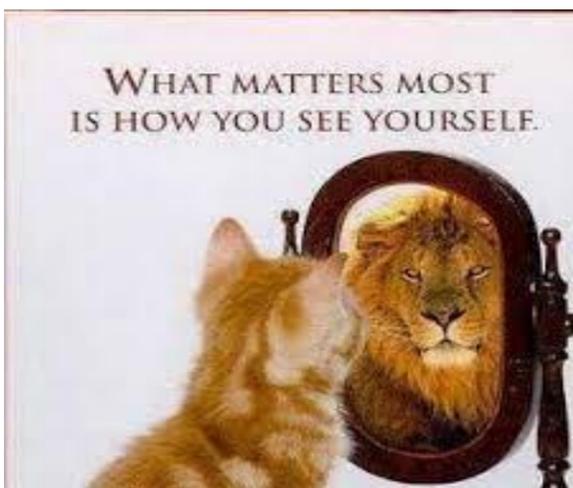


## MONONGALIA COUNTY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

### “YOU CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BE”



### This month we celebrate our students and encouraging them to think big about themselves

This month we are celebrating “You can be whatever you want to be.” We want our students to grow up with confidence and pursue their interests.

The world we live in today has so many kids that want to become a professional athlete, professional gamer, social media influencer etc. As great as it would be for every kid to be able to achieve these things, we often get in the habit of telling kids that they can’t do something or should think about doing something else.

Throughout history many people overcome doubt that people told them. They were told that they couldn’t do something. Some of these people are:

- Thomas Edison was told by his teachers that he was “too stupid to learn anything.”
- Oprah Winfrey was fired from her first TV job as an anchor.
- Abraham Lincoln had many failed business attempts and failed attempts at political office before his ascendance to President.
- JK Rowling had hit rock bottom and no one gave her any chance of becoming a writer.

While there are many individuals that proved others wrong and kept trying it is important to be realistic with kids. It is also important to support and encourage things that they are interested in. If a kid is interested in becoming a professional athlete it is important to encourage and support them in the sport that they play, but also open up other opportunities they could pursue that are still in the field they are interested in.

The goal is to get kids to think about the bigger picture and not rely on one thing, but to expose kids to new and different things that they may be interested in.

### March Observations

- National Read Across America Week (Feb 28th- March 4<sup>th</sup>)
- National Foreign Language Week (March 6<sup>th</sup>-12th)
- Women’s History Month
- National Deaf History Month
- National Foreign Language Month
- Irish American Heritage Month
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**AT HOME RESOURCES**

**WHAT IS MY SCHOOL  
DOING THIS MONTH**

**PREVIEW TO NEXT  
MONTH**

<p><b>GUARDIAN CORNER</b></p> <p><i>The Guardian corner is optional reading for parents that are looking for additional resources or ideas at home. Monongalia county schools in only providing optional resources and respects everyone's differences</i></p>		<p><b>Preview to next month</b></p> <p>April is "Everyone learns and thinks in their own way"</p> <p>During the month we will discuss similarities and differences. Everyone is unique in their own way. How one person thinks and learns can be different from how another person thinks and learns and that is okay.</p>
<p>For parents it can be hard to not tell your child that they can be whatever they want to be. We want our children to have confidence that they can be whatever they want to be.</p> <p>The reality of the situation is not every kid can be a professional athlete or social media influencer. With that said, we should still encourage our kids and support them with their dreams, but it is also okay to have real life conversations with them.</p> <p>The question remains how can we tell our kids they can be whatever they want to be without telling them they can be whatever they want to be.</p> <p><b><u>Continue to have your children dream big</u></b></p> <p>Encouraging your child to dream big is important because it implants the idea of setting goals and working towards them.</p> <p>It is okay for them to have big dreams, but it is also okay to let them know that some of their dreams may not come true and if they don't that is okay.</p> <p>Use your own life experiences as examples for your kids. When you are able to talk about your dreams it will help them understand things better.</p> <p>Remember we need to encourage them to dream big, but realistically.</p> <p><b><u>Helping them have realistic expectations</u></b></p> <p>You want your kids to have dreams of what they want their life to be when they grow up. You also want them to be realistic in their dreams. It is important to have those conversations with them about their dreams and help them be realistic.</p> <p>A lot of time young kids will say they want to be a superhero. Realistically it is impossible to be the superhero that they are talking about. Have a conversation about what makes a superhero a superhero. The conversation will probably lead to them saying that superheroes help others, they keep people safe, they do the right thing.</p> <p>While they may not be able to be a superhero with a cape that flies around, talk with them about people that they know that help others, keep people safe, or do the right thing.</p> <p>This will help them think realistically and learn to explore things that they are interested in and pursue those things. It is more realistic for a kid to become a firefighter than superman.</p>	<p><b><u>Encourage them to be whoever they want to be instead of whatever they want to be</u></b></p> <p>In today's society there is so much pressure to be successful. Anything else makes people mediocre and to some mediocre isn't good enough.</p> <p>Everyone has a different perception of their lives and if you can talk to your child about being who they want to be instead of what they want to be there is more of a likelihood they will create the life they want and be happy with it.</p> <p>Success comes in different variations, one's version of success might be completely different than others. It is ultimately about what make them happy and if they feel like they have done enough.</p> <p><b><u>Be their biggest support system</u></b></p> <p>Your child will probably have a bunch of different interests through their childhood. One week they may talk about being a princess when they get older, then a singer the next week.</p> <p>Support them throughout this process. It will give them the confidence to think big about their future.</p>	


## *What is being done at Suncrest Middle*

Suncrest Middle is celebrating Women’s History Month, reminding students they can “be whatever they want to be” by featuring women who have made and are currently making history. This month during morning announcements, Suncrest Middle will feature some extraordinary women and the historical contributions they have made.

In addition, once a week, in the afternoon, homeroom teachers will review highlighted female figures who have helped shape our world and made an impact on society. To learn more about national efforts to celebrate Women’s History Month or to attend a virtual event hosted by the Library of Congress, click the link [here](#).



**Debbie Blount, oldest student athlete at Reinhardt University.**

## *Morning Announcements and Homeroom Time*

For the month of March, we celebrate the idea “You can be whatever you want to be.” This is a message Suncrest Middle School wants to send to all students regardless of their gender, ethnic background, economic status, or religious affiliation. But as this is also Women’s History Month, we are featuring women who have made strides in their lives overcoming age, gender, economic, and religious boundaries. We begin with [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#): lawyer, jurist, Brooklyn New York native, Supreme court justice, wife and mother. She championed women’s rights and served on the highest court in the country for 27 years becoming its most prominent member, before passing away in 2020 at the age of 87. [Debbie Blount](#) decided late in life she wanted to get her Bachelors degree and as a college athlete. She enrolled at Reinhardt University at the age of 63 and became Reinhardt’s oldest college athlete joining and excelling on their women’s golf team. [Katherine Johnson](#), from White Sulphur Springs, WV, was an African-American female mathematician who worked for NASA in the late 1950’s/early 1960’s, writing and contributing to papers and work that permitted some of our greatest space accomplishments. She provided the math to confirm John Glenn’s orbit in space, which is the work she is most noted for. [Vera Wang](#), born in New York City, is the daughter of Chinese immigrants who immigrated to the US in the 1940’s. She attended Sarah Lawrence, among other institutions, worked for Vogue for 17 years, and created her own company at the age of 40. She is still a powerful woman in the fashion world at the age of 73 and has no intention of stopping.

[Emily Callindrelli](#) is a Suncrest Middle and Morgantown High Alum. In addition to being an author, writing the popular Ada Lace book series, Emily graduated from WVU, is a space scientist, former MIT engineer, and the host of 'Xploration Outer Space and Emily's Wonder Lab on NETFLIX. Emily has given TED talks on the importance of science literacy and space exploration. [Billie Holiday](#), also known as Lady Day, was one of the most influential jazz singers of all time. She was an artist whose emotionally raw and unique vocals helped to shape the jazz world and leave a legacy of what was possible. Despite a troubled youth, she began singing early and met with success. She broke new ground becoming one of the first female African American vocalists to work with a white orchestra, made several albums, and created a cult following for jazz music. She continued to sing and influence the jazz world till her early death in 1959. Her legacy and influence continue to this day.



**Billie Holiday 1915-1959**