

King walk is Monday as students try again

After having to hold off one attempt due to the weather, students from Orange's public schools will try again Monday to reenact a historical event in the civil rights movement during the Orange School District's annual Martin Luther King March.

Students are scheduled to leave City Hall at 8:30 a.m. and proceed on Main Street, Scotland Road and Central Avenue until they enter the auditorium of Orange Preparatory Academy.

Monday's walk marks the 46th anniversary of the third attempt of marchers, led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., to walk from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in March 1965.

The first two efforts were stopped by law enforcement, which led to confrontations captured on iconic photographs: marchers sprayed by fire hoses and police dogs lunging at protesters in front of the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The bridge on Scotland Road over Route 280 is the symbolic Pettus Bridge for the march.

Ronald Lee, Orange's superintendent of schools, said school and district officials want to extend King's lessons of nonviolence to issues confronting students in today's world.

"In the past several months, the city has experienced a number of shootings. These violent acts violate the principles that Dr. King advocated and threaten to destroy our community," said Lee. "Too many of our ancestors had to endure violence to overcome oppression. For today's young people to waste our ancestors' efforts clearly demonstrates that they don't have a historical sense of value."

After students arrive at Orange Prep, they will listen to student and adult speakers discuss King, his speeches and his messages. The event is open to the public as space permits.