

January 17, 2019

Dear EGRPS Families,

East Grand Rapids Public Schools and the EGR Neighbors for Inclusion and Equity welcome you back to school and the New Year. The January 2019 School Calendar is new this year for EGRPS families. For the first time in many years our second semester has already begun and the East Grand Rapids Public Schools will be closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (MLK Day), January 21, 2019.

Previously, the District remained open on this Day of Service and each school recognized the achievements and messages of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through various school-based events and activities. Although students will not attend school on MLK Day, our schools will celebrate his life, service, and impact, as each has done in past years. These events and activities are scheduled for the week leading up to MLK Day and/or the week of MLK Day. These specific events complement the ongoing work related to diversity, equity, and inclusion that is embedded in teaching and learning throughout the school year.

In addition to recognizing and honoring the achievements and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at school, it is our hope that students and their families are able to extend that recognition on MLK Day, Monday, January 21, 2019, while not attending school. There is a plethora of MLK Day events, celebrations, service projects, and resources available to residents of the greater Grand Rapids community. To assist you in learning about available MLK Day activities and resources to support diversity, equity, and inclusion year-round, the EGR Public Schools and the EGR Neighbors for Inclusion and Equity collaborated to create the attached guide. We encourage you and your student(s) to complement the teaching and learning at your school(s) by participating in MLK Day events and/or by engaging together in resources related to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the year.

President Ronald Reagan signed into law the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday as a celebration of Dr. King's immeasurable contribution to the United States, and to humankind. The MLK Holiday is a time when the nation pauses to remember Dr. King's life and work, and to honor his legacy by making the holiday a day of community service "a day on, not a day off" (<http://www.thekingcenter.org>). Please consider engaging alongside other members of the Greater Grand Rapids community on this "day on" by participating in one of the many MLK Day events, forums, programs, seminars, or dialogues taking place on Monday, January 21, 2019.

Sincerely,

**East Grand Rapids Public Schools**  
**and**  
**EGR Neighbors for Equity and Inclusion**



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION RESOURCES for FAMILIES



## **East Grand Rapids Public Schools and EGR Neighbors for Equity and Inclusion**

*The purpose of this guide is to provide families with a sampling of high-quality resources to support conversations and actions within the home and community that deepen a sense of connection and commitment to the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, nor does it presume to be “how-to” guide, as the work of defining and achieving equity is the ongoing work of both individuals and collective communities. The East Grand Rapids Neighbors for Equity and Inclusion (EGRNEI) welcome and encourage any interested individuals to connect with us via the EGRNEI Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1512126175568096/>.*

## 2019 MLK DAY and DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION EVENTS

### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration 33rd Annual Commemoration Program**

Monday, January 21, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Fountain Street Church

<https://grcc.edu/thebobandaleiciawoodrickcenterforequityandinclusion/programs/drmartinlutherkingjrcelebration>

### **MLK Young Leaders Weekend**

A three-day retreat for 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students designed to explore the philosophy of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement in effecting positive social change (Application Required)

Friday, January 18, 2019 - Monday, January 21, 2019

Calvin College Prince Conference Center

<https://calvin.edu/calendar/event.html?id=59be5674-3444-4b8a-9335-272577e57485>

### **Calvin College January Series: Willie Jennings - Dreaming the End of Racial America**

Monday, January 21, 2019

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Covenant Fine Arts Auditorium at Calvin College

<https://calvin.edu/directory/series/willie-jennings>

### **Aquinas College: Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Celebration**

Monday, January 21, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Aquinas College

<https://www.aquinas.edu/event/2019/01/21/mlk-day-march-celebration>

### **Ferris State University MLK Events**

January 21-23, 2019

<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/Minority/mlkinfo/MLK2019ScheduleOfEvents.jpg>

<https://www.ferris.edu/mlk/>

### **Urban League of West Michigan MLK Breakfast**

#### **19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Corporate Breakfast**

Monday, January 21, 2019

DeVos Place, Downtown Grand Rapids

7:00 a.m. - Registration & Networking

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast & Celebratory Event

<https://www.grurbanleague.org/mlk-breakfast-2019>

### **MLK Day 2019: A Stone of Hope**

A gathering to celebrate the work and words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, January 21, 2019

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Madison Church: Square Campus

1441 Madison Ave SE

<https://worship.calvin.edu/news-events/events/mlk-day-2019-a-stone-of-hope-gathering-to-celebrate-the-work-and-words-of-rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr/>

## ADDITIONAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION EVENTS

**GRCC's Bob & Aleicia Woodrick Center for Equity and Inclusion presents the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Youth Conference “The Power of Dreams” (El Poder De Soñar)**

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grand Rapids Community College Gerald R. Ford Fieldhouse.

<https://grcc.edu/thebobandaleiciawoodrickcenterforequityandinclusion/programs/latino-youth-conference>

**GRCC Diversity and Lecture Series - Inclusion and Equity**

<https://grcc.edu/thebobandaleiciawoodrickcenterforequityandinclusion/programs/diversitylectureseries0>

**César E. Chávez Social Justice Activities**

Thursday, March 14, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

<http://www.egrps.org/documents/Files/2018-2019Files/2019CalltoParticipationCECSJA.pdf>

## WEB-BASED RESOURCES SPECIFIC to MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

**NBC New Education Station: Parent Toolkit for MLK Day - How to Celebrate MLK Day with your kids today and everyday**

<https://www.parenttoolkit.com/social-and-emotional-development/news/holidays/how-to-celebrate-mlk-day-with-your-kids-today-and-everyday>

**The Washington Post’s Guide to Resources for Parents on Martin Luther King Day**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2018/01/14/a-guide-to-resources-for-parents-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.31e5872171e9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2018/01/14/a-guide-to-resources-for-parents-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.31e5872171e9)

**U.S. Department of Education: 5 Ways to Help Your Kid Understand the Significance of MLK Day**

<https://www2.ed.gov/free/features/mlk-day.html>

**PBS Parents: Books for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/2015/01/books-martin-luther-king-jr-day/>

**National Association for Education of Young Children: Ideas for Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Young Children**

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/honoring-mlk-jr-day>

## ADDITIONAL WEB-BASED DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION RESOURCES

**New York Times Short Film Series:** These series offer personal narrative, research, and story-telling to illustrate how the lived experiences of Americans differ based on race and ethnicity:

- *A Conversation on Race:* <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/your-stories/conversations-on-race?module=inline>
- *Who? Me? Biased?:* <https://www.nytimes.com/video/who-me-biased?module=inline>
- *Hyphen-Nation:* <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/storywall/hyphen-nation?module=inline>

**Raising Race Conscious Children** ([www.raceconscious.org](http://www.raceconscious.org)) is a “resource to support adults who are trying to talk to young children about race.” A good starting place is the post *100 Race Conscious Things to Say to Your Child to Advance Racial Justice:* <http://www.raceconscious.org/2016/06/100-race-conscious-things-to-say-to-your-child-to-advance-racial-justice/>.

**Teaching Tolerance** ([www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)) is a website primarily geared toward educators, providing classroom and professional development resources on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Parents and families will find many of the resources relevant for their own reading and conversations. Check out the *Toolkit for What Is White Privilege, Really?:* <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/toolkit-for-what-is-white-privilege-really>

**Social Justice Books** ([www.socialjusticebooks.org](http://www.socialjusticebooks.org)) offers curated books lists and reviews of children’s and young adult multicultural, social justice, and anti-bias books.

## FOR FURTHER READING

**The following books are suggested for adults and older students:**

- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta’Nehisi Coates
- *White Kids: Growing Up With Privilege in a Racially Divided America* by Margaret A. Hagerman
- *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice* by Paul Kivel
- *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race* by Derald Wing Sue

## EGRPS MLK SCHOOL EVENTS

### **Breton Downs Elementary**

Friday, January 18, 2019

Bright Star Theatre in the morning (9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Grades K-2; 10:35 - 11:20 a.m. Grades 3-5)

Recess: 1:40 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.

Silent March: 1:40 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.

Assembly starting at 2:30 p.m.

### **Lakeside Elementary**

Friday, January 18, 2019

Assembly starting at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. (K-2), and 2:15 p.m. (3-5)

Bright Star Theater will hold performances in the gym

Theme: “Kindness is a Muscle”

Partnership: The Oakes of Cascade, a local nursing home. Partnership Kick off at the January 18<sup>th</sup> assembly. After, communications between individual classrooms will follow between January and May. Teachers will

take students to the home to visit with residents, or there will have organized events where the residents come to Lakeside.

Other: Teachers are also completing various activities throughout the month of January that revolve around kindness and team building in their classrooms.

### **Wealthy Elementary**

Friday, January 18

8:30 a.m. - Assembly celebrating the work of Dr. King

9:30 a.m. - Whole school Silent March

12:30 p.m. - Dream Keeper Activities (lesson plans)

Continued Learning: With Bright Star Theatre on Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Grades K-2 seeing *African Folktales*

Grades 3-5 seeing *Freedom Songs: The Music of Black History*

### **EGR Middle School**

The Middle dedicated all of January in BRIDGES time to focus on Dr. King. Topics include lessons on Agents of Change, Micro-Aggression - Racism in a Modern Context, and reflections on MLK's "I Have a Dream" Speech.

January 18, 2019

Morning:

- Lisa Knight of the Grand Rapids Urban League will work with all 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the morning. Theme of the work is "Walking in Someone Else's Shoes."

Afternoon: 12:40 p.m. - End of Day

- Watch MLK Speech in BRIDGES
- Silent March to Gym
- Assembly start time: Approx. 1:15 p.m.
- Kids Food Basket presentation (launch service project concluding before Spring Break)
- Keynote: Lisa Knight from the Grand Rapids Urban League
- Return to BRIDGES for art project related to Dr. King

### **EGR High School**

Students at the high school will view a weeklong MLK video series Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and participate in classroom discussions. All high school students are invited to engage in service projects with the Champions of Diversity Student and Staff group. Service projects will support Mel Trotter and Dégagé Ministries and take place on Monday, January 21, 2019 during the morning. Monday evening, students and faculty are invited to attend the GRCC/GVSU/Davenport University MLK Celebration at 6:00 p.m. at Fountain Street Church. The movie *Selma* will be shown during 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> hour lunches on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Information about the high school opportunities will be communicated during the school day to the high school students.