

The FREEDOM RIDERS, on display at Strong Middle School on TUESDAY, APRIL 12, is a national traveling exhibition that tells the powerful, harrowing and inspirational civil rights story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever. It will be on display in the LMC at Strong School from 6:30-8:00 thanks to a generous contribution from our Parent Group! Come for all or some of the time.

Organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and PBS's flagship history series, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, this exhibition combines powerful photography and news coverage of the Rides, as well as first-hand audio accounts of this dangerous experiment in the fight for civil rights. A companion to the May 2011 PBS broadcast of the AMERICAN EXPERIENCE film Freedom Riders, the exhibition has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating Jim Crow laws, the Freedom Riders' belief in non-violent activism was sorely tested as mob violence and bitter racism greeted them along the way. Freedom Riders examines the 1961 Freedom Rides from many perspectives-- that of the Riders themselves, the Kennedy administration, and the international community.

Student docents will be available to guide guests through the exhibit and to answer any questions they may have. A film depicting the Freedom Riders journey through the south will also be available for viewing. Come and experience an important piece of American history!