

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Honoring Our **BLACK HEROES**



MADAM C.J. WALKER

1867-1919

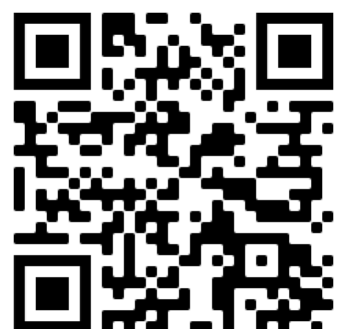
"Ms. Walker inspires me because she was a strong, brave woman who knew she could be more than what society expected her to be."

**Mrs. Rizzardo
Cedar Cliff H.S.**

An American entrepreneur in the early 1900's. Walker started her own hair care company and became the first recorded female millionaire in the United States.

Photo:
Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images

Special thanks to members of the Colts Anti-Racist Alliance (C.A.R.A.). Please scan the QR code to participate in or to learn more about the District's Flipgrid Honoring Our Black Heroes. #WestShoreStrong



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JAMES ARMISTEAD

1748-1830

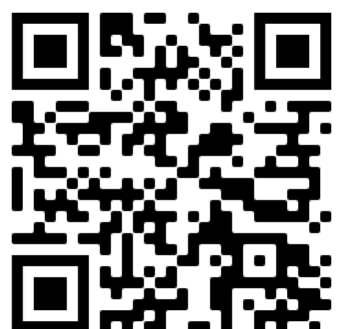
"I like James Armistead because he shows that Black people have always been here for our country and fighting for freedom. Also was in Liberty's Kids PBS episode 35."

*Mollie Fuller
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

An enslaved person who was a double spy for Americans in the Revolutionary War. In his own words, as an "invisible man" the British spoke secrets in front of him. His intelligence was instrumental in Battle of Yorktown

Photo:
Public Domain

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WILLIAM EDWARD BURGHARDT DU BOIS

1868-1963

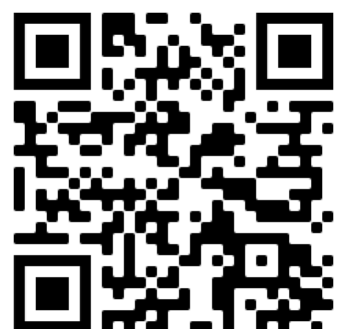
"W.E.B. Du Bois was my choice because of how his research has paved the way for current activism and how he contributed to a previously predominantly white field of study."

*Alexander McQuade
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

One of the founders of modern sociology. Was a founding member of NAACP. The first African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard. Coined the term "Double Consciousness" which describes what black people struggle with in society which others do not. Illustrated how the social structure shapes lives of individuals and communities.

Photo:
Alamy Stock Photo

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RALPH BUNCHE

1904-1971

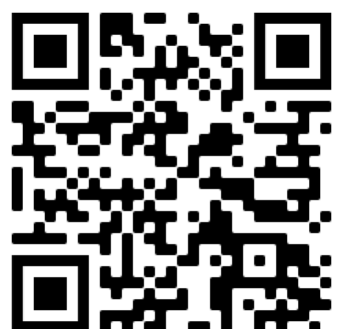
"There are many ways to make the world a better place, and a career spent fostering peace and understanding, like Mr. Bunche's, is very much one of them."

*Soloman Khan
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

First black man to win a Nobel Prize. Won the Peace Prize in 1950 for his mediation of negotiations between Israel and Arab nations during the first Israeli-Arab war.

Photo:
Public Domain

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SCOTT JOPLIN

1868-1917

“I am inspired by this person because music is a big part of people's lives and he was the face of this genre.”

*Cassie Nugin
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

Composer and pianist who was named the king of Ragtime. Wrote over 100 pieces, one ballet, and two operas. One of his most popular pieces, “Maple Leaf Rag” became an influential hit. His music influenced other genres such as jazz.

Photo:
Public Domain

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JAMES BALDWIN

1924-1987

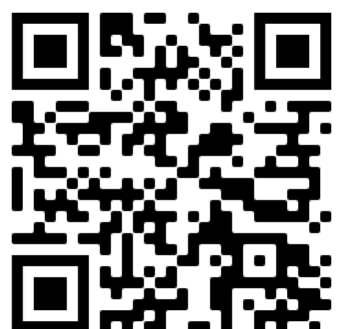
"I am inspired by Mr. Baldwin because of this quote "I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

**Mr. Weedon
Cedar Cliff H.S.**

James Baldwin is a true American. He was a novelist, playwright, poet, and activist. Author of "Got Tell It on the Mountain, Notes of a Native Son."

Photo by
Michael Allan Warren
allanwarren.com

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ISABEL WILKERSON

1961 - Present

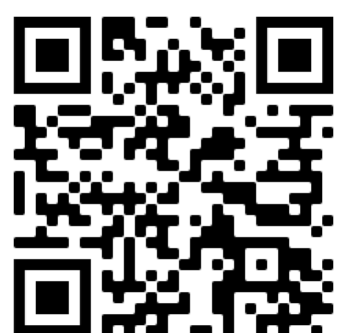
*“Isabel Wilkerson has
opened up my eyes
and shifted the way
I see the world for the
better.”*

*Mr. Santiago
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

Journalist and author. The first woman of African-American heritage to win the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism. Winner of the National Humanities Medal. Leading figure in narrative non-fiction with a focus on how history can help us understand who we are.

Photo:
isabelwilkerson.com

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HUEY P. NEWTON

1942- 1989

"I think what motivates people is not great hate, but great love for other people." - Newton

*Submitted by
Mikayla Gay
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

Co-founder of the Black Panther Party. After his arrest, he took the Panthers in a direction that emphasized community interconnectedness. Started the free lunch programs and created urban clinics.

Photo:
Public Domain

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USAIN BOLT

1986-Present

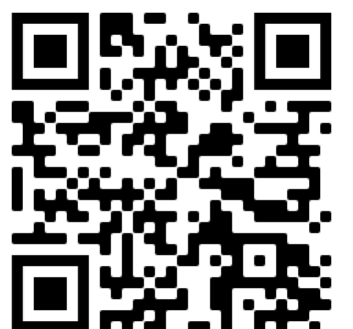
"Even though Mr. Bolt is a sprinter, and I am but a humble distance runner, I still feel inspired by his speed, dedication, and achievements."

*Jackson Green
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

This is the fastest man alive, and quite possibly the fastest man ever alive. Usain Bolt holds world records in the 100 m, 200 m, and 4 x 100 m. He currently has 19 Olympic gold medals.

Photo:
britannica.com

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ELIZABETH PIPER ENSLEY

1847 - 1919

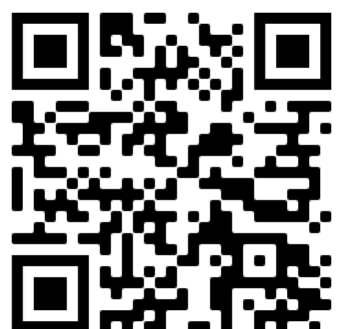
*"Elizabeth Ensley inspires
me because she
advocated for women's
rights and she educated
and empowered others."*

*Rory Gannon
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

**Educator, journalist, and
activist for women's suffrage.
The only African-American
woman on the Colorado
Federation of Women's Clubs.
Established the Women's
League to inform black
women how to vote.**

Photo:
Public Domain

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MAMIE PHIPPS CLARK

1917-1983

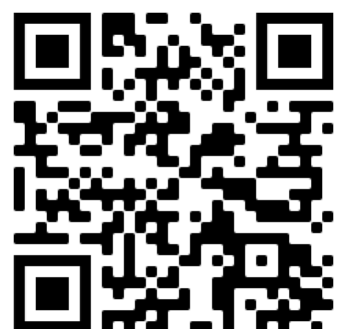
"I am inspired by Mamie Phipps Clark's compassion, empathy, and intelligence. Her work in the field of psychology is still incredibly relevant today."

*Kate Gannon
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

Mamie Phipps Clark was an American psychologist who studied the effects of racism and segregation on the self-esteem of black children. Mrs. Clark and her husband created the Doll Experiment which was used in the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Photo:
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MALCOLM X

Born Malcolm Little
1925 - 1965

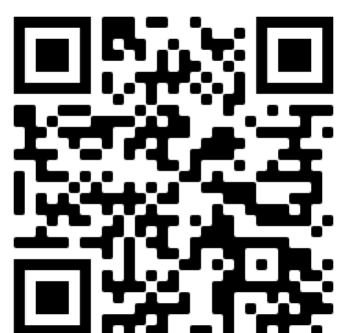
“Malcolm X is my black hero because he fought for what he believed in. He is overlooked because of his tactics but he wasn’t gonna sugar coat it.”

Tykeese Punter-Walters
Cedar Cliff H.S.

Civil Rights Activist and Minister. Led some of the nation’s largest civil rights rallies. Founder of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). He has been called one of the greatest and most influential African Americans in history.

Photo:
Eddie Adams/AP Images

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IDA B. WELLS

1862-1931

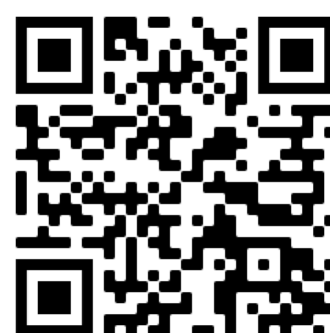
"I chose Wells because I also would like to become an author. She inspires me to write and pursue what I am passionate about, and I admire that greatly."

Kaylee Kramer
Cedar Cliff H.S.

Wells wrote about the discrimination against Black people and the conditions African Americans were forced to live under. She published her articles in a newspaper she co-owned.

Photo:
Chicago History Museum/Getty Images

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LEBRON JAMES

1984 - Present

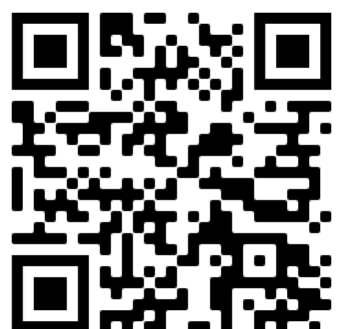
"LeBron is my black hero because he has given people in poverty many opportunities and gave them a chance at a new life. He is also a strong voice in the black community."

*AJ Sanders
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

Considered to be one of the greatest basketball players of all time. He founded "The Promise School" for at-risk youth which provides free food, tuition, guaranteed tuition to the University of Akron to all graduates.

Photo:
media.wkyc.com

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STACEY ABRAMS

1973 - Present

"I chose Stacey Abrams because of the remarkable difference she made in 2020's presidential election. She was a huge advocate for making voting accessible."

*Ava Amato
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

An activist, writer, and politician who fights against voter suppression.

Mrs. Abrams was the Minority leader for Georgia's House of Representatives

Photo:
Dan Winter, TheCut.com

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THOMAS SOWELL

1930 - Present

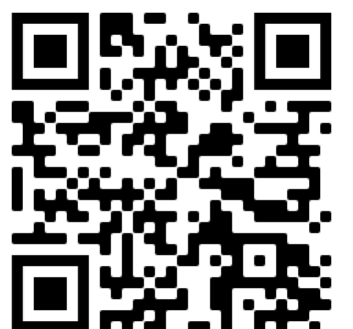
"Both Dr. Sowell's life and ideas are inspiring to me, and have opened my eyes to the true power of the empowered individual."

*Jackson Green
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

A brilliant economist and free market advocate, Dr. Thomas Sowell has championed economic freedom and opportunity for half a century.

Photo:
www.hoover.org

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PAUL ROBESON

1898-1976

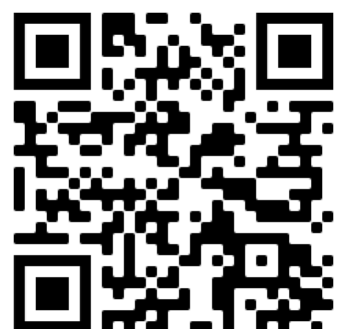
“Mr. Robeson’s commitment to the stage is inspiring to me as a novice actor myself, and I also admire his outspoken anti fascist political positions very much.”

Nathaniel Stains
Cedar Cliff H.S.

Mr Robeson graduated valedictorian from Rutgers University. He was the third African-American student to attend the school. He became a very successful performer, as both a stage and cinema actor and a singer who recorded 276 different songs.

Photo:
threemotenors.com/paul-robesson

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DEVONTA SMITH

1998 - Present

"I relate to him a lot. I've been doubted a lot because of my size. I'm not the strongest nor the the biggest. His mentality is to go out there and get it. His motivational words keep me motivated."

Jontae Morris
Cedar Cliff H.S.

NCAA Football Wide Receiver, 2020 Heisman Trophy Winner, 2017 and 2020 National Champion with the University of Alabama, and 2020 National Championship Offensive Most Valuable Player

Photo:
AP Photo/Chris O'Meara

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MICHELLE OBAMA

1964 - Present

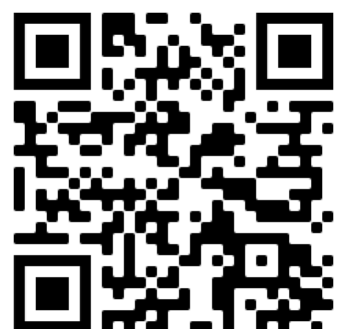
"Growing up Michelle Obama has always been an inspiration to me. One of my favorite from her is "Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It's something you own." which is found in her book Becoming. The quote teaches me to own my story and live it in truth. She's a powerful woman and one I aspire to be."

Sabine Kabuika, Cedar Cliff H.S.

First African American First Lady and #1 New York Times best selling author. Mrs. Obama attended Harvard Law School and Princeton University to pursue her degree in Law.

Photo:
James Bareham, The Verge

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MAYA ANGELOU

1928 - 2014

*"Maya Angelou is my hero
because I love the way she works
black excellence into her poems.*

*She has taught me that out of
troubles 'Still I Rise.' She captures
the beauty of being black and has
made me feel like a 'Phenomenal
Woman.' Her mentality is
something that I strive for."*

Jaelyn Brown, Cedar Cliff H.S.

- **Renowned Poet**
- **Memoirist**
- **Civil Rights Activist**
- **Pulitzer Prize
Nominee**
- **Tony Award
Recipient**

Photo:
mayaangelou.com

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KATHERINE JOHNSON

1918 - 2020

*"Katherine is my role model of
because of the perseverance
she showed towards getting her
education. I strive to be like her
in life because of her tenacity
and grit. She achieved
greatness with many obstacles
in her way."*

*Jalia Morris
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

**Scientist, Educator, and
Recipient of NASA's Lunar
Spacecraft and Operation's
Group Achievement Award,
NASA's Apollo Group
Achievement Award, and
the NASA Langley Research
Center Special
Achievement Award**

Photo: NASA.gov

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RUBY BRIDGES

1954-Present

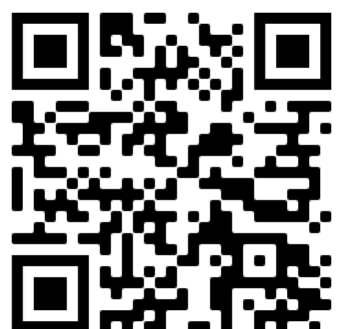
"I believe that she is important because she set a start on Civil Rights actions in the south and she was six years old at the time when she desegregated William Frantz Elementary."

*Adriana Salazar
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

The first African American student to integrate an all white school at the age of 6. A Civil Rights Activist. In 1999, she created The Ruby Bridges Foundation to promote tolerance and to create change through education.

Photo: Tom Dumont

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BESSIE COLEMAN

1892-1926

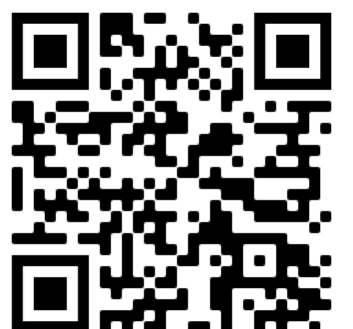
"Bessie Coleman's commitment to her passions through all the struggles that she has been through is what inspires me. It inspires me to keep pushing forward to reach my dreams and goals no matter what. She has become a symbol that with hard work you can do anything, even if all the odds are stacked up against you."

Hadeel Ahmed, Cedar Cliff H.S.

The first black woman in history to fly an airplane. When American flying schools denied her entrance due to her race, she taught herself French and moved to France.

Photo: Corbis Corporation

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MARY ELLEN PLEASANT

1814 - 1904

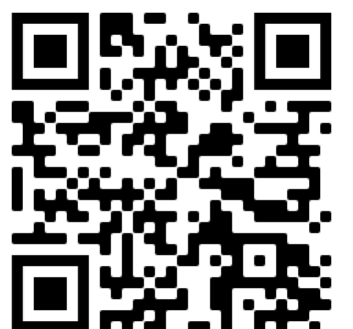
*“Mary Ellen Pleasant
was very important
because she was an
entrepreneur who was a
black woman, which
wasn't seen a lot.
(And still isn't!)”*

*Tristan Methereil
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

Mary's origins are unknown, but she was most likely born into slave-hood. She was an entrepreneur, financier, and abolitionist. She became a gold-rush era millionaire. Worked as a cook and a servant after her husband died and worked her way to starting a business.

Photo: aaregistry.org

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LANGSTON HUGHES

1902-1967

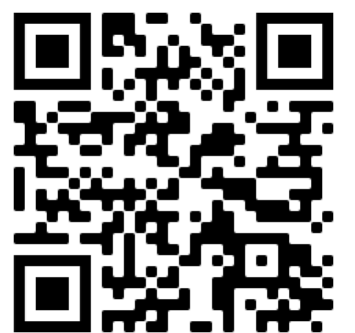
"Langston Hughes is inspiring to me because he stood up for being different in a peaceful way. Which I really appreciate for carrying himself like so."

**Ava Kimber
Cedar Cliff H.S.**

Langston Hughes is a poet/novelist, social activist, and play write from Missouri. He was a very important model in the Harlem Renaissance and throughout his arts expressed African American literature, history, and culture.

Photo: Public Domain

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FRED HAMPTON

1948-1969

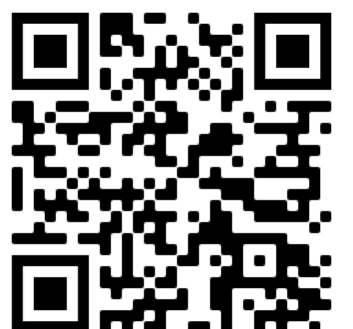
"Fred Hampton was not given enough credit to his contributions. At a time where violence was at an all time high he educated thousands of people and impacted so many more. He utilized the gift of education when people needed it most."

*Kaya Konevitch
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

American Activist and revolutionary socialist who advocated for his community. Most famously known for organizing the Rainbow Coalition that revealed and united the residents of Chicago against police brutality and sub standardized housing.

Photo: Public Domain

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OPAL TOMETI

1984- Present

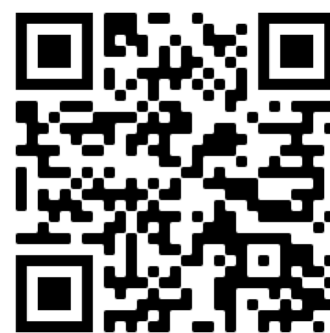
"Black Lives Matter is an important movement to me, as it should be important to the entire world. It's something colossal... something global. Opal took initiative to make a voice like mine heard!"

*Natalya Mathis-Jones
Cedar Cliff H.S.*

A freedom fighter, human rights activist, feminist, writer and community organizer. She is one of the three founders of the Black Lives Matter Organization and was the former executive director of the United States' first national immigrant rights organization for people of African descent.

Photo: harrywalker.com

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JOHN LEWIS

1940- 2020

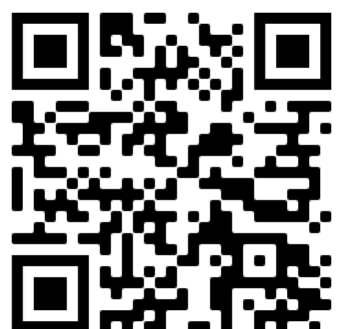
*"John Lewis inspires
me because of his
courage, commitment
and self-control."*

*Ms. Hartman
Red Land H.S.*

Mr. Lewis was an American politician, statesman, and civil rights activist and leader who served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020. He was the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee from 1963 to 1966.

Photo: Public Domain

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HARRIET TUBMAN

Born Araminta Ross
1822-1913

Harriet Tubman is my hero because she established the underground railroad safe houses, she knew the horrible punishments of what would happen to her if the public found out but she still took that chance to try to save as many slaves as she could in dangerous situations and bring them to freedom to have a much better life to live. To me that is an act of selflessness and leadership and especially a hero.

*Telayah Kerr
Red Land H.S.*

Harriet Tubman was a slave herself and escaped her plantation and wanted to help other slaves. She had over 10 rescue missions and saved over 300 slaves and kept them in safe houses underground. She ensured their safety by never losing a slave she rescued.

Photo: Public Domain

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