

## King Elementary

This school located at 1001 East Florence Avenue is named for Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the famous and distinguished black minister and national leader of equal rights movements.

Dr. King came from a long line of ministers in Georgia. He was educated in Atlanta and graduated from Morehouse College where he studied to enter medicine. However, he decided instead to enter the ministry and enrolled at Drozier Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. This was followed by advanced graduate study in Harvard University leading to the doctorate.

In 1954 Dr. King became a minister of church in Montgomery, Alabama and soon became very active in the fight to eliminate "Jim Crow" conditions for blacks on the buses of that city. His efforts led to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling outlawing racial segregation on buses and other public transportation.

Moving shortly thereafter to become co-minister of the church in Atlanta served by his father, Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., Dr. King soon became a national leader in equal rights movements. He established an organization to further his concepts of nonviolent civil disobedience, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and secured great support from black citizens for the concepts involved. In 1963, King led a march on Washington DC and gave a famous address at the Lincoln Memorial, which won him widespread admiration and support and led to his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. In 1965, Dr. King led the famous march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama, to protest black voter registration practices in Selma and planned massive nonviolent civil disobedience campaigns to be staged in Washington DC to pressure then President Lyndon Johnson to sign legislation to end job discrimination because of color or race.

Dr. King was the author of at least six books and many articles. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. Dr. King's birthday on January 15<sup>th</sup> became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983. Many consider it a day to serve the local community.

The King School is first listed in the Fresno Unified School District directory in 1972-73.