

## New Year, New Strategies



### Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

School is back in full swing for the 2020 spring semester. For students and teachers who were away on a long deserved break, end-of-semester exams are just a memory. But a team of data specialists spent a portion of the holiday break going over student scores and developing a strategy for improvement in the new year.

The last week of school in December, the assessments are given at every grade level and reflect what students have learned since August. The data generated by these test results reflects not only how well students recalled their lessons, but also the effectiveness of the classroom instruction.

Our teachers are confident in their abilities and welcome this information, which helps them achieve their classroom goal: to help every student grow and reach their full potential. If a student is not comprehending a specific lesson, then they will try a different tact.

Our mission as administrators is to offer teachers every resource to help them fine-tune their instruction. The information generated by our data specialists is one of those resources.

On the first day back to school in January, our data specialists meet with teachers and administrators at each school to review the assessment scores. Sessions are broken down by subjects and grades. The data generated will show teachers which lessons could use improvement and even which students need extra help in those areas.

Like a panel of doctors working together to monitor a patient's condition, our specialists, administrators, and teachers work together to ensure each student is meeting the academic expectations unique to each grade.

Using this data, each teacher writes an action plan for every student. Did the student meet his or her goal? If not, what objectives were missed and how can the teacher help this student master that objective? If several students missed the same standard, then perhaps that lesson should be retaught to the whole class. If only a few missed the objective, then perhaps working with those students in a small group setting is the best option. If a student needs individual help, then one-on-one tutorials may be arranged.

See "New"  
Continued on page 2

# Robots Rising at GMS



**Members of the GSD robotics team Pure Imagination — including (l to r) Avery McMechan (9th grade), Keirin Alberg (8th), Layla Escobedo (7th), and Misty Logan (9th) — presented a robotics demonstration last fall at the Afterglow Film Festival in Grenada.**

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

Students at Grenada Middle School ended the fall semester with a battle in the school gymnasium.

The combatants were robots, designed and built by members of the GMS robotics class. The student body gathered in the stands to witness the robots compete on a playing field near center court. The action was projected on the gymnasium wall and broadcast on the district's livestream channel ([vimeo.com/gsdslive](http://vimeo.com/gsdslive)).

The team with the last bot standing — this year it was Thor, built and operated by members Peyton Willoughby, Anna Ferguson, Aidan Corolla, and Joeley Beckwith — received trophies. Student spectators left with a new excitement for GMS' science curriculum.

"We do spectator events for football and basketball," said Ryan Melton, the event's emcee and director of robotics at GMS. "I thought it was time we did something like that for academics."

What started four years ago as an after-school robotics club has turned into a full-fledged program at GMS.

Melton teaches the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Automation and Robotics

class for eighth graders and coaches two competition teams, Game Changers and Pure Imagination. He said most of his students came to robotics with no experience and have learned to design, build, and program their robots by working with fellow classmates.

Melton characterizes himself as a mentor, introducing concepts, answering questions, and helping diagnose problems. "In the end," he said, "the students do all the work themselves."

To build a robot, Melton said, students must learn engineering concepts and practice using tools to construct the machine. They must also learn computer coding language to send directives to the machine.

The tasks for each robot are determined by the performance venue. That's where the competitive side of the robotics comes into play.

Melton said competitions give students the opportunity to showcase their work and fosters a cooperative team spirit among the class members.

GMS is well-regarded in STEM competition throughout the state. The school recently hosted the FIRST Lego League qualifier, despite not having its own Lego team to compete. Eight teams from Brandon to Starkville met in the GMS gym to give younger robotics students the opportunity to build and compete. Members of the GMS PLTW robotics class helped coordinate and conduct the event.

The 19 eighth graders in this year's robotics class make up the team called Game Changers.

Last October, Game Changers competed with 15 other teams from around the state in the Mississippi BEST Robotics Championship. Team members were

divided into several groups, each working to accomplish their own goals. They were scored on different aspects, from marketing and interviewing, to programming and building, to design and outreach. After a long night and day of competing, Game Changers finished eighth overall in the state.

Pure Imagination is the team that started the robotics movement at GMS four years ago. The club still meets twice a week after school and is made up of ten students in grades seven through 12.

Pure Imagination has entered a qualifying tournament in the state's FIRST Tech Challenge, scheduled to be held at Hartfield Academy in Flowood on January 25.

To complete this year's challenge, students will program and maneuver their robots to build a structure from oversized blocks. In an interesting twist, team members are required to work with randomly assigned partners from other teams to complete their task. Three-person teams must score as many points as possible, per the game rule book.

If Pure Imagination scores high enough, they'll go to the state tournament in February on the University of Mississippi campus. The top two teams at state will move on to the international tournament in Houston.

As a first-year team in 2017, Pure Imagination was selected in a lottery to compete at the international FIRST Tech Challenge in Houston. It was a rare honor for a rookie team, and it helped solidify the enthusiasm for robotics at GMS.

Melton said today's Pure Imagination team, made up of all new members, would love nothing more than to go back and compete against the best minds in the world.

Whether they're using robots to demolish other robots or working together to build structures, Melton said, students are learning real-world skills.

"Everything they did to build their robots compares to the design and assembly they would use at a company like Toyota or Nissan," he said.

## GES Kidzeum Grandparents Day



Students at Grenada Elementary School Pre K-3 toured the school with loved ones at the annual Grandparents Day event in December. Students were encouraged to invite their grandparents to tour the Kidzeum's holiday exhibit, shop the book sale in the gymnasium, and take pictures inside the cafeteria photo booth. Kidzeum director Melanie Williams said over 1,200 grandparents attended the event. (Photo left) Shera Sivley and her granddaughter Brylee Long pose in front of the Kidzeum's Brazilian Christmas tree. (Photo right) GHS counselors (left) Fawn Keen and Lisa Williams served as honorary grandparents to Carsyn Chandler.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Photo by Lisa Holland

# AmeriCorps Member of the Month

By Gwen Woodson  
AmeriCorps Director

Miracle Moore is self-motivated and always strives for excellence. This is one of the many reasons Moore is so effective in her position as a full-time AmeriCorps member with the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program.

"I wanted to join this program because I needed a change in my life," Moore said. "I thought that this program was just a weekend opportunity, but when I got accepted, I was in for one of the best surprises of my life. This program has such a positive impact ... not just on the students, but on the community, and I am proud to be a member of AmeriCorps."

Moore is serving as team leader due to her outstanding performance in the previous year. She was hesitant to accept the position when I offered it to her, but she finally agreed after many days of trying to convince her that she could do it. I have watched her transform from a quiet and reserved person into a confident business owner.

"I have learned a lot in AmeriCorps... not just about life, but about myself," said Moore. "I've learned patience and courage, but most importantly, my purpose."

Moore added, "I believe that my purpose in life is to help others, but AmeriCorps has helped me realize my passion is helping the children. This program has impacted my life in a positive way, and I will forever be grateful not only for the opportunity, but for the experience."

In exchange for a year of service, Moore will earn an education award of \$6,095 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Miracle plans to attend Holmes Community College and to one day become a teacher or administrator.

"AmeriCorps has inspired me to become a better person in many areas,"



said Moore. "I am not as shy as I once was, and I am able to get my point across with a stronger voice. I have more confidence, which has helped me start a small business. My eyes are open to new things, and I have been able to meet people who have inspired me to chase after my dreams. Therefore, I have started my own personal brand of handmade skincare products branded as Blac Tiger Rose. And I would have never had the courage to do that without this program."

Moore's advice for people thinking about applying to AmeriCorps is, "Just do it!"

She said, "AmeriCorps opens many doors and it gives you purpose. I absolutely love this program and what it stands for, helping others."

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com. To apply for the upcoming service term, visit my.americorps.gov

# GCTC Culinary Arts Students Create Gingerbread Houses



Sierra Ellis and Ariyah Harris work together to decorated a gingerbread house.



Ke'ajah Holloway puts the finishing touches on her gingerbread house.

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## "New"

Continued from page 1

For the first nine weeks of the second semester, teachers work to reinforce and deepen these lessons, making sure all students are staying on track or improving their mastery of each standard. Mastering each lesson will position students to score high on the MAAP (Mississippi Academic Assessment Program) test administered in the spring. Those test scores determine not only the student's individual proficiency but the district's score and ranking among other Mississippi school districts.

The content standards in each subject and grade-level are established by the Mississippi Department of Education. They represent the skills and knowledge that students are expected to know in each grade to ensure they're on track to being prepared for college and/or career once they've graduated high school.

A portion of the fourth nine weeks is devoted to review for the MAAP test. Test prep isn't always fun, but our teachers strives to make it engaging. They develop activities that encourage students to participate in the instruction, especially in the lower grades. Escape rooms and other interactive games have

become a popular method to review and enhance lessons.

Teachers at the GES 4-5 Green Top even host a boot camp, in which teachers rotate classrooms. Students enjoy spending the day with a visiting teacher, and likewise, teachers are re-energized by trying out their own unique teaching style on new students. This activity strengthens the family bond at the Green Top, and it's creative tactics such as this that resulted in the school earning an A on last year's state assessment.

New-year testing data gives us a true picture of what's going on Grenada School District. It's a testament to our teachers and administrators that they are able to look at the data honestly and come up with creative and productive solutions.

Parents should know that their children aren't just put in classrooms and left to fend for themselves at Grenada School District. We pair them with the best teachers we can find and then marshal a team of experts to make sure they're growing intellectually and meeting their full potential.

# GMS Hosts Annual Angel Tree Project



(photo left)

Grenada Middle School hosted its annual Angel Tree project, a program that collects money to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need. Volunteers included (l to r) Shay Ballard, Lacy Walter, Teresa Bennett, and Lacey Jones.

Photo by Stacia Jackson

# Valentine Gifts



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# Students Teach Students about Smoking Hazards



Photos by Jamie Kornegay

Grenada Middle School Health Council members had an opportunity to teach their fellow students about the health effects of smoking. Members include (front row, l to r) Jace Sullinger, Brayden Trusty, Hayden Lee, Braley Carnathan, Peyton Herrod, Vanessa Coggins, Jacob Medders, (back row, l to r) Emily Finkley, Nurse Stephanie Coker, Tripp Penn, Peyton Willoughby, Caitlyn Huckaby, Ashton Johnson, and Anna Ferguson.

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

Student members of Grenada Middle School's Health Council recently taught an interactive lesson to two of Mrs. Ferguson's sixth-grade science classes. The topic was "Emphysema: One of the Deadly Health Effects of Tobacco Use and JUULing."

Thirteen student members of the Health Council shared facts about tobacco-related illnesses, which cause one death every six seconds in the U.S.

Students also learned that emphysema, a lung disease caused by long-term exposure to smoking, causes the small sacs in the lungs to swell and harden, making it difficult and ultimately impossible to breathe. To simulate the difficulty of breathing with emphysema, students were asked to pinch their noses and breathe through a straw for one minute.

Health Council students emphasized that smoking electronic nicotine devices, such as JUULs and e-cigarettes, are linked to a higher risk of emphysema.

Stephanie Coker, GMS nurse and

Health Council sponsor, said the classroom visits are one of the organization's favorite activities each year. "Peer pressure is real," Coker said. "When you are 12 or 13, you sometimes pay more attention to what your friend group is saying and doing. When students teach students, it helps them to see that not everyone else is doing it and creates positive peer pressure."

Eighth grader Vanessa Coggins enjoyed the experience of teaching in a classroom. "The sixth graders really paid attention to what we were saying and

showing them," she said.

Peyton Willoughby, also an eighth-grader, said, "I think it is beneficial to hear it [the dangers of JUULing and tobacco use] from someone their age so they can better relate to the message."

In addition to meeting with the entire school's health council three times a year and serving as a voice for GMS students in health-related matters, the 21 student members of the GMS Health Council participate in activities that encourage their peers to make healthy lifestyle choices.

"Through participation in health council activities, the students learn the importance of advocacy, setting goals, working in a team, and making positive decisions," said Coker. "Members also develop and refine their communication and conflict resolution skills."

Coker said the team has worked to educate GMS students and advocated for tobacco prevention. The student group leads Red Ribbon Week Activities each year and promotes healthy eating by hosting a fresh fruit stand on field day. In the past, the group has led fundraisers for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society.

May your year be filled with blessings!

2020

Happy New Year!

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# GES Green Top Principals' Breakfast



Photo by Kayla Henson

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 November include (photo top) (front, l to r) Ethan Redditt, Kara Cockrum, Samaya Ross, Barry Nix, Heston Hatcher, Jenna Winter, Joleigh Boler, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Carly Parker, Brooklyn Sykes, Jewels Ingram, Devin Lawson, K'mya Collins, Madison Miller, David Cain and Assistant Principal John Daves.



Photo by Kayla Henson

(Photo bottom) (front, l to r) Charlee Williams, Eli Clark, Addison Hurd, David Downs, Tarahji Black, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Caden Wrenn, Caroline Harris, Crystiana Noel and Assistant Principal John Daves

# Walmart

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February</h1>						<p>1</p> <p>Band: I-55 Band Clinic Band: In Auditorium NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions Competition at Jackson Academy Visions in GHS Auditorium Parks &amp; Rec: Basketball Games 7:00am - 5:00pm MAPQSL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm GHS: V Basketball at Corinth 3:00pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Band: In Auditorium NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Band: In Auditorium NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GHS: Thespians Stargirl Auditions in RM 40 5:30pm - 7:30pm Visions Rehearsal in GMS Gym 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Band: In Auditorium NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Entertainers in GMS Gym 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: JV/V Basketball vs. South Panola (Home) 4:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl read through in RM 40 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GMS Gym 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Band: In Auditorium NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Parks &amp; Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Band: In Auditorium Band: Percussion Ensemble Concert in GHS Auditorium 7:00 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Entertainers in GMS Gym 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: JVG/V Basketball at Oxford 5:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl table work/desing presentation in RM 40 5:30pm - 6:30pm Parks &amp; Rec: Basketball Practice 5:30pm - 7:30pm Visions Rehearsal in GMS Gym 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>GES 4-5: Science Fair NJROTC: JLAB (Online); Camp McCain O'Course and Electronic Rifle Range Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>	<p>8</p> <p>NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions Competition at Jackson Prep Visions in GHS Auditorium Parks &amp; Rec: Basketball Games 7:00am - 5:00pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act I. 1 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic in San Antonio, TX - Directors Only GHS: V Basketball Division Tournament NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions in GHS Auditorium GMS &amp; GHS: Football Cheer Tryout Clinic in GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act I. 2 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic in San Antonio, TX - Directors Only GHS: V Basketball Division Tournament NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers in GHS Auditorium 3:30pm - 6:00pm GMS &amp; GHS: Football Cheer Tryout Clinic in GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act II. 1 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm School Board Meeting-Central Office 6:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic in San Antonio, TX - Directors Only GHS: V Basketball Division Tournament NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions in GHS Auditorium GMS &amp; GHS: Football Cheer Tryout Clinic in GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 4:00pm - 7:00pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic in San Antonio, TX - Directors Only GHS: V Basketball Division Tournament NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers in GHS Auditorium 3:30pm - 6:00pm GMS &amp; GHS: Football Cheer Tryouts in GMS Gym 3:30pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act II. 2 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day Band: TMEA Clinic in San Antonio, TX - Directors Only Entertainers Competition at NJE GHS: V Basketball Division Tournament <b>Professional Development (No Students)</b> SPED: Professional Development 8:30-11:30 and 12:30-3:30 Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>	<p>15</p> <p>GHS: Baseball Jamboree at Water Valley NJROTC: Brain Brawl in New Orleans, LA Visions Competition at NEJ Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium GCTC: Educators Rising State Competition at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 8:00am - 5:00pm GHS: Thespians Read Through in RM 40 2:00pm - 4:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act I. 1 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>President's Day GHS: Baseball Classic at South Panola GHS: Basketball Round 1 State <b>Holiday!!!</b> Visions in GHS Auditorium GCTC: Educators Rising State Competition at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 8:00am - 5:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act I. 2 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>GHS: Baseball Classic at South Panola GHS: Basketball Round 1 State Visions in GHS Auditorium GCTC: Educators Rising State Competition at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 8:00am - 5:00pm Entertainers in GHS Auditorium 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act II. 1 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium Entertainers in GHS Auditorium 4:00pm - 6:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act II. 2 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Entertainers Competition at West Jones GHS: Basketball Round 2 State Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>	<p>22</p> <p>GHS: Basketball Round 2 State NJROTC: Food Pantry (Community Service) Tentative Pageant Visions Competition at West Jones Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Tentative Pageant Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS: National Honor Society Induction in GHS Auditorium 3:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act I. 1 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Band: GMS/GHS Guard Training 3:40-5:15 GHS: Basketball Round 3 State GMS: Baseball at Oxford 5:00 &amp; 7:00 Visions in GHS Auditorium GMS: DH Fastpitch at Oxford 5:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act I. 2 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Band: GMS/GHS Guard Training 3:40-5:15 GHS: ACT for 11th Grade GHS: Baseball at Horn Lake JV - 4:00; V - 6:00 GHS: Basketball Round 3 State Visions in GHS Auditorium GLAD: Spring Board Meeting in GLAD Cafeteria 8:00am - 8:00pm GHS: JV/V Fastpitch vs. Lafayette (Upper Teacher Appreciation Night) 5:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act II. 1 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Band: GMS/GHS Guard Training 3:40-5:15 GMS: Baseball vs. Oxford (Home) 5:00 &amp; 7:00 Visions in GHS Auditorium GETC: DECA State Competition in Vicksburg, MS 10:00am - 8:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Band: High School Guard Tryouts 3:40-until in GMS Gym GHS: Baseball vs. Horn Lake (Home) JV - 4:00; V - 6:00 GHS: Fastpitch at South Panola (vs. Desoto 4:00; vs. South Panola 6:00) Visions in GHS Auditorium GETC: DECA State Competition in Vicksburg, MS 10:00am - 8:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 4:00pm - 8:00pm GHS: Thespians Stargirl Act II. 2 in Visions Classroom 5:30pm - 7:00pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium GETC: DECA State Competition in Vicksburg, MS 10:00am - 8:00pm GMS: DH Fastpitch vs. Kosciusko (Teacher Appreciation Night) 5:00pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>GHS: Baseball at Kosciusko JV - 11:00; V 1:00 Visions Competition at Auburn Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>

# GES Pizzazz Presents Christmas Show



(back, l to r) Aubrey Edwards, Kaylee Barnes, Remington Roberson, (front, l to r) Olivia Foster, and Larkin Logan in the group performance of "Santa's On His Way."

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

Grenada Elementary 4-5's Pizzazz Show Choir performed its holiday concert, *Jingle Bell Jukebox* in December. The show featured Christmas favorites such as "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "Believe" from the film *The Polar Express*. The choir also

performed traditional Christmas songs. The choir is led by Amy Killebrew and comprised of 18 fifth graders. Several students were featured in solos and duets. Students from the classes of Leggett, Jacks, and Winter also performed a number, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

## 21st Century Photoshop Class Creates Gifts for Family and Friends



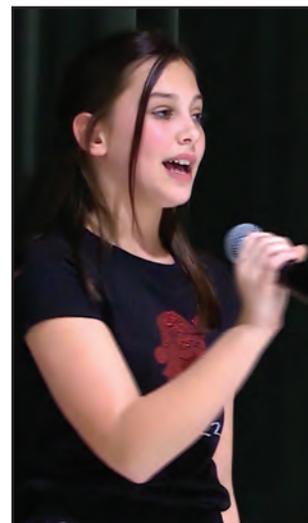
The 21st Century Photoshop class created gifts — including personalized coasters, signs, jewelry, and cards — for family and friends with their newly learned design skills. Volunteer Lisa Holland helped students (front, l to r) Brandon Hughes, Frankeya Kincaid, Xavier Cotton, Trinity Lane, (back, l to r) Shawna Burt, Darshi Kher, Alexa Harris, and Yamileth Nino-Moran, wrap their gifts.



(l to r) McKenzie Austin, Luke Viner, Devin Lawson, and Londynn Jones singing "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."



Kenzi White - soloist for "Tennessee Christmas"



Aubrey Edwards - soloist for "You and Me and Christmas"



Tylann Stewart - soloist for "This Christmas"

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# GHS Hoops Driven by Young Talent

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

As the host school for this year's divisional play-offs, the Grenada High School boys and girls basketball teams are both highly motivated to make the cut.

Both rosters are loaded with talented young players, though in the first half of their season, the boys and girls teams have earned an equal mix of wins and losses. Coaches for each team say the experience these young players are gaining on and off the court will propel them to ultimate success.

Boys coach and GHS assistant principal Joey Cooley says the team is following one of its best seasons ever (23-7). Even though many key seniors graduated, the current team is young and competitive. Their losses this season have been close, and they're learning to overcome young mistakes.

David Montgomery is leading his second season as the GHS girls basketball coach. He is impressed

by the young talent on his team and says the underclassmen are his leading scorers.

"This year's team is better than last year's, and next year's will be twice as good," he says. "And the year after that should be even better."

Montgomery says that, despite suffering some early losses, the girls have been learning to play with consistency. By early January, the team was on a winning streak, and he was able to rotate most of the players on his bench. "The more young kids who play, the better the future of our team will be," he says.

Both coaches say their players are good kids who have learned discipline and perseverance through sports. "My first priority is making productive citizens," Cooley says. "I tell them, 'In ten years, nobody will remember how many points you averaged. What will get their attention is if you're being productive in the community.'"

The life lessons have resonated players, who see the team like a

family. Two former players have returned to volunteer for the team. Markyel Pittman, a pre-law student at Holmes Community College, was a team captain on last year's boys team and returned to help coach his former teammates. Thomas Coleman, a team manager who graduated last year, stayed on to help out behind the scenes.

Cooley says a collegiate basketball career with scholarships are much harder to come by than most other sports, so he stresses academic success to his players. "It's easier to get a 21 on the ACT than to average 21 points a game," he says. "To the vast majority of students, the ACT will get them a lot further than athletics."

Cooley says of the 20 boy and girl seniors who have passed through the program since he took over coaching four years ago, 19 are currently enrolled in college.

"I'm more proud of that than last year's winning record," he said.

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# GHS Girls Varsity Basketball



Photo by GHS Yearbook

(front, l to r) Layney Goss, Ryonna Lee, Katelyn Leavy, Ariel Haile, Tyeshia Mays, Amya Anderson, Takiyah Townsend, Assistant Coach Centeria Lott, Ja'Khia Eskridge, Aikema Spencer, De' Kevia Hardin, Semira Purnell, Marshayla Purnell, Haley Ferguson, (back, center) Coach David Montgomery

# GHS Boys Varsity Basketball



Photo by GHS Yearbook

(back, l to r) Assistant Coach Robert Sapp, Volunteer Coach Markyel Pittman, Jordan Harris, Jadarius Steen, Josh Phillips, Tykeidriel Moore, Er'Rique Joseph, Emmanuel Forbes, Trajerrion Brown, (front, l to r) Antonio Blackmon, Derrick Harbin, Brandon Lott, Jacoryan Jones, Demarques Gibson, and Dontralus Yates

# Lions Pecans Support Grenada School District



Grenada Lions Club members (l to r) Julia Tartt, Moe Hubbard and Pamela Hubbard sell pecans at the GHS band concert with Colin Keys, who earned his spot as first-chair percussionist for the Mississippi Lions All State Band.

By Pamela Hubbard  
Lions Club Member

The next time you meet a Lions Club member selling pecans in the community, remember that the proceeds help the Grenada School District.

The annual Grenada Lions Club pecan sale supports GSD students in four areas, including vision screenings, complimentary eyeglasses, leadership training, and the award-winning Mississippi Lions All-

State Band.

The Grenada Lions have screened Grenada students for decades and, more recently, those in the Pre-K also. A portion of the pecan proceeds paid for half of the Lions' digital Plus Optix Camera, which detects amblyopia (lazy eye) and other vision problems. The Lions Club International Foundation also helped pay for this state-of-the-art technology, which may catch some vision impairments that must be corrected before the age of six.

The Lions Club mission to help learners' vision extends to eyeglasses, which they will provide to students whose poor vision affects their ability to read and learn. The Lions also provide eyeglasses for financially eligible adults who are making an effort to go back to school or complete their GED.

Pecan sale proceeds help send two male and two female students from GSD to Lions Leadership camps, held over two separate weekend each spring in Morton, Mississippi.

Finally, the Grenada Lions use pecan sale proceeds to help send a group of qualifying GHS Band members to participate in the Mississippi Lions All-State Band. Lions organizations all over the world support talented young musicians in this widely recognized program. Three GHS Band members will perform in the

Mississippi Lions All-State Band in Hawaii this summer, including trombonist Lillie Bailey, flautist John Goodman, and first-chair percussionist Colin Keys.

In addition to the popular pecan sale, the Lions have organized a "Songs for Sight" concert to support their work improving eyesight in the community. The showcase of local talent will feature several local singers performing musical numbers, spirituals, originals, and popular music.

"Songs for Sight" will be held February 9 at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Admission is free, though donations for the Lions' beneficial work are appreciated.

Pecans are still for sale (\$12 for a six-ounce bag) at Criss Office Supply.

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# GMS Students of the Month



Photo by Lisa Holland

Sixth grade December Students of the Month are, (front, l to r) Kayden Garcia, DeAndre Fray, Jamaya Hubbard, Darion Harris, (back, l to r) Antwain Forrest, Helen Beckwith, Shawna Burt, Kristen Edwards, and Assistant Principal Jamie Harrison.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Seventh Grade December Students of the Month are, (front, l to r) Benjamin O'Brien, Ciara Townes, (back, l to r) Tykeria Harmon, Cadin Windham, Michael Robertson, Jillian Dykes, and Assistant Principal Jamie Harrison. Not pictured: Abby Presley.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Eighth Grade December Students of the Month are, (front, l to r) Martrevion Austin, Landen Miller, Sydney Beane, Lamia Petty, Corbin Melton-Mims, Quentasia Mack, (back, l to r) Maziah Dyre, Sarah Trotter, Thomas Ware, Peyton Willoughby, Jeel Patel, and Assistant Principal Jamie Harrison. Not Pictured: Aaron Kinney

## GSD Adult Night Classes

In an effort to offer flexible learning subjects for the Grenada Community, the Grenada School District will offer night classes for community members. These classes will give community members the opportunity to obtain skills in areas that might be of interest and at the same time gain skills necessary to compete in today's workforce.

All classes will be held at Grenada Career & Technical Center • 2035 Jackson Avenue • Grenada  
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6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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To register call GCTC office 662-226-5969  
Classes must have at least 6 students to be held.

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