



THE INFORMANT

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

WINTER 2021

www.hfdhsaainc.net

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND NATIONAL UNREST

The year 2020 will forever be etched in the memories of the world's entire population because it has been a time when regular activities throughout the world have been interrupted. The treacherous communicable disease, COVID-19 (the Coronavirus), has caused suffering and death throughout the world and has required every aspect of life in the nation and our community to change for everyone.

Jobs, schools, churches, social and political activities have been and will continue to be altered and curtailed. Life for everyone in our nation has changed, particularly for our children. School Districts in Maryland and across the nation have been closed. In-person instruction has been replaced by virtual instruction over the internet. Instead of visiting family and friends in-person we now attend church, social activities and family gathering by ZOOM or GOOGLE MEETS and other face time vehicles. Many jobs have had to lay-off and in some cases fire employees, thus the economy has been affected. Many families have been displaced due to a lack of funds and we see FOOD GIVE AWAY LINES. Along with the Pandemic, we have seen a resurgence of political turmoil and racial turmoil and unrest.

Preventing the spread this lethal illness (Covid-19) is quite simple. We must avoid being exposed to the virus and practice these actions to help prevent the spread. Wear a face covering -Wash your hands - Keep safe distance from others and **WHEN YOUR TIME IS ANNOUNCED TAKE THE VACCINE. TAKING THE VACCINE WILL PROTECT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR NEIGHBORS AND THE ENTIRE POPULATION IN OR NATION.**

The second plague called "**RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, SEXUAL AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE**" is described by violence, lawlessness, racial prejudice/inequality, and overall unrest. To end this will take time. We all have a role to play in returning our nation to a place of "Civility" with bedrock values like the Dream that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about at the Lincoln Memorial, on August 28, 1963. He said that one day we will become: *A Nation Where We Are Judged Not By The Color of Our Skin, But The Content of Our Character... This is America's bedrock value.*

FDHS AND THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM

In the Fall of 2010, the groundwork was laid to address Baltimore City's aging and inadequate public-school buildings. Community, education advocacy groups, the school system and other stakeholders built a coalition for support for legislation, and funding to modernize all Baltimore's public schools. The promise of new and renovated schools was meant to help transform student opportunities and achievement, provide jobs and resources to families, and help revitalize neighborhoods.

By the end of December 2020, under the umbrella of the 21st Century School Building Program, eighteen (18) elementary, middle, and high schools have been completed and opened, one (1) is in the Planning stage, seven (7) are under construction, and three (3) are in the construction documents/development stage.

In December 2019, several additional schools were added to the list to start the new and/or renovation process. Frederick Douglass High School was included in this new group. At the December meeting FDHS administrators, members of the Alumni Assoc., community leaders and other stakeholders were given information on the 21st Century School Building Program and the plans for FDHS. Additionally, we were informed of tentative plans for Frederick Douglas and Joseph C. Briscoe Academy to be co-located on the Gwynn's Falls Parkway Campus. Many of the stakeholders disagreed with the co-location. We were assured that there would be future opportunities for us to voice our concerns during the feasibility study.

The purpose of the feasibility study is to determine the optimal location of all program elements within the building footprint and on site to serve the basis for design for use in establishing the budget. In reference to the Douglass and Briscoe co-location, City Schools has intentionally focused on the inclusion of Briscoe to ensure these students have access to a quality and healthy building. The plan to relocate Briscoe to be housed in a renovated Douglass facility designed for a shared campus for two separate schools like Patterson and Claremont. These two programs would remain as separate schools and the proposal is a co-location, not a merger. The approach that will be selected will of course depend upon the amount of money to fund the project out of allocated \$400 million dollars.

Stakeholders have met several more times to discuss the project. The members of the Alumni Association expressed and still have concerns. Many of the Alumni are concerned that preserving the identity and legacy of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School will cease to be a priority. Additionally, that the heritage, values, traditions, standards, and culture established throughout the one hundred thirty-eight (138) years of the existence of Frederick Douglass High School will perish and the motto of "Pride, Dignity and Excellence!" will vanish. If you share our concerns, let your voices be heard by contacting your city and state legislators.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

This year 2021, has made a believer out of me. For we are a people who have shown strength, courage, and love for one another! The COVID -19 Pandemic has caused great difficulty for our students. Our graduates in the class of 2021 will face a multiplicity of challenges as they prepare to meet the academic and financial expectations of the post-secondary institutions that they are applying for admission. This is an opportunity for all members of the HFDHS Alumni Association to step-up and support our deserving students by making donations to "Dollars for Scholars". Every donation regardless of how small will be appreciated.

This has been an overtaxing year for everyone, and it is extremely important for the Historical Frederick Douglass Alumni Association (HFDHSAA) to continue our mission of supporting the graduating seniors of our alma mater. We appreciate the monetary support you have provided throughout previous years and your donations this year. Please, send your donation to:
The Historic Frederick Douglass Alumni Assoc. Inc - Dollars for Scholars
P.O. Box 25151
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

Remember, it is not the number of no's that matter, only the number of yes'! Say Yes! And Donate to Dollars for Scholars.

Delnora Kelly, Chairperson
The HFDHSAA Scholarship Committee

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Like most organizations and institutions across the nation, the Alumni Association has had to alter activities and events during the pandemic, however; we have continued to meet when necessary. Now that a vaccine has been developed and it is only a matter of time for enough vaccine will be available for all of us, we encourage you to start making plans for your classes. Please let us know what your class is planning so that we can post it in the INFORMANT, on our FACEBOOK Page and on our HFDHS Alumni Association website. We encourage you to send information to:

HFDHSAA, Inc.
The Publication Committee
P.O. Box 25151
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

Facebook: Historic Frederick Douglass Alumni Assn. Inc.

Website www.hfdhsaainc.net

GADUATION 2021

Baltimore City Schools has not announced when they plan to resume in-person classes, however; we are certain that there will be Commencement Activities for the Class of 2021 during the month of June. Please plan to come out and support our students. We will make the dates and time available to you.



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SAVE THE DATE

The Class of 1971 is planning the celebration of their 50th Reunion. The event will be held at Martins West on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Tickets which will include a sit-down dinner and cash bar will cost \$80.00 per person. Come and enjoy good food, good music and renewing old friendships. Contact persons are Adele Hawkins-White at (410) 456-2685; email: dell007@msn.com or Cynthia Page Muhammad at (667) 231-8790; email: cvnthiamuhammad@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF...

Celia Carr 'J56
Norman Branch '1940
James Diggs 'J1966
Thelma Byrd Fly 'J 1956
Andrew Gaskins '1958
Edward Green 'J 1949
Ben Holmes 'F 1948
Stanley Holmes '1963
Hannibal Mickens 'J 1957
Samuel Myers '1936
Barbara L. McNeal '1960
Alfred H. Radcliff 'J1968
John S. Ward '1944



In Memory updates can be sent to Adele White, Corresponding Secretary; dell0107@msn.com