

CO-SPONSORS  
TALLAHASSEE BRANCH NAACP AND LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Annual* REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## COMMEMORATIVE BREAKFAST

"Unfinished Business:  
Advancing the Promise of Equity."



**CELEBRATING THE  
DREAMERS & DOERS OF LEON COUNTY**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
MR. ROYLE KING, II**

**DONALD L TUCKER CIVIC CENTER  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2025 7:00 AM**

Adner Marcelin, President  
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

Rocky Hanna, Superintendent  
Leon County Schools



[www.naacptallahassee.org](http://www.naacptallahassee.org)

**NAACP**  
TALLAHASSEE BRANCH



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President



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Superintendent of Schools



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**NAACP**  
TALLAHASSEE BRANCH



**2025 Citywide CK Steele & Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

- 9:00 AM:** Rev. Charles K. Steele Commemoration Celebration  
**C.K. Steele Bus Plaza (StarMetro)**  
111. W. Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Speaker: Rev. Michael Fegins, Jr., Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
- 10:00 -10:25 AM:** Symbolic March from CK Steele to the Florida State Capitol
- 10:45 AM** Citywide MLK Program  
**Leon County Courthouse (Front of the Monroe Street Entrance)**  
301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Speaker: Hon. LaShawn Riggans, Leon County Judge
- 12:00 PM** City of Tallahassee Parade



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Program  
**“MLK Dreamers & Doers”**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by  
James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.



*During the 2023 MLK Commemorative Breakfast the Dreamers and Doers Awards was renamed and dedicated to, retired Leon County School Administrators instrumental in the establishment, development and continued collaboration with the Tallahassee Chapter of the NAACP in recognizing students in Leon County who have the unwavering traits of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### **BIO for Dr. Malinda Jackson James**

Dr. Malinda Jackson-James retired from the Leon County School District after a stellar 35-year career in the education arena. These years included ten years as an elementary classroom teacher, five years as the district's first Affirmative Action & Recruitment Specialist; four and one-half years as its first Coordinator for Equity/Recruitment; nine years as its first Director of Equal Opportunity Programs, and six years as its "first African American", Executive Director of Employee Relations/Recruitment & Equity. For several years, she served as a member of the Planning Committee for the "Annual MLK Breakfast."

Upon retiring from the Leon County School District, she served three-years as an Adjunct Professor, the Coordinator for Teacher Induction and Director of the National Board Resource Center, all at Florida A&M University's College of Education. Additionally, she has served for 35 consecutive years to date, as the Director for the Community-Based Tallahassee Area Coalition Center of Excellence, in Partnership with the Leon County School District and the Florida Education Fund.



Currently, Dr. Jackson-James is CEO of her own independent consulting business, M.W. James & Associates, LLC., as well as being involved in several local organizations. She is the President of The Leon County Chapter of The Charmettes, Incorporated, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated- Alpha Upsilon Zeta Chapter (former President), Florida A&M University National Alumni Association, FAMU Boosters, Leon Wakulla Retired Educators, Florida State University Alumni Association and actively involved as a member of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as Chair of the Africare Ministry and the Ministry of Compassion. Her greatest joy is her role as mother of two adult daughters and five grandchildren: 7 years of age to 22 years of age.

### **BIO for Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers**



Dr. Kathleen Rodgers recently retired from Leon County Schools. She is a career educator with almost four decades of experience serving in extensive leadership roles. During her tenure, she was a teacher, assistant principal, principal, an Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Prevention, Intervention, and Equity and Support Services. Over the course of her career, she received many recognitions for her dedication, commitment, and passion for the profession, including being chosen as Leon County Schools Teacher of the Year, the Ida S. Baker Minority Educator of the Year, and The Glenn-Howell Distinguished Educator of the Year. While she was the principal of Kate Sullivan Elementary School, she had the honor of leading a two-time National Blue Ribbon School. Under her leadership, she was instrumental in bringing Bellevue Middle School from a "D" grade to within a few points of a "B" grade. Dr. Rodgers is the

founder of the SHARPE Project (Shaping and Helping Adolescents to be Responsible, Positive, and Excellent). The SHARPE project was designed to reduce the rate of students recommended for expulsion by teaming them with mentors.

Dr. Rodgers commitment to meeting the needs of all students is unparalleled. She has an extensive track record of supporting the local community through meaningful volunteer work by serving on the Capital City Youth Services Board and on the Board of the African Caribbean Dance Theatre. In addition, she has spearheaded multiple clothing and blanket donation drives in support of Grace Mission and so much more.

## BIO for Mr. Royle King, II

Royle King II is a native of Dallas, Texas who moved to Tallahassee, Florida in 2004 chasing his journalism dreams at Florida A&M University. His entire life is a testimony to what a community village can produce. Good parents, mentors' family and community. He spent his teen years in two mentoring programs that would change his life and later change the lives of young men around the world. The Omega Sparks, a mentoring auxiliary of the local Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists journalism boot camp.

These programs laid the foundation for success and desire to help others. It was the boot camp that introduced King II to his mentor Cheryl Smith a fellow FAMU Alumni who inspired him to continue his education there as well. After graduating from high school King vowed to dedicate his life to helping others and giving back the same way so many people gave to him. In 2008 while still an undergraduate at FAMU the Omega Lamplighters mentoring program was born. Since 2008 the program has grown to serve over 3,000 youth in the Big Bend area and has grown to over 15 chapters all over the United States. King has been recognized on several occasions for his work in the community and is highly regarded for his approaches to working with young men and boys. King decided to settle in Tallahassee after creating Omega Lamplighters, Inc. even through its ongoing national expansion, he believes he was called to this city, during these times for this purpose.

King II currently serves as the inaugural Executive Director of The Tallahassee-Leon County Council on The Status of Men and Boys where he leads efforts to create strategies to implement to reduce gun violence in Leon County and unify our communities service provider agencies. Additionally, King serves as the Florida Statewide Organization (FSO) | 7th District, of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated 25<sup>th</sup> State Representative.

King II has been selected as a Black Enterprise Be Modern Man, presented a proclamation from the City of Dallas (Texas), Featured in a nationally televised special "Mentoring Kings", is an inaugural recipient of the Tallahassee Awards presented by Mayor John Dailey and has been featured in the Tallahassee Democrat, WFSU, WTXL, WCTV and 96.1 p.m. media outlets. We'd be here talking all day about the awards and recognitions King II has achieved but of all of them he's most proud of his two children Royle III and Rylie King.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Program  
**Dr. Malinda Jackson James and Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers**  
**Dreamers & Doers**



Dr. Marlon Williams-Clark  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Tallahassee Branch NAACP  
Master of Ceremony



Musical Prelude

**DETROITLIVE**

Breakfast Blessing

**Gregory James**, Founder and Sr. Pastor  
Life Church International Center  
Tallahassee, Florida

Presentation of Colors

**Leon County Schools JROTC Joint Color Guard**  
Under Direction of GySgt A. L. Reaves

Pledge of Allegiance

**Nia Talbott**, President  
FAMU Chapter of NAACP

Negro National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing"  
*Audience Please Stand*

**Anita Franklin**, Recording Artist and Musical Director  
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

Welcome

**Tolulope Binitie**, Student School Board Member  
Leon County School Board

Acknowledgements

**Stanley Sims**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Tallahassee Branch NAACP

Greetings

**Alysha Dorcely**, President  
FSU Chapter of NAACP

**Laurie Lawson Cox**, Chair  
Leon County School Board

Musical Selection

**DETROITLIVE**

Introduction of the Speaker

**Dr. Willie Williams**, Professor  
Florida A&M University  
Past Board Member, Omega Lamplighters

Guest Speaker

**Mr. Royle King, II**, Executive Director  
Council On The Status of Men and Boys

Recognition of Dr. Malinda Jackson James  
Elementary Schools Dreamers & Doers

**Anicia Robinson**, Elementary Schools Director  
Leon County Schools

Recognition of Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers  
Middle/High Schools and Special Sites  
Dreamers & Doers

**Dr. Benny Bolden**, Secondary Schools Director  
Leon County Schools

Closing Remarks

**Rocky Hanna**, Superintendent  
Leon County Schools

**Adner Marcelin**, President  
Tallahassee Branch NAACP



## **Dr. Malinda Jackson James** **Dreamers and Doers**

### **\*Elementary Schools\***

#### **Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts**

##### **Andrew Sineus**

Andrew Sineus is a 5th-grade Shining Star at Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts. Our “Shining Star” has attended Apalachee since kindergarten. Over the years, Andrew has always exemplified the most positive attributes of a student. He

attends school with a positive attitude and is ready to give 100% daily with a smile that lights up the room. Andrew is a Safety Patrol Officer and is a leader among his classmates. He is forward-thinking and always has a plan to ensure he and his fellow classmates are successful at ATMSA.

##### **Gloria Okumgba**

Gloria Okumgba has maintained a stellar grade point average during her time at Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts. Gloria has attended Apalachee and has been a “Shining Star” since kindergarten. Gloria is a Safety Patrol Officer and works diligently to ensure that all safety protocols are met by the students and faculty at ATMSA. Gloria is always willing to lend a helping hand to assist her classmates when they are having difficulty on a concept. Gloria is helpful, respectful, and has a dynamic work ethic. Gloria has consistently shown dedication to the upliftment and the betterment of her classmates and school community.

#### **Astoria Park Elementary School**

##### **Ma’Ciyah Igles**

Ma’Ciyah Igles is a true champion of integrity and ethical conduct! As a student, she serves as an inspiring role model for her peers, exhibiting exceptional communication skills and a profound empathy for others. Her unwavering work ethic inspires her peers, motivating them to approach their own responsibilities with diligence and commitment. Miss Igles frequently leads group discussions that foster effective collaboration among her classmates, ensuring that everyone feels recognized and appreciated. Her articulate and clear expression of thoughts enables her peers to fully comprehend her ideas. Beyond her academic achievements, Miss Igles excels on the basketball court, showcasing her dedication and talent. In her future career, Ma’Ciyah aspires to become a nurse, a path that reflects her commitment to helping others and empowering those around her.

##### **Brailee Barnes**

Brailee exemplifies exceptional leadership, dedication, and is a positive influence. Brailee consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, approaching all tasks with commitment and diligence. In class, she is always respectful, engaged, and eager to contribute. She takes pride in everything that she does! This dedication is clearly reflected in her academic performance and grades, as she sets ambitious goals for herself and continually strives to achieve them.

#### **Bond Elementary School**

##### **Jayceon Gilbert**

Jayceon Gilbert is a young man of few words; a quiet force. His intellect goes far beyond his years as he strives to achieve immense success in every subject area daily. He is kind and helpful to his teachers and peers; setting an example of excellence in behavior and cooperation. As a member of Bond Elementary School’s Junior Beta Club, Jayceon has proven to his teachers that he can be a superb leader inside and outside of class. He facilitates lesson activities for students in primary grades weekly and joins in school community projects which motivate his peers to be better students. Jayceon’s willingness to help others and conduct himself with such maturity speaks volumes about his character. He is easy-going, and his classmates genuinely enjoy his leadership. His friendly and well-rounded demeanor derives from a caring family who ensures he maintains good grades and great behavior. Jayceon is an extraordinary student who makes the world around him a much better place.

##### **Azalia Baez-Davis**

Azalia Baez-Davis is the standard of what it means to be an exemplary student and dedicated scholar. She exemplifies positivity and has a clear sense of purpose. One of her greatest qualities is her ability to communicate and build rapport with all people, especially her peers. She doesn’t allow language barriers, cultural differences, or economic statuses to influence



the authenticity of her relationships. She exudes compassion and confidence while engaging in class discussions and presenting new ideas. As an honor student and active member of Bond Elementary School's Junior Beta Club and Fierce Elite Dance Squad, Azalia is always hard at work. She volunteers in a kindergarten class where she is able to charm students into doing exactly what their teacher instructed. She also tutors her peers and is a reliable friend to many. Her charismatic personality and willingness to help others display her natural abilities to lead. Her good character, sense of awareness, compassion for others, and academic excellence have afforded her opportunities she never anticipated. Azalia enjoys being a positive influence on others while continuously challenging herself to be better. As she continues to draw inspiration from life's experiences, Azalia hopes to exceed all expectations set upon her.

## **Buck Lake Elementary School**

### **Meryl Simmons**

Meryl's passion is education and to consistently strive for success. She is very proud of her grades, maintaining straight A's. Students describe Meryl as being sweet, compassionate, fun, and an all-around great person! She brings joy and excitement to the classroom as she challenges herself as well as others around her. Her goal is to learn and help others along the way. Meryl stands up for what is right and is a friend to everyone she meets. She displays leadership in and out of the classroom and is a role model among her peers. She is a member of the Robotics Team and enjoys playing soccer outside of school. Meryl is a respected, outstanding student.

### **Cedric Reed**

Cedric is a kind and honest student, who loves enjoying quality time with his friends and his family at home. Cedric is a reliable student who will always be ready and willing to help someone out without being prompted. He has a strong and trusting character and will do the right thing without being asked or reminded. Cedric works hard at everything he does, whether it's school or helping out at home. He treats everyone with respect and kindness, and always tries his best.

## **Canopy Oaks Elementary School**

### **Justin Thornton**

Justin is a student who is both a leader and kind. He demonstrates strong qualities of responsibility, empathy, and respect. As a leader, he takes initiative, inspires others, and he is not afraid to step up when needed. He helps guide and support his peers. His kindness shines through in his actions and interactions, as he treats everyone with consideration, listens actively, and offers support when others are in need. Justin creates a positive environment, encouraging teamwork and collaboration, while fostering a sense of belonging for all. Justin's leadership is rooted in compassion, making him a role model for his peers.

### **Layla Gaskin**

Layla is an outstanding student with a big heart. She is very passionate about her academic achievements with a goal to attack every challenge laid out before her. Layla believes strongly in helping others in any way she can. If she sees a student by themselves, she will join them and make them feel welcome. If she sees a friend struggling academically, she does her best to help them. As a silent leader, Layla is the epitome of the saying 'the time is always right to do what is right'. She sees things that need to be done and doesn't hesitate to help out. She is such a great role model for her friends and classmates.

## **Chaires Elementary School**

### **Laurette Strowbridge**

Laurette is an exquisite self-driven student who has many plans for her life! She currently enjoys helping others while making accomplishment to enhance her future. She enjoys working in the community with her church youth department and student government association. One of her favorite community activities is helping young people in need of clothing. She actively heads up the "Clothing for Youngsters" program yearly. Laurette aspires to be a FAMU Rattler! She would love to be a drawing expression artist thru vivid colors and a family practice physician one day. She currently loves to draw, read, and take outside adventures as her hobbies. Laurette strives to be her best self! It is with great pleasure to have her as one of the 2024-2025 Chaires Elementary Dreamers and Doers.

### **Landon Thomas**

Landon Thomas is always ready for a challenge. He currently enjoys safety patrol, reading, graphic novels, science experiments, gaming and being creative. Landon works hard at straying on the principal's award list. He works steady on his robotic skills weekly to stay sharp for his future endeavors. He always strive to be the best! You can find him weekly in the office assisting the students and staff with a smile and willingness to help others, in the mornings. Landon has been active in the school government society and continues to help with all school fundraisers and projects. We



are excited to have Landon Thomas as a school Dreamers and Doers representative for Chaires Elementary.

## **J. Michael Conley Elementary School**

### **Aubree Griffin**

Aubree Griffin is a hardworking and goal driven student who consistently goes above and beyond in all aspects of life. Aubree comes prepared to school with a joyful smile on her face, which she eagerly shares with others, ready to attack the day. Her dedication to reaching her goals is an inspiration to her peers, showing that hard work pays off. She not only excels in the classroom, but she also plays a vital part in her school community as a member of her school's safety patrol. Her kindness shines through in every interaction she has, whether it's lending a hand to a friend in need or offering a thoughtful word to brighten someone's day.

### **Ayden Griffin**

Ayden Griffin is a determined, thoughtful student who holds himself to a high standard in everything he does. He has come to school prepared to learn every single day and gives all of his energy to his work. In addition, Ayden exhibits a resolute, positive attitude when presented with a challenge and his eagerness to learn is infectious. Not only does he give his best in his academics, but he gives his best to those around him. Ayden cares deeply about his family and friends, and his compassionate, respectful nature shines through whenever he interacts with others. He leads by example, whether he is in the classroom or working as a student safety patrol on campus each morning and demonstrates an unmatched level of kindness and care towards his peers.

## **DeSoto Trail Elementary School**

### **Jeremiah Ablordeppey**

Jeremiah Ablordeppey has been a student at DeSoto Trail Elementary School since kindergarten. He enjoys learning and has a great attitude toward school. He is a positive role model for other students, as he always exhibits grit and perseverance through schoolwork. He has done an outstanding job of maintaining excellent grades. He displays citizenship and kindness to others. His favorite subject is math. In his free time, he enjoys reading and playing sports. His classmates admire him because he is honest and a hard worker. He likely gets this trait from those he admires most, his parents. He admires them because, "They taught me everything I know." Jeremiah is most deserving of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award because he truly exhibits characteristics that represent those of caring, kindness, and being a positive role model in our community. It is our true pleasure to nominate Jeremiah Ablordeppey for this honor.

### **Victoria Davis**

Victoria Davis is one of our wonderful fifth grade students at Desoto Trail Elementary. She enjoys learning in the classroom and helping others. Her favorite subject is science. She has such a positive attitude in school and constantly works towards excellence. She has done an outstanding job of maintaining excellent grades. She shows kindness to all students and shows leadership in group activities. She is admired by her peers as being honest and trustworthy. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music and playing with friends. Victoria loves and admires Olympic Athlete, Simone Biles, because she shows courage and perseverance. Her favorite gymnastics trick is the 'Wolf Turn'! Victoria is most deserving of the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award, because she truly exhibits characteristics that represent those of caring, kindness, and being a positive role model in our community. We would love to nominate her for this amazing honor.

## **Fort Braden School**

### **Na'Jayla Walker**

Na'Jayla is an outstanding fifth grade student who maintains straight A's, extracurricular activities and lends a helping hand when needed. She is consistently demonstrating an example of a hardworking, motivated leader both in and out of the classroom. She sets goals and achieves them. She is a pleasure to have in class and we are lucky to have her at Fort Braden School. Her resilience and time management skills allow her to balance academic and extracurricular activities with ease. Her positivity, work ethic and genuine love that she pours into anything she does are qualities that will undoubtedly lead her to continued success in both her academic and personal life.

### **Christopher Brown**

Christopher not only is motivated to do well in school, but he has a heart of gold with anyone he comes in contact with. He displays focus, motivation and discipline with everything he does. He is quiet but mighty. He pushes through all things with a great attitude and perseverance. Christopher is a friend and motivator to everyone. His work ethic, positivity, and kindness demonstrates his will to succeed both academically and personally.

## Gilchrist Elementary School

### **Damian Castro**

Damian Castro is a 5th grade student at Gilchrist Elementary School, he exemplifies the qualities that are the foundation for the Dreamers and Doers. Damian is a leader at our school and can always be counted on to be a hard-working and respectful role model. He is also very compassionate towards his classmates, and he attacks obstacles with a positive attitude. Damian loves to play soccer and is a member of student council. He is dedicated to improving our school and campus as well as being a positive impact on our community. Damian is a joy to teach and very worthy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s esteemed award.

### **Haylee Austin**

Haylee is a prime example of what the Dreamers and Doers award represents. She is kind and compassionate towards her peers and is always willing to lend a helping hand, in and out of the classroom. This year she has been a committed safety patrol for our school, acting as a positive role model for our students and always offers a welcoming smile. She thrives academically and is committed to being the best student she can be, often offering to help her teachers in any way she can. We have no doubt that Haylee will have a big impact on our community as she continues her educational journey, and we know she will spread her compassionate spirit far and wide. Haylee is an outstanding example of Grizzly greatness!

## Hartsfield Magnet School for International Studies

### **De'aubri Reed**

De'Aubri Reed exhibits many qualities of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She is principled, compassionate, and always willing to help others. Her participation on the Safety Patrol is one example of her commitment to her learning community and the safety of her peers. De'Aubri leads by example through her actions when others are not looking. As a member of the Inspiration Dance Team, De'Aubri uses her creativity to inspire others in a positive way. In addition, De'Aubri uses her faith to guide her actions and be a guiding light for all those around her. She is a risk taker and isn't afraid to seek information that will assist her in making the world around a better place.

### **Freddie Burse**

Freddie Burse consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, a keen curiosity, and a commitment to improvement. His dedication to learning has resulted in impressive academic growth, and he often takes on challenging tasks with enthusiasm and resilience. Beyond academics, Freddie is a role model for kindness and empathy among his peers, he approaches everyone with respect, readily offers help, and fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment in our classroom. Freddie's kindness has a positive impact on those around him, creating a supportive space for classmates to thrive. Outside of school, Freddie engages in a range of unique extracurricular activities that highlight his well-rounded character and diverse interests. Whether participating in the Robotics Club or the Chorus program, he brings dedication and passion to each endeavor. These experiences have enriched his perspective and further developed his strengths in leadership, teamwork, and creativity. Freddie embodies the qualities of an ideal recipient for the MLK Dreamer and Doer Award. He has shown remarkable academic growth, compassion for others, and a willingness to explore interests beyond the classroom.

## Hawks Rise Elementary School

### **Danielle McKnight**

Danielle is one of the most exceptional students I have encountered in my 22 years of teaching. She is a straight A student who always goes above and beyond the expectation set for the assignment. Not because it is required, but simply because that is the drive she has within her. Having known her thus far, I strongly feel she will always give her best effort without acceptance of anything less. Danielle's personal strengths are as impressive as her intellectual accomplishments. She's an active and outgoing presence with her classmates and is a wonderful group leader. Be it a project or presentation, Danielle shows a strong sense of leadership but she also knows how to be a part of the group when someone else takes the lead. Her openness and drive to continually become a better student, allows her to always push and grow as a learner. I have witnessed her openness to other students having a difficult time with something, and she is one of the first people to reach out to talk and comfort that person. Danielle has my highest recommendation for this MLK Dreamers and Doers Award. She demonstrates excellence in all that she does and exhibits the kindness and collaboration with those around her that allows you to witness the endless potential ahead for her!

### **Javier Ortiz**

Javier is an exemplary student. He is known for demonstrating kindness and a positive attitude at school. Javier is always prepared for class and is diligent with his work. Similar to Dr. Martin Luther King, Javier sets a wonderful example in the classroom and is a role model to his peers. He can often be seen supporting and encouraging his classmates. Javier is helpful, and his ability to include others ensures no students are left out during instruction or on the playground. Javier serves on our school safety patrol, demonstrating responsibility and assisting with keeping students safe on campus. This is a role reserved

for those who aspire to be of service to others and are excellent leaders. Javier is kind, patient, and always willing to lend a helping hand to teachers and school staff. This year, Javier was a class winner for the Tropicana Speech Contest and went on to compete at the school level where he proudly spoke about the island of Puerto Rico. Sharing aspects of his culture helped other students to deepen their understanding and appreciation of our school's diverse student body. Overall, Javier is an outstanding student both academically and in his citizenship. He demonstrates many of the positive attributes of Dr. Martin Luther King. We are proud to recommend him for this prestigious award!

## **Killearn Lakes Elementary School**

### **Stella Kate Dailey**

Stella Kate is a kind and sweet friend to all she meets. She is a member of the Canopy Roads Baptist Church “Good News Club”, where she participates in bible study songs and lessons with younger peers. She is a positive role model to young children in the club and around campus. She is a trustworthy student and is often called upon to assist around campus in different roles as a Fifth Grade Safety Patrol and a member of the “Green Team” recycling program. She is conscientious about her work in school and takes pride in all she does. She recently presented her 4-H Tropicana Speech to the entire Fifth Grade Class. Her topic was about her love for the University of Alabama. She memorized the entire speech and showed such maturity beyond that of her peers. Stella Kate possesses the same commitment as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, to influence others through her faith, love, and friendship. She is naturally motivated to work hard to accomplish her goals and is a role model to her like aged peers.

### **Yanni Dugans:**

Yanni Dugans demonstrates an exceptional work ethic, consistently displaying dedication and resilience in her academic and leadership pursuits. Her commitment to excellence is reflected in her grades, a result of her diligent efforts and willingness to go above and beyond in her studies. Yanni is also a caring and thoughtful person, always recognizing when a friend is in need and offering assistance even when it is not requested. She is intuitive and understands what is needed not only for Yanni to be successful but the entire class as a whole. Yanni knows she has to put in all of her efforts to be successful and does exactly that. Yanni is kind, friendly, compassionate, and has an awesome sense of humor. Not only does Yanni excel at school, she also excels outside of school being a part of a volleyball travel team, consistently going to practice and supporting her team. She is definitely a student her peers look up to as a role model. As a positive leader within the classroom, she sets an inspiring example for her peers through collaboration, respect, and a proactive approach to learning and assisting others. Her enthusiasm for growth, care for others, and her determination to succeed makes her an outstanding candidate for the Dreamers and Doers Award.

## **W.T. Moore Elementary School**

### **Hope Abernathy**

Hope Abernathy exemplifies the qualities of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and dreamers who dare to envision a better world. Much like Dr. King, Hope is compassionate and advocates for fairness, standing up for her classmates when she sees bullying or injustice. Hope speaks confidently in front of her peers, voicing her ideas and solutions to make her school a kinder place. As a dreamer, Hope is never satisfied with just accepting things as they are; she imagines a future where everyone feels safe, valued, and heard. W. T. Moore is proud to salute Hope Abernathy as an MLK Dreamer and Doer because her determination to help others makes her a true leader and inspiration to those around her.

### **Kafele Wright**

Kafele Wright is someone who not only envisions a better world, but actively works to bring that vision into reality within the school and community. Kafele is passionate, proactive, and deeply committed to both the ideals of justice and the practical steps required to make change. He dreams of a school environment where bullying, discrimination, and inequality do not exist, and where every student feels valued and empowered to succeed. Kafele is compassionate and encourages those around him to be the best they can be by setting a positive example. Like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Kafele possesses a deep sense of idealism and shows great interest in topics like racial and social equality. As a doer, Kafele takes concrete steps to bring about change by being an active participant in his school community. W. T. Moore proudly salutes Kafele Wright for using his leadership, compassion, and commitment to justice to make a difference.

## **Oak Ridge Elementary School**

### **Marlayka Washington**

This student was selected because she exemplifies kindness, patience, and is academically successful in her subject area. She is often giving beyond what is expected to uplift others and make a meaningful impact.

### **Prince Williams**

Prince Williams' actions reflect the values of what Dr. MLK, Jr. represents. He treats his friends equally and has respect for all of his peers and teachers. He excels academically and has actually contributed to the community.

## **Pineview Elementary School**

### **Nina Gurley**

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Nina Gurley and her exceptional qualities as a student. Nina exemplifies kindness, possesses a strong work ethic, and demonstrates deep commitment to her academic pursuits. It is truly admirable to see her take pride in her high grades while always showing kindness to her classmates. This behavior not only fosters a positive and supportive classroom atmosphere but also highlights her dedication to both personal and academic growth. Nina is also an active participant in our school plays and the stem summer camp, where she embraces leadership roles and develops skills in directing musical performances. Her exemplary conduct and impressive academic achievements have a significant and positive influence on our school community, making her a role model for her peers. For these reasons and many more, we are proud to honor Nina Gurley with the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award at Pineview Elementary School.

### **Aniya Jackson**

I am delighted to select Aniya Jackson for this esteemed recognition. Aniya has demonstrated remarkable academic abilities allowing her to thrive both in the classroom and beyond. She is a dedicated and persistent scholar, and her commitment to her studies has consistently resulted in outstanding grades. In addition to her academic achievements, Aniya's positive attitude toward her peers sets her apart as an exceptional classmate and friend. She naturally takes on leadership roles in classroom assignments and group projects, working collaboratively with everyone. Her science teacher noted, "She's a great academic leader and respectful young lady" when asked to describe her. For these reasons and many more, we are proud to present Aniya Jackson with the MLK Dreamers and Doers Award at Pineview Elementary School.

## **John G. Riley Elementary School**

### **Ty'Kerion Anderson**

Ty'Kerion is an enthusiastic and dedicated student with a passion for learning and helping others. A straight-A student, his favorite subject is math, where he enjoys the challenge of solving equations and learning new strategies to understand numbers. Ty'Kerion is an active participant in school life and exemplifies leadership by offering help to classmates with a smile and kind words, making learning more enjoyable for everyone. In addition to his academic achievements, Ty'Kerion has a deep interest in football. As he prepares to play for his middle school team, he looks up to NFL stars like Tyreek Hill and Justin Jefferson and aspires to one day play in the league. He believes in teamwork, partisanship, and helping others, both on and off the field. He believes in making a positive impact. He has a special concern for those less fortunate and hopes to one day help homeless people find homes and the care they need. With a bright future ahead, Ty'Kerion is excited to continue pursuing his passions and helping those around him. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or at home, his dedication, leadership, and kindness make him a valuable friend, teammate, and student. His teachers are confident he is destined to become a wonderful young man, and they can't wait to see how he continues to grow.

### **George Davis**

George is a student who loves to learn and help others. He is currently doing well in school and his favorite subject is math. He really enjoys how the lessons build on one another and the concepts get easier. He says he is fortunate to have amazing math teachers who make the lessons fun and help him understand the material. In addition to school, he recently started playing football, which runs through his blood—many of his family members played. He is learning that football isn't just about strength, but also about having fun and working as a team. He looks up to his Uncle Troy Davis, who played for the Saints, and he admires the discipline and hard work it takes to succeed in the NFL, where he hopes to play one day, because he loves the game and the values it teaches. His family, including his dad and Uncle, always help him stay positive, and their encouragement keeps him going. George believes in the power of kindness and that sharing with others and making them happy is one of the best rewards. He is proud of himself because he works hard, tries his best, and always aims to be the best version of himself, whether it's in school, sports, or in life.

## **Roberts Elementary School**

### **Sloan Swann**

Sloan Swann has a passion for helping others and being a positive role model to her fellow students. She is a hard worker in the classroom and constantly strives to learn more by asking questions and paying attention to the details in her assignments. Her friends describe her as very caring and funny. She is always looking out for the underdog and making



them feel included. Sloan was also asked, along with her little brother, to help design tennis shoes by Nike. The shoe is designed to bring awareness to those students with autism. She also helped her parents during her summer vacation with their nonprofit, Little Boy Blue Foundation, to host a summer camp for students with autism at her elementary school. Overall, Sloan is an outstanding role model who will go far with her positive outlook on life and desire to help others. Whatever career that Sloan chooses in the future, she knows that it will be helping someone in need.

### **Karter Johnson**

Karter Johnson embodies Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's ideals and principles through his compassion, leadership, and academic achievement. Karter is always looking to help others in the classroom or in his community. When other students are struggling in class, he takes the initiative to help them. Additionally, he offers to lend a helping hand to his teachers and expects nothing in return. On the weekends, Karter volunteers with his grandparents at Second Harvest. His honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness are seen and respected by his peers. Although new to our school this year, Karter has made friends with everyone in our class. He is a wonderful influence on his peers and leads by example, helping others to make better choices. When faced with conflict, Karter stands up for what is right in a respectful manner. He has been in the Gifted program since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. While math is his favorite subject, he excels in all subjects. Karter doesn't know yet what he would like to do when he grows up, but we know he will thrive in whatever he chooses to do. Karter's character shines brightly, and we are proud to have him represent Roberts Elementary School.

## **Lillian C. Ruediger Elementary School**

### **Malik Moore**

Malik Moore is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ruediger Elementary. He is always trying his best and will not settle until he is sure that he has given everything that he has in him. Malik demonstrates all of the characteristics of a well-rounded young man. He is always willing to lend a helping hand and is very respectful and kind to everyone he encounters. He is responsible and motivates other students to work hard. Through all of his dedication to education, Malik has always maintained A/B Honor Roll. He likes to read and stays on top of his studies.

### **Nivea Peterson**

Nivea is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ruediger Elementary. She is a straight "A" student and a silent leader. Nivea loves to take on a challenge and is really good at listening to others and contributing to discussions. Nivea is the kind of person that looks for ways to help people any way possible and you would want her on your team or group. Nivea contributes to all situations without being the loudest or most outspoken person. She takes time to sit back, listen, and process things before acting.

## **Sabal Palm Community Partnership School**

### **Kayleigh Foushee**

Kayleigh is a leader who focuses on academics. Kayleigh does not give up and pushes herself to be the best. If she does not understand, she advocates for herself by asking questions and letting the teacher know what she does not understand. She has done an excellent job of maintaining outstanding grades in this rigorous program of study. Her favorite subject is English, as she benefits from reading chapter books for fluency and knowledge. Being a stellar student, she consistently exhibits leadership qualities by helping other students, asking questions, and coming prepared for class. Her quiet still voice and respect have been a model for the class and the entire grade. She is willing to go above and beyond to advance her studies and ensure that she can be the best student with respect and a determination to succeed.

### **Michael Hills**

Michael has met and exceeded the expectations of a 5th-grade student this year. His academics have soared because of his phenomenal work ethic. He is constantly asking questions to expand his knowledge and is ready to take on any challenge that is given to him. Michael has even stepped up and began helping other classmates with their work when they begin to struggle. Around campus, Michael is known as a very polite and well-mannered student because of how he conducts himself. He is kind to everyone he meets and makes everyone new to campus feel welcome. Michael's hard work and dedication have been a bright light in the classroom and because of his willingness to shine, he is now a model student in the school and of his peers.

## **Sealey Elementary Math and Science Magnet School**

### **Josiah Mathewos**

Josiah has attended Sealey Elementary School since he was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and the mark he has made on Sealey in those years will last forever. Josiah is a valued member of the Sealey "WSSS Morning News," appearing on our screens every morning to lead us in the Pledge as well as give us updates on the day ahead. He was the very first student in the whole school to finish ALL of the SSYRA Books for the 2024-2025 school year, which is an impressive accomplishment as the list has 15 books on it! He is well known by all students at Sealey due to this accomplishment, but also because he was

chosen by them in a vote involving all of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade to represent them on Student Council as Vice President. When it comes to academics, Josiah is an extremely dedicated student who gets his work done and takes his time to ensure it is top quality, leading him to earn many “A Honor Roll” awards. In the future, he is interested in going to a prestigious university, and perhaps even becoming an engineer! Josiah is studious, but he also has many extracurricular/athletic interests. He enjoys playing football, basketball, and soccer in his free time. Sealey is proud to nominate Josiah as one of our Dreamers and Doers!

### **Sha’Relle Courtney**

Throughout my 14-year career as an educator I’ve stumbled upon a few highly exceptional students. This year, as a fifth-grade teacher, I’ve met yet another one. Sha’Relle Courtney, born November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, graced Sealey Elementary with her arrival in 2019 as a kindergarten student. She is a leader throughout our school. She works on the morning news crew, is a safety patrol member, and is part of Sealey’s Gifted and Talented Program. Her critical thinking skills and tenacity for excellence are just a few of the characteristics that led to the selection of her for this highly distinguished honor. She is kind, and has a great degree of compassion toward others. As she grows, she will continue to develop into a key contributor to our society.

## **Springwood Elementary School**

### **Malik Williams**

Malik is a remarkable student whose commitment to academic excellence and positive citizenship has earned him this nomination for the MLK Dreamers and Doers award. Malik has consistently demonstrated exceptional work ethic and is a model citizen at school and in his community. He is not only a bright young mind but his willingness to help others highlights his compassion and leadership qualities. He is always a team player and ready to use his numerous talents for the good of the cause. As a student in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program at our school, Malik has an unwavering commitment to learning and knowledge. He strives for success in everything he does and shows true perseverance with any challenge. Malik is an embodiment of academic excellence and an inspiration to all who know him!

### **Aniyah Campbell**

Aniyah is an extremely kind and well-behaved student. She consistently follows classroom rules and adheres to Springwood’s school expectations of being respectful, responsible, safe and kind. She is a leader among her peers and sets the example of how a good student should carry themselves daily. Aniyah exemplifies characteristics in line with the beliefs of Dr. King. She is a leader and a positive role model. She’s compassionate, hard-working, has a great attitude and loves helping others. She aspires to one day become a nurse and will be successful in all of her future endeavors!

## **Kate Sullivan Elementary School**

### **Ari Nims**

Ari is a student who displays a commitment to kindness and is a positive role model to her fellow classmates. She is dedicated to her education, abides by our school rules and respects teachers and others in authority. As I see her interacting with her fellow classmates, she always has a beautiful smile on her face and exudes positive energy. I wholeheartedly recommend Ari for Dreamers and Doers. Ari consistently displays positive behavior, which not only elevates student morale but also inspires other students to perform at their best, even in the face of challenges. She embodies the characteristics of Dr. Martin Luther King and would represent Kate Sullivan well as a Dreamer and Doer.

### **Ryan Davis**

I am honored to nominate Ryan Davis for the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers and Doers Award. Ryan embodies the essence of leadership and commitment, consistently inspiring those around him with his unwavering positive attitude and dedication to uplifting others. He is a true example of compassion, kindness, and empathy, always going above and beyond to assist peers and support his community. With a remarkable attitude that motivates everyone in his presence, Ryan is a role model both within the classroom and beyond. His actions reflect the values championed by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., demonstrating a commitment to making a difference and fostering a culture of inclusion and hope. Ryan’s selflessness and exemplary conduct make him a deserving recipient of this award.

## **Woodville K-8 School**

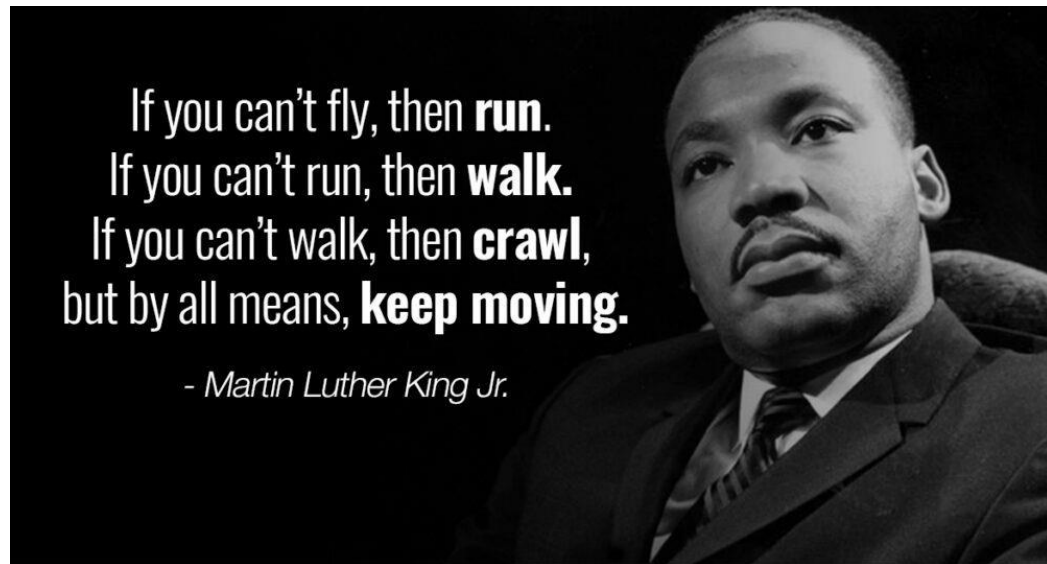
### **Victor James**

Victor James is a sweet boy that embodies the qualities of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is a hard worker and loves to help when given the opportunity to do so. Victor is also a good big brother figure to younger students on campus. He is well-liked by the teachers and students alike. His compassion towards others stands out above his peers when watching him interact with those around him. His kindness stretches to people of all color, age, and ability level. He is also the first one to go and comfort others when they are sad or hurting. Victor always has a smile and a hug for everyone he sees. He always

goes above and beyond to help others follow the rules and meet expectations. Outside the classroom, he likes playing sports with his peers. When thinking of all the other potential candidates for this award, Victor James stands out above the rest.

### **Elijah James**

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way,” is a very powerful quote, one that reminds me of Elijah James who mirrors the sentiments on any given day. As a young man in this society, it is often hard to participate in small acts of kindness and still be considered “cool”, but Elijah does not allow that to stop him. He can often be found offering explanations on concepts, sharing notes or study materials with absent students, clarifying doubts during group work, or providing feedback on ideas. Essentially, he utilizes his individual strengths to support the needs of his peers in completing small tasks. Elijah is easily recognized as a young man who recognizes that small deeds or acts of kindness when they are purposeful can create a huge impact on his life and the lives of others. Additionally, Elijah shares with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. traits such as determination which is expressed when he strives to do his best academically. He submits assignments in a timely manner and he participates in class. He also has a quiet spirit that can often be mistaken as a weakness, but like Dr. King, it shows he has the kind of self-confidence that gives him the courage to know and believe in his own abilities.



## **Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers**

### **Dreamers and Doers**

### **\*Middle Schools\***

#### Elizabeth Cobb Middle School

##### **Aliyah Hawkins**

Aliyah is a FORCE of leadership and positivity energy. Aliyah is not only a Beta co-president this year, she is a returning member of the award-winning Black History Brain Bowl Team. She is a student who leads by example when adult eyes are and are not watching. She is kind and patient and wants so much good onto others. Aliyah sets the tone at our beta meetings with her sunny disposition and desire to always highlight members who are going above and beyond. She is a joy to teach and work with and I am truly so inspired by her commitment to being the best her she can be. She is a living embodiment of the beta motto, let us lead by serving others.

##### **Mohamad Alhalabi**

Mohamad is a calm and steady presence in every room he finds himself in. He is kind, and patient, and truly leads by example. As a member and treasurer of the beta club, Mohamad is always one of the first to volunteer for our service projects. His enthusiasm to serve others and learn from every experience is unmatched. While calm, cool, and collected, Mohamad is often sought by both members in beta and his peers in class to work with. He gets along with everyone while also remaining focused and holding those around him accountable to the task at hand. What a joy it truly is to have Mohamad here at Cobb.

## Deerlake Middle School

### **Chioma Onuoha**

Chioma Onuoha is an eighth grader attending Deerlake Middle School who shares the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr. She is a straight A student, a hard worker, and is a strong believer in showing love and respect. She does so in her day-to-day interactions with others, as well as in her position on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership team. She always tries her hardest to encourage and uplift others and puts her best effort into everything she does. Chioma is well rounded, as she is the editor-in-chief of the yearbook staff on campus, won this year's school spelling bee, consistently attends and helps at Restoration Place Church and is currently learning to speak Spanish--to reach a wider range of people-- amongst many other achievements. In the past two years, she has won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the chemistry category at the District Science Fair, as well as various math awards. Chioma is involved in the Student Library Advisory Council, as well as the Beta Club. When she is not at school, Chioma enjoys reading, playing the piano, making crafts for her friends' birthdays, and spending time with God and her family.

### **Kei'Iijah-Shari Merritt**

Kei'Iijah-Shari Merritt is an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade student at Deerlake Middle School. Affectionately known as "KK" by her family and peers, she is a phenomenal example of kindness and generosity. She is always the first student to help a teacher or friend in need offering words of encouragement. A leader on campus, Kei'Iijah is a major contributor to the Unity Day and Bucks United initiatives promoting dialogue and sportsmanship among the student body. She is kind and a wonderful leader to not only her class but to students and staff around campus. She dreams to finish high school and give back by pursuing a career in Education and return to work in the Deerlake ESE classroom.

## Fairview Middle School

### **Lyndsey Carter**

Lyndsey Carter, without a doubt, is a leader in the classroom. This student is extremely well-organized and dedicated to her classes. Lyndsey just joined the IB-prep program this year and has adapted to the level of rigor and work expectations seamlessly. She is eager to be involved in activities and be engaged in classroom tasks. Each day, she shows up prepared and ready to take on any academic challenges presented to her. I have seen her be an advocate for her peers and demonstrate respect within a group. Lyndsey represents what it takes to be a leader and positive role model for others.

### **Ahmad Francis**

Ahmad Francis attitude exemplifies a student who is passionate about his education and success." Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education." This quote from Martin Luther King is what Ahmad is all about. Ahmad is always assisting other in the classroom and at home. Ahmad has worked very hard in school, which is why he strives to make the honor roll each year. He is inspired by his parents, who work very hard to make sure Ahmad has all he needs. Ahmad is extremely friendly, compassionate, fun to be around and an all-around great young man! All in all, Mr. Francis is a hard worker and an outstanding representation of Martin Luther King's famous quote. His character emulates the goal of a true scholar.

## Fort Braden School

### **Gilbert Bergquist**

Gilbert is a student who enjoys a variety of extracurricular activities--theatre, Jiu Jitsu, and music. While juggling these commitments, he has done an outstanding job focusing on academics for the past three years, maintaining a high GPA. His favorite subjects are P.E. because he likes being active and science because he likes learning about the world around him. Someone Gilbert looks up to is Markiplier due to his philanthropic ventures--Gilbert says he strives to contribute to good causes that are constructive and helpful for those in need. Gilbert is someone who stands strong in his beliefs, is not afraid to speak up, and is a leader in kindness among his peers. Additionally, Gilbert is a talented writer who focuses heavily on the different ways to express his ideas and meticulously edits.

### **Briana Alvarenga-Aguilar**

Briana spends her free time playing volleyball, basketball, and soccer; additionally, she is having a great time exploring journalism as a part of Yearbook. Throughout the past three years, she has managed to remain on the A-B Honor Roll every quarter. She says that the person she looks up to the most is her sister, Gabriela; she explains the reason why is because her sister faces trials and tribulations with upmost resiliency, which inspires Briana to follow in her sister's footsteps. In seventh grade, the Classroom to Courtroom field trip really spoke to Briana; she enjoyed seeing the diversity among all the different roles within the justice system, and she says this trip inspired her to become a lawyer when she grows because she wants to help people. She exemplifies the qualities necessary for such a profession through her commitment to her values, her leadership, and her dedication to altruism.



## Griffin Middle School

### **James Johnson**

James Johnson is a mild and meek student in which his peers mention him to be a “humble helper” within the 8th grade class. He is always willing to provide a hand of assistance to his teachers and his peers. James has participated with the GMS 21st Century Afterschool Program since he has been a student at Griffin and serves as a Program peer mentor. He is always willing to help his peers in any way possible and even in his quiet stance, does not hesitate to offer his assistance when needed. Throughout James’ tenure at Griffin Middle School, he has always excelled academically and made the honor roll every 9 weeks. James is an active member at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. Because of James ability to provide service to others with a humble spirit, the Griffin Middle School family felt that he embodied the values and characteristics of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. It is without hesitation that the faculty, staff, and student body nominate James as a MLK Dreamer and Doer.

### **Darryl’asia Morrell**

Darryl’asia Morrell is one of Griffin Middle School’s superstar students. She is a member of the Ladies Tiger Basketball Team, the Griffin Middle School Drumline, and currently serves as an 8th Grade Representative with Student Council. Both her teachers and peers nominated her for this honor because she serves without conviction and complaint. She does not flinch to help students both in her grade level and the younger students who have come to Griffin. She personally mentors a set of sixth graders that are involved in team sports. On top of participating in school sports, Darryl’asia has participated in Tallahassee youth sports playing flag football for the City of Tallahassee. Academically, Darryl’asia holds a 4.0 grade point average. The faculty and students love her willingness to provide herself for assistance wherever needed without hesitation. Darryl’asia is a quiet force at Griffin and embodies the traits and characteristics of Dr. Martin Luther King. It is for these reasons, the Griffin Middle School Faculty, Staff, and Students have nominated her as one our MLK Dreamer and Doer.

## William J. Montford Middle School

### **Acardio Herring**

Acardio Herring, embodies everything that a teacher and coach would want in a student-athlete. He is diligent and studious in the classroom and represents the Mustangs off-campus with his perseverance. His extracurricular time is spent playing football and running track. Because of his dedication, leadership, and positive outlook, he embodies the principles and values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Whatever your life’s work is, do it well.” Math is his favorite subject, and he has maintained a 3.9 GPA while participating in two sports in middle school. Because he enjoys working with numbers, he hopes to become an accountant someday. He looks up to his parents because they have supported him throughout my life. He has learned from his parents to set a good example and put in a lot of effort to reach his future objectives. As a scholar and student-athlete, he also looked up to the late, great Kobe Bryant since he was a very diligent worker who had a terrific mentality and fortitude. Acardio supports his teammates in times of need; his passion for athletics and academic success will enable him to fulfill his future ambitions. He aspires to please his parents and teachers by prioritizing his studies over athletics. In conclusion, Acardio” possesses the ability for greatness, not in terms of fame but in terms of greatness.”

### **Andrea Jimenez-Martinez**

Andrea Jimenez-Martinez is a highly regarded eighth-grade student at Montford Middle School. Her teachers speak highly of her due to her positive attitude and warm smile, which never fail to greet others. Not only does she excel academically with a GPA of 3.9, but she also highlights her talent in sports as a skilled soccer, cross-country, and track athlete. In addition, Andrea dedicates her time to volunteering at her church, specifically in food services. She truly embodies the beliefs and ideals of leadership, a great attitude, and helping others, as expressed in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's quote: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'". Andrea is an exceptional representative of these values. Her enthusiasm for volunteering and helping others truly exemplifies the spirit of service. When asked about her favorite subject, Andrea enthusiastically declares that math holds a special place in her heart. She draws inspiration from her hardworking parents, who have played a crucial role in guiding her to where she is today. Looking ahead, Andrea aspires to become a lawyer or a judge. Law is an essential part of life, and I am confident that she will make a positive difference in the lives of the people she represents in the court of justice. She will make an excellent lawyer one day!

## R. Frank Nims Middle School

### **Caleb McMillian**

Caleb McMillian is an extremely intelligent, talented and dedicated eighth grade student at R. Frank Nims Middle School. Caleb has a heart for education and frequently is an uplifting resource for other students around him. Caleb is extremely intelligent, always asking questions and seeking answers to tough questions. Caleb is a leader amongst his peers, frequently modeling both the behavior of an excellent student and assisting his classmates in their own work. Caleb is a part of the R. Frank Nims Pre-Law Magnet Program, a one-of-a-kind program where students learn the law, study for and take the rigorous

campus BAR exam, and become campus attorneys, representing other students who receive referrals. Caleb embodies Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership skills as well as MLK's sense of justice and morality. Caleb McMillian would be an incredibly deserving recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamer and Doers Award.

### **Takai Coats**

Takai Coats is an outstanding student who consistently excels in all her academic pursuits. She approaches each day in the classroom with enthusiasm and determination, and her academic record is a testament to her hard work. Whether she's writing insightful essays, or contributing to thoughtful classroom discussions, Takai consistently demonstrates a strong drive for learning and excellence. Her focus and dedication inspire those around her to elevate their own efforts. However, what truly sets Takai apart is not just her academic prowess but her remarkable character. She stands out as a leader in our school, as soon to be a co-captain on the cheerleading team. She is humble, kind and respectful to everyone she interacts with – peers and teachers alike. Her positivity and maturity create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere in every classroom and school event she participates in. Takai embodies the spirit of Dr. King's teaching in her daily actions and interactions. She is an academically driven, responsible, and compassionate individual who consistently strives to make a positive impact on those around her. Takai embodies the qualities that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for – diligence, integrity, and a commitment to making the world a better place.

## **Augusta Raa Middle School**

### **Gregory Kelly**

Gregory is a model representative! He works hard at everything he is involved in, which includes being an anchor on the Raa Morning Show, he is a member of SGA, he is a member of the yearly Raa musical, he is an A/B Honor Roll Student, and he plans on attending college. Gregory is a role model for others and we are proud to have him as a part of Raa.

### **Delilah Sills**

Delilah is the perfect example of leadership. She is an anchor of the Raa Morning Show, she is an academic achiever, she is a member of the Brain Bowl team, A member of the photography club, Girls Circle, she loves to read, and aspires to be an author or actress. She is an A/B honor roll student and dreams of attending Harvard, UCLA or FAMU. We are fortunate Delilah is a member of our school.

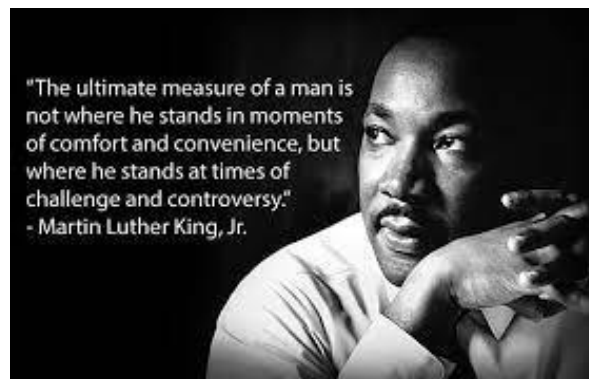
## **Swift Creek Middle School**

### **Zachary Dewan**

This year, Swift Creek Middle School has chosen Zachary Dewan as one of the representatives for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers and Doers recognition. Zach is the epitome of kindness on the campus of Swift Creek. He consistently looks for opportunities to help his peers as well as helping his teachers and other staff any way he can. Zach is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and works hard in the classroom to be an academic leader for those around him. He is also a member of the boys soccer team which also gives him an opportunity to lead on the pitch with a great attitude. Zach is a member of the Swift Creek community that exudes positivity and is someone that students clearly look up to for knowing the right thing to do. Swift Creek is honored to have Zach represent our school as a 2024-2025 Dreamer and Doer.

### **Tess Johnson**

Tess Johnson is an outstanding student at Swift Creek Middle School and is well deserving to represent the school as a 2024-2025 Dreamer and Doer. Tess is a positive role model for peers in your classes as well as all students on campus. Tess consistently lends a helping hand to students on campus who are hearing impaired and is always willing to help teachers make sure all students are treated with kindness. Tess radiates joy and positivity and that attitude impacts those around her. She treats everyone with kindness and respect and is an amazing leader for peers to follow. We are proud of Tess and happy to nominate her as a representative of Dr. King's traits within our school and community.



# **\*High School\***

## **Lawton Chiles High School**

### **Parker Heard**

Parker Heard is a senior at Lawton Chiles High School, and she is the daughter of Ronnie and Toya Heard. As a dedicated student, Parker has pursued the most challenging courses available during her time at Chiles. She exemplifies focus, determination, and discipline. This scholar has achieved numerous accolades both within the school and in the broader Tallahassee community. She has served in numerous leadership roles such as being the founding member and President of The Breakfast Book Club at Chiles, and has been an officer in the Anchor Club for two years. She has also been the Social Media Manager for the Girl Flo Project and the Moral Officer for the Dance Marathon at Chiles, which recently raised over \$24,752 alone on Statement Day. In responding to the essay question for the Dreamers and Doers application, Parker commented that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "understood America would be a better place, if we were all judged by the content of our character. Dr. King passed a torch for each person to carry and light the way on our journey to mutual respect, acceptance, and freedom." Parker has definitely been inspired by Dr. King's dream. She, like Dr. King, has a strong faith and ability to work for the common good of her community and school. We are proud to present Miss Parker Heard as our choice for the 2024-2025 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers and Doers Award.

### **Avery Harris**

Avery Harris is a graduating senior at Lawton Chiles High School and is the son of Arlecia and Avery Harris Sr. Like Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Avery is quite a distinguishable young man by several accounts; he is a well-respected student-athlete of impeccable moral character and is a well-rounded young person who takes on challenges for the greater good of humanity. Avery is a young man who like Reverend Dr. King, is engaged in making a difference in the quality of life for others. At Chiles he is a member of the Basketball Team, and has always strived for excellence in his AP and Dual Enrollment courses. Outside of school, Mr. Harris has also been a member of Summer Student Volunteers, where he has served as Vice President, the Jack and Jill Club, which has served as the Historian, as well as a volunteer with the New Mount Zion Cares Program. In his Dreamers and Doers essay, Avery commented on Dr. King's effect on others in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Mr. Harris was moved by the part in his speech when Dr. King said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character". That really impacted how he thinks of others and who he wants to serve in his community. Avery believes the way Dr. King did that "we are all just humans though we look, talk, and live different. We are all still humans." There are many changes on the horizon for Avery as he concludes his secondary education and has his sights set on higher education with the intent to change people's lives. We are very proud to present Avery Harris as our choice for the 2024-2025 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers and Doers Award.

## **Amos P. Godby High School**

### **Tolulope Binitie**

Tolulope Binitie's modus operandi is pursuing higher education and helping others. He is smart in all of his academic endeavors and excels when it comes to meeting expectations. Along with being disciplined, Tolu is extremely inquisitive and enjoys learning about all kinds of topics in a variety of subjects. He is a deep thinker and loves to see how things are connected and apply to his life. Despite being this year's valedictorian and skipping a grade in elementary school, he is extremely humble and offers to help students when he sees that they need help understanding a concept. Everything that Tolu does is rooted in compassion as he is a friend to many, listens to his peer's problems, tutors those who struggle, and frequently volunteers to help teachers as well as those in the community. You truly cannot find a kinder person; he is always looking for ways to help others and you never see him without a smile. His great attitude about school and life in general as well as having a servant's heart makes him a positive role model for others. Tolu has served as an officer for Godby's National Honor Society and is the current student representative for Leon County Schools.

### **Ebony Petit-Bois**

Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better." Ebony Petit-Bois, a senior at Amos P. Godby High School, is the embodiment of this profound quote. In a world of conformism, followers, and those that stand in the background, we find that some act as horses--the leader, and those who act in the manner of a chariot, which are the followers. Ebony has always been a horse in her actions; a leader in everything that she undertakes. She leads by example to her peers, highlighting her intelligence, strength, compassion, and humility. Ebony is an amazing student-athlete. She is an academic scholar, taking rigorous classes

to prepare for her future all while excelling in various activities. Whether it is qualifying for District, Regional, or State Championships in Girl Weightlifting, setting personal and school records, swimming with our Varsity Swim team, leading the Godby Blue Flame Dancers, or volunteering with the Student Government Association, Ebony knows the true meaning of leaving a legacy. She exudes excellence, and with every step, she sounds off to the old tune “May the work I’ve done, speak for me!” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived a life that held students like Ebony in mind. Ebony pays the works and actions of her ancestors forward by legacy living and ensuring that the unborn has a high bar to reach, but a blueprint to follow.

## **Leon High School**

### **Heaven Ash**

Heaven Ash is the President of the Black Student Union, and the Captain of the Black History Brain Bowl Team. Heaven is a 12th grader who plans on attending Florida A&M University. She is highly intelligent with a 3.5 GPA, and she is the leader I count on to keep these organizations in order. Her intelligence, plus leadership skills, along with communication skills, and hard work, makes her a reflection of Dr. King, and I know he would be proud of her.

### **Samuel Lawson**

Sam Lawson is the current Band Captain for The Marching Redcoats. In this role, Sam has revolutionized the use of our social media platforms and helped create a terrifically safe space for students to come be a part of. He believes that all students have a home in the band program and helps ensure that everyone regardless of gender, orientation, or life views has a safe and comfortable experience with the Leon Band Program. In addition to his work with the band, Sam has also helped develop some of the curriculum for the Leon Black History Assembly in the past several years. He has continued to support his school and community each time he takes the stage. This young man is the epitome of what it means to have tradition, pride, and excellence and absolutely outlines the morals and standards of Dr. King.

## **Lincoln High School**

### **Tyler McKenzie**

Tyler McKenzie is an excellent candidate for the Martin Luther King, Dreamer, and Doers Award. He is a young man who shows integrity, responsibility, and dedication. He has maintained outstanding grades while managing a Language Impairment. He is a leader in the Junior ROTC program at Lincoln. Tyler participates in the National Honors Society and volunteers. He would like to attend college, pursue an Aeronautical Degree, and then enter the United States Air Force as a pilot. Tyler has a kind heart and cares so much for his community.

### **Taylor Mile**

I have known Taylor for almost three years; during the time I have spent getting to know her, I must say I admire her dedication and determination. She truly blossomed while attending Lincoln High School. Taylor is always positive and cares about her classmates. She has maintained a level of excellence in her academic coursework. She is a hard worker and puts forth her best effort in the classroom. Taylor was diagnosed with Type One Diabetes in 2017. Although she has faced health challenges, she participates in the cross-country and track teams. Taylor is a National Honor Society, Green Club, and Crochet Club member. Taylor wants to attend college and pursue a degree in Law.

## **James S. Rickards High School**

### **Aniyah Franklin**

Aniyah Franklin embodies Dr. King’s principles through her commitment to leadership, compassion, and positive change. As a dual-enrolled senior and captain of the bowling team, she exemplifies dedication and responsibility. Aniyah is actively involved in her community, using her talents in photography and flyer design to raise awareness for causes like menstrual equity through the ‘Girl Flo’ club. Aniyah has also initiated the Beta Delta Sigma Rhoer Club community service project of creating and donating Blessing bags to teens in the Promise zone area. Her positive attitude, academic excellence, and willingness to help others make her an outstanding role model and advocate for equality and kindness, carrying forward Dr. King’s vision for a more compassionate world.

### **Issa Allison**

Issa Okikiola Allison is a well-known senior in the International Baccalaureate Program at James S. Rickards High School. Despite the immense course load, he engages himself in numerous extracurriculars that he believes in. Martin Luther King Junior is one of his role models, inspiring the speech that led him to being elected as the Florida District (including the state of Florida, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Grand Cayman Islands) of Key Club International’s Treasurer. As District Treasurer, he represents 22,838 high school students with 220,000+ community service hours. He grants scholarships to deserving



members through the \$1.3 million-dollar Endowment Fund that he maintains. He serves as Rickards' President of the National Honor Society, President of Speech & Debate Club, and Specialized Conference Director in Model United Nations, where he has won 3 Best Delegate awards. He was sent to Florida American Legion Boys State this past summer as a representative of Rickards High. At Boys State, he was elected Chief of Staff of the Executive Branch and was hand-picked by Mayor John Dailey as the sole delegate speaking at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Tallahassee City Commission meeting. After his high school experiences, Issa knows he will graduate magna cum laude with an IB diploma, before attending college to shape the world around him into a better place.

## SAIL High School

### **Kelsey Drinks**

Kelsey Drinks is a well-rounded student who excels in the classroom and possesses leadership qualities both in and out of school. She is very involved in SAIL's SGA (Student Government Association) class and has worked tirelessly to plan and implement a school clothing swap. As an academically superb student, Kelsey embraces all challenges that have manifested in her life and has the innate ability to overcome these obstacles with poise, grace, and dignity. Furthermore, she is a natural-born leader who is a hard worker in all aspects of her life. She shares positive messages and insight through her social media presence and was selected by SAIL's staff to attend the Leon County Schools District Training utilizing social media, superbly representing our site. She always makes herself available to be helpful to others as evidenced by giving out her contact information to prospective students if they have questions, comments, or potential concerns about SAIL. In a nutshell, Kelsey exemplifies the positive nature of SAIL's culture and student body. We have all the confidence in her next logical steps in life, by continuing her optimistic endeavors.

### **Victory Klutsey**

Victory Klutsey is a very kind, hardworking, and overall wonderful student. Not only that, but he also epitomizes the word *helpful*. Victory was born in Ghana, West Africa, and came to America when he was 9 years old. The first word he learned to speak was, "yes," and here we are with him still saying yes. He said yes when asked to volunteer his time by helping in the front office every morning and doing so with verve, tact, and aplomb. Victory said yes to higher education by embracing academics, as evidenced by his solid grades and being dually enrolled at Lively in the industrial pipe fitting certification program. Victory said yes to creating a fitness club for students at SAIL High School and leads by example. He said yes to helping others with social interactions by possessing the ability to have a positive effect on students and helping mold them into positive, inclusive, caring students, which nurtures the positive environment we have at SAIL High School. With a loaded name like Victory, he certainly has lived up to his name by being victorious in all his current endeavors, and without a doubt, all that lies ahead in his future.



## **\*Special Schools & Sites\***

### Florida A&M University Developmental Research School

#### **Stanley Hill, III**

Stanley Hill, III, a 4th-grade student at FAMU DRS, is an exceptional young leader celebrated for his positivity and contagious smile. As a nominee for the *Great Attitude* category, Stanley exemplifies the power of joy, resilience, and kindness. His ability to uplift others fosters a supportive atmosphere for his classmates and teachers alike. In the classroom,

Stanley's inquisitive mind shines as he dives into new topics with enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and exploring creative solutions. His love for learning is matched by his willingness to assist peers, always offering a cheerful and cooperative attitude. Stanley's impact extended to the FAMU DRS Freedom School Program, where his energy and enthusiasm inspired his peers to embrace unity and personal growth. His contributions left a lasting mark, making the program even more meaningful for all involved. Even when faced with challenges, Stanley's optimism and resilience shine through, demonstrating his unwavering determination. His positive outlook reflects not only his character but also his ability to inspire those around him. Stanley Hill, III, truly embodies the essence of a great attitude, making him a well-deserving nominee for this honor.

### **Raven Simmons**

Raven Simmons, a dedicated 12th-grade student at FAMU DRS, is a shining example of exceptional leadership and determination. As a nominee for the Leadership category, Raven's forward-thinking mindset, solution-oriented approach, and unwavering commitment to excellence set her apart as a role model among her peers. Raven's leadership journey began in middle school, where she was elected Student Government Association (SGA) president and has continued to serve in that capacity throughout high school. This year, she serves as the SGA president and holds the esteemed title of Miss Senior on the Royal Court, exemplifying her ability to lead with grace, integrity, and dedication. A forward-thinker who is always "about her business," Raven inspires her peers with her positivity, kindness, and encouraging spirit. She consistently seeks mentorship, demonstrating her commitment to personal and professional growth, and she uses her insights to uplift others. Her dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment within the school community reflects her genuine care for her classmates. In addition to her leadership roles, Raven is an academic trailblazer. As an early-admit university dual enrollment scholar, she excels in her studies while balancing her responsibilities with poise. Raven Simmons embodies what it means to lead with vision and purpose, making her a well-deserving nominee for the Leadership Recognition award.

## **Florida State University School**

### **Afolabomi Ibilaiye**

Afolabomi is a natural leader both inside and outside the classroom. Academically, he excels in our Math Accelerated Program (MAP) as well as our other coursework. He is also active in our school community as a member of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS), art club, and Singing Seminoles. Most impactful, though, is who Afolabomi is as a person. He is the student who is always quietly being helpful: cleaning up something you left behind, organizing materials for an absent student, helping a student open the stuck zipper on his backpack without asking for any recognition. He is incredibly well liked by his peers with no shortage of friends who adore him, but also always willing to reach out to someone new or be there for someone in need of a partner. He has the perfect balance of empathy, heart, and ideas to be a "dreamer" as well as the problem solving, critical thinking skills, and motivation to act to be a "doer."

### **Legend Sands**

Legend Sands is a quiet, unexpected leader who faces academic challenges with persistence and self-advocacy. Always seeking to understand and improve, he works tirelessly to succeed, even when things are difficult, demonstrating a remarkable growth mindset. What truly sets Legend apart is his empathy and thoughtfulness. He consistently demonstrates kindness and understanding, whether supporting his peers or offering help. He pays attention to the small details and is considerate in how he helps others, making him a trusted friend and a natural leader. Legend admires his two older brothers, both athletes who inspire him with their dedication and drive. His father, a coach, has taught him the importance of discipline and hard work, not just in sports, but in life. For Legend, true health is about more than strength – it's about building resilience, inside and out. Above all, Legend has a huge heart and cares deeply for his family and friends. He's always been concerned for others, offering guidance, love, and encouragement. Legend does what's right, even when it's not the easy choice, standing firm in his values and never following the crowd. Legend Sands leads with heart, empathy, and perseverance. He is an excellent model of being both a dreamer and a doer—someone who inspires through action and shows that true leadership comes from within.

## **Gretchen Everhart School**

### **Zoey Nash**

Zoey Nash has had no problems making friends and helping others from the moment she started at Gretchen Everhart School. We have watched her grow and mature to embody the characteristics of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In class Zoey keeps all of her friends laughing by telling jokes or singing silly songs. Zoey enjoys reading and then sharing what she has learned with her peers. Zoey also helps out the school by sorting items that are needed around campus. We are so proud of the growth and maturity that Zoey shows daily! It is with great pleasure that we nominate Zoey Nash as a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamer and Doer from Gretchen Everhart School.

### **Thomas Strelecki**

Thomas Strelecki is a celebrity at Everhart. Everywhere he goes he is greeted by peers and staff. Thomas is friendly, positive, and kind. Thomas loves to complete jobs that help others. In this way, he embodies the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Thomas participates in several volunteer and job programs through school. He helps fill the community food box here at school, as well as helps pack food bags for families in need at his local Church. Despite having difficulty with communication, Thomas always stays positive and tries to get his message across. It is with great pleasure that we nominate Thomas for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Nominee from Gretchen Everhart School.

## **Ghazvini Learning Center**

### **Ja'Cory Johnson**

Ghazvini Learning Center is fortunate to have a student like Ja'Cory Johnson. Ja'Cory has attended Ghazvini since the 2021 and is a senior this year. He has contributed positively to the school community each year. He is committed to academic excellence, having earned Honor Roll nearly every quarter during his time at Ghazvini. Ja'Cory is kind and accepting of others, and always has a positive attitude. He is described by his peers as someone who is a good friend and always willing to help someone out. Ja'Cory is an avid reader of manga and is teaching himself coding. He hopes to pursue a career in coding after high school. His commitment to his education as well as his outstanding citizenship make him a positive role model to other students on the Ghazvini campus.

### **Xavier McMillon**

Xavier McMillon is a senior who is pursuing a career in construction. As a student leader, he has been part of the GLC Student Council for two years. He often provides empathy and support for other students where he helps them identify their feelings/needs. Xavier is well received by his peers and his teachers. He often will ask his teachers how their day is going and encourage other students. Xavier is self-motivated and is a great "hype man" when he participates in academic review games with others. Xavier offers kindness, predictability, humor, and fun to those around him. Xavier is a pleasure to have on campus and is a student role model.

## **PACE Center for Girls**

### **Taylor Rogers**

Taylor exemplifies Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals and beliefs through her determination, resilience, and unwavering commitment to her goals. Like Dr. King, Taylor embraces the power of perseverance in the face of challenges, demonstrating that obstacles are not roadblocks but stepping stones to greater achievements. She has overcome numerous life hurdles with courage and grace, embodying Dr. King's vision of triumph over adversity through faith and hard work. Taylor's relentless drive mirrors Dr. King's dedication to justice and equality. Once she sets a goal, she works tirelessly, embodying his belief in the dignity of labor and the importance of striving for excellence in all endeavors. She holds herself accountable, ensuring her actions align with her values and aspirations, and she encourages others to do the same. This commitment to collective accountability reflects Dr. King's emphasis on unity and shared responsibility in the pursuit of a greater purpose.

### **Keirsten Magwood**

Keirsten's tenacity, commitment, and mature leadership serve as excellent examples of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s principles and values. She has demonstrated incredible fortitude and determination in the face of really difficult personal difficulties, overcoming hardship to achieve academic success. Her capacity to stay focused and dedicated to her studies reflects Dr. King's conviction in the transformational potential of learning and tenacity in the face of adversity. Dr. King's philosophy of morally and purposefully leading is reflected in Keirsten's maturity and leadership style. Her steadfast work ethic serves as an inspiration to others, proving that perseverance and determination are the keys to success. Her perseverance and focus are evidence of Dr. King's principles of self-control and aiming for greatness.

## **Tallahassee School of Math and Science**

### **Izaiah Williams (8th)**

Izaiah is a kind and well-mannered kid. He is constantly involved in school activities, as a leader included. He is currently the Vice President of the TSMS Beta Club, a recurring sport member, and excels in academic excellence. His behavior towards his peers doesn't go unnoticed. He treats all his peers with respect, kindness, and compassion. When it comes to the adults in his life, he embodies respect and constantly demonstrates a high regard for his teachers. Izaiah Williams demonstrates respect and responsibility in class, consistently putting in active effort to complete and turn in assignments. Izaiah also positively influences their peers through his actions and attitude. His leadership skills shine through in his ability to inspire and support his teammates, fostering a positive and inclusive environment both in competition and in the TSMS learning community.

### **Una Sully (5th)**

Una is an exceptional, well-rounded student. She pays close attention to detail academically, socially and personally. She respects teachers and students alike. She is filled with fascinating facts and humorous stories to tell on a regular basis. Being her 1st grade teacher and now her 5th grade teacher, it has been a pleasure to see her grow into the role model she is becoming. Una is the kind of student who is always doing and always involved. She has spent years competing on the Robotics team, has always been involved with after-school activities and events, and is a member of the National Beta Club and excels in academic excellence. Una is someone who is always happy to be here and a smiling face for others. She has a great appreciation for her teachers and the other adults she comes in contact with. Once you have met Una, even though she's a kid, you are one of her people for life. She holds all her peers to the same standards and level. She is kind-hearted and motivates them to succeed in all things.

## **The School of Arts and Sciences on Thomasville**

### **Jordan Bailey**

Jordan is the embodiment of a "Dreamer & Doer." A strong presence among his peers, Jordan consistently leads by example by taking pride in everything he does. Students describe Jordan as a hard worker, an athlete, and a social butterfly willing to accept all everyone he meets as his friend. His sharp determination in the classroom leads him to excel in all things academic, from creative projects to success on tests alike. When he does not know the answer to a question, Jordan remains curious as he seeks information and understanding. Teachers can always count on Jordan's hand to be raised, and his voice heard. Outside of the classroom, Jordan advocates for those who need help finding their voice and encourages his peers to be outspoken and brave. His disciplined approach towards gymnastics has helped him become a natural coach and role model for younger students, which he proudly wears as a badge of honor. In the future, Jordan dreams of entering the Olympics as a professional gymnast for Team USA. His courage, kindness, inquisitiveness, and respect are admirable for such a young scholar and we are confident these qualities will help him achieve all that he sets his mind to.

### **Sejal Leonard**

Sejal Leonard is a dreamer whose creative spirit invigorates her school and community alike. Students describe Sejal as a beloved friend with a kind spirit. During her time at the School of Arts and Sciences, she has grown into an incredible musician and a true scholar of history and science. Her energy in the classroom leads her to excel in all things academic, from creative projects that require her to think outside the box to even the most challenging science labs. Teachers can depend on Sejal to advocate for herself and others and stand up as a leader when her peers need it the most. She is always willing to lend a helping hand or listening ear to overcome obstacles with her school family, guiding many of us to become dreamers and doers along the way. In the future, Sejal dreams of helping the world by working with animals or inspiring others through her love of music. With the ideals she already possesses, we are confident she will accomplish her goals and make the world a better place.







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A portrait of Gallop Franklin II, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a blue suit, light blue shirt, and red tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blue-tinted image of a city skyline with several skyscrapers.

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