

During the month of February 2020, the Center for College Access hosted a series of Black History Month events celebrating a theme of ‘Resistance.’ Acknowledging that Black History is often taught through the tragedies of oppression, our students were empowered to understand, “Wherever there is oppression, there will always be ‘RESISTANCE.’”

Black History Month District Calendar

The Center for College Access created a district-wide Black History Month PowerPoint calendar as a resource for morning announcements and classroom instruction.

1 **Black History Month February 2020**

2 **“What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.”**
—Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History

3 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 3, 2020**
Feb. 2, 1922: Stuart Hall—sociologist, cultural theorist, and political activist—the first Black person to be elected to the House of Representatives.
Feb. 3, 1964: Over 400,000 mostly Black and Puerto Rican students in NYC may not go to school to protest without registration. This protest is the largest in the history of the Civil Rights era.
Feb. 3, 1991: The Air Force Academy awards its first ROTC cadets with a 100% pass rate in a class of 100% Black students.

4 **SCHOOL BOYCOTT!**
This flyer was circulated to advertise the 1964 school boycott in NYC.
DIG DEEPER: <https://www.nytimes.com/1964/02/03/archives/school-boycott-in-nyc.html>

5 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 4, 2020**
Feb. 4, 1874: Blanche K. Bruce, elected at birth, becomes the second African American to serve in the Senate and the first elected African American senator to serve a full term.
Feb. 4, 1912: Rosa Parks, esteemed Civil Rights activist, is born in Tuskegee, Alabama. Parks is famous for refusing give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus.
Feb. 4, 2005: Oprah Winfrey—actor, television news personality, author, and civil rights activist—dies. Parks is also known for giving historic magazine for both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

6 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 5, 2020**
Feb. 5, 1934: Harlan Aaron is born. Aaron is best known for breaking Babe Ruth's MLB home run record.
Feb. 5, 1972: Ben Douglas, the Father of Black Basketball, is elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame. Douglas runs and coaches the first Black basketball team in the world.
Feb. 5, 1985: Trayvon Martin is shot by George Zimmerman. The Black Lives Matter movement is created in response to Zimmerman's acquittal.

7 **We are clear that all lives matter, but we live in a world where that's not actually happening in practice. So if we want to get to the place where all lives matter, then we have to make sure that Black lives matter, too.**
—Alicia Garza, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter

8 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 6, 2020**
Feb. 6, 1930: The first organized group of formerly enslaved African Americans in Africa begins. The group is known as the African Burial Ground.
Feb. 6, 1945: Both Martin is born in St. Ann, Jamaica. Martin is remembered for his role in the 1964 school boycott in NYC.
Feb. 6, 1990: At 28 years old, Barack Obama is elected as the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review. The Harvard Law Review is considered to be most prestigious law review in the U.S.

9 **“The fact that Feb has been elected shows a lot of progress... It's encouraging... But the progress that shows the most hasn't been to say that everything is O.K. for Blacks. The time is therefore that for every one of us, there are hundreds or thousands of Black students who at least need to be heard.”**
DIG DEEPER: <https://www.nytimes.com/1964/02/03/archives/school-boycott-in-nyc.html>

10 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 10, 2020**
Feb. 10, 1927: Singer, songwriter, and pianist Roberta Flack is born. Flack is best known for her hit song, “Killing Me Softly with His Song.” Flack is also known for becoming a recording artist. Flack taught piano lessons.
Feb. 10, 1957: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, known as SCLC, is founded. Led by its first president, Martin Luther King, SCLC played a large role in the success of the Civil Rights movement.
Feb. 10, 1982: Author and journalist, Alex Haley dies. Haley is best known as the co-author of the Autobiography of Malcolm X and the author of Roots.

11 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 11, 2020**
Feb. 11, 1944: The first “march” protest of African Americans happens. It was led by African American leaders in the Council of New Negroes and the NAACP to secure their freedom.
Feb. 11, 1976: Clifford Ross Jr. is confirmed as the first Black Secretary of the Army. Ross is also known for obtaining Harvard and Yale Law degrees, as well as teaching law at Harvard University.
Feb. 11, 1990: Nelson Mandela is released after serving 27 years in prison. Mandela is known for leading the African National Congress (ANC) in the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

12 **ON THIS DAY IN BLACK HISTORY... February 12, 2020**
Feb. 12, 1965: Henry Highland Garnet, pastor and abolitionist, is chosen by President Lincoln to give a sermon before the House of Representatives.
Feb. 12, 1969: The NAACP is formed by a group of Black and white people, including W.E.B. DuBois and J.P. Morgan. The NAACP is known for its role in the fight against apartheid in South Africa.
Feb. 12, 1956: Annette Hall, the first Black female judge, is born in Cleveland, OH. The Annette Hall Show is known for the diverse range of entertainers associated in each episode.

Black History Month 2020 District Calendar excerpt.

HBCU Door Decorating Contest

LEAP Academy Junior High teachers facilitated hallway decor in honor of America's **Historically Black Colleges and Universities**, providing our students with valuable college knowledge connected to the rich culture and heritage of African American education.



Left to right: Ms. Gartland, 8th grade ELA teacher, and her homeroom won 1st place in the door decorating contest; followed in 2nd place by Ms. Booker, 8th grade Science teacher; and 3rd place winner Ms. Kaur, 7th grade Social Studies teacher.

Black Lives Matter in Schools (February 4, 2020)

Students, grades 8 – 11, participated in poetry readings at a Rutgers University “Speak Up!” event in support of Black Lives Matter in Schools.



Antonio Vadell (11th grade), Breon Green-Lynch (8th grade), and Abriana Ramirez (8th grade) share their original poetry with LEAP Academy students, Rutgers Students, and Rutgers faculty.

Lecture Event: A History of Resistance (February 6, 2020)

Students attended a lecture on:

- **The historical relationship between oppression and resistance through the lens of Black History in America.** *Students and teachers were encouraged to discuss this relationship further through other lenses/themes/events present in American and World History, like the Colonialism of Indigenous People, the Holocaust, and the Caste System in India.*
- **The role of Black Women who have championed the fights/campaigns/movements against the oppression of African Americans.** *This program focused on the role of Black Women as leaders of change in America, as 2020 is the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. Additionally, this conversation created a starting point to transition into Women's History Month in March.*



Students, grades 7 – 11, attend lecture on the history of Black Resistance in America at the Junior High Lecture Hall.

Black 2020: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

Students, grade 8 – 11, attended a panel discussion at Rutgers University, moderated by Dr. Wayne Glasker, about issues affecting the African American community as we move closer to the 2020 presidential election.



Our students pose for a picture with Dr. Glasker and the panelists at Rutgers University.

Hip Hop Day (February 14, 2020)

Students participated in an assembly about the history and culture of Hip Hop with local Camden artists. Our students learned about:

- **The historical significance of Hip Hop as an American art form and culture.**
Hip Hop Culture evolved as a means of resistance to oppression by marginalized communities in New York throughout the 1970's. The Hip Hop aesthetic eventually grew to influence popular culture--music, art, fashion, etc.--on a global scale.
- **The connection between Hip Hop Culture, African Diaspora, and the music of the African Diaspora.**
Common themes across musical genres of the African Diaspora--from West Africa to the Caribbean, to the United States--include improvisation, call and response, drums, polyrhythm, dance, and cyphers/circles/ring shout derivations. Hip Hop rises from Jamaican influences (among many others) such as "dubbing" and "toasting," yet also influences later genres within the African Diaspora such as Reggaetón.
- **The connection between college and success in the Hip Hop Industry.**
While many students may view the Hip Hop Industry as a way to circumnavigate college attendance, there are many successful Hip Hop artists, producers, and entrepreneurs who have attended college. Additionally, many students may view the Hip Hop Industry as one simply composed of "rappers," yet there are many different careers and pathways within this business.



Students, grades 6 – 11, participate in Hip Hop Day at the Junior High Lecture Hall.

Meet Captain Irving (February 19)

Captain Barrington Irving, the youngest pilot in history to fly solo around the world in a single-engine airplane, visited the Lower School to speak to 2nd and 3rd grade students about the importance of making a difference and being persistent in the pursuit of our dreams and goals.



2nd and 3rd grade students meet Captain Irving in the Lower School gymnasium.

African American Read-In (February 20, 2020)

Parents and Camden city community members visited K-3 classrooms to read to our students.

Black History Extravaganza (February 21, 2020)

Our 5th to 9th grade students put on a spectacular Black History Extravaganza for students and parents under the direction of 8th grade science teacher and Hampton University Alum, Ms. Alana Booker. Showcasing fashion, spoken word poetry, song, dance and live sketching, the show explored themes of resistance throughout various important eras in Black history. Thank you Ms. Booker, teachers, parents, and students who worked together to stage a great performance!



Students and families, grades 4 – 11, participate in the Black Extravaganza.

Teaching Black History: A Student Perspective (February 26, 2020)

Mr. Rafael Miranda and the Puerto Rican Arts Center hosted College Access and our student panel in the new Hip Hop Art Installation. Students from grades 8 to 12 discussed the successes and challenges associated with how Black History is taught and learned in the classroom, at home, and through social media. This event was an interactive digital assembly. Students and teachers were able to watch from classrooms with the ability to post questions for the panel.



Students, grades 8 – 12, discuss pedagogy and cultural competence in the age of social media.

Lower School Walking Museum (February 27, 2020)

Lower School teachers facilitated student research into famous African Americans who have created positive change in across the globe. Our students dressed up as these notable figures and presented their findings to other grade levels.



Lower School students present their findings to the student body.

STEM (4-5) HBCU Living Wax Museum

Students, grades 4 – 5, conducted research on 12 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's), along with notable alumni from each school. Our students then created and displayed presentations and dressed up as the distinguished alumni in an assembly for grades 4 – 6.



Students, grades 4 – 6, participate in an HBCU Living Wax Museum Fair.

Lower School Closing Ceremony (February 27, 2020)

Lower School teachers organized a dance and poem recital in order to teach our students about African American culture, social justice, and the importance of making our voices heard.

“I Have Dream” at the Gordon Theater (February 28, 2020)

STEM (4 – 5) students attended a theater performance about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and his philosophy of nonviolent protest.



STEM (4 – 5) students visit the Gordon Theater to enjoy a performance about Dr. Martin Luther King.