

Dear Powell Middle School Parents,

A couple of weeks ago, during our **CORE Plus classes**, we discussed and studied why we had Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day off from school. In those class discussions we talked about what Dr. King stood for, what he was up against, and what he believed in. In those conversations, many of our students brought up questions about the recent events in America over the past year (COVID, peaceful protest, non-peaceful protest, racism, equal access, etc.). Those conversations have prompted the Administration at Powell to try and come up with a way to have our students view and/or experience what people of different races, backgrounds, socioeconomic classes, and genders may go through on a daily basis.

With that being said, we wanted to inform you that next week during our **CORE Plus classes (8th period on Thursday (2/11) for alphabet A-K, and Friday (2/12) for alphabet L-Z)**, our classes will be showing the first 21 minutes from the PBS video, “**A Class Divided**”. It is the story of the experiment that third grade teacher, Mrs. Jane Elliott, did with her class in a small Iowa town, just after Dr. King was assassinated. Some of you may remember it as the “Blue-eyes, Brown-eyes” experiment.

Please understand, we are not going to or would we ever recreate this experiment at Powell. We’re just going to have the students view the video, with their teacher, within their CORE Plus class, and then have meaningful class discussions around what they viewed in the video. The class discussion(s) will be followed by an art activity for the students, so they can truly have a reflective moment on what they viewed.

There are times when after watching the video, students may still have a variety of questions that they’ll want to talk about with you or other family members, so we just wanted to give you the “heads up” if that type of thing occurs over the three-day weekend (there is no school on Presidents’ Day). When they return to school on Tuesday, February 16th, if they still have questions around what they viewed, they can always ask their teacher, counselor, or any of us in the main office; and we’ll do our best to see that their questions are answered.

As always, we appreciate any type of feedback from our Powell Parent/Guardian community as we strive to make the education of our children more relevant each and every day.

Sincerely,

Powell Administration