

Black History Month Activities February 2021

Centennial Elementary



- A teacher shared that they always do a Martin Luther King class project, this year it was remote!--Carol Geertsma
- One student completed her work by (Elizabeth Chavez- Martinez,) doing her online assignment when she was in Mexico!!!
- Another teacher (--Suzanne Luna) put together quite a few Scholastic News interactive slides.
 - These slides were paired with additional picture stories in the classroom
 - Examples of these news slides are:
 - [Rosa Parks](#)
 - [Brave Ruby](#)
 - [Amazing Misty](#)
 - These activities prompted discussions of perseverance, grit and self confidence.

Harriet Rowley Elementary

- Rowley showed Civil Rights short videos each Friday for the month of January. They kicked it off with civil rights leader like:
 - Martin Luther King Jr
 - Ella Baker, and
 - Cesar Chavez.

organized slideshow featuring all of their findings. I gave students two days to work on this, as I wanted their work to be high quality.

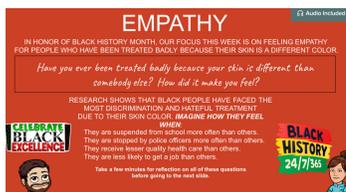
- **As a side note, some 5th graders also worked on completing their podcasts for the NPR Student Podcast Challenge.** Judging for this competition begins within 3 weeks, and I have just been getting the remaining podcasts turned in this week from 5th graders after they have done some more recording and editing/tweaking. Once I have received every podcast, I will officially submit to NPR, and the judging period begins on March 16.
- ****Here is a playlist of all the completed podcasts I have received -->**[NPR Student Podcast Challenge Entries](#)
- **Thursday:** On this day, **students were tasked with reflecting on this process of learning about their chosen black change-maker.** Students recorded themselves answering some important questions about this research process and what it meant to them, and added this video to their slideshows.
- **Friday:** **As the final piece of this project, students used any art medium of their choosing to draw a portrait of their Black History Month Hero and added these pictures to their slideshows to complete the project!** The Padlet of all of the work I have received so far [is here](#) (I will add more as they get turned in). I highly encourage you to check out their work as they have been working hard this week on this! Here is a standout portrait submission drawn by Autumn in my 5th grade group:



- Andy Bishop, M. Ed, NBCT -- 360.428.6128 x22124
- Jefferson Elementary, The Voyager Program

Little Mountain Elementary

- Each week in their morning messages they highlighted information about Dr. King along with the work of many civil rights activists character traits like what being a tolerant person means.
- Each week during Monday Announcements, in a video they played a True/False Game where the principal and Assistant Principal teach little bits about Civil Rights and MLK.
- Teachers in all classes have also been engaging in Civil Rights and MLK activities.
- Equity leads prepared content to support teachers at various levels by organizing resources and videos for them and students. [Black History Month Resources](#)
- Here is an [example lesson](#) from our **PE teachers**. Additionally, they hosted a virtual assembly recognizing and learning about Black History.



Madison Elementary

Madison Elementary staff and students engaged in the following activities in recognition of Black History Month:

- **Wednesday, February 3-** At our staff meeting, an Instructional Support Specialist discussed the importance of amplifying Black stories not only in February during Black History Month, but all year long. She shared a slide deck she created called [*Amplifying All Stories, All Year Long*](#), and staff took time to look through the resource to determine how they might incorporate Black lives and stories into their units of study.
- **Music Class-**created a music lesson that focuses on the origins of Social Dance and the role and importance it has played in the Black Community.
- **Transitional Kindergarten-** The TK teacher added the book "I Am Enough" (written by Grace Beyer and read by Kendra Balans) to a Seesaw activity for TK students. After students listened to the story, they drew a picture to show what they can do and what makes them special and then shared their drawings with the teachers and they can record themselves telling us about their drawings as well.

Washington Elementary

- **Teacher PD related to Amplifying Black Voices**
(<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AEOxF4ml4YUqhJ3x0rYeq8v6eWveNvpZM3fTVtAC-qc/edit?usp=sharing>)
- **Teachers shared their MLK/Black History activities on a JamBoard**
(https://jamboard.google.com/d/1j6OcZ_reuRQO7eli8GbmBIOdhw2nXV4FSUQMt2pS2hg/edit?usp=sharing)
 - K-2:
 - **Incorporated read alouds focused on notable black stories into nonfiction reading units and read a few read alouds about the civil**

rights movement to my students to show them that nonfiction books can be about real people in our history.

- 3-5:
 - **Chose one Black voice to amplify per week on asynchronous Wednesdays for Social Studies.** I turned it into a Pear deck so the kids can respond to the images and write what their take aways are. Then Thursday mornings we discussed whole class/breakouts during morning meeting.
- Specialists:
 - **Quote of the day highlighted African-American contributors.**
 - **Dedicated part of Fridays reading time to do a culturally responsive read aloud** (using GLAD strategies with a focus on comprehension.)

LaVenture Middle School

- Student leaders planned this assembly!
- <https://youtu.be/AQVfkmh5hpQ> *The introductory clips feature student reflections and could be powerful to share.
- Students had the opportunity to preview, discuss, and submit their reflections for the assembly which was live streamed on YouTube on 1/18.
- The live stream was really positive and a great chance to connect with our learners.
- Students, families and the community can also access at any time!
- Advisory classes focused on Black History throughout the month of February. Students generated questions and ideas that were used to provide resources for learning from week to week.
- Teachers also did many activities around Black History Month

Mount Baker Middle School

- Mount Baker had a video created by their leadership students that was shown in advisory class Friday, January 15th before the observed Monday
- Likewise, Teachers also did many activities around Black History Month

High School

- The high school had a virtual ceremony. It involved a speaker from
 - AWSP,
 - student and staff reflections, and
 - discussions in their advisory class.
- Some staff from the Music Department
 - Did an Interview for MVHSTV with two amazing students about Black History Month
 - <https://youtu.be/6wDCb8GrRn4>
 - Two other HS students were part of BHM posters and bookmarks made by our MV Public City Library to celebrate and bring awareness of Black History Month.
 - The posters and bookmarks were up at the MVHS Library, Mount Vernon Public Library, MVHS Classrooms, and all over our social media.

Skagit Academy

Example lessons include:

- One teacher (**Monica Schmidt**) **created a bitmoji classroom that included an interactive resource corner for black history month and in celebration of Dr. M.L. King.**
- **Wonderful to see how just one slide can take you to many different interactive activities.**

- If you click on the books on the shelf, then look at the project, *With my Own Two Hands*, you can see the assignment. Ms. Monica described it as a rather emotional activity, hearing kinders and our youngest learners come up with ideas on what we can all do with our "Own Two Hands."

[Bitmoji Classroom](#)

- Advisory classes watched and then discussed a video of African American students talking about their experiences and the importance of learning about, and celebrating, the history of all peoples' experiences.
- Learning Center students were introduced to African step dancing in their elective classes.
- U.S. History students began a poster project on the abolitionist movement.

Closing thoughts

- As you heard, there are a lot of great things going on in recognizing, honoring, and appreciating the contributions Black Americans have contributed in our society
- When we discuss holidays, celebrations, notable figures, etc.
 - If you only focus on food and music, you will get people who like to eat and dance
- I was delighted to see more in depth learning going on like
 - Historical, educational, humanitarian, medical, educational, etc. contributions being recognized and deeply discussed.
- Like anything else, we know that we can and will continue to improve our efforts with integration and inclusion of our efforts throughout the school year and through our K-12 system and beyond