

Kaleido

Scoop

BLACK FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Powered by  Family and Community Engagement

January 2024



**Black Family
Engagement
Specialist**

Hello! My name is Iyana (EYE-Yah-nuh) and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I am so honored to be serving the Black community at Denver Public Schools!

"For Us, By Us (FUBU)" - Daymond John

Welcome to the first Monthly Newsletter specifically for Black/African American identifying families across the district! Denver Public Schools is very diverse. We have families and students from all walks of life and I wanted to honor that in this newsletter. The word Kaleidoscope is defined as a diverse collection of colors in which the reflections create patterns that change. I hope that this newsletter helps you feel seen.

This Newsletter is monthly for the rest of the school year. With every newsletter that you receive, I am requesting you to **submit feedback** on what was helpful, not helpful, and what you want to see more or less of. I want this newsletter to be curated by your needs and wants. The feedback link will always be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

A little about me, I am a former teacher. I have experience in Title I, International Baccalaureate (IB), French Immersion, International (in Taiwan), language disabilities, outdoor learning, special education, virtual learning, and post pandemic learning. **I want to get to know YOU! Please be on the lookout for school visits and coffee chat with me so I can meet YOU!**



Black Excellence: AAYLS

Last month, I got a chance to support Dr. Plashan McCune with the [African American Young Ladies Summit \(AAYLS\)](#) and it was an uplifting event! To see so many of our Black/African American girls in one space chanting to each other, "you are my community, not my competition" was emotional. Sista 2 Sista: Day of Mentoring deadline to register is February 1st.

To learn more, get involved, or involve your child in this organization, [click here.](#)



Spotlight Your Black Owned Business HERE!

If you have a Black owned business that would like to be spotlighted here, please fill out this form! One lucky business will be shared in our monthly newsletter!

[Sign Up Here](#)

Requirements: The business owner must have an affiliation with Denver Public Schools (ex: student, alumni, serve DPS community). The business must be family friendly and legal.



 Family and Community Engagement

FACE Tip of the Month

[Family Constituency Services \(FCS\)](#)

also known as the DPS Helpline! Students, parents, teachers, staff, and community members can call the helpline for school-based or districtwide questions and support.

Our FCS addresses concerns, conducts mediations, and supports community meetings. Here's more information about what else they can support with.

Helpline: (720) 423-3054



Denver Children's Advocacy Center

When a child experiences trauma (abuse, neglect, domestic violence, witnessing a crime, etc.) they come to our little yellow houses on 22nd and Federal, where we help to get child and non-offending family members protected. We also offer therapy to help a child overcome the effects of the experience. Our team of 13 therapists work with children ages 3-17 to help them return to daily life through a variety of child-centered therapy styles. Our services are at no cost and are available to anyone in the Denver Metro area.

For more information or to learn more about our services please contact **Katt Lovejoy** at klovejoy@denvercac.org, or 720-974-7234.
Website: denvercac.org

BECOME A BLACK ADVOCATE TO HELP A BLACK STUDENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION OR FOR YOU & YOUR CHILD

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW STRUGGLING WITH THE SPECIAL EDUCATION OF A BLACK STUDENT IN DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

3 Training Sessions Start January 2024
Together we can help our kids get what they need
Being Black is NOT required

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://forms.gle/UWgDacsgzKf6V9297>

Brought to You By: **Show+Tell** DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS Exceptional Student Services
ADVOCACY DENVER
for people with disabilities

BLACK FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

For more information: Like/Follow Us FB & IG @ DPS.BFAC DPS.BFAC@GMAIL.COM



[Register Here](#)

ACT NOW: FREE SAT BOOTCAMP

Powered by **Tutored by Teachers**

Sign up by Jan. 19
Enroll Here ->

- **Who:** DPS 11th Graders
- **What:** DPS is offering a **FREE** eight-week, at-home, virtual SAT prep program, offered in partnership with Tutored by Teachers.
- **When/Where:** Registration is open [here](#) through **January 19th**. Online sessions start the last week in January, and first week in February.

[Register Here](#)

Scan the QR Code for access to these links:



- January 9** - Black Family Advisory Council (BFAC) on ZOOM and at EAST HS at 6 PM
- January 15** - MLK Denver Parade at City Park at 9:30 AM
- January 16** - District Accountability Committee at Manual HS at 5:30 PM
- January 25** - Coffee Chat at Hill Arts & Sciences at 9:30 AM



Storytellers!

We need more **BLACK** storytellers in our schools. Meet [Lumiere Bukasa](#) who is DPS FACE Community Engagement and Events Specialist. I am honored to work alongside this amazing woman who told her story on **TEDx**. I hope her story encourages you to sign up and do the same!



Volunteer!

Empower the future and uplift the Black community in Denver Public Schools! Join us in a movement that not only transforms education but also encourages kids to see themselves as powerful changemakers. By volunteering, you become a beacon of inspiration, showing young minds the strength and potential within their community. Let's make a difference together – be a guiding force for change, helping kids envision a future where they play a pivotal role. **Volunteer now and be the representation they need!**

Elementary: Got 30 minutes-1 hours at the beginning or end of the school day? Ask to volunteer in a kindergarten class! Believe it or not, it takes 6-year-olds 30 minutes to clean up and get ready for dismissal or the day. Your help would be appreciated!
Middle/High: Hall monitoring and mentoring! Middle school years are the years of testing limits. Teachers are doing their best with their limited time, but your help is still needed. We need more bodies in the building! Mentoring a student doesn't always have to have a formal process. Being in the school and conversing with students to guide them on the right path can have the same, if not a better impact.

Volunteering is a great way for you to show up as your full authentic self and be the representation our schools need.

Contact Sarah Rice to get started!
sarah_rice@dpsk12.net