

*THE ASBURY PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
910 4<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY 07712*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
BLUE BISHOP BULLETIN**  
*Dr. RaShawn M. Adams, Superintendent of Schools*

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***“We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

**Asbury Park School District Community:**

Yesterday, Jan. 16, 2023, was a federal holiday where we celebrated the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a day in which many quote the familiar stanzas of his most memorable speeches and refer to his sacrifice for justice. However, it should not be forgotten that at the time of his death, black people lacked equality and economic equity. Also, according to a Harris Poll in 1968, the man whose half-century of martyrdom we celebrate died with a public disapproval rating of nearly 75 percent. This rating is still striking today despite society’s highly-polarized, political climate.

During Dr. King’s life, his stance on injustice was not a popular position, but it is funny how the winds of time change. Today, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day represents an appropriate time to reflect on actions that inspire and to use our voices to speak truth to power about systemic racism and the denial of voting and other rights. It is also a great opportunity to champion the passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, both of which were approved from the U.S. Senate in 2022.

, As one of the giants of the civil rights movement, Dr. King’s words of wisdom still resonate and enlighten our nation and world. As we honor him, let us always remember, "There is no easy way to create a world where men and women can live together... But if such a world is created in our lifetime, it will be done by rejecting the racism, materialism, and violence that has characterized Western civilization and especially by working toward a world of brotherhood, cooperation, and peace."

Finally, please be reminded that schools will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023 for a districtwide professional development day for staff.  
Thank you and enjoy your week!

*Dr. RaShawn M. Adams  
Superintendent of Schools  
Asbury Park School District*