



www.nspdk.org

## National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated

### MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



### **MAY** is *Mental Health Awareness Month*

One of the main contributors to the lack of mental wellness in women today is depression and anxiety. Therefore, in this message I wanted to focus on prevention through our intentional personal "Self-Care." We, as teachers, have gone through a year of uncertainty, as many others in this country and around the world. We must acknowledge this as a fact. It would be unhealthy and untruthful to ignore it. Many teachers have had to hold their own personal and family lives together while helping others do the same. They have had to change plans at the spur of the moment, to learn new teaching techniques and systems, to respond to students and parents more frequently than usual, and the list of immediate and significant changes goes on and on.

This week three outstanding educators from Cleveland, Ohio participated as panelists on the Midwest Region's Vital Issues (virtual) Program. They presented suggestions for self-care that I would like to share with you. I pray that you will take time to select and practice those appropriate and will sustain your Mental Health.

1. Be mindful of you, who you are and where you are. Most falls take place because the person is not mindful of their location.
2. Practice JOY! Write 24 things that brings you Joy. If it's not on the list, don't do it!
3. Wellness starts in your mind! Think positive.
4. Identify "what's filling my bucket and what's draining my bucket."
5. Practice the power of 10. Start the day with 10-minutes of devotion, 10-minutes of Bible, 10- minutes of meditation!
6. Take an immediate exit from conversations containing culturally offensive language or practice. Do not linger.
7. Rest when necessary, even if it's before normal bedtime. Take a 10-minute power nap.
8. Drink water; eat lots of fruits and vegetables; exercise (walking is great).
9. Share your Joy! With your students, friends, family, or in a journal.
10. Practice Social and Emotional Learning Core Competencies with students.
11. Create a goal to change a toxic environment to a loving and caring one.
12. If above is not possible, remove yourself from the toxic environment. Set the temperature for Joy!
13. Do not carry any negativity more than 24 hours, then say something or do something to remove it from your spirit!
14. There is power in the word "NO." Do not overextend yourself!
15. Keep the main thing, the main thing!
16. Always return to the 24 things that brings you JOY!

This year, I encourage you to change the way you refer to Mental Disease, from Mental Illness to Mental Wellness or Mental Health.

**Moving NSPDK Forward.... Together!**

Be Blessed!

Etta F. Carter, Ph.D.

26<sup>th</sup> Supreme Basileus



# NATIONAL SORORITY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA, INCORPORATED



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY MONTHLY PRAYER CALL



Dr. Tonya Chestnut  
National Chaplain



Dr. Etta F. Carter  
Supreme Basileus

**6:00 PM CST**

Ctrl + Click here to join: [Prayer Meeting](#)

Dial in by telephone: 1-312-626-6799 or 1-346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 865 4028 4084

Passcode: 260801

Hosted by Regional Chaplains:

Sandra Crocket (SW), Maggie Burnes (MW), Debra Moody (FW), Jerrie Foster (SE) Naydene Williams (E)



**JOIN US**

**W.A.I. T. TIME**

**WOMEN ANCHORED IN TRUST**



**RESCHEDULED- VIRTUAL - 2021 SPRING (ONE -DAY) REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

| REGION    | YOUTH CONFERENCE     | REGIONAL CONFERENCE  | K.O.T. CONFERENCE |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Eastern   | April 24-25,2021     | June 18-19, 2021     | June 18, 2021     |
| Southeast | June 12, 2021        | May 14-15, 2021      | May 14, 2021      |
| Midwest   | March 26-28, 2021    | April 30-May 1, 2021 | April 30, 2021    |
| Southwest | February 26-28, 2021 | June 25-26, 2021     | June 25, 2021     |
| Far West  | April 10, 2021       | May 21-22, 2021      | May 21, 2021      |

**Virtual - NATIONAL FOUNDERS' DAY RITUALISTIC CEREMONY**

THEME: **One Heart, One Sisterhood, One Spirit, One Time**

**Saturday, May 22, 2021**

| Region    | Date         | Time                 | Time Zone          |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern   | May 22, 2021 | 12:00 PM             | Eastern            |
| Southeast | May 22, 2021 | 11:00 AM or 12:00 PM | Central or Eastern |
| Midwest   | May 22, 2021 | 11:00 AM             | Central            |
| Southwest | May 22, 2021 | 11:00 AM             | Central            |
| Far West  | May 22, 2021 | 9:00 AM              | Pacific            |

**VIRTUAL - NATIONAL MEETINGS**

| Organization                                       | Day       | Date          | Time (Central) | Presiding                            |
|--|-----------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial Committee | Thursday  | July 15, 2021 | 10 AM-12 PM    | Margarette Galloway, National Chair  |
| Board of Trustees                                  | Thursday  | July 15, 2021 | 1 PM-4 PM      | Charlotte M. Williams, President     |
| National Anthropos Board                           | Thursday  | July 15, 2021 | 1 PM – 3 PM    | Alexander Smith, President           |
| National Executive Council Pre-Conclave            | Friday    | July 16, 2021 | 10 AM-3 PM     | Dr. Etta F. Carter, Supreme Basileus |
| Perpetual Scholarship Foundation Board             | Friday    | July 16, 2021 | 10 AM-12 PM    | Lisa Frieson, President              |
| National Executive Council Post- Conclave          | Wednesday | July 21, 2021 | 9 AM-12 PM     | Dr. Etta F. Carter, Supreme Basileus |

**Virtual - 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCLAVE**

**Host Region – Southeast Host Chapter: Beta Xi Orlando, Florida**

**July 17 - 20, 2021**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Saturday, July 17, 2021</b><br><b>National K.O.T. Conference</b><br>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM | <b>Sunday, July 18, 2021</b><br>Worship<br>Opening Ceremony - PM | <b>Monday and Tuesday</b><br><b>July 19 -20, 2021</b><br>Business Sessions<br>Special Events and Programs |
|---|--|---|

REMEMBER TO JOIN FOUNDERS' DAY OBSERVANCE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FORTHCOMING

Virtual - NATIONAL FOUNDERS' DAY RITUALISTIC CEREMONY

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NATIONAL SORORITY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA, INCORPORATED



SEATED FRONT ROW — GLADYS CANNON NUNERY • JULIA ASBURY BARNES • GLADYS MERRITT ROSS (MOTHER FOUNDER) • DR. FLORENCE STEELE HUNT  
STANDING BACK ROW — ELLA WELLS BUTLER • MARGUERITE GROSS • MILDRED MORRIS • (NOT PICTURED) EDNA McCONNELL



*"To Foster a Spirit of Sisterhood Among Teachers and to Promote the Highest Ideals of the Teaching Profession"*



**LEST WE FORGET...**

As the 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated approaches, it is a good time to pause and take an evaluation of ourselves.

No lesser One than the Almighty, guided and selected friends who were to become our Founders.

Through the years they developed their most outstanding characteristic which was inserted in the Ritual so long ago. Each individual is the result of his/her many forefathers; so the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated is a result of the character qualities of each of its Founders.



**Gladys Merritt Ross is the first pearl.** She is the symbol of ideals. Because of devotion to ideals, we now extend from coast to coast and across the ocean.



**Florience Steele Hunt is the second pearl.** She has given us femininity. What she has given us is inestimable. May we always remember that we were created to be the mothers of men, not their rivals.

Let Phi Delta Kappa forever add the gentle but firm hand of the loveable and kindly woman to all of its endeavors.



**Mildred Morris Williams, the third pearl,** gave us vivacity. The life and gusto with which we tackle all and any thing we undertake, is her gift to us. Three or four years ago she went to

Omega Chapter while still in the lively, vibrant years of life. Let us carry on for her by keeping the love of life in each chapter.



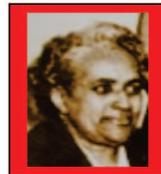
**Marguete Gross is the fourth pearl** who is concentration and stick-to-it-tiveness. In spite of herself she has given us her backbone. When we make our own decisions we concentrate on

them and carry them through just as she does.



**Julia Asbury Barnes is the fifth pearl.** She is the symbol of dignity. The name of Phi Delta Kappa must always carry dignity. It must never be the object of jokes. Through the years she and it have

developed grace and elegance. The dignity which our sorority has acquired locally, nationally and internationally have sprung from her quality of dignity. Not haughty or disdainful, but natural, quiet dignity is the essence which she has given each member.



**The sixth pearl is Gladys Cannon Nunery.** She is the symbol of power. The power and fortitude to get things done, which is so true of our dear sorority, was given to us by her. We have the power to attract the finest teachers

in the world. The power to help and uplift all ages. May we always have the power and strength to fight for what we believe in whether it be in Alabama, New Jersey, or New York.

Photo not available

**Edna McConnell is the seventh pearl.** She so typified purity, that God in his goodness, took her to Himself before we had even

begun to grow. He only lent her to us as a reminder that as she has gone, so we too must ere long go.



**The final pearl in the Phi of your pin, stands for Ella Wells Butler.** She has given the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, the warm sincere friendships which each member may find. To have

a friend one is to be a friend.





# MAY HIGHLIGHTS

## School Principals' Day – May 1, 2021



School Principals' Day is celebrated on May 1 annually to recognize the importance of principals, from elementary to high school, and all the work they do for the betterment of the school.

## National Teacher Day – May 4, 2021

National Teacher Day is observed on the first Tuesday of the first full week of May (May 4) and we're more than ready to show our appreciation to those who have taught us. Everyone has had that favorite teacher that has helped inspire them. This day meant to honor them was actually made by a teacher. None other than First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt herself. Eleanor Roosevelt was more than Franklin D. Roosevelt's wife, she has a history of civic duty and was an advocate for fellow teachers. Her love for education began at a young age when she was privately tutored and encouraged by her aunt Anna "Bernie" Roosevelt. No matter how high she rose on the social ladder, she never forgot where she came from.



## Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2021



Most people associate May 5<sup>th</sup> , or Cinco De Mayo, with tacos, margaritas, fun and fiesta. But did you know that without what happened on this fateful day, the United States may have not existed as we know it today? What exactly happened on this day of seemingly endless partying and celebration? Take a deep dive in Mexican American history to find out.

## National Nurses Day – May 6, 2021



At the end of the 19th century, “The Lady With the Lamp”— or as she is more widely known, Florence Nightingale — founded modern nursing. Thanks to her strict use of hand-washing and hygiene practices while caring for wounded soldiers in the Crimean War, Nightingale and her helpers reduced the death rate from 42% to 2% — ushering in nursing as we know it today. On May 6, we recognize the important role nurses play in our lives by celebrating National Nurses Day.

## Mother's Day – May 9, 2021

Remember when the Peace Corps adopted the slogan "The toughest job you'll ever love"? No offense, Peace Corps, but that adage is more appropriate for motherhood — a job that is ever-changing and frequently exasperating. Moms don't get days off, nor do they receive handsome salaries or generous pensions. Instead, their rewards come in the form of sticky kisses, necklaces made of elbow macaroni, and the satisfaction of seeing their children grow up to be happy, healthy adults. That's probably not adequate compensation — so give Mom an extra hug on Mother's Day, the second Sunday in May, just in case, and follow our guide to giving back.



## Teacher Appreciation Week – May 2-8, 2021



Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated in the first full week of May, from May 2 through May 8 in 2021, and is when teachers get the extra credit they deserve. The big day is Teacher Appreciation Day on May 5, but teachers are just so great that they get a whole week to savor our appreciation. Whether you have a teacher, know a teacher, or are a teacher, there are endless ways to give a little extra support to teachers and teachers organizations. Teaching is known to be a time-consuming and challenging profession, so this week is our chance to say thank you to those that play or have played such a huge role in our lives. Who doesn't have a fond memory of a teacher who inspired us in some way?

## National Nurses Week – May 6-12, 2021



From assisting with life-threatening ER crises to delivering babies and caring for the elderly in their last moments, nurses perform some of the most difficult and heartbreaking tasks in the medical world. As workers who perform the most essential healthcare tasks, nurses serve as the first point of contact for most patients.

National Nurses Week honors their contributions and sacrifices and reminds us to thank the medical professionals who keep us healthy.

## National Women's Health Week – May 9-15, 2021

Stay active. Eat healthy. And get some sleep! Most important? Start today. The federal government's Office on Women's Health created National Women's Health Week as a way to encourage all women to make the choices which are right for them. Women have unique health issues such as pregnancy and menopause. And some of the health issues that affect both men and women can touch women differently. National Women's Health Week also encourages women to consider the factors that influence their mental health, such as managing stress, to ward off anxiety and depression. This year marks the 21st annual event.



## Memorial Day – May 31, 2021



Memorial Day, May 31, for many Americans, conjures up images of hamburgers, hot dogs, swimming pools, and summertime. But the last Monday in May serves, most importantly, as a time to honor those who died while fighting in the U.S. Armed Forces. It's a holiday steeped in somber American history and tradition. The day began as "Decoration Day," following the Civil War, when mourners placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. Yes, Memorial Day has also come to signify the "unofficial" start of summer, but let us remember the heroes who made it all possible.

## Mental Health Awareness Month – May 2021



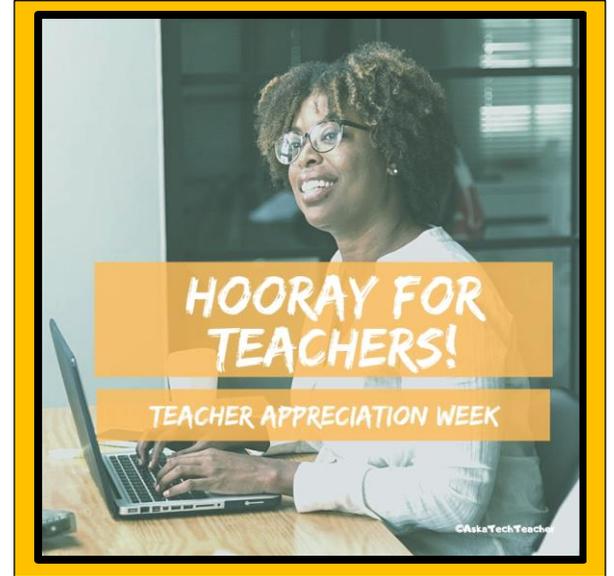
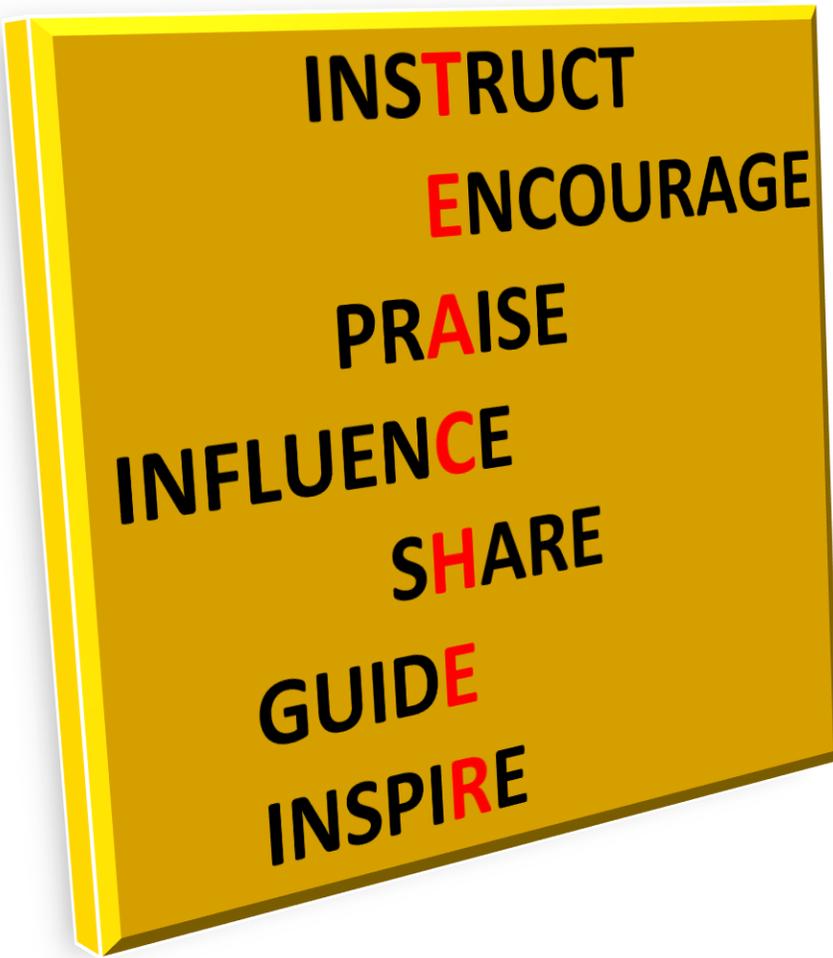
At National Today, we believe mental health is wealth, especially during May when Mental Health Awareness Month is celebrated. The stigma around mental health and treatment has long existed, even though this has started to change. Still, people hesitate to seek help or even talk about it with their loved ones for fear of being judged and facing unnecessary backlash. Simple logic dictates that if one is hurt anywhere, one must seek treatment to get better. This applies to both our mental and physical well-being. While Mental Health Awareness Month is celebrated in the U.S., a more universal day is also celebrated by the WHO on October 10, and it is known as World Mental Health Day.

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month – May 2021

John F. Kennedy once said: "Our attitude towards immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal." The American ideal is to recognize the rich cultural diversity of our nation and honor the contributions of all immigrants. The U.S. celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month each May. Through traditional and social media, in theatres, museums, and parks, various events are organized to draw attention to Asian American and Pacific Islander culture







**TEACHER'S LOUNGE**

I need to run some errands this morning. To ensure I arrive alive, I won't take public transit (Oscar Grant). I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle and double-checked my registration status (Daunte Wright), and endured my license plates were visible (Lt. Caron Nazario). I will be careful to follow all traffic rules (Philando Castille), signal every turn (Sandra Bland), keep the radio volume low (Jordan Davis), and won't stop at a fast-food chain for a meal (Rayshard Brooks). I'm afraid to pray (Rev. Clementa C. Pickney) so I just hope the car won't break down (Corey Jones).

When you run errands today, be sure not to dance (Elijah McClain), stop to [lay in a park (Tamir Rice), patronize the local convenience store for snacks (Trayvon Martin), or walk around the neighborhood (Mike Brown). Once home, don't stand in your backyard (Stephon Clark), eat ice cream on the couch (Botham Jean), or play any video games (Atatiana Jefferson).

I guess I'll watch a movie around 7:30pm, I won't leave the house to go to Walmart (John Crawford) or to the gym (Tshyrand Oates) or on a jog (Ahmaud Arbery). I won't even walk to see the birds (Christian Cooper). I'll just sit and remember what a blessing it is to breathe (George Floyd) and I definitely won't go to sleep (Breonna Taylor). (Repost FB)

*Colors Of The  
Rainbow Prayers:*  
**RED**

*Courage, love and energy . . .*

Dearest Lord, I ask You to help me be brave when faced with troubling times and the challenges of life.

I seek Your blessings of love, too, so that I can better express to my loved ones the feelings I have for them, and so I can become a better companion to the people I hold dearest in life.

Lord, I ask You to bless me with renewed life and energy, so I may go about my daily chores and work with our fatigue, and rest comfortably afterward, when I lie down at night. Amen.

A Special Prayer Prepared For You By  
Life-Study Fellowship, Noroton, CT 06820

CRP-1

*Colors Of The  
Rainbow Prayers:*  
**ORANGE**

O Lord, I know that hope is the strong foundation supporting all that we do. I ask Your blessing to keep my hope and faith in You strong, so those feelings continue to grow throughout my life.

I ask You to help me keep a blessed peace among my friends and family, and ensure our daily dealings with one another are in perfect harmony.

Father, I also ask You to build my happiness and to help me maintain a positive outlook on life, so I may prosper in the year ahead.

Amen.

A Special Prayer Prepared For You By  
Life-Study Fellowship, Noroton, CT 06820

CRP-2

*Colors Of The  
Rainbow Prayers:*  
**YELLOW**

*Fun, laughter and warmth . . .*

**FUN.** If there is one thing I wish I had more of in my life, Dear Lord, that would be it. That's why I ask You today to bless my life with joy, so I wake up each day filled with energy and anticipation at what lies ahead.

I long to laugh more, Lord, and to enjoy the little things that make our time on this Earth so special. As we know, being able to laugh can make even the toughest problems seem less difficult.

And Lord, I seek Your help in making my home, my life and the way I live it, a warmer and friendlier place for my friends and family. Amen.

A Special Prayer Prepared For You By  
Life-Study Fellowship, Noroton, CT 06820

CRP-3

*Colors Of The  
Rainbow Prayers:*  
**GREEN**

*Prosperity, abundance and success . . .*

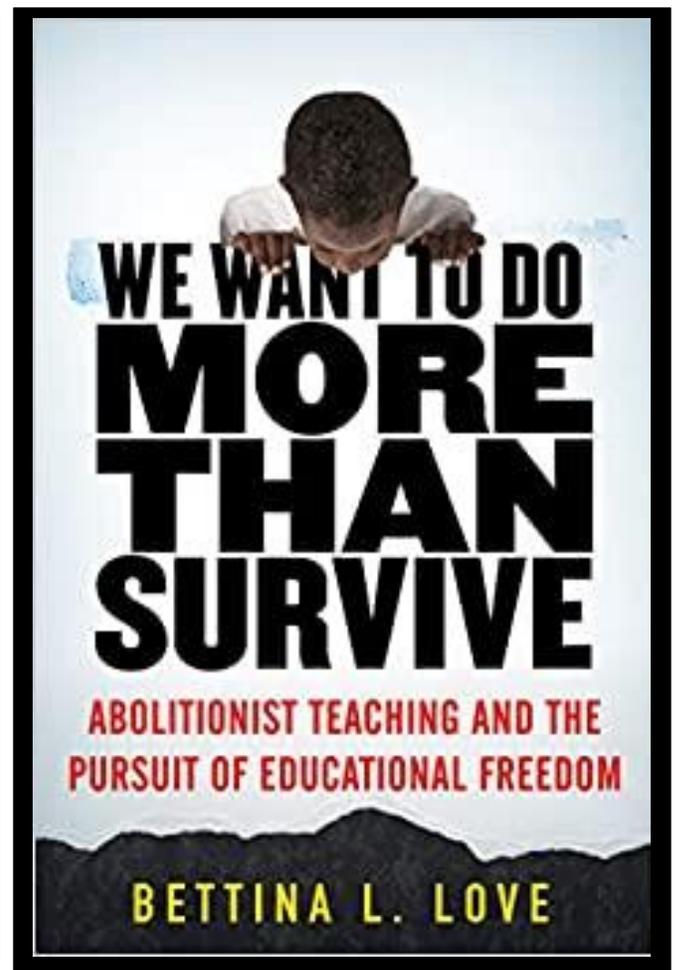
Dear Lord, I want to be a good provider for myself and those I love, so I come to You today with the hope that You will bless me with prosperity as the year progresses.

I strive to be successful in everything I do. Father, and I ask that You steer me toward wise investments for my time or money, and that You guide me to make the right decisions for my wants and needs.

Please bless me and those whom I care about with an abundance of harmony and good things this year. Amen.

A Special Prayer Prepared For You By  
Life-Study Fellowship, Noroton, CT 06820

CRP-4



ZOOM

# Mindful Meeting Checklist

Follow these simple steps for happier, more productive meetings meetings.

## FIRST ASK YOURSELF: "IS THIS MEETING NECESSARY?"

- You have a clear purpose/goal
- Collaboration and open discussion are essential to achieving your goals
- You need to discuss complex or sensitive information

*If you checked a box or boxes, **stop!** Use email, instant messaging, or a quick phone call instead.*

## BEFORE THE MEETING

- Check your invite list *(Is everyone there for a reason?)*
- Create and share an agenda *(Am I giving people what they need to come prepared?)*
- Schedule appropriate amount of time *(Is my meeting the right length? Can it be shorter?)*
- Get in the right mindset *(Am I prepared, focused, and ready to be an engaged host/participant?)*

## DURING THE MEETING

- Start with small talk *(Did I greet everyone and set a positive tone for the meeting?)*
- Encourage participation *(Am I actively facilitating the discussion toward the meeting goal/purpose?)*
- Stick to the agenda *(Am I steering off-topic conversations back on track?)*
- Run an inclusive meeting *(Am I giving everyone a chance to participate equally?)*

## AFTER THE MEETING

- Send highlights, action items & recordings  
*(Does everyone have the information they need to act?)*
- Gather feedback/contributions  
*(Did I hear from those who were not at the meeting or did not say much?)*
- Evaluate & improve your meeting experience  
*(Was my meeting effective, efficient, and useful?)*

Read "Simple Tips for Happier, More Productive Meetings" on the Zoom blog for more ideas.

[Blog.zoom.us/mindful-meeting-tips](https://blog.zoom.us/mindful-meeting-tips)

## TEACHER RESOURCES

## TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

## 7 Tips for Breakout Room Success

Having students meet to work in small groups helps build community and fosters deeper learning.

By [Stephanie Rothstein](#) February 9, 2021



Whether you use Zoom, Google Meet, or Microsoft Teams, having students in shared small groups can foster a deeper level of connection and communication, but depending on your class, the age of the students, and the content, it can be a scary moment to release control and trust the space. After all, one teacher cannot be everywhere, and if we are, are we really able to focus and offer support? Breakout rooms allow me to connect with students and for them to connect with one another in a way that I believe is only

possible in a smaller setting.

## 7 TIPS FOR CREATING AND MAINTAINING SUCCESSFUL BREAKOUT SPACES

**1. Short and sweet.** Keep your breakout time very short! This will help students focus and stay on track. Keeping breakouts to under five minutes can help students understand the one thing they need to accomplish. Once the time is up, call them back to discuss their conclusions, findings, and questions. Perhaps you push them back out into rooms for the next task. This way, groups are able to understand the pace and be ready for what's to come in the main class.

**2. Sentence stems.** To help your students understand how to talk to one another, send them into their breakout rooms with sentence stems or sentence starters. You don't want to pop into a breakout room and have complete silence. Often, students just don't know where to begin. Sentence stems can help them understand expectations and give them the language to get started.

**3. Separate digital rooms links.** When I'm using Google Meet and need longer group work time, I make separate meetings for each group and reuse these links throughout the project/class. This allows me to open all the rooms and have them available on one computer by resizing the window. I can use a Chrome extension like Mute Tab, which allows me to mute various meets and focus on one at a time. This also allows me to record the meetings. To allay any privacy concerns, we only post and record within our learning management system, and videos are not viewable outside our domain. We also don't require that students turn on their cameras. Some teachers only post the videos for students who were absent, but I post them for every class.

**4. Volunteers.** One of the best realizations to come out of being virtual is that I now understand how many people want to help out in my classroom. It might not be feasible for all lessons, but if a teacher is working with younger students or if this is a topic that you believe really needs some support and outside presence, perhaps enlisting volunteers (student family members, college students, teacher candidates, former students) can create a different kind of space and

conversation. They can be people who are part of the conversation—perhaps they're getting interviewed as an expert for a project—or they are there to help with some of the facilitation to free students to focus on the content.

**5. Shared gray space.** A shared document owned by the teacher has been one of my keys to success. I love using Jamboard or Google Slides for this. I've found that one of the best uses of this is taking advantage of the gray space around the edge. If you reduce a slide or Jamboard by 50 percent, gray space appears around the edge. That's usable space! It just doesn't appear when you present, but I think of it as being like scratch paper, a great area for notes, or a place to put images or icons for student use.

One concern I hear over and over from teachers of younger students is what to provide them as a tool to use when working collaboratively. A shared slide or Jamboard with draggable icons that can represent their thoughts or contributions in a discussion can be so valuable. Another use may be having a shared sentence stem or template that the students fill in together using the visuals and then explain their ideas when returning to the large group.

**6. Project progress tracker.** A shared space for tracking the progress of the team can be valuable for teachers when students are in different virtual spaces. If I am the owner of all the trackers, I can have them up while students are in their groups and see as they move their project tasks through to-do, in progress, needs feedback, and done. Having students indicate where they are helps them own their learning, keeps them connected, and shows me as the teacher who is in need of feedback and who may need some support.

**7. Jobs.** Having specific roles for students is a wonderful way for everyone to understand what's expected and be part of the process. Be sure to check in with students about these jobs. I find that students will volunteer for the same ones. It's wonderful to build on student strengths in a team, but it's also important to help support growth. Whether jobs are by choice or assigned, keep track of which students are in which roles to help ensure that there's some variety for future breakouts. Instructional designer Esther Park created a set of roles in [Google Slides](#) and [Jamboard](#) that apply to a variety of scenarios. In addition, you can have students reflect on their role and how they contributed to the team. My favorite part of a reflection is asking students to give shout-outs to other students on their team for things they did that were helpful or that they learned from. I then share these with each of the students when we meet to review or in an email.

Breakout rooms take time. The process, like everything else in the classroom, takes practice. But if we provide a meaningful process, we can create an atmosphere that values and celebrates student voice and choice.

**LITERACY****How 'Among Us' Helps Students Master Argumentative Writing**

In the popular online strategy game, students make claims, listen to counterclaims, and reach a conclusion—skills they need to write a strong argumentative essay.

By [Angelique Gianas](#) February 5, 2021



Like many other teachers in the world, I have been tasked with the incredible challenge of teaching online to a sea of students who are used to being in a classroom learning, discussing, and connecting with their peers. In just a couple of days, I went from a loud, bustling classroom full of energetic 10th graders to an eerily quiet Zoom

call full of black boxes and muted mics. Hearing and seeing my students became a thing of the past. When I began to notice my students struggling to understand argumentative writing, I knew I had to get creative.

In addition to teaching English, I run my school site's gaming and e-sports clubs. Advising those club meetings was like night and day compared with teaching my English class; I could barely say a word during our meetings because my students were so excited to play games with each other.

It all clicked when my gaming students asked if they could play a game called *Among Us*. As my students worked together to find the imposter, I noticed them using all the skills I was teaching in my classes; I heard each of them formulate a claim using multiple pieces of evidence. I listened to them respectfully disagree, negotiate, and work together with their peers to analyze the claims they were hearing and ultimately decide as a team which claim was strongest. The best part? None of them even realized that what they were doing was academic. That's when I knew I needed to bring it into my classroom.

**WHAT IS 'AMONG US'?**

*Among Us* is a free-to-play social deduction game, in which you work together with a group of up to 10 people to figure out who is the imposter. You can download the *Among Us* app or purchase the game for your PC or Nintendo Switch. At the beginning of each game, you are deemed either a crewmate or an imposter. If you are a crewmate, you are assigned tasks to complete as fast as possible without getting killed by the imposter. The violence in the game is pretty cartoonish, and

[Common Sense Media](#) rates the game as appropriate for kids 10 and older. To win, you must finish your tasks or work with your fellow crewmates to find the imposter(s). If you are an imposter, your job is to eliminate as many crewmates as possible and sabotage the game without getting caught.

When a crewmate finds a dead body, all players are forced into a discussion and voting time that allows them to report out what they saw and who they were with, and raise suspicion against other players. This means that no matter what role you are given at the beginning of the game, strong argumentative skills are key.

Prior to entering my class, most of my students were familiar with the basics of argumentative writing through the claim, evidence, and analysis (CEA) paragraph structure. After putting out our first writing assignment, though, I noticed that there was a disconnect between the claims they made and the evidence they chose. I found myself writing the same feedback over and over again, asking them, "How does this evidence support the argument you are trying to make?"



*Courtesy of InnerSloth*

### **INTEGRATING 'AMONG US' IN THE ELA CLASSROOM**

One of the biggest differences between teaching online and in person is the lack of class discussion. Four-corner activities and casual debate warm-ups were no more, once we transitioned to distance learning, because no one felt comfortable unmuting their mics. I was struggling to show the students the connection between argumentative speaking and writing. The second I announced to my class that we were going to play *Among Us*, I couldn't get them to stop talking. I even had a group of students stay through their 30-minute lunch break to keep playing with their classmates.

I began by walking through my [Emergency Meeting Argumentative Speeches](#) slides to set up the rules and game-play structure. The biggest change I made between the common game mode and my persuasive speech activity was the structured discussion time.

During the 90-second discussion period, all students must have their mics unmuted and participate so that everyone's voice is heard. The first 30 seconds are reserved for each student to make a claim. I ask them to report out where they were, what/who they saw, who they believe the imposter is, and why. The next 30 seconds are for counterclaims where students can defend themselves or others. The last 30 seconds are for students to state whose claim they agree or disagree with and why. At the end of discussion time, they each have the option to vote for who they believe the imposter is or skip. This continues until the imposter is caught or the crewmates finish their tasks.

### **CONNECTING 'AMONG US' TO ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING**

Next came the task of connecting what they just did in their favorite game to the not-so-exciting article we were reading as a class. Using [Pear Deck](#), I set up an interactive slideshow with claims from the article with a few pieces of direct evidence. Their goal on each slide was to find the "imposter," or rather the piece of evidence that did not support the claim, and explain why. Everything finally clicked when I made that small shift in word choice for unrelated evidence, and my students' writing became much more accurate.

After months of teaching into the abyss, bringing *Among Us* into my classroom gave my class a breath of fresh air it desperately needed. Not only did playing the game with my students help them refine their writing skills, but it built the classroom community that distance learning had taken away. If you're struggling to teach writing remotely or looking for an activity to build community and get your students to unmute their mics, mention *Among Us* and watch what happens.

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## FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### 8 Quick Checks for Understanding

Formative assessment is a proven technique for improving student learning, and the strategies shared here by Jay McTighe work both in the classroom and remotely.

By Jay McTighe January 28, 2021

Using formative assessments designed to check for understanding and provide students with feedback and support is [one of the most effective ways to improve and enhance student learning](#). Yet because of the need to cover large amounts of information and develop many skills, teachers may not take time checking to make sure students understand a concept or can effectively apply a skill, and, if they don't, figuring out ways to improve their learning.

Thankfully, there are practical, proven formative assessment techniques that teachers can use as a quick "pulse check" to gauge students' understanding. The eight techniques here can be applied across grades and subject areas in virtual, hybrid, and in-person learning environments.

The results of these checks should not be graded since the purpose of formative assessment techniques is to obtain feedback to use in improving teaching and learning, not to evaluate learning. It's important that students understand the purposes of these techniques, that mistakes are OK—and even expected—and that they will not be graded on their responses.

#### 1. SIGNAL IT

Ask students to display a designated hand signal to indicate their degree of confidence in their understanding of a concept, principle, or process. For example:

- Thumbs up: I understand \_\_\_\_\_ and can explain it in my own words.
- Wave hand: I'm not completely sure about \_\_\_\_\_ and doubt I could explain it.
- Thumbs down: I don't yet understand \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot explain it.
- 

Self-assessment and self-reporting can be unreliable, so use a random calling technique to periodically select students with their thumbs up (e.g., pull names out of a bowl) and ask them to explain. In virtual learning environments, students can signal on camera or post designated emojis to signal their understanding levels.

#### 2. CHOOSE IT

Present students with a few binary-choice statements or questions containing an understanding or a common misconception and have them select a response (e.g., True or False, Agree or Disagree) and share it via a whiteboard, cell phone app, or hand signal (e.g., thumbs up or down). This efficient

technique is particularly effective to use in checking students' prior knowledge or potential misconceptions before beginning new instruction.

Here are a couple of "choosing" formats with examples:

- True/False: When dropped from the same height, a bowling ball will land before a marble.
- Agree/Disagree: Is this an example of alliteration?
- 

In virtual learning environments, students can use the chat box feature to record their choices or respond to a poll.

### 3. PICTURE IT

Visual representations, such as graphic organizers and concept maps, are [widely used to enhance learning](#), and can also be used as formative assessments. Have students create a visual or symbolic representation (e.g., a graphic organizer, web, or concept map) of information and abstract concepts and then be prepared to explain their graphic. Picturing techniques are especially useful to see if students understand how various concepts or elements of a process are related.

Examples:

- Draw a visual web of factors affecting plant growth.
- Develop a concept map to illustrate how a bill becomes a law.
- Create a story map or sequence diagram showing the major events in the story.
- 

In virtual learning environments, students can post their visuals on a Google slide or Pinterest board, or in Nearpod or Jamboard.

{Catherine Madden for the George Lucas Educational Foundation}

### 4. TROUBLESHOOT IT

One of the most efficient and effective quick checks for understanding involves troubleshooting. Present students with a common misconception or a frequent procedural error. See if they can:

1. Identify the flaw or error, and (even better)
2. Correct it.

Their responses will provide a quick check of the depth of their understanding.

Examples:

- Present a rough draft of writing and ask students to serve as an editor to mark compositional and grammatical errors.
- Have students review work on a multistep word problem to identify computational mistakes and reasoning errors and correct them.
- In a photography class, show photos reflecting common compositional errors or flawed exposure or lighting, and have students recommend needed corrections using photo editing software.

### 5. SUMMARIZE IT

Having students regularly summarize what they are learning is not only an [effective means of helping them increase comprehension and retention of new material](#), it can also provide teachers with insight into whether students are really grasping important ideas.

Here are a few examples of this technique:

- Compose a tweet in 280 characters or less answering the question: What is the big idea that you have learned about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Record a one-minute podcast or vodcast using an app on a smartphone or tablet to summarize the key concepts from one or more lessons.
- Prepare a weekly letter to your teacher (or parents) summarizing something that you now understand as a result of your learning during the past week.

Khan Academy has helpful videos on summarizing [nonfiction texts](#) and [fiction texts](#).

## 6. APPLY IT

Understanding is revealed when students can [transfer their learning to new situations](#). Accordingly, one of the best checks for understanding is to see if students can apply material in a somewhat novel context. This technique includes asking students to find or create new and novel examples to illustrate a newly learned concept.

Here are some examples:

- Create a "real life" word problem to see if other students understand how to calculate surface area.
- Locate a news article or blog post that presents an example of the tension between individual rights and the common good.
- Find examples of symmetry somewhere in our school or on the playground.

## 7. TEACH IT

This is a more involved, but valuable, formative assessment technique. Ask students to teach a new concept or skill to someone else—a new student, a student who has just returned from absence, or a younger child. You'll be able to gauge their degree of understanding as you review or observe their lesson. Here are two examples:

- Develop a five-minute lesson to teach a younger student about how supply and demand can affect the price of things. Use one or more specific examples that we have not discussed.
- Your friend has been absent and missed the last two lessons where you learned about community helpers. Draw a picture of at least five helpers in our community to help them understand the concept of a community helper.

In virtual learning environments, students can record a lesson using a laptop, tablet, or cell phone camera.

## 8. ANALOGIZE IT

A more sophisticated technique invites students to [develop an analogy](#) or metaphor to illustrate a newly learned concept or skill. The effectiveness of their explanatory analogy or metaphor can give you insight into their understanding. However, be cautious when interpreting student responses to this technique—a student may very well understand a concept but be unable to generate an appropriate analogy. Asking students to explain their analogies will give you further insight into their understanding.

Here's a prompt for students: A \_\_\_\_\_ is like a \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

Examples:

- A fraction is a part of a whole like a wheel is a part of a bicycle.
- Formative assessment is like tasting a meal while you're cooking because it provides feedback that a cook can use to make adjustments to improve the meal.
-

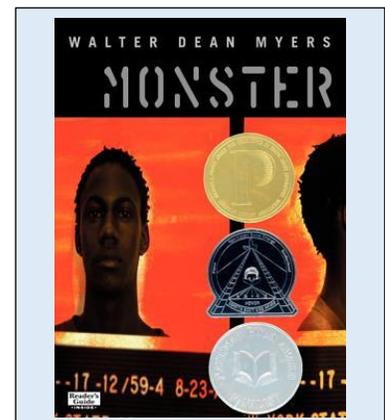
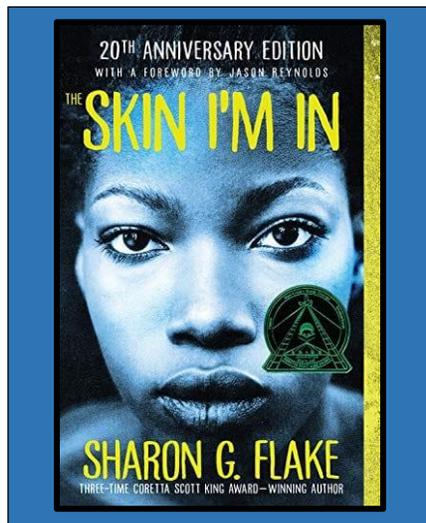
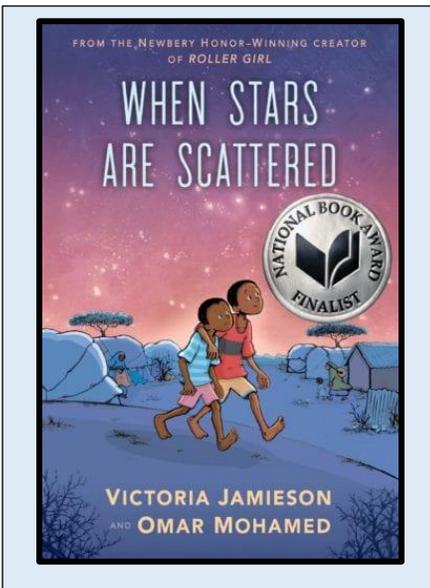
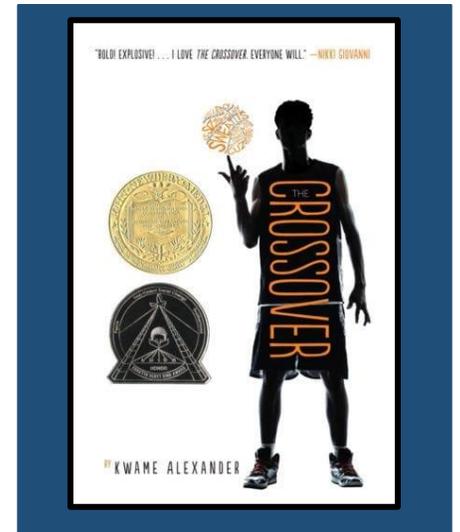
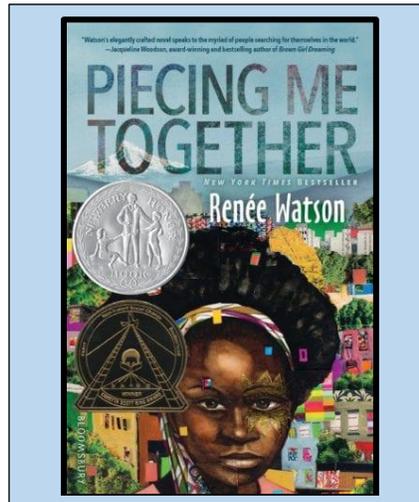
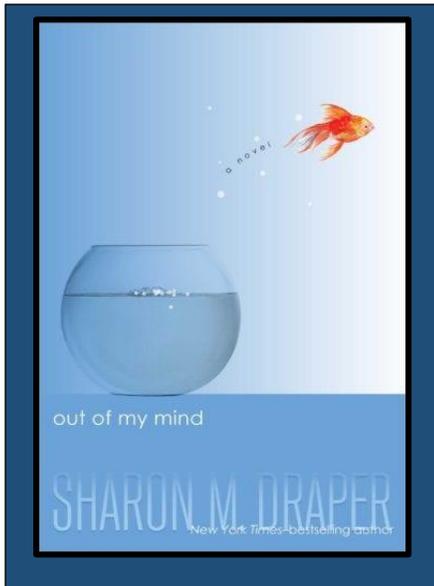
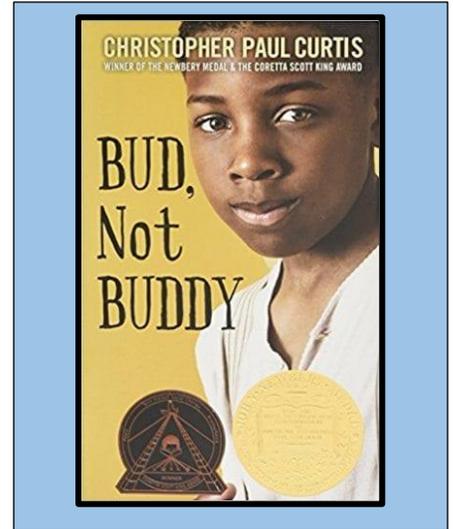
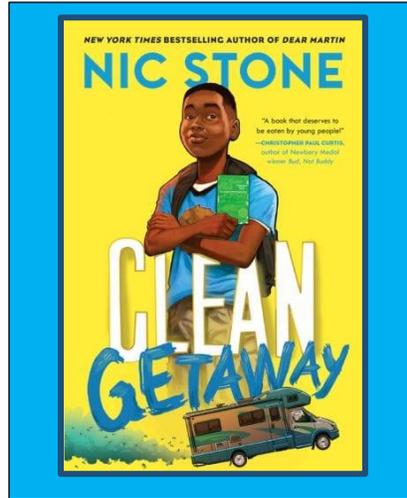
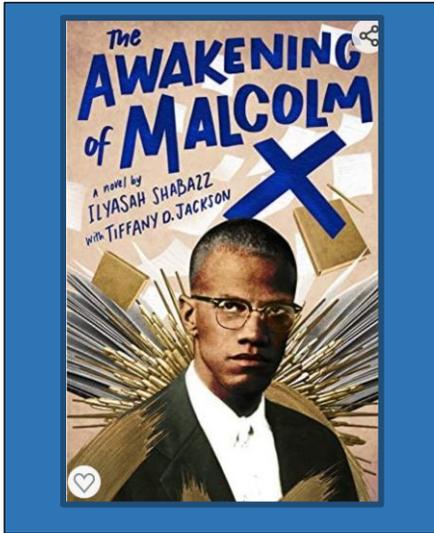
Students can also create visual analogies (combining techniques 3 and 8). In virtual learning environments, students can post their analogies and metaphors in a chat box or on a Google slide or Pinterest board.

Note: Several of these techniques (especially 1, 2, 5, and 8) can be naturally used in conjunction with another popular formative assessment technique—an exit card—given to students at the end of a class period or end of the school day.

While these techniques can provide valuable information about the effectiveness of teaching and the quality of students' learning, they're not ends in themselves. Instead, they should be seen as the first step in a "feedback cycle." The next step is to act on that feedback—reteaching something that many students failed to learn; correcting misconceptions that may be revealed; and/or providing scaffolded support to students who need it. Moreover, when students are given feedback, they must also be given opportunities to use it, such as revising their work, practicing the skill, or correcting errors. (Getting feedback without a chance to use it is like eating without digesting!) Then, the formative assessment cycle reboots as revisions can be assessed again, with progress noted and new learning goals set.



YOUTH BOOK NOOK





# Congratulations!

## Successful Youth Leadership Conferences



Caiya Edwards-Walker (Gladys Merritt Ross Memorial Scholarship Recipient)



Elijah Chisolm (Talent-Vocal), 1st Place



Janelle Acosta (Talent-Dance), 2nd Place



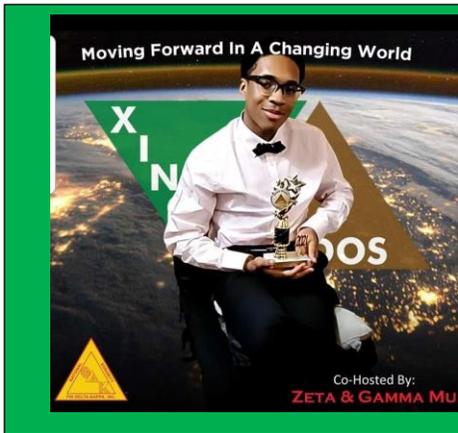
Jonathan Dale III (Step 3rd place, Oratorical 2nd place, Scholar of the Year Participant)



Khyah Craig (Essay-1st Place)



Nevaeh Mustipher (Science-2nd place)



## [Spotlight on Youth Program Video](#)

(Ctrl click link to view video)

**Gamma Alpha Chapter  
Soror Emily Bailey, Basileus**

**NSPK MOVING FORWARD... TOGETHER!**

**DELTA DELTA CHAPTER**

### **Apple of Our Eye Award Presented To DCPS Superintendent Greene**



**Delta Delta Chapter President, Betty LeRoy; DCPS Superintendent, Dr. Diana Greene; and Dr. Michael Henry, DCPS Region Superintendent for Middle Schools.**

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Delta Delta Chapter recognized Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools for being named Florida's 2021 Superintendent of the Year. This award was presented by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

Delta Delta Chapter presented Dr. Greene with an engraved crystal apple and gift card in honor of her national recognition and service to educators, students, and parents. Basileus Betty LeRoy stated that the award was for Dr. Greene's exemplary leadership, compassion, and commitment to educational excellence.

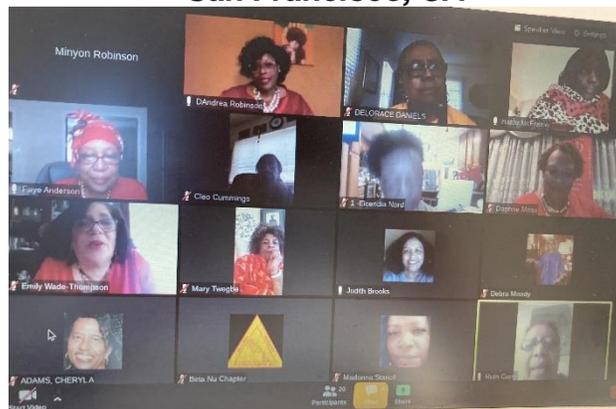
Dr. Greene has served in various capacities in education for 33 years: teacher, assistant principal, curriculum development, principal, senior executive leadership, and superintendent in Manatee County.

BETA PHI CHAPTER

## This Black Girl Knows Her Worth!



**Beta Nu Teach-A-Rama**  
**Dr. D'Andrea Robinson, Principal Zaida T. Rodriguez**  
**Earl Education School**  
**San Francisco, CA**



On Saturday, March 13, 2021 Beta Nu Chapter hosted a Teach-A-Rama Book Talk Event which featured Soror D'Andrea Robinson discussing highlights of her doctoral research and decolonization curriculum. *Black Girl, Know Your Worth! Decolonization: The Way to Cultural Heritage Development* is her published dissertation which presents theories that support why black girls require self-knowledge in elementary school and how that is connected to academic progress along with an analysis of the pilot study group with anecdotal depictions of three girls from the program who ranged in 3rd-5th grade. With 23 attendees present, Dr. Robinson emphasized the need to transform current academic spaces into welcoming nontraditional learning spaces for Black elementary school girls to thrive. The Far Western Regional Director was present along with various sorors from Southern California and Las Vegas chapters.

## Beta Phi Chapter is Turning Sixty



On April 28, 1961 Beta Phi Chapter was chartered in Compton, California by Soror Mable Bouldin, Midwest Regional Director. Soror Lolita Boone of Beta Theta Chapter, Los Angeles is instrumental in bringing National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa to the Compton community. Soror Lovie Honeywood, Soror Inez Anderson , Soror Mabel Joseph, Soror Irma Lewis, Soror Aleane Willis, and Soror MaeEtta Coleman, all of Beta Theta Chapter joined Soror Boone as Organizing Members of this new chapter. The Charter Members, known as "The Flowers," were Soror Celeste Carter, Soror Addie Owens, Soror Doris Holman, Soror Jewel Barnett, Soror Ima Jean Lawrence, Soror Cozine Rankins, Soror Ethel Brown, Soror Bennie Wyatt, Soror Emmie J. Phillips Whatley, Soror Genevieve Cotton, Soror Velma Russ, Soror Arnetha Cook, Soror Myrtle Coleman, and Soror Myrtle Hughes. The chapter was off to a great start with twenty-one (21) eager and enthusiastic ladies.

Over the last fifty-nine (59) years more than 245 educators, speech pathologists, school counselors, educational specialists, and educational leaders have become chapter Sorors. Just imagine, some 280 women, with 280 personalities, 280 temperaments, 280 goals and aspirations, working together to put on the programs directed by National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. and doing it with good intentions, grace and humility. It would be silly to say that intolerance and a good, heated discussion never happened, they did. But, at the end of the day, the Sorors worked together to produce a desired outcome. The sisters looked beyond themselves and worked to include new Sorors in activities, assignments, and committee and leadership roles. It is good to have rules and regulations and sisters who insist that the rules be always followed correctly.

From August 5 – 7, 1966 Beta Phi Chapter served as the host chapter for the National Sorority of PhiDelta Kappa Far West Regional Conference. The Theme: Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Opportunities".

On Sunday, November 21, 1971 a Dedication Ceremony was held for the Beta Phi House located at 2504 West Compton Boulevard Compton, California. Soror Lolita L. Boone, Soror Doris Ann Holman, Soror Erma C. Lewis, Soror Addie P. Owens, and Soror Bennie Lee Wyatt served on the Board of Directors, Soror Bennie Lee Wyatt was the Basileus, and Soror Doris Holman presented the Plaque.

Beta Phi Chapter Sorors have engaged in many fund-raising activities over the years. The largest and most prestigious being the Annual Debutant Ball ("Bal' Des Amants"). The first Bal's Des Amant took place on February 15, 1962 with a group of twenty-eight (28) young ladies making their debut to the Los Angeles community in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel. The last Bal' Des Amant was held on April 6, 2008 where six (6) young ladies made their debut. During the forty-five (45) years, Beta Phi Chapter presented more than five hundred (500) local young ladies and presented more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) in scholarships to deserving debutantes. What a proud legacy, what a tremendous undertaking, what a mighty accomplishment.

Mrs. Vivian Gandy served as the Choreographer for thirty- three (33) wonderful years. And let's not forget about the young men who served as escorts and marshals'. Kudos and applauds to these five hundred (500) young men for their willingness to learn to waltz, to show up and be present, and to perform in front of hundreds of strangers wearing a formal tuxedo.



**ROYALLY PRESENTED**—debutantes and their escorts, from left: Kristina Hardiman and Kenneth Bell, Jr.; Kimberly Walker and Taishawn Wallace; Regina Sims Strickland and Antonio J. Moore; Chelika Rice and Samuel Lewis were great and received memorable plaques.

Who can forget the notorious Bridge, Bid Whist, Bingo Brunch, the Annual Homecoming Luncheons, Teas to welcome prospective debutantes and their parents, youth groups and all the joys and all the accompanying personalities, those great Far Western Regional Conferences and traveling the United States attending National Conclaves, and don't forget the shopping, the packing, the rush to the airports, the heavy luggage and shoes, shoes, shoes?

Where there is much joy, there can also be much sadness. During the last fifty-nine (59) years, Beta Phi Chapter has suffered loss in our sisterhood. We have had more than 75 members depart from our shore to a home above to share the blessings of God's love. We love them and miss their presence in our lives. There are about thirty (30) Sorors that are inactive, but one or more Sorors keep in touch with



many of these sisters. We have had two Sorors to become active again. Hello, you all, we are doing good! Just look at the smiles on these beautiful faces. This is only some of us. The rest will be on the next picture. Love to all our sisters, we are best all together.

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**DELTA UPSILON CHAPTER**

*San Diego Women, Inc. a Civic Organization Honored Debra Maxie as a "Woman of Distinction" In a Virtual Program on Sunday, March 221, 2021*



Mrs. Debra Maxie is a graduate of Lincoln University of Missouri where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education, a minor in Psychology and a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling. She earned her Administrative Credential from San Diego State University.

Debra began her teaching career in 1973 in the Chicago Public School system teaching physical education before moving into the field of counseling. In 1979, Mrs. Maxie relocated to San Diego and joined the teaching force of the San Diego Unified School District. After teaching in various elementary and middle schools as a PE teacher, Debra accepted a position at one of California's most diverse inner city high schools in 1991.

In 2006 Debra founded a club on campus designed to recapture, encourage, and enlighten students who had been 'written off,' titled The Diamonds in the Rough. In order to support the club, she started designing cultural dolls which

Debra is an active member of Association of African American Educators, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Delta Upsilon Chapter, San Diego and the Black Women's Institute for Leadership and Development. She currently serves as a member on the California Student Aid Commission.

Mrs. Maxie often states: "I made it my lifelong passion to assist others get an education in whatever field they desire. I trust that the commitment, dedication and love I have given to the students and families that I had the pleasure of working with, has made a difference in their lives. It is said that we all serve a purpose...I guess this has been mine!" Mrs. Maxie retired in June of 2017, after 44 dedicated years in education.





*National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa,  
Incorporated Delta Upsilon Chapter  
San Diego Celebrates the Election of  
Dr. Akilah Weber to the 79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District*

Dr. Akilah Weber, a former Xinos (1992-1996), was declared the victor Thursday, April 8, 2021 in a special election for the 79th Assembly District — a seat vacated by her mother, Dr. Shirley Weber, who became Secretary of State in January after being nominated by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Dr. Akilah Weber will be one of two Black women in the Assembly and three in the Legislature overall.

Dr. Akilah Weber was elected to the City Council in La Mesa because she believed the city needed a leader who would serve the residents, advocate on their behalf, and bring transparency to City government. I was honored that the residents of La Mesa believed I would be that leader, and together we have worked to make La Mesa a better city for all residents. I am ready to do this with all of the residents of the 79th District.

A native San Diegan, she graduated from Gompers Secondary School. By the age of 26, Dr. Weber had received her bachelor and medical degrees, from Xavier University of Louisiana and The University of Rochester Medical School. She completed her residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Chicago Cook County Hospital and a fellowship in Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Currently she is the Director of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Division at Rady's Children's Hospital in San Diego, and an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at University California San Diego (UCSD).



**NSPDK Embracing Technology...Helping Our Students Zoom Into the Future!**

**"Moving NSPDK Forward Together"**



***Dr. Elcendia Nord***

**Far Western Regional Director Gamma Sigma  
Chapter**

**8232 Lauderdale Ct.**

**Las Vegas, Nevada 89128**

**[elcenida@gmail.com](mailto:elcenida@gmail.com) (702) 917-9210**

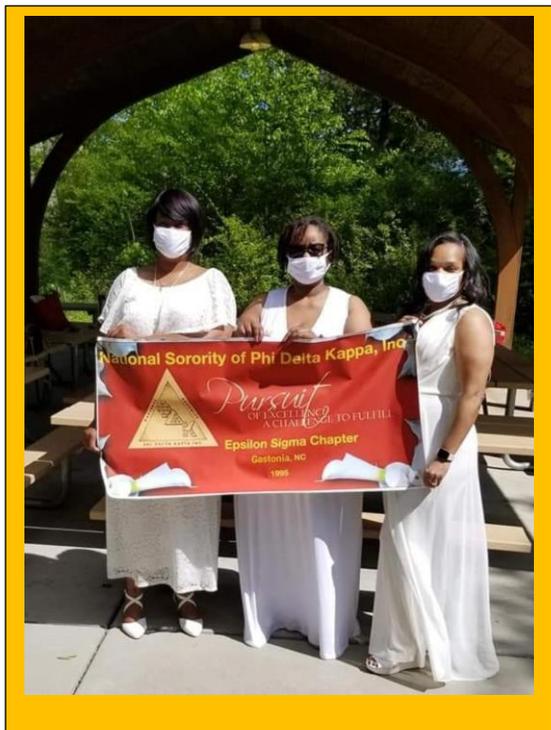
The Far Western Region has been busy, first preparing for the Youth Leadership Conference hosted by Beta Nu and secondly, for the Far Western 56<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference, hosted by Epsilon Omicron. We have weathered the adversities of this unusual time and pressed forward to reach our goal. The Far Western Region is the smallest Region of the five. Even so, it is comprised of a powerful, devoted group of Sorors.

Words cannot express my appreciation to our Sorors of the Far Western Region for their tireless support of our Regional Program. These Sorors have designed and implemented exemplary programs despite being confined to home. They found ways to conduct business by means of Zoom, Goggle Dot, Telephone Conference Calls, Drive by etc. The pandemic cannot stop us! I deeply appreciate all that they do and thankful that they have entrusted me with the leadership of this wonderful Region. I pray for their continued support of this Region.



EPSILON SIGMA CHAPTER

Dear Sorors of the mighty eastern region,  
please join Epsilon Sigma Chapter as we  
welcomed Lisa, Sakinah, and LaQuandra



*Welcome Sorors!*



Epsilon Alpha Krinon Induction for 2021. Excited about bringing in eight fabulous ladies into our sisterhood.

**EPSILON ALPHA CHAPTER**



A Psi Tribute to Mothers, Sisters, and Sorors



PSI CHAPTER

Sorors/Sisters Michele Dotson and Clarice D. Wiley



Psi Chapter- Mobile, Alabama

**PSI CHAPTER**

**A Psi Tribute to Mothers, Sisters, and Sorors**

~ Written by Soror Rose Carolyn Dees

Parents gave us some of our sisters  
NSPDK has given us many more  
Some of them live right around the corner  
Many of them live from shore to shore

The month of May gives a day just to Mothers  
So their children and others can honor them too  
But Sisters and Sorors are also honored  
Because we sow kindness in what we do

So to our Mothers, Sisters and our Sorors alike  
To those here and those who have gone above  
We celebrate you on Mother's Day and Everyday  
With heartfelt, NSPDK, Sisterly love

***In Memory of our Psi Sister and Soror,  
Evangelist Clarice Dotson Wiley  
1948- -2021***



## ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER

On Saturday, February 13, 2021, the Alpha Sigma Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. honored five educators at their 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eminent Citizens Recognition. This year's celebration was a virtual "tea" on Zoom with the theme -"Educators: Essential Employees."

The Eminent Citizens Award has been a tradition of the Alpha Sigma Chapter where we celebrate and honor unsung heroes who are making a positive difference in the Tarrant County community. As an educational organization, the chapter believes that educators have been among many essential employees during this coronavirus pandemic and wanted to recognize their contribution to the field and their commitment to the students they teach and serve. The 2021 honorees were Angela Kyser-Cohen (Counselor), Prydetta Chambliss (Testing Facilitator), Mary Elizabeth Collins (Music Teacher), LaShanda Davis (Adult Education Teacher) and Chelsie Hayes (Primary Instructional Coach).

We appreciate Dr. Etta Carter, our illustrious Supreme Basileus, for greeting our guests, along with Southwest Regional Director Anita O'Neal, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial Chair Margarette Galloway, and Dr. Frankie Johnson – Alpha Sigma Basileus. The event was a great time of fellowship, honoring our educators, being entertained by Xinos and Kudos, and sipping on tea with our nearly 100 attendees.



## NU CHAPTER

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated, **Nu** Chapter, founded February 1, 1931 celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 40th Annual Black Legacy Gala, Saturday, February 27, 2021. The theme for the occasion was "Creating Connections, Building Bridges". Basileus Martha S. Barber invited Supreme Basileus Etta F. Carter and Southeast Regional Director, Mrs. Rose Anderson to give greetings. This signature program for Nu Chapter was conceived by Mrs. Peggie Faulks Myles in 1985.

The purpose of this event is to bring awareness of outstanding achievements of locally prominent leaders and to generate funds for scholarships. Annual donations are given to Miles College in honor of the late Mrs. Mattie Gill Jackson, former member and librarian at Miles College and to Lawson State Community College in honor of the late Dr. Marjorie Lawson, former member of the chapter, and for whose husband the college was named. Awards during the Gala were Religious Leader, Dr. John L. Cantelow III; Education Leader, Dr. Lewis Brooks; Community Leader, Mr. Paul Gardner; Anthropos of the Year, Mr. Christopher Scott; Youth of the Year, JaReese Russell and Shamir Saxton; HUB Parent, Mrs. Clara Russell and Soror of the Year, Mrs. TaKeysha Fowler Scott.



**ETA CHAPTER**



**GAMMA RHO CHAPTER**

Shaker Heights (Cleveland), Ohio

Sorors of Gamma Rho Chapter continue to serve the NSPDK, Inc., as willing workers in the vineyard as they sprung into the month of April with activities to further enrich the NSPDK **Y.E.S.** Program.

April 11, 2021, Zoom Boom III was presented by the Technology Committee for all NSPDK members. Zoom Boom I & II were also well attended and received.

Gamma Rho Sorors collaborated with Alpha XI Chapter to support the Allen Chapel, A.M.E. Church on a Special Service Project to assist their Food Pantry.

The Academic Trends, Civil Rights & Legislative Affairs and Literacy Committees of Gamma Rho hosted a Book Talk with Stacy Abrams' book *Our Tie is Now*. Members of all chapters and friends were invited. The Membership Committee continued to promote Sisterhood activities on April 23, 2021 with a Virtual Pain "N" Sip.

Kudos to the Ways and Means Committee for the successful "Double Goods Popcorn" fundraiser.

Congratulations to all Gamma Rho members for your dedication, hard work and professional, sisterly commitment in serving our great organization in the community and enhancing the education of our youth.

Submitted by Gaynell Wade  
Gamma Rho  
Public Relations Corner





Join us for the Eastern Region's

# *Virtual Founders' Day Celebration*

(AFTER THE TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE)



Join us as we honor our Founders during their "Happy Days" era of education in the 1950s. Dress up and "Doo Wop" with us as we celebrate. Bring your hor d'oeuvres and champagne glass for a toast to love and educational success!



SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021

6:00PM

VIA ZOOM

## A Mother's Day Prayer

Lord we pray for all

**MOTHERS**

Beautiful and wonderful  
they fill the earth

Gracious in Your call they  
carry life

In a bond of love they bring  
forth a child.

Happy Mather's Day



We ask You to bless all

**MOTHERS** today

May they feel the joys of motherhood  
everyday

In all their struggles giving us a livelihood

May Your **LOVE** and **COMPASSION**  
be with them for good.

May every **MOTHER** feel today

The pride and beauty of a family they bear  
Through all pain and sorrow Lord  
deliver them

In Your **STRENGTH** and **GRACE**  
may they always stay.

**AMEN!**

*Read full Prayer at [christianstt.com](http://christianstt.com)*



# *Happy Founders' Day*



**Jarian R. Graham**  
**National Public Relations Director**  
[nspdk.pr@gmail.com](mailto:nspdk.pr@gmail.com)