



COMING NEXT WEEK:
Black History | Kids' Health

A PRINT AND ONLINE INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS.



Dr. Linda Hicks

Superintendent Battle Creek Public Schools

Linda Hicks still remembers the turn-around moment in her life. Sitting in study hall at Three Rivers High School, she asked herself, "What in the world are you doing?"

She'd always dreamed of being a teacher, but she wasn't doing her best in school. That's in spite of parents, Sherman and Melvia Hicks, who taught her positive values.

"I think that's a real disconnect for kids sometimes," she said. "We want something, but we don't do the things necessary in order to get there. Again, fortunately for me, my parents didn't allow me to fail in school."

But from that moment in study hall when she was a junior, she had a better attitude and did the best she could, becoming an honor roll student so she could attend Michigan State University and become a teacher.

After college, she taught in Three Rivers, never thinking of becoming an administrator because she enjoyed teaching. But things changed when her principal, Louis Seaman, encouraged her

to become a principal.

"That's how I became a principal – by his positive encouragement and showing me that it was something I could do," she said. "At that time, I was student council advisor and coaching. I was doing a lot of things because I was one of those who wanted to make a larger impact on more kids."

So, she became a principal, first in Three Rivers, then Willow Run School District in Ypsilanti, and then in South Redford, where she eventually became superintendent. Along the way, she earned her doctorate from Seton Hall University in New Jersey. About 19 months ago, she became superintendent of the Battle Creek Public Schools.

"I love it all," she said of her career. "I've never had a part of my career that I really didn't enjoy."

Her advice for young people is to have a dream despite any obstacles. For example, there were eight children in her family, she said. Her father worked in a factory and her mother was a stay-at-home mom.

"We didn't have the financial means for eight children to go to school, but I really believe in where there's a will, there's a way," she said.

Hicks encourages students to connect with their school guidance counselors to help them find financing to get an education.

"Education is the vehicle to get to where they need to be," she said. "It just opens so many doors when you have an education no matter what you want to do."

Celebrate **BLACK HISTORY**

Match the year with the event or person that has impacted Black History in America.

1619



Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery.

1849



Robert Johnson launches BET.

1955



First Africans arrive in Jamestown and the beginning of salvery starts in America.

1980



General Colin Powell appointed chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff.

1989



Rosa Parks arrested for not giving up her seat on the bus to a white male.

Use the News

African-Americans are celebrities and newsmakers in many fields. Look through the news, sports, entertainment and business sections and pick one African-American who is making a mark. Write a paragraph about what makes this person's contributions significant.

Black History NIE program sponsored by



Find the correct answers and explore more exciting Black History facts online at: www.biography.com, www.history.com, www.pbs.org and www.blackpast.org.