

Who was Ella Baker?

Why are we changing our school name?

Our school is named after Woodrow Wilson. Woodrow Wilson served as the 28th president of the United States from 1913 to 1921. Research indicates that:

- Woodrow Wilson's racism was significant and consequential even by the standards of his own time.
- Woodrow Wilson segregated the federal civil service after it had been racially integrated for decades, thereby taking America backward in its pursuit of justice.
 - Upon taking office, Wilson himself fired 15 out of 17 African American supervisors in the federal service and replaced them with Whites.
 - Those African Americans that he did not fire due to the nature of their work had cages built around them to separate them from their White companions.
- Woodrow Wilson allowed Jim Crow laws to be put into place in Washington, D.C.
 - Screened-off workspaces, separate lunchrooms, and separate bathrooms were re-introduced once Wilson was president; separating African Americans from others.
- As the 13th president of Princeton, Woodrow Wilson discouraged African American applicants from applying to Princeton.
- In reevaluating Wilson's legacy, it's important to understand not only his leadership through a World War, or his business and labor reforms. It's also important to know that, on the home front, he perpetuated violence and inequality for African Americans.
- Our community felt this was no longer a name that represents our school community. We are a school that believes in peace education and social justice.

What will the new name be?

Ella J. Baker Montessori School

Who was Ella Baker?

Ella Josephine Baker (December 13, 1903 - December 13, 1986) was an African-American civil rights and human rights activist. She was a largely behind-the-scenes organizer whose career spanned more than five decades. In New York City and the South, she worked alongside some of the most noted civil rights leaders of the 20th century, including W. E. B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You didn't see me on television, you didn't see news stories about me. The kind of role that I tried to play was to pick up pieces or put together pieces out of which I hoped organization might come. My theory is strong people don't need strong leaders."-Ella Baker

Why did the re-naming committee think Ella Baker was a good name for our school?

- With this name, we show our community that you do not always have to be in the spotlight to make a difference.
- As a Montessori school with a peace education curriculum, Baker's legacy would prove that if we join together, we can make change happen.
- As Montessorians and students preparing for a global society, we see a problem and we solve it, without the expectation of praise or acknowledgement.

Get Involved!

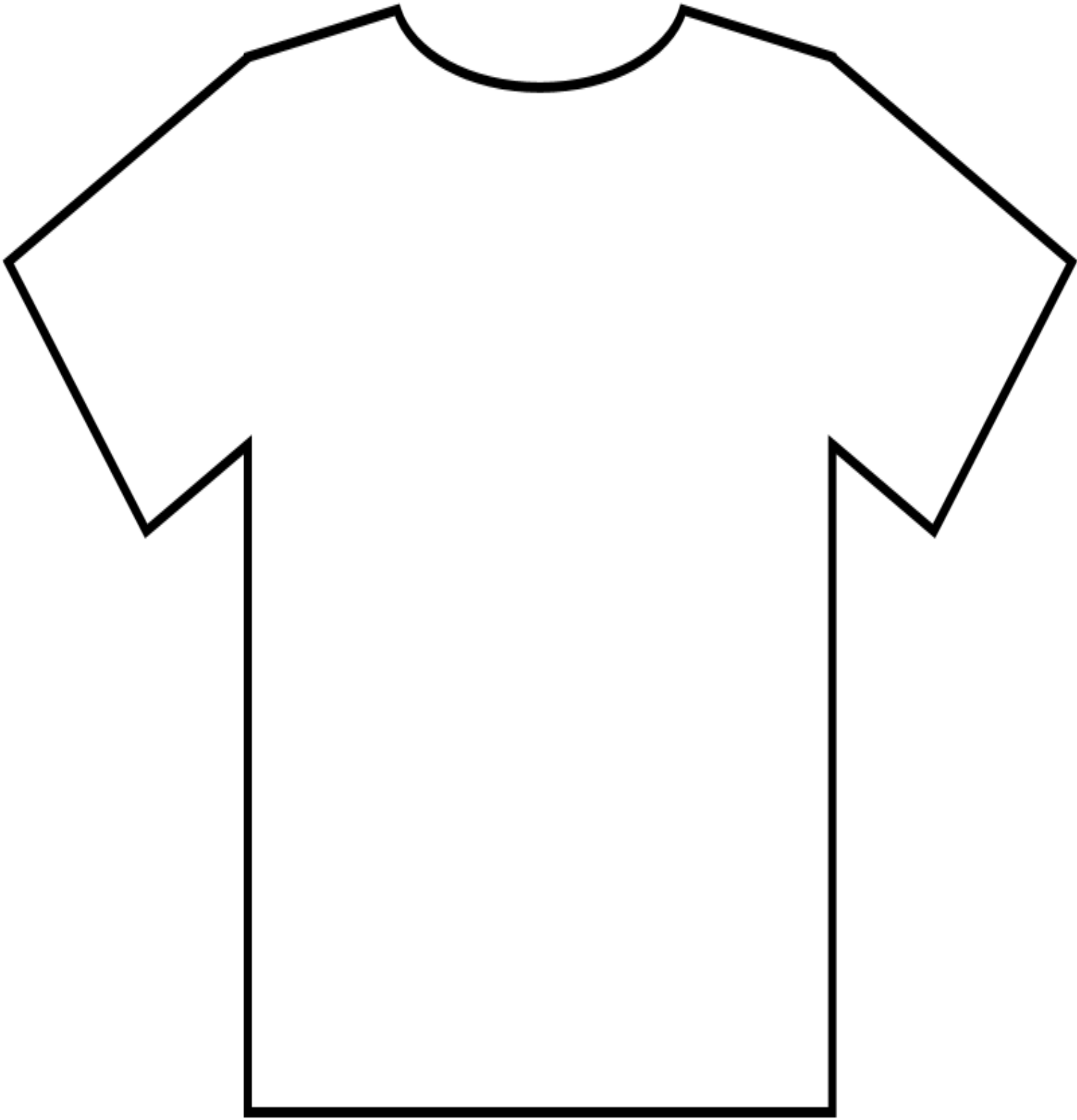
Now that we have a new name, we need a new mascot and a new spirit t-shirt design for the fall. We challenge students to help us by submitting their ideas!

MASCOT DESIGN: Most school mascots use alliteration such as: Berry Bees, Wilson Wildcats, Patterson Panthers, Askew All-Stars but some do not-Garden Oaks Eagles. How does your mascot design tie to the life and legacy of Ella Baker? Does it represent who we are as a school community?

SPIRIT T-SHIRT DESIGN: Create a t-shirt design to be used for our first spirit t-shirt of the 2021-2022 school year. How does your t-shirt design tie to the life and legacy of Ella Baker? Does it represent who we are as a school community?

Submit your design ideas to newnamemontessori@gmail.com by 5 pm on **Friday, April 30, 2021.**

(T-shirt design template and Mascot template attached)



Student Name:

Level and Teacher:

MASCOT DESIGN

I think our new school mascot should be.....and my reasons are..... (How does it tie to the life and legacy of Ella Baker? Does it represent who we are as a school community?)

Here's my design.....

Student Name:

Level and Teacher: