



## Black History Month Classroom Activities

### Kindergarten: The Blues

- a. History of the The Blues
- b. Listening to The Blues
- c. Writing a Blues Song
- d. Having Blues song performed by professional artist at assembly

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Poetry

- a. Learn about the works of Nikki Giovanni
- b. Write poems in style of Nikki Giovanni
- c. Poems displayed at the assembly

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Poetry

- a. Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance
- b. Introduction to the poetry of Langston Hughes
- c. Write poems in the style of Langston Hughes
- d. Poems displayed at the assembly

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Artists of the Harlem Renaissance

- a. Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance
- b. Discussion of various artists of this period
- c. Choose artist and try to create an art piece similar to the artist chosen.
- d. Artwork displayed at assembly

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jazz

- a. Harlem Renaissance introduction
- b. Listen to music by Duke Ellington
- c. Write lyrics to go with a selected Duke Ellington piece

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Blues

- a. Introduction to Blues (Blues Journey by. Walter Myers)
- b. Listen to Blues music
- c. Write a Blues song
- d. Perform at assembly

### Middle School: Spoken Word

- a. Introduction to Spoken Word (Langston Hughes performed spoken word)
- b. Write a spoken word piece
- c. Perform your spoken word piece during Lunchtime

## Guest Speakers and Performers

- Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>:** **Professor Mausika Scales**  
Professor Scales will discuss "Exploring the Cultural ties between African & African American Music and Art." He will lecture and play music to middle school students during lunch.
- Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>:** **Ash Wednesday Mass**  
Traditional African American hymns will be played and sung during Mass.
- Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>:** **Portia Bruner, News Reporter, FOX Channel 5**  
Ms. Bruner will discuss careers in broadcasting with middle school students.
- Mr. Eugene H. Russell IV - Actor, Dancer, Musician**  
Mr. Russell will hold a two-part discussion about the *Harlem Renaissance* for the middle school students. Mr. Russell will also play music from the *Harlem Renaissance* era.
- Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>:** **Grandparents Mass - Archbishop Wilton Gregory is the Celebrant**  
Traditional African American hymns will be played and sung during Mass.
- Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>:** **Dwight Phillips - Olympic Gold Medalist, 9:30 - 10:40 am STM Gym**  
Mr. Phillips will share his Olympic experience and discuss what steps he took to become an Olympic Gold medalist.
- Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>:** **Atlanta Blues Society**  
The Atlanta Blues Society celebrates and perpetuates the blues as a traditional, evolutionary, and uniquely American art form. Their mission is to educate the public about the Blues from its roots in slavery to the present.
- Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Mr. Eugene H. Russell IV - Actor, Dancer, Musician**  
Mr. Russell will discuss Part 2 of his *Harlem Renaissance* series.
- Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>:** **STM Black History Cultural Celebration, 1:45 pm STM Gym**  
Performers include the STM Middle School Encore Dance Classes and special guest **GIWAYEN MATA. GIWAYEN MATA** is an award winning, dynamic, female dance, percussion and vocal ensemble.

## Other Happenings

- Monday-Friday:** **Archives of African American Achievement, Morning announcements**  
Each day a student reads a brief biography of a famous (or not so famous) African American over the intercom. An accompanying presentation will be available in each classroom, and a weekly recap that tells a bit more about each day's featured person will be sent home each week. Week 1 will feature famous politicians; Week 2 will focus on the artists of the Harlem Renaissance; Week 3 will focus on religion; and week 4, Atlanta.
- Mondays** **Traditional African American/Soul Food hot lunch**
- Please visit the STM website [www.stmga.org](http://www.stmga.org) for additional STM Black History Month information.