



 **Salem** | STATE
UNIVERSITY
36th ANNUAL
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
CAMPUS CELEBRATION

SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS REV. DR. MLK JR. ESSAY COMPETITION

Lucy Corchado

Staff Assistant, Center for Justice and Liberation





Emily Ann Impeartrice

Horace Mann Laboratory School 5th Gr.

"What MLK Jr. told us on August 28, 1963 reverberated through the minds of many people for years to come, even now when people still listen to or read his speech. When he said "One day ... Little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

That reminded me of when I was in kindergarten and all of my friends both black and white we joined hands, made a circle and played ring-around-the-rosie. I believe that was what MLK Jr wanted. Not that we played ring-around-the-rosie but that we played a game together with people of all skin color.

In peace and harmony. Not fighting. Not arguing. And not treating each other unequally. MLK Jr. was a wonderful man who helped many people. If it wasn't for him then some of my classmates wouldn't be in my school with me. If it weren't for him people would still be treated unfairly so all I have to say is thank you MLK Jr. for making my life and the lives of others the way they are today."





Vincent Zheng

Collins Middle School 7th Gr.

"History has shown the discrimination of races has only led to conflict and injustice. Uniting races is a crucial part of building a community, sustaining peace, and creating equity. By following these principles we can create a better society and give everyone the same opportunities."

Martin Luther King Day is the day to remind us of the sacrifices that were made to help build the foundation of this equity. However, it is our responsibility to build off that and create a better world. A society with everyone united provides a vast amount of benefits. When we create a safe environment for people of ethnicities we can grow as a society."

Uniting races is an essential part to human development and encouraging innovations and ideas. Perhaps people can work towards a future where everyone receives the same opportunities and is not treated in a way based on their culture or looks."





Elianny Hernandez Gonzalez

Salem Academy Charter School 8th Gr

"We build community by having real conversations one at a time. If we want our whole country to come together peacefully, we have to use those same ideas just on a bigger scale. Dr. King proved that peaceful protests-like speaking up and voting- can be stronger than fighting. Nonviolence isn't about staying quiet or backing down. It's about being brave enough to stand up for what's right in a way that shows respect. History proves this works! The civil rights movement used peaceful protests to make people pay attention to what was unfair. These examples show that nonviolence is still powerful-and anyone, even students like us, can make a difference.

Dr King dreamed of a world where people build bridges, not walls. Sometimes this mission feels impossible especially when the world seems divided but it actually becomes possible when each of us makes small choices everyday to bring people together. When we help our classmate, stand up for what's right, and answer hate with kindness we help build the community Dr King wanted a place where everyone belongs and where peace isn't just a dream, but something we all want together. If we all try we can make a difference-one kind act at a time."





Mychaelah Brooks

Horace Mann Laboratory School 5th Gr.

Runner Up

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man. He did so much for us in the past it affected us in the future as well. Racism is a horrible thing and MLK did so much to help stop that even though his house was bombed and he was assassinated by James Earl Ray on April 4, 1968. His peaceful actions and words won't ever die.

MLK was an important figure in the Civil Rights movement. He fought against racial injustice by refusing violence and instead chose to fight by protesting peacefully. I want to live by Martin Luther King's teaching and I know it can take me far in life. I would like to live a nonviolent and peaceful life forever."

