



Principal's Corner

FEBRUARY 2018

Our Culture, Our Legacy, Their Future.

Oakwood Adventist Academy is the oldest Black SDA educational institution as well as one of the oldest Black private schools in the country. Therefore, it's only natural that Black History and achievement runs deep in our heritage. One of the most important aspects of our mission at OAA is to constantly teach our students about the rich tapestry of their culture. While at other schools students may only receive a shallow survey about African Americans, at OAA we instill in each student throughout their day-to-day experience the depth and breath of their rich heritage, not just in February. We teach our students not only of Martin Luther King, Jr and Harriet Tubman but also about Vivien Thomas, King Mansa Musa, and Charles Kinny.

Our history reaches back to the beginning of time. It is full with mountains of great achievements as well as gut wrenching valleys. It includes the West African rediscovery of the New World hundreds of years before Columbus as well as the

atrocities of the Middle Passage. We believe it is imperative that our students not only learn about the struggle of slavery and Jim Crow in America but also about the vibrant segregated Black communities in Greenwood, Harlem, and Philadelphia.

Our alumni have baptized thousands, invented hundreds of inventions, led corporations and educational institutions, and even won Grammys. They have impacted all aspects of society and we are proud of their contributions. I am also excited about the future contributions of our current students and their impact on our church and country, but am very proud to see them making history now. OAA has produced more African American student qualifiers for Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) than any other school over the past five years. We have students impacting their society through their service activities and church activities; students that are preaching, teaching, and singing for the Lord. Our students are making history and we will continue to provide opportunities for them to imagine, take risks, and strive. We vow to remind



our students every day that in their veins runs the blood of not only slaves but of kings and that they are covered by the blood of the Lamb. Even more, we are dedicated to reveal that their future is rich with potential greatness. I pray we will work together to inspire our students to reach for that greatness.

Blessings,
Gabriel Madrid
Principal, Oakwood Adventist Academy

Please respond to this letter by emailing me at gmadrid@myoaa.org.



OAKWOOD ADVENTIST ACADEMY