Hello Everyone,

*Happy Black History Month and Valentine’s Day!*  

Look at our *I Am Mississippi Beautiful* Project on our website at education.mpbonline.org! It is fun and you should enter! Let everyone know what makes Mississippi beautiful to you! Show Mississippi some love!

Empee Bee

Upcoming Events

Workforce Wednesday will return February 2021, kicking off a three-month series focused on virtual self-presentation. The goals of this series are to raise awareness about how we present ourselves in the best way verbally and screen-to-screen. This series will raise our consciousness of professionalism when we meet virtually.

Our first presenter in the series will be MPB’s Claudia Singletary. She will present on “Confessions of a Word Nerd.” This session first session in the series will highlight how to sound your best when presenting virtually.

Join us for these fun, engaging sessions the third Wednesday of each month beginning February 17, 2021. Click [here](https://education.mpbonline.org/) to register.
THE BLACK CHURCH: This is Our Story, This is Our Song is a four-hour, two-part series that will air on MPB Television and PBS stations nationwide in February. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is executive producer, host and writer of the documentary that traces the 400-year-old story and reveals the broad history and culture of the Black church in America.

MPB’s virtual event will include a screener of the documentary, songs from HBCU choirs, door prizes and the panel discussion. Registration is required through Eventbrite [here](#).

The MPB Education Department is hosting an essay contest for middle school, high school and college students who submit writings after watching the series. Find contest rules [here](#).

The two-part series air dates and times are 8-10 p.m. Feb. 16 and Feb. 23 on MPB Television. However, the air dates may change due to the State of the Union Address in February. Check the MPB Television schedule for possible update

February is Black History Month — and it’s never too early to begin celebrating and teaching your child about Black leaders of yesterday (and today!). As you begin exploring the Black scientists, politicians, activists, artists, and more who have left their mark on U.S. history, encourage your child’s curiosity about the contributions and accomplishments of Black people. Instead of shying away from hard truths, help your child understand the resiliency of Black women and men by discussing the history of unfair and differential treatment towards Black people due to their skin color. Discussing Black people’s achievements within their fight for justice and equity encourages empathy and understanding — and teaches children how to connect their personal experiences with the experiences of others. Watch videos about Black leaders throughout history, and then ask your child to draw a picture or write a journal entry to help show what they learned. Read books celebrating Black culture — picture books show the joys and challenges that kids of all races, ethnicities, and cultures can relate to as they learn and grow. You can also explore Black history through art. The arts in general, and Black art in particular, can help reduce the negative stigma often assigned to Blackness and help children see that all Black is beautiful.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.
**Donkey Hodie**, an imaginative new PBS KIDS® puppet series from Fred Rogers Productions and Spiffy Pictures, is inspired by the quirky, funny side of children’s TV pioneer Fred Rogers and his mission to help young viewers navigate the challenges of childhood. The series is set in the land of Someplace Else, which was created by Rogers on Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.

**Social Emotional Curriculum**

In every episode, Donkey Hodie — a sweet, yellow donkey with a bright, magenta mane — along with her pals, Purple Panda, Duck Duck and Bob Dog, empowers preschoolers to dream big and overcome obstacles in their own lives, to work hard and persevere in the face of failure, to be resourceful and discover they are capable of solving problems on their own — and to laugh themselves silly along the way.
SAMPLE STORIES

Each episode of *Donkey Hodie* will include two 11-minute, character-driven stories.

**The Waiting Game** - Donkey must wait until all her pals are together to open a present. She uses her imagination to help pass the time.

**Flying Flapjacks** - Donkey wants to make a surprise breakfast for Grampy all by herself, but none of her flapjacks will fly. Maybe she does need a little help.

**Super Duper Sleepover** - Donkey and Panda’s sleepover is full of playing and dancing. But when the lights go out, a scary monster appears.

**Pickle Penguin Problem** - Panda’s toy Pickle Pet gets stuck between two rocks. How will he and Donkey rescue it?

Digital Resources

*Donkey Hodie* will offer digital content for kids, parents and teachers, launching in tandem with the series.

Offerings will include:
- Games on pbskids.org and the free PBS KIDS Games App.
- Streaming video across all PBS KIDS’ video platforms, including the free PBS KIDS Video App.
- Activities and articles on the PBS KIDS for Parents website.
- A collection of educator resources on PBS LearningMedia.

Fun Fact!

Donkey Hodie is the granddaughter of the original Donkey Hodie character from Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood (now reimagined as “Grampy Hodie”), who appeared in 59 episodes of the beloved classic children’s show from 1968-1993. Observant viewers will see visual references to the original series scattered throughout *Donkey Hodie*!

Produced by Fred Rogers Productions and Spiffy Pictures

Fred Rogers Productions was founded by Fred Rogers in 1971 as the non-profit producer of Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood for PBS and continues his legacy through a wide variety of media to engage new generations of children and families with his timeless wisdom. Fred Rogers Productions’ highly-rated, Emmy®-winning children’s series for PBS KIDS include Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood, Peg + Cat and Odd Squad.

Spiffy Pictures was founded in 2003 by brothers David Rudman and Adam Rudman. The team has created, produced, written and directed live-action and animated projects for Nickelodeon, Disney, MTV, Comedy Central, Sesame Street and Warner Brothers. Their projects include the Emmy®-nominated animated hit series Nature Cat for PBS KIDS.
Here are some Valentine Cards for you and your friends! Have an adult cut them out for you!