



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

For Immediate Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Statue Being Unveiled at Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School

Friday, October 19, 2018...Pittsburg, CA. It may have taken six years, but a Pittsburg Principal's dream is becoming a reality. The school will host an unveiling ceremony for a statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday October 19, 2018 at 10:00am. The junior high school is the only school in Contra Costa County named Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School (MLKJJHS).

WHEN: Friday, October 19, 2018 at 10:00AM

WHAT: Statue Unveiling Ceremony

WHERE: Martin Luther King Jr. JHS – 2012 Carion Court, Pittsburg 94565

PHOTO OPP: Photo and video opportunities are available for this event.

The inspiration for this new statue came from the Principal's desire to show her scholars the likeness of a man who did so much to change this nation as he fought for civil rights. Mrs. Stevenson realized through the process of bringing the statue to her school site that the statue was not just for her school, but for the entire Pittsburg community. The property the school stands on today has a history, because the previous building that stood was once a segregated school. Historians say that when integration occurred, whites did not want to be bussed into the school and it was closed as an elementary school. Later, it housed preschool students.

By unveiling this new statue of Dr. King, the goal is that it will symbolize hope for future generations. Seeing this statue in the courtyard will have meaning to scholars who pass through the gates each day because the school will strive to teach its scholars about the history of segregation. The legacy of Dr. King will definitely live on in this Pittsburg school.

QUOTES:

“While visiting my daughter at Spelman College in Atlanta, I visited Morehouse College, the historically Black all male College where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. graduated. That’s when I first saw a statue of Dr. King and I vowed that day to have one at my school. Six years later, that dream is finally a reality. I am so grateful to have been a part of this development. I thank our PUSD School Board for making my dream of Dr. King’s statue a reality for the City of Pittsburg and our school.” – Mrs. Angela Stevens-Stevenson, Principal at Martin Luther King Jr. JHS

I am so honored to be principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Junior High School. I am a product of the segregated South of Louisiana. I began my school years in a segregated school. I am the youngest of six children raised by a single mom. I remember being bussed across town to the “white” school where my 5th grade white teacher found ways to try and alienate me for no other reason than the color of my skin. I learned many lessons about racism that year and in years to follow. That history empowered me to be better than what I experienced. As an educator, I’ve always wanted to work toward Dr. King’s dream of having children of all ethnicities working together and playing together without the stereotypes and prejudices that are not innate in the first place. - Mrs. Angela Stevens-Stevenson, Principal at Martin Luther King Jr. JHS

About Pittsburg Unified School District

Video about PUSD: <https://youtu.be/X2xn3HOavfM>

Awarded the College Board’s Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll award in 2016 for expanding access to college, [Pittsburg Unified School District](#) (PUSD) is one of 130 school districts across the nation recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. PUSD is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study options, and a preschool program, the school district serves more than 11,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.

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