

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Club spotlights cultural excellence

GRACE PENG, MANAGING ONLINE EDITOR



Senior Ethan Charles and junior Aaliyah Guthrie discuss their plans for Black History Month.

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In pre-pandemic Northview, perhaps one of the biggest events of the year is the Black History Club's annual performance for Black History Month. Spanning an entire lunch period, the performance exhibits a stirring lineup of Black culture, involving dance, music, and speech.

However, this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club came to acknowledge that a virtual performance would never have the energy of a live audience. So instead, they opted for an alternative, partnering with other high school chapters to create interactive activities that continue inspiration of Black culture.

One of those activities is hosting Trivia Nights. The Black History Clubs of Johns Creek High School and Chattahoochee High School reached out to Northview's chapter to begin friendly inter-school rivalry. Sessions will be hosted on the platform Quizzizz, where a code will be posted on social media (including Northview Student Council and Black History Club pages), inviting other people to join.

"What you would do is that you would go through your series of questions, asking about Black history and Black trivia," Ethan Charles, a senior and member of the Black History Club, said. "The more you get correct, the more you'll be propelled through the ranks, because it's like a student competition."

Charles is very excited for the contest, but he is also looking forward to another of the planned activities, a series of movie nights.

"We're just planning stories that aren't necessarily revolved around Black history or Black experiences, but more just have Black main characters," Charles said.

There are several movies that the club is considering, and possibilities include "Get Out," starring Daniel Kaluuya and Allison Williams, as well as "Ma" starring Octavia Spencer.

"The movie 'Soul' that just came out on Disney Plus—a lot of people raved about it," Aaliyah Guthrie, a junior and vice president of the Black History Club, said. "We thought that'd be a cute movie to watch because not ev-

community who are often not recognized. And then the following week, we need to look at [present] Then from there, we'll probably look towards the future."

Although the activities during Black History Month focus on the acknowledgement of Black excellence, they allow people of all backgrounds to participate.

"Our initiative is to be more inclusive, not even with just like the Black community, but other minority communities at our school," Charles said. "The messages talk about, this is what we go through. This is how we feel. Please listen, be our allies, if you're part of our community."

A particular goal of the club is to address the disparities at Northview and promote a more racially-conscious environment.

"As students who are not Black, when you do hear some sort of slander or negative way the Black community is being treated, then stand up and sort of recognize, "Hey, that's wrong," Pope said. "I think being willing to listen and be open is most important, especially in students who come from diverse

backgrounds and are empathetic and understanding."

While the Black History Club's meetings have always revolved around having difficult conversations about systemic injustices, this month is especially important due to its current events.

"Black History Month means, to me, to mainly acknowledge and recognize the trials and tribulations that got us here today," Guthrie said. "Just seeing how we've progressed to the society now, it's amazing how far we've come and how much further we need to go." 🦋

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everything [about this month] has to be somber, but it can be fun."

Another new tenet of this year's Black History Month has been to destigmatize Black culture through a series of weekly messages sent through language arts classes.

"We've submitted, via [Microsoft] Teams, just a statement that, you know, just to think about each week. Like this week, you know, we opened it up and sort of thought about praise and struggles," Tania Pope, language arts teacher and sponsor of the Black History Club, said. "Next week, we're going to look at the past, including members of the Black