



Visalia Unified School District
EQUITY & STUDENT
SERVICES Ensuring Access & Opportunity

BLACK STUDENT UNION RETREAT

OCTOBER 21, 2020

BEGINS AT 4:00PM

ENDS AT 6:00PM

PARENT BREAKOUT SESSION

6:00PM - 6:45PM

OPEN TO ALL 7TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS 4TH-6TH GRADE ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND WITH THEIR PARENTS

JOIN US AT OUR INAUGURAL BLACK STUDENT UNION RETREAT

This retreat is an opportunity to connect with fellow students, faculty, and staff that share similar backgrounds and experiences to help ensure a successful school experience.



REGISTER AT
<https://bit.ly/3igBy9G>

Tamara Ravalín, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Brandon Gridiron
Administrator – Equity &
Student Services



Board of Education

John L. Crabtree
Niessen E. Foster
William A. Fulmer
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Juan R. Guerrero
Joy M. Naylor
Lucia D. Vazquez

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year. Now that you have had time to adjust to classes in the new online world, we would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in our *Black Student Union (BSU) Retreat "Black Excellence"*. This 75-90-minute BSU retreat is designed to support students who identify with the Black/African American culture. This retreat is intended to help our students who identify as Black/African American to connect with fellow students, faculty, and staff who identify as Black/African American. This is not a requirement but students say that having a support group that share similar backgrounds and experiences help with a successful school experience. This meeting can start that for you. Not only is a group like this empowering, but it also makes school a much more fun and memorable experience.

Wednesday, October 21st, 2020, 4:00pm – 6:45pm. – Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3igBy9G>

Below is our tentative agenda for the orientation:

- Opening remarks – Brandon Gridiron – 2 min
- Welcome address by Superintendent – 2 min
- Message from the Visalia African American Advisory Committee 3 – min video
- Student Voice – Black Student Experience Breakout Sessions in VUSD – 20 min
 - What has been your experience in VUSD?
 - What barriers do you face?
 - What can we do or continue doing to ensure you have a positive school experience?
- Rotating Student Breakouts – 40 min (10 min per breakout)
 - Student Voice and BSU Engagement - Mrs. Angie Barfield & Miss Abigail Akande (BSCU) 10 - min
 - High School Black Student Union Advisors 10 - min
 - Civic Engagement Project – Dr. Stephen Morris 10 - min
 - HBCU Experience – Former VUSD Alum – 10 min
- Keynote Speaker – Dr. Chike Akua – 45 min
- Q&A – Students – 7 min
- Closing remarks 1 - min
- Parent Breakout Session w/ Dr. Akua 6:00pm – 6:45pm
- Q&A – Parents

We look forward to seeing you and coming together for this powerful event. Good luck this semester and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Gridiron", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brandon Gridiron
Administrator, Equity & Student Services
bgridiron@vusd.org