



THE PHOENIXES' CALL

Volume 3 | Issue 10 | February 1, 2021

Calendar

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

MCEC IN SESSION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

END OF 4TH SIX WEEKS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

11TH GRADE ACT EXAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

EARLY RELEASE DAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

MCEC IN SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 8

REMOTE LEARNING DAY

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9 –
FRIDAY, MARCH 12**

ANNUAL LEAVE (SPRING
BREAK) – NO SCHOOL

Celebrating Black History Month

Written by: Ah'Jada Ingram

Black History month originated in the United States and is currently recognized throughout the month of February. During this month, we are taught the significance of Black people in history, as well as their achievements and legacies all over the world. Each school year we are taught the same lessons on the most famous faces of Black History such as Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X. These people, along with several others who don't receive their flowers publicly, pioneered the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s to push the beginning of equality being extended to the Black community. With that being said, there is still work to be done in order to ensure justice for all in the United States.

This year in particular as we celebrate Black History month, it is important that we focus on those who are still shaping the future of Black History during a new era of the Civil Rights Movement. We honor those whose activism and voice was critical in shaping the events of the summer of 2020, like Tameka Mallory. We honor those who laid out their lives all in the name of social justice, like Oluwatoyin Salau.

We honor those who we still seek justice for, like Elijah McClain. We highlight those making new history, like Kamala Harris who has just become the first Black and Southeast Asian woman to hold the position of Vice President of the United States. During this Black History Month, we recognize and celebrate the barriers broken by exceptional black men and women throughout history that have begun to make real the dream envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Recruitment Time

Written by: Janet Hernandez Vargas

It is recruitment time here at MCEC! We want to get the word out to rising 9th grade students that applications are now available to attend Montgomery County Early College. There are paper copies available for pick-up at Montgomery County Early College, East Middle School, and West Middle School. The application can also be mailed upon request – if interested call Montgomery County Early College at 910-898-9690. The application is also available digitally on MCEC's school website. **The completed application packet must be submitted by February 25, 2021.** Below are testimonials from current Montgomery County Early College students sharing about their decision to apply and their experiences as Phoenixes.

"I decided to apply to MCEC to obtain an associate degree at the most competitive level. Also, I decided to apply to save thousands of dollars by getting my general education classes out of the way. MCEC provides an amazing opportunity for students to learn vital soft skills such as time management, responsibility, and leadership. Most importantly, MCEC encourages students to reach their fullest potential by pushing students outside of their comfort zone. I can speak from personal experience; it wasn't as easy as I thought it was going to be. However, as you continue to experience more rigorous courses, you quickly learn how to adapt. As a senior at MCEC, the last four years that I've spent as a student have included some of the greatest experiences of my life. These last four years have flown by, but they'll be four years that I won't ever forget."-**Shanti Singthong, Current MCEC Senior**

"Firstly, a future Phoenix should know how awesome the pep rallies really are. Most principals at schools just sit there and talk to you, but the Early College has games, and a huge Kahoot. It really shows how enthusiastic a school can be. Secondly, if you have a question about anything, just ask someone. It doesn't matter if it's a teacher or a student, if they can help, they will. If they don't know they will make it a point to ask someone who does. We have all been freshman and we know how confusing it can be. Thirdly, try your best. Some days can be really hard, but don't make that an excuse. If you need a break, during lunch talk to a teacher. They'll listen to you and sometimes you can just sit and cry. School is hard but it's not impossible. Lastly, popularity doesn't matter. Trying to dress up won't get you anywhere any faster than people going to school in jogging pants. After the first semester, people will realize that school isn't a popularity contest and they won't care what girl has the prettiest hair or which guy plays the most sports. At MCEC we learn how to be humans and how to grow as a person. They teach us more than what cell is abiotic or how to find the most active metal on the periodic table. I'd say MCEC is a really great school and you should at least give it a try!

- **Kayla Milliken, Current MCEC Sophomore**

***If you happen to know a rising 9th grade student who is interested in applying to MCEC, we encourage you to please show them this section of our issue. Thank you! ***

2020 Basketball Athletes

Junior Varsity Boys Basketball:
Zaitwan Price

Varsity Girls Basketball:
Joy Allgood, Stephany Jimenez
Perez, Kaliyah Ratliff-Wall,
Zykirah Quick

Varsity Boys Basketball:
Julian Leake

Attention Juniors!

All juniors are scheduled to take the ACT on Tuesday, February 23 at MCEC. Students, plan to arrive before 8:00 AM for the exam. If you need bus transportation for that day, there's a link to sign-up in the announcements within your email.

Free Fact:

By: Mauricio Auguilar

According to National Geographic the entire world population could fit in an area the size of Los Angeles by standing shoulder to shoulder.

[https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/10/111031-population-7-billion-earth-world-un-seven/#:~:text=Standing%20shoulder%2Dto%2Dshoulder%2C,square%20kilometers\)%20of%20Los%20Angeles.&text=A%20typical%20life%20in%20an,it%20was%20a%20century%20ago.](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/10/111031-population-7-billion-earth-world-un-seven/#:~:text=Standing%20shoulder%2Dto%2Dshoulder%2C,square%20kilometers)%20of%20Los%20Angeles.&text=A%20typical%20life%20in%20an,it%20was%20a%20century%20ago.)

Thank you for reading The Phoenixes' Call! This publication was created completely by Montgomery County Early College students. We write, edit, and publish this work on our own. We are using this publication to showcase all of the wonderful students of MCEC and to show the community what it means to be a Phoenix. We apologize for any typographical errors or misspellings. Please see Ms. Heather Beane if you have an idea for a new story or if you would like to be involved.

Announcements:

By: Shanti Singthong

→Volunteers Needed! Interested in designing the MCEC 2021 t-shirt that is given to all students? Send Dr. Seawell an email!

→Need college math assistance? Mrs. Hare is offering tutoring for College Math every Wednesday at 2:00pm. The link is <https://meet.google.com/vew-zxny-mmb>

→Phoenixes, it's time to vote for your class superlatives! Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations last semester. Please use the link assigned to your grade level to vote for your class' superlatives. The links can be found in your email through our daily announcements. Names on the lists are those that received the most nominations. Each student may vote ONCE and must be signed into their MCS (Outlook) email address to access the form. All votes must be submitted by February 5. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Beane.

→Men's Soccer Tryouts have been rescheduled for February 8 -9 from 3:30 - 5:00 at Montgomery Central. Email Coach Williams at cody.williams@montgomery.k12.nc.us if you have any questions.

→MCC Tutoring is available in the library or by phone. Do you need assistance with navigating your course in Blackboard or need assistance accessing Blackboard, your student email, your Self-Service account or setting up any of your learning tools for your courses (Cengage, MindTap, Lrn)? Do not hesitate to call for assistance at 910-898-9650 or 910-898-9619. No appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome!

→Is your computer telling you that Windows is out of date? To correct this error, go to any MCS campus and log onto the school Wi-Fi and restart your computer. Your computer will install any updates.

Remote Learning

- Remote learning will be extended until March 15, 2021. Families will have the option to remain on Plan C after this date. Please call MCEC if you have any questions.
- Montgomery County Early College will operate virtually for all staff from January 16, 2021 to February 7, 2021. There will be no MCEC employees on campus during this time. MCEC students are welcome to still attend any seated college classes. If you need assistance while we are working off-campus, please email Dr. Seawell at heather.seawell@montgomery.k12.nc.us or call the office and leave a message. We will be checking messages frequently.

Phoenix in Flight Award: A Black History Month Celebration

MCEC is seeking nominations for an honoree to receive the Phoenix in Flight Award. This annual recognition was started by MCEC students in 2019.

Do you know someone who has been an advocate for the African American community in Montgomery County? Honor them for their contributions to the African American community and Montgomery County as a whole by submitting a nomination. Nominations are due by February 25, 2021.

Nomination Form (Be logged into your MCS account):

<https://forms.gle/yf9Z5X6iWm5pALBL7>

Attention Seniors!

- If you have been accepted to a college/university or if you have received any scholarships or grants please use the following form: <https://forms.gle/s67pCTtrWri1NcZB7>. This is also available in your email through our daily announcements to let us know. We want to celebrate your achievements! #PhoenixPhenoms
- If you have any college acceptances and you would like to be included in the next edition of our newsletter, please let us know by emailing Ms. Beane.
- Also be sure to check the MCEC Scholarship Page. Mrs. New has added several scholarship opportunities. The link is available to you through our daily announcements (be sure to log into your MCS account).

Humans of MCEC: Nicholas Tofflemeyer

Interviewed by: Harley Beeson & Written by: Raena Doult-Bender



Nicholas Tofflemeyer, age 6

Nicholas Tofflemeyer, one of our soon-to-be-leaving seniors, attends MCEC strongly due to his parents' influence. He has been a consistently active member of the Phoenix family since his freshman year, and he has enjoyed his time at MCEC.

On the prospect of moving on from our tiny high school, it was obvious to ask: "What are your plans post-graduation?" He replied, "I plan to go to Colorado State University and continue to build on the Associates in Arts that I will receive from MCC." Despite his plans to attend CSU, Nicholas shared that as a child he never knew what he wanted to be when he grew up, and that sentiment hasn't changed. He is excitedly preparing to attend his chosen college, proudly adding that "it's been my dream my entire life [to attend CSU]. I'm a third generation CSU student."

Of course, he still has his worries since adulthood brings many new responsibilities and challenges. When asked about what scared him as a child versus what scares him now, his response is a relatable one to many, "As a child, I guess being kidnapped. Currently, it's probably failure or failing. Not failing as in failing classes, but failing like failing in life." He also fears the instability of adulthood, saying one of the things that scares him most is "Finding a way to make decisions. The act of making the decision isn't what scares me but finding a way to be stable enough to make decisions does. So, I guess, lack of stability is what scares me most about growing up." Though, on a lighter note, one 'adult' task he found to be much easier than expected was "Managing money. I find it relatively easy to manage and budget my money." This is a promising skill we hope will stay with him.

To bring the questions away from the usual, I asked him, "If you could spend the day with one person, dead or alive, with no language barriers, who would it be?" He responded, "I don't want to sound depressing... But if I'm completely honest, I would choose to spend another day with my mother." Many can resonate with the loss of a loved one, especially with the ongoing pandemic. We send our sympathies to both Nicholas and many other families who have lost mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers.

We are grateful for Nicholas and his impact on the Montgomery County Early College community. Next year, while he is enjoying Colorado State University, we will miss his presence in our hallways and on the basketball court at lunch.