



Merion Elementary School

LMSD schools will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of educational and enrichment activities throughout February. African-American history is part of the year-long curriculum at all levels, but teachers and students will take extra time throughout the month for further exploration of significant historical figures and events. Displays throughout the schools will feature art, literature and general information reinforcing curricular learning while a variety of programs and classroom-specific activities will emphasize the significance of African-Americans throughout history.



Kindergarten: Students will learn about the lives of four scientists whose contributions to their field and the world-at-large correspond to the theme of the week. Classes will read short biographies and watch videos about each scientist before having a class discussion.



1st Grade: Students will engage in a creative research project where they will each explore the life of an iconic/influential African-American (past or present) and then create a commemorative stamp to recognize and celebrate their life and work. Students will also read biographies about important African-Americans aloud as a group.



2nd Grade: Students will learn about track & field legend Wilma Rudolph and inventor Lonnie Johnson before engaging in arts & crafts activities related to both of these influential African-Americans. Second graders will also learn about jazz and famous musicians like Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong as well as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his role as a leader of the Civil Rights Movement.



3rd Grade: Students will research African-American individuals who have had a significant impact on our society. They will each write an informational text and create a commemorative stamp celebrating their achievements and contributions. The informational texts will be written for and shared with their 1st grade buddies.



4th Grade: Fourth graders will participate in a variation of the aforementioned stamp activity geared more specifically for older students with an emphasis on some lesser well-known African-Americans rather than the "big names" that generally receive a lot of attention. Students will present their research to classmates and go on "gallery walks" to explore the work of other classes and grades.



Track & Field Star Wilma Rudolph