



# news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Portia Martin (412) 707-7667

## Pittsburgh Public Schools Celebrates Black History Month with Inspiring Features and Activities

PITTSBURGH, PA February 1, 2024- This February, Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is proud to honor and celebrate Black History Month with a series of engaging features and activities that highlight the achievements, contributions, and resilience of the Black community. The month-long celebration will showcase remarkable alumni, commemorate a significant milestone, and promote literacy and community engagement.

### **#PPSBlackInBusiness: Celebrating Alumni Excellence**

Throughout February, PPS will spotlight the outstanding achievements of its alumni who are making significant contributions to Pittsburgh. Every week, the District will feature a distinguished alum with the hashtag #PPSBlackInBusiness, sharing inspiring stories of success, leadership, and entrepreneurship. The District starts the month of features with [Anthony Harris](#) – a Pittsburgh Brashear alum and founder of the UDIGG apparel and clothing store. By shining a spotlight on these accomplished individuals, PPS aims to inspire the current generation of students and foster a sense of pride within the community.

### **30 Years of the African American History Challenge Bowl: A Legacy of Academic Excellence**

Pittsburgh Public Schools is thrilled to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the African American History Challenge Bowl, an event promoting academic excellence and teamwork for three decades. This year's bowl will take place at Pittsburgh Greenway on February 23.

Superintendent Dr. Wayne N. Walters will once again host the event for a 30th year that is held each year in partnership with 100 Black Men of Western PA, Inc. Students in grades 6-8 will answer questions based on a study guide divided into six categories: Arts and Entertainment, Biography, Facts and Trivia, History, Science and Discovery, and Sports. High school students will answer questions based on the resource *100 Amazing Facts About the Negro* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The winning high school team will represent Pittsburgh in the national 100 Black Men African American History Challenge Bowl.

### **PPS Black Month History Competition**

The Office of the Superintendent presents the PPS Black History Competition, an opportunity for all PPS students to engage in Black History Month. Launching February 2, participants can explore notable African Americans, their rich history, and impactful contributions by researching events or individuals. Students can choose from one of two categories: (1) Original Creative Writing Piece (500 words max. Ex.: essay, poem, etc.) or (2) Visual Art.



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Submissions are accepted until Monday, February 19, 2024, in person at the Administration Building (341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) or via email [superintendentsoffice@pghschools.org](mailto:superintendentsoffice@pghschools.org). Winners will be announced on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

### **Black Men Read: Promoting Literacy and Community Engagement**

The month-long celebration will conclude with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Men Read, an effort to promote literacy and community engagement. Superintendent Wayne N. Walters encourages Black male leaders to join him Thursday, February 29, in promoting literacy while also countering negative narratives related to Black Men. Interested readers are encouraged to sign up at [www.pghschools.org/blackmenread](http://www.pghschools.org/blackmenread).

For a comprehensive list of all scheduled activities happening across schools throughout Black History Month, please visit [www.pghschools.org/BHM24](http://www.pghschools.org/BHM24).

Join Pittsburgh Public Schools in honoring Black History Month and celebrating the rich tapestry of contributions that have shaped our community, nation, and world.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Portia C. Martin  
PPS Media Manager  
412-707-7667

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