

Grenada School District  
Education, Training, Dreams

# Communicator

Information for the Grenada School District Community

October 25, 2021

## Top Percentage



### Superintendent's Message

**Dr. David Daigneault**

Every year around this time, I write about the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System and chart Grenada School District's progress as measured by the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP).

This year, the assessment was measured a little differently. Given that the MAAP tests were suspended during the spring of 2020, and given that much of last year was disrupted by quarantines, hybrid learning, and all the other challenges that came with the pandemic, test results for the 2020-21 school year were released without letter grades or growth scores.

What we received instead was the percentage of students who scored proficient and advanced. And even though our mission to achieve the status of an "A" district was interrupted by the pandemic, our performance proves that Grenada not only performed well in the face of historic adversity, we also scored among the top percentage in all tested areas across 144 school districts.

Some highlights include GSD's rankings in math. The 3rd grade was measured as third highest in the state! Fourth grade ranked 12th in the state, while 5th grade achieved 11th place in the state. Joining these achievements, 8th grade placed 18th, while our Algebra 1 students placed 14th across the state.

In English Language Arts (ELA), GSD 3rd grade students ranked 14th, 4th grade ranked 25th, and 5th grade ranked 20th in the state. Our English II students placed 27th.

In science, 5th grade achieved 6th place, and 8th grade ranked 22nd across the state. Both Biology I and U.S. History students ranked 16th in the state.

Remember, these rankings are positioned among 144 school districts in the state.

MAAP measures students' progress toward academic goals that equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and the workforce. The tests measure student performance in ELA and mathematics in grades 3-8 and in high school English II and Algebra I.

For the first time since MAAP tests were first administered in 2016, student proficiency decreased across the state in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). Students were last tested in 2019 when they reached an all-time high for proficiency in mathematics and ELA.

The pandemic knocked us all down a few pegs. The real test now is how we respond.

I'm proud of the hard work our students, teachers, specialists, administrators, and parents have achieved through these difficult times. Great challenges often produce even greater results, and I believe our students will rebound with tremendous academic success. Watch this space in a year's time, and you'll see our progress soar to new heights.

## GSD Volleyball Program Grows in Second Year



**Varsity volleyball players Jesse Muilwyk (left) and Layla Escobedo (right) competed during the team's second season in existence at Grenada High School.**

*By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter*

Most Saturday mornings this fall, you'll find students and parents streaming into the Grenada High School gym at eight a.m. The purpose of these early-morning weekend outings? Volleyball, the hottest new sport in Mississippi athletics.

The Saturday morning players all participate in Grenada's intramural volleyball league. They are mostly middle school students learning the game or honing their skills, although there are a few older players and some members of the high school team who come out to train and support.

Collin Ray, head coach of the GHS girls' volleyball team, sits at the score table and keeps the numbers while con-

ducting the match schedule. "The game of volleyball is so new to most people in this area," he says. "People don't realize until they come out how exciting it is, how fast-paced it is."

Five teams compete against one another with each team playing two teams in best-of-three matches. In addition to weekly practice, the girls get the opportunity to play four to six games every Saturday morning.

"The intramural teams have been a great learning tool for all of us," Ray says. "It was designed to get kids used to volleyball. Down the road, we hope this will pay off, starting them early, exposing them to the game."

Ray says the intramural league is essential to building a viable volleyball program at Grenada, especially as the school enters into a highly competitive 6A division, which is home to some of the state's best teams.

The girls' high school volleyball team recently finished its season play. After last year's successful debut record in 5A, this year was a tough wake-up call for a fledgling program facing more experienced competitors.

The team's schedule began promptly after the start of school in early August and continued through early October. The team was greatly impacted by COVID this year. Quarantines forced them to forfeit several games early on, and Ray says they played several matches with only two starters available.

"The girls played hard all year, but it was just an unfortunate set of circumstances," he says.

Despite a losing record, Ray says the girls grew as a team this year.

"The first year we just played on pure athletics," Ray says. "I was learning, the girls were learning. We just got out there and played. This year, we grew better as a team. We came up with new offensive and defensive formations and swapped our base formation in the middle of the year."

One positive that came from so many starters being quarantined, Ray says, is

that it gave younger players an opportunity to compete. "They were able to play against some of the state's best players. It helped them improve, it gave them confidence, and it was a good experience."

Ray says the other teams in their division — Oxford, Starkville, and Tupelo — have long-established programs with players who compete all year round in club volleyball, the equivalent of travel ball for softball. "They've had volleyball for many years, and it shows," he says. "And that's what we'd like to build toward in the early years of our program."

The GHS volleyball roster included 17 girls in grades 9-12, including one eighth grader. Six more middle school players train with the team but don't dress out for games.

Ray says he would love to establish a middle school volleyball team to further develop these young players and give them a chance to compete before they try out for the high school team. He says the great turn-out for intramural play shows the interest is there.

"The earlier we catch these young athletes, the better players we can train and the more competitive we'll be when they get to the high school level," he says.

As the season wraps up, the high school team says goodbye to three seniors — Kate Blankenship, Jesse Muilwyk, and Alexa Milhollen — all of whom were instrumental to the program.

The intramural teams will continue playing throughout the month, and then Ray moves over to softball, where he serves as assistant coach. He says the volleyball girls who don't play softball will continue to train on the sand court behind the softball field, which helps with conditioning.

"We're going to focus on honing those skills, getting ready for next season," the coach says. "It'll be back around before you know it."

## Kidzeum Day on the Farm



**(Photo left)**  
Grenada Elementary School students (l to r) Lexi Boozer, Karter Mitchell, and Campbell Harrell inspect the new chicks recently hatched in the Kidzeum. The in-school museum's current exhibit, "Life on the Farm," features hands-on lessons and activities that teach students about agriculture, emphasizing state and local connections. Students were able to monitor the eggs for weeks as they incubated in the Kidzeum's front window.

*Photo by Martha Liberto*



# AmeriCorps Recognizes Member of Excellence

By Gwen Woodson  
AmeriCorps Director

Since beginning her service as an AmeriCorps member in 2020, Yvonna Herron has demonstrated that she knows how to “get things done.” She joined AmeriCorps because she wanted to be a positive role model for her nieces, nephews, and the children in her community, encouraging them to learn.

“AmeriCorps has helped me to be a better person, a better role model for my nieces and nephews, and inspired me to want to do more for my community,” said Herron. “Tutoring has given me the understanding of how important education is and the need for it. I am also more patient and compassionate to my student’s needs.”

Herron is a member of Washington Street Church of Christ. She graduated from Grenada High School and earned a degree at Holmes Community College in surgical technology. She attended Mississippi University for Women, where she majored in legal and business professional studies. Her previous experience was as a surgical technologist and as a manager at It’s Fashion Metro.

Yvonna has a true heart of service and is dedicated to improving her students’ academic achievement. She has truly grown in her role as team leader, and I love how she has taken ownership of this program. I am inspired by her joy and see a bright future for her.

In her role as a team leader, Herron has learned how important it is to have great communication skills and the art of being patient. She has also enjoyed helping at the food pantry, Grenada Middle School’s beauty review pageant, Pre-k, and many other activities.

Herron loves to sing, spend time with family and friends, and shop. Her mottos in life are Mae West’s quote, “You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough,” and Oscar Wilde’s quote, “Be



yourself, everyone else taken.”

“Being a part of such a diverse team opened my eyes to the fact that no two people are alike,” Herron said about her experience with AmeriCorps. “The program gave me a clearer sense of who I want to be and how to accomplish my goals.”

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. Herron plans on going back to obtain her bachelor’s degree in education or business administration.

“My advice to future AmeriCorps members is to just do it,” Herron said. “You will really enjoy the experience. AmeriCorps is a great program, and you will gain many skills, especially communication skills. You will enjoy it and even get some fun out of it.”

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).

# GES 4-5 Bookmark Contest Winner

(Photo right) Fourth grader Rebecca Howell (right) shows library assistant Amanda Myners (left) her winning design for this year’s Green Top Book Mark Contest for the school library. Students in 4th and 5th grade were invited to submit their designs for the new bookmark, using original artwork and incorporating the year’s reading theme, which is Level Up - Gaming.



Photo by Pam Briscoe



## Watch for STUDENTS

## GSD Parent Resource Center

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ADULT EDUCATION CENTER/ ROOM 10

HOURS: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 and 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

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## GHS Drum Majors



Photo by Kim Presley

GHS Band members (l to r) Mary Clayton Logan, Alexis Smith, and Abigail Presley are serving as drum majors this fall. The band has spent most of October preparing for and participating in marching band competitions around the southeast with their halftime show, Alchemy: Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary.



# 2021 GHS Beauty Review



(left to right) Jaqoun Bledsoe, Lazarus Conley, Jahiem Shack - Most Handsome, Tre Smith, and Jordan Topps



Gracie Colbert crowned by 2020 Most Beautiful Jayden Phillips



Autumn Davis - Miss Congeniality



Photos by Torrance Studios

Winners of the 2021 GHS Beauty Review were (left to right) Trinity Davis - 5th alternate; Sidney Claire Brown -3rd alternate; Meredith Meriwether-1st alternate; Gracie Colbert - Most Beautiful; Alexa Strong - 2nd alternate; Autumn Davis - 4th alternate, Miss Congeniality.



# Going to College Okay ... But Which One?

There are roughly 5,300 different colleges and universities you could attend in the United States. In Mississippi alone there are almost 70.

Let's say you definitely want to attend one of these colleges. How could you possibly make the right decision about which one to choose?

First, let's eliminate some options. If you've chosen a college based solely on the fact that your friends are going there or your parents went there or you just love the football team, it may be time to step back and reevaluate why you're going to college in the first place.

Some rush off to college as if they were jumping into a catapult bucket and launching themselves toward adulthood. But hopefully you'll judge your aim and fling yourself relatively close to your desired landing spot.

Where do you see yourself in five years? Start moving in that direction. What is required to get there? Talk to parents, teachers, or school counselors about the course work that must be done to get there.

If you're motivated by a certain passion or wish to pursue a particular career, that's great. But don't worry if you're not one hundred percent certain of what you'll do with the rest of your life. This is your time to explore, and the college experience often reveals paths that were otherwise hidden until you set off to explore.

With a general sense of purpose and interest, you can set out to find the right college. There are a few questions to ask yourself first.

## Four years or two?

If you have a fairly solid idea about what you'd like to study and made good grades in high school, then you're probably ready for a four-year university. But what if you're not exactly sure what to study and didn't grasp the importance of good grades until late in your high school career? A two-year community

college can be a good stepping stone to university. It will give you a chance to see if you're ready for college and allow you to earn credits toward a higher degree without committing to a major. Maybe you're ready to enter the workforce and don't want four more years of school. At the right community college, you can earn credentials for many reliable careers with two-year technical training and certification. Other advantages include lower tuition as well as more flexible hours that allow you to hold a job while earning your degree.

## In-state or out-of-state?

College is a big investment, and unless your academic performance can write you a ticket to the school of your choice, cost will be a major factor in determining where you apply. A majority of Grenada High School grads will attend an in-state college because the tuition for a resident of Mississippi is often half of what it costs for an out-of-state student. The same applies if you're looking to attend a public university in another state.

Why does it cost so much more to go outside of Mississippi? In-state residents pay less because your family has lived here and paid taxes, which go to support public universities. In essence, your family has been paying into the system as long as you've lived here, so you've earned some credit, which takes the form of reduced tuition. It's also a way for states to encourage their best and brightest to stay here, work hard in college, and hopefully stick around to start a business in the state.

If you're determined to get out of Mississippi, you may consider an out-of-state private college or university, which often have more leeway than public institutions to give you financial aid. Otherwise, Mississippi has many fine colleges and universities with top-notch resources and professors.

Find the school that specializes in your area of interest. If you're consider-

ing a career in engineering, agriculture, veterinary medicine, or architecture, you may be better served at Mississippi State. If you're interested in pharmacy, accounting, or law, you may find Ole Miss a better choice.

Mississippi has many historically black colleges and universities which are consistently ranked among the nation's best. Three recent top-25 schools and their specialties include Tougaloo College (engineering, medicine), Jackson State University (business, education) Alcorn State University (agriculture, nursing).

There are smaller options close to home, including Holmes Community College, which has helped GHS grads attain their education degrees and EMT certification without leaving Grenada. Right down the road in Cleveland, Delta State University offers degrees for students interested in aviation, music production, and teaching. Which brings us to another good question....

## Big school or small school?

Are you looking to get the full college experience, or would you prefer a quieter, more straight-forward path to a degree? You may be ready for a big school if you're assertive and social, if you know what you want and aren't

afraid to speak up and ask for it. Students who attend larger schools have access to more variety — in courses, housing options, professors, students — and more resources. And of course, there are bigger sports teams with high-energy fan cultures.

Classes at big schools are often held in auditoriums with more than a hundred students. You may not have a close relationship with your professors, who may not even know your name. Some students feel overwhelmed in a setting like this, while others enjoy the chance to blend in and get a fresh start. You can be yourself without the preconceptions of classmates who've known you since kindergarten. If you're open to new experiences, a big school can give you lots of room to explore.

Smaller schools, on the other hand, offer tighter focus and more personal attention. They're easier to navigate, and you may have closer relationships with your professors and advisers. Coursework is often more limited, and there may not be as many resources available, but a visit to campus will tell you if you feel more at home at a small school or if you need a little more variety.

**See "College"**  
**Continued on page 8**



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# MDOT Visits GCTC

(Photo right)  
Representatives from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) visited the Grenada Career & Technical Center on Friday, September 24, to present "Survive the Drive." Johnathon Caldwell and Kim Sloan with MDOT brought the Rollover Simulator and discussed the benefits of wearing a seat belt while driving. The simulator showed students what happens when a person is driving without a seatbelt and how badly one can be injured. MDOT also brought a seatbelt simulator that the students could sit in and simulate a 5 mph crash with a seatbelt on. These MDOT Safety Education Programs are designed to reduce vehicle fatalities and serious injuries by raising awareness about the importance of seat belt usage and child passenger safety, and the dangers of impaired and distracted driving. Students and instructors included (l to r) Keo-sha Travis, Johnathon Caldwell (MDOT), Jacob Medders, Eli Newton, Gage Mixon, Christian Rosales, Kim Sloan (MDOT), Riley Reed, Demartravion Reed, Halston Ingram, Dameria Pittman, Case Smith, and Jalyn Bullin. Front: Kim Sloan (MDOT), Dameria Pittman, and Jalyn Bullin



Photo by Meg Newcomb



# Ninth Grade Football



(front, l to r) Chance Jenkins, Jaques Perry, Zak Townsend, Holt Gober, Jahmani Davis, Deandrae Rimmer, Ethan Dorris, JaKoray Shipp, Jordyn Cashaw, (2nd row, l to r) Carson Honeycutt, Semaj Avery, McCaleb Taylor, Richard Smith, Trent Lane, Halston Ingram, Kendrick Caffey, Tay Lewis, Terrell Young, (3rd row, l to r) Elizjah Townes, Lewis Wiggins, Malikia Johnson, Michael Kuneffe, Laquaylon Steward, Tristan Monger, Charlie McAnally, Michael Cavanaugh, Jordan Cunningham, (4th row, l to r) Detraevon Conley, D.J. Westmoreland, Riley Reed, Christian Rosales, Christian Moore, Frank Sanders, Triston Dubard, Eli Pollan, (back, l to r) Cadin Windham, Demetreus Ross, Ekeyvion Noel, Devon Hennis, Clyde Bryant, Myles Ross, and Jarvaris Bledsoe  
Not pictured: Preston Downs

PRIORITY DEADLINE  
**NOVEMBER 1**  
FOR *Spring 2022*

“THE SMALLER  
SETTING ALLOWED  
FOR MANY OF US  
TO DEVELOP CLOSE  
RELATIONSHIPS. WE  
WERE ABLE TO LEAN  
ON AND HELP EACH  
OTHER THROUGH  
THE JOURNEY.”

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# GHS Cheerleaders’ Biggest Fan

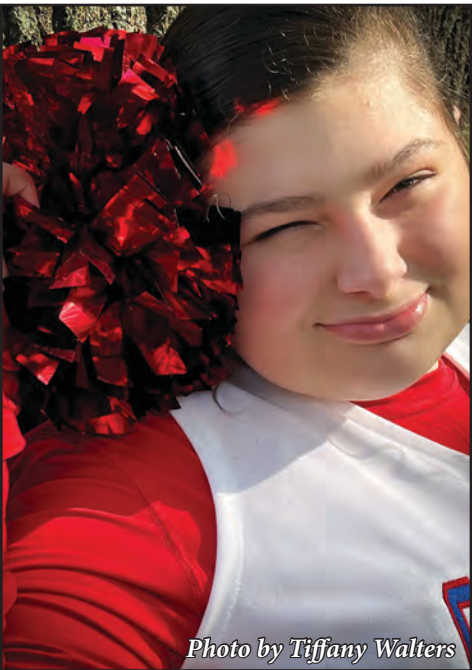


Photo by Tiffany Walters

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

At the Grenada Chargers’ home football game on October 8, the high school’s varsity cheerleader squad conducted a touching half-time ceremony that showcased the positive influence students can have on younger members of the community.

During half-time, the cheerleaders presented their biggest fan, 13-year-old Rylee Brooke McCormick, with her own Grenada High School cheerleading uniform and varsity jacket.

Rylee Brooke is the daughter of Bill and Tiffany Walters and Steven McCormick. After experiencing seizures at the age of four, she was diagnosed with an extremely rare genetic disorder called 9q32 Duplication Syndrome. The condition has rendered her non-verbal with limited motor skills, but she hasn’t let her condition slow her down.

Her mother Tiffany said Rylee Brooke is drawn to the cheerleaders’ physicality and momentum, as well as their spirit and drive.

“The doctors said she wouldn’t live past the age of four,” Walters said. “The cheerleaders have inspired her motor skills. She tries to mimic their movement.”

Cheerleading head coach Tammy Wilson says the squad first met Rylee Brooke when Tiffany, the squad’s photographer, brought her daughter to the photo shoot five years ago. Since then, Walters has brought her every time to take the squad’s photo, and they always enjoy interacting with Rylee Brooke.

“They have such big hearts,” Walters says. “Rylee Brooke gets excited when she hugs and squeezes really hard. The girls never pulled away. They just let her squeeze.”

During the last squad photo shoot, Walters asked the cheerleaders if Rylee Brooke could take a picture with them. In the photo, Rylee Brooke is so over-

joyed that it touched a nerve among viewers when it was posted to Facebook.

“Several parents contacted me and said they would like to do something for Rylee Brooke,” said Wilson. “We all pitched in to purchase the jacket and uniform for her and decided to present it to her at halftime.”

Walters said Rylee Brooke was ecstatic over the halftime ceremony. “Watching those seniors’ eyes tear up with love, I know God was there,” she said. “And I know each of them have a calling. It was such a blessing to be there.”

Rylee Brooke attended the ceremony with her service dog, Repo. Originally trained as a duck dog, Repo was donated to the Retrieving Freedom project out of Senatobia. The family said Repo has changed Rylee Brooke’s life by alerting them to seizures as well as providing safety, stability, and calmness during

stressful situations. “When we got home, Rylee Brooke didn’t want to take her jacket off,” Walters said. “She wanted to sleep in it.” Walters thanked the cheerleading squad, as well as coaches Tammy Wilson and Amy Laster, for their kindness and generosity. She said, “As a Chromosome 9 Mom, I want to tell everyone, nothing is ever impossible when you believe!”

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## GHS Football Cheer Visits Elementary



(front, l to r) Katelyn Winters, Autumn Davis, Hannah Grace Jacks, Abbi Jackson Head Captain, Madison Hughes, Kate Blankenship, Callie Smith, Lauren Dungan Assistant Head Captain, (2nd row, l to r) Ciara Samuels Mascot, Nadia Reed, Vivian King, Kiersten Zinn, Ella Brooke Horan, Kaylee Whitt, Kayla Robinson, CoCaptain, Perrin Jackson, Kaiya Exson, Maddie Ingram, Layla Samuels, Mascot, (3rd row, l to r) Memrie Cox, Faith Arbuckle, Kamaria Reed Zyamarieiona Hammond, (back row, l to r) Amy Laster, Coach, Tammy Wilson, Coach, Naima Reed, Belle Belcher, Jillian Dykes, Leah Briscoe, Anna Claire Poynor, Demi Burney, Trinity Davis, Callie Rushing, Tristin Wilson, Laila Pryor, Dawn Terry, assistant principal, Cole Surrell, principal, Reggie Herrington, assistant principal



# 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 September include (photo top) (front, l to r) Jayden Carter, Jordan Jolliff, Greyson Johnson, Rebecca Howell, Marley Jenkins, Jordan Conley, Bradley Baker (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Micah Forrest, Miles Breland, Snow Sandhu, Brianna Phillips, Madison Braxton, Jazmin Farmer, Armani Archer, Grace Timmons, and Assistant Principal Dr. John Daves. (photo bottom) (front, l to r) Braylen Smith, Wyatt Mooney, Sophia Stewart, Kali Kiraly, Kyleigh Williams, Tristan McBride, Lyric Galvan, Emily Wilson, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Cody McCaskill, Nicholas Pernell, Tanner Stroup, Keyunna Hampton, Jazae Booker, Madison Taylor, Jaxon Tune, Camren Williams, and Assistant Principal Dr. John Daves



Photos by Kayla Henson



Save money. Live better.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November	1 GMS: Basketball vs. Coffeerville 5:00pm @ GMS Gym	2 Election Day Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory GHS: Soccer at Canton (5:30 & 7:00) 5:30pm GHS: Basketball at Cleveland Central V 6:00pm	3 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	4 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Cheer Freshman and Varsity Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm @ Armory Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GMS: Basketball vs. Winona 5:00pm @ GMS Gym JV Soccer at Oxford JVG-5:00; JVB-6:15 5:00pm GHS: Basketball vs Charleston V 6:00pm @ GHS Gym	5 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Football vs. Starkville (Senior Night) GMS: Robotics Northern League Meet 1 3:30pm - 10:00pm @ GMS GYM & Cafeteria	6 GMS: Robotics Northern League Meet 1 7:00am - 10:00pm @ GMS GYM & Cafeteria GHS: Basketball Ken Ross/Diane Washington Cancer Classic V 9:00am - 11:00am @ GHS Gym GHS: Soccer vs. North Pontotoc 11:00 & 1:00 11:00am
	7 Daylight Savings Time Ends	8 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GMS: Choir 3:00pm - 5:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GMS: Basketball at Kosciusko 5:00pm	9 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GMS: Choir 3:00pm - 5:00pm @ GHS Auditorium Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Soccer vs. Senatobia 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GCTC-Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course 5:30pm - 9:30pm GHS: Basketball at Lewisburg V 6:00pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	10 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	11 Veterans Day Pizzazz: Veterans Day 9:00am @ GES 4-5 GMS: Choir 3:00pm - 5:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Soccer vs. Desoto Central 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GMS: Basketball at Coffeerville 5:00pm GHS: Basketball at Charleston V 6:00pm Visions: Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm @ GHS Auditorium	12 SPED: MDE Training @ Communications Meeting Room Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym
	14	15 GMS: Choir 3:30pm - 6:30pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Soccer at Strayhorn 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm	16 JV Soccer at Cleveland JVG 4:00pm GHS: Soccer at Cleveland (5:30 & 7:00) 5:30pm GHS: Basketball at Byhalla V 6:00pm GMS: Choir Show 6:00pm @ GHS Auditorium	17 Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	18 Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Soccer at Byhalla 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GMS: Basketball at North Panola 5:00pm	19 Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym
21	22 GHS: Basketball at Oxford Shootout Boys Holiday	23 Holiday	24 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	25 Thanksgiving Day Holiday	26 Holiday Parks & Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 8:30pm @ GMS Gym	27
28 First Sunday of Advent	29 Band in Auditorium JV Soccer vs South Panola JVG-5:00; JVB-6:15 5:00pm	30 Band in Auditorium GES: Book Fair 8:00am - 3:00pm @ GES Library GHS: Soccer vs. Cleveland 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GHS: Basketball vs JZ George V 6:00pm @ GHS Gym				



# Risk of Lung Cancer Death Drops by Half 10 Years After Quitting Smoking

Over the last five years incidences of lung cancer have decreased by seven percent in the state of Mississippi, according to data from the America Lung Association. This positive trend is supported by data from the World Health Organization showing that people who quit smoking are 50 percent less likely to develop lung cancer 10 years later.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report as of 2018, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Unfortunately for Mississippi, even with incidence trending in the right direction, lung cancer rates are higher than the national average.

“Quitting smoking, at any point in time, provides new health benefits,” said Sue Mashburne Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun counties. “You lower your risk of cancer, add years to your, life and can breathe more easily.”

The Office of Tobacco Control at the Mississippi State Department of Health is prepared to

help anyone seeking support to quit smoking. Participants in the “Ready. Set. Quit.” program receive a free welcome kit and access to the program website where they follow an action plan and track progress. Additionally, Tobacco Control offers online, phone and text counseling.

Shirlee McNeil of Winaona quit smoking after calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW. “It takes several tries to get it right. I had to ask for help, that’s why I called the hotline. I found the number on Facebook.”

When asked what kept her motivated, Shirlee said, “I’m a pretty stubborn person and I didn’t want to give up on myself. Even though I failed a lot, I just kept trying. Now I’ve been smoke free for three years.”

*For information about the dangers of cigarettes, visit [www.healthmys.com/tobacco](http://www.healthmys.com/tobacco). For help with quitting visit [www.quitlinems.com](http://www.quitlinems.com), or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.*

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tobacco  
FREE

COALITION  
OF GRENADA,  
YALOBUSHA,  
AND CALHOUN,  
COUNTIES

# “College”

Continued from Page 4

City school, country school, or somewhere in between?

One final factor, when considering what type of college experience you’re looking for, is setting. If you came from a small town, perhaps you’d prefer to live in a city for a while. A metropolitan college presents new challenges, so be sure you research housing and transportation options, as well as the heightened cost of living.

Maybe you’re nervous about leaving home and think you’d be more comfortable attending a small school in a rural setting. Just remember — you’ll be spending a lot of time here. There will be plenty of down time in between classes and studying. You may need transportation to seek out cultural opportunities and

certain amenities, which will be limited. More suburban locales, including small college towns like Oxford and Starkville, may provide a balance of life and culture that curious students need while still maintaining the essence of home.

Once you choose a college, be confident in your decision. Nothing is perfect. And you’ll be learning a lot about yourself in the process. This is probably the first time you’ve ever been away from family, and it’s a chance to find out who you are as an individual. The experience of college, no matter where you attend, will provide sufficient challenges and opportunities to discover what you’re made of and give you a better idea of what you want out of life.

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# 2021 Volleyball Team



Photo by Lisa Escobedo

(front, l to r) Alexa Millholen, Jesse Muilwyk, Kate Blakenship, (middle, l to r) Emily finkley, Allison Escobedo, Merdith Meriweather, Faith Arbuckle, Alanna Millholen, AC Poyner, Olivia Lashley, Greenlee Mosconi, Rylee Ryals, Kate Cobb, (back, l to r) Mary Grace Klinck, Briella Simmons, Lora Ryals, Chloe Gillis, Layla Pryor, Markiya Mcneal, Layla Escobedo, Katelyn Fulgham, and Elenea McCulough