

## Good News for Tax Payers



### Superintendent's Message Dr. David Daigneault

It's tax time again. People love to put off filing state and federal taxes, maybe because it's so often complicated and confusing. Or maybe they're dismayed by how public money is spent. I've heard some suggest that if only they could allocate that revenue, the money would be spent more wisely.

The good news is ... you can allocate the money.

Consider this as you prepare to pay your state taxes: you can invest in Grenada School District's Pre-K Learning Blocks program and get reimbursed in full by the state with a tax credit.

In essence, you're paying your taxes directly to the school. It requires a couple of extra steps, but the payoff is greatly increased. It's nothing short of an investment in the future of our community.

In 2013, the state legislature approved the Early Learning Collaborative Act. Private schools and care centers, as well as Head Start programs, were allowed to partner with public school districts to receive partial state funding for early education. GSD partnered with the local Head Start to form the Learning Blocks Collaborative for three- and four-year-olds in Grenada County.

Our collaborative receives half of its operating budget from the state. The other half comes from local funding, tuition, and contributions. This valuable tax credit was put in place in 2013 as a way to encourage businesses and individuals to support the pre-K initiative in Mississippi.

Under this tax legislation, any resident who makes a contribution to our Learning Blocks program — let's say \$5,000 — is eligible for a full tax credit. That's a credit, not a deduction, which would only reduce your taxable income by \$5,000. A credit pays you back in full.

Currently there are 13 Early Learning Collaboratives in the state. The Mississippi initiative is succeeding, and the rest of the country is taking notice.

Last year, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) identified only four U.S. states that checked every box in its ten-point quality standard checklist. Mississippi's Early Learning Collaborative was one of those four.

However, the state ranks much lower when it comes to funding these programs (42nd in the nation), which is why it's so important for the school to partner with tax payers. This is money that you or your business will be paying anyway, so why not take a few extra steps and make it work right here at home?

Here's what you're paying for....

We started the pre-K program in 2015 with three classes of four-year-olds at the Grenada Elementary Red Top. We've now grown to eight classes serving 136 three- and four-year-olds. Our classrooms are developmentally appropriate and designed to encourage children to learn through hands-on experience.

See "Tax"  
Continued on page 3

## Rewards for a Job Well Done

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

Cole Surrell, Principal at Grenada Elementary School PreK-3, recently took a cue from one of his favorite TV shows, *Survivor*.

He painted a canister black and began stuffing it with — a reward that one of his teachers would enjoy, such as a free-duty morning or a blue jean pass. He hid the canister — or idol, as *Survivor* fans will recognize — in out of the way places such as the staff break room or supply closet where only teachers would find them.

Surrell said it became a fun game around the school. Teachers would hunt throughout the day, and everyone would want to know who found the idol today.

Then the Grenada Chamber of Commerce caught wind of it.

The Chamber contacted local businesses and asked if they'd like to contribute prizes for Teacher *Survivor* at the GES Red Top. Donations poured in — gift cards from Subway and High on the Hog. T-shirts and huggies from Grenada Nissan. Wrapped present from Sav-Mor Drugs and Gifts. Even a cash prize from Heath Body Shop.

The hunt for the idol became an exciting pastime between classes. As the gifts became more elaborate, so

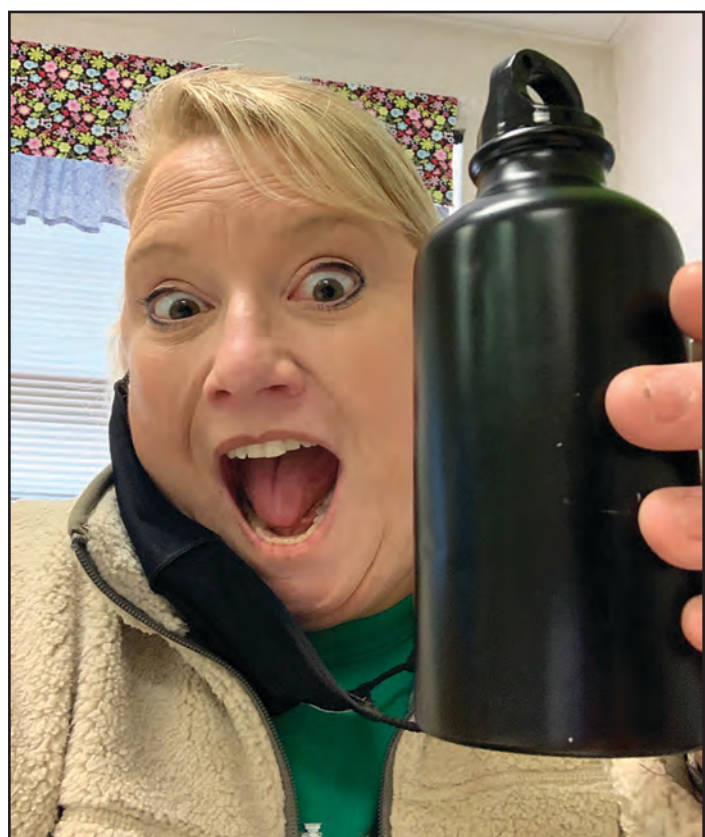
did the process of retrieving them. Suddenly teachers had to give a secret password to the secretary. Sometimes they had to sing and dance. Surrell said the game took on a life beyond what he'd imagined.

"After the last two years, we were just looking for ways to get the teachers to have some fun at work," he said. "Maintaining high spirits is good for everybody, so we're always looking for ways to boost morale."

Ask any educator, and they'll most likely tell you, the past two years have been the most challenging period of their teaching career. The pandemic response has forced teachers to quickly adapt to new teaching methods and safety measures while maintaining a high level of education.

Surrell said his teachers were already giving it their best before the pandemic. Now they're working longer and harder to get back on track and keep kids excelling. That's made him get creative finding ways to help ease their load, and he said the community has stepped up to aid the cause.

Surrell has added other morale-boosters to the daily activities. One popular reward is a lunch card. This gives teachers an hour off campus to eat while a substitute watches their class. The lunch card recipient then



Kerry Waugh, LEAP teacher at Grenada Elementary PreK-3, found the Teacher Idol at the Red Top and won a gift card from Subway. Local businesses have contributed to this in-house game to boost teacher morale and thank them for their hard work during the pandemic.

passes the prize on to another deserving teacher on the other side of the building.

For teachers who don't have time to slip away during the day, it's a special privilege, said Surrell. It also gives teachers a chance to pay the honor forward to one of their peers.

Marshall Whittemore, principal at Grenada Middle School, says they've been passing out teacher rewards

as well. He and his assistant principals are always on the lookout to catch teachers doing their best.

"We've been giving out t-shirts and sweatshirts and attendance awards," Whittemore said. "It's mainly just a thank-you for hanging in there and giving it your best. Even when things are tough."

See "Rewards"  
Continued on page 8

## Great Pumpkin Contest

(photo right)  
Jamiya Marin, a student in Mrs. Jackson's 2nd grade class, won the Grenada Elementary Red Top's annual Great Pumpkin Contest, sponsored by the Kidzeum and Bull Bottom Farms. Students were offered a chance to guess the weight of a giant pumpkin, donated by Bull Bottom Farms. Kidzeum director Melanie Williams said this was the first time they received only one correct guess. Marin got to keep the pumpkin as her prize for correctly guessing the pumpkin's weight — 53 pounds.

The Kidzeum recently kicked off its popular holiday exhibit, which focuses on a particular country's Christmas tradition. This year's theme, *Feliz Navidad*, teaches students about the customs of Mexico, complete with festive decorations and surprises.



Photo by Melanie Williams



# AmeriCorps Recognizes Member of Excellence

By Gwen Woodson  
AmeriCorps Director

“Through AmeriCorps, I’ve earned a more complete perspective on the needs of students, gained confidence in myself I didn’t know I had, a direction in life, and learned to respect and care for people who were different from me,” said AmeriCorps member Katie Brewer.

A grant through Mississippi Commission For Volunteer Service has allowed the Grenada School District to add support in the classroom. The Grenada School District has hosted 29 AmeriCorps members for the last 13 years in the role of tutors.

“My objective in this program is to help students excel far beyond their academic goals and break those chains of self-doubt that are holding them back,” said Brewer. “They have taught me to be more patient and sensitive towards not just them, but to everyone around me.”

Brewer didn’t know very much about AmeriCorps in the beginning, but an alumnus convinced her to join. “Today, as an alum myself, I am so grateful that she talked me into it. AmeriCorps has truly impacted me to my core. I now have a heart of service and am inspired to continue to help others.”

She added, “AmeriCorps is more than wearing an ‘A’ and showing up to public events. AmeriCorps is a life-changing, heartwarming, and dedicated form of service.”

Brewer, placed at GES 4-5, is the wife of Riley Brewer and the proud mother of Waylon Jeremiah Brewer. She attended Grenada High School from grades 9-10 and completed grades 10-12 at Gateway Christian School out of Sardis. She went to Holmes Community College in Grenada, majoring in general studies. She then went on to attend Mississippi Delta Community College’s phlebotomy program and became a phlebotomist at Greenwood Leflore Hospital. Brewer currently attends Grenada Church of God and serves in the nursery.

Brewer’s hobbies are reading and organizing/cleaning and her motto in life is, “It doesn’t matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”

“People seem to be surprised to learn that I am only 24 years young,” Brewer said. “I’m not sure if it’s that I look older or if it’s the way that I carry myself, but



either way, people are usually baffled by that!”

Brewer added, “AmeriCorps has taught me that we are all on a journey to self-discovery, and that being compassionate towards others is imperative because you may never know where another person is on his or her journey! I’ve also learned how important it is to contribute to your community by serving others.”

I am honored to have Katie as a team leader in our program. Her professionalism, organizational skills, and commitment to the success of our program is why she is in that role. Also, her creative and innovative thinking puts her in a class all her own. I’m so grateful that she always takes the time to help her team. It’s really made her team come together. Katie is an absolute gem.

Brewer encourages others not to fear something new and different like she did, because AmeriCorps is truly an experience worth having.

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$6,345 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Brewer plans to use her Education Award to pay off student loans.

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at [gwoodson@grenadak12.com](mailto:gwoodson@grenadak12.com). For more information about AmeriCorps, visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

# NJROTC Cadets Compete in Air Rifle, Cyber Security



**Air Rifle team members Ian McCullough (left) and Bryce Lee competed with cadets from Grenada’s NJROTC program, as well as schools throughout the state, at an off-site meet in Batesville. Cadets learn gun safety and use the air-powered rifles to shoot soft lead pellets at paper targets ten meters away.**

By Chief Reese Foreman  
NJROTC Commander

The cadets of Grenada High School’s NJROTC (Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) Air Rifle Team recently participated in their first off-campus air rifle meet of the year. It was also the first competition in which our eighth grader cadets participated. The CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) Cup match was held at South Panola High School in Batesville on Saturday, October 9.

GHS cadets Tyner Kelly (Executive Officer), Jacob Chavis (Air Rifle Captain), Ian McCullough, Phillip Crawford, Brice Lee, Tara Bailey, Harlie Calder, and eighth grader Sarah Bowers all competed. Cadets went up against state high school air rifle teams from Northeast Lauderdale, Lake Cormorant, German-town, and South Panola.

Since this was the cadets’ first time competing in a live event, it was a learning experience for the new cadets on the team. The unit used air rifles and equipment provided by the school, the Navy, and NRA grants. At the cup match, the unit saw what equipment they needed to be a better team and attain higher scores. In the end, our unit did not place for any awards, but those who shot last year at the same meet improved their overall scores.

In 2020, Chavis finished 40th with a score of 261. This year he finished 25th with a score of 426. Last year Kelly finished 44th, with a score of 182, and this year he finished 28th with a score of 417. Also, McCullough finished 42nd last year with a score of 249. This year he finished 34th with a score of 387.

The new shooters did the best they could for their first time participating in an air rifle meet. With time and preparation, the GHS cadets will continue to improve for their next competitions.

The GHS cadets will compete in several air rifle postals later this year, including the Secretary of the Navy Air

Rifle Postal. Postals are competitions that allow cadets shoot the targets on the unit’s home campus and then mail them in to be scored by the unit sponsoring the meet.

On Friday, October 22, the Grenada NJROTC unit competed in the first round CyberPatriot competition for the 2021-2022 school year. It was the second time the unit has participated in this type of competition, thanks to the addition of three upgraded computers. The GHS NJROTC CyberPatriot team members are Commander Tyner Kelly, Avery McMechan, Ian McCullough, Larry Cox, Elijah Vance, Christian Moore, and Benjamin O’Brien. The team coach this year is Chief Foreman. Previously, SFC Williams of the U.S. Army Recruiting was the team’s primary coach.

The team competed against 3,311 teams around the world and finished 1,404 out of those teams. This year, Grenada NJROTC finished first out of 17 high school teams in Mississippi, up from third last year.

The National Youth Cyber Education Program was created by the Air Force Association (AFA) to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation’s future. At the center of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, which puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. Through a series of online competition rounds, teams are given a set of virtual operating systems and are tasked with finding and fixing cybersecurity vulnerabilities while maintaining critical services.

The top teams in the nation earn all-expenses-paid trips to Maryland for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.

## GSD Parent Resource Center

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# Alumni Spotlight - Hugh Beck

By **Jamie Kornegay**  
**GSD Reporter**

You can change flights in mid-air ... if you're not scared to make the leap.

Beck, a helicopter pilot by trade, set out from high school with a plan to be a doctor. He enter Ole Miss as a pre-med student and earned a bachelor of science in biology and a bachelor of arts in chemistry. But after four intense years of study, he wasn't ready to jump back into school.

Beck moved to Nashville, got a job in pharmaceutical sales, and ended up working for Johnson & Johnson, one of the biggest companies in the healthcare field. He was doing well for himself in sales, but something wasn't right.

At the time, Beck's father had started his third deployment in Afghanistan. Eight other family members served in the military, and Beck had the itch to serve his country too. He'd always wanted to fly helicopters, so he began training in Nashville and got his pilot's license.

In 2006, Beck joined the National Guard and was deployed with the 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron to Iraq in 2009. His squadron supported the 10th Mountain Division and the 25th Infantry

Division, both of which deployed Apache gunships to Northwest Iraq on the Syrian border.

Beck said his deployment wasn't easy, but it was a formative experience in his life. He sought to stay in touch with the community of soldiers and currently mentors veterans returning from overseas. He says sometimes soldiers need help adjusting to civilian life, whether working out problems, finding a job or a place to live, or just simply needing someone to talk to about their experiences.

After returning from overseas duty, Beck studied at the University of North Dakota and acquired a commercial pilot's license. He specialized in long lining, which utilizes a line system to haul loads and perform rescues over difficult terrain by helicopter. He worked in Minnesota with an outfit putting up transcontinental power lines on the U.S.-Canada border.

Ultimately, Beck opted to forego the brutal northern winters and head back south. A self-proclaimed "country boy," he loved North Carolina and moved to the Fayetteville area.

His career found itself full circle recently as he completed a contract with an air ambulance service that transported

patients in emergency situations.

Beck said he's glad he chose to follow his passion by going into helicopter aviation. "I can work pretty much anywhere I want flying helicopters," he said. "As long as you have flight hours and experience, the work is there."

Recalling his early years in Grenada, Beck said he had great admiration for his grandmother, Dorothy Eloise McCaulla, who was well known among the local kids as Nanny.

He also credited the Grenada band program for instilling a strong work ethic. "Life at the high school back then centered around the band," he said. "I'll never forget the trips we took to national competition in Indianapolis and Detroit."

Lynne Russell, GSD's administrative operations officer and former assistant band director, recalled Beck as an outstanding saxophone player. (He said he still plays today and has three saxophones.)

"Hugh could be a handful at times, but he always had charisma and confidence in every aspect of his life," Russell said. "He had a tremendous amount of academic and musical ability as well as an outstanding work ethic."

Beck said that ethic and drive has



served him well. Even today, he continues to supplement his extensive education by taking welding classes at a local college.

To be a success, Beck said, young people should find opportunities to develop a strong work ethic. Whether it be in a job or an extracurricular activity such as band or sports, he said, "always work hard. When you start something, finish it. And whatever you choose to do, give it your best effort."

## "Tax"

Continued from Page1

Our goal has always been to meet these young children where they are and grow their skills so that they show up to kindergarten at the appropriate developmental stage and with every advantage we can offer.

At the start of each Pre-K year, we assess our entering four year olds to see what they know. By state readiness standards, we assess them again in the spring to measure their growth. In 2019, the last time the state released assessment scores, our initial screening showed four-year-old students scoring an average of 475 points in the fall and 694 in the spring. That's a 219 point jump. The target score for Pre-K is 498 by the end of the school year, which equates to a 70 percent mastery of early literacy skills.

As you can see, our four-year-old Pre-K students exceeded the mark by 196 points! This should put them on track to be proficient readers by the end of third grade. That's a remarkable accomplishment.

In addition to reading — which our four-year-olds are already doing in these classes! — our Learning Blocks program teaches children early communication skills, which helps with discipline and retention down the road. At such a young age, one year — and in some cases two years — can make a tremendous difference.

Research has shown that children who receive high quality early childhood experiences are less likely to become teen parents, more likely to be employed, less likely to use public assistance programs, and more likely to attend and complete college.

This greatly improves the odds of these kids succeeding, which in turn strengthens our entire community.

Okay, maybe I've sold you on the tax credit. Here's what to do in four easy steps:

**1. Call the school district's business manager, Rodney Murphy (662-226-**

**1606), to see if the collaborative has reached its cap. All 18 of the state's collaboratives are eligible to receive a combined total of \$7.79 million in one year, a sum which has yet to be reached since the law has been in effect.**

**2. Write your check to Grenada School District, earmarked for Learning Blocks.**

**3. The district will notify the Mississippi Department of Education of your contribution, and they'll send you a certificate that proves you have contributed to Grenada's state-approved collaborative. This certificate is used for tax filing.**

**4. When filing your state income tax return, have your accountant indicate your contribution using form 80-401. If you prepare your own taxes, download the form on the MS Department of Revenue's website.**

The credit will be taken off your tax liability before your monthly withholdings, so you'll still qualify for a refund if you've overpaid. Contributions are eligible for a credit up to \$1 million per taxpayer. Any unused reimbursement can be carried forward three years of tax credits.

Remember, contributions must be made during the calendar year for which a tax return is filed, so plan to invest in Grenada's pre-K program this year to apply your credit when filing your 2021 taxes.

By adapting your tax-paying strategy to help our Pre-K program, you'll get the chance to see your investment at work in the community and take comfort in knowing you've increased the chances of success for our youngest citizens.

## GES 4-5 Discovery Lab Learning to Separate Mixtures



(photo left)

GES 4-5 students from Ms. Sanford's 5th Grade Science class recently visited the Discovery Lab and learned to separate mixtures using specific tools and methods. Jazae Booker, Jon Rylee Searcy, and Dawson George are using magnets to separate iron filings from sand.

**Grenada Author  
K.D. Williams  
announces her debut novel  
*The Mysteries of Woodland Academy***



Natalie Evergreen follows her best friend to a mysterious school and learns there is more to the school than meets the eye. Can she solve the mysteries of the school before things take an unexpected turn? Find out what happens in this magical adventure *The Mysteries of Woodland Academy*

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# GHS Marching Band's Superior Season



(photo left)  
GHS drum majors (l to r) Mary Clayton Logan, Alexis Smith, and Abigail Presley present the assortment of trophies won by the Grenada High School Marching Band during their fall competition run across four states. The band captured several top-band awards with their 2021 halftime show, *Alchemy: Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary*.

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

The Grenada High School Band took its halftime marching show, *Alchemy: Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary*, on the road this fall. The band finished its marching season with a string of superior ratings at competitions throughout the South.

Director Joe Presley said the band was forced to sit out of competing last season due to the pandemic, and this past summer, the directors weren't sure how the uncommonly large crop of first-time marching students would fare.

"We expected the worst and hoped for the best," Presley said. "For coming in and not having a lot of experience, the kids did a great job. They really stepped up and took care of business."

Presley said more than half the band members were freshmen and sophomores who had never marched a field show before. "They rose to the occasion. They had nice performances all year long and got tons better every single week. The weather was even good for us!"

Presley credited a combination of strong leadership and young talent for the students' success. "The upperclassmen really stepped up and helped the younger

players. And those ninth and tenth grade classes have some extremely talented musicians."

The band's competition season started Oct. 9 here in Grenada. They hosted the Region II marching band evaluations. For the 43rd year in a row, the band earned superior ratings in overall band, color guard, percussion, and drum major.

The band traveled to the Gibson County Invitational in Trenton, Tennessee on October 16. They earned a top-ten spot in the finals and walked away with third-best overall band, second-best overall percussion section, and first-place color guard.

On October 23, the band attended the Mud Creek Marching Festival in Hanceville, Alabama, where they were named best overall color guard and best band out of 20 groups.

The band finished their season on Oct. 30 with a prolific awards haul in Louisiana at the Lake Charles Toyota Gulf Coast Marching Band Competition. Grenada competed among 18 high school bands from Texas and Louisiana, and earned the title of Overall Reserve Grand Champion. They finished with best overall awards in guard and percussion as well as best-in-class for band, visuals, music, and general effect.

Assistant director and color guard director Kim Presley was gratified by the band's performances. "We ended the season exactly where we wanted to be," she said.

Now the band moves indoors for its concert season. "This is the time when we really get to dig in and get the kids excelling on their instruments," said Joe Presley. "Marching season is where we can display the training. This is the off-season strength and training of musicians, if you will."

A week before Thanksgiving holiday, the jazz and symphonic winds bands were rehearsing for holiday concerts to be held Dec. 2. The directors were also preparing a new group for performance.

The new indoor percussion ensemble features more than two dozen percussion members. "It's like our marching show's battery percussion and front ensemble, just moved inside," Presley said.

The new indoor percussion group, directed by Blayde Clark, had developed a competition, designed to be performed in the gym. The ensemble will preview its show during halftime at select basketball games. The indoor percussion competition season lasts from the end of January through March.

## GHS Marching Band 2021 Trophy Count

Region II Marching Band  
Evaluations  
(10/9/21 - Grenada, Miss.)  
All Superiors

Gibson County Invitational  
(10/16/21 - Trenton, Tenn.)  
Overall band, 3rd place  
Percussion, 2nd place  
Color Guard, 1st place

Mud Creek Marching Festival  
(10/23/21 - Hanceville, Ala.)  
Best in Division and Overall  
Color Guard  
Gold Division winner Best Band

Lake Charles Toyota Gulf Coast  
Marching Band Competition  
(10/30/21 - Lake Charles, La.)  
Overall Reserve Grand Champion  
Best Overall - Color Guard and  
Percussion  
Best-in-Class - Band, Visuals,  
Music, and General Effect



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## GCTC Classes Learn about Organ Donation



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Susan Bonds from the Mississippi Organ Recovery Association spoke to the Health Science classes at Grenada Career & Technical Center recently. Students learned about the importance of organ donation and the benefits of saving lives. Pictures are (front, l to r) Leah Brassfield, Mackenzie Porter, Josie Williams, Emma Brasher, (back, l to r) Cailey Newton, Alana Fancher, Susan Bonds of Mississippi Organ Recovery Association, Lanie Williams, Ciara Samuels, and Alyssia Biggins.



# College Prep

## The Application Essay

So you’re gathering submission materials for your college and scholarship applications. You’ve got a two-week vacation coming up. Why not go ahead and knock out that essay?

Not all colleges require an essay for admission, but if you plan to apply for a scholarship, be prepared to write your story.

Many students find essay-writing to be a terrifying assignment, but don’t let the prospect of a little hard work make you put off this important task until the last minute. Here are some tips for how to approach a personal essay, whether you’re applying for a scholarship or a prestigious university.

### Getting Started...

If a committee or admissions board is seeking an essay, they want to know more about you. Take a look at the prompt or topic and determine what exactly they want to know. Once you’ve carefully considered the essay topic, it’s time to record your thoughts on the subject. Get creative. Decide what separates you from the rest of the pack. You’re competing with a lot of students, so it’s important to make your essay distinctive.

Don’t think of this as a formal paper but as a statement about yourself. To help give your essay focus, think of a

specific incident, an unusual family circumstance, or a personal trait that makes you unique. What happened in your life that led to this moment?

While you think about these things, keep a pencil and paper handy. Start jotting down your thoughts. It doesn’t have to be pretty. Dictate it into your phone if writing slows you down. You want to capture your own unique perspective, so let it fly. When you go back and read or listen to what you came up with, pull out your best ideas, the ones that excite you. There’s your basis. Once you’re going in the right direction, the rest will come surprisingly fast and easy.

### Details and Structure...

You’ve read a good book. What did you like about it? Most likely, you rooted for the main character and enjoyed watching him or her change and grow as the story progressed from beginning to middle to end. So make yourself the hero of this story. Give your essay a logical progression, not just a string of random thoughts. First this happened, then this, and that’s when I realized this. I want this, and here’s what I’ll do when I get it. A logical progression of rich details — show, don’t tell — and specific events — especially with ups and downs — will draw a reader in and make them forget

they’re reading a boring old college essay.

### Voice and Words...

Don’t pick the most impressive words out of the thesaurus. This isn’t a term paper. Say it like you would say it. Readers want to know you — how you think, your feelings, your words and ideas. Don’t make it too stiff or too formal. Just say it like you mean it. The truth will come through, and readers will be intrigued.

Even though you want to represent your true voice, clean up the little stammers and stutters that reflect a conversational voice as opposed to a confident authorial voice. Maybe you’d say this to a friend: “I kind of knew that I did want to be some kind of teacher ever since I was in, I think, the third grade, and that’s when my teacher that year let me stand up and teach the class for just a couple of minutes one day.” But if you want it to read well, take out some of those unnecessary words. Doesn’t this read better? “I knew I wanted to be a teacher ever since third grade when my teacher invited me stand in front of the class and teach with her.”

Remember also, a verb can be your friend. Sometimes all you need to straighten out a clunky sentence is the

right verb. Don’t overreach, just choose the verb that expresses exactly what you mean.

### Revision...

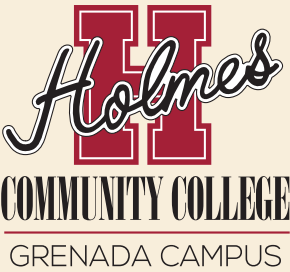
The secret to great writing is persistent revision. Nobody gets it right the first time, but after a hard eye and several drafts, your essay should read much better. But it’s easy to overlook your own flaws. Show it to someone else, a parent or a friend. Let them read it, and have them identify any ideas or sentences that aren’t clear or correct. Ask your favorite English teacher to read it with a red pen in hand.

A well-written essay should read like it was the simplest thing in the world to write. Every thought should land on the page with pinpoint accuracy. Start by throwing everything you have at the page, and end by taking away all but the essentials. That’s how you get to the heart of the matter. Things that seemed clever in an early draft may be out of place by the time you’ve neatened up your essay. If it doesn’t fit — sometimes even if you love it — take it out. You want a lean, mean essay that gets to the point, says what you came to say, and leaves the reader wanting more.

**See “College”**  
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# Boys and Girls Soccer Underway

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

The Grenada High School soccer teams kicked off their season in late October, led by seasoned veterans and promising young talent. Coaches for both the boys and girls teams say their players are gelling, but they face uphill battles with a treacherous schedule of long-established 6A competitors.

Boys soccer head coach Taylor Goode said he packed his team’s schedule with as many games as the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) allows. The week before Thanksgiving, the team wasn’t even halfway through its 24-game schedule.

The boys were optimistic with their early 6-3 winning record. They had come off a couple of close games that were lost on early-season mistakes that harder practice and competition should fix, according to Goode.

“Our starters have a lot of experience,” he said. “People like Jacob Chavis, McCaron Clausel, Luke Mattox, Landon Waters, even Luke Hardin, a junior

at goalie. They’ve all started a lot of games.”

Goode said his most experienced player, McCaron Clausel, has been a starter since his freshman year and has seen a lot of playing time over the past three seasons.

Goode said he has several juniors and seniors who are new to the team — including Dylan Carnathan, Eli Black, and Aiden White — who have stepped up and become leaders. “We had a feeling early on that Aiden White would turn into something special,” Goode said. “Our leading scorer last year had 12 goals on the season, and in nine games so far this year, Aiden already has 12.”

Goode acknowledged two young players, freshman transfer Charlie McAnally and eighth grader Brayden Neathery, as bright hope for the program’s future.

While the boys team has seen decisive victories against Cleveland Central, Strayhorn, and Senatobia, they will face much tougher competition as they move into district play.

Last fall’s school enrollment survey by the MHSAA bumped Grenada up from

5A to 6A classification. The Chargers are now in a region with three top-tier programs — Starkville, Oxford, Tupelo — with long track records in soccer.

“It will be a challenge for sure, but these are teams we’ve played in the past,” Goode said. “The guys know what to expect, and they’re ready to play.”

Chris Miller, the varsity girls soccer coach, acknowledged that the school’s new 6A status is a challenge from a numbers standpoint.

“Those districts also have strong rec league programs, so you’ll have kids in high school playing travel ball and rec league throughout the year,” Miller said. “Grenada doesn’t even have a rec team for girls over 14. So when you only touch a soccer ball during soccer season, you’re not developing into the caliber of player you find on these top 6A teams.”

What his girls lack in experience, Miller said, they make up for in spirit. “When they get out there, they give it everything they have,” he said. “The girls who aren’t getting as much playing time cheer on the girls who are out there.”

Miller said he has been encouraged

to see some of his newer players step up and take on leadership roles. Upperclassmen such as Camila Clevenger, Ciara Breeland, and Sydney Claire Brown have only been playing for a season or two but have shown great improvement on the field.

Both teams are preparing to return from Thanksgiving break to face Lafayette, a program that beat both the boys and girls teams when they last played October 28. Goode said the boys are eager for a rematch, and Miller said the girls, after coming in from the programs like volleyball and band, have finally had a chance to play together and get stronger.

“My girls are capable of beating them,” Miller said. “We’ve been working, and everything’s starting to come together.”

Catch Grenada’s boys and girls soccer teams on livestream when they play Lake Cormorant Thursday, December 16. Watch online at the district’s livestream channel, [vimeo.com/GSDlive](https://vimeo.com/GSDlive)

## Boys and Girls Soccer 2021



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

(front, l to r) - Thomas Kuhn, Matthew Melton, Brayden Brown, Brayden Neathery, Bowden Biddy, Jaxon Moore, Kade Robertson, (back, l to r) Head Coach Taylor Goode, Luke Mattox, Charlie McAnally, Holt Gober, Landon Waters, Jacob Chavis, Dylan Carnathan, Will Nisbett, Michael Cavanaugh, Tristan Moore, Luke Hardin, Blain Vincent, Reid Cannon, Aiden White, Aidan Carollo, Daniel Hopper, Aaron Hanley, Eli Black, McCarron Clausel, and Assistant Coach Matthew Gardner.



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

(front, l to r) Sadie Stockton, Kate Blankenship, and Lauren Dungan, (middle, l to r) Kelly Moran, Greenlee Mosconi, Demi Burney, Allison Escobedo, Ciara Breeland, Sydney Claire Brown Kelsey Hodges, (back, l to r) Coach Micheal Cox, Callie Rushing, Anna Ferguson, Mallory Willis, Lexie Taylor, Darshi Kher, Hannah Grace Jacks, Katelyn Fulghman, Camila Clevenger, Perrin Jackson, and Coach Chris Miller. Not Pictured: Chloe Gillis



# GES Green Top Principals' Breakfast



Students at Grenada Elementary Green Top were honored for good or improved behavior with an invitation to have breakfast with the principals. Students selected for October include (photo top) (front, l to r) Tate Sullivan, Nicholas Smith, Javari Taylor, Tylon Money, Drayden Lemon, Braylon Redditt, Tristan Conley, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Elijah Frost, Sara Kate Rowland, Madison Ellison, Josiah Knox, Zamyah Edgett, Abrionna Spearman, Grace Timmons, and Assistant Principal Dr. John Daves, (photo bottom) (front, l to r) Destiny Hyde, Dameion Winkles, Alanood Aldlalie, Lillien Ross, Lily Miller, Taylor Lipe, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Iveyonna Anthony, Isabella Winter, Beau Blakely, Kailyn Whaley, Paul McRee, Kyslin Craig, Jakira Worthington, and Assistant Principal Dr. John Daves.



Photos by Kayla Henson

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December			1 Band in Auditorium GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GES: 1st Grade Play 9:00am @ GES Cafeteria GES: 1st Grade Play 1:00pm @ GES Cafeteria Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	2 GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GES: 1st Grade Play 9:00am @ GES Cafeteria GES: 1st Grade Play 1:00pm @ GES Cafeteria GHS: Basketball vs South Panola JV/V 4:00pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Soccer vs. Lafayette (VG/JVB/VB) 5:00 & 7:45 5:00pm GMS: Basketball at Winona 5:00pm GES 4-5: Home for the Holidays Literacy Event 5:30pm - 7:00pm @ GES 4-5 JV Soccer vs Lafayette JVB 6:30pm Band: Tentative Christmas Concert 6th grade, Symphonic Winds, High School Jazz, and Battery Percussion in GHS Auditorium 7:00pm	3 GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GES: 1st Grade Play 9:00am @ GES Cafeteria GES: Pageant Practice 3:30pm - 5:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Basketball vs Calhoun City JV/V 5:00pm @ GHS Gym GMS: Pageant Practice 5:00pm - 6:00pm @ GHS Auditorium Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym Pizzazz: Christmas Show 6:00pm @ GES 4-5	4 GHS: Basketball at Coffeeville JV/V 2:00pm Pizzazz: Christmas Tree Lighting 5:30pm @ Grenada Square
	5 Second Sunday of Advent	6 GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Soccer vs Winona 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GMS: Basketball vs. North Panola 5:00pm @ GMS Gym	7 GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GHS: Basketball vs Indianola Gentry JV/V 4:00pm @ GHS Gym Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ GHS Auditorium JV Soccer at South Panola JVG-5:00; JVB-6:15 5:00pm	8 GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GES: Kidzeum Grandparent's Day 8:30am - 11:00am @ Kidzeum Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm @ GHS Auditorium Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	9 GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GES: Kidzeum Grandparent's Day 8:30am - 11:00am @ Kidzeum Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Soccer vs Oxford 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GMS: Basketball vs. Kosciusko 5:00pm @ GMS Gym Visions: Christmas Show 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium	10 GHS: Basketball at Amanda Elzy JV/V 4:00pm GHS: Soccer vs. Starkville 5:30 & 7:00 5:30pm Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym Visions: Christmas Show 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium
12 Third Sunday of Advent	13 Exams Week Visions in Auditorium	14 Exams Week School Board Meeting 6:00pm	15 Exams Week Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	16 Exams Week GHS: Soccer vs Lake Cormorant 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GHS: Basketball vs Winona V 6:00pm @ GHS Gym	17 60% Day Exams Week Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym GHS: Basketball at JZ George V 6:00pm	18 Parks & Rec: Basketball Games 7:00am - 9:00pm @ GMS Gym
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	20 Holiday	21 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	22 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	23 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	24 Holiday Christmas Eve	25 Holiday Christmas Day
26	27 Holiday	28 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	29 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	30 Holiday	31 New Year's Eve	



# Green Top Veterans Day



Photos by Kayla Henson

Grenada Elementary 4-5 students Mackenzie Brower (left) and Braylee Garrard display their poster for the annual Green Top Veteran's Day parade. Veterans were invited to a program in the Green Top gymnasium, which included a welcome by Principal Carol Tharpe, a musical performance by Pizzazz show choir, and a parade of students brandishing homemade posters and reciting messages of honor and thanks. Veterans were then invited to a reception with breakfast and cake in the school library.



Adien Jewell



Avery Moore



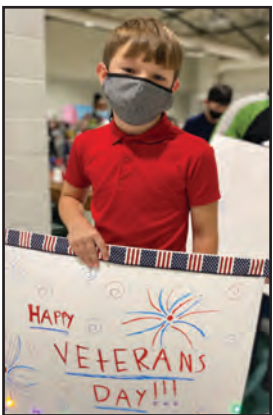
Jayden Carter



Vince Williams



Tylonte Cole



Kason Land



Jadon Moss

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## “College”

Continued from Page 5

Try reading examples of college essays online (check out The College Essay Guy's website — [www.collegeessayguy.com](http://www.collegeessayguy.com)) or use this article as a simple guide. An essay works the same way. It may start with a casual paragraph to hook your attention. The next paragraph gets to the point of the article. The “tips” are just points that support the main idea of the essay.

And now all that's left is to wrap things up in a summation paragraph. This is where you re-

mind the reader of what's important and tie it all up with a bow. Leave them feeling good about you, wanting to meet you, and imagining you attending their school. If you put in the work — with your heart as well as your mind — your essay can only help your chances of getting that scholarship or college admission you crave.

## GCTC Holds Advisory Meeting

The Grenada Career & Tech Center held their annual fall Advisory Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 4. Advisory Committee Members were invited to meet with their local class advisor, discuss ways they could help bridge the gap from community to classroom, and share a meal prepared by the culinary arts students. (l to r) Committee members Laura Davis and Jessica Elliott were greeted by health science instructor Anise Shuffield at this year's event.



Photo by Meg Newcomb

## “Rewards”

Continued from Page 1

At the Grenada Career and Technical Center, director Barry Rogers has made it a tradition to acknowledge the hard work of his teachers.

Several times a semester, they roll out an enormous grill, repurposed by his welding department from an old 500-gallon propane tank. Rogers has cooked burgers, brats, chicken, and ribs to celebrate staff and teacher birthdays.

ers has cooked burgers, brats, chicken, and ribs to celebrate staff and teacher birthdays.

“Mainly it's to show our appreciation by honoring every member individually,” Rogers said. “And we do it for every teacher, custodian, and secretary in the building.”

Rogers has found the

best way to honor his teachers is to marshal his resources to get them what they need for their classes. “I try and get them what they need to make the job easier,” he said. “If it's tools, computers, equipment, we'll do everything we can to make them better.”



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