

H.D. POPE FUNERAL HOME

Personal Service • Peace of Mind • Pleasant Memories



Back to School

"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read."

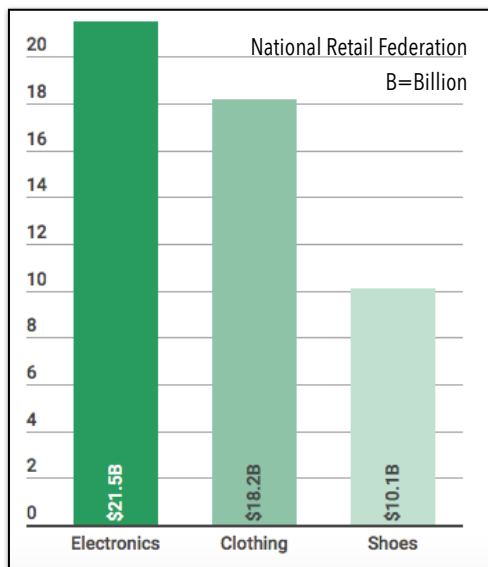
~Mary McLeod Bethune

August marks a season of change. Nights become cooler, leaves transition to beautiful hues, teachers go back to work, and students return to school.

The National Retail Federation projects families will spend approximately \$700 per household for back to school shopping. Costs include money spent on clothes, shoes, backpacks, notebooks, and other supplies. American families with children in K-12 schools are expected to spend \$29.5 Billion for the 2017-18 academic year.

Students need adequate supplies and proper attire to support learning, but how crucial are these items when measuring student success?

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, students are struggling nationwide with reading. Of the 4th grade students tested, 38% scored below the most basic level, 31% were proficient, and just 7% were advanced. HarperCollins reports "children without basic literacy skills when they



August

National Black Business Month

- 4 - Barack Obama's birthday
- 11 - Alex Haley's birthday
- 29 - Michael Jackson's birthday



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enter school are 3-4 more times likely to drop out later”. There is much discussion about prisons being built based on 3rd grade reading scores. Data shared by My Chronicle Books shows 3/5, or 60%, of prison inmates are illiterate.

Too many students are entering school without basic academic skills and as a result, they are challenged with trying to “catch up” with their peers. It creates a burden on teachers, schools, and society.

But, there is hope. Daily reading to children puts them almost 1 year ahead of those who are not being read to.

Benefits of avid reading include:

- improved speech, confidence, and memorization
- more financially rewarding jobs
- raised IQ
- increased concentration and discipline

This year, let’s expose our children and grandchildren to more reading. We can encourage reading by modeling reading ourselves. Books are relatively inexpensive and can be checked out for free from school and public libraries. Remember books and reading during your back to school shopping.

Sources: National Retail Federation, nea.org, HarperCollins, My Chronicle Books

Support National Black Business Month

August 1 - Attorneys	August 12 - Music	August 22 - Banks
August 2 - International Traders	August 13 - Hotels	August 23 - Investors
August 3 - Auto Dealers	August 14 - Museums	August 24 - HBCU’s
August 4 - Manufacturers	August 15 - Dentistry	August 25 - Vintners/Brewers
August 5 - Theater	August 16 - Newspapers, online media	August 26 - Farmers
August 6 - The Black Church	August 17 - Broadcasters	August 27 - Restaurants
August 7 - Apparel and Beauty	August 18 - Filmmakers	August 28 - Grocery
August 8 - Medicine	August 19 - Book Publishers	August 29 - Manufacturers
August 9 - Accounting	August 20 - Transportation	August 30 - Real Estate
August 10 - Contracting	August 21 - Pharmacy	August 31 - Innovators
August 11 - Retailers		