



Informational Memo: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TO: School Board
Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent

FROM: Daniel P. Ryan,
Assistant Superintendent for Professional Learning and Human
Resources

DATE: November 15, 2016

Background

Our approved calendar for the 2016-17 academic year included our students being in session on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 16, 2017. We have spent time this fall preparing for a Day of Service, recognized as such by the President of the United States via a proclamation. Preparation for this day has included faculty input, administrative feedback, and committee work.

Goals for the day: These were arranged under our Know, Understand, Do (KUD) model

Know: Who was Martin Luther King, Jr. and what did he stand for?
What are the definitions of civil rights, service to others?

Understand: The connection between MLK's legacy and service
The need to serve others

Do: All students take part in an act of service
All students understand and/or experience the impact of
their Service
Reflect upon the day's activities and their experiences
honoring and learning about Martin Luther King, Jr.

Schedule for the Day

Based on feedback from various constituents, each building will host activities according to common goals and District-wide structure. For example, each school will spend part of their day engaged in community service activities such as *The Kindness Connection* or *Bernie's Book Bank*. In addition, each school will spend time learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. at developmentally appropriate levels. We are using The Corporation for National and Community Service (<http://www.nationalservice.gov>) as one of many resources to provide us with lesson ideas that affirm King's vision for service to others. We have also signed up on this website to be recognized for our service work with all other schools in the county. Each school will also bring in a guest speaker, host a book talk, or watch a video teaching about Martin Luther King, Jr. Near the end of the school day, students will spend time reflecting on the purposes of their activities and participation in a Day of Service.

It is our goal to have students understand that Service Learning is not just a one day event, but an ongoing commitment to bettering our world. Most all of the community service activities at each school on MLK Day are extensions of already existing community service projects in each school. In addition, our faculty and administration are committed to having students learn about how their community service work impacted others. For example, Kindness Connection representatives often come back a few months later with photos or letters from the recipients of our service projects.

In addition, we have local individuals and organizations available to support our planning and activities, such as The Floured Apron, Good News Kitchen, and New Trier Food Pantry. Barb Tubekis, Executive Director, The Volunteer Center of NE Metro Chicago has also been very helpful.

Our goal is to have all MLK Day preparations complete prior to Winter Break.

MLK Planning Calendar

October 11	MLK Planning group meets and produces a planning template
October 13	Administrative Team Meeting (Building Principals) Share the Planning Template

	Discuss Speaker Selection
	Provide a list of community resources
	Begin to identify Community Service Projects
October 27	Speaker(s) and/or activities decided
November 7	Building Faculty Meetings: Faculty share and discuss and plan MLK Day in their building using the template.
November 11	MLK Planning time for each building
December 5	District Early Release Day Finalize plans for MLK Day at each building.
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

We are looking forward to an engaging and active Day of Service for all of our students, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s contribution to civic engagement and community service. As always, we will be assessing the effectiveness of the day's activities, using student reflections, exit slips, and teacher survey information.