

## Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy's Media News Letter

Mr. Gilbert Avent, Music Teacher, Theater Teacher and Band Director at Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy volunteered to paint a Northwest Viking for the school's bulletin board in front of the Media Center. The painting was donated to the Media Center. Students, faculty, staff, parents and visitors like the painting. The Viking gives a sense of school spirit.

Mr. Avent is a talented jazz and gospel saxophonist and arranger, he often arranges his own musical renditions for Northwest's school band. Northwest is gracious to also have a gifted photographer and videographer Mr. Avent's artistic flair is priceless.



Mr. Avent volunteers continued.

Mr. Avent has shared his creative painting of his interpretation of a Northwest Viking.



# New Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is one way to counter attack misinformation and online hate that is now threatening our democracy. Digital literacy is a holistic approach to cultivating skills that allow people to participate meaningfully in on-line communities, interpret the changing digital landscape, understand the relationships between systemic –isms, and information, and unlock the power of digital tools for good. This includes media literacy. Terms like critical media literacy, media literacy, news literacy and more are not necessarily interchangeable. Learning For Justice is a website that has lesson plans for teachers and professional development for schools, businesses and policy makers. The original magazine, Teaching Tolerance was published to prevent the growth of hate by reducing prejudice. The Southern Law Poverty Center assist in publishing the new website and magazine, and film chronicling the civil rights movement. Learning For Justice, the new name upholds collaborative work of learning and growing together to reach our goal of justice for all. (Learning for Justice)

Learning for Justice's website has toolkits, lesson plans, films, and professional development. Their lesson plans also have many resources to teach reading strategies. They discuss comfort levels for students who are participating in lesson on civil rights.

Currently, some of our classes are reading *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. The book is recommended by Cicely Lewis, Librarian of the Year in Georgia. She founded The Read Woke Movement. She created a way to get more minority students to read about their history and culture.

## New Digital Literacy continued



Students who are reading *The New Jim Crow* by Michele Alexander are urged to read at home as well as in their class session. Vanderbilt University has pdf'd the book and students can read *The New Jim Crow* for free and at home if they have sufficient wifi. Possible incentives for reading will be gift certificates and or snacks and treats. "We would like to get more books that students would be interested in reading and discussing," shared, Mrs. Jacquelyn Ruffin-Pittman. Books that may keep a students interest such as *Jay Z Made in America* by Michael Eric Dyson, there are others; however, as a Media Specialist, I would have to read school reading journal reviews before the school purchase the books for reading.

(#ReadWoke)

## Going Places with a Dream

### One Step at a Time

Northwest's Theater Arts Volunteers are preparing to auditions for the Broadway show student performance for *Hamilton*. Mr. Avent is the Theater Arts teacher. The students will compete against high school students across the United States. Mr. John Duvall, Director at Lakeland's Cultural Arts Center in Littleton, NC has been volunteering to work with our theater arts student. The students have learned acting techniques, before the Covid 19 Pandemic, the students were learning about lighting and sound in the actual Lakeland's theater.

The students will also be auditioning for an Off Broadway show called, *Ida B Wells*, the play is about an African American journalist that campaigned against the lynching of African Americans from the Reconstruction Era until her death. A panel discussion will be held before the play. The play will be held in Rocky Mount, NC and then it will tour major cities.



Mrs. Ida B. Wells