Dear Parents,

This week, we will begin our Black History Month project for social studies class. We will celebrate Black leaders and establishments from right here in Memphis. Topics include: **Southern Soul** (Memphis musicians), **Memphis Red Sox** (Memphis baseball), **Fight for your Rights!** (Memphis activists), **Education is Key** (Memphis schools/educators), **Soul Food** (Memphis restaurants), **Excellence in Business** (Memphis businesses/people). Under each topic are specific people or places to be researched. Each student is responsible for one person or place (assigned to them in class).

Students are responsible for researching the person or place they have been assigned. In class, we are practicing writing and learning how to structure sentences and paragraphs. Students are asked to turn in a paragraph(s) and an illustration/photo related to the person or place they have been assigned. Students may either 1) use a sheet of loose-leaf paper to hand-write a neat, legible paragraph(s) and draw their own picture, or 2) type a paragraph(s) and include a photograph found on the web. It should all fit on **one page**. Papers are **due Thursday, February 13, 2025**. Students who are grouped in the same topic will have an opportunity to share their projects as a group in class on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Many local journalists and bloggers have written online articles related to each of the people/ places we are researching. If you have trouble finding information with a quick internet search, please reach out to Mr. Warren for resources.

Thank you for supporting our students as they learn more about important community and culture building in Memphis.

Sincerely,

Mr. Warren



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Black History Month Topics** | | |
| **Southern Soul** | **Memphis Red Sox** | **Fight for your Rights!** |
| -Carla Thomas  -Aretha Franklin  -David Porter  -Booker T. Jones | - R.S. Lewis (first owner of the team)  -Martin Brothers (owners of the team—bought from Lewis)  -Charley Pride (player)  -Bob Boyd (player) | -Cornelia Crenshaw  -Maxine Smith  -Ida B. Wells  -Mary Church-Terrell |
| **Education is Key** | **Soul Food** | **Excellence in Business** |
| -LeMoyne-Owen College  -Julia Hooks  -Green P. Hamilton  -Howe Institute | -Four Way Grill  -Gay Hawk Restaurant  -Jim Neely’s Interstate Bar-B-Q  -Cozy Corner Restaurant | -Lorraine Motel  -Robert Church Sr.  -Lt. George W. Lee  -Champion’s Pharmacy & Herb Store |

\*Do not feel restricted by the topic. For example, Robert S. Lewis did much more than own the Memphis Red Sox. Tell us about it!

\*If you are researching a restaurant: When did it open? Who has eaten there? Where is it located? What’s on the menu? FYI: 3 of the 4 restaurants are still in operation today.

**4th Grade Reading Standard**

4.RI.IKI.7 Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

**4th Grade Writing Standard**

4.FL.SC.6 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when speaking and conventions of standard English grammar and usage, including capitalization and punctuation, when writing.

a. Use relative pronouns and relative adverbs.

b. Form and use progressive verb tenses.

c. Use auxiliary verbs, such as can, may, and must, to clarify meaning.

d. Form and use prepositional phrases.

e. Produce complete sentences; recognize and correct inappropriate fragments and runons.

f. Use correct capitalization.

g. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.

h. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.

i. Write several cohesive paragraphs on a topic.