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TALLAHASSEE BRANCH NAACP and LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Together We Can Be the Dream"



Reverend Dr.
**MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.**
Commemorative
BREAKFAST PROGRAM

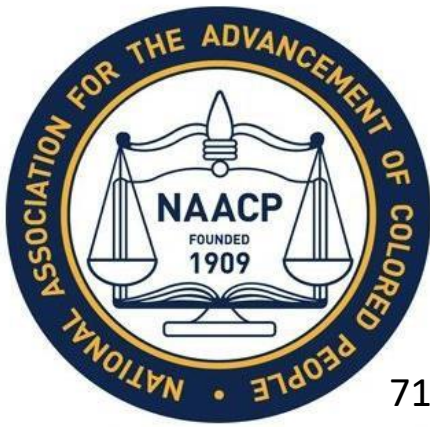
Celebrating the Dreamers & Doers of Leon County

Guest Speaker – Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Esq.

Friday **JANUARY 13, 2023** 7:00 am

Mutaqee Akbar, President
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

Rocky Hanna, Superintendent
Leon County Schools



NAACP

Tallahassee Branch

719 W. Brevard Street – Tallahassee, Florida 32304

850-759-0606

Mutaqee Akbar, ESQ

President

“Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that
matter.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

GET INVOLVED TODAY



TURN YOUR VOICE INTO A
VOTE

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Program
“MLK Dreamers & Doers”

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by
James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

BIO for Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Esq.

Carolyn was elected to the Board of County Commissioners on November 3, 2020. A native of Mississippi, she received her undergraduate degree from Alcorn State University, performed graduate studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and Laney College and she received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida Law School.

A Leon County resident for over thirty years, she has been a practicing attorney in the public and private sectors, including the State of Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security as Assistant General Counsel, Legal Advisor to the State Retirement Commission, and Senior Attorney at the Florida Department of Administration. She was a partner in the law firm of Cummings & Hobbs, P.A. for over thirteen years and is now the owner of Carolyn Cummings, P.A. where she practices primarily in the areas of family law and probate.

As an undergraduate, she became committed to public service through her membership in Delta Epsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has been and is currently actively involved in many community organizations that are designed to enhance the quality of life for all citizens, including the National Association of University Women, where she currently serves as president, the Senior Citizens Center Advisory Foundation and the Lincoln Center Foundation. She provides free legal services to Senior Citizens through her affiliation with both organizations and she has provided pro bono services to indigent clients through the local Legal Aid Foundation.

Carolyn is a member of several professional organizations including, the Tallahassee Barristers Bar Association of which she is a Past President and Past Vice-President, Tallahassee Bar Association, Tallahassee Women Lawyers Association, and the Florida Bar Association. She has served as Past President and current Board Member of Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. for over (25) twenty-five years and through the Thunderdome Project she has mentored young lawyers in the family law area. She has been recognized by the Florida Supreme Court for her level of free legal services provided to senior and low-income citizens.

Carolyn is a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a member of the Tallahassee Branch of the NAACP. She is a member of the Tallahassee Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., a Board Member of the Bethel Empowerment Foundation, and the current President of the Tallahassee Area Coalition Center of Excellence Advisory Board. She is also a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a local member of the Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter. Carolyn has been a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Florida for over thirty-five year where she serves as the Church Attorney, Sunday school teacher and choir member.

She is the proud Mother of one son, Dr. Terrell Cummings, a 2004 graduate from the Rickards High School International Baccalaureate Program, a 2009 graduate of the University of Florida in Biochemistry and a 2013 Harvard Medical School graduate. He is presently a practicing anesthesiologist in Arlington, Texas.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS PAST AND PRESENT

- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Golden Life Member
- President, Tallahassee Branch National Association of University Women
- Past President & Board Member Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.
- Board Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc.
- Board, Ready 4-Work Program
- Capital City Democratic Women's Club
- Board Lively Vocational Center
- Board Tallahassee Urban League
- Board Lincoln Center Foundation
- Board President, Tallahassee Area Coalition Center of Excellence Advisory Board
- Board NAACP, Chair Legal Redress Committee
- National Action Network
- Advisory Board Tallahassee Housing Foundation
- Board Lafayette Oaks Homeowners Association
- Inaugural Member Thunderdome Initiative, Second Judicial Circuit, Mentoring Attorneys
- Pro Bono Legal Services, Senior Citizens Center, Legal Aid Foundation, Lincoln Neighborhood Center and Bethel Towers





Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
“**MLK Dreamers & Doers**”
Commemorative Program



Georgia “Joy” Bowen
Retired School Board Member
Mistress of Ceremony

Musical Prelude

Breakfast Blessing

Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance

Negro National Anthem “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Welcome

History/Occasion

Greetings

Musical Selection

Introduction of the Speaker

Guest Speaker

Recognition of MLK Dreamers & Doers
Elementary Schools

Recognition of MLK Dreamers & Doers
Middle/High Schools and Special Sites

Special Presentation

Closing Remarks

Detroitive

Reverend Joann McRae Hicks, Associate Pastor
Tucker Missionary Baptist Church
Syracuse, New York

Leon County Schools JROTC Joint Color Guard
Under Direction of GySgt A. L. Reaves

Anita Franklin, Recording Artist and Musical Director
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

Aida Richardson, Student School Board Member
Leon County School Board

Reverend Leatrice Williams, Retired Bureau Chief
Florida Department of Education

Mutaqee Akbar, President
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

Alva Swafford Smith, Chair
Leon County School Board

Rocky Hanna, Superintendent
Leon County Schools

Detroitive

Sydney Aitcheson, President
FAMU Chapter of NAACP

Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Esq., Vice Chair
Leon County Board of Commissioner

Anicia Robinson, Director of Elementary Schools
Leon County Schools

Dr. Alan Cox, Assistant Superintendent
Leon County Schools

Rocky Hanna, Superintendent
Leon County Schools

Dr. Michelle Gayle, Deputy Superintendent, Co-Chair
Leon County Schools

Dr. Connie Hicks Evans, Co-Chair
Tallahassee Branch NAACP, Executive Board



Elementary Schools

Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts

Justin Abanador

Justin enjoys participating in the arts program at Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts (ATMSA). Justin is an honors student at ATMSA and the student of the month for September. Justin is a part of our Strings ensemble and is excited about the upcoming performances. He maintains stellar grades while participating in extra-curricular activities. Justin said he wants to practice more on his violin and be an artist when he grows up.

Catherine Shears

Catherine is an excellent student and artist. She brings joy to each class she attends, and her quiet spirit lights up the classroom. She enjoys being part of our art program and even featured a piece of her art in last year's calendar. She is a Rosebud for the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority and looks forward to learning more about art. Catherine gets along with her peers and always looks for peaceful ways to solve problems.

Astoria Park Elementary School

Serenity Breveard

Serenity Breveard is an exceptional student who is passionate about her education and thrives on academic success. Her desire to become an entrepreneur exemplifies her leadership and courageous qualities. Miss Breveard thrives on doing her very best at any task that she is presented with. She is a straight "A" student who is an avid reader. When she is not reading or spending time with family, she enjoys drawing some of her favorite book characters or drawing nature scenes. Her eagerness to learn and share her knowledge with her peers exemplifies the characteristics of one who desires to help others and lead with confidence. Serenity is always prepared and ready to build upon her knowledge. She is friendly, creative, and mild mannered and has a very positive attitude. She is a great student role model and sets the example for her classmates - academically and behaviorally.

Felix Frazier

Felix Frazier is a pleasure to have in class. He demonstrates a great desire to learn. Felix works hard in class and doesn't mind being of service to his fellow classmates when needed. Felix loves his family and strives to make them proud daily. He loves to help his teachers and is an overall great role-model for his fellow classmates and the other students in the school. He is striving to become a scientist. He wants to discover new planets and stars. When he is not in school, he loves spending time with his family, playing football and video games. Felix says he wouldn't mind playing professional football before going into his science career like Myron Rolle.

Bond Elementary School

Andre Ford

Andre Ford is a natural leader who is very supportive and inclusive of others. As the elder brother to two younger sisters, Andre displays behaviors that make both his sisters and parents proud. Andre is an honor student at Bond Elementary School and has earned an invitation to the Junior Beta Club due to his academic excellence, good character, leadership qualities, and unwavering service to others. He strives for academic excellence and encourages his friends to do the same. He has a smile for everyone and strives to be a positive influence in every situation. Students look to Andre to contribute deep insights and unique perspectives during class discussions. Andre is admired by his peers because of his friendly nature. His academic achievements and social maturity have been nothing less than impressive. As he continues to draw inspiration from his mother, Andre is committed to exceeding all expectations. The importance of family and their happiness motivate him to do his best daily.

Sa'Mya Cole

Sa'Mya Cole is an outstanding honor student who has a passion for learning and helping others. She is often described by her classmates as “the good girl” because of her kindness and compassion towards others. Sa'Mya's kindheartedness and serene personality allow for her to have many friends who aspire to be more like her both academically and socially. Her good character, leadership abilities, and exceptional academic success have earned her an invitation into the Junior Beta Club at Bond Elementary School where she plans to explore community service and spearhead some upcoming school projects. Sa'Mya is more than an ideal student or dedicated scholar. She exemplifies positivity and has a clear sense of purpose. Her demeanor is pleasant at all times because she understands that she is a role model. Sa'Mya's willingness to help- whether it's assisting teachers or her classmates- often displays her natural abilities to lead. She exudes compassion while engaging in group discussions and presenting her class projects. Sa'Mya is recognized around the school for exhibiting academic achievement to all of her peers.

Buck Lake Elementary School

Kaycen Elliott

Kaycen is truly an exceptional student. His outstanding work ethic and commitment to his academics set him apart from his peers. Kaycen is motivated by his curiosity and love for learning. When tasks seem difficult or failure is inevitable, Kaycen perseveres. He views every situation as an opportunity to learn and grow. Not only does Kaycen excel academically, his humor and compassion are unmatched. He always has a smile on his face and always has a joke or zinger ready to make his peers or teachers laugh. Kaycen understands the importance of being a team player and more importantly being a good person. Because of this, he works to maintain positive relationships with family and friends. This is what makes him a well-rounded kid and role model.

Emma Mendie

Emma Mendie is an outstanding choice for the Martin Luther King Jr. Award. She continuously strives to do her best in and out of school. She sets high expectations for herself and strives to always meet or exceed them. She emulates Martin Luther King's vision of acceptance as she is a friend to all and willing to help in any circumstance. In school, Emma is a role model for ideal student habits and behavior as she learns her favorite subjects; math, writing, and art. She is inspired by her family and teachers who believe she will do great things with her talent and character. She has set goals for herself to become a part of the NASA Space Program by studying physics and mathematics in school. She admires the great Mae Jemison who was a trail blazer in space exploration and was the first African American woman to travel to space. Emma understands that with hard work, determination, and honor, she too can reach for the stars. Keep being wonderful Emma. We are so PROUD of you!

Canopy Oaks Elementary School

Taylin Harris

Taylin Harris is a 5th grader at Canopy Oaks Elementary. Though this is her first year here at Canopy, she has already made her mark at our wonderful school! Since kindergarten, Taylin aspired to be a star student. She has a drive to excel in everything she does and always give 100%! Taylin has maintained all A's and B's since first grade! Outside of school, Taylin enjoys drawing, painting, and writing! For fun, she enjoys camping and archery, which she prides herself on being great at! She has a love for both animals and children equally, and aspires to be either a vet or a pediatrician when she grows up. At the age of 7, Taylin was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Since her diagnosis, she has been a trooper. She has taken on this condition and hasn't let it stop her from doing and achieving anything. She is very open about her diabetes and is always trying to educate those around her and letting them know that it's not scary and that she can live a normal, thriving, happy life! Taylin's mother describes her as an old soul with a kind heart. She calls Taylin her “special love” because they have been a team since Taylin has been born. Her mother thinks Taylin should be a teacher because of her helping spirit. At her old school, she would often help with ESL and ESE children and they loved her! It is for all these reasons that we would like for Taylin Harris to represent Canopy Oaks Elementary as the Dreamers and Doers award recipient.

Gabriella Green

It is a privilege and an honor to nominate Gabriella Green for the Dreamers and Doers award. Gabriella is a teacher's dream! She comes in everyday with an "I can do" attitude. She is always ready to tackle any task that is set before her with a smile on her face. Whether it be helping a new student adjust to the rigors of fourth grade, taking the time to calmly remind a fellow classmate who is off task to stay focused, putting forth her best effort with her own academics, or just being a good friend to those who need it! You can really see how great a role model she is! One of the most inspiring things that Gabriella has done this year, was when she wrote a speech (dedicating it to our class) in which she encouraged her fellow classmates to make good choices. She reminded them of how those choices can help them to do better in school! Let me tell you, I have seen these students firsthand, working hard to rise to the challenge and make good choices! With her positive attitude, and her great leadership skills, Gabriella genuinely deserves to be nominated for the Dreamers and Doers award!

Chaires Elementary School

SaNai Bellamy

It is with great pleasure and respect that we nominate SaNai Bellamy for the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers and Doers award. She has such a graceful and thriving spirit. In school, she works persistently on her honor roll status. She really enjoys helping and tutoring her peers. She often says "there's enough success to go around for everyone, so let's go"! She is currently a part of the Student Government Association and the Good News Club. SaNai currently works in her community through The Pretty Girls Dreams and Goals Club. She's been a member since she was seven. Her favorite community drives are the Angel Tree Christmas and Coat Drive. She is very active in her church youth department where she puts her time in as part of the leadership and praise team. SaNai kind and giving heart doesn't go without notice. She aspires to be great in all that she does. The future holds great things for this young, spirited Dreamer and Doer!

Cayden Dennis

It is with great pleasure and respect that we nominate Cayden Dennis for the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers and Doers award. Cayden is an amazing person and student. He is extremely positive and is always there to lend a helping hand. He takes his academics very seriously and excels daily in the classroom. He is caring, kind and has an extremely positive attitude. His peers look up to him and he is a wonderful leader among his classmates. His work ethic and sincere demeanor makes him stand out from those around him. Some of his hobbies include playing football and basketball. He is also a member of the safety patrol and an active participant in his church. We are thankful that we have Cayden at our school this year and take pride in recognizing him as a participant for the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers and Doers award.

J. Michael Conley Elementary School

Tiana S. Tyson

Tiana Tyson is a bright, hardworking student in her first year at J. Michael Conley Elementary School. Upon arriving at Conley, she took on the challenge of running for student council. She was also one of the first students in her class to be recognized as a "Star Student." Even though she was new to the school environment, she remained positive and enthusiastic while navigating a new situation. Ms. Tyson is a determined, thoughtful and kind student. These qualities make her a model student at our school. She leads by example inside and outside of the classroom. Each day she comes to school prepared to work and elevates the entire class with her deep questions and attention to detail. She is passionate about her writing and strives to do her best work every day. She inspires others with her strong work ethic and compassion for others.

Willis B. Tyson, Jr.

When I think of a quiet leader in class, I immediately think of Willis Tyson. Although it is his first year at J. Michael Conley Elementary School, he has quickly put down roots. Willis is developing relationships with other students and making friends. He is a kind, caring friend who uses positive peer pressure to help teammates make decisions that benefit them inside and outside of the classroom. Willis is an inquisitive student, eager to learn and participates regularly in the classroom. In addition, he is a leader during recess, regularly organizing games, and using strong leadership skills to help others have fun. His strengths are in his ability to be an academic role model and a team leader.

DeSoto Trail Elementary School

Alexis Raffington

Alexis Raffington enjoys learning and has a great attitude toward school. She is a positive role model for other students, as she always exhibits grit and perseverance through school work. She never gives up and her hard work pays off, as she has outstanding grades and citizenship. Alexis has attended DeSoto Trail Elementary School since she was in Pre-K. In her free-time, she enjoys playing games, particularly Roblox. When she grows up, she wants to create art to make the world a more beautiful place. Her classmates admire her because she always stands up for what is right. She likely gets this trait from the person she admires most, her mom. She admires her mom because, "She says wise things all the time and I try to follow them." Alexis is most deserving of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award because she truly exhibits characteristics that represent those of caring, kindness, and being a positive role model in our community. It is my true pleasure to nominate Alexis Raffington for this honor.

Carlos Barrios

Carlos Barrios has been a student at DeSoto Trail Elementary School since kindergarten. He enjoys learning and has a great attitude toward school. He is a positive role model for other students, as he always exhibits grit and perseverance through schoolwork. He has done an outstanding job of maintaining excellent grades. He displays citizenship and kindness to others. His favorite subjects are science, reading, and art. In his free time, he enjoys coloring, drawing, reading, and playing on his I-pad. When he grows up, he wants to be an architect or an art teacher. His classmates admire him because he is honest and a hard worker. He likely gets this trait from those he admires most, his parents and grandparents. He admires them because, "They encourage me to do my best in all I do." Carlos is most deserving of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award because he truly exhibits characteristics that represent those of caring, kindness, and being a positive role model in our community. It is my true pleasure to nominate Carlos Barrios for this honor.

Fort Braden School

Brantley Russell

Brantley has a great attitude every day at school. He has a passion for learning and is an example of an outstanding student. He always has a positive and uplifting outlook on school assignments. Brantley is always willing to help others. His kindness and peaceful presence is extremely encouraging to others. Brantley's favorite subject is Math.

Abby Rose Williams

Abby is motivated, disciplined and driven every single day. She possesses a positive attitude on a daily basis. Abby goes above and beyond with all of her assignments and has a great attitude in class. She shows leadership qualities by always helping others. Abby enjoys reading nonfiction books, writing poetry, and working on extra math homework.

Gilchrist Elementary School

Tamea Heath

Tamea is an outstanding individual. She is a role model in and out of the classroom. Her leadership skills are shown through her energy, effort and positive attitude. When presented with a challenge to assist another student in the classroom, Tamea has graciously accepted with excitement and has excelled beyond expectation. Her kindness and compassion radiate, bringing joy and encouragement to everyone in her presence.

Bailey Meros

When I think about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his heart for service and taking care of others, Bailey Meros exudes this naturally. This young lady is honored not only by her peers, but by faculty and staff members alike. She has received positive referrals year after year for her numerous acts of kindness and she does it with such a mature and positive disposition. I have witnessed firsthand her caregiving nature from sitting with students who sit alone, welcoming families to the school, walking kindergarteners to the restroom, patrolling our halls, or sacrificing her recess to go read to ELL students. She's just a gem of a human who's changing the atmosphere with her acts of kindness. Dr. King says that, "Not everybody can be famous, but everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service." Bailey Meros is great for her loving attitude, her grateful heart, and the daily acts of service she shares with others here at Gilchrist Elementary School.

Frank Hartsfield Elementary School

John Kyles, Jr.

John is a friend to everyone he meets, sharing his positive attitude with everyone. John is one of the most empathetic young people around, who shows this by consistently helping others. Oftentimes in class he is caught whispering to his classmates in attempts to get them on task, and is quick to lend his materials to others in hopes that he can help them get started on classwork. He has been extremely welcoming to new students, showing them the ropes, and being inclusive during playground games. John is studious and driven to be the best in everything he does. His favorite quote by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is "*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*" As the president of the Student Council and member of the National Achievers/Believers Society, Robotics and Kindness Clubs, John endeavors to be a role model for all of the learners at Hartsfield Magnet School for International Studies. He has dreams to someday be a professor, where he can continue to spread his compassion and helpfulness to others. We are beyond proud to have him represent our school this year.

Toni Shelton

Toni is a walking example of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s beliefs and ideals. She comes to school with a great attitude every day and shows compassion and kindness towards her classmates. Toni is a hugger, and rarely lets anyone pass by her without sharing a hug. As an active member of the Hartsfield Chorale and the Fierce Alpha Dolls dance team, Toni has still been able to maintain excellent academic standing. She leads in the classroom by assisting her homeroom teacher with organizing and keeping her classmates on track. Toni is the line monitor and takes great pride in her job. She states, "As 5th graders we are the leaders on campus. Students in the lower grades look up to us and we should always do what is right." Toni has advocated for herself and others during uncomfortable situations, proving that she can lead and mediate in peaceful ways. Toni dreams of possibly being a teacher like her Math teacher Mrs. Arnold but her true passion lies in jewelry design. Toni is a young entrepreneur and is ready to take the design world by storm with her talents when she grows up. Not only is she a phenomenal student, she is also a dynamic individual who truly cares about the people around her. Whatever her future endeavors may be, she will surely be a success and carry out Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream.

Hawks Rise Elementary School

Chimara Onuoha

When thinking about a student who demonstrates the characteristics and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Chimara Onuoha immediately jumps to the top of the list. Chimara is an amazing student and a joy to teach. She always has a positive attitude, a big grin on her face and is a positive role model for fellow students. Chimara approaches tasks with a calm demeanor and always gives everything her best effort. She is quick to offer a helping hand to others and is compassionate and kind when doing so. She is incredibly well-rounded academically and in extra-curricular activities. Chimara is a member of the Hawks Rise Mini Mu math team and has placed at every competition she has attended. She also plays guitar and enjoys drawing and reading. Chimara is humble when accepting accolades for her hard work and she is quick to praise and encourage others. Chimara is a leader among her peers who is confident to take charge, but in an approach that makes sure all students are treated fairly and have a chance to equally participate in any group task. It is without hesitation that we recommend Chimara Onuoha for the Dreamers and Doers award.

Ishanth Pottigari

Ishanth is known around Hawks Rise Elementary for his kindness and positive attitude. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Ishanth is quick to uplift others. He can often be found helping and encouraging his peers. He shows compassion to the ESE inclusion students in his social studies class, volunteering to be partners with them on projects and providing peer support whenever he sees a need. He is helpful, and his positive attitude promotes inclusion and equality. Ishanth is also an outstanding role model out of class, demonstrating commitment with his daily attendance of morning mileage club where he cheers on friends to exercise and do their best. He has also served as a member of our school safety patrol, a role reserved for those who truly enjoy being of service to others and keeping our younger students safe. Overall, Ishanth is an outstanding student both academically and in his citizenship. He demonstrates many of the positive attributes of Dr. Martin Luther King. We are proud to recommend him for this prestigious award.

Kate Sullivan Elementary School

Priscilla Aranquiz

Priscilla displays the following characteristics: Role Model, Responsible, Leader, A friend to all, Focused on her Academic Goals, and Respectful. The rest of the class knows they can trust Priscilla, either in personal relations or when working on group assignments. Leaders want what is best for others and are willing to go out of their way to serve those in need. In a classroom setting, Priscilla is seen demonstrating acts of kindness and selflessness. For example, if a student is being bullied, unlike students who stand idly by, Priscilla is likely to step up and put an end to it. Kate Sullivan is fortunate to have a student that demonstrates a genuine interest in and desire to help others. Priscilla exudes compassion for others and models Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's ideals and beliefs.

Emma Staudt Willet

Emma is an outstanding student and classmate to her peers. She excels in all academic areas and puts her best effort into everything she does. She goes above and beyond to demonstrate the characteristics of a responsible, hardworking, and respectful student. Not only does Emma exceed academically, but she works hard to be a kind and patient friend to her peers. She is always positive, encouraging, and committed to helping anyone in need. Her kindness and compassion for equality has such a positive impact on those around her. Emma is a true representation of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's ideals and beliefs, and she is certain to accomplish many great things in her life!

Killearn Lakes Elementary School

Maxwell "Max" Briggs

Max is a student and individual who continues to show a dedication and drive to both academic excellence and being a positive, inclusive leader among his peers. Max exemplifies Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals and beliefs by his kindness towards those in need and his bravery to stand up for the voices of those around him. He goes out of his way to help guide others and be a leader amongst his peers when he serves the school campus as a well-respected safety patrol and 5th grade class helper. Max's teachers have shared his value of character and his clear initiative to help students and teachers, as well as teammates on his soccer team with his leadership skills, compassion for others, and well-rounded focus to help and include others in his pursuits for success.

Mia Dountz

Mia strives for bravery and kindness in all she does. While her continued dedication to academic success and always working hard to put her best efforts forward, Mia is also no stranger to being brave and standing up for what she feels is right. In Mia's speech written for the schoolwide Tropicana Speech competition, she shared about the importance of being an informed citizen and standing up for others if a person hears gossip or bullying occurring, as well as the importance of this bravery in the lives of those around her. It is clear through Mia's continued efforts, and her characteristics of brave leadership and strong friendship, she is a student who exemplifies Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals and beliefs. Her motivation to not only uphold these characteristics through her own action but to also strive to teach others how to be kind and lead amongst their peers makes Mia a positive leader in her 5th grade class.

Oak Ridge Elementary School

Rashaud Patterson

Rashaud Patterson is a very bright and inquisitive young man. He exceeds academically in all subjects and is eager to learn. His leadership skills are always evident in class as he participates and often leads discussions. He is also a Lead Anchor for our WOAK Morning News Show. Outside of school, he is dedicated to his many extracurricular activities such as football. Although Rashaud has consistently excelled academically, he was recently officially identified as a Gifted Student. Participation in our Gifted Program has meant the world to him, and as a straight A student, he exemplifies what it means to push forward, and never give up. Being selected as a MLK Dreamer and Doer is extremely fitting for a student like him. Rashaud is a student who has proven that despite life's circumstances, you can achieve your goals. Tenacious, considerate, and kind are all perfect descriptions that embody his spirit. He is determined to have a successful future, and there is no doubt that he will accomplish just that.

Chanel Fuller

Chanel is one of the sweetest and most caring students that anyone could ever have the pleasure of teaching. In addition to her phenomenal personality, Chanel is an extraordinary scholar. She takes extreme pride in meeting her highest potential in all of her classes. She has been an Honor Roll student for most of her school career. However, Chanel's pathway to academic excellence has not always been sunshine and rainbows. Even after being fully enrolled as a digital learner during the height of the pandemic, Chanel returned to school and showed no signs of academic regression. That is truly a testament to the drive, focus, and determination that make her so very special. Chanel is a well-rounded student that participates in many activities at school and is enrolled in the Boys & Girls Club 21st Century Program. She also participates as a Safety Patrol and is a true leader. Her compassion and determination make her the perfect person to patrol our school hallways and be a role model for the students around her. Chanel is the definition of a MLK Dreamer and Doer; everything that she believes, she achieves.

Pineview Elementary School

Enrique Burgess, III

Enrique has a determination and commitment to succeed in life that is fueled by his desire to be a model citizen. Enrique looks up to his cousin A.J. as a role model. A.J. often gives Enrique words of encouragement to stay positive. In return, Enrique has become a role model to his three younger brothers. Enrique wants to be a positive example for his younger siblings, just as A.J., his cousin has been for him. Enrique's kind spirit wants everyone to experience kindness. His motto is to treat others how you want to be treated. Enrique often states "you never know what a person is going through and how words may affect them." This compassion for others is shown through his daily activities of positivity and kindness towards others. When not at school, Enrique enjoys playing football where is a leader on and off the field to his teammates.

Anylah Rackley

I have the pleasure of recommending Anylah Rackley for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Dreamers and Doers Award. As a fifth-grade student, she exhibits characteristics comparable to Dr. King which makes her an excellent choice for this special recognition. Anylah is a model student. She exhibits a positive attitude toward school and learning. She is a model student any teacher would love to have in their classroom. She makes satisfactory grades in school and her behavior is impeccable. Anylah will stand up for what is right, especially when it comes to her peers. She has spoken up for classmates who have been mistreated by their peers. She will even go the extra mile and be kind and befriend the fellow classmate. In her community, Anylah is involved in her church. She serves in the youth ministry. She sings in the youth choir and ushers at her church. Anylah continues to nurture these characteristics to become the best person you can possibly be and continue to be a role model to your fellow classmates. Congratulations Anylah!

John G. Riley Elementary School

Justin Jackson

Mr. Justin Jackson is a 5th grade student at John G. Riley Elementary. Justin is a brilliant honor roll student who enjoys lending a helping hand to his peers. Like most children, Justin enjoys playing video games like Madden and Fortnite. He is a safety patrol for the school and looks forward to serving in this capacity for the rest of the year. He is a football aficionado and enjoys watching the FAMU Rattlers and Dallas Cowboys. Currently, young Mr. Jackson is an entrepreneur. He enjoys running his small business where he makes and sells his own soap! Looking ahead...ahead to college, Justin's first and only choice is FAMU. Justin's dream is to play in the National Football League, while continuing to pursue his own business Jay Soap Bar. Justin has set the bar remarkably high and strives for excellence each day. Justin's attentiveness to detail, passion for life, and his extraordinary leadership are why he was chosen to represent Dr. King's ideals.

Anaysha Fowler

Ms. Anaysha Fowler is a 5th grade student at John G. Riley Elementary. Anaysha enjoys skateboarding in her free time. She is also a Riley safety patrol. She enjoys this job and serves rain or shine, blazing heat or freezing cold at parent drop off each morning. Nothing has stopped Anaysha from staying focused on her classwork, which has allowed her to make the A/B Honor roll each year. This focus and resilience is why she was chosen as a representative of Dr. King's ideals. Anaysha exudes compassion, leadership, and outstanding citizenship to all. Anaysha is undecided about what she would like to be when she grows up, but she has plenty of time to figure that out! We know that whatever she decides to become she will go out into the world and do well. However, Anaysha has passionately turned down the job for President of the United States of America.

Roberts Elementary School

Dyana Green

Dyana Green is the definition of integrity and grit. She works hard and sets a wonderful example for students and adults alike, even when no one is watching. Dyana takes great pride in her grades and gives 110% on everything she decides to do. She is proud of the grades that she has earned this quarter with an A grade in every class. Even at such a young age, she knows the value of education and the places that effort and academics can take her. Other students would describe Dyana as a hard worker, a role-model, an academic, a great friend, and a leader. Dyana is an avid reader and a practicing violinist who commits herself and challenges herself with new and exciting avenues to broaden her horizons. Most would say that academics and integrity will help prepare the student for the world, but the world should prepare itself for Dyana Green.

Ka'Milyah Williams

Ka'Milyah Williams is a lovely, well rounded young lady. She is a hard-working student and great friend to her peers. Ka'Milyah stands out because of her optimism and perseverance, even when things get challenging. She is also always helping and looking out for others in her class. When Ka'Milyah grows up, she wants to become a veterinarian. This is not surprising as Ka'Milyah shows compassion towards others daily! She will succeed in whatever she decides to pursue. She is a natural leader and we look forward to the future world changer she will become!

Ruediger Elementary School

Ja'Hariannis Thornton

Ja'Hariannis is a 5th grade student at Ruediger Elementary. She is a very sweet and caring young lady. She is always trying her best and will not settle until she is sure that she has given everything that she has in her. Ja'Hariannis demonstrates all of the characteristics of a well-rounded young lady. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and is very respectful and kind to everyone she encounters. Through all of her dedication to her education, Ja'Hariannis has always maintained A/B Honor Roll. She loves to read and stays at the top of the leaderboard for AR points. She is a member of the Ruediger Elementary TAG program and was selected as a member of Ruediger's Chorus Group.

Justin Estrada Contreras

Justin is a 5th grade student at Ruediger Elementary. He is a straight "A" student and a silent leader. Justin loves to take on a challenge and is really good at listening to others and contributing to discussions. Justin is the kind of person that looks for ways to help people any way possible. He is the kind of person that you would want on your team or in group. Justin contributes to all situations without being the loudest or most outspoken person. He takes time to sit back, listen and process things before acting.

Sabal Palm Elementary School

Cl'Sharica Grubbs

This year has been a whole new world for Cl'Sharica as she has found herself and developed a focus for academics. Cl'Sharica does not give up and pushes herself to be the best version. If she does not understand, she advocates for herself through asking questions and letting the teacher know what she does not understand. As a Sabal Palm Safety Patrol, she works to ensure her peers are safe through modeling positive behaviors, saying hello, and letting them know when they are doing well whether in the hall or at Parent Pick Up. In addition, Cl'Sharica was chosen by her cheerleading team members as their Team Captain for her leadership skills.

James Amick

James has met and exceeded the expectations of a 5th grade student this year. His academics have soared because of his phenomenal work ethic. He is constantly asking questions to expand his knowledge and is ready to take on any challenge that is given to him. James has even stepped up and began helping his other classmates with their work when they struggle. Around campus, James is known as a very polite and well-mannered student because of how well he conducts himself. He is polite to everyone he meets and makes anybody that is new to campus feel very welcome.

Sealey Elementary Math and Science Magnet School

Alejandro (AJ) Belford

Alejandro Belford, otherwise known as AJ, is a student who we are proud to have representing Sealey Elementary. AJ keeps himself extremely involved in both school events as well as extracurricular activities. At Sealey, he is one of the school's news anchors, which involves doing daily recordings as well as helping out with a variety of things including school assemblies. He was even a part of our school's very successful Veteran's Day Program. Even with all this going on, AJ is also running for student council president, as well remaining a lead catcher in baseball and participating in a Junior Dragster Racing League. Academically, he is an extremely conscientious and dedicated learner, and, along with outstanding citizenship, he is a positive role model for students throughout the school. He has been assisting in the classroom since the beginning of the year, and he shows his excellence in the way he takes charge of his responsibilities. As an active member of Sealey's learning community, he embodies the teachings and practices of Dr. King. He is caring, respectful, and focused on doing what is right. AJ is a joy to have in our classes, and we truly appreciate his commitment to learning and his kind heart.

Khadija Sallahuddin

Sealey Elementary is proud to nominate Khadija Sallahuddin for the 2022-2023 Dreamers and Doers Award. Khadija is an Honor Roll student and is well respected by her teachers and her peers. She always strives to show her best effort. Khadija exemplifies what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted from all people. She is always eager to help and support her classmates. When faced with adversity, she is deliberate in her analysis of the situation and consistently makes positive decisions that impact herself and her peers. She is a caring and compassionate person who strives to be a good friend to all. Khadija is a wonderful example of a "Dreamer and Doer" and a true Sealey Superstar!

Springwood Elementary School

Charles Christopher Powell

Charles Christopher Powell is an outstanding candidate for this year's MLK Dreamers and Doers award. He is not just a good student, but a scholar. Charles is someone who accepts EVERY academic challenge directly! Not only does he handle his classroom responsibilities, but he also goes above and beyond expectations! Dr. Powell, as he is affectionately known in the class, is also an aspiring author. That clearly satisfies the Dreamers piece of this nomination. I've been an educator for over 25 years and have never encountered a student with his ferocity for learning. Christopher would be the perfect recipient of this year's MLK Dreamers and Doers award.

Jayla Williams

It brings me great pleasure to nominate Miss. Jayla Williams for the MLK Dreamers and Doers for Springwood Elementary. Jayla is an extremely bright and intelligent young lady who excels in all her academics but particularly in mathematics. Although shy, she is very articulate and is currently one of the news anchors on the SWES morning news show. She is very poised, well mannered, and a positive role model for her peers. Outside of school, Jayla enjoys the sport of basketball and she is looking forward to middle school so that she can play on an organized team. I have no doubt that her future is promising and I am confident that Jayla Williams is going to be successful!

W.T. Moore Elementary School

De'Asia Swatts

De'Asia Swatts is a rising star in W.T. Moore's 5th grade. She exhibits exceptional leadership qualities in our classrooms daily. Her commitment to excellence is apparent in her work ethic. She has a great attitude, positive growth mindset, and is an outstanding W.T. Moore citizen. Above all, De'Asia exudes kindness and a commitment to serving others. She represents the ideals of Dr. King and a model for her peers.

Kamari Green

Kamari Green's outstanding attitude toward school and learning make him a positive role model for his peers. Not only does he take pride in his learning, but Kamari takes the time to help his peers and encourages them to give their best effort. Kamari is an outstanding scholar who shows kindness and extends empathy to others and emulates the ideals of Dr. King.

Woodville K-8 School

Demetrice O'Neal, Jr.

Demetrice O'Neal is a young man who can be easily described as friendly, compassionate and an all-around great classmate who doesn't feel like helping others is an inconvenience. On many occasions, Demetrice can be found encouraging, empathizing, supporting and uplifting those around him who may be experiencing challenges and difficulties. He has a great personality that allows him to bring laughter to his peers while at the same time advocating for their well-being which is indicative of some of the values expected of a MLK dreamer and a doer. Demetrice has found a healthy balance between study and extra-curricular activities. He is extremely proud of his perseverance and academic growth, especially in his favorite subject history. As an officer in the school's Student Government Association, he is able to use his negotiating skills. For example, he developed a petition to advocate for students' rights that he felt were overlooked. It is with pleasure that Demetrice's teachers applaud him for being this year's representative for the MLK Dreamers and Doers honor.

Cash Andrews

Cash Andrews is an exceptional student who is passionate about his education and thrives on academic success. He is in the Gifted and Talented program, a member of the Sci-Fi STEM Club, and a crew member of the Woodville Morning News. He participates in cross country and shows his knowledge of math by participating in Woodville's Mathletes. Cash strives to achieve immense success in every subject area by pushing himself to do his best daily. He has shown this by achieving all A Honor Roll, earning a spot in the district Spelling Bee, and being a top AR reader. As part of the Woodville Safety Patrol team, he is a positive role model to his peers by displaying leadership and citizenship in the classroom and throughout campus. He is a good and thoughtful friend who thinks of other people's feelings, and he is comfortable and confident when standing up for others to make sure people are treated fairly. Outside the classroom, Cash is involved in Young Actors theatre and Chaires Division Baseball where he plays as the pitcher and 1st baseman. His future goals include attending college and becoming an architect. Cash truly defines the characteristics of Dr. King and Woodville School is proud to have him as our Dreamers and Doers recipient.

Middle Schools



Elizabeth Cobb Middle School

Torah Ysabelle Lentejas

Torah Lentejas has been described by her teachers as one of the very kindest students they teach. She is inclusive of all her peers, both inside and outside the classroom. She has a passion for equity and showing respect for others. Torah's teachers have observed that she works well in groups and gets along with everyone she meets. Torah always strives for her absolute best in her classes. All of that focus and hard work is paying off as she has consistently earned nearly straight A's in advanced and honors classes throughout her middle school career. Torah loves to devote her spare time to others. She regularly volunteers with our school's service organization and honor society, Junior Beta Club. Overall, Torah's teachers are impressed with her excellent character and drive for excellence. She is truly a model student as well as an excellent friend and classmate.

Jerrell Washington, II

Jerrell Washington's teachers describe him as a strong force for good! His stellar personality and bubbly, infectious energy always brighten his teachers' and classmates' days. He makes friends easily and has a particular talent for teamwork. Whether he is in the classroom, on the field, or on the court, Jerrell brings out the best in others and highlights others' strengths so they can shine. Jerrell is a perfect example of what it looks like to lift up others and foster harmony and teamwork in a group. He represents himself and his school family with pride and positivity wherever he goes. Jerrell has earned almost all A's and B's throughout his middle school career and constantly strives for academic excellence. There is no doubt that Jerrell has a bright future ahead of him in high school and beyond.

Deerlake Middle School

Honor Franklin

Honor has become one of the most well-known students on our campus. From the moment Honor walks into the room, he cares about every person besides himself. He is constantly a positive influence on his peers and truly wants the best for them. He will help in any way that he can. He is the light in the room and makes everyone around him feel special. Honor is always cheerful and smiling. He is also highly respectful. He tries hard to keep good grades and wants to succeed. His genuine outgoing character and personal drive are an inspiration to his peers and teachers.

Ryan Lombardo

Ryan is a bright and shining star in any class. Ryan is caring, compassionate, and one of the most intelligent students I have had the pleasure of teaching. Ryan can master anything he puts his mind to and will likely become the president one day!!! He always has something kind to say and treats everyone with respect. He has gone out of his way to learn the names and faces of our faculty and as many students as he can. He greets each person daily with encouraging words and a welcoming spirit. His presence in any room creates a palpable climate of hope and support.

Fairview Middle School

Angelique McGriff

Angeline is a very bright, compassionate, and an enthusiastic young lady. She would be a tremendous representative for the MLK Award. She is an honor student who is not afraid of a challenge. I have watched her fully apply herself to working hard to achieve outstanding grades and excel with great leadership skills. Angeline has always been a shining example of a model student. Whether she is delivering the news on the morning news show, leading in the school play, mentoring others, leading the mass media team with their productions. Over the past 2 years I have never known Angeline to not rise to the occasion. I know she will bring her enthusiasm and inclusive spirit to the occasion.

Chadycee Brown

Chadycee Brown is an extraordinary eighth grade student at Fairview Middle School. She has worked very hard to maintain A/B honor roll with all of the different barriers that could keep her from succeeding. Her commitment to her education is outstanding. She exhibits great leadership in the classroom, always helping students, being prepared and yearning to learn more. She is very kind and helpful to her classmates and her teachers. She is very witty and will have her classmates laughing all the time. She doesn't like to have downtime in class, so she is always looking for work to do. With her compassion for the Japanese culture, she has decided to move to Japan upon graduating from high school. She has talked about either being a flight attendant or teaching English in Japan. Because of this, she has taught herself Japanese to prepare herself for this major move in her life. Chadycee is a positive role model and that can be seen in the classroom, the hallways, and during lunch. She believes that everyone should be treated equally and fair. She is a part of the Successful Young Ladies of Tomorrow Club at Fairview. Chadycee has an amazing future ahead of her!

Fort Braden School

Gissell Mayorga

Gissell Mayorga has been an outstanding student at Fort Braden since the moment she enrolled at Fort Braden. She has received all A's and B's her entire career as a Pioneer. Outgoing, creative, well-mannered, and hardworking are words that describe Gissell. She has incredible work and study habits and is not afraid of a challenge. As an eighth grader she is currently enrolled in high school Geometry, completing Algebra and exceeding grade level expectations on the EOC as a 7th grader. She is also enrolled in two other high school courses, Honors Biology and HOPE as an 8th grader, leading her to finish the year with 3 high school credits as a middle school student. Gissell sets a wonderful example for her peers by being quick to befriend students and offer her help whenever they may need it. She is often seen in class sitting with other students, helping them with their homework while waiting on her bus to be called. Aside from being a great student Gissell takes extensive care of her family, ensuring that her younger siblings are completing their homework after school. Gissell currently plans on attending Godby High School next year. Her future plans include going to college to become a pediatrician because she enjoys working with children and has a love for science and math.

Nathan Bryant

Nathan Bryant is a kind, dedicated, hardworking and polite student that is an absolute pleasure to have in class. He is currently taking 2 high school courses as an 8th grader. Nathan is an excellent role model for his peers and his younger brother, who is also a Fort Braden student. He is always quick to help others. He is enrolled in Digital Tools class where he is receiving certifications for computer programs to improve his computer literacy. He is also a PAT student (Pioneers Assisting Teachers) and volunteers in multiple teachers' classrooms to help work with their struggling students. Nathan is quick to offer compassion to those in need, befriending and welcoming any and all new students. He actively participates in class and has received above average grades throughout his middle school career. Nathan is currently enrolled in 3 high school credit courses as an 8th grader- HOPE, Algebra 1, and Honors Biology. Nathan cares deeply about his future, which is why he has taken those 3 high school credits on as an 8th grader. He is planning on attending SAIL High School next year where he will be able to further investigate his passions and make choices that positively affect his future.

Griffin Middle School

Germani Bailey

Germani Bailey is an exemplary Griffin student. She excels in academics, notably earning a Scholarship Award in 6th grade. She also completed the Sunshine State Young Readers Award program. In addition, she has balanced being a student athlete all three years, while balancing her academic seamlessly. Now in 8th grade, she leads as President of the Student Council. As a perfect candidate for student council, Germani has tutored and helped her peers experience academic success through leading tutorial sessions before school during her 6th and 7th grade year. She is a proud member of our Cross Country and Track and Field teams, as well as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Furthermore, she assists in all of our schoolwide events and initiatives. She is a true leader and an integral member of our school community and represents the values that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. both fought and stood for and that is why she is the Dreamer and Doer for Griffin Middle School .

Deangelo Williams

Deangelo is an outstanding Griffin student. He maintains excellent grades and completed the Sunshine State Young Readers Award program. This amazing student athlete is a member of our soccer, cross country, and track teams, as well as our Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Deangelo is the definition of evolving into greatness: he has shown that he is a consistent leader on and off campus. He previously served on the Griffin Middle School Student Council as a grade level representative and this year, he has been elected Financial Secretary of our student council. He goes above and beyond to ensure that his fellow students ideas and thoughts are heard. He is the definition of the values that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. exhibited within his service. He is a true leader and an integral member of our school community and that is why he Griffin Middle School proudly submits Deangelo Williams as one of our dreamers and doers.

William J. Montford Middle School

Adaya Owens

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an honorable man whose leadership was instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement in ending legalized segregation of African Americans challenges us to honor his legacy. Like Dr. King, I believe that people shouldn't be defined by their race or their gender, but that they should be defined by who they are and their personality. Martin Luther King Jr. helped to inspire people to help their communities and stand up for what they believed in. I, too, believe it's important to help others and to stand up for what you believe in, even if it makes you look like an outcast. During my time at Montford Middle School, I have helped others with things they don't understand and have stuck with them though they might be outcasts to the rest of the school by popular kids who travel in large groups. I'm also involved in the Black History Brain Bowl to learn more about my African roots and learning Spanish to one day connect with others outside of America. My hobbies include reading, music, and drawing. My future revolves around music- I aspire to become a singer and a lyric writer someday. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And my wonderful, loving family, I'm a role model who cares and shows respect to those around me.

Terrence Williams, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a positive role model for so many people; he led the way to more opportunities for people of color and all people. Dr. Martin Luther King was a person that gave hope to people and help end segregation. His success led to better education for African Americans and made the world a better place. Although people were violent to Dr. King he still believed in his cause and stuck to it and never gave up. I think helping communities and other people is good because I believe that if you do something good something good will happen in return. In classes when someone needs help with a problem, I go over the problem with them and help them work it out. Before Covid started me and my family would participate in going to church. My hobbies are playing video games and playing football and basketball. In the future I hope to become a pro sport player or a baker. I am inspired by Dr. King because of his dedication to making the world a better place. I am a positive role model because I want to see everyone doing their best and acting kind.

R. Frank Nims Middle School

Christian Loftin

Christian Loftin has enjoyed participating in the newspaper club, band, and chorus for his two years here at R. Frank Nims Middle School. He leads by example through his work ethic, candor, and tenacity. He jumps at opportunities to be a better student, a better friend, and a better leader. He is currently running for a Student Council leadership position.

Ka'Zariyah Williams

Ka'Zariyah Williams is a leader in the Pre-Law Magnet Program here at R. Frank Nims Middle School. She chases perfection with diligence and determination both in the classroom and in her extracurricular activities. She loves school as much as she loves her grandma. Embodying respect, kindness, peace, and a passion for underrepresented community members. Her winning Tropicana speech last year explored the gaps in black history and pushed the audience to think about the limited access to the positive contributions within black history.

Augusta Raa Middle School

Sierra Toomer

Sierra has enjoyed participating in the Arts Magnet Program at Raa Middle School for the past 2 years. She has done an excellent job of maintaining outstanding grades. Her favorite subject is math and she has a passion for art and sings beautifully. She is in our Chorus and Art Elective courses. Last year she played one of the major roles as the number one ancestor in "Mauna Jr" which was our theatrical production for our spring 2022 musical. Being a stellar student, she always exhibits leadership qualities by helping others, being inclusive with new students, and always has a great attitude. She truly shines as a positive role model. While good grades are not new to Sierra, she also balances extra-curricular activities with her academic commitment. Her activities have included: ballet, swimming, tennis, gymnastics, soccer, and hip-hop dancing. She admires Ann Lowe, a rarely recognized African American dress designer, who created Mrs. Jacki Kennedy's wedding dress. Sierra is outgoing with a vibrant outlook on life who is destined to do great things one day!

Kaleb Pryor

Kaleb Pryor is a Raa Ram who exhibits the values exemplified by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr throughout his lifetime. Kaleb challenges himself academically and is currently taking high school credit classes. He works hard in the classroom and takes pride in his accomplishments by maintaining a grade point average over 3.8 in middle school. He has straight A's in all of his classes that include Geometry Honors and Biology Honors. Not only is Kaleb accomplished in the classroom, he models leadership and commitment on the athletic fields as well. He has earned a position on both of our top-performing football and basketball teams. Kaleb is a positive influence on his teammates and encourages the team to work towards their common goals and leading them in solving problems. Kaleb is viewed by his teachers as a friendly, respectful, conscientious and all-around great guy! He has the unique ability to get along with all of his peers with an ability to connect and help regardless of the age or background of his peers, making them feel valued and respected. He is one of our best student role models who exemplifies Dr. King's values through his consistent adherence to excellence in and out of the classroom and inspiring those around him.

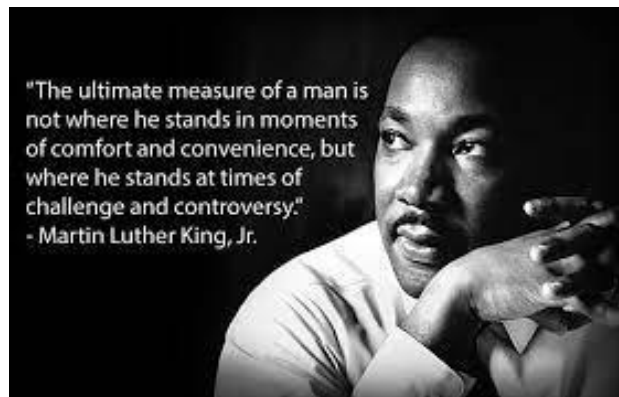
Swift Creek Middle School

Ryan Garcia

Ryan always has a positive attitude no matter what classroom he is in. He is helpful to others and is a quiet leader in the classroom. He always has a smile on his face that will instantly put one of the faces of others. Ryan is one of the most patient and kind students on Swift Creek's campus and helps students without being asked. Ryan has grown in his time at Swift Creek from a student who was unsure about his abilities to a confident young man willing to help and lead in whatever situation he faces. As a positive role model on campus, Ryan is more than deserving to represent Swift Creek as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamer and Doer.

Sydney Kilgore

In her time at Swift Creek, Sydney has grown from a reserved student into a confident young woman. Her leadership is driven by her example in how she treats others. She is kind to others, even to those students who are difficult to get along with. Sydney believes strongly in equality for all as evidenced by her tremendous growth in the Peers as Partners course. Her supervising teacher can count on her to help her student while treating him with respect and kindness. She believes all students are equally capable of learning, regardless of their background or challenges. She is an outstanding citizen and an excellent representation of what it means to be a Wolf and represents Martin Luther King, Jr's vision well.



High School

Lawton Chiles High School

Hudson Eddie Taylor

Hudson Eddie Taylor is a graduating senior at Lawton Chiles High School; he is the son of Edra Taylor. Like Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Hudson is quite a distinguishable young person by several accounts; he has the respect of his teachers and peers; a person of impeccable moral character. As the Chiles High School Student Government Association President, Hudson represents and advocates for the nearly two thousand students and does so in fine fashion. During his years at Chiles, Hudson has served on the Chiles Black History Committee, the Chiles Cancer Society, and as a Chiles Ambassador, to name a few. Hudson is a student who is committed to his academic studies excelling in Honors and Advanced Placement courses; he is a member of the National Honor Society. Hudson's commitment to service is demonstrated by his continued leadership involvement in Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18, as the Chiles High HOBY Representative in 2021 and his service on the Leon County Student District Advisory Council. Essentially, in the greater community, Hudson has taken up the gavel to create what Dr. King refers to as the "beloved community". Dr. King stated that, "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives". We are very proud to present Master Hudson Taylor as our choice for the 2023 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dreamers and Doers Award.

Jill Alie Hercule-Espinal

Jill Alie Hercule-Espinal is a graduating senior at Lawton Chiles High School; she is the daughter of Monica and Elie Joseph Hercule. Jill is a bright and well-rounded young person; she has excelled as a student and distinguished herself as an outstanding student and student leader. Jill's interest, involvement and leadership in student organizations reads like a recipe for success; she is or has been a vibrant member of the Chiles Black History Board, the Chiles Spanish National Honor Society, Chiles Pre-Med Club, Chiles Mental Health Matters and Chiles Musical Theatre to name a few. Outside of school, Jill has pursued pre-med interests by participating in the Johns Hopkins Summer Program and the TMH Surgical Internship Program. Jill is the epitome of what Dr. King said when he referred to one's faith, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Jill is tenacious when it comes to achieving her goals, she believes in herself and her convictions; that gives her the confidence to be successful and take that first step. In the community, Jill has given of her time and talent to Youth Leadership Tallahassee, Teen Court and the Young Actors Theatre. At Chiles, Jill has endeavored to pursue the most rigorous Advanced Placement and Honors courses and has consistently completed these courses with distinction. We at Chiles High School believe that this phenomenal student can achieve all that she sets her heart and mind to achieve. We are proud to present Miss Jill Alie Hercule-Espinal as our choice for the 2023 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dreamers and Doers Award.

Amos P. Godby High School

Tanner Robinson

Tanner Robinson is a natural choice to represent Amos P. Godby High School as an MLK Dreamer and Doer. Her innate kindness and compassionate demeanor are notable, along with her intelligence and determination to excel. She has quietly served as a positive role model throughout her four years at Godby High School. As a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Yearbook Club and member of the Godby Swim Team (serving as the Captain for her Senior year), her steady character has been a guide for her peers. She most admires her mother for raising her to be caring and independent. She respects her mother's strength when handling life's many challenges and expressed deep appreciation for her mother's help and advice. Tanner is guided by a servant leadership mantra that is propelling her to attend college and work in the medical field. With her deep desire to serve others through a health care career, her leadership abilities, and her ability to build and sustain positive and lasting relationships, she perfectly represents the ideals and beliefs of Dr. King exceptionally well.

Esrael Yant

As Amos P. Godby High School's MLK Dreamers and Doers Nominee, Esrael Yant's participation with the Distinguished Young Gentlemen and Youth Leadership Tallahassee speaks of his commitment to his community and his excellent character and integrity. His membership in the National Honor Society, and placement on TCC's Dean's List and Godby's Honor Roll, indicates his intelligence. Esrael is in his fourth year as a member of the school's basketball team, and serves as Varsity Captain. He has excelled on the hardwood and has an incredible desire to play basketball at the collegiate level. He has worked tirelessly on the basketball court to make his goal become a reality. His ultimate dream of playing basketball professionally is lofty, but is no way unattainable. Nothing can be accomplished without first dreaming it. He may very well miss the mark, but it will never be for a lack of trying. Esrael has an undying admiration for his stepfather, Tyrone Davis, who came from modest means. Mr. Davis has built a successful business through hard work, fortitude, determination, and love for community. Esrael wants to be a person who embodies these exemplary qualities. With a heart for service and supporting others, these qualities set Esrael apart and make him an ideal candidate to represent Godby High School as an MLK Dreamer and Doer.

Leon High School

Christina Owens

Christina Owens is an outstanding student and a remarkable young woman. Christina's current GPA is 3.70 and she has taken rigorous courses throughout high school. She has managed to balance her challenging academic career with a variety of activities and service work. She is the current Vice President of Leon High School's Ladies of Distinction where she plays an important role in their Toys for Tots fundraising efforts. She is the current Historian for Leon High School's Black Student Union where she prepares meeting agendas and plans events. She is also the current President of Cultivating Queens where she serves as Youth Board Chair and consults with board members on a variety of topics. When Christina's name is mentioned among colleagues, the comments are always positive in nature and include mature, creative, kind, and determined. She is an excellent example of the ideals set forth by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jermaine Edwards

Jermaine Edwards is an honors student at Leon High School. He has been incredibly involved in our performing arts department programs for the past four years. Jermaine is currently the Horn Section Leader for the Marching Band and the Bass Section Leader for Capital Singers. Both of these programs are extremely selective at Leon and have won numerous awards at the district, state and even national level. In addition to his academic and performing arts successes, Jermaine's joyful personality and extreme grit are what sets him apart. Jermaine has a positive demeanor no matter the situation. He regularly communicates, is easy to work with and follows up quickly and efficiently. As the eldest sibling of seven, Jermaine has clearly developed strong leadership skills. Jermaine's work ethic and character will ensure he is an asset to any organization he is a part of in the future and he is certainly a very worthy recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamer and Doer award.

Lincoln High School

Axama Rene'

Axama is a high achieving student that has outstanding grades and has taken 14 Advanced Placement courses. His AP Calculus teacher stated that he is one of his hardest working and respectful students. He is always willing to learn and never gives up. He helps other students by tutoring them in the area of math. He is a member of the Math Club and National Honor Society where he serves as an officer. In addition to tutoring, he has volunteered at the middle school, assisted teachers and helped with local park cleanups.

Daylen Trawick

Daylen developed into a student leader while attending Lincoln High School. In addition to maintaining his grades he has been part of the Navy Junior ROTC program for all 4 years. He is currently a section leader and oversees other students and drills. The students that he leads respect him and follow his instruction. He is a member of the Color Guard and represents the school in many community events. He volunteers in the community through ROTC with park clean ups; Veteran's Memorials and the Veteran's Parade just to name a few events.

James S. Rickards High School

Makayla Caldwell

Makayla Caldwell, Class of 2023 graduate of James S. Rickards High School, is a motivated, organized, and goal-oriented individual that exerts maximum effort into obtaining the things she desires. She has an unweighted rising grade point average of 3.3, while simultaneously holding steady employment. Track & Field, Competitive Cheerleading, Girls Weightlifting, RHS Choir, French Club, Avid, Student Government Association, and an after-school mentoring organization called Ivy Elite are just a few of the extracurricular activities she participates in. She enjoys participating in these activities because they allow her an outlet from the stresses of everyday life; they allow her to challenge herself and allow herself to compete at a higher level. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in positivity, compassion, and leadership. Similarly, Makayla exhibits King's hope that young African American will be a beacon of light, hope, and positivity in their community. Through the execution of her goals, Caldwell strives to encourage and motivate her peers and the younger generation in her community. She wants to pursue a degree in interior design after high school. Her goal is to begin obtaining her real estate license before graduating high school. Eventually, she wants to establish a name for herself by doing what she loves, which includes being a well-known interior designer and being a positive role model in her community.

David Johnson

David Johnson represents the ideals of Martin Luther King by having commitment. Being a part of band for 7 years, he has grown to be an outstanding musician who has participated in the Big Bend All-District band for 6 years and earned 7 superiors through Florida's solo and ensemble events. David also exemplifies the trait of leadership by being the Brass Captain of James S Rickard's band. As Brass Captain, he's had to help other students with their music, marching, and fundamentals as well as been a positive role model for new and returning members. By also being a part of the Tallahassee's Future Leaders Academy, David has learned many effective ways to lead and how to respect others as well as himself. A person David looks up to is his mother, who has taught him to persevere through any hardships he is going through. In the future David plans to attend FAMU and be a part of the Marching 100 to continue his musical journey.

SAIL High School

Janya Lynn Samuel

A graduating senior at SAIL High School, Janya Lynn Samuel is described by her peers as kind, intelligent, resilient, and selfless in her desire to help others. She has dedicated numerous hours to community service projects including: donating blankets to the Leon County Humane Society, making snack and activity packs for the Hang Tough Organization and the Ronald McDonald House of Tallahassee, creating art for City Walk Mission residents, and feminine hygiene product drives and packaging for those in need. In addition to her work in the local community, when she visits family, Janya volunteers at Advent Hospital in Daytona Beach, Florida. Janya thrives academically; she has maintained a 3.5 GPA and ranks in the Top 20 of her graduating class. A firm believer in freedom and fairness, Janya strives to expand Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of equality for all through social justice and healthcare reform. An aspiring physician, Janya plans to attend Florida State University and work tirelessly toward increasing healthcare accessibility and quality care to all.

Matthew Tabet

Matthew Tabet, a senior at SAIL High School, is a rising star. At the young age of seven he was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which caused him to struggle with grades and behavior in the classroom. Matthew worked hard over the years to overcome this disability and now has a 3.91/4.0 grade point average. He has been accepted to Florida Southern College, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Central Florida. He is a member of SAIL High Schools National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a founding member of SAIL's Black Student Union. He believes in helping others and dedicating his time to meritorious causes. Over the summer he volunteered with elementary students at Astoria Park Elementary School. He assisted with STEM week activities, athletics, and conflict resolution. He was the perfect role model for this program because he exemplifies behaviors that include kindness, respect, and patience. He stated that he enjoys volunteering in the community that shaped him and strives to have an impact. One way he is impactful on SAIL High Schools' campus is by tutoring classmates with computer programming in the AP computer science course. Matthew is a future emerging leader in the Leon county community.



Special Schools & Sites

Florida A&M University Developmental Research School

Nevaeh Green

Nevaeh Green is a junior currently enrolled at Florida A&M University Developmental Research School. With a grade point average of 4.47, this high school scholar has been an exemplary leader in her school community. She is a member of FAMU DRS National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Youth Leadership Tallahassee. She also serves as the junior class president for the 2022-2023 school year. During her time at DRS, she has worked hard to build relationships with trust from her teachers and peers. She emulates many characteristics of a Martin Luther King Dreamer and Doer through her sheer resilience and love for the school she represents. Always thinking outside the box, she comes up with creative ideas to solve conflicts and communicates with her peers to ensure every voice is heard. She is an excellent choice for this award because she is diligent and dependable and leads with integrity. Her warm smile is a welcoming face to people far and wide, and she is easy to talk to; She leads the world with compassion.

Samuel King

Samuel King is a senior currently enrolled at Florida A&M University Developmental Research School. He is a delightful student who strives for academic excellence and exemplifies outstanding leadership every day. He is an active member of the FAMU DRS National Honor Society, Year Book Club, JROTC Program, Symphonic Band, and Student Government Association, where he currently serves as the Senior Class President for the 2022-23 school year. Throughout his matriculation at DRS, he has built relationships with his peers and teachers as a dependable young scholar. What makes him stand apart is his dedication and willingness to help others, through community outreach and service in organizations like the Tallahassee Area Coalition Center of Excellence National Achievers Society, where he serves as the NAS secretary, 100 Black Men Inc. Tallahassee Chapter, Black Male Explorers Program, and recently this summer as a Junior Servant Leader Intern for the FAMU DRS Freedom School program. Taught to always put his best foot forward and constantly strive for excellence, his drive and intense focus are inspirational, and therefore make him an ideal “Dreamer and Doer.”

Florida State University School

Aiyana Curtin

Aiyana embodies determination, kindness, and commitment daily. Her positive attitude shines through when she collaborates with peers, and her self-confidence makes her an incredible role model. She never shies away from a challenge or task! Friends often count on Aiyana for academic or social support, and teachers can always count on her to be mature, responsible, and helpful.

Pranavi Yelugoti

Pranavi just started at Florida High this school year, but she immediately stood out. From the moment she walked in the door, she set the bar for what commitment to excellence looks like. She earned top scores on both reading and math assessments the second week of school and has only continued to push herself since. She asks questions, she develops creative solutions, and she challenges ideas in new ways to develop deeper understandings. Her determination is so fierce, it impacts those around her in a positive way. She will push you, encourage you, and motivate you to work harder or think about it in a new way. Best of all, she does all of this with grace. Pranavi is competitive, but also compassionate. She walked into a room of 28 students she didn't know this year and met them with such confidence and kindness that it almost immediately seemed like she had known them all for years. She is an outstanding role model and a great student leader in our classroom. She could not be more deserving of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award and we are so proud to see her recognized for who she is.

Garyn Washington

Garyn Washington is an outstanding student and leader. He has held office positions in chorus serving as our president in the seventh grade. He always volunteers for community service helping with many different activities after school. He exemplifies what a leader should be and is polite and caring to his teachers and fellow students. Garyn has high expectations for himself and keeps up with his work while also participating in many after school activities. This year he has worked on his music theory and sight-reading and will be a member of the All-State Mixed Chorus in January. He also auditioned for the American Choral Director's Honor Choir and was a part of this prestigious group in September. Garyn is always one of the first students to volunteer to be a part of a group that takes on extra work and constantly helps in the classroom. He is always a good friend and mentor to his fellow students. He is extremely polite and his work ethic is unparalleled. Garyn is an excellent candidate for the Martin Luther King Dreamers and Doers Award.

Maelei Chavez

Maelei is a passionate 7th grade student at Florida State University Schools. Maelei is a quiet leader among her peers. Her kindness to others does not go unnoticed. Maelei is new to our school this year and has joined our student body as a kind and courteous student. Maelei is willing to help anyone who needs assistance. She is a hard worker who uses what she learns in class (facts, content) to make thoughtful and informed contributions to class discussions and her own beliefs on various topics. Currently, Maelei has a 4.0 GPA and is taking four high school credit courses as a seventh grader. She is an outstanding representative of the beliefs and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Gretchen Everhart School

Omarion Sellers

Omarion Sellers has had no problems making friends and helping others from the moment he started at Gretchen Everhart School. We have watched him grow and mature to embody the characteristics of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Omar is always looking for ways to lend a hand to his peers in the classroom and around campus. Omarion is always thinking of his friends and what they might need. If he sees a friend in need, he is always willing to help out or seek help for them. Omar also wants his friends to make the best choices. He is always willing to show his friends how to make good choices. In this way, he embodies the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. No matter the task, Omarion has a great attitude and is willing to try hard things. Omarion helps collect and do the classrooms laundry, keeps his classroom pantry stocked with snacks and helps his friends clean up after meals. His smile is contagious and you can't help but smile too when you around him. It is with great pleasure that we nominate Omarion Sellers as a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamer and Doer from Gretchen Everhart School.

Christian Low

Christian Low has been working very hard in the Transition program. He loves participating in vocational tasks on campus. He enjoys working in the garden, using the leaf blower to keep our sidewalks clear, collecting recycling, and washing windows. He always shows concern for his peers and tires to calm and soothe them when they are upset. He likes to help his non-verbal friends in using their communication devices and has worked hard at improving his own communication and self-advocacy. He has done a great job in the speech therapy cooking class. He is also very helpful in the classroom when completing daily living skills like wiping tables, assisting with laundry, and using the dishwasher. One of his favorite activities is learning to read safety signs that are seen in the community. He is always the first to volunteer to come to the front of the classroom and help his peers remember what each sign means. Christian is very social. He knows all of the staff members throughout the school and makes sure to greet everyone he sees with joy and enthusiasm. He also, when possible; leads the school in the pledge of allegiance. Christian Low really embodies the characteristics of an MLK Dreamer and Doer. We are so proud of the progress he has made over the years!

Second Chance at Ghazvini Learning Center

Isaiah Christie

Isaiah Nathaniel Christie, is a young man that truly exemplifies the characteristics of Dreamers and Doers. Isaiah, was born on the 10th day of December 2005 in Broward County, Florida. At a very young age, Isaiah knew he had to become a doer, of his dreams to provide a better life, for his mother, his siblings and himself. Unfortunately, in February 2022, Isaiah was involved in an unfavorable altercation, in defense of his reputation and a family member, that led to him being expelled, in which he was sent to Ghazvini Learning Center's to become a part of the school's second Chance Program. While there, Isaiah was able to reflect on his life, his goals and previous behaviors, to conclude that he had put his dreams aside, no longer being a doer, of the thing it tool to fulfill his dreams. Isaiah, has matured, and has worked tirelessly to make the necessary changes, behaviorally, academically, and also, physically, spiritually, mentally, and even financially, leading to him expediting his return back into public school, two months early. In 2023, he plans to return to Leon County School's own, Rickards High School, where he will continue his role as a Dreamer, and most importantly a Doer, getting back on the field in the sport of Football. Isaiah Nathaniel Christie. A dreamer. A doer. This year, and for years to come.

Success Academy at Ghazvini Learning Center

Jakyia Washington

Jakyia Washington, grade 8, was selected for the Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dreamers and Doers award because she demonstrates outstanding leaderships skills in the classroom with her academics as well as behavior here at Success Academy. She goes above and beyond to show excellence by completing all assignments as soon as they are given. Her goal for all of her grades is to settle for no less than an A in each subject. Not only does she show her leadership abilities in the class, but she shows them by helping her fellow classmates and being a positive role model in school and in the community. She encourages her fellow classmates to do their work or assists them with it when they find it difficult. Jakyia's leadership qualities are aligned with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s core values because he believed that *whatever your life's work is, do it well*. Based on these observations about this young leader, she will exemplify Dr. King beliefs and ideals exceptionally well as a representative for the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers and Doers of Success Academy.

Sariyah Minor

Sariyah Minor is confident, resilient, and committed to gaining an education and being a role model for others at Success Academy. Sariyah enters the classroom every day with a smile and the ambition to get her work done. Even though this is my first year at Success Academy, within these few months, I've seen her grow into a young woman who will stop at nothing to get what she deserves. I know that I can count on her to help with classroom discussions and even persuade her classmates to try their hardest. Sariyah is also an A/B honor roll student, and I know she will continue to pursue being the best student that she can be. Overall, Sariyah has demonstrated a positive attitude, willingness, and helpfulness in my class, and I know she will be a great leader one day!

Amani Nelson

I want to start by praising this student and her resilience to be the best that she can be. Amani enters the classroom every day with bright spirits. She is self-disciplined when it comes to her education as well. I know that if she misses a day at school, the very next day, she is hunting me down to catch up on any missing assignments. That, in itself, shows willingness, academic excellence, and someone who is striving to change her future for the better. Besides her excellence, Amani is a respectful student and respects anyone around her, which is what we aim to embody here at The Success Academy. Even though she comes off as shy, I know I can count on her to help push class discussions and give her input on the daily lessons. It is a pleasure to see her grow every day and push herself to be better than the day before.

Tallahassee School of Math and Science

Daniel Francis

Daniel exhibits leadership qualities. He is not afraid to be different and he always helps his peers. He is very charismatic and has a positive attitude toward learning. Daniel is also committed to doing his best at all times. Daniel has a growth mindset and listens to constructive criticism. He reflects and learns from all of his experiences.

Ariel Martinez

She is always helpful and kind and works hard at everything she does. she is the first to volunteer to help anyone who needs it - teacher or student. She shows exemplary character in everything she does and is the kind of person we should all strive to be. For having a great attitude, compassion, helping others, and overall outstanding character.

Lyra Isabelle Malbas

Lyra is a student that is very kind and helpful. When met with a challenge Lyra puts on her thinking cap and makes sure she attempts to solve the problem. Passionate about understanding a challenge, Lyra will figure out the solution to the situation and apply it. Along with her being a hard-working student she also helps her classmates and is a friendly student who goes out of her way to be kind any time of the day. Lyra is the ideal candidate because of her peace-making personality. Confident enough to take on a lion, Lyra can inject her smile and kindness into any circle of people and change the whole situation for the better.

Kenji Walker

shows great compassion in the classroom. He does not hesitate to help someone or stand up for someone. He has set himself up as the big brother to all his classmates, and by doing this has shown great leadership skills. Kenji also has a positive outlook on every situation. He tries his hardest in accomplishing everyday tasks, and when a situation occurs that he needs help in, he does not give up, but rather has committed himself to learning the skill. I believe Kenji Walker exemplifies Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ideals and beliefs.

The School of Arts and Sciences on Thomasville

Esinam Agama

Essie, an extraordinary scholar of prodigious talent, has impressed her teachers and peers all throughout elementary school and straight through middle school where she is currently an eighth grader. Earning stellar grades and completing a coursework of academic vigor, Essie's scholarship raises the bar of standard thought and excellence. She embodies the learning spirit through curiosity, fortitude, and creativity. Talents abound for Essie who nurtures her exemplary artwork, dedicated to improvement and the joy of creating. Her compassion is unparalleled as she constantly encourages others; she has a way of bringing joy and inspiration to us all through her steadfast belief that all can and will succeed in their endeavors, that we are all special in our own ways – she writes notes to us and drafts poems. She speaks up for the quiet ones and braves nerves to face bullies and will even question authority with respect, dignity, and grace when she is standing up for others. Her character and actions are indicative of a passionate dreamer and a caring neighbor, her very nature propels her to put others before herself. She deserves our congratulations and respect, and her future will shine forth.

Noelle Bounds

Noelle Bounds exemplifies the qualities that great leaders possess. She is thoughtful, observant, self-reflective and motivated. She listens to others. She cares. Noelle is an academic superstar. The quality of her work is exceptional and her willingness to help others achieve is admirable too. She isn't afraid to voice her concerns and is firm in her defense of what she believes is just and true. Her desire for knowledge and her willingness to strive to continually learn will serve her and the community well. Noelle is a bright light and will no doubt contribute to making the world a better place for us all.



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