

## WHO WE ARE

Educating for Equity (E4E) is a team of BTCS employees committed to creating a culture of equity, inclusion, and belonging across the district. The E4E team is working to dismantle discrimination and inequities that exist in education by researching and raising awareness about equity issues in our district and community. We seek to provide educational opportunities for all staff to learn and grow in their knowledge of issues surrounding diversity in order to transform our culture and instructional practices to be more responsive to injustices. We are dedicated to creating an environment that is welcoming, accessible, and affirming of all identities and experiences where all students can succeed.

### INTERESTED IN JOINING E4E? CONTACT AN E4E MEMBER AT YOUR SCHOOL!

ANDERSON: COLLEEN SEMONES  
AVOCA: ERIN GRAYBEAL  
FAIRMOUNT: ALLYSON RUTHERFORD  
HAYNESFIELD: MEGLYN DEEL  
HOLSTON VIEW: SARAH JACKSON  
VANCE MIDDLE: VICKI WINSTEAD  
TENNESSEE HIGH: AMBER DAVIS  
TOPS: CLINTON BLEVINS  
OTHER LOCATIONS: REBECCA HOUSE

### LOGO CONTEST



E4E is sponsoring a logo contest for Tennessee High and Vance students with winners receiving \$25, \$15, & \$10 gift cards. We are looking for a logo that captures the mission of diversity and creating equity in education (see the "Who We Are" statement). Entries should be high-resolution digital images or photographs of your artwork and uploaded to the following form by Friday, Mar. 26. Submit here: <https://forms.gle/u54rWgBUAskqJftM9>.

## Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Black History Month is an annual celebration of the achievements of Black Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. In honor of the contributions of Black Americans, we want to share a poem penned by Langston Hughes, which speaks poignantly of the racial climate during the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance, lasting roughly from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, is considered a golden age in African-American culture, manifesting in literature, music, stage performance, and art. Learn more about the Harlem Renaissance at [history.com](http://history.com).

### I, TOO BY LANGSTON HUGHES

I, too, sing America.  
I am the darker brother.  
They send me to eat in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.  
Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.  
Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful  
I am  
And be ashamed—  
I, too, am America.

### TIMELINE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**1915**  
Carter G. Woodson and  
Jesse E. Moorland chose the  
second week in February as  
National Negro History Week  
to coincide with the birthdays of  
Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

**Late 1960s**  
Negro History Week had  
evolved into Black History Month  
on many college campuses.

**February 1976**  
President Gerald Ford  
and every president since  
has recognized Black History Month.

Source: Black History Month ([history.com](http://history.com))

## E4E In the Classroom

During the month of February, freshman English classes will be studying the literature of the Civil Rights Movement. Students will be analyzing writings and speeches that inspired social change as well as discovering what gave those words power. Students will learn about great leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and explain how his words and the words of others had the power to inspire an entire country.

### ENGLISH I TEXTS

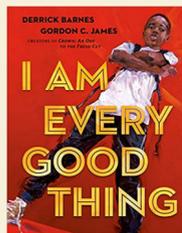
I Have a Dream Speech – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Letter from Birmingham Jail – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Remarks on the Assassination of MLK Jr.  
– Speech by Robert F. Kennedy

Poems:  
For My People – Margaret Walker  
Incident – Natasha Trethewey

Lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – Speech by Cesar Chavez  
Traveling – Memoir by Grace Paley

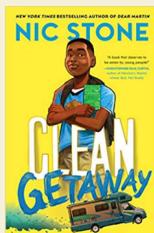
## Book Corner



ELEMENTARY

I am a nonstop ball of energy. Powerful and full of light. I am a go-getter. A difference maker. A leader.

The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through—as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow down and really look and listen when somebody tells you—and shows you—who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

How to Go on an Unplanned Road Trip with Your Grandma:

Grab a Suitcase: Prepacked from the big spring break trip that got CANCELLED. Fasten Your Seatbelt: G'ma's never conventional, so this trip won't be either. Use the Green Book: G'ma's most treasured possession. It holds history, memories, and most important, the way home.

What Not to Bring: A Cell Phone. Avoid contact with Dad at all costs. Even when G'ma starts acting stranger than usual.

Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with this New York Times bestseller and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--his G'ma included.



HIGH SCHOOL

Every week, 17-year-old Tracy Beaumont writes letters to Innocence X, asking them to help her father, an innocent Black man on death row. After seven years, Tracy is running out of time—her dad has 267 days left. Then one night changes everything. The police arrive, pounding on the door, and Tracy's older brother, Jamal, goes from being a bright, promising track star to a "thug" on the run, accused of killing a white girl. Determined to save her brother, Tracy investigates what really happened between Jamal and Angela down at the Pike. And as Tracy discovers the racist history that still haunts her small town's present, she begins to wonder if she's lighting the torch that will illuminate her family's innocence...or lighting the fuse that will cause her world to explode.

## Teaching Resources

### Learning for Justice

Many educators may be familiar with the organization **Teaching Tolerance** and the resources it provides for educators. What you may not know is that Teaching Tolerance now has a new name: **Learning for Justice**. According to their website, they have changed their name to better reflect their mission and work. One statement on the organization's website regarding the name shift was especially reminiscent of the discussion our team had when determining a name for our new BTCS diversity team, Educating for Equity (E4E) "Because we want to recognize that we don't have all the answers. We want to name that we are learning alongside you as you work for the changes that students, families, educators, and districts need to ensure that our schools are places where all students can thrive," said Liles Dunn, director of Learning for Justice. Learn more here: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/our-new-name-learning-for-justice>

### Center for Racial Justice in Education: Black History Month Resource Guide for Educators & Families

The Center for Racial Justice in Education has gathered a broad range of resources for Black History Month and beyond. Unless Black history is taught throughout the year, it perpetuates an "othering" of Black Lives and Black students and is also a manifestation of anti-blackness. Ensuring the ongoing integration of Black history and experiences throughout all curriculum is imperative as educators continue to uplift every student and remind them they matter every day. Visit <https://centerracialjustice.org/resources/black-history-month-resource-guide-for-educators-and-families/> to see this list of resources.