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Norwalk Public Schools Celebrates 2nd Annual Black Heritage & History Festival

Norwalk, Conn. (March 1, 2024) -- Norwalk Public Schools hosted its second annual Black Heritage & History Festival on Thursday evening, celebrating the impact and achievements of African Americans in the arts.

More than 1,200 people attended the celebration that featured incredible school performances, beautiful and insightful presentations, lots of dancing and fun activities, and delicious food from local vendors Chef Jeff Esaw and Dirty Jerk by John "JJ" McKinney.

Norwalk Public Schools offers a special thank you to our guest speakers - Norwalk Board of Education Vice-Chair Sheri McCready-Pritchett, Norwalk Connecticut Branch NAACP President Brenda Penn-Williams, Rev. Roosevelt Ewell of Canaan Institutional Baptist Church, and Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling - who provided greater context for why Black History Month is celebrated and the importance of recognizing the impactful contributions of African Americans to our country.

"We reflect on the historic triumphs and the bravery of the most courageous Black educators, orators, artists, scientists, civil rights and cultural leaders, and beyond. We reexamine what it means to have lived the Black experience not just here in America but around the world and why it is unique, special and powerful. And we refocus on how to make the future that much brighter," Dr. Alexandra Estrella, Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools, said in her opening remarks.

Student performances spanned from step-dancing to poetry readings to instrumental performances. Presentations highlighted great Black leaders and activists. Members of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. also joined the festivities.

The Black Heritage & History Festival is one of several district-wide events hosted by Norwalk Public Schools to celebrate our diverse community.

[Click here to see our many school performances.](#)