

# Lewis Leadership Program

@ John R. Lewis High School

LEADERSHIP

JUSTICE

SERVICE

ADVOCACY



## Carrying Forward John Lewis's Legacy



Andrew Aydin, author and former policy advisor to Congressman Lewis, celebrates John Lewis's birthday with Lewis Leadership Legacy students, FCPS Executive Principals, School Board member Marcia St. John Cunningham, and Franconia District Workforce Development Manager David Temple 2/21

### MESSAGE FROM OUR LEWIS LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have been thinking a lot about legacy this season. All of us in the John Lewis Leadership Program, whether youth or adults, have the honor and responsibility of figuring out what Congressman Lewis's legacy means to us, and how we might choose to carry it forward in our own lives.

In February, our school hosts a week of special programming in commemoration of John Lewis's birthday. The **Lewis High School Library** organized a powerful community celebration featuring **Andrew Aydin**, author and former policy advisor to Congressman Lewis, and a ceremony honoring students who have demonstrated exemplary service to others. Staff, families, FCPS leaders, and community partners including **Maya Nicolaus** and **Amy Charlesworth** of **Volunteer Fairfax** and **David Temple, Franconia District Workforce Development Manager**, joined us. Also that week, **Susan Sims** and **Kevin Chadwick** of **Leadership Fairfax** sparked conversation about racial justice in sports and beyond through a screening of the Loyola Project. And Lewis Leadership Legacy students began a study of John Lewis's life and impact in connection with their community action projects. Here are some of our students' takeaways so far:

- "John Lewis wanted freedom now, not gradually."
- "John Lewis led by example, and personally, he taught me to create good, necessary trouble."
- "John Lewis comparte consejos para la lucha continua para la justicia y la igualdad."

In John Lewis's legacy, our students are finding guiding principles that help them imagine and work toward the world they hope to see. We eagerly await what comes next.

In community,

**Deborah March**, Program Manager  
**Erik Manuel Giblin**, Assistant Principal  
**Mirella Saldaña Torres**, Work-Based Learning Teacher



Students build new friendships at Microsoft Garage 2/28



Belen (11th grade) tells FCPS staff and community partners about the student-led Change-Makers project 2/21

### THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

In a 2016 interview, John Lewis said that we can live as if the beloved community were already our reality. "You live as if you're already there, that you're already in that community, part of that sense of one family, one house." When we plan events, whether big or small, we try to put that ideal into action. Students are leading the way in figuring out new ways to be in community across generation, culture, language, and role. When you come to a Lewis Leadership Program experience, it may not be perfect or polished, because this approach is new for many of us. But we are learning from each other how to find strength in community and take positive action together.

## GOING PLACES: FIELD TRIPS CATALYZE STUDENT-LED ACTION PROJECTS

So far in school year 2023–24, we have taken 31 field trips as part of the Lewis Leadership Program. We notice that these opportunities to connect with the world outside of school spark and sustain student-led action projects, because they provide a sense of excitement, adventure, and authenticity amidst the hard work of bringing a project to fruition. This month, we have traveled to **George Mason University, the Library of Congress, Microsoft Garage, and the National Labor Relations Board.**



Students engage in hands-on learning about justice and advocacy at the National Labor Relations Board, 2/29



Students explore STEM career pathways at Microsoft Garage, 2/28



Professor Wendi Manuel-Scott facilitates an examination of the Monument to the Enslaved People of George Mason, 2/15

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: LEADERSHIP FAIRFAX



Leadership Fairfax CEO Kia Cole-Hines meets with students at George Mason University to launch the student-led Our Stories Matter project 2/15



Students and staff with facilitator Kevin Chadwick at a Lewis High School screening of The Loyola Project sponsored by Leadership Fairfax 2/23

**Leadership Fairfax** has been a crucial partner in providing individualized leadership development as part of students' ordinary school day. This has taken many forms and continues to evolve as we partner with students, staff, and families to develop unique opportunities just for Lewis High School students. **Leadership Fairfax CEO Kia Cole-Hines** and **George Mason University Professor Wendi Manuel-Scott** have collaborated with the Lewis Leadership Program to support "Our Stories Matter," a student-led action project focused on documenting the living history of the Springfield community. In the photo above, Ms. Cole-Hines meets Lewis Leadership Program students at George Mason University to kick off the project. **Leadership Fairfax Director of Programs and Communications Susan Sims** joined our Lewis Leadership Legacy class in February to provide a public speaking workshop, and will return to facilitate a resume building workshop in March. Leadership Fairfax is helping us embed real-world experiences within students' classes, decreasing barriers and increasing opportunities.

## SAVE THE DATE

**April 15th: John Lewis Leadership Program Exhibition of Student and Teacher Learning**

8:30 - 11:00 AM | Lewis High School | Stories of Impact and Change

703-924-8480

Lewis High School Library 53K

dmmarch@fcps.edu

@LewisLeadershipProgram

@deborah\_march



Donate to the Lewis Leadership Program through Educate Fairfax: [LINK](#)