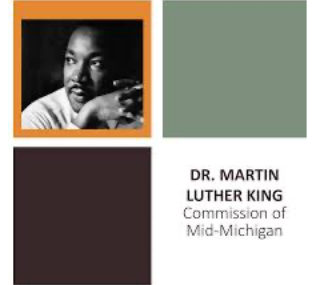


DATE: October 28, 2025

TO: School Administrators, Guidance Counselors & Community Leaders

FROM: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan Essay Committee

RE: Essay Contest: An Opportunity for Your Students



We are pleased to announce our **2026 Essay Contest!!!** Please assist us in informing and encouraging Greater Lansing Area Students (**6th – 8th and 9th – 11th** grades) to participate in the celebration by entering the contest. Submissions must be reflective of this year's theme:

“Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream” – **MLK**

Monetary awards and certificates will be presented to the First (\$500), Second (\$350), and Third Place (\$150) winners at the Luncheon.

Please ensure that contest participants strictly adhere to the following criteria:

1. Parental Permission Slip (supplied) must be completed for each contestant
2. Essays must be typed (double spaced) or printed neatly in black ink
3. Essay length must be in the range of 250 to 300 words.
4. Essays should speak to the Luncheon theme
5. Essays presented using creative language styles are acceptable (i.e. poetry)
6. Submission **Deadline Date** is **December 5th, 2025**
7. One copy of the parental permission slip, cover page and essay should be submitted via email to:

mlkcommissionscholarship@gmail.com

8. Please e-mail **mlkcommissionscholarship@gmail.com** if you have questions. This essay contest is proudly sponsored by:



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan

2026 Essay Contest Permission Slip

I hereby grant _____ permission to
(Child's Name - Printed)

Participate in the Greater Lansing Area Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission's Essay Contest. I understand that if my child's essay is selected as a winning entry, they may be expected to read aloud their composition at the **MLK Holiday Luncheon Celebration on Monday, January 19, 2026**. I further authorize the Commission to capture photos/video of my child for marketing/promotional purposes. Additionally, I certify that my child's submission is their original work and does not contain plagiarized content. I understand that my child's entry may be disqualified if their entry is in violation of this agreement.

_____ School _____ Grade

_____ Teacher/Sponsor

_____ Parent or Guardian (signature)

_____ Parent or Guardian's name
(printed)

_____ Date

_____ Parent Email Address

_____ Street Address

_____ City, State ZIP

_____ Telephone Number

****This form *must* be completed****