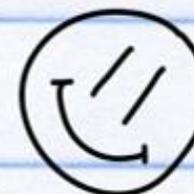
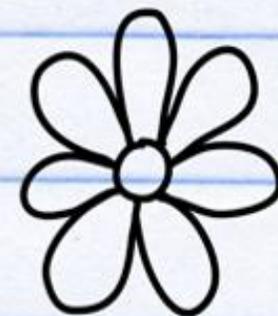
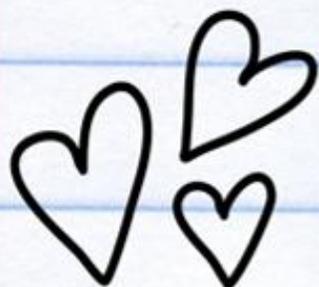


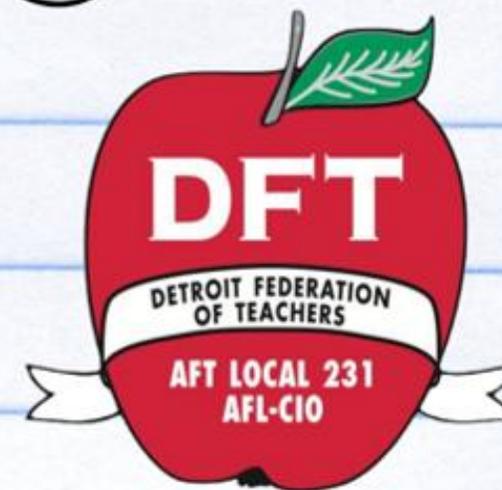
The Detroit Teacher



The Detroit Teacher is the official publication of the Detroit Federation of Teachers,
American Federation of Teachers Local 231, AFL-CIO.



Lakia Wilson-Lumpkins, President
Jason Posey, Executive Vice President



A Round of Applause for DFT Members!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and care you bring to your role each and every day. Whether in the classroom, clinic, counseling sessions, home visits, cafeteria, or any other position you serve, **every** one of the job classifications we represent contributes to the success of our students.

Thank you for going above and beyond to ensure our students receive the high-quality education they rightfully deserve. Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and your impact is immeasurable.

We are proud to be on the same T.E.A.M.—the DFT T.E.A.M.



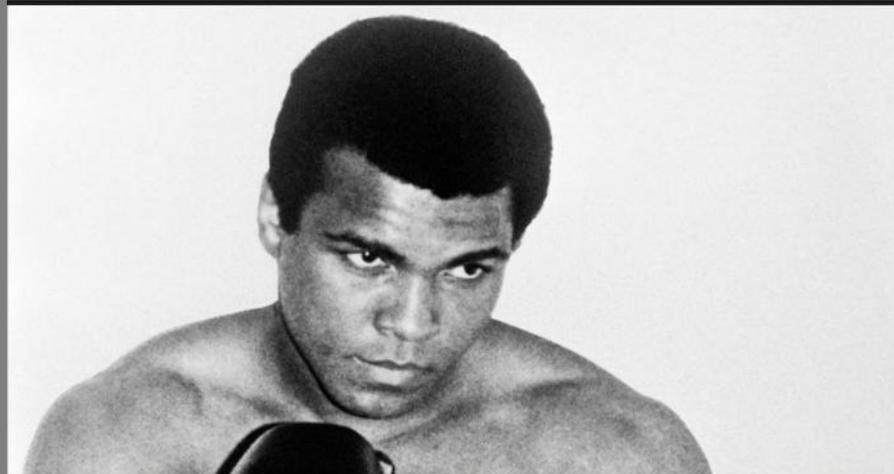
From the Pen of the DFT Treasurer



Rodney Fresh

Why is it important to study Black History?

Black history means so much to me. As a kid, I had a thirst for history especially Black history. I fell in love with figures like Stokely Carmichael and Muhammad Ali. Those who came before me inspire me to continue the fight today. It's Ali's words that inspire me to be an advocate, and it's his spirit that has empowered me to speak before members of Congress and serve on the AFT African American Committee. "My one of my favorite quote from Ali, " Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."



BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISPLAYS AROUND THE DISTRICT

JOIN HARMS ELEMENTARY
AS WE CELEBRATE:

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

**ALL SCHOOL
BLACK HISTORY PERFORMANCE**

HISTORICAL CARICATURES STUDENT CREATIVITY, POETRY READINGS, PERFORMANCES, MUSIC, EXHIBITS & MORE

BROADEN OUR COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE AS WE HONOR THE LEGACY OF BLACK HISTORY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 2026
GRADES K-2 FAMILIES WELCOME @ 12:30-1:30PM
GRADES 3-8 FAMILIES WELCOME @ 1:30-2:15PM

GOATS

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT JACOB LAWRENCE KARA WALKER

BLACK MALES BEAUTIFYING DETROIT

RIGHT NOW

(They will be G.O.A.TS)

Throw kindness around like Confetti

OSHUN WILLIAMS

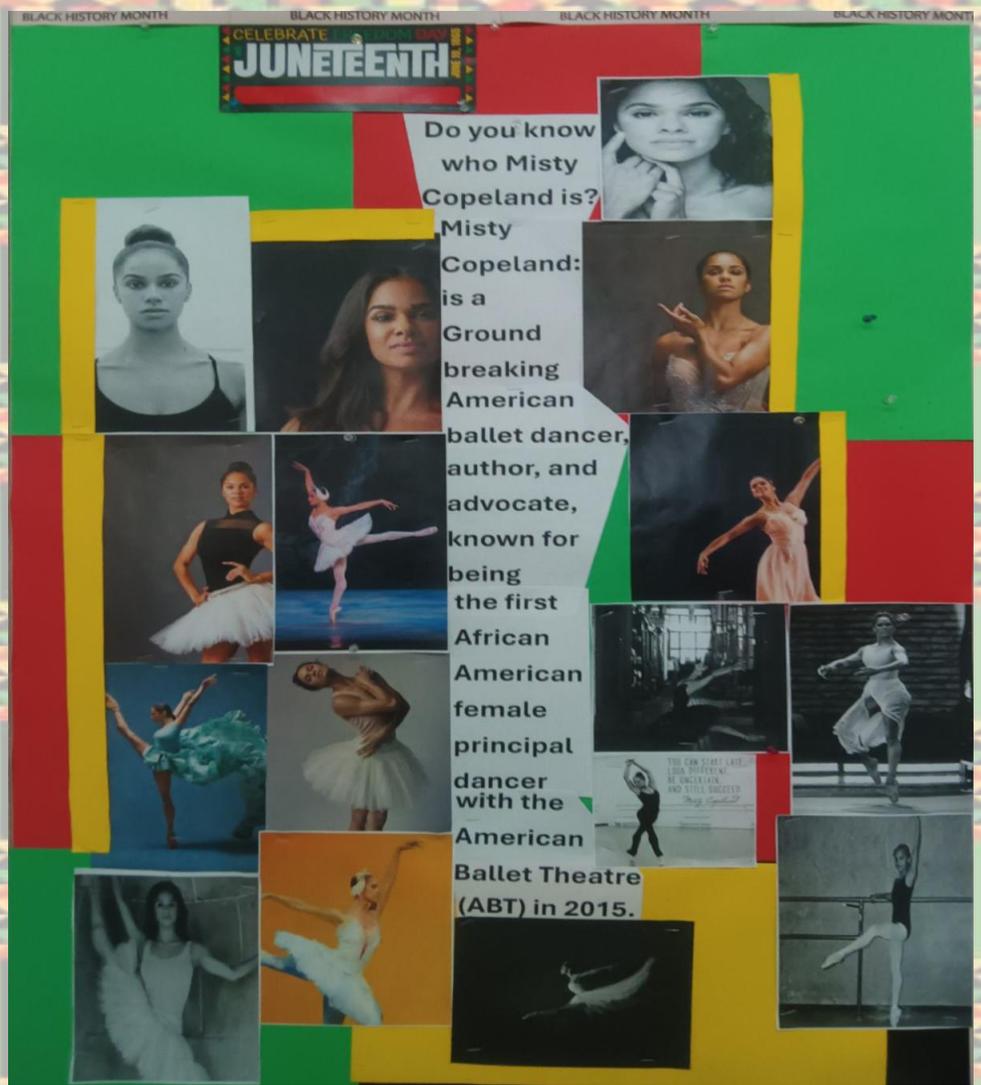
ELONTE DAVIS SINTEX SHEEFY MCFLY

More From Harms

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

Do you know who Misty Copeland is? Misty Copeland: is a Ground breaking American ballet dancer, author, and advocate, known for being the first African American female principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) in 2015.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

HAVE A DREAM... MARTIN LUTHER KING AUGUST 28, 1963

WHEN AMERICA BECAME A DEMOCRACY

THE QUEEN FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

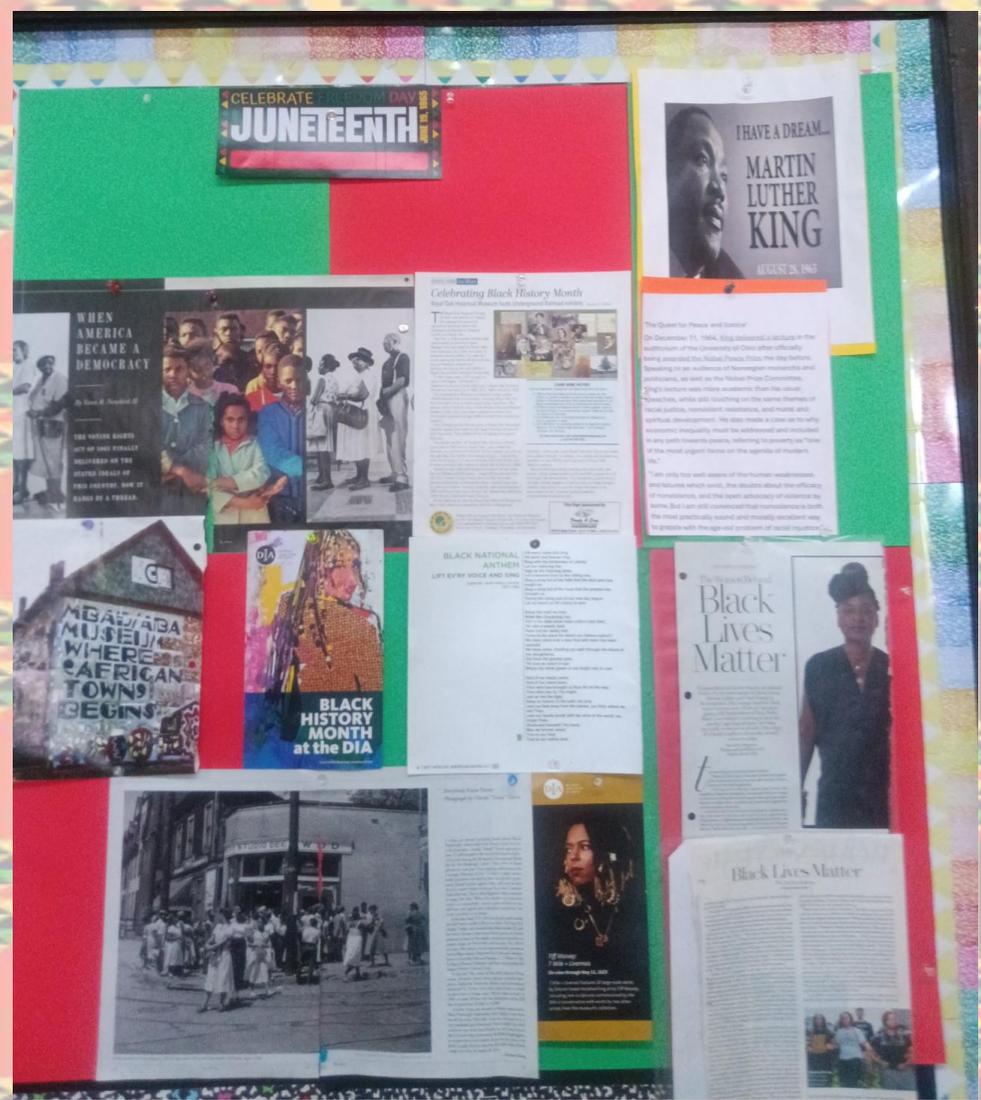
BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

MEAB/ABA MUSEUM WHERE AFRICAN TOWNS BEGINS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH at the DIA

Black Lives Matter

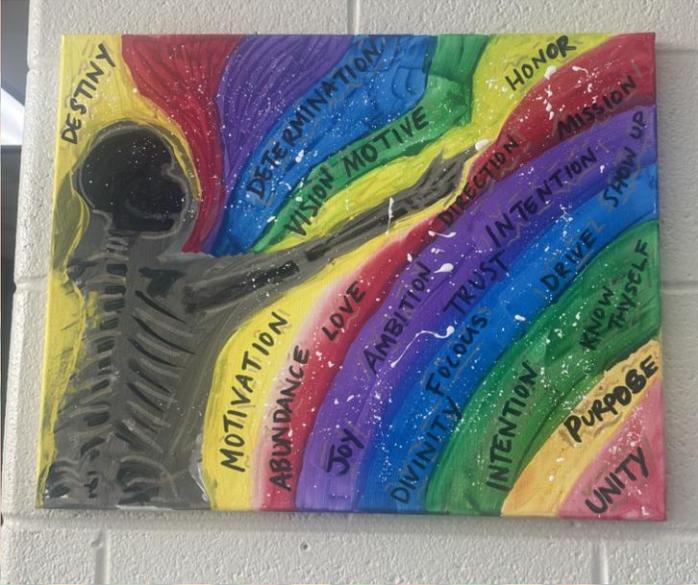
Black Lives Matter





Sonia Hill, a paraprofessional at Nolan, appreciated the opportunity to showcase projects from the art class.

Detroit School of the Arts





Bow EM



Academy of the Americas

Schulze Academy for Technology and Arts



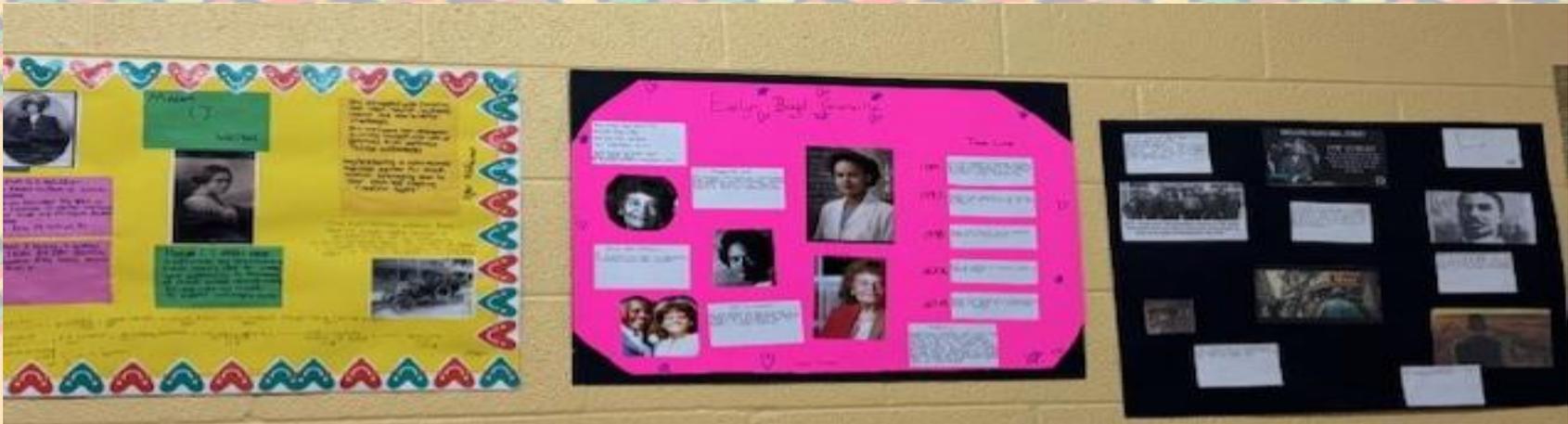
Charles Drew Transition Center







Thirkell EM







1897 Alfred Cralle
Black Inventor - Ice Cream Scooper

WE MAY ENCOUNTER MANY DEFEATS, BUT WE MUST NOT BE DEFEATED
-Mays Angelou



I KNOW OF NOTHING MORE INSPIRING THAN THAT OF MAKING DISCOVERIES FOR ONESELF
-George Washington Carver



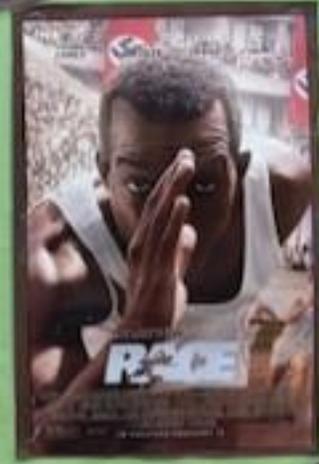
BLACK HISTORY EVERYWHERE



LIVE WHAT YOU DO, AND THEN YOU WILL DO YOUR BEST.
-Katherine Johnson

BLACK HISTORY EVERYWHERE

BLACK LIVES MATTER



LIVE



Vernor EM





ATTENTION!

IF YOU SIGNED THE INVEST IN MI KIDS
PETITION BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST, WE NEED
YOU TO **SIGN AGAIN**



WE BEGAN A NEW 180-
DAY SIGNING WINDOW IN
OCTOBER, AND
SIGNATURES BEFORE
THAT ARE NO LONGER
VALID

PLEASE EMAIL
INFO@INVESTINMIKIDS.ORG
TO FIND A PLACE TO SIGN
AGAIN NEAR YOU

We will be extending our campaign into early April. We only have 180 days in which we can submit signatures, which means **signatures collected in August and September will not be used.**

PLEASE MAKE SURE ANYONE WHO SIGNED THEN SIGNS AGAIN! *If you or others aren't sure, it's okay for them to re-sign. Double signatures will be not be invalidated.*

We will be sharing updates like that one and our updated numbers at our next all-volunteer call on **March 12 @ 6-7PM on Zoom.** [RSVP here!](#)

Petitions are available at the DFT Office and the General Membership Meetings.

[RSVP TO OUR NEXT ALL-VOLUNTEER CALL FOR CAMPAIGN UPDATES](#)

<https://investinmikids.org/>

CALENDAR

March

5 Executive Board 4:30 p.m.
10 DPSCD School Board 5:30 p.m.
11 PTC-HS
11 SSW Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
12 DFT General Membership 4:30 p.m.
16 Attendance Agents Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
16 Academic Interventionists, 6:00 p.m.
17 Retirees Chapter, 11:30 a.m.
17 Political Action Committee, 5:00 p.m.
18 PTC
19 Middle School Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
19 ESE Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
24 Building Rep Training, 4:30 p.m.
26 Early Childhood Chapter 5:00 p.m.
30-April 3 Spring Break

April

6 return from spring break; Q3 ends
7 Q4 begins
8 SSW Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
9 Executive Board 4:30 p.m.
13 Report Cards
14 DPSCD School Board 5:30 p.m.
16 DFT General Membership 4:30 p.m.
20 Attendance Agents Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
20 Academic Interventionists, 6:00 p.m.
21 Retirees Chapter, 11:30 a.m.
21 Political Action Committee, 5:00 p.m.
23 Middle School Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
23 ESE Chapter, 5:00 p.m.

May

7 Executive Board 4:30 p.m.
12 DPSCD School Board 5:30 p.m.
13 SSW Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
14 DFT General Membership 4:30 p.m.
18 Attendance Agents Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
18 Academic Interventionists, 6:00 p.m.
19 Retirees Chapter, 11:30 a.m.
19 Political Action Committee, 5:00 p.m.
21 Middle School Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
21 ESE Chapter, 5:00 p.m.
25 Memorial Day; no school
28 Early Childhood Chapter 5:00 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change.

DFT events are on website @ <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/events>.

DPSCD information can be found @ <https://www.detroitk12.org/>

Member Spotlight: Donella Young from Drew

The DFT is pleased to congratulate one of our own! Donella Young was named Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) Teacher of the Year for 2026.

She has proudly served with the district for 26 years and currently teaches at Drew Transition Center, where she leads a vocational Flower Shop & Café program for young adults ages 18–26 with special needs. Through hands-on, real-world job training, she helps students build independence, confidence, and employability skills that prepare them for life beyond the classroom. She is a proud DFT member. Why is being a union member important? She says it ensures that educators have a voice, protection, and professional respect. Our union advocates for fair working conditions, equitable resources for students, and the dignity of our profession. When we stand together, we are stronger not only for ourselves, but for the students and communities we serve.

Here's a short Facebook video of the award presentation: [Michigan CEC Award Presentation](#)





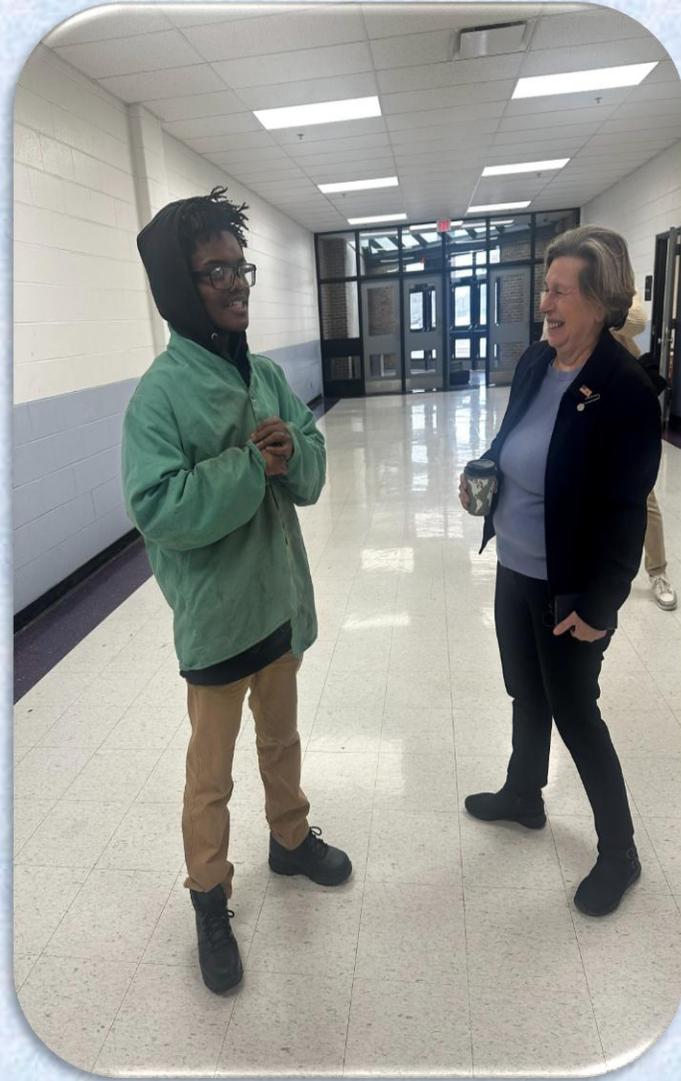
Work Locations Represented February 2026 General Membership Meeting

- ❖ Academy of Americas
- ❖ AOA Logan
- ❖ Bagley
- ❖ Bates
- ❖ Bethune
- ❖ Brenda Scott
- ❖ Brewer
- ❖ Bunche
- ❖ Burns
- ❖ Carver
- ❖ Central HS
- ❖ Charles Wright
- ❖ Clemente
- ❖ Clippert
- ❖ CMA
- ❖ Cooke
- ❖ Davison
- ❖ DFT Office
- ❖ DFT Retirees
- ❖ DIA
- ❖ DSA
- ❖ Drew
- ❖ EIDC
- ❖ East English Village
- ❖ Edmonson
- ❖ Fisher
- ❖ Gardner
- ❖ Golightly EC
- ❖ Hamilton
- ❖ Harms
- ❖ Hutchinson
- ❖ Jerry L. Wright
- ❖ Law
- ❖ Mackenzie
- ❖ Marquette
- ❖ Marygrove
- ❖ Moses Field
- ❖ Neinas
- ❖ Noble
- ❖ Pasteur
- ❖ Priest
- ❖ Randolph CTC
- ❖ Schulze
- ❖ Southeastern
- ❖ SLP
- ❖ Thirkell
- ❖ Vernor
- ❖ Wayne
- ❖ Western

AFT NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISITS DETROIT



Randi Weingarten recently spent a morning touring Breithaupt CTE (which coincided with February's Career and Technical Education Month). AFT is a supporter of CTE programs which supports engaging and relevant opportunities to help students prepare for their future. On the tour she saw cosmetology, auto repair, mechatronics, welding and the print shop. Afterwards there was a roundtable, a private conference held with Union members, parents, community groups and school administrators who are experiencing the firsthand effects of the recent changes in immigration status and ICE.

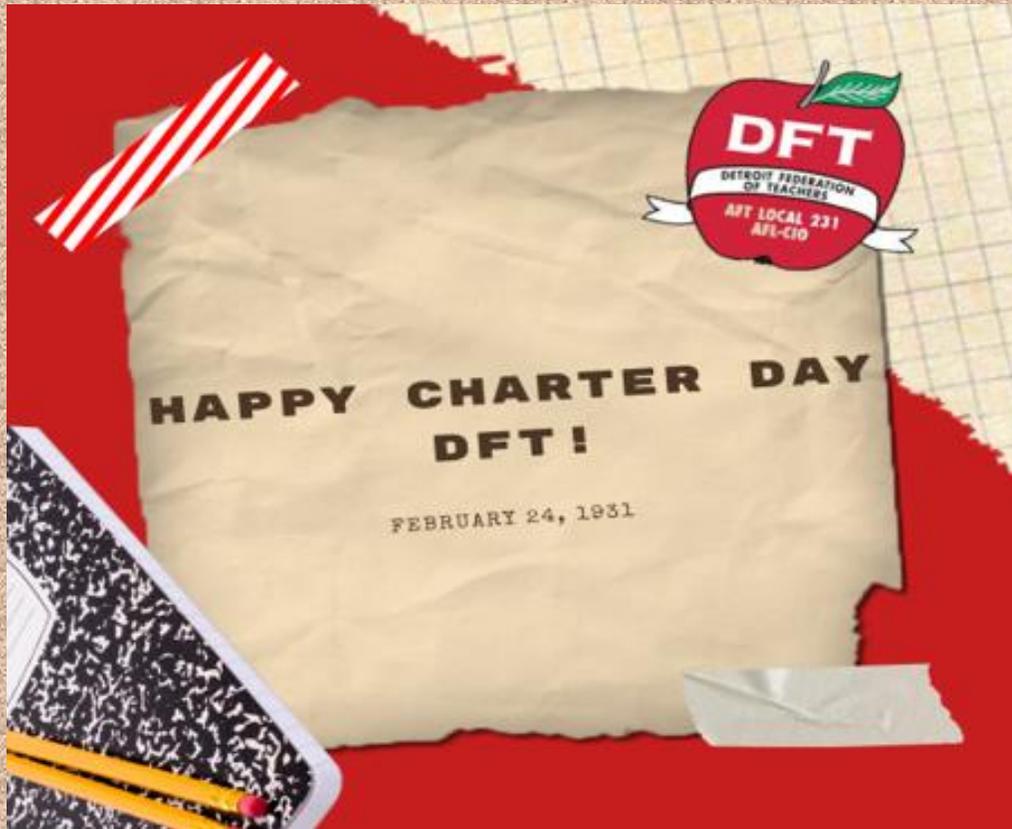




It was a chilly morning in Detroit, so of course we presented her with one of our red apple wool DFT caps, which she appreciated.



95 Years and Still Going Strong! Solidarity Forever!



Members enjoyed a sweet treat at the February General Membership Meeting.

A brief history of the DFT can be read here: <https://dft231.mi.aft.org/about-us>

ORGANIZING FELLOWS HARD AT WORK WITH AFT



While we were enjoying our mid-winter break, two of our Organizing Fellows were hard at work. Quanita Cunningham and NiJaia Bradley participated in the Organizing Essential Skills Training at AFT Headquarters in Washington D.C. Each day was packed with little time for breaks, but they were able to find a moment one night for sightseeing at the Lincoln Memorial.

Proud to Wear Red for Ed



Detroit International
Academy for Young Women



OF NiJaia Bradley



John R King (top and bottom)



REMINDERS

❖ DUES/MEMBERSHIP CONCERNS

Contact an Organizing Fellow: West Side locations handled by Nathaniel Horn; East Side locations handled by NiJaia Bradley, for Paras, Food Service and NHAs, contact Quanita Cunningham. You may also contact Office Assistant, Mae Winters.

❖ ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Please make sure your correct personal email, home address and telephone number are on file with the DFT Office. If you change it with the district, that information is not sent to the Union Office. You may send corrections to dues@dft231.com. *We are not allowed to send communications to your DPSCD email address.*

❖ SEPARATION FROM THE DISTRICT

It is the member's responsibility to notify the DFT Office when you separate from the district, whether resignation or retirement or Please contact an Organizing Fellow or the Office Assistant, Mae Winters.

❖ CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR CERTIFICATION EXPIRES IN 2026

You should be making plans to have your requirements fulfilled. The state is now accepting your credentials. More information can be found by logging on to your account at <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/moecs/login.aspx>.

ALL DFT CONTACTS ARE ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT



VIEWING PAYROLL COMPENSATION HISTORY

1. Log in to PeopleSoft with your DPSCD credentials.
2. Click on the **Compass** icon in the top right corner to open the Nav Bar. A drop-down menu will appear.
3. Click on **Navigator** icon.
4. Click on **Self Service**.
5. Click on **Payroll and Compensation**.
6. Click on **Compensation History**.
7. View your current salary with its location on the DFT Salary Schedule.

REMINDERS

ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

If you are called to a meeting with management that you suspect will be disciplinary in nature you have the right to request union representation under the U. S. Supreme Court ruling, NLRB v. Weingarten.

If in a meeting with management you are questioned to obtain information and you have reasonable apprehension that your answers could be used as a basis for discipline or other adverse action, it is your responsibility to ask to reschedule the meeting or resume when your union representative is present. If you choose to remain you may refuse to answer.

If you are in a situation where Weingarten may apply, read or present the statement exactly as outlined below.

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

If this interview could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union be present at this meeting. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to participate in this discussion.

CONTACT INFO FOR DFT STAFF

<https://dft231.mi.aft.org/contact-us>

- ❖ Lokia Wilson-Lumpkins, President, 313-875-6788, LWilson@dft231.com
- ❖ Jason Posey, Executive Vice President, 313-875-6786, JPosey@dft231.com
- ❖ Karin Whittler, Labor Affairs Administrator, 313-875-6776, KWhittler@dft231.com East Side locations (east of Woodward), Cass Tech, DSA, Burton
- ❖ Felecia Slappy, Labor Affairs Administrator, 313-875-6780, FSlappy@dft231.com, West Side Locations, (West of Woodward), Greenfield Union
- ❖ Jacqueline Washington, Labor Affairs Administrator, 313-875-6789, JWashington@dft231.com, Paras, Food Service, NHA
- ❖ NiJaia Bradley, Organizing Fellow, 313-875-6775, NBradley@dft231.com, East Side Locations/DFT
- ❖ Nathaniel Horn, Organizing Fellow, 313-875-6775, NHorn@dft231.com, West Side Locations/ DFT
- ❖ Quanita Cunningham, Organizing Fellow, 313-875-6789, QCunningham@dft231.com, Paras, Food Service, NHA
- ❖ Patrick Falcusan, Retirement Counselor and Financial Analyst, 313-875-6783, PFalcusan@dft231.com
- ❖ Mae Winters, Office Assistant, 313-875-3500 press 6, MWinters@dft231.com
- ❖ Vida Bonacci, Communications Specialist, 313-875-3500, VBonacci@dft231.com

