makes the work feel lighter. Although [we shouldn’t require students to turn their cameras on](#), we can ask them to—and show compassion when they don’t feel ready.

CONSIDER THEMED FEEDBACK

There will certainly be assignments that call for traditional grading methods, but perhaps your time may be better spent reviewing student work, jotting down notes, and making time for more holistic conversations.

If you release yourself from formally grading and commenting on each piece, you can look more carefully and think more deeply about a student’s work across time. You can then meet with students and provide them with themed feedback—patterns you’ve noticed in a student’s performance. You can discuss your observations, ask them questions about these recurring themes, and illuminate their strengths so they can build upon them.

Themed feedback can be very effective because rather than deducting points for errors, it focuses on strengths and areas for growth. Offering themed feedback transforms some of the time you formerly spent grading into time spent with students in conversations that promote learning, growth, and connection. It also models for students your steadfast commitment to their success.

Now more than ever, we need to manage our time and workload so we can take care of ourselves and be more present for our students. We need to redefine success in this new educational landscape as an intricate weave of content, engaging activities, and feedback that at its center prioritizes connection and compassion for our students and ourselves.

TEACHERS' LOUNGE

Start off the new year on the right foot with this collection of popular resources for professors. You'll get free access to:

- The Ultimate Guide to Online Teaching
- The Ultimate Guide to Creating Community in Your Virtual Classroom
- Video: Applying the Lessons Learned from Fall 2020

- The Ultimate Guide to Online Teaching
- The Ultimate Guide to Creating Community in Your Virtual Classroom
- Video: Applying the Lessons Learned from Fall 2020



TOPHAT.COM

Free Toolkit: Online Teaching in 2021

DOWNLOAD



Literacy educators! Learn how the Science of Reading 📖 can help you create lessons that are engaging, relevant, and systematic. Download the research brief:



FORM ON FACEBOOK

Read the Latest Research on Reading

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There's never been a better time to learn from other school districts. 💡 Dive into the communications benchmarks from 150 surveyed NSPRA members and learn how other districts spend their time and money!



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Who you are is valuable': How Black male teachers in Minnesota are recruiting others to the profession

Riham Feshir

December 17, 2020 4:10 p.m.

Listen *'Who you are is valuable': How Black male teachers in Minnesota are recruiting others to the profession*



Prodeo Academy teacher Markus Flynn leads a fifth-grade science class that is learning remotely on Tuesday. Flynn has been teaching for two years and is the new executive director of Black Men Teach.

Christine T. Nguyen | MPR News
Share

All throughout high school, Kaiyre Lewis enjoyed working with kids. He babysat, he coached youth teams, worked at camps. It came natural to him, especially as a big brother.

But when Lewis started college last year, he picked a major in political science.

"I barely knew what poli sci was," said Lewis, 19, a sophomore at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. "And then I got a job at a day care, and I had always in the back of my mind thought, 'Maybe teaching, maybe teaching.'"

But as a Black man and the first in his family to go to college, Lewis said he faced pressure to go to school for something more lucrative.

"And on top of that, I only see white women," he said. "I never looked at my teachers and thought, 'That's gonna be me one day.'"



Kaiyre Lewis on the steps of a relative's home in Blaine, Minn., on Wednesday.

Evan Frost | MPR News

Black teachers make up just [1.4 percent](#) of Minnesota's teaching population, according to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board and Wilder Research 2019 Biennial Report. The statistic remains so low, and even lower for Black male teachers, at a time when the number of students of color continues to grow in the state.

- **Research says** [Having just one Black teacher can keep Black kids in school](#)
- **If your teacher looks like you** [You may do better in school](#)
- **The burden on Black teachers** [don't belong at your table'](#)

The Twin Cities nonprofit Black Men Teach is hoping to change that by convincing high school and college students like Lewis that they belong in front of the classroom. The group started in 2018 but has recently been expanding and ramping up its fundraising and recruitment efforts to get more Black men to teach.

The organization hopes Black educators will connect with students early, in elementary school, and increase the number of Black male teachers in eight partner schools over the next six years.

Despite research that shows the importance of a diverse teaching pool, Minnesota's teaching staff is still made up of mostly white women, said Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, superintendent of the Hopkins Public Schools and the board chair of Black Men Teach.

- **MPR News with Angela Davis**
[Minnesota students pay the price for a lack of diverse teachers](#)
- **A classroom recognition**
[Minneapolis teacher empowers black youth with Kwanzaa](#)

"We have a lot of work to do to increase teachers of color for our students," she said. "But because there are a lot of hands in that pot, really there has been no proven strategy for how to do that well. In Black Men Teach, our aim is to focus on a very narrow demographic."

Currently 34 percent of K-12 students across the state are students of color, while just 4 percent of licensed teachers identify as nonwhite.

Studies show that Black students are more likely to go to graduate and go to college if they've had interactions with teachers of the same race.

"Within my first week of teaching, I had a student tell me that I was their favorite teacher just because I look like them," said Markus Flynn, who will soon start as executive director of Black Men Teach. "For me, when I'm in front of my students, it is an opportunity to affirm their identity, to let them know that who you are is valuable."



Markus Flynn is the new executive director of Black Men Teach, an organization that works to increase the number of Black male teachers in order to address the racial disparities in education.

Christine T. Nguyen | MPR News

The 26-year-old has been teaching fifth through seventh grade science at Prodeo Academy, a charter school in Columbia Heights, Minn. His path to education wasn't traditional. He went to school for health sciences and got his masters in

physical activity epidemiology. He was interested in studying health inequities in the African American community.

But he said after some reflection in graduate school, he realized education was where he can make a difference.

"As a Black male teacher, I am able to relate to my students well," Flynn said. "I know them, I know their language, I know what they mean, I know what their body language is saying."

Black Men Teach has an ambitious goal of increasing the number of Black male teachers in their partner schools in Hopkins, Minneapolis, Anoka-Hennepin and St. Paul to 20 percent over the next six years.

In Thetis White's fifth grade Google classroom, sleepy students sign on to their daily morning meeting, some switching the cameras on and off, while others ask questions about upcoming assignments.

- **The educator gap** [MSU Mankato working with local schools to confront lack of teacher diversity](#)
- **At the Capitol** [Bill aims to get more teachers of color in Minnesota classrooms](#)

White is a no-nonsense teacher who constantly reminds his students to turn in their work and turn it in on time.

"Do not take advantage of the fact that you are at home," he said one recent morning.

"Assignments do not complete themselves."

Among his favorite sayings in the classroom? "You better have my money at the end of the day," he says with a laugh. He explains: "You better have your work done by 4 o'clock when I update your grade book, or we're going to have a problem tomorrow morning."

But he's also one to tell his students that he loves them every day.

White connected with Black Men Teach before becoming a teacher at Monroe Elementary in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Now that he's been in that role for about a year and a half, he's seeing

positive changes in students as well as potential in other Black teaching assistants who make a difference in the classroom but don't have the authority of a licensed teacher.

More than half of White's class this year is made up of students of color. That pairing between Black students and a Black teacher is not common in Minnesota's classroom. White emphasizes that he sets higher expectations of all of his students, including the ones that maybe have not been challenged in the past by white teachers.

"When you're a Black kid and you're being told that you can't do something over and over by somebody that doesn't look like you, that can be a problem," he said.

For Lewis, the Augsburg University sophomore, the opportunity to launch his teaching career is still a few years away. Through Black Men Teach, he's been meeting Black male teachers and is looking forward to interning inside the classroom after the COVID-19 pandemic ends.

That sense of brotherhood has already given him the nudge he needed to follow his calling:

Earlier this year, Lewis officially changed his major from political science to elementary education.

- **How do you talk to kids about racism?** [Two Black Minnesota teachers share how they do it](#)
- **Bias isn't just a police problem** [It's a preschool problem](#)



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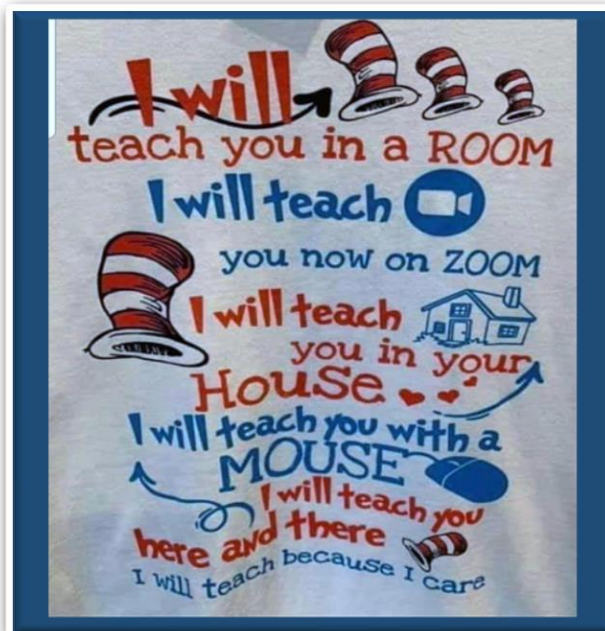
All Children Need To See Themselves in the Books That They Read.

#representationmatters

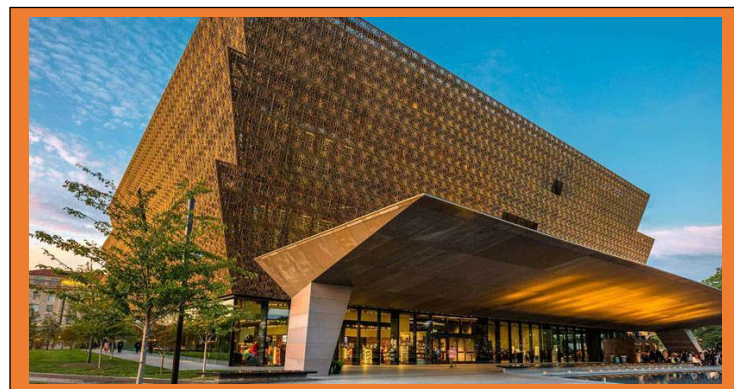


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Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture



Did you have black-eyed peas to start your 2021?



Black-eyed peas have become a symbol of good luck in the United States, first among African Americans and them by extension throughout much of the South, where they are consumed on New Year's Day, often the rice and ham hock or bacon in Hoppin' John with a side of greens.

The pea is thought to be indigenous to the West African forest-savanna complex. There, the peas were planted on the borders of fields to help keep down the weeds and enrich the soil, and cattle grazed on the stems and vines: hence the names "field pea" and "cowpea."

Taken to the Americas during the period of the slave trade, they were growing in the Carolina colonies before the early 1700's, became one of the area's first cash crops, and were exported to the Caribbean colonies, where they were also prized.

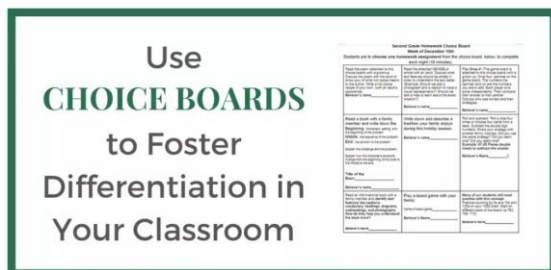
The black-eyed pea is undoubtedly the best known of the field peas, but there are also crowder peas (named for the way that they "crown" the pod), pinkeyes (so-called for their distinctive pink "eye"), and the prissily named lady peas.



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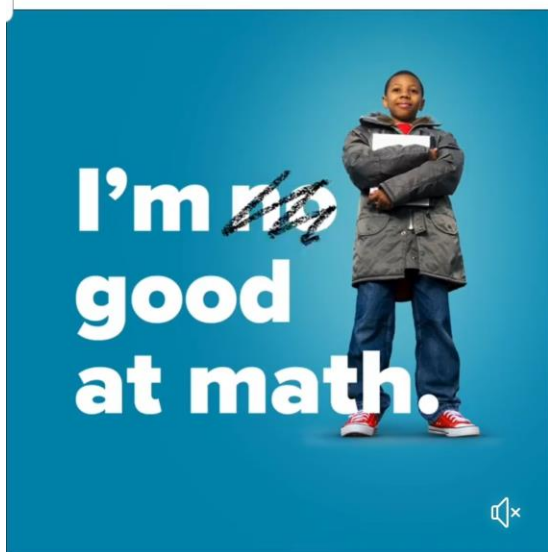


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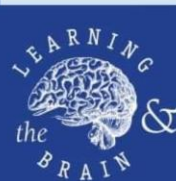


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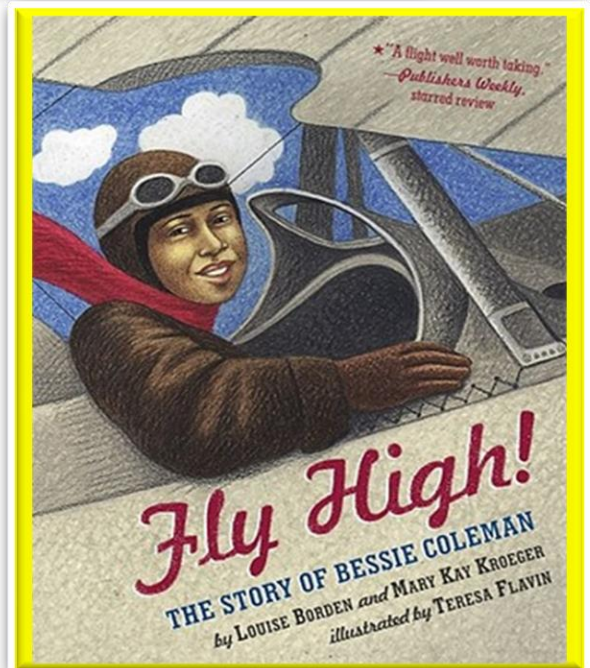
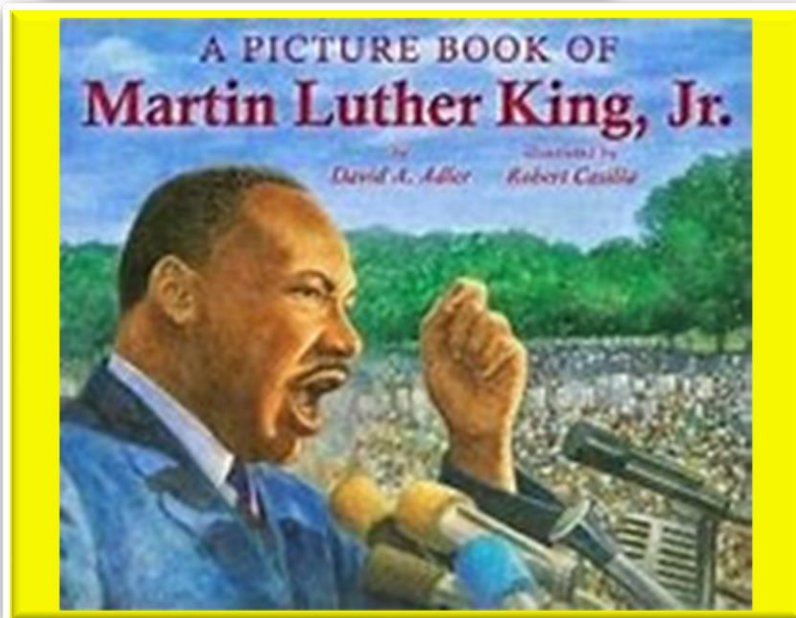
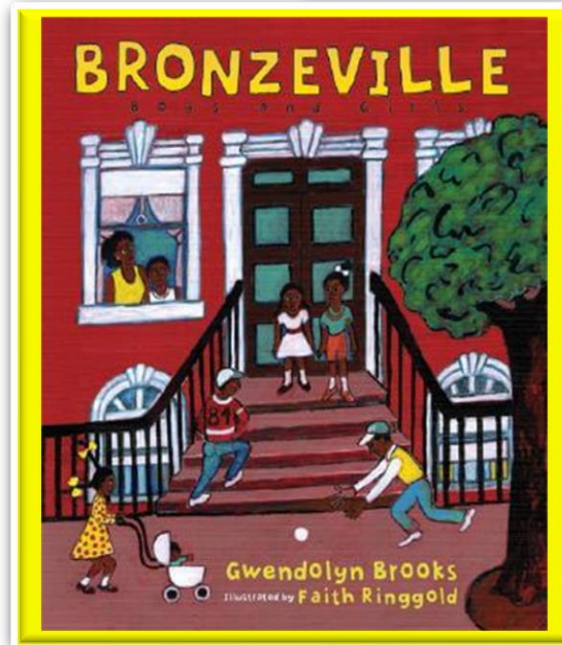
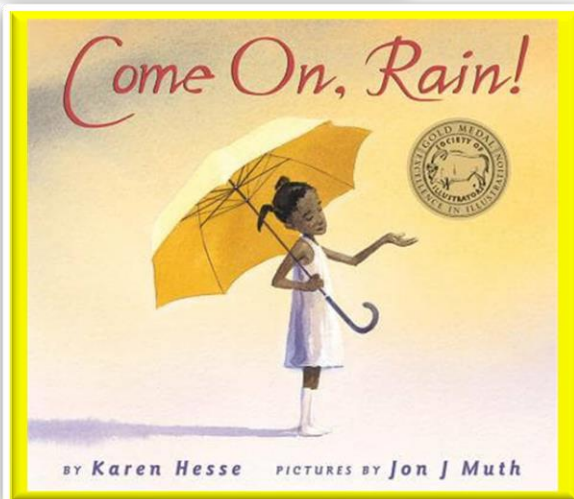
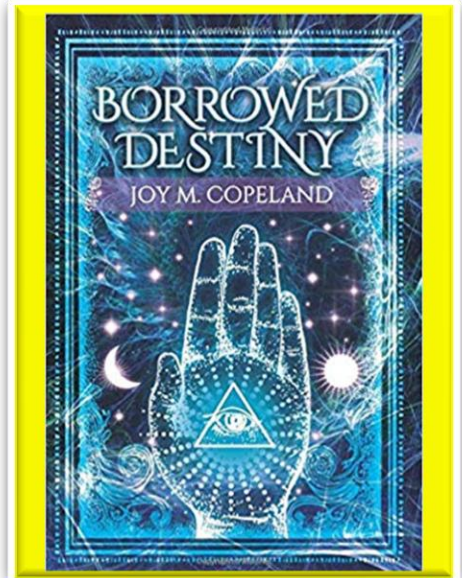
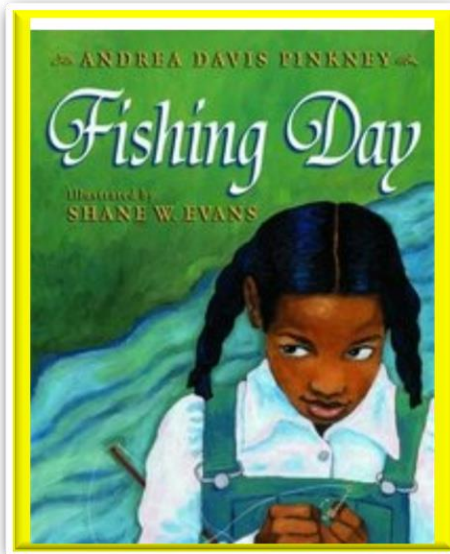
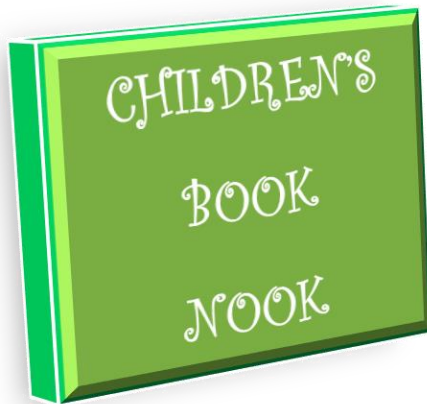
Discover evidence-based strategies to apply effective instruction; rethink instructional design; create engaging lessons to boost motivation and autonomy; raise attention and reduce digital distractions; explore playful, active, and interactive learning experiences in any setting; and examine ways to improve reading, math, feedback, and assessments in distance learning.

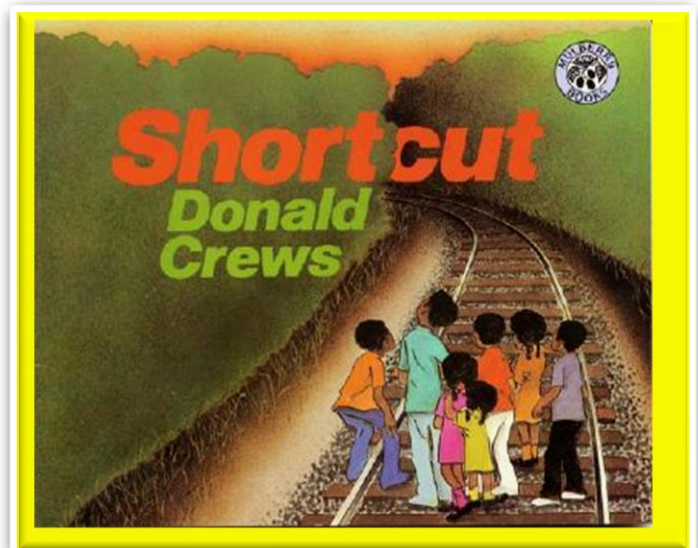
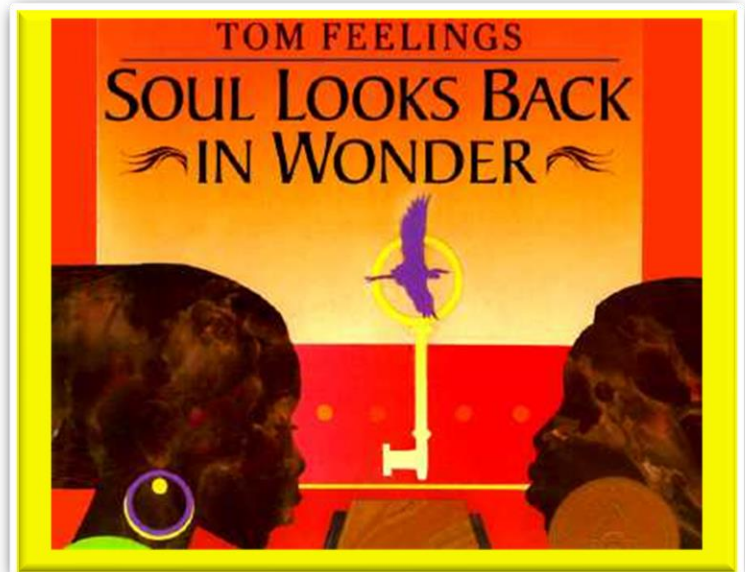
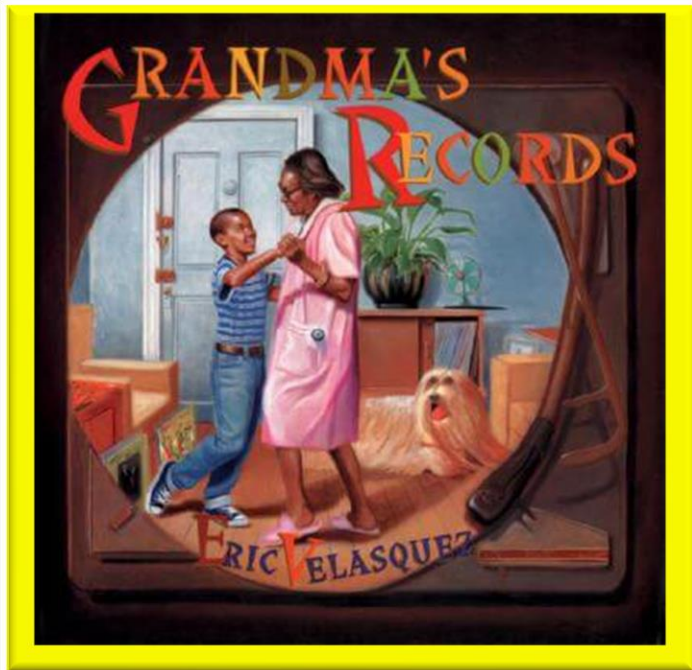
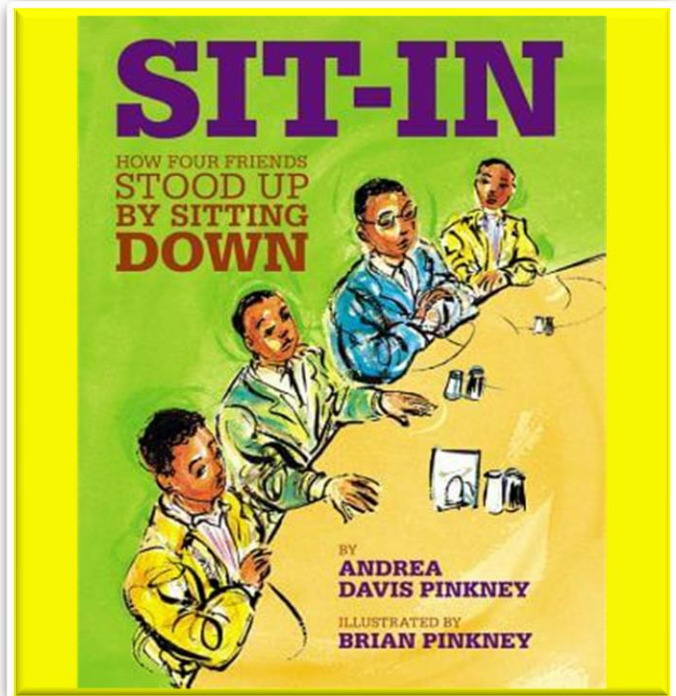
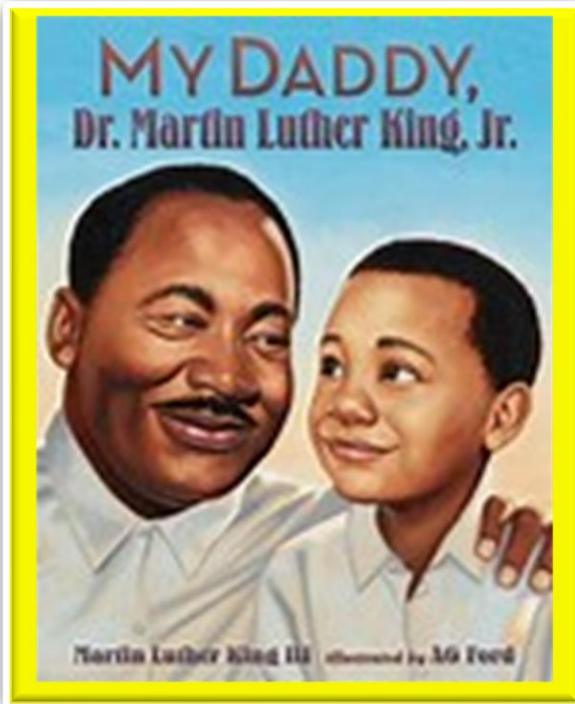
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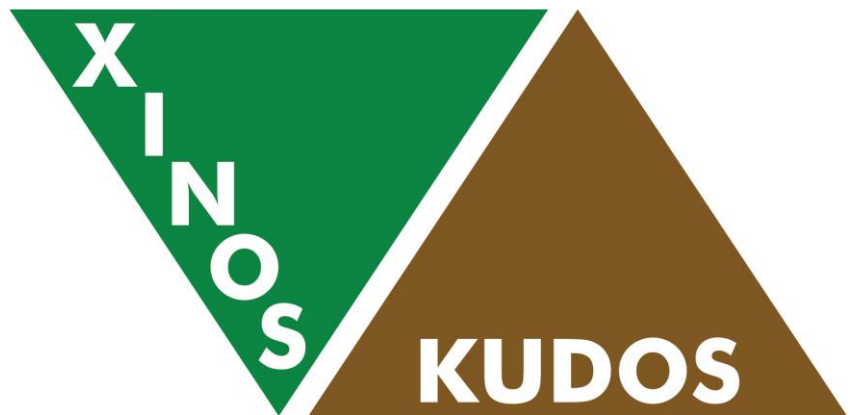




Congratulations to Alpha Rho's Xinos and Kudos on completing a successful community service project.

The Xinos and Kudos collected blankets, socks and toys for local charities and nursing facilities.

Xinos Sponsor- Melba Timms
Kudos Sponsor- Erika Stevens



ALPHA RHO CHAPTER

ALPHA CHAPTER

On November 22, 2020, a few Alpha Xinos gathered together to combine all the food items that were collected from the Xinos along with their generous financial contributions. Two baskets were intended for families at Founder Julia A. Barnes School as well as for 2 families at BabyWorld in Jersey City. It was a joy to donate those baskets at both schools knowing that families would be blessed by the generosity of the Alpha Xinos. I would like to thank the Xinos who were able to come out for the special deliveries; Soror Helen Brooks for her generous donations from her church that added to the baskets; and our 2020 Scholarship Luncheon honoree, Ms. Laverne Webb, for all the turkeys in order to complete each family's meal.



BabyWorld Delivery

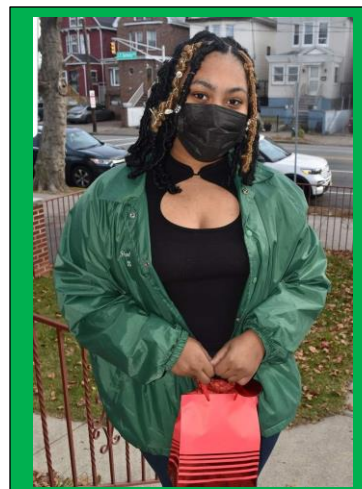
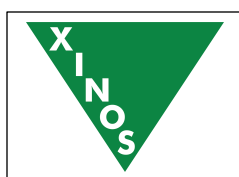
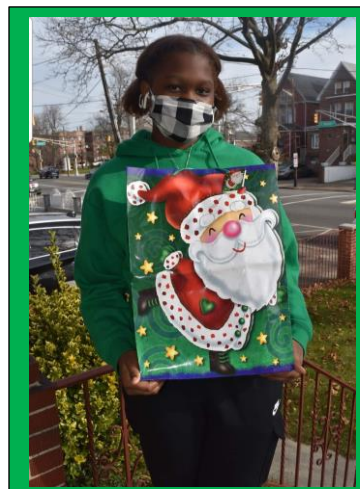
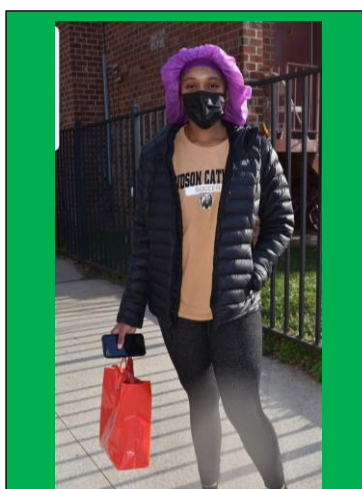


Julia A. Barnes delivery with parent



Julia A. Barnes delivery with parent and Principal Howard

This has definitely been a year for our youth, but I have to give it to our Alpha Xinos who still wanted to have a sisterly activity before the end of 2020. The Xinos exchanged names, with the help of their advisor Mrs. Baskerville, and provided hints for perfect gifts for each other. They safely dropped off gifts and picked up their gifts on Sunday followed by a Zoom meeting 3 hours after to open their gifts and reveal themselves to each other. It was definitely a sweet sisterly gesture for the Christmas season. [Perry L Jackson](#)
[Roseberly Pierre](#) [Nevaeh Shadae](#) [Mary E Ennon](#) [Sandra Webster](#) [Lauren Brown](#)
[Jamila Janai Bass](#) [Sheri L Brown](#) [Kaniya Clerge](#) [Hope Leila](#) [Brandy Cheatham](#)
[Camille Arie](#) [Red SaRiah M. Turner](#) [Ortavia Wisdom](#) [Jackson Shawnda](#) [Jacobs Shawnte Williams](#)







SISTERHOOD!

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DELTA PHI CHAPTER

Delta Phi Chapter Kudos Club and Advisors braving cold CT temps for Marines/Channel 8 Toys for Tots drive-by toy drive

KUDOS



XINOS

THETA CHAPTER

Theta Xinos and Kudos Advisor volunteered on Saturday 12/19/20 to wrap Christmas gifts for children residents of a transitional home supported by the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, Izetta's Angels. While socially distancing, the youth were very inspired and encouraged.



EPSILON CHAPTER

XINOS

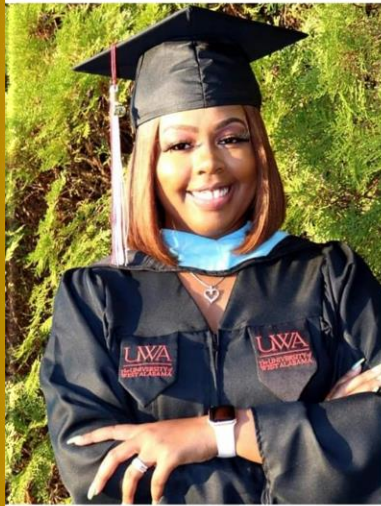
Epsilon XINOS donating canned food. So proud of them for doing this in the time of need. Blessings to them. [#epsilonchapter](#)





NSPDK MOVING FORWARD...TOGETHER

NSPDK (Beta Beta) Success Congrats Soror Erica Bowman Ponder



Graduate

**ERICA
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Master of Education in
Library Media
December 12th | 12:50 PM

Due to COVID-19, there will be a hybrid commencement ceremony. Family and friends may watch the commencement exercise by livestream. Go to



Dr. Kirkland with the sock donations.



Soror Dr. Kirkland and Sorors Leola Williams and Mary Payne give out the family sock packets while the district employee gives out weekly school lunch packets.



Chairman Leola Williams with XI's Red Hot Sock donations.

XI CHAPTER

GAMMA PSI CHAPTER

GAMMA PSI CHAPTER'S 15TH ANNUAL WALK FOR EDUCATION GOES "ZUMBA STYLE"

On November 21st, Gamma Psi Chapter held their 15th annual Walk for Education via YouTube. This year's theme was "Walking into Future Possibilities." The purpose of the Walk was to raise awareness of the national observance of American Education Week, promote awareness of hypertension and nutrition, and to raise funds for scholarships to benefit local youth. The year's honoree was the Dream Center of Jackson, TN. They were honored by receiving a donation of \$250 to help fund their daily needs. Dr. Machelle Taylor of Taylor Medical Clinic provided educational information to bring awareness to National Diabetes Month. To accommodate social distancing, participants enjoyed getting fit virtually to the smooth beats and rhythms of "Zumba" by Emma Sterling of Covington, TN. The sorority like to thank the community and its membership for their generosity. The event raised of \$1800. A special thank you to McAlister's of Jackson, TN for providing a location for donations to be dropped off. To view this year's program and to find out more about the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. - Gamma Psi Chapter visit the website www.nspdkgammapsichapter.weebly.com



Sylvia Clark and Dr. Linda Pride enjoy their lunch

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Tonva Merriweather-Ward and her children enjoy their lunch



Members of the NSPDK Gamma Psi Chapter

(left to right) Tonya Merriweather-Ward, Latisha King, LaToshia Chism, Rose Anderson, Cheryl Thorpe, and Sylvia Clark



ETA CHAPTER

December 18th Eta Sorors donated Christmas Wellness Baskets to the Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity (OEO) Women Shelter as part of the chapter local project initiative.



ALPHI CHI CHAPTER

Congratulations to the winners of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc., Alpha Chi chapter's fundraiser. The 1st place winner was the lucky recipient of 13 gift cards totaling \$325.00 from several different businesses and the 2nd place winner received 7 gift cards totaling \$175.00 Pictured below are Sorors Pamela Shearin, Deryl Winborne, Co-chair of the fundraising committee, our winner, Rosa Richard and Soror Shirley Coleman, Co-chair of fundraising. Again congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who supported our endeavor. Funds will go to support the chapter's scholarship fund and support of other community events.



On Saturday, December 19, 2020, the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. Alpha Chi chapter supported Sorors Velvet Smith and Jaclyn Walker, founders of the M.A.N Foundation and the Portsmouth Sheriff's office in donating toys and gifts to boys and girls. Other Sorors present were Queen Malone, Chapter president, Ruth Coleman, Carolyn Stiff and Marian Carey, chairperson of the Children & Adult Benefit Committee. The children and their parents were able to participate in the Toy Drive-by.



ALPHA RHO CHAPTER



Reading Power-Soror LaSanva Heard- Chairperson-Donned in pajamas with hot chocolate in hand. sorors and guests

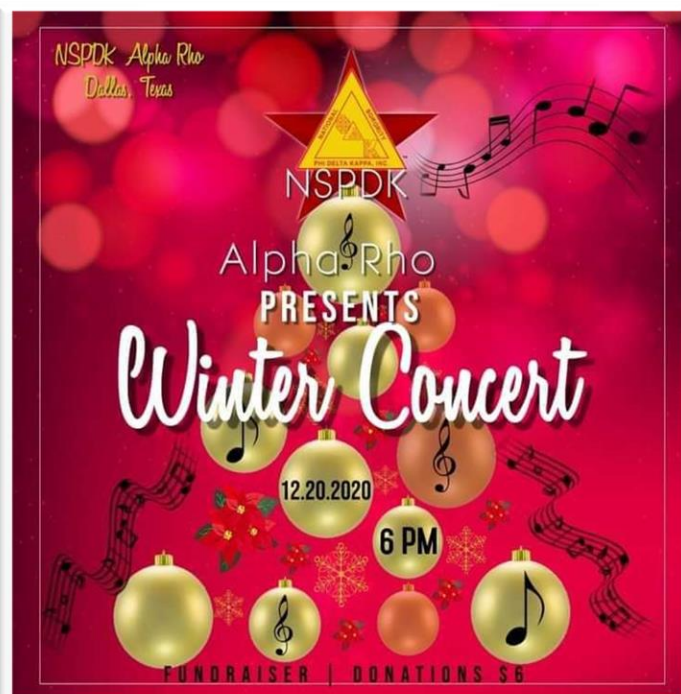
Teach-A-Rama

Soror Marcie Davis- Chairperson

The Alpha Rho Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. hosted a virtual Teach-A-Rama. Sorors and guests participated in sessions targeting E-Learning and student engagement. The group of dynamic presenters brought amazing information on their respective topics. Participants "ZOOM" ed away with a host of best practices, use of technology in the classroom, and successful grant writing strategies.



"To Foster a Spirit of Sisterhood Among Teachers and to Promote the Highest Ideals of the Teaching Profession"



OUR Youth Performers

XINOS Joy Tate
KUDOS DaLeon Huff
KUDOS Evan Lee
XINOS Autumn Brown
XINOS Makaiyah Bursey
Guest Demondre Knox
Guest Piper Williams
Guest ABJ & MM
Guest Khobe Sheffield

Concert Committee

MOVIE and GOMES FILMS PRESENT
A GOMES FILMS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH MOVIE
A JANICE GOMES FILM
ALPHA RHO CHAPTER WINTER CONCERT
STARRING NSPDK ALPHA RHO CHAPTER
LATOYA MAXEY & BRANDY DUNCANSHARON WASHINGTON
EMILY HENRIKSENALISA WILLIAMS***EVELYN HAMILTON
WILFRED JOHNSONPAULON EVERETT & CAROL REED***JANICE GOMES
***JANICE GOMES

Holiday Concert Fundraiser

Soror Janice Gaines,
Chairperson

The Alpha Rho Chapter ushered in the spirit of Christmas through song. Nearly 90 guests enjoyed spoken word and festive tunes. Proceeds raised during the concert went towards our youth programs and a local food pantry.

Thank you for making our concert a success!

SOROR DR. LINDY PERKINS



SOROR MARGARETTE GALLOWAY



CARMEN MOSS-DAVIS



SOROR PAVLON EVERETT



BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER



65TH Anniversary

December 18, 2020

"Follow the Light!

Grow the Legacy!

Empower the Sisterhood!"



Beta Lambda Chapter Reactivate



"To Foster a Spirit of Sisterhood Among Teachers and to Promote the Highest Ideals of the Teaching Profession"

NATIONAL THEME: "THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE- A CHALLENGE TO FULFILL"

All in a day's giving! NSPDK, Beta Lambda President-Donna Mickens, Ms. NSPDK, Eastern Region-Valeria Edwards, and Beta lambda Educators supporting National Call to Literacy. Books given to students at Rupert Bell Recreation Center and treats provided to teachers and staff at Ashley Elementary and Parkland High School



"To Foster a Spirit of Sisterhood Among Teachers and to Promote the Highest Ideals of the Teaching Profession"

BETA EPSILON CHAPTER



Basileus Sydney Tyson Simpson!



Epistoleus/Soror & Life-Time Member
Melanie Hill-White!!



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021! Even though 2020 was a year of great loss, the Delta Lambda Chapter included two winners who supported Beta Epsilon & Iota Chapters' fundraisers respectively!! Kudos to Basileus [Sydney Tyson Simpson](#) & Epistoleus/Soror Melanie Hill-White; Basileus Tyson-Simpson won a Macy's gift card & Epistoleus Hill-White won a lovely gift basket!!! — with Sydney Tyson Simpson in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey.



EPSILON ALPHA CHAPTER

DELTA PI CHAPTER

NSPDK, Inc., Epsilon Alpha and Delta Pi Chapters partnered with the Union County Board of Commissioners and the Plainfield and Hillside Boards of Education to distribute Bags of food and turkeys to their communities. Basilei Eleanor Worrill, Epsilon Alpha and Jacquelyn Dean Oliver, Delta Pi with the help of Soror [Angela R. Garretson](#), Delta Pi (Union County Commissioner) worked together to make this happen. GREAT JOB AND WHAT A BLESSING TO BOTH COMMUNITIES! Thank you Sorors for your commitment to serve!



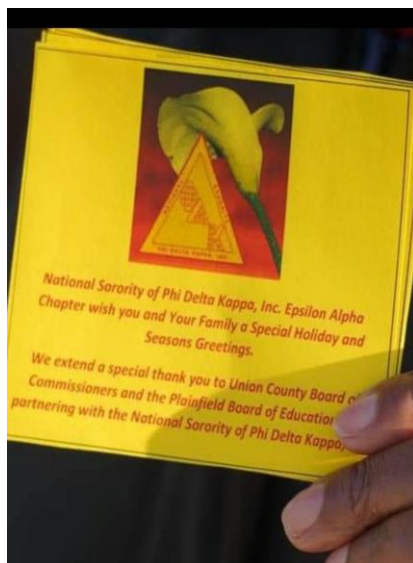
The president of Epsilon Alpha



My Delta Pi President and chapter is ready.



Ready to serve



Delta Pi sisters showing the love with a heart sign.



Operation National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Food Distribution with Union County and School Boards in Plainfield with Epsilon Alpha and Hillside with Delta Pi. Two Sites, One Mission.





EPSILON CHI CHAPTER

DECEMBER 26! WHAT A FUN NIGHT TO BRING IN NEW SORORS! WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO WELCOME "SERENDIPITY V" TO EPSILON CHI CHAPTER!



Soror Fabiola



Soror LaKesha



Soror Nycole



Soror Peta-Gaye

GAMMA THETA CHAPTER



"TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING TO OUR COMMUNITY"

Despite the pandemic that is going on Gamma Theta Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. continued with our annual community service projects. We presented Mrs. Lisa McMillan with canned goods along with a ham and turkey to help feed those that visit the donation only restaurant, Drexel and Honeybees. Drexel and Honeybees donation only restaurant is in Brewton, Alabama. It was also featured on a segment of *Good Morning America* and *The Steve Harvey Show*.

We also presented the clients of Volunteers of America with blankets, paper products and baskets of toiletries and snacks. We also sang Christmas carols to them through the window. Although we were not able to serve them dinner as we normally do, they still enjoyed the gifts and Christmas carols





I am grateful for working with an AMAZING team from Marion P. Thomas Charter School and the Southward Promise Neighborhood!!! While working, we had an opportunity to get to know each other while listening to music, singing and laughing. It's times like these that remind me of my WHY! I am surrounded by so many people who are making a positive impact. Today, my heart is full. There was so much joy in the room at Marion P. Thomas High School!

A huge thanks to Tish Jones and to each and every volunteer working behind the scenes to make #SouthWardGives possible this year!!!

Soror Chaleeta Hines



**National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc.
Delta Lambda Chapter**

"To Foster a Spirit of Sisterhood among Teachers and to Promote the Highest Ideals of the Teaching Profession"

M.L.K. Jr. Scholarship Raffle Fundraiser

**President: Sydney Simpson
Chairperson: Brenda Marable-Freeman**

**Proceeds from scholarship funds help benefit
Delta Lambda Chapter's Y.E.S. Programs**

**Saturday, January 23, 2021
@ 4:00 p.m.**

Prizes: Gift Cards!

1st drawing: \$200.00

2nd drawing: \$150.00

3rd drawing: \$50.00

Cost:

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