

**The Week At WHMS**  
**(parent edition)**  
 Week of February 7, 2022



**Thought for the week:**

“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”

– Thurgood Marshall

**Weekly Calendar:**

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>
<u>2/7</u>	<u>2/8</u>	<u>2/9</u>	<u>2/10</u>	<u>2/11</u>	<u>2/12-2/13</u>
<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 1</i>	
<p>Welcome to the WHMS #RamFam, Ms. Jacayln Elezi – English teacher</p>	<p>8:00a – NWEA make-up exams in cafeteria (see email from Mr. Gil)</p> <p><b>Lunch periods:</b> counselors in cafeteria to help with 8<sup>th</sup> graders’ HS course selections</p> <p>11:55a – math teachers @ CMP3 PD</p> <p>1:15p – Orchestra concert recording (see email from Mr. DiPasquale)</p> <p>3:00p – Department meetings</p>	<p>1:15p – PST meeting</p> <p><b>Club Meets:</b> Dignity &amp; Tolerance</p>	<p>12:30p – Chromebook collection and re-inventory begins, plan “tech free” lessons</p> <p><b>Club Meets:</b> Mathletes; Student Council</p> <p>7:15p – <b>mandatory</b> 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting for students interested in Challenge Up for Living Environment (virtual):  <a href="https://westhempestead.webex.com/westhempestead/j.php?MTID=m97258a92e6fa51b4e3137414915fda3c">https://westhempestead.webex.com/westhempestead/j.php?MTID=m97258a92e6fa51b4e3137414915fda3c</a></p>	<p><b>All day –</b> Chromebook re-inventory continues, plan “tech free” day of lessons</p> <p>8:45a – RTI meeting</p>	

	7:00p – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting regarding HS course selection process (virtual): <a href="https://meet.google.com/caq-forw-mwr">https://meet.google.com/caq-forw-mwr</a>				
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**Instructional tips:** (from *Edutopia*)

**Look Beyond the Struggle to Celebrate Black Achievement** by Hedreich Nichols (excerpts)

*In addition to recognizing the civil rights movement, teachers can use Black History Month to call attention to the achievements of Black Americans in other areas.*

If you were to set up a Black history “Man on the Street” interview to ask what names people connected with Black History Month, you’d undoubtedly repeatedly hear Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman because of their significance in the struggle for civil rights and abolition. You might even hear about music and sports icons like Billie Holiday and Michael Jordan.

Names you’d hear less often would be those of the hosts of famous millionaires, inventors, scientists, writers, and other Black American influencers from diverse industries and sectors. If you recognize the value in celebrating not just Black struggle but Black achievement, here are some resources you can share with your students.

#### **FOR STEM LOVERS**

By now, [Katherine Johnson](#), whose story was portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*, may be known to you. She was one of the mathematical engineers who helped NASA put astronauts on the moon. NASA’s K–12 [Modern Figures Toolkit](#) can arm you with lessons and activities about Johnson and the mathematicians she worked with to highlight lesser-known STEM greats.

Johnson died in February 2020, and her story illustrates not only achievement but also how close we are to the time when segregation was still the order of the day. NASA features additional activities and fact sheets about [Black astronauts](#) and engineers on their website, and you can also use the search function on their [STEM Engagement page](#).

#### **FOR MAKERS AND INVENTORS**

If your students are makers and tinkerers, there’s no shortage of Black inventors for them to learn about. In addition to the popular botanist and inventor [George Washington Carver](#), there’s [Frederick Jones](#), who made mobile refrigeration possible, allowing for the safe transport of food and medical supplies.

You can also highlight the inventions of [Granville T. Woods](#), the man responsible for making train travel safe through his communication system. Not only did he register more than 60 patents, but also he had to defend those patents against giants like Thomas Edison, who took him to court twice unsuccessfully to lay claim to Woods's work.

### FOR BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

For Wall Street watchers, the owner of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company might catch their interest. [Alonzo Herndon](#) was penniless when he was emancipated from enslavement, but he went on to build an empire that included several thriving businesses. There are also helpful [activities and resources about his life](#) on the Georgia Public Broadcasting site.

Further, your students may have heard of the Tulsa Massacre, but they probably haven't heard much about [Ottawa W. Gurley](#), the man who planned out the Greenwood community in Oklahoma known as "Black Wall Street." Gurley, born to a freed enslaved couple, worked as a teacher, postal worker, and principal but excelled at entrepreneurship.

He owned land and was responsible for mapping out the community of Greenwood. Gurley was able to build hotels and churches and to lend money to other fledgling businesses. His worth at the time of the Tulsa Massacre was said to be \$200,000, or about \$4 million in purchasing power today.

### FOR CREATIVES

Musicians like [James Reese Europe and his Clef Club Orchestra](#), the first all-Black orchestra to play Carnegie Hall, might interest your budding musicians. Or maybe they would like to know about [Lorraine Hansberry](#), who, while only 34 when she died, is still considered one of the greatest African American playwrights because of her renowned work *A Raisin in the Sun*, the first play on Broadway written by a Black female playwright.

Perhaps your students would like to know about female millionaire [Madame C. J. Walker](#), who created hair products for textured hair long before [Carol's Daughter](#) and [Miss Jessie](#). For students who are interested in masters of the canvas, introduce [Robert S. Duncanson](#), said to be the most brilliant landscape painter of the West.

Finally, for those who dream of influencer fame, you could introduce socialites like [Blanche Dunn](#), described as Harlem's "It girl," or [Jeremiah Hamilton](#), a businessman who managed to defy the boundaries of racism to be named [New York's first Black millionaire](#).

While the story of the enslavement of Black people in this country began in 1619 when the first ship trafficking humans arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia, there's much more to the story than Harriet Tubman. Even the years of Jim Crow, from the Reconstruction era until the late 1960s, when Rosa Parks and John Lewis fought segregation with Dr. King and many other prominent civil rights leaders, don't tell the whole story.

The story of the Black community lies in the breadth and diversity of the Black experience and an indomitable spirit that has met challenge after challenge to succeed and celebrate on American soil since before the United States became an independent nation.

The greatness of civil rights icons like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman isn't diminished when we add celebration to the remembrance of struggle. Quite the contrary—by sharing stories of pride and achievement, we honor their memory by highlighting the achievements that their sacrifices allowed to happen.

For full article see <https://www.edutopia.org/article/look-beyond-struggle-celebrate-black-achievement>

#### Items of importance:

- The online course request window for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders going to high school run 1/31 through 2/18. Please see the mailed letter from Mr. Pumo, high school principal, which can also be found at: <https://www.whufsd.com/o/whhs/article/623645>
- **WEATHER NOTICE**: we have outdoor recess, outdoor AM line-up, and outdoor PE daily unless it is raining. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing and outerwear. We only stay indoors if the temperature falls below 30° or the wind chill falls below 28°
- **Have you downloaded the West Hempstead App yet?** It is available in the App Store and Google Play, just search "West Hempstead." This will let you keep track of everything happening in our school and access documents such as this "Week @ WHMS" newsletter.
- *Let me know when you have exciting learning taking place that I can tweet out and be sure to tag @WH\_MS RAMS if you tweet yourself*

#### Items of interest:

- **From Ms. Walker and Ms. Gould, our yearbook advisors:**
  - o Parents, a great way to celebrate your child in the yearbook is to purchase an ad. Also, please note, not enough yearbooks have been ordered to date. If you are interested in your child receiving a yearbook please go to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com) and order as soon as it is convenient.
  - o Buying ads helps keep the cost of the yearbook down for all.
  - o Hello Parents. Happy New Year! Please watch this important recording regarding your parent ad in the yearbook for your child. When ready to begin creating your message, you can click this link:  
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/jcom/router.mvc?affiliateId=1239445>
- Our club calendar is available on the website at:  
<https://www.whufsd.com/o/whms/browse/221769>. Students should listen to AM announcements for the most up-to-date information about meeting dates and locations.
- The **extra help schedule** can be found at: [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/1553808/Extra-Help\\_Schedule\\_MS\\_21-22.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1553808/Extra-Help_Schedule_MS_21-22.pdf). Students should take advantage of teachers' availability to do their best work.

- The Homework Center is open after school on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. See details below:

## Homework Center Information: 21-22

Homework Center is open 2:45-3:45 on the following days

<u>Day</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Monday	Ms. Healey	257	Support available for any subject, or just a quiet place to work after school.
Wednesday	Ms. Geiger	17	
Thursday	Ms. Rogan	16	

### “COVID Corner” Information:

- The district has updated its plan and protocols regarding quarantine, isolation, and who is considered a “close contact” based on guidance from New York State. Go to: <https://www.whufsd.com/page/reopening-information> for more information.
- I cannot say how vital it is that **if your child, or anyone in your home, feels sick, your child MUST REMAIN HOME FROM SCHOOL**. Call the nurse or Mr. Murray for advice on when it is okay to return to school.
- **Please send your child to school with a refillable water bottle.** Our water fountains are “COVID-safe” and only the water bottle filler function is available.
- For more information about the COVID vaccine for 5-15 year-olds, go to: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>

### Looking ahead:

Monday, February 14: *Day 2*

- **Happy Valentine’s Day**
- Junior Virtual Enterprise Trade Show, all day @ MS library

Tuesday, February 15: *Day 1*

- Site-based committee meeting, 7:10am
- Counselors in cafeteria during lunch periods to help with 8<sup>th</sup> grade schedule requests
- Select Department meetings, 3:00pm
- Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:30pm @ HS VCR

Wednesday, February 16: *Day 2*

- PST meeting, 1:15pm
- PTSA meeting, 7:30pm @ HS VCR

Thursday, February 17: *Day 1*

- On this day in 1801, the US House of Representatives breaks electoral college tie by electing Thomas Jefferson as President over Aaron Burr

Friday, February 18: *Day 2*  
- RTI meeting, 8:45am

Monday, February 21: **NO SCHOOL – Winter Recess Begins**

