



Message from the Superintendent February/March 2024

February is Black History Month. Each year there is a theme for the month, this year it is “African Americans and the Arts.” We will be showcasing the impacts Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and so much more. As they do every year, our Social Studies Department will be incorporating Black History month themes within their lessons and using pull out time to highlight key figures in American history - both male and female. Additionally, the Social Studies Department will be incorporating recognition into their lessons for Presidents’ Day which is Monday, February 19, 2024.

Also, February 29, 2024 is designated as “Rare Disease Day” which recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders. A rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients, which, in the US, is considered to be a population of fewer than 200,000 persons.

Read Across America Week begins Saturday, March 2, 2024 nationwide. This reading initiative is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls every child in every community to celebrate reading with the theme: Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers. All week our younger learners will celebrate the famous author, Dr. Seuss’ Birthday (March 2nd) and will be entertained by guest readers from around the city visiting and sharing their favorite stories.

March is both Women’s History Month and New Jersey STEM Month. Since 1987, the month of March has been designated as Women’s History Month where we join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American History. The goal of NJ STEM Month is to celebrate New Jersey’s commitment to student success in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs. During the month, our Science, Technology, and Mathematics Departments will highlight efforts designed to increase access to STEM learning.

Important Dates to Remember:

February 12, 2024	Schools Closed - Full Staff Training Day
February 13, 2024	Abbreviated Session Elementary Only - MidYear Conference 6-8 PM
February 14, 2024	Valentine’s Day - Free Dress Down Day (wear red)
February 15, 2024	MidYear Conference Grades 9-12, 6-8 PM
February 16 & 19	Presidents’ Day - schools closed
February 29, 2024	Rare Disease Awareness Day
Month of March	Women’s History Month
Month of March	New Jersey STEM Month
March 2, 2024	Start of Read Across America week
March 10, 2024	Daylight Saving Time - <i>Spring Ahead one hour</i>
March 14, 2024	Pi Day -celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi)
March 28, 2024	Abbreviated Session
March 29, 2024	Spring Break

Regards,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent of Schools

