

New Orleans Adventist Academy Celebrating Black History Month

It has been 95 years since the historian, Carter G. Woodson, created the “Negro History Week.” He also went on to say that those who have no record of what their forebearers have accomplished, lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history. But teaching often falls short. We as Americans still do not have a full understanding of the Black Experience and its influence on our lives.

Black history is America's history. We as educators should be equipped to teach the lessons of slavery and the civil rights movement. Most of the students who leave high school move on without knowing much about the oppression of Africans in North America. Teaching Tolerance reported that **only** 8% of high school seniors could relate to slavery as the central cause of the Civil War.

Where else do the younger students learn about the main figures like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Ruby Bridges, and Sojourner Truth, even before they are introduced to the reasons these heroes had to fight for freedom and equality in the first place.

It is important to know that Black History Month shouldn't just be about detailing traumatic events. While slavery and the fight for human rights molded or fashioned our society, it is only a very small piece of this country's history. We should remember Black history doesn't start and end with slavery. Africans have always built civilizations and enjoyed diversity in an ethnic mosaic.



We at New Orleans Adventist Academy explored the continent in our classrooms and in our hallway. We learned about African lives and the experience they had in their life journey, including the influence they had on the world.

Kids learned about the passages of civil right laws and other victories they had. They learned that our nation is still far from being unbiased. Even policy changes alone won't amount to true equality. Policies haven't ended institutional and systemic racism. And they never will until all lives are truly valued.



Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



John 13:34: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.



Acts 17:26: And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,



1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



Carter

G Woodson said, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

We, the **Southwestern Union Teachers**, are the **BEST** and **blessed** to teach our children that we all are created in His image and God cares about how we treat each other. He does not discriminate between the inherent value of one race or ethnicity over another. God cares about people no matter the nationality or social status. God is not about separation but for unification. Jesus made it possible for anyone through the cross to join Him in His kingdom.

by Alwina Kindo
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