

Character 1



Rosa Parks Secondary School

[ABOUT ROSA PARKS](#) | [ACADEMICS](#) | [SCHEDULE](#) | [SPORTS & CLUBS](#) | [PARENTS](#)

About Rosa Parks (1913-2005)

In 1955, Rosa Parks sparked change in the United States by refusing to follow a policy forcing African Americans to give up their bus seats to white people. While not the first person to protest the racist bus laws of the south, Rosa is credited with offering more to the US civil rights movement than simply her willingness to stand up against inequality. She offered an image that lit people's imaginations.

Middle aged and married, with a job and a reputation for being an upstanding Christian citizen, Rosa lived as mainstream a life as any respectable, law-abiding white person. In other words, she did not fit the stereotype of a troublemaker. This led other African Americans to question why they too were not tired enough of mistreatment to stand up for change.



Rosa is known for helping to organize and launch a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, led by Martin Luther King, Jr. For 381 days, African Americans opted to walk or carpool to school or work rather than ride a bus. The boycott had profound and rippling effects that resulted in the end of racial segregation in the United States.

Rosa won prestigious awards for her contributions to equality. Over the years, she suffered through police arrests, court appearances, job losses and other humiliations. Today she is called the "mother of the freedom movement," a fitting name for someone who learned to play a motherly role early on in her life. Rosa had to drop out of secondary school to care first for her ill grandmother and later her mother. After marrying civil rights advocate Raymond Parks, she continued caring for people through her work as a housekeeper and hospital aide. She also finished her education, thanks to coaxing by her husband.

Raymond helped Rosa understand that she could help more people by finishing school. At the time, only 7% of African Americans had diplomas, making it more difficult for them to make change happen. Rosa finished school and went on to become a key figure in the fight for civil rights.