



Diversity Equity Inclusion
Forsyth County Schools

Since the early 1980's March has been designated in the United States as **Women's History Month**. During this month FCS is honoring the contributions women have made to our nation and recognizing the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. 2020 celebrates the centennial of the 19th amendment, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex.

The Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies integrates the history of women 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. Women's 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 women in a variety of areas and fields. 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. Have recommendations? Contact jcaracciolo@forsyth.k12.ga.us

Week #1:

- **Ruth Bader Ginsburg:** March is Women's History Month! Today we recognize Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jewish woman (and only the second woman) appointed to the US Supreme Court. Learn about her success as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women's rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon at <https://www.biography.com/law-figure/ruth-bader-ginsburg> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Simone Askew:** For Women's History Month, today we recognize Simone Askew, the first African American woman to serve as First Captain of the 4,400-member Corps of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy — the highest position in the cadet chain of command at West Point. Simone was also named a Rhodes Scholar! Learn more at https://www.army.mil/article/191821/simone_askew_selected_first_captain #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythSalute

- **Dr. Leila Denmark:** Today for Women’s History Month we recognize Dr. Leila Denmark, one of the first female pediatricians in Georgia and the first woman to have a Forsyth County school named in her honor. Dr. Denmark retired at the age of 103 as one of the oldest practicing physicians in the nation. She passed away in 2012 at the age of 114 as the fifth-oldest living person in the world. Learn more at <http://drleiladenmark.com/> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Billie Jean King:** Today we recognize Billie Jean King, trailblazer for women in professional sports. Billie Jean was the first female athlete to earn more than \$100,000 in a single season, the first female and first tennis player to be named Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year and founded the Women’s Tennis Association. Learn more at <https://www.billiejeanking.com/> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythathletics
- **Aretha Franklin:** To conclude our first week of Women’s History Month, today we recognize the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin! In addition to her iconic award-winning music career, she was heavily involved in civil and women’s rights movements. Aretha was the first female to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. She is held as one of the most honored artists in Grammy history. Learn more at <https://www.arethafranklin.net> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythfinearts

Week #2

- **Juliet Gordon Low:** Week #2 of our Women’s History Month social media spotlights features for Georgia native Juliet “Daisy” Gordon Low. In 1912, she founded the Girl Scouts with a small group of 18 culturally and ethnically diverse girls. This “troop” is now 60 million girls strong! Learn more at <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/our-history/juliette-gordon-low.html> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Dr. Sally K. Ride:** Today we recognize the first woman in space, Dr. Sally K Ride. She was an American astronaut and physicist who arose as a symbol of equality for future women in space and STEM programs. Learn more about Dr. Ride at <https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/who-was-sally-ride-k4.html> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythscience
- **Wilma Mankiller:** For Women’s History Month we recognize Cherokee activist, Wilma Mankiller. Wilma was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. In her two terms, she focused on improving the nation’s government, healthcare and education systems. After leaving office, she remained a strong activist for Native-American and women’s rights. Learn more at <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/wilma-mankiller> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Jackie Joyner-Kersey:** Having been named by Sports Illustrated as the “Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century,” Jackie Joyner-Kersey is a six time Olympic medalist, including three gold medals. She still holds the World Heptathlon Record she set over 20 years ago. Learn more at

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jackie-Joyner-Kersey> #WomensHistoryMonth
#forsythathletics

- **Misty Copeland:** To conclude our second week of Women's History Month, today we recognize Misty Copeland, the first African American Female Principal Dancer with the American Ballet Theatre. A true prodigy, she was dancing en pointe within three months of taking her first dance class and performing professionally in just over a year: a feat unheard of for any classical dancer. Learn more at <https://mistycopeland.com> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythfinearts

Week #3:

- **Sarah Breedlove:** Today for Women's History Month we recognize Sarah Breedlove, our country's first female self-made millionaire. The first of her parents' five children born into freedom, she was orphaned at 7, married at 14, and widowed at 20 she became a single mother earning \$1.50 a day. Sarah later invented and sold hair-care products, as well as built a factory, laboratory and school to train sales agents. Learn more at https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/theymadeamerica/whomade/walker_hi.html #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Dr. Antonia Novello:** Dr. Antonia Novello is a Puerto Rican-born physician and public official, who was the first woman and first Hispanic to serve as the US Surgeon General. After stepping down from this position, she began representing UNICEF and continued to advocate for women's and children's health issues across America. Learn more at <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Antonia-Novello> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythscience
- **Maya Lin:** Today's spotlight is Maya Lin, an American designer, architect, and artist who works in sculpture and land art. She achieved national recognition at the age of 21 while still an undergraduate at Yale University, when her design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and also designed the Civil Rights Memorial in Alabama. Learn more at <https://www.achievement.org/achiever/maya-lin/> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythfinearts
- **Katie Sowers:** For Women's History Month we recognize Katie Sowers, the first female to coach in the Super Bowl (and win!). Katie played for the Women's Football Alliance with her twin sister. After retiring as a player, she became the second woman in a full-time coaching position with the NFL. Currently, only three women have full-time NFL coaching jobs (the Tampa Bay Buccaneers employ the other two). #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythathletics
- **Georgia O'Keeffe:** To conclude this week of Women's History Month, we are recognizing American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. As one of the most significant and intriguing artists of the twentieth century, she is known internationally for her boldly innovative art. O'Keeffe's distinct flowers, dramatic cityscapes, glowing landscapes, and images of bones against the stark desert sky are iconic and original contributions to American Modernism. Learn more at <https://www.okeeffemuseum.org/> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythfinearts

Week #4

- **Amelia Earhart:** For our fourth week of Women’s History Month, we recognize Amelia Earhart, the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Earhart was awarded the US Distinguished Flying Cross for her nonstop transatlantic flight. She was also instrumental in the formation of “The Ninety-Nines,” an organization for female pilots. Learn more at <https://www.ameliaearhart.com> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Rosa Parks:** Today we recognize the “mother of modern-day civil rights movement,” Rosa Parks. Her refusal to relinquish her seat on a public bus to a white man precipitated the 1955–56 Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama, which is recognized as the spark that ignited the U.S. civil rights movement. Learn more at <http://www.rosaparks.org/> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Helen Keller:** Helen Keller is today’s spotlight for Women’s History Month. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree and became a world-famous activist, speaker and author. During seven trips between 1946 and 1957, she visited 35 countries on five continents. Learn more at <https://www.biography.com/activist/helen-keller> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Janet Guthrie:** Originally a pilot and aerospace engineer, Janet Guthrie was the first woman to qualify and compete in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500. She was inducted into the Women’s Sports Hall of Fame and the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. Learn more at <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Janet-Guthrie> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythathletics
- **Kathryn Bigelow:** For Women’s History Month today we recognize Kathryn Bigelow, film director, artist, producer, and writer. She was the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Director in 2010. Bigelow’s film, “The Hurt Locker,” garnered six Oscars. Learn more at <https://www.biography.com/filmmaker/kathryn-bigelow> #WomensHistoryMonth #forsythfinearts

Week #5

- **Eleanor Roosevelt:** For our last week celebrating Women’s History Month, we recognize First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She reshaped the role of first lady by traveling across the nation, holding regular press conferences, writing columns, and hosting radio shows. Roosevelt was an advocate of the rights and needs of the poor, minorities, and disadvantaged. Learn more at <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/er-biography> #WomensHistoryMonth
- **Susan B. Anthony:** In honor of 2020 being the 100th anniversary of American Women’s Right to Vote, our last spotlight for Women’s History Month honors Susan B. Anthony who was a champion of abolition, the rights of labor, and equal pay for equal work. In 1979, the US Treasury placed her portrait on one-dollar coins, making her the first woman to be so honored. Learn more at <https://susanb.org> #WomensHistoryMonth