



NEWS RELEASE

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Baltimore County Public Schools celebrates Black History Month 2022

Towson, MD – The contributions African Americans have made – and continue to make -- to American history and culture are being celebrated throughout Black History Month (February) by the students and staff of Baltimore County Public Schools.

Across the county, individual schools are welcoming guest speakers, sharing information during morning announcements, hosting door decorating contests, creating musical programs, showing Black films, writing reports, reading biographies, offering special assemblies, and more.

“Baltimore County Public Schools celebrates Black history year-round, however the month of February affords us a special opportunity to explore and elevate some of the people and stories that are sometimes overlooked.” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “I encourage all students and families to spend some time this month learning more about Black history and the diversity and strengths of Black culture.”

Systemwide, BCPS is recognizing Black history in multiple ways.

Black Excellence Program

This year, the longstanding Black Saga program (which engaged students in a competition about Black history and culture) has been updated into the new Black Excellence program. Eighteen elementary schools, nine middle schools, and one high school are participating. The program supports students as they learn about the people, places, and events within the Black experience. Students will have the opportunity to assess their knowledge through a book study, a school-based competition,

and/or development of a presentation. Information about an upcoming online celebration is forthcoming.

Black History Month Trivia Tuesdays

Every Tuesday in February at 3 p.m., BCPS will post Black History Month trivia questions on the @teambcps Instagram story. The trivia questions will be live for 24 hours and will also be archived on the @teambcps Instagram profile.

BCPS Black History Month Writing Contest

Ends Wednesday, February 16

In celebration of Black History Month, the Office of Social Studies and the Office of English Language Arts, with the support of the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, are co-sponsoring a writing contest for all students in Grades K-12. Entries are due by Wednesday, February 16. For details about how to enter, students are encouraged to speak to an English language arts or social studies teacher at their school. Winners will be notified by Wednesday, February 23.

Black History Month Virtual Events: The Legendary Ingramettes

Tuesday, February 22, at 9 a.m.

The Legendary Ingramettes are a family band of gospel singers and social justice seekers. In this program, the all-female quartet will sing and share stories from their home church in Petersburg, Va. This program will include a short video about the group followed by a conversation with the leader of the band, the Rev. Almeta Miller, moderated by Jon Lohman, Ph.D. This program is tailored toward upper middle and high school students. It is presented on [Zoom](#) through a collaboration between BCPS and [Creative Alliance](#).

Black History Month Virtual Event: Balla Kouyate

Friday, February 25, at 10:15 a.m.

Keeper of an unbroken 800-year lineage of West African oral historians and musicians known as *djeli*, Balla Kouyate is a master of the *balafon*, the predecessor to the xylophone. This unique opportunity to visit with a master musician and oral historian will be tailored to middle school and lower high school students. The program will include a short video about Kouyate created in his current home community of Boston, Mass., followed by a conversation with Kouyate, moderated by musician Brooks Long. The program will be presented on [Zoom](#) through a collaboration between BCPS and [Creative Alliance](#).

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).