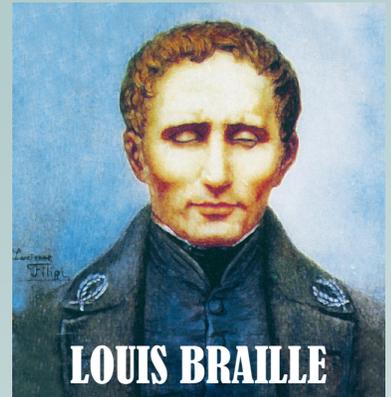


NATIONAL BRAILLE LITERACY MONTH

This month, the UAW-Ford Diversity and Inclusion Program recognizes National Braille Literacy Month in order to raise awareness of the importance of Braille to the blind and visually impaired community.

Braille is not a language. It is a reading system created for people who are blind or visually impaired by Louis Braille who was blinded in a tragic accident at three years old. Around the age of 12, he created the Braille reading system. The Braille reading system became official in 1824.



The 6-dot Braille cells have 63 possible combinations. Each "cell" in Braille is arranged in a specific way with two dots across and three dots down.

As audio technology progresses, the use of Braille dwindles, but its significance remains -- especially in the workplace and the classrooms. A majority of legally blind children in the United States do not use Braille resources; therefore, 34% of the more than 59,000 legally blind children are considered non-readers. According to the National Federation of the Blind, approximately 12,000 to 24,000 people lose their sight each year due to diabetes.

Learning Braille opens up a world of opportunities and can lead to fulfilling careers. Being able to read Braille can lead to independence -- overcoming obstacles and challenges.



A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X
		BRAILLE ALPHABET			
Y	Z				



Crosswalk signal technology has vastly improved over the last decade. In addition to Braille physically on the signs, signals are beginning to feature audio alerts, pulse/vibrations, the ability to link to cellphones, and flashing signals to alert drivers.

Warning Tactile Indicators or "Hazard Tactiles" are used on walking surfaces in a raised grid pattern of studs or dots, and used to warn blind and vision-impaired pedestrians of a nearby hazard.

