

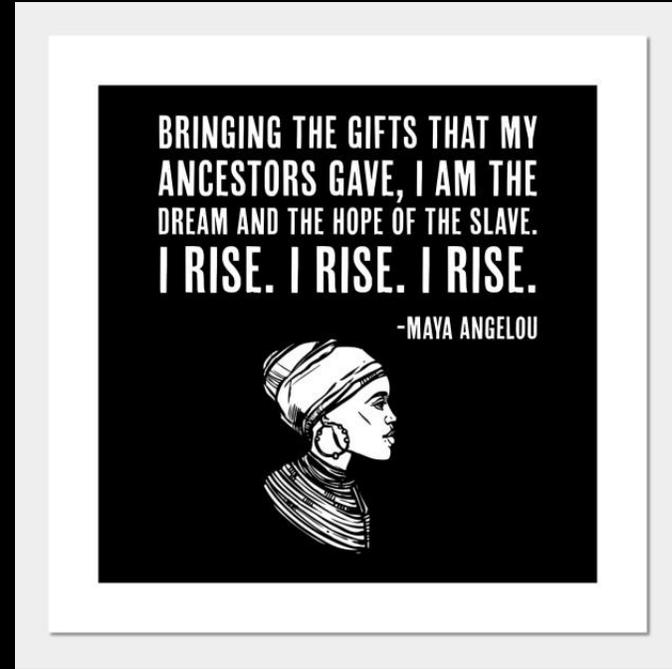
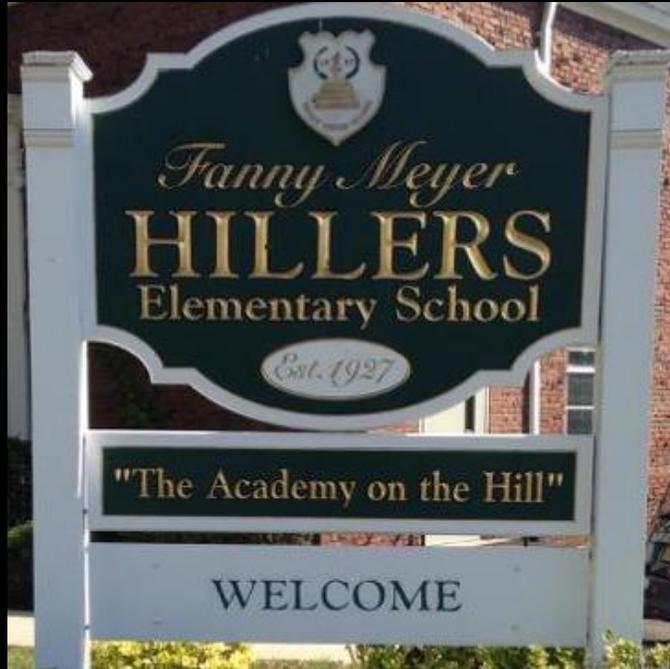
# African American History Month

*“I Rise”*

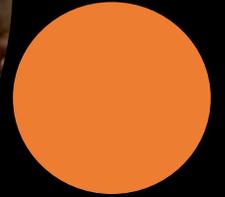


*Hillers School 2021*

The African American educators at Hillers School  
are proud to honor the trailblazers, thinkers,  
activists and artists who have sacrificed, believed,  
and inspired us.



**Panam Percy Paul** is a Nigerian gospel singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist whose musical career spans over 40 years. He is an icon in Nigerian culture and has won the highest level of awards in Nigerian music. His songs of faith and praise have inspired millions of people over the years.



Mrs. Abiola Abiodun (Miss Abby) is from Lagos, Nigeria. She is a strong woman of faith who is proud of her Nigerian culture. Miss Abby freely and lovingly shares the rich culture of West Africa with her American friends. She loves music... you may even catch her listening to it in her car in the morning. Miss Abby has been officially named the "Head Wrap Queen" of Hillers School!



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** started out as a Baptist minister in Atlanta, GA. He led the civil rights movement from the mid 1950s until his untimely death in 1968. Dr. King undoubtedly changed the world forever through his teachings of love and non-violence.



**Ms. Gwynne Burt** has been an educator, community activist, and church leader for decades. She has dedicated her time and talents to serving others. Ms. Burt had been teaching at Hillers School for 12 years while serving as a Baptist Pastor in guest preacher in different churches. She truly believes in the power of faith and love and has transformed lives through her ministry. Currently, she is an Associate Minister at Mount Olive Baptist Church here in Hackensack.

**Sojourner Truth** was one of the few African American women to participate in both the abolition of slavery and the women's rights movements. She traveled around the nation- "sojourning" - to preach the truth of God's word.



**Ms. Dora Mae Davis** is the daughter of the late Reverend Robert Lee Davis, pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church here in Hackensack, NJ. Ms. Davis believes that all women's rights and racial equality will be achieved in this country.



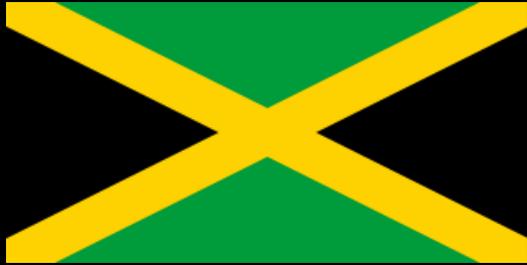
**Adam Clayton Powell Jr.** was a Baptist pastor and an American politician. After graduating from Colgate University in 1930, he became the first African American elected to the New York City Council in 1941. He grew up as the son of Adam Clayton Powell Sr. who was the Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY in the 1930s.



**Mrs. Audrey England** also graduated from Colgate University...but much later in 1992. While in college, she was inspired by Powell's book, "Adam by Adam" in which Powell wrote specifically about his time at Colgate. Mrs. England has enjoyed attending Powell's former church in Harlem on special occasions.



**Marcus Garvey** was born in St. Anne's Bay in Jamaica in 1887. He was the founder of The Universal Negro Improvement Association. Garvey's ideology paved the way for Pan-Africanism and developed the concept of the "New Negro" at the turn of the century. He led the "Back To Africa" movement in the 1950s. Garvey was named "Black Moses" of his time and his impact is still evident in the lives of many today.



**Mrs. Grant** was born in St. Catherine, Jamaica. She has had more than 20 years of teaching experience! She has a "strong faith" and is leader in her community. She serves as the Director of the Youth Ministry of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Englewood, NJ.



**Mahalia Jackson** was an American gospel singer known as the “Queen of Gospel”. She became famous while singing in a gospel group that toured the country singing songs like “*He’s Got The Whole World in His Hands*”. She received several Grammy Awards and was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.



**Mrs. Antoinette Hazel** is a gifted gospel singer who has been a member of the Trinity Baptist Church choir for many years. She is a community leader and has been working at Hillers School for 11 years.

Her favorite gospel songs are “*Every Praise*” and “*The Blood Will Never Lose It’s Power*”.



**Althea Gibson** was a professional tennis player and a professional golfer. She was the first African American woman to win a Grand Slam Title in 1956. She later went on to win 11 Grand Slam titles in total. Althea Gibson was one of the first black athletes in sports history to cross the international “color line”.



**Ms. Tanisha Hinton** is a fitness enthusiast who enjoys healthy competition. She has earned awards in softball and is inspired by those who push themselves to be the best at what they do. She inspired everyone around her when she completed a Spartan Race competition in 2017.

**Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti** was an educator, leader and women's rights activist in Nigeria in the 1940s. She went on the lead anti colonial and educational movements in Nigeria and West Africa including: The Nigerian Union of Teachers, The Nigerian Union of Students, The African Students' Movement, and the Nigerian Youth Movement.



**Mrs. Rasheeda Odumosu** is a Hillers School "star" para. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria. After graduating from Towson University in 1994, Mrs. Odumosu dedicated her time to teaching her two daughters to be self-sufficient and scholarly. She has served in education for over 15 years. Mrs. Odumosu has continued her post graduate education and continues the tradition of leadership as a HEA building representative this year.



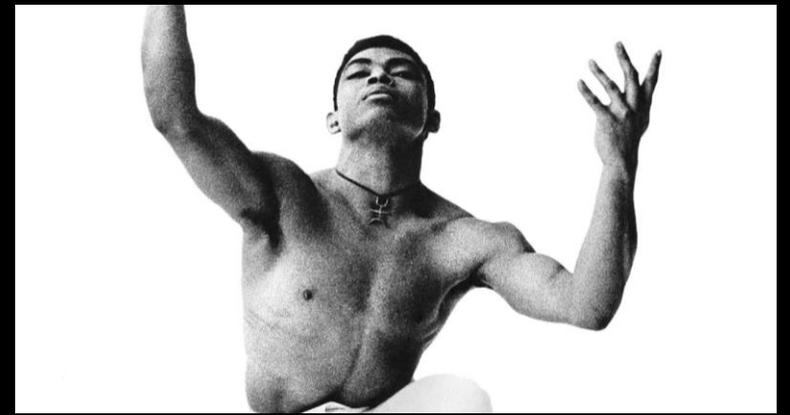
**Tina Turner** is an American singer, songwriter and published author. She is most known for her dance moves and classic songs on stage. Tina Turner is a survivor and speaks on behalf of women worldwide. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 and later received the Kennedy Honor in 2005.

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**Mrs. Deborah Serrano** is a dedicated and phenomenal para educator. She is also lover of all things music and dance. Mrs. Serrano has passed her love of music and the arts to her daughter Ava. She is MOST famous throughout the halls of Hillers for her musicality, smooth moves, and sense of style!



**Alvin Ailey** was an African American dancer, director, choreographer, and activist who founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. He choreographed his first masterpiece *Revelations and* gained international acclaim in the 1950s. Because of his creative spirit, The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre continues international and virtual performances today.



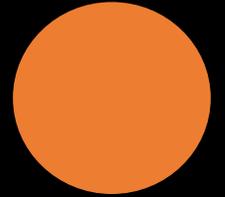
**Mrs. Soniya Johnson-Shabazz** is also a very creative spirit. In addition to being a classroom teacher for many years, she has written, directed, produced, choreographed, and starred in *“God’s Grace”*. Her latest project is the *“Real Random”* YouTube series. Mrs. Shabazz is actively involved in dance ministry in church.

**Suzanne dePasse** is an American businesswoman, television, film and music producer. She is directly responsible for over \$2 billion in entertainment revenues! She was former President of Motown and founded the Emmy award-winning dePasse Entertainment group. She too, was born in New York City and is a first generation Haitian-American.



**Ms. Telemaque** is our school psychologist. Her family is from Haiti and she was born in Brooklyn, New York. Ms. Telemaque enjoys financial planning and believes that women are the best entrepreneurs on earth.

**Mary McCloud Bethune** was a dedicated American educator. She used the power of education, political activism and civil service to address racial and gender inequality. She is the founder of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida. She also founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935 and served as the Vice President of the NAACP from 1940-1955.



**Mrs. Lisa Magloire** has been an educator for the past few years, after leaving a successful real estate career. She has served her community for many years, most recently as a Girl Scout leader. Mrs. Magloire believes that women have the power to achieve all they dream of, and that education can truly transform lives.



**Kamala Harris** is the 49<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the United States. She is the first woman and African American to hold this office. She graduated from Howard University (a Historically Black College or University) in 1986 and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is a true trailblazer!



**Mrs. Joy Dorsey Whiting** graduated from Hampton University in 1993. Hampton, like Howard, is a well-known HBCU. Like Madam Vice President, Mrs. Whiting is also a “silver star” member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Mrs. Whiting has had many new doorways open to her, but she remembers to reach back and bring someone else along with her. She continues to trailblaze new paths as she pursues an ED.D in Educational Leadership.

**BRINGING THE GIFTS THAT MY  
ANCESTORS GAVE, I AM THE  
DREAM AND THE HOPE OF THE SLAVE.  
I RISE. I RISE. I RISE.**

**-MAYA ANGELOU**

