

Communicator

Information for the Grenada School District Community

May 22, 2020

What's Next?



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

When they left for a week of spring break on March 6, our students might never have guessed that they wouldn't return to school for the rest of the semester. At that time, the CO-VID-19 virus had just begun to rear its head in the United States. We knew the possibility that an outbreak might disrupt school during the spring, but we never could have guessed the duration or the extent of challenges our community would face.

Now, some 12 weeks later, in an effort to maintain social distance and stop the spread of the virus, we recently held a "drive-through" graduation. Members of the GHS Class of 2020 arrived in cars with their families and came up one student at a time to receive their diploma. Meanwhile, students confined to their homes have been completing packets of school work provided by their teachers and principals. Every student will receive a grade of one hundred for the fourth nine week and a grade of one hundred for final exams in grades 6-12. Those final grades will ensure that the extended school closure, which was beyond their control, will not negatively impact student promotion and retention when averaged in with the previous grading periods.

Now the question on everyone's mind is: what's next?

As our state continues to see new cases of COVID-19, the Mississippi Department of Education is evaluating if it is safe for kids to return to the classroom. We're waiting to hear if GSD will provide face-to-face instruction, distance learning, or some combination of the two this fall. Rest assured that the district will continue to provide a quality education, whatever the circumstances.

The learning landscape will look much different come fall, and we've been planning for a variety of scenarios. We look forward to using this summer as a testing ground for how the next school year may work.

All students at Grenada School District are expected to participate in our extended-year offerings, beginning in June. All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will receive an instructional packet that will provide enrichment activities and required assignments. The new round of packets will go out May 26 and can be picked up at the corresponding schools from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students in PreK -10th grade will receive packets on math and reading or language. Science packets will go out to students currently in 5th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade. ACT packets will be given to students in the 11th and 12th grades. Students will have over nine weeks to complete these packets. They must be completed before the first day of school (August 6, 2020). Teachers will grade these packets, and the grades will be recorded in the first nine weeks grades for 2020-2021 school year.

Also, the district's Extended School Year program will continue this summer for students who failed the regular school year. Students who are close to failing or who are learning English may also be eligible to attend this program.

See "Next"
Continued on page 8

GHS Star Student



By Stephanie Raper GSD Reporter

Alexa Simko has been named Grenada High School's STAR Student for the 2019-2020 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M. B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. This year will mark the 55th Anniversary of the STAR program. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students & teachers in Mississippi.

Alexa, who scored a 31 on her ACT, is the daughter of Stephen and Susan

(Photo left)
Alexa Simko (left) earned the title of Grenada High School Star Student for the 2019-2020 school year. The title is given to the senior with the highest ACT score in the school for the current school year. Simko chose Mrs. Melanie Hopper (right) as her STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the largest contribution to her academic career. Simko and Hopper will be honored at a ceremony at a future date along with over 330 other STAR Students and Teach-

Simko. She is captain of Mu Alpha Theta and serves as vice president of the GHS National Honor Society. She is a member of Visions show choir and serves as a vocal captain this year. She is enrolled in AP classes and attends the Superintendent's Breakfast yearly. Alexa enjoys singing, dancing, and playing music in her spare time. After graduation, she plans to major in music education at the University of Southern Mississippi.

ers from Mississippi.

Simko will be acknowledged among the over 330 STAR Students in Mississippi for their academic achievements. Star Students are selected on the basis of academic excellence. Both American College Test scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the school's STAR Student. The STAR program encourages and promotes academic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors. Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

Mrs. Melanie Hopper was designated by Simko as STAR Teacher. Hopper stated, "I am honored to be chosen Star Teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. This is my 13th year in the classroom, and I am incredibly humbled to have Alexa choose me as a teacher who has made a positive impact on her life. Alexa has had amazing teachers throughout her educational experience which makes her selection even more special to me. Alexa is an outstanding student, and I have loved having the opportunity to work with her for the last two years. She is dedicated, sincere, driven, giving, and a joy to teach. Her desire to learn and question makes me be a better teacher. Thank you so much, Alexa, for bestowing me with this honor. I know you will succeed with all your future endeavors once you leave GHS. Thank you for always being a bright spot in

This year, over 660 STAR Students and STAR Teachers will receive this prestigious recognition from MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation.

GHS Hall of Fame



Heidi Clark



Shaunna George



Annelysia Hurd



Kenydi Jenkins



Nicholas Johnson



Colin Keys



Brooke Little



Morgan Reed



Braylee Shaw



Aikema Spencer

By Stephanie Raper
GSD Reporter

Ten Grenada High

Ten Grenada High School Seniors have been named as Hall of Fame recipients for the 2019-2020 school year. The GHS Hall of Fame represents the highest honor attainable by a student during their high school career. Based on a points-system, the Hall of Fame recognizes students who have brought recognition to GHS through excellence in leadership, service, scholarship, citizenship, and extra-curricular activities. A select committee of faculty members, chosen by administration, selects members for the distinction from students who have submitted an ap-

plication listing individual accomplishments accrued during high school. Points are awarded based on grade point average; academic awards; national, state, or district level awards; and awards or honors received at the school level. The members of the 2019 -2020 Grenada High School Hall of Fame are Heidi Clark,

Shaunna George, Annelysia Hurd, Kenydi Jenkins, Nicholas Johnson, Colin Keys, Brooke Little, Morgan Reed, Braylee Shaw, and Aikema Spencer. Congratulations to this great group of students!

GHS Class of 2020



Branden Baker Ja'Kayia Avery



C.J. (Cason) Baker



Xiavion Bankston



Jalen Barnes





Ashanti Beckum Ja'Mya Benson



Krisandria Berry



Dylan Booker



Safari Booker



Mallorie Bowden



Nadea Brady



Molly-Anna Brewer



Chaz Brooks





Seth Broughman



Alicia Brown



Jerlyn Brown



Shikira Brown



Tabitha Brown



Tykeria Brown



Amber Buford



O.D. Cashaw





Elena Chaney



Heidi Clark













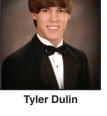


Carl Dalton





















Jaslyn Forrest



Quanterris Eskridge









Demarquese Gibson





Travon Golden



Emmanuel Forbes



Gracie Gustafson

James Fox

Kylie Haile

Zion Fox

Shaunna George

Jamya Harris

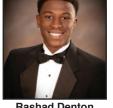
Hayes Harrison

De'Kevia Harbin



Taylor Clark











Nickolas Golden

Demetrius Harbin













Isaac Horton

Amaiya Johnson

Katerrio Kennedy

Brooke Little

Kaylee Miller

Jacolby Nixon

Peyton Pilgrim

Daniel Hesler

Tanesha Jefferson

Treasure Jones

Simeon Ledger

Patrick Manuele

Kourtney McNatt

Katelyne Myers

Jaylen Perkins-

Smoot

Morgan Reed

Landon Holliman

Kenydi Jenkins

Er'Rique Joseph

Delv-Ion Lee

Abigail Martin

Chase McNeer

Emily Newton

Jalexis Phillips

Seth Reed

Hailey Hoop

Elora Jennings

Gage Kelly

Rykela Lee

Shanna Melton

Kyle Nix

Serlida Phillips

Johnathan Rice

Landon Hentz

Mary Claire Jacks

Kailey Jones

Savannah Laughlin

Austin McDaniel

Case Parker

Christopher Ray

Johnecia Ross

Jada Ivy

Jacoryan Jones

Julia Laster

Memorie McCarroll

Myesha Morgan

Alexis Parker

Semira Purnell

Donovan Ross

Tavaris Herrod

Allondric James

Kourtney Jones

Alexis Leason

Madison Mallett

Cameron Mcdonald

Mia Parker

De'Markeleonna

Reed

Haley Ruthelford

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Makiya Hughes

Nicholas Johnson

Colin Keys

Caleb Mayfield

Aaliyah Momon

Lekita Norwood

Abbi Pilkay

Alriyuna Richmond Shakaiya Robinson Ta'shiaya Robinson

Annelysia Hurd

Tiovanni Johnson

Julianne Knight

Tre'Dayrin Loggins

Layvonnia Mayweather

Talyshia Moore

Corey Owens

Kalyiah Profit

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Kaitlyn Shepherd









Ananda Small



Christopher Smith



Remington Smith



Levi Snyder



Aikema Spencer



Ruby Stanton



Alison Steele



Kevondria Steele



Marina Stokes



Tempest Strickland



Datreveon Swearengen





















Braden Waugh



Terra West



Peyton White



Tykeria White



Andrew Whittemore



Abby Williams



Coby Williams



Delanie Williams



Kristiana Williams



Ti'jai Willis



Tori Wilson



Keyeshaun Woodall Reagan Wooldridge





Allie Wortham

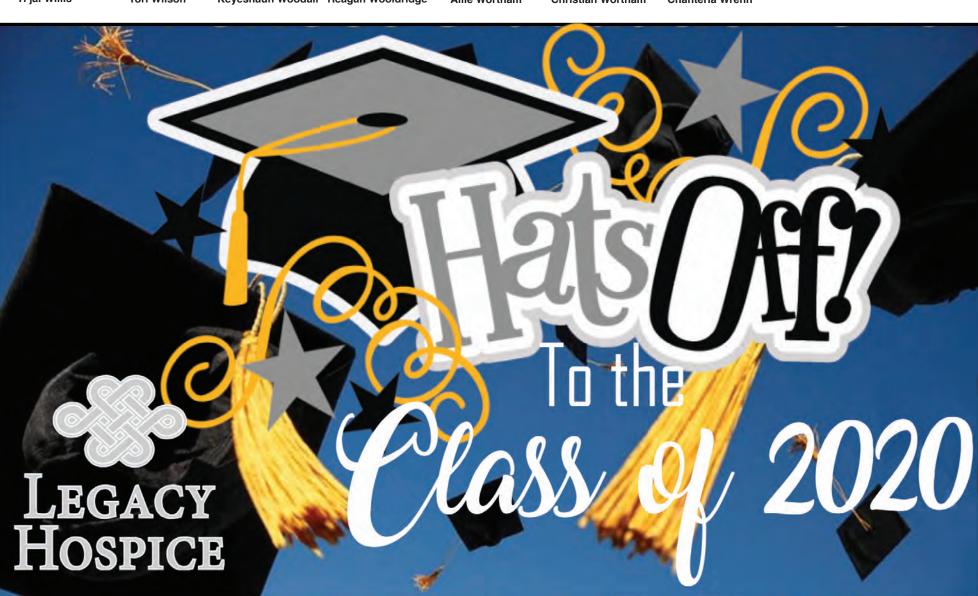


Christian Wortham



Chanteria Wrenn

Congratulations Graduates!

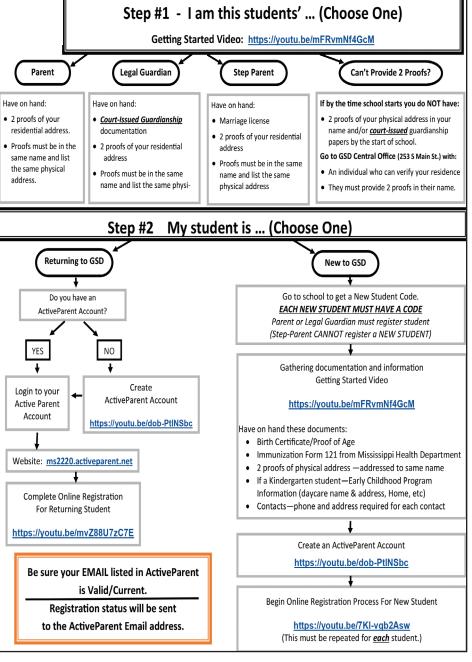


We wish you the BEST in your future endeavors!

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2-3: fheath@grenadak12.com	6-8: rgray@grenadak12.com		V 3.1

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2020 GHS Valedictorian 2020 GHS Salutatorian Colin Keys



By Colin Keys GHS Valedictorian

Greetings, everyone. Now, I know what you're thinking-"what a lame way to start off a graduation speech right?" Well, let me tell you, I spent way too much time thinking about how to start this off. In a normal graduation, I would've said good afternoon, good evening, or any other generic greeting phrase, but honestly, I have no earthly idea when you'll be watching this video—it could be morning, night, or, you may never watch it at all. Regardless, I hope it strikes home with all of you, especially considering what we've all had to go through these past weeks.

Now before I continue, I do want to start off with a quote from Proverbs 3:6. It says, "In all you do acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." What this means is, in whatever you do,

and in whatever you accomplish, always give credit to God, and he'll guide you through life, even if it seems hopeless. I was incredibly happy when I found out I was Valedictorian, but I do want to make sure to thank my parents and God, because without them, I wouldn't be where

I know a lot of you aren't happy about graduation, but you've got to admit we made some good memories here. It feels just like yesterday when we all became freshmen, and we were so happy about "No More iReady". I remember the first day of school, with my English teacher Mr. Kelly. I thought it was pretty hilarious when he'd tell us—in a playful way—to "shut our beautiful little mouths" when we talked a little too much. He always managed to make reading fun. Then of course, there was Coach Chip, who really knew his stuff when it came to history. At the same time though, he made you laugh every day for some reason or the other, whether he was asking Elena Chaney to make him a bologna sandwich or calling you a random nickname he thought fit

Also, here's a shout out to our counselor Ms. Chandler. She's gotta have some nerves of steel because I know Haley Ferguson and I bugged her about three times a week for one thing or the other. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Hopper. Her passion for teaching is clear in everything she does, even to the point of rubbing off on her students. She's also written so many recommendation letters and proofread so many essays that I honestly can't believe she still likes us.

See "Valedictorian" Continued on page 7



By Alexa Simko GHS Salutatorian

Parents, friends and faculty, thank you for being here with us as we move forward and take the next steps towards a new chapter. Those diplomas are definitely not just papers. They are symbolic of thirteen years of tireless work. Long before we were even thinking about this day, we were working towards it. Our parents brought us to school or we rode on the bus as little kids, and when we got there we just did our work because we were told that we had to. We had fun and that was what mattered to us. The long years we had ahead of us didn't really cross our minds much. Now we've lived out those years and we have memories to go along with all of them. We've done the work and now we get to walk the field and accept something we did not

know at the time would be so special.

Alexa Simko

Parents, today is a special day for us, but it's just as much about recognizing you. Without you, we'd be nowhere. Thank you for always being the people we can count on. Thank you for staying on us about our work and being tough on us when we needed it.

Teachers, how can we say thank you enough? We can never, ever repay you for teaching us, but more importantly for accepting us and treating us like we are your own. Thank you for being our shoulders to cry on and our second family who we can laugh with every day. We love you beyond measure.

To my classmates, This feels surreal. Thirteen years. It doesn't feel like it's supposed to end. Part of me wants to never let this place go. It's given me far more than I could have asked for. I'm not ready to say goodbye to reading plays in Mrs. Hopper's classroom and making jokes with each other while we read. I'm not ready to let go of picking up my best friend for school every day, only to rush into the front doors at the last minute.

The thing I'll probably miss the most is the auditorium. It had a distinct smell when I was a freshman, but now I've spent too much time in there and I can't smell the room anymore. That's how I know it's become my second home. I know we all have things like that that we'll miss. Someday we might come back and we'll be able to do things like smell the old familiar smell of the auditorium or the band hall or the locker room and we'll feel right back at home. Class of 2020, I know we have great things ahead of us, and I can't wait to see where life takes us. Thank you

GSD Golf Team



(front, I to r) Brooke Thomas, Hallie Kerr, (back, I to r) Coach Jeff Sanford, Matt Cummings, Cody Porter, Zachary Young, Austin England, Carl Dalton, Hunter Carter, Jadon Reece, and Eli Black



SET IT. FORGET IT.

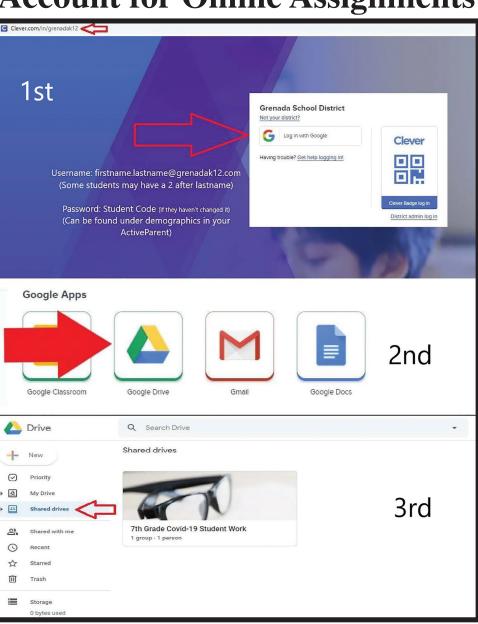
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How to Log into Student Clever Account for Online Assignments



"Valedictorian"

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This is a big moment for us. Regardless of the coronavirus, and the things it took away from us, we're still and will always be the class of 2020. Life will always go on. Before you know it, we'll all be looking back on these stories as distant memories. Some that we'll tell our kids and grandkids, and some that a few of you would probably rather keep to yourselves. And, our futures haven't been set in stone. You can do whatever you want, but make sure to

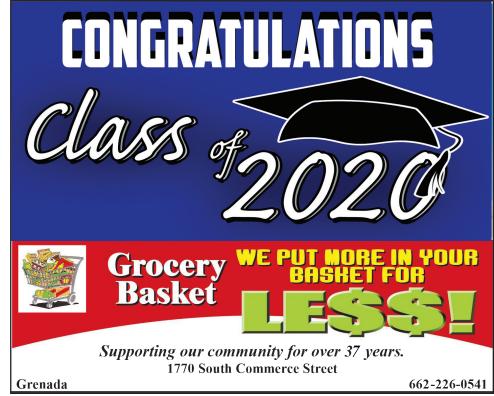
work your hardest to make your life a good, prosperous one. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says "whatever you do, do well". And, sure, we're all gonna fail along the way, maybe multiple times. But, the important thing is not to let it get to you. If we can survive this virus, we can survive anything the world may throw at us. Be strong, class of 2020, and congratulations for making it this far! Farewell, and make your life a good one.

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Main, Grenada, MS 38901; 662-226-1606







GSD Archery

(front, I to r) Authur Fielder, Leann Williams, Brandon Hughes, Blake Lollar, Anna Hankins, Shelby Boyette, (back, I to r) John Boler, Cole Mc-Donald, Kayleah Daniels, Aundavion Cook, Auston Strong, Alexis Taylor, and Addie Worsham



The Roads Ahead



By Carl Dalton GHS Senior

This year I find myself, along with many other young men and women, nearing the end of our high school careers and the beginning of the rest of our lives. Most of us knew that much was coming. I knew I would graduate in 2020, and that for the rest of my life I would wear that number like a brand. 2020 was something that we could not escape from, and sooner or later we would be thrust into the world one way or another. However, speaking for myself and likely many other seniors, we envisioned prom, graduation, and the countless little ceremonies that we would have in between as inevitabilities of circumstance. In the weeks past, Covid-19 has shown me how wrong I was.

I remember when I saw the text about the quarantine taking effect. It was the morning that we were supposed to come back from spring break and resume our typical weekly

routines just like any other year. Obviously that wasn't going to happen, but even at this point, the whole idea of quarantine seemed a little unreal. Up to this point the extent of my experience with quarantines came from far-fetched Netflix shows that focused their plots around apocalyptic plagues which made the whole idea a little hard to grasp. So then I put my phone back on the nightstand and rolled over thinking, "Great. The quarantine ends in a week, and in the meantime I can catch up on the sleep that I neglected over the break." Then as the week went on and the quarantine was extended, things like my job and my social life ground to a halt as Covid-19 inevitably forced its way into Grenada. It took longer than it should have for me to finally understand that this wasn't a joke and that the entire country, not to mention the rest of the world, was in fact in a crisis. At this point I began to realize that the life I had come to know and expect was about to change drastically. I also realized that while I was busy treating this issue like an extended break, the community around me was doing their best to maintain some semblance of normalcy, and that included the school district. Teachers and administrators, all of whom were dedicated to making sure students wouldn't be penalized by the quarantine, didn't miss a beat in switching gears over to an online format. I'm sure you can guess that my own gear shift was not nearly as smooth. I won't lie, though. Even before the quarantine, I struggled with what some might call "senioritis," but what people like my dad would simply call "being

lazy." Hopefully I'm the only one of my peers who finds himself procrastinating a bit too often, but in case I'm not, at least we have plenty of spare time.

As I look forward from the weeks past to the weeks ahead, I keep seeing the numbers of Covid-19 cases growing every day. The possibility of being able to walk on the football field in late May or of being able to throw all of our hats in the air together like we watched our older brothers and sisters do, is looking more and more like a fantasy. Now we are a little over a month and a half away from May 22nd, and with prom already as good as gone, the rest of the things we thought we would get to do together before it's all over might be soon to follow. For many seniors, that might be pretty hard to accept. Most of us have been together since we were toddlers in kindergarten, and honestly, I still don't quite know how to feel now that we're here. I told someone before all of this happened that I felt more like a freshman than a senior, and even as we all round the corner for the final stretch, I still do. Maybe I always will. Maybe we won't get to say a proper goodbye like we planned, but I do know one thing for certain. Many of us will end up pretty far from where we started. Some of us may never see another face we went to high school with again, but no matter how fast we fly or how far we roam, a piece of the time we spent together will always stay with us. The things we do today will turn into lessons to take into the world or become the stories we tell our kids. Sure, maybe some things didn't turn out how we

> planned, but I suppose it's worth saying that the importance of senior year shouldn't lie in the pomp and circumstance of it all but in what we do in each of our roads ahead.

"Next"

Continued from page 1

The session will last June 15-July 13 for four hours a day. The district has developed three options to determine the best solution for our students during this summer. A decision will be reached as soon as possible, considering all available information. The three options include:

- Students will come to school every day to work in computer labs and classrooms. Each student will receive a combination of face-to-face and computer instruction.
- If required to have a limited school openingday, students in grades 3-8 will come to class 10 days for face-to-face instruction. For the other ten days, the students will be required to watch and complete assignments using distance learning. Students in grades 9-12 will complete class work on Edgenuity in computer labs.
- If students are not allowed to come back to the school building this summer, academic classes will be offered using distance learning. For students without access to a computer or Internet, the school is developing ways to provide solutions for every student.

We'll be assessing student engagement during the summer to see how we can improve distancelearning should it be necessary in the fall. If there is a delay starting back, the district is prepared to institute new distance-learning procedures. We are working to make a laptop computer available to every student in grades 1-12. We've purchased Canvas, a course management system that supports online learning and teaching, and our teachers have been working very hard since the disruption to develop online materials such as instructional videos, assignments, assessments, and more. For students who do not have internet, the district is looking for ways to provide every student with solutions such as hot spots, zip drive instruction, and other means.

Over the summer, watch for announcements and updates on such things as class schedules, start times, as well as athletics and extracurricular programs via the district's website and Facebook.

Don't forget to register students for the upcoming school year via Active Parent, and please advise students to do their work packets and continue studying so they won't fall behind when the new academic year begins.

And by all means, take precautions to stay safe and healthy so we can all be together again very soon.

LANDMARK REALTY

GSD Facebook Page Grenada School District

GHS Tennis Team



(front, I to r) Allie Grace Holland, Evey Moore, Heidi Clark, Delanie Williams, Emily Tillman, (center, I to r) Luke Hardin, Phillip Chandler, John Landon Dubard, **Brandon Williams.** (back, I to r) Coach Chris Klinck, Russ Reid, Ethan Klinck, Bratton Willoughby, Will Nisbett, Bryce Kirk, Tanner Vance, and student teacher Rylee Artman (not pictured: **Assistant Coach Frankie** Fortier)

