



VALLEY PARK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Developing students today in preparation
for tomorrow*

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February 5, 2021

The Valley Park School District is proud to join our nation in honoring Black History Month. The celebratory month is also known as National African American History Month. It is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing African Americans' central role in the story of the United States of America.

Founded by historian Carter G. Woodson, black history week was first celebrated on Feb. 12, 1926, to commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent. The date coincides with the birthdays of abolitionist/editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. During the U.S. bicentennial in 1976, black history week was expanded to a month-long celebration. Since then, U.S. presidents have designated February as National African American History Month. The month is also meant to address important historical exclusions in curriculum — African American history.

As an organization dedicated to providing a supportive, personalized environment in which **all students** will grow strong intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially today in preparation for tomorrow, this month is an additional opportunity to educate our students about the triumph of African American History, and the work ahead of us as a nation to achieve educational equality.

Students and teachers have already started commemorating Black History Month with a range of activities that include academic and artistic expression throughout the district. These events provide our youth with culturally relevant experiences that encourage student voices and increase their learning engagement. Be sure to check out our social media pages as we document the fantastic happenings taking place across our district to educate, celebrate, and reflect upon black history.

Please also know that as a district, our work is only beginning. To be truly equitable, we must consciously and purposefully infuse Black history into our daily lessons. We have recently taken strides and will continue to coordinate within and across grade levels to integrate this content in a manner that allows all students to place African Americans in the broader context of history and its associated literature. We have started and will continue to make sure our texts, units of study, and curriculum acknowledge the accomplishments, experiences, and perspectives of Black people not only in February but throughout the school year. This includes incorporating more texts by diverse authors and texts that have protagonists more representative of our entire student body and educating on American history's more varied perspectives to understand injustices and inequities better as we work towards developing a more just society.

Black History Month is a special opportunity to recognize and celebrate African Americans' many contributions to our history, culture, and community. Please join us this month as we celebrate the countless Black individuals who have given their gifts and their lives in pursuit of a society that is free, just, and equitable for all.

Respectfully,

Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent



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IMPORTANT UPDATES/ REMINDERS

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Any student-athlete planning on competing in the fall alternative season or the spring season must have an up-to-date [physical](#) and a completed [MSHSAA Pre-Participation Form](#) on file with the Activities Office. If you have a question about whether you have an up-to-date physical on file, please see Mr. Hamilton before the first day of practice.

FALL ALTERNATIVE SPORTS

Practices and/or try-outs for our four fall sports (Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Softball, Volleyball) will begin on February 22, 2021. Competitions can begin on March 12, 2021, and will last through April 10, 2021.

SPRING SPORTS

Practices and/or try-outs for our spring sports (Baseball, Girls Soccer, Golf, Track & Field) will begin on March 1, 2021, and the season will run through its regularly scheduled end date of June 5th.

Schedules are currently under development and being finalized. Due to the fluidity of COVID-19 and the spring weather in Missouri, schedules must remain fluid this year and may need to be altered at a later date. All changes will be communicated through our live calendars located on our [Athletics Department website](#). For more information please check out our previous athletic messages at www.vp.k12.mo.us/messages

FREE VIRTUAL DRAWING CLASS WITH CBABI BAYOC

Local artist [Cbabi Bayoc](#) will teach you how to draw your own Black hero during this online program:

<http://ow.ly/vmII30rsdQt> Cbabi (pronounced Kuh-bob-bi) Bayoc is an internationally-known visual artist and illustrator residing in St. Louis, Missouri. His subjects include family, children, music, and a bunch of other cool stuff! You can learn more about Cbabi and view some of his work by visiting: [Cbabi Bayoc Originals - Home](#)

FREE MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be FREE for ALL students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY--BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPPORTUNITIES

The [St. Louis County Library](#) will celebrate this month through its annual Black History Month program. This year's Black history presentations will feature [40 virtual programs](#) that highlight African American achievements. For more information visit: [Black History Celebration | St. Louis County Library \(slcl.org\)](#) .

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS & SNOW DAY PLAN

We are heading into the season of inclement weather. If you would like to receive a weather/emergency announcement from the school, please make sure that your information is updated in [Infinite Campus](#). Text and email announcements are sent through Infinite Campus. School closures are also announced on local television news outlets, and on our website and social media channels.