



Diversity Equity Inclusion
Forsyth County Schools

During Black History Month FCS is recognizing the brilliance, strength and love this history represents and teaching the many ways in which Black people have contributed to, inspired and created American culture while also leading the way in advocating for justice.

The Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies integrates the history of African Americans throughout the school year, K-12. However, we know that there is always room for improvement. As part of FCS' [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan](#), we are collecting information on school diversity activities and plan to provide additional diversity resources for national commemorative months and all school days beyond the one month. Black history is American history. But acknowledging all our dimensions of diversity, even if it's a small gesture, gives us a chance to be intentional about learning that history.

This list below highlights African Americans in a variety of areas and occupations. Some of the names will be known to most who read this list; other names are less well known. Regardless of their fame, we celebrate the efforts of all and look forward to adding more in the future. To learn more, visit [FCS' social media accounts](#) during the month of February for spotlights of influential Black leaders. Have recommendations? Contact icaracciolo@forsyth.k12.ga.us



Week #1

Toni Morrison: February is Black History Month! Today we recognize **Toni Morrison, who in 1993** became the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Her novels are among the most celebrated works of contemporary literature. Learn more at <https://www.tonimorrisonociety.org>
#BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythELA

James Hemings: February is Black History Month! Today we recognize master chef James Hemings, the first American trained as a French Chef. Many dishes like foie gras, whipped cream, French fries, ice cream and meringues while not created in his kitchen, became famous for being made there. Learn more at <https://www.jameshemingsfoundation.org/#BlackHistoryMonth2020> #wefeedkids #fcsafe

Althea Gibson: February is Black History Month! Today we recognize Althea Gibson, the first African American to compete at the U.S. National Championships, and the first Black woman to ever win the tennis Grand Slam and to play in the LPGA Tour. Learn more at <https://www.tennisfame.com/hall-of-famers/inductees/althea-gibson> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #fcsathletics

Sir Sidney Poitier: February is Black History Month! Today we recognize Bahamian-American actor and director Sir Sidney Poitier, the first Black actor to win the Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Actor in Leading Role in 1964 #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythfinearts

Week #2:

Mae C. Jemison: This is our 2nd week of Black History Month! Today we recognize Mae C. Jemison, the first African American female astronaut. In 1992, she flew into space aboard the Endeavour, becoming the first African American woman in space. #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythscience

Benjamin O. Davis Sr: This is our 2nd week of Black History Month! Today we recognize Benjamin Oliver Davis Sr., the first African American general for the U.S. Army, who battled segregation by developing and implementing plans for the limited desegregation of U.S. combat forces in Europe during World War II. #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythsalute

Edna Lewis: This is our 2nd week of Black History Month! Today we recognize Edna Lewis, renowned African American chef, teacher, and author who helped refine the American view of Southern cooking. Learn more at <https://ednalewisfoundation.org> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #wefeedkids #fcsafe

Jackie Robinson: This is our 2nd week of Black History Month! Today we recognize Jackie Robinson, who was the First African American Major League Baseball player of the modern era. At UCLA, he was the first athlete of any color to win varsity letters in four sports. Learn more at <https://www.jackierobinson.com> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #fcsathletics

Dance Theatre of Harlem: This is our 2nd week of Black History Month! Today we recognize the **Dance Theatre of Harlem**. Founded in 1969 at the height of the Civil Rights Movement it is known as the oldest Black classical company in continuous existence. Arthur Mitchell created the company after making history in 1955 as the first black principal dancer at the NY City Ballet. Learn more at https://www.dancetheatreofharlem.org/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI0f_agfC15wIVCZ2zCh2DNwCIEAAYASAAEgJzUPD_BwE #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythfinearts

Week #3

Dr. Charles Drew: Week #3 celebrating Black History Month! Today we recognize Dr. Charles Drew, the "Father of the Blood Bank". After becoming the first African American to get his doctorate from Columbia University in 1940, Drew was the world's leading authority on blood transfusions and storage. Learn more at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/african-americans-in-sciences/charles-richard-drew.html> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythscience

Justice Thurgood Marshall: Week #3 celebrating Black History Month! Today we recognize Justice Thurgood Marshall, who as an attorney successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954). He was also the first African American U.S. Solicitor General and member of the Supreme Court. Learn more at <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/justice-thurgood-marshall-profile-brown-v-board> #BlackHistoryMonth2020

Maggie L. Walker: Week #3 celebrating Black History Month! Today we recognize Justice Thurgood Marshall, who as an attorney successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954). He was also the first African American U.S. Solicitor General and member of the Supreme Court. Learn more at <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/justice-thurgood-marshall-profile-brown-v-board> #BlackHistoryMonth2020

Dr. Debi Thomas: Week #3 celebrating Black History Month! Today we recognize Dr. Debi Thomas, the first black woman to win the U.S. Figure Skating National Championship and in the 1998 Winter Olympics, she was the first African American to win a medal in the Winter Games by grabbing the bronze. #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #fcsathletics

Nat King Cole: Week #3 celebrating Black History Month! Today we recognize Nat King Cole, the first African American solo singer to have a #1 hit on the Billboard charts (Mona Lisa). As a world-renowned singer and jazz pianist, he was also the first African American performer to host a variety TV series. Learn more at <https://www.natkingcole.com> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythfinearts

Week #4

President Barack Obama: Our first post for the last week of Black History Month recognizes Barack Obama, the first African American President (44th) of the U.S. In law school, he became the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review, then he returned to Illinois to teach constitutional law and begin a career in public service, winning seats in the Illinois State Senate and the United States Senate. Learn more at <https://barackobama.com/> #BlackHistoryMonth2020

Bessie Coleman: To celebrate Black History Month, today we recognize Bessie Coleman, an American aviator who was the first Black woman to earn a pilot's license (1922). She was also the first African American woman in the U.S. to make a public flight. Learn more at <http://www.bessiecoleman.org> #BlackHistoryMonth2020

Ruby Bridges: To celebrate Black History Month, today we recognize Ruby Bridges, who at the age of six, advanced the cause of civil rights in November 1960 when she became the first African American student

to integrate an elementary school in the South. Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/people/rubybridges.htm> #BlackHistoryMonth2020

Bill Russell: To celebrate Black History Month, today we recognize Bill Russell, the first African American coach in the NBA (Boston Celtics, 1966). With many career highlights as a player and a coach, he holds the record for the most NBA championships. Learn more at <https://www.nba.com/history/legends/profiles/bill-russell> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #fcsathletics

Jacob Lawrence: To conclude Black History Month, today we recognize painter and professor Jacob Lawrence. As one of the most widely acclaimed Black artists of the 20th century, he was the first African American artist to be represented in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in NY. Learn more at <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/jacob-lawrence-2828> #BlackHistoryMonth2020 #forsythfinearts