

Dear Masterman community,

Today we lost two civil rights icons, both with indomitable spirit: John Lewis and C.T. Vivian.

Lewis had many, many accomplishments. He was among the original 13 Freedom Riders; he was a founder and early leader of the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#), and was involved in organizing the March on Washington where Dr. King spoke in 1963. He played a pivotal role in the passing of the 1965 Voting rights Act.

C.T. Vivian was a civil rights activist who also led sit-ins and protests and who worked alongside Martin Luther King.

Both these men dedicated their lives to racial equality and never rested in their pursuit of justice. They fought tenaciously to right the wrongs perpetrated against African Americans. Their Lives and work provides a model for our work ahead. We, at Masterman, realize there are challenges ahead of us but are committed to be as persistent as they were.

We, the staff at Masterman, are committed to being an anti-racist school. Below, are some of the on-going initiatives that have begun:

- * The faculty has created a Building Anti Racist White Educators (BARWE) group and recently met and discussed [Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Our next book is *We Want To Do More Than Survive* by Bettina L. Love. Committing to these works around anti-racism will lead towards a goal of creating more culturally sensitive classrooms. These book discussions help us understand anti-racism and help us understand a variety of experiences with greater sensitivity.

- * We also reissued The School Advisory Committee(SAC) survey to encourage more members of the school community to provide input and work on important equity issues. Please ensure that you have provided your input with this survey.

- * The Steppingstone Scholars organization is leading the search for our equity coordinator and has also participated in a recent faculty meeting.

- * Reports about race and gender incidents are being investigated with the advice of the Office of General Counsel with the expectation that we will develop a clearer system of reporting.

Finally, we are waiting for responses from several organizations that provide on-going anti-racist training in order to create a long term action plan around professional development.

Current and alumni students have also been leading the way in this important work by facilitating conversations around race and equity issues on a regular basis. We

anticipate that these conversations will lead to important programming in the school. We have also met with students who are interested in helping to develop a more updated and relevant sex education program and education around sexual harassment and other equity policies, not only taught through our health classes but other avenues including peer counseling and guidance classes.

This is really difficult nuanced work but it must be done. We hope that people will participate and help us work towards a safe and welcoming community.

Best,

Ms. Brown

