

# Dr. MLK, Jr. Observance Day Celebration

**P.O. Box 26 \* Guyton, GA 31312**

**Telephone: (912) 661-0170 or (912) 772-3061**

***Mrs. Nellar Lonon – President \* Mrs. Rosetta Gordon - Secretary***

TO: Effingham County Schools and Community Organizations

FROM: Mrs. Nellar Lonon, President of the Dr. MLK, Jr. Observance Day Committee *N.L.*

RE: Invitation to Participate in Dr. MLK, Jr. Contests

DATE: December 4, 2025

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Committee would like to invite all students to participate in the 42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Poster and Essay Contests. Students in grades 1 - 5 are invited to enter the poster contest, while students in grades 6 - 12 are invited to enter the essay contest. Please help us make all students aware of these opportunities through announcements and flyers at the schools and via the district's website and Facebook page.

This year's chosen theme is **“Beyond the Dream, Toward the Promise”**

The guidelines for both contests are attached.

**Note:** Students must respond to the following contest prompt in developing their essays:

***PROMPT:***

**Writing Situation**

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became an influential civil rights leader who worked with people of all ethnicities to identify discrimination, eliminate segregation, and promote equality. Through his nonviolent approach and motivational speeches, Dr. King helped to overturn America's racist laws in the 1950s and 1960s.

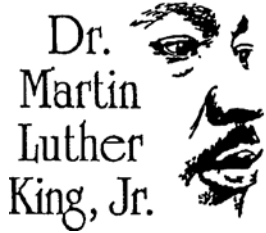
**Directions for Writing**

Write a persuasive essay explaining why you believe we are **“Beyond the Dream and moving Toward the Promise.”** Include three specific reasons and make sure you offer supporting details, evidence, facts, anecdotes (brief stories), etc. for your reasons, and relate your reasons to the ideals and philosophies of Dr. King.

The deadline for the poster and essay contests has been extended to **Tuesday, December 31, 2024.** However, entries may be submitted before the holidays.

All entries may be submitted to your school, sent via interoffice mail to Dr. Sandra Nethels, or mailed to Dr. MLK, Jr. Education Committee, P.O. Box 26, Guyton, GA 31312. Winners will be announced on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025.** If additional information is needed, please call Mrs. Nellar Lonon at (912) 661-0107 or Ms. Rosetta Gordon at (912) 772-3061

Awards will be presented to all contest winners during the Noonday (noon) program on **Monday, January 20, 2025.** **Winners are encouraged to attend this service and participate in the parade.**



## 2025 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

### POSTER or ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

(Circle One)

All entries must be received on or before December 31, 2024.

Theme: “Beyond the Dream, Toward the Promise”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

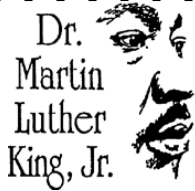
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



## **2025 POSTER CONTEST GUIDELINES**

### **Poster Contest Rules:**

1. You must be 6 - 11 years of age or in the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
2. Poster must reflect any one of the winning contest themes:
  - **“Beyond the Dream, Toward the Promise”**
  - **Marching Forward: Embracing Dr. King's Vision, United for a Common Goal**
  - **Using Dr. King’s Legacy as the Cornerstone for Our Future!**
  - **Filled With Hope and Passion - NOW is the time for Action**
3. Poster must be child’s work.
4. Any medium may be used  
- (crayons, markers, pen and ink, paints, watercolors, pencils etc.).
5. The poster should include the theme and be created on a poster board.
6. Your name MUST be written on the back in the upper right-hand corner of the poster with the entry form attached with tape, otherwise your poster will be disqualified. NO glue, please!
7. Posters will be judged on:
  - Creativity (Originality – Child’s Work)      **40 points**
  - How well the theme is illustrated      **30 points**
  - Proper grammar and usage      **20 points**
  - Neatness      **10 points**
8. Winners will be selected from **two groups** (grades 1-2 and grades 3-5).



## 2025 ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

### 2025 Essay Contest Rules:

1. You must be 12 - 18 years of age or in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to submit an essay.
2. Essay must be an original response to the contest prompt:

Write a persuasive essay explaining why you believe we are “**Beyond the Dream and moving Toward the Promise.**” *Include three specific reasons and make sure you offer supporting details, evidence, facts, anecdotes (brief stories), etc. for your reasons and relate your reasons to the ideals and philosophies of Dr. King.*

#### Writing Situation

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. became an influential civil rights leader working with all ethnicities to identify discrimination, eliminate segregation, and promote equality. As a result, Dr. King helped to overturn America's racist laws in the 1950's and 1960's through his nonviolent approach and motivational speeches.

3. Essay should consist of at least 1 page, double-spaced (approximately 250 words). Pages must be numbered if more than one page.
4. Essay **must be typed.**
5. Essay should be submitted on **8 1/2 x 11 sheets of paper.**
6. The cover sheet must contain the student's name, school, home & cell phone numbers, parents' or guardians' names, and home & email addresses. Neither the student's name nor any other information should be included in the body of the essay.
  - *Note: Do NOT put your name on your essay. (Essays will be judged anonymously).*
7. Essays will be judged on:

• Content (Includes originality and creativity)	<b>30 points (Ideas)</b>
• How well it responds to the prompt	<b>30 points (Organization)</b>
• Proper grammar and usage	<b>20 points (Conventions)</b>
• Effective expression	<b>20 points (Style/Voice)</b>
8. Winners will be selected from **two groups** (grades 6-8, and grades 9-12).
9. Essays will be **FACT CHECKED**; plagiarized essays will be disqualified.

*\*Note: Essays will not be returned. Please make a copy for your records.*

