

January 13, 2021

## Gates County NAACP Donates Books to Gates County Schools in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day the Gates County NAACP honored his legacy with its MLK Day Memorial Donation to Gates County Public Schools. The Gates County NAACP donated a set of four books about the life of the great civil rights leader to Buckland, Gatesville and T.S. Cooper Elementary Schools. To commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day the GC NAACP focused on introducing and bequeathing cultural educational literature for students. The books exhibit Martin Luther King’s accomplishments, challenges, principles and contributions to society.



*L-R: Mrs. Gail Hawkins, BES Principal, Mrs. Rita Roberts, GC NAACP Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Sirlester Parker, GC NAACP President, Dr. Barry Williams, GCS Superintendent, & Mr. Brian Rountree, GC NAACP*

“It is vital at an early age that students see impactful individuals like Martin Luther King, Jr. in their books. This establishes cultural pride, motivation to achieve, encouragement to pursue, inspiration to execute, a sense of inclusion, which can develop positive ideologies and dispositions for students.” stated Brian Keith Rountree, GC NAACP Second Vice Chair.

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The MLK Day Memorial Donation books are ‘My Little Golden Book About Martin Luther King Jr.’ by Bonnie Bader, “National Geographic Readers: Martin Luther King Jr.” by Kitson Jazyka, “I am Martin Luther King Jr.” by Brad Meltzer and “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr. The books were donated January 18, 2021 by the Gates County NAACP to Gates County Public Schools for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



L-R: Dr. Wilson, GES Principal, Mr. Rountree, & Dr. Williams.

The presentation of the books were made by Mr. Rountree, Mr. Sirlester Parker, GC NAACP President, and Mrs. Rita Roberts, GC NAACP Assistant Treasurer. Receiving books for each school were Mrs. Gail Hawkins, Principal, and Laura Dickerson, Media Coordinator, from Buckland Elementary School, Dr. Shawn Wilson, Principal of Gatesville Elementary School, and Mrs. Amber Buxton, Principal of T.S. Cooper Elementary School.

Dr. Williams, Superintendent of Schools, stated, “I am very appreciative of the contributions the Gates County NAACP has made to the school district. Their dedication and commitment to the students of Gates County is evident and the books donated to each school will provide a resource for our students now and for many years into the future.”

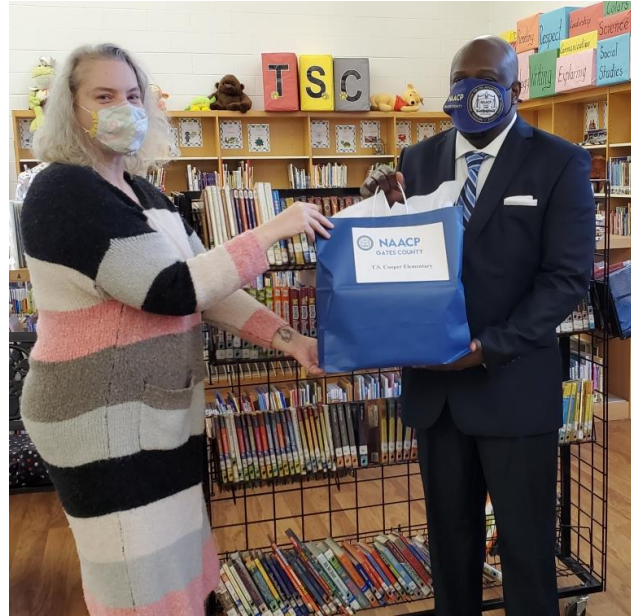
Mrs. Hawkins stated, “I truly appreciate the donation of books

about Martin Luther King, Jr from the Gates County NAACP in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We have a goal at Buckland Elementary School to provide a more diverse selection of books for our students so they can have books that represent our total population of students. I am so thankful for all of the work Mr. Brian Rountree does for Buckland Elementary School. I am a true believer that it takes a village to educate a child. I love the partnership with the Gates County NAACP to help us fulfill our goals to prepare our students to be productive and caring citizens. Collaborating with our stakeholders in our community continues to make me Buckland



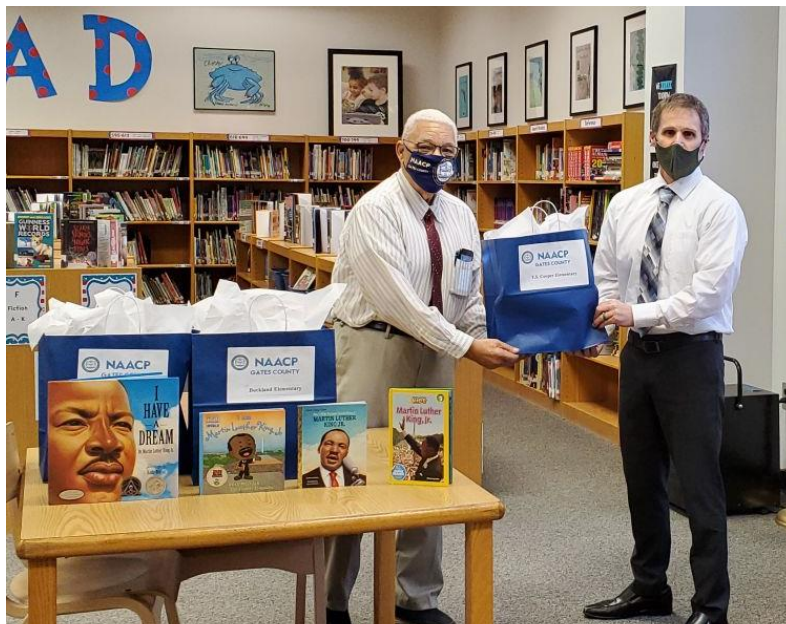
Proud and Gates County Proud.” Laura Dickerson, Media Coordinator at Buckland Elementary School added, “Dr. King once said ‘the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.’ Thank you so much for these books that will spark critical thinking and discussions for our students.”

Dr. Wilson shared, “In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’ It is evident that the NAACP of Gates County is serving others. On the behalf of Gatesville Elementary School’s students and staff, we would like to thank the NAACP for the generous donation of books to our school honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The donation is very timely. We are truly appreciative.”



L-R: Mrs. Buxton, TSCES Principal, & Mr. Rountree

Mrs. Buxton added that “T. S. Cooper Elementary is excited to have received several books based on Martin Luther King Jr.’s life. We are grateful for these books and are looking forward to putting these books in the hands of students. We thank Mr. Rountree and the NAACP for their contribution and will continue working together to educate our diverse student body.”



Dr. Williams accepts the gift of books from Mr. Parker, GC NAACP President.

“I am looking forward to future endeavors with Gates County Public Schools. The Gates County NAACP will collaborate with Gates County Public Schools to enhance the education of our youth. This is just the beginning of a great partnership.” stated Mr. Sirlester Parker, GC NAACP President.