

PHOENIX NOTES

Mrs. Verynda Stroughter, Principal

(313) 416-4600 | verynda.stroughter@detroitk12.org
www.detroitk12.org/renaissance



Principal's Corner

Happy Black History Month!

Black people continue to make history! We have just witnessed the inaugural events of the first Black woman serving as Vice President of the United States. It is astonishing how Black people and women are still making first.

Thank you all for your continued patience and support as we have made it through an all virtual semester. It was a slow beginning but now I believe we have made a lot of progress. Students and teachers have made several adjustments to make this learning style work as best as possible. We realize this is not the best situation, but we are making the best of it. This semester look for more activities that focus on the whole child; academic, social emotional, and extracurricular! Together, we are unstoppable!

Second Semester Book Distribution

Second semester begins on Wednesday, February 3rd. We have a few classes that will change causing the need for a different book. All 10th grade students will be changing their social studies class from Economics to Civics or vice versa. Many English classes (all grades) will be reading a new novel and will need to pick that up as well. (Please inquire with your English teacher to find out if you need a new novel). In order to get the second semester book, you must return the first semester book. Book Distribution will take place on **Monday, Feb. 1st from 1pm – 5pm & Wednesday, Feb. 3rd from 1pm-5pm.**

Students Must:

- Bring the first semester book.
- Have their student ID.
- Wear a mask.
- Take temperature & health screening.
- Remain socially distanced.
- Follow the direction of staff.

Senior Cap & Gowns

During the same time, we will distribute cap & gowns to seniors who are up to date with dues. We plan to have cap & gown pictures this month as well. Stay tuned for more information. We will use the senior door (#6). Seniors will come to the door; payment will be verified to receive their cap and gown.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Semester 1 Ends 2/2
Career Day 2/4
Athletic Signing Day 2/5
Report Cards 2/9
Count Day 2/10
Honors Ceremony 2/11
Title 1 Parent Workshop 2/13
Winter Break 2/15 – 2/19

The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis.

-Thurgood Marshall



Black History Month

February is Black History Month. We will have several events happening throughout the month to celebrate the rich history and legacy of Black people. We hope that you are able to take part in our many events. Some events will occur during the school day and will be for students only. The National Honor Society and Senators have various events planned all throughout the month. These events will be shared on their Teams channel. Other events are as follows:

Tentative Schedule:

- Adding Some Soul to Seminar** – Hosted by NHS – Every Thursday in February during seminar.
- A Musical Celebration of Black History** – Hosted by Symphonic String Orchestra – Feb. 25th @6pm.
- Poetry and Art Slam** – Hosted by Senate – Feb. 25th @1:30pm
- Vocal Choir Celebration** – Hosted by Choir Department – Feb. 28th @7pm

*Links will be provided for each event at a later date.



Athletic Update

All winter sports have been practicing since last month. A season start date has been set for the week of February 22nd. All Spring sports will begin conditioning in small groups this month. Things have been everchanging, please continue your patience. Contact AC Lopez for questions @ joshua.lopez@detroitk12.org



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Class of 2024:
Yes She Can – M. Dillon

Class of 2023:
Just Mercy – B. Stevenson

Class of 2022:
The Truths We Hold – Kamala Harris

Class of 2021:
We Should All Be Feminist – C.N. Adichie

For your leisure reading time!

NOTES FROM THE COUNSELORS

Counselors will be verifying second semester schedules this week. If you have any concerns regarding your second semester schedule, please email your counselor and/or contact them via Teams. Seniors who need credit recovery should verify with their counselor that they are registered for Edgenuity.

Honors Ceremony: The first semester Honor Roll will be recognized on Thursday, February 11th at 1:30pm. Honorees will be notified by invitation in which the link will be shared. Any student with a 3.0 or above for Semester 1 will be honored.

Students and families looking for help paying for college are encouraged to [register for a Virtual College Financial Aid Night](#) provided by Treasury's MI Student Aid team. Sessions will be available every Tuesday and Thursday in February from 6:30pm – 8:00pm EST. Participants will be able to gather information on the following financial aid topics:

- FAFSA application information
- Federal financial aid programs
- State financial aid programs
- Scholarship searching
- MiSSG Student Portal Accounts

All sessions are open to the public and participants are encouraged to sign up for one session only due to limited space.

Career Day

The Annual Career Day will be held on Thursday, Feb. 4th. This event is hosted by the Counseling Department, Alumni Association and the PTSA. Renaissance Alumni and others will visit classrooms on Teams to discuss their career choice, what it takes to work in the chosen field and answer any questions that students may have. Several teachers have agreed to host a visitor. Students should be prepared to welcome our guest. Teachers who are participating will let their class know so that students can prepare questions.