

## Robert L. Merritt Junior High School

### THE MERRITT GAZETTE

Christopher Turner, Principal  
Catasha Brown, Assistant Principal  
Sherby Hale, Counselor  
Mary Carter, Academic Coach

705 Kinlock Road  
Indianola, MS 38751  
662-884-1270 (phone)  
662-887-5247 (fax)  
[cturner@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:cturner@sunflower.k12.ms.us)

February 2018

#### “Equitable Education for Every Student”

#### Principal’s Message

Greetings parents!

We are now at the midpoint of our 3rd 9 weeks of school. I am extremely excited about the growth of our students up to this point. We will start tutoring this 9 weeks to help increase our students knowledge in English, Mathematics, and Science. I am asking you to allow your child or children to stay after normal school hours so they will have more opportunities to grow academically. We have experienced a decline in attendance in the month of January. Please assist us with getting students to school. It will be very difficult for us to teach them if they are not here. As always, I thank you for your continued support of our staff and students at Robert L. Merritt Jr. High School.

#### One School...One Team...One Goal! Student Achievement

##### Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray

Come on out and visit our Parent Center at RLMJH. By visiting the center you will receive parenting literature and learning tools for you and your child. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of children and provide support to parents. I am still looking forward to seeing you at workshops. Parents, if you have any particular areas you would like to have a workshop on please let me know. Remember, we have different ways you can be involved in your child’s education, such as, Active Parents, Remind, PTO/PTA meetings, and school events. In addition, you may volunteer. You may reach me through e-mail at [gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us). My hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, and alternate Friday’s from 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. I will adjust my schedule as needed.

“With us plus you, there’s nothing our students can’t do”!

#### Upcoming Events at RLMJH

2/1 Second 9 wks. Honor Program @ 1:30 P.M.  
2/8 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks Progress Reports sent home  
2/ 13 Money Management Workshop 11:30-12:30  
2/19 Presidents’ Day (NO SCHOOL)  
2/22 Black History Program 2:00-3:00 P.M.  
2/27 Softball Game JZ George (Away) 5:00 P.M.



Sylvester Washington, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, won 1<sup>st</sup> place during the Storyboard review. He also won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the district level. Sylvester’s board won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Regional Reading Fair on Friday, January 26, 2018 at Delta State University. Way to go Sylvester!!!!

#### IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- ◆ In a motel, shelter or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- ◆ In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- ◆ Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship (Please Contact your Parent Liaison)

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for Homeless students. For more information please visit our MDE website at:

[www.mde.k12.ms.us/OFP/titlex](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OFP/titlex)

## Counselor Corner

### Character Trait of the Month for February, 2018 – Justice



The Character Trait for the month of February, 2018 is the trait of Justice – or, put another way, it's the trait of taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true.

Justice is a foundational element of our democracy. It takes into account the inalienable and inborn rights of all individuals to have equal protection before the law on their civil rights, without discrimination. It's why our Bill of Rights – the collective name for the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States – came into effect as Constitutional Amendments on December 15, 1791, through the process of ratification by three-fourths of the States. They were put into place to guarantee the rights and freedoms of America's citizens and to ensure justice for everyone.

One of the "icons" of justice is the "Scales of Justice". This important symbol represents the notion that everyone is treated equally; all citizens get the same rights and equal treatment in the eyes of the law. It's a good representation because it serves as a reminder for everyone that we should treat others without prejudice. "Lady Justice" (another important ICON of our inalienable freedom) has her eyes covered for a reason: she doesn't judge by a person's gender, their race or their looks. She judges solely on the rules of law. She is objective and fair, which is why her scales are always even.

It is never too early to start teaching our children about building the character trait of "justice" into their lives. It is a strong character trait which can be learned – and practiced – by people of all ages! As Thomas Jefferson once stated, "It is reasonable that everyone who asks Justice should do Justice." To paraphrase him in a way that younger children might more readily understand it, "If you want to be treated fairly, you must treat others fairly!" Unfortunately, too many folks let their emotions get the better of them when dealing with others; and they tend to treat others based on how they are feeling "in the heat of the moment", instead of remembering the Golden Rule "do unto others as you would have them do unto you!"

So how do we emphasize justice in our character building process of life? Here are a few topics of discussion we can begin having with those we love:

*Conversation topics to discuss:*

- Look up the Bill of Rights and talk with your family about what it means and how it is important to everyone; and discuss the "inalienable rights" the Bill of Rights defines.
- Discuss which Bill of Rights issues have come up in the topic of discussion in recent months and how they are important to the political arguments of the day. Or, take a story item in the news and discuss where there is justice and/or injustice in the situation presented, and why.
- Find a picture of "Lady Justice" and the Statue of Liberty. Discuss the symbolism each iconic figure represents.

Justice is such a critical element of our democratic society; but it is not simply a set of rules and laws written down in legal documents. It is an integrated mindset – a choice of the Will – of those who understand the very meaning behind what Martin Luther King, Jr. meant when he stated it this way: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The cost, if we aren't careful to protect the element of justice in our society and the character building training of our children, is the loss of what is most important to us all: our FREEDOM.

This article was obtained from the following link:

<http://www.opelikaal.gov/Sites/Opelika/Documents/Main/Justice%20%20Character%20Trait%20of%20the%20Month%20for%20February%202014.pdf>



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks Honor Students

### Superintendent's List

Kayla Brison  
Ta'Mariana Clark  
Eddie Applewhite  
Lamont Herrod  
Brayden Bailey  
Makenzie Blackwell  
Meghan Curry  
Denise Ginn  
Jalecia Parker

### Principal's List

Jaykaivis Bell  
Khalaysia Davis  
Tavarus Burentt  
Jada Delaney  
Artesia Gilson  
Kathryn Guzman  
Tyria Hayes  
Ciara Henderson  
Vacaria Rice  
Amiah Roscoe  
Skylar Ross  
Jarez Smith  
ZyQuona Stuckey  
Ekayla Anderson  
Dylan Bailey  
Radarius Ball  
Zadrian Bolden  
Alecia Clark  
Makevion Dixon  
Paris Gooden  
Dexter Hollins  
Demerykah Marshall  
Makayla Nelson  
Sumiyah Parker  
Mariah Richardson  
Stephanie Robinson  
Mallori Scott  
Tynilya Watkns  
Kimberly Young  
Colee Anthony  
ZamBre'necia Hall  
Angel Howard  
Ronald Ivory

Cedriunna Knight  
Hayden Myrick  
Trossi Pernell  
Marcellus Powers  
A'myah Robinson  
Ja'Naudia Simpson  
Ja'Kelsie Taylor  
Zaria Tillman  
Quyn'taurus Banks



### Honor Roll List

Alaysia Bland  
Jarvin Beaman  
Adavion Bush  
Makaila Davis  
Ladarius Golden  
Skyshia Hopkins  
Zoe Howard  
Deja James  
Layla Matinez  
Ka'mya Monger  
Jaquavious Newson  
ZaBrasia Porter  
Delvin Smith  
Kimmeron Allen  
Marquonet Barnes  
Amanda Coleman  
Darnecia Coleman  
Jacorie Davis  
Roselyn Gudino  
Jeremiah Jefferson  
Laila Jones  
Antonius Posey

Jeremy Brison  
Savion Butler  
Ashanti McGrew  
Treiona Milton  
Menina Minor  
Callie Scott  
Jah'Daelynn Smith  
Kimberly Smith  
Corvoryea Spellman  
Terrance White

The character word for the month of February is Justice....Which means-exercising fairness, justness, open-mindedness, impartiality, and morality in regards to people and situations.

Parent-Teacher Incentives for supporting **ALL** events at the school!

**Parents + Teachers = Successful Students**

