



A  
BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH  
*Celebration*

2

FEBRUARY

6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

ANNUAL PATHFINDERS ASSEMBLY  
MCKINLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
UMSTATTD HALL

HONORING

CHRISTOPHER J. STOKES  
SHANICE L. ROBINSON, MD  
KYLE L. STONE

**SPECIAL THANKS**

CANTON CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCOTT RUSS, PRESIDENT

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"Often referred to as "The Black National Anthem," Lift Every Voice and Sing was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), composed the music for the lyrics.

At the turn of the 20th century, Johnson's lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans. Set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom, the song was later adopted by NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s."

\*Text Credit: NAACP.Org  
<https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/lift-every-voice-and-sing>

# LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Lift every voice and sing,  
 'Til earth and heaven ring,  
 Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
 Let our rejoicing rise  
 High as the skies,  
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
 Let us march on 'til victory is won.  
 Stony the road we trod,  
 Bitter the chastening rod,  
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
 Yet with a steady beat,  
 Have not our weary feet  
 Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
 We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
 Out from the gloomy past,  
 'Til now we stand at last  
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 God of our weary years,  
 God of our silent tears,  
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
 Thou who has by Thy might  
 Led us into the light,  
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
 our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
 May we forever stand,  
 True to our God,  
 True to our native land.



Canton City School District  
 Pathfinders Award Celebration

## SCHEDULE OF EVENT

|                                                                                                               |                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Introduction of Program                                                                                       | Deidre K. Stokes Davis                                   |
| Mistress of Ceremonies                                                                                        | Tonya Strong-Charles                                     |
| Black National Anthem                                                                                         | Da'Jeun Dickerson                                        |
| Welcome                                                                                                       | Superintendent Jeff Talbert                              |
| Performance                                                                                                   | EN-RICH-MENT                                             |
| Pathfinder, Keynote                                                                                           | Christopher J. Stokes, Virtual<br>Live from Seoul, Korea |
| STEAMM Student Performance                                                                                    | STEAMM Stomp Team                                        |
| Pathfinder                                                                                                    | Shanice Robinson, M.D., Virtual<br>Pre-Recorded          |
| Recognition of MSAN/ALL-IN                                                                                    | Students Come to Stage to be<br>Recognized               |
| Pathfinder                                                                                                    | Kyle L. Stone,<br>Stark County Prosecutor                |
| Poem                                                                                                          | Celebrity Brown                                          |
| Conclusion/Closing                                                                                            | Tonya Strong-Charles                                     |
| "Thank you to the McKinley Steel Band for their welcoming entertainment under the direction of Zachary Taylor |                                                          |