



# WELSH VALLEY MIDDLE 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 deeper 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.



Teachers across all grade levels and subject areas collaborated to develop a wide array of engaging learning experiences for students, including the following school-wide events:

- Morning Announcements: Student leaders will develop and present morning announcements that educate the whole school community about African American history and culture.
- DVCEE Student Leadership Conference: Student leaders will attend the 19th Annual Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity Middle School Student Leadership Institute sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania. Students will attend leadership development workshops.
- Classroom Learning Exercises/Projects: Students will be invited to engage with a variety of student-developed projects and visuals demonstrating the learning of their peers at Welsh Valley.

Please peruse the following engaging classroom learning exercises/projects (not a comprehensive list):

Teacher/Subject	Classroom Learning Exercise/Project
5th Grade ELA/Soc. Std. S. Ash, J. Deangelis, K. Granieri, B. Pezick, and M. Tavani	Fifth graders will be researching and creating a historical quilt comprised of notable African American historical figures. Mirroring a text read by all fifth graders, <u>Front Desk</u> , students will make a connection to the “stories we weave” by sharing the stories of those notable African American historical figures they have chosen to research. We will acknowledge and celebrate the differences and commonalities of the historical figures highlighted, including what common threads we all have and what ways stories are interwoven.
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA T. Kauffman & C. Williams	Students will research a key African-American historical figure that has had a positive impact on U.S. culture. Students then identified a famous motivational quote and analyzed how that quote reflects the person’s life and how it connects to life today (personally or societally).
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA D. Gingrich	Students will be completing an analysis and reflection on King’s <i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i> , considering an exploration of pursuing justice—then and today.
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA J. Chung	Students will learn about Victor Hugo and how his annual guide allowed African Americans to safely travel segregated America from 1933-1966.





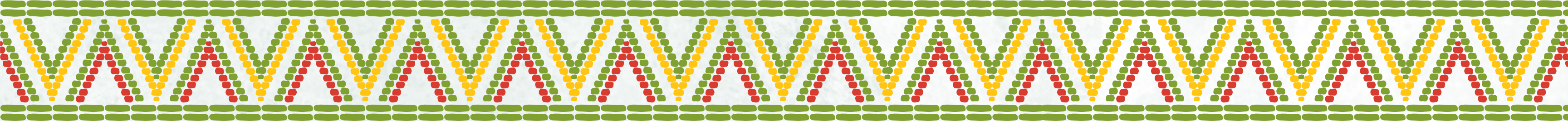
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<b>6th Grade Computers</b> L. Tifft	Students in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade will identify and research a black pioneer in computer science and create a Google Drawing infographic. Students in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade will identify and research a black pioneer in computer science and compile six facts into QR codes and create a cube.
<b>7th Gr. ELA</b> J. Howarth & K. Ziemba	Students are researching and examining how specific poets, musicians and orators have lifted black voices throughout our country’s history. Each student will select a black poet, musician, or orator to research and study their work’s purpose and cultural/historical significance. Ultimately, students will create a magazine containing an image of their person of interest, example work, expository essay, and a collage.
<b>5th Gr. Math</b> C. Clark	Students will be researching and completing a mini-project on a black mathematician of their choice and describing their contributions to the field.
<b>7th Gr. Social Studies</b> B. Davis & C. Gari	Students will be researching notable African American historical figures of their choice. They will then create mini-posters using technology tools to commemorate the African American historical figures who inspired them. Students will also create a 14-foot mosaic of notable African Americans that will be displayed in the hallway.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Social Studies</b> M. Peterson & R. Campbell	Students will research notable black leaders of the Reconstruction Era and highlight their contributions to America through one-pager graphics that will be displayed throughout the 8A hallway.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Science</b> M. Sullivan	Students will be learning about the work of Moddie Taylor, a black scientist who worked on the Manhattan Project and contributed to atomic theory.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Science</b> M. Hunt	Students will be listening to interviews and podcasts from the inspirational astrophysicist and advocate for scientific literacy, Neil deGrasse Tyson, as well as reading articles and researching other individuals who challenge outdated stereotypes of scientists and engineers. As we highlight the broad diversity of people who are currently part of the STEM fields today, we hope to encourage more young people of all backgrounds to pursue these career pathways.





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<b>Health/Phys. Ed.</b> R. McDermott, V. Scali, & M. Wyatt	Students will view the documentary film, “Partners of the Heart,” the story of Vivian Thomas and how she became a medical pioneer in shock treatment and cardiovascular surgery from Johns Hopkins Hospital. Students will then reflect on Vivian Thomas’ lasting legacy and consider their own aspirations for impacting their future world.
<b>French</b> M. Arnold & A. Phillipson-Weiner	Students will learn about black Francophone artists, musicians, politicians, writers, and singers. 7th grade students will engage with Duolingo Podcasts on topics such as Paris Noir (Black Paris) and The Secret Life of Josephine Baker. Finally, 8th grade students will complete a magazine project on Rwanda and participate in a cultural unit on Togo.
<b>Art</b> C. Petrino & K. Wallitsch	Each day in the month of February, art teachers will highlight the work of accomplished BIPOC artists. Students will reflect and respond in their sketchbooks.
<b>Communications</b> A. Watts	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Communications classes will be creating a “Quote Quilt” on notable Black Americans, past or present. The quilt will be displayed in the hallway in both 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade buildings for the community to enjoy.
<b>Library</b> K.Maahs	The Welsh Valley Library will host four African American Read-In events during the month of February for staff and students. The National African American Read-In (AARI) is a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to read together, centering African American books and authors.

