

## MEDIA ADVISORY:

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## Beyond Basics Leadership series: Former NFL players to motivate Detroit high school students

DETROIT, Oct. 1, 2021 – As part of the Beyond Basics Leadership Series, **Detroit Lions alumni** Andre Fluellen and Ray McElroy will speak at four Detroit Public Schools Community District High Schools on Tues., Oct. 5. This series gives high school students an opportunity to learn from and interact with inspirational community leaders, and expand their awareness of the world around them. The leaders have one thing in common – they’ve overcome challenges and worked hard to pursue their dreams and passions; they believe in giving back to the community.

The former NFL players are speaking in Detroit through the district’s partnership with literacy nonprofit Beyond Basics. Beyond Basics delivers intensive literacy interventions to district students who are farthest behind in reading.

“People’s life stories resonate with students. A few years ago Joiqee Bell had students on the edge of their seat listening to his words of advice and encouragement. Sharing that he came from a similar background to the students motivated them to work hard in their studies,” Beyond Basics CEO Pamela Good said. “We appreciate that they are giving their time to engage with and motivate young people. Whether the speaker’s personal story is similar or different from those in the audience, students can draw lessons from their experiences, and connect to their messages of hope and inspiration.”

**Ray McElroy**, who played for the Indianapolis Colts from 1995-1998, and the Chicago Bears in 2000, before finishing his career with the Detroit Lions in 2001, will speak at:

- East English Village, 5020 Cadieux, Detroit, MI 48224 at 9:15 a.m. (200 ninth graders in the school auditorium)
- Southeastern High School, 3030 Fairview St., Detroit, MI 48214 at 10:50 a.m. (more than 300 tenth and twelfth graders in the school auditorium)
- Osborn High School, 11600 7 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48205 at 2:25 p.m. (entire school assembly outdoors unless inclement weather)

**Andre Fluellen**, who played on and off for the Detroit Lions from 2008-2015, will speak at:

- Denby High School, 12800 Kelly Rd., Detroit, MI 48224 at 4 p.m. (in the weightlifting room to student athletes)

*Founded in 2002, [Beyond Basics](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to eradicate illiteracy, transforming the lives of students and creating stronger communities. Our one-on-one, multisensory tutoring program helps students achieve grade-level proficiency in reading in an*

*average of six weeks. In addition to our structured literacy interventions, we cultivate curiosity and encourage a love of lifelong learning with fine arts activities that expand horizons.*

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**Media:** Please RSVP to Janine Sadaj at 248-514-4558 (cell). Speakers and Pamela Good, cofounder and CEO, Beyond Basics, will be available for interviews.