

A Strong 'B'



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

The grades are in, and after assessing our performance for the 2018-2019 school year, the Mississippi State Board of Education has awarded Grenada School District a B.

Make that a strong B.

This is the third year in a row that Grenada has received a B, though our scores continue to rise. This year we came just shy of an A, marking a three-year rise of 39 points.

Among the three graded schools in our district, Grenada Elementary School earned an A. They received a total of 476 points, which placed them in the top 15 percent for 700 point schools. Grenada Elementary School has increased a total of 90 points over the last three years. Their hard work and effort that has truly paid off.

You can see where the elementary school's performance made the difference when you look at our most impressive areas of growth. Our greatest strides were in third-grade math (+6.9 percentage points), fifth-grade math (+21 percentage points), third-grade English language arts (+7.4 percentage points), fourth-grade English language arts (+9.8 percentage points), and fifth-grade English language arts (+17.2).

Additionally, students in Algebra 1 grew 14.5 points, and overall, the district had 316 students with perfect scores in English language arts and math.

When you look at how Grenada stacks up against other schools in the state, you'll notice that several grades ranked among the best in the number of students scoring proficient and advanced. Third-grade math ranked ninth in the state, fourth-grade math ranked fourth in the state, fifth-grade math ranked 13th in the state, and fourth-grade English language arts ranked 16th in the state.

Out of 145 schools and districts in Mississippi, Grenada ranked 35. That puts us in the top 24 percent of school districts in the state.

Grenada School District ranks in the top 10 percent of schools in the state for math proficiency (13th in the state), math growth for all students (12th in the state), and reading growth for the lowest performing students (15th in the state).

I'm extremely proud of our district's performance this year. The teachers, specialists, administrators, and parents have stepped up again to prepare students to perform at their highest level.

See "Strong"
Continued on page 8

PLTW Showcase at Grenada School District



Photo by Ezzard Beane

Nicholas Booker (middle), a student in Ryan Melton's Automation and Robotics class at Grenada Middle School, demonstrates one of the classroom robots, Clawford, for C.L. Stevenson (left), co-director of the North Mississippi Education Consortium, and Ron Leach (right), CEO and chairman of Novipax, during a tour of the district's Project Lead the Way classes.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Earlier this month, Grenada School District hosted a tour of its elementary, middle and high schools to showcase its Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program for members of the community.

Leaders in business, education, and economic development attended the event, and the response was a resounding endorsement of the district's mission of innovation.

"You're doing something special here," said Ron Leach, chairman and CEO of Novipax, the national corporation that has a food packaging factory in Grenada. "It's exciting and encouraging to be a part of a community that is this committed and showing this type of progression. It makes me feel good about having a

plant here."

Leach flew down from Chicago to see how PLTW was being implemented in Grenada. Novipax has been the primary investor in the PLTW program at Grenada High School since it began two years ago, but this was the first time Leach had seen the program in action.

The CEO joined nearly 60 other participants on a tour of classes where PLTW curriculum was being taught. The group started at the biomedical and engineering labs at GHS, moved on to the robotics and design classes at Grenada Middle School, and then caught a school bus across town to the elementary schools. They toured the Discovery Lab at Grenada Elementary 4-5, and then ended at the Red Top elementary with a visit to classes in Pre-K, LEAP, and the Kidzeum.



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Community business leaders met with students in Grenada High School's engineering class during a showcase of the district's innovative education methods, including Project Lead the Way courses at all three schools. GHS engineering students Lance Easley (far left) and Trace Harlow (far right) explain their classroom project to three representatives from Entergy Mississippi — (middle, l to r) Leslie Tuberville, Tammie Rankin, and Chris Hinton.

"The passion and commitment is here," said Leach. "You see it in the kids. Probably what surprised me today was seeing it in the teachers. Every teacher I spoke to was excited, and it was a different way of teaching. You could see the invigoration in them."

The showcase tour coincided with a teacher training program, sponsored by Entergy Mississippi, at Grenada Elementary School 4-5. The two-day session brought together teachers from four districts — Grenada, Hinds, DeSoto, and Vicksburg-Warren — to study problem-based learning strategies with PLTW master teachers.

Grenada resident Sherry Worsham, director of school engagement for all PLTW programs in Mississippi, spearheaded the tour. She said Grenada's program is exempla-

ry and has drawn the attention of other schools interested in adopting the PLTW curriculum.

"The way Project Lead the Way is being used at the Discovery Lab is something everybody's interested in and wants to learn more about," Worsham said. "That type of innovation is one reason Project Lead the Way named Grenada Elementary 4-5 a School of Distinction earlier this year."

Worsham said the PLTW model, which is taught at every school in the Grenada district, "offers students well-designed problems and equips them with the technical skills needed to work through them."

See "PLTW"
Continued on page 6

Knights of Columbus Donates to GSD

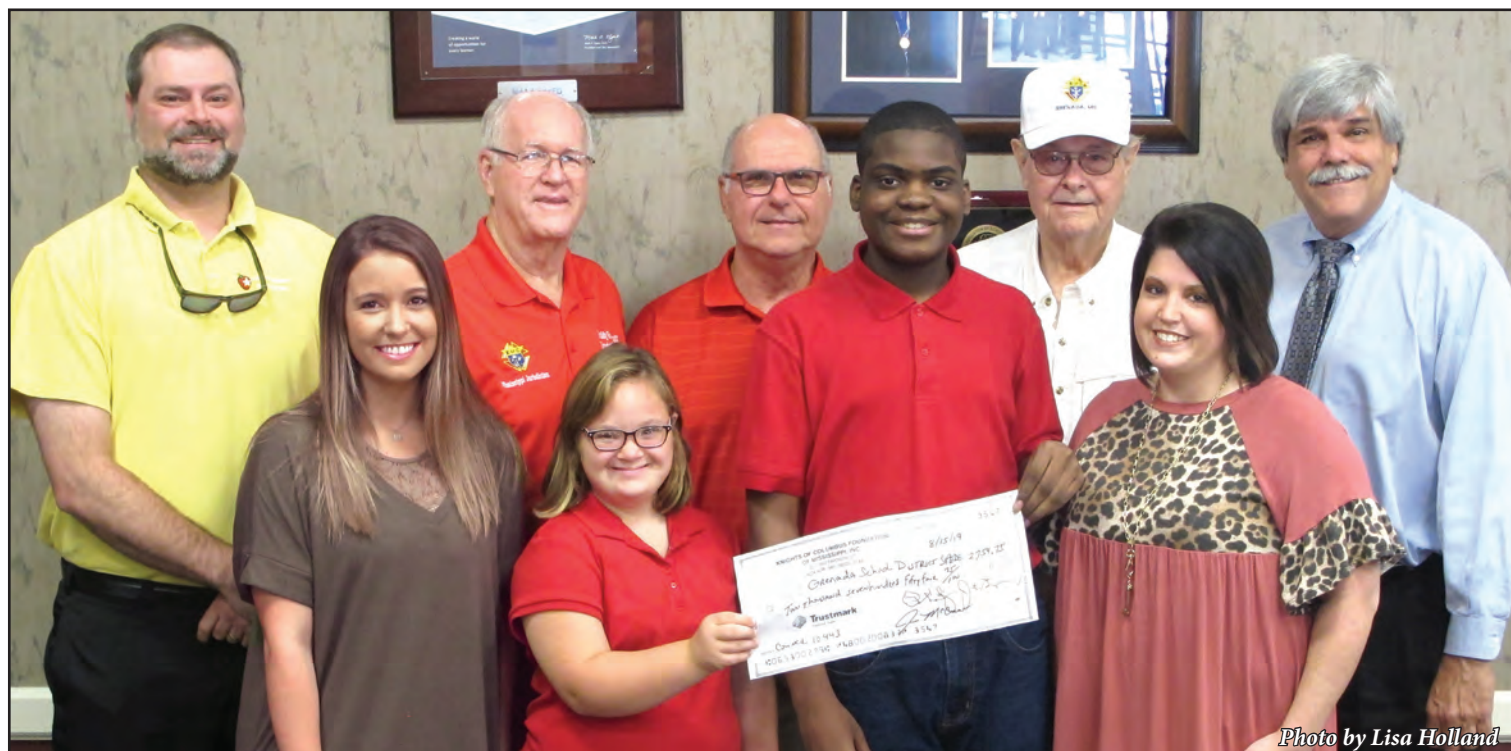


Photo by Lisa Holland

The local Knights of Columbus -- a national Catholic men's group founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity -- raised funds for Grenada School District's special education department through their popular "Tootsie Roll Drive." Local knights (back, l to r) Joseph Liberto, Buddy Honeycutt, Mike Liberto, and Lee Munstenteiger presented the proceeds of their drive to Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, (front l to r) teacher Elizabeth Roberts, students Carley Blassie and Jaylen Ford, and teacher Elizabeth Blair.

NNDCC Senior Cadets



(Photo left) NNDCC (Navy National Defense Cadet Corps) senior cadets are (l to r) Peyton Pilgrim, Quanterris Eskridge, Johnathan Rice, A.J. Hardaway, Mallorie Bowden, Dylan Booker, Seth Reed, and Ruby Stanton.

Photo by Torrance Studio

AmeriCorps Member of the Month



By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director
Bethany Donahoe has a quiet but giving spirit. This is one of the many reasons Donahoe

was selected as the GES 2-3 AmeriCorps team leader with the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program.
“I wanted to join AmeriCorps to gain a better understanding of what happens in my community, and to tutor and mentor children,” Donahoe says. “AmeriCorps provided me a chance to do just that. Last year I had a second-grade student who was reading on a kindergarten level when we began tutoring, but by the time he left me, his reading improved. He hated to see me coming to get him because he knew I was going to push him. Now when I see him, he can’t wait to talk to me and give me a big hug.”

Donahoe graduated from Grenada High School in 2006. She is married to Billy Donahoe and they have two sons, Eli and Cooper. She is an active member of First Baptist Church and the non-profit organization, Havis’ Kids. She has also served as a Girl Scout troop leader.
“As a first-year AmeriCorps member, I tutored and mentored close to 30 children and served at many events in my community. As a second-year member, I have been selected as a team leader, and look forward to becoming more involved in the Grenada community.”
Donahoe really cares about her students and the other members, and it is refreshing to

work with someone with such true compassion for others. I have really challenged Bethany to reach her true potential as a leader, and she has embraced it while doing an outstanding job.
“AmeriCorps has changed my life,” Donahoe says. “I always knew I wanted to help people, but I was always afraid to make the first move. AmeriCorps has opened so many doors for me to be able to do exactly that, both in the school and in the Grenada area. AmeriCorps has also helped me to be more open, and being a team leader has helped me build my leadership and communication skills.”
In exchange for a year of ser-

vice, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$6,095 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Donahoe plans to pay off student loans and go back to school.
She encourages anyone with a heart of service to apply for the AmeriCorps program. “AmeriCorps is a great opportunity to help others.”
For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com or visit my.americorps.gov.

Culinary Arts Class Visits MSU



Photo by Meg Newcomb

(l to r) Culinary Arts Instructor Lindsey Kelly, Kyera Hubbard, Ny’Kiya George, Kaci McGahey, Jakierra Cleveland, Riley Simmons, Cha’Nicyah Burden, Jeremiah Berry, Jalekis Phillips, and Jaliyah Cleveland

The Grenada Career and Technology Center Culinary Arts II Classes toured the Mississippi State Herzer Food Science Building. The students learned about MSU’s cheese making process which was begun in 1938. Currently the plant produces five different types of cheese, ice cream, and milk. The students were then taken to the MAFES Store where they could purchase items made by the department. The students also toured the James E. Garrison Sensory Evaluation Laboratory, which conducts descriptive and consumer sensory testing of foods. The students were invited to test three types of potato chips to determine which chip was different. The students enjoyed this integration with the lab and received first-hand experience with sensory testing.



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Robert Woodard



2019 GHS Homecoming



(back l to r) GHS Principal Emily Tindall, 2018 Homecoming Queen Kayla Reece, grandfather of the 2019 Homecoming Queen Willie Brexton, 2019 Homecoming Queen Kenydi Jenkins, GSD Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, (front l to r) Children of the Court D.J. Johnson and Blakley Powell

Photo by GHS Yearbook



Photo by Lisa Holland

Freshmen
(l to r) Kayla Robinson and Danica Caulder



Photo by Lisa Holland

Sophomores
(l to r) Autumn Davis and Nikki Lee



Photo by Lisa Holland

Juniors
(l to r) Ella Simmons and Anna James



Photo by Lisa Holland

Children of the Court
(l to r) D.J. Johnson and Blakley Powell



Photo by Lisa Holland

Senior
Shaunna George



Photo by Lisa Holland

Senior
Anna Hurd



Photo by Lisa Holland

Senior
Braylee Shaw



Photo by Lisa Holland

Senior
Kenydi Jenkins

GES Green Top Principals' Breakfast



Photo by Pam Boykin

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) Aniya Hosey, Kameron Horton, Jayvyn Forrest, Madison Ivy, Hayden Armstrong, Cameron Loggins, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Alyssa Watson, Camren Conley, Camryn Reed, Nicholus Brown, Carson Renfro, Molly Skeen, Jaden Chambers, and Assistant Principal John Daves.



Photo by Pam Boykin

(Photo bottom) (front, l to r) Noah Kerr, Brody Gustafson, Mia Warren, Luke Beckwith, Breanna Tidwell, Karson Fowler, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Nolton Adams, Macey Gordon, Mikayla Clifton, La'chelle Grimes, Tolarryana Brown, Nolan Hollingsworth, and Assistant Principal John Daves

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November					1 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GHS: Football vs. Center Hill - Senior Night (Home) 7:00pm	2 Band: West Alabama Marching Band Festival in Gordo, Alabama GHS: Soccer Classic at Lewisburg TBA NJROTC: JLAB (Online) MAPQSL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm GHS: V Basketball Ken Ross/Diane Washington Cancer Classic 10:00am
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends NJROTC: JLAB (Online)	4 NJROTC: JLAB (Online)	5 Election Day Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Soccer Classic at Oxford 5:00/6:30 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GHS: Beauty Review Practice in GHS Auditorium 3:30pm - 5:30pm SPED: Professional Development 3:30pm - 4:30pm GHS: JV/V Basketball at Cleveland Central 4:00pm	6 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GCTC: DECA - Pro Career Sports Marketing Day at Fedex Forum in Memphis, TN 8:00am - 11:30pm	7 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Soccer at North Panola 5:00/7:00 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GHS: Cheer Practice at Armory 3:30pm - 4:30pm GHS: Beauty Review in GHS Auditorium (4:30 pm Arrival of Contestants) 6:00pm	8 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands NJROTC: JLAB (Online); Veterans Day Parade at GES 4-5 (Color Guard - Seniors Only); Nursing Holmes (Color Guard - Seniors Only) GHS: V Basketball at Byhalia 6:00pm GHS: Football at New Hope 7:00pm	9 GHS: V Basketball Kosciusko Classic at Kosciusko (TBA) NJROTC: JLAB (Online); Northeast Lauderdale Drill Meet, Meridian, MS (50 Cadets)
10 NJROTC: JLAB (Online)	11 Veterans Day Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands JV Soccer at South Panola (5:00/6:15) NJROTC: JLAB (Online); Downtown Vets Day (Color Guard - Seniors Only) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm	12 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Soccer at South Panola 5:00/7:00 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm School Board Meeting-Central Office 6:00pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 9:00pm	13 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm	14 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands GHS: Soccer at Olive Branch 5:00/7:00 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GCTC: 2nd Year Students - Tour Northwest Community College 8:00am - 3:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm Visions Rehearsal in GHS Auditorium 6:00pm - 10:00pm	15 Band: Auditions for High School Concert Bands NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm GHS: JV/V Basketball at Coffeeville 4:00pm	16 Band: Lion's Band 1st Round Auditions JV Soccer at Oxford (TBA) NJROTC: JLAB (Online); Roadside Clean Up (Community Service) Mandatory for all Cadets GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm
17 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm	18 GHS: MAAP Retesters TBA GHS: Soccer vs. Varenman (Home) 5:00/7:00 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm	19 GHS: MAAP Retesters TBA GMS Choir for School - 2:30-3:30; GMS Fall Show - 7:00-8:00 JV Soccer at Winona (5:00/6:15) NJROTC: JLAB (Online) GMS Choirs in GHS Auditorium 7:00am - 7:00pm GMS Choirs in GHS Cafeteria 3:30pm - 6:30pm GHS: JV/V Basketball vs. South Panola (Home) 4:00pm GCTC-Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course 5:30pm - 9:30pm	20 GHS: MAAP Retesters TBA NJROTC: JLAB (Online)	21 GHS: MAAP Retesters TBA GHS: Soccer at Cleveland - Boys First 5:15/7:00 JV Boys Soccer at Cleveland (4:00) NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions Disney Trip GMS: Science Fair - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm	22 GHS: MAAP Retesters TBA GHS: Soccer vs. Winona (Home) 5:00/7:00 NJROTC: JLAB (Online) Visions Disney Trip GMS: Science Fair - GMS Gym 7:30am - 3:30pm	23 Band: Lion's Band 2nd Round Auditions Visions Disney Trip NJROTC: Food Pantry (Community Service) 3:00pm - 5:00pm
24 Visions Disney Trip	25 Holiday!!! Visions Disney Trip	26 Holiday!!! Visions Disney Trip	27 Holiday!!! Visions Disney Trip	28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday!!!	29 Holiday!!!	30

GHS College and Career Day



Colin Keys, Mississippi State representative Corey Bailey and Tanner Vance



Ashanti Rounds, National Guard recruiters Malory England and Christopher Edwards



Jayson Swinford, Arkansas State representative LaToya Green, and Alriyuna Richmond



(photo left)
Roquade Spencer, Lem McBride,
and The University of Mississippi
representative Rivers Myres

(photo right)
Haley Ferguson and Mississippi
College representative Hayden
Kelly

Photos by Lisa Holland



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GCTC Health Science Classes Tour Mississippi State Hospital



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Health Science II students (l to r) Melonie Little, Shantoria Parker, and Hayden Whatley recently toured the Mississippi State Hospital Museum with the GCTC class.

By Meg Newcomb
Student Services Coordinator

The Grenada Career & Technical Center Health Sciences Class toured the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield, Mississippi, on Friday, September 20, 2019. The class was divided into two groups and toured the Museum on campus and then did a riding tour throughout campus. Mrs. Donna Brown led the students and told them of different methods that were used throughout history for mental health treatment, such as needle showers, hydrotherapy, the hot box, strait jackets, and lobotomies.

The museum holds many different

artifacts that the students were able to see, along with hearing the history of how Whitfield was founded. The riding tour showed the many buildings that are housed on campus, such as, Jaquith Nursing Home, Substance Use Services, Surgical Hospital, Adult and Child Receiving, and Forensics.

The students also were told Whitfield is considered their own town because they have their own zip code. The patients have everything they need on site, including a cafeteria, post office, barber shop, and chapel. Meg Newcomb, student services coordinator, planned the trip and instructor Anise Shuffield and counselor Mark Davis, also attended.

“PLTW”

Continued from page 1

This is a new approach for many teachers, and Worsham said one of the functions of PLTW is not only designing effective curriculum but training teachers as well. “We help teachers transform what they’re doing in the classroom so that they’re able to help students be better critical thinkers,” she said.

Representatives from Entergy Mississippi were among the tour members who observed the training sessions. They also had the opportunity to sit in on a lesson in the Discovery Lab, where director Taylor Buchanan challenged fourth and fifth graders to design devices that would protect an egg from cracking when sent down a homemade roller coaster track. Students learned this experiment was similar to the tests used by car companies to design safer vehicles.

Chris Hinton, the community development manager for Entergy Mississippi, presented GES 4-5 with a grant for \$5,000.

Hinton said he noticed students engaging well with one another during the school tours. “Teamwork is something we all have to embrace regardless of what career you’re in,” he said.

Hinton commended Grenada for its District of Innovation status, granted by the Mississippi Department of Education for schools dedicated to more creative approaches to learning. Seeing the classes at GSD, he said, made him want to see more districts in the state become Districts of Innovation.

“We’re getting a very good return on our investment,” Hinton said. “It’s a win-win for us. We hope to be able to hire some of these students that have engaged in this PLTW curriculum.”

The showcase tour culminated with a panel discussion at Regions Bank, where select participants shared their observations.

GSD Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault welcomed tour members and thanked Novipax and Entergy for their support of the PLTW program at Grenada. He said both companies have been valuable partners with the school district. These companies weren’t just writing checks but investing in other ways.

Entergy Mississippi helped save the district nearly \$1.5 million through its energy conservation program, Daigneault explained. “They helped us educate people in how to conserve energy, and they’ve helped with grants to replace lighting in our schools,” he said. “There’s

a company trying to make money, but they also want to help us save money.”

He said Novipax has offered GSD students a chance to tour the facility as well as summer internships. “Novipax is offering these kids an opportunity to work at their plant, to experience it, to pay them,” he said. “How does it get better than that?”

Sydney Clements, a GHS alum and sophomore at Mississippi State University, gave her testimonial of the PLTW classes she took at Grenada. “My high school would not have been the same without it,” she said.

Clements described her two summers working at Novipax, taking on various roles from data entry, to lab work, to production. “These experiences have taught me to use whatever resources are available to get the job done,” she said. “It’s not about finishing first but being meticulous to get the best results. It takes commitment and hard work.”

In addition to remarks from Leach and Hinton, the panel discussion included remarks from Mary Ann Myers of the Mississippi Development Authority, Tyler Biggs of the Center for Manufacturing Excellence at Ole Miss, Wendy Clemons of the Mississippi Department of Education, Bethanie Humphries of Toyota’s Blue Spring facility, and Rocky Valadez, the vice president of school engagement for PLTW.

Valadez was encouraged by the excitement among teachers and students as well as local industry getting involved.

“There are pockets [all around this nation] where this is happening, but there’s a real synergy right now in north-central Mississippi,” he said. “I think Grenada is right in the center of it. Everything is aligning, and people are on the same page. What they’re really trying to do is create a tomorrow.”

“It’s critically important that the community understands that in order for us to stay here and thrive and strive, we have to have that foundation — the infrastructure, the educated workforce, et cetera,” said Leach.

“What we care about in business and society is people who can be critical thinkers, can collaborate, and can solve problems,” he added. “I saw that with first graders and second graders. It’s amazing! Getting these kids engaged early, that’s our future.”

GETC Hosts SYATP



(photo left) Grenada Enrichment and Transition Center offered students the opportunity to participate in the “See You at The Pole” event. GETC Principal Mr. Charles Washington (right) welcomed Emanuel Baptist Church Minister Dr. Brent Barker (left).

Photo by Pam Melton

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Alumni Spotlight - Jerry Gordon



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

After 27 years in law enforcement with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Jerry Gordon (GHS Class of 1983) returned to Grenada School District to talk about his experiences.

As the former Tie Plant Elementary student walked the school halls, Gordon reminisced about his experiences there in first through sixth grade. He remembered Christmas plays in the auditorium and was surprised to find a former classmate, Shelia Barnes Davis, serving as a teacher's assistant in one of the GETC classes. (His sister, Theresa Herd, also

teaches at GETC.)

Gordon recalled some of the teachers who inspired him at Grenada and spoke fondly of Charles Houston, his building trades teacher at the vocational school. "Not only did he care about me as a student, he cared about me as a person," Gordon said. "That made a tremendous impact."

During his high school days, Gordon enjoyed his time at the vocational center so well that he neglected some of his main subjects and said he paid for it later when he attended college at Missouri Western State to play basketball.

"In high school, I was just an average student," he admitted. "I was just like everyone else, trying to get by. I didn't realize the magnitude of education at that time. Once I got to college and realized I was behind a little and had to play catch up, it changed everything."

Gordon credited his family and his GHS basketball coaches, Brown and Stribling, for helping him keep a good head on his shoulders as he navigated high school. He also acknowledged a family neighbor Leroy Taylor. "He taught me how to hunt and also taught me a lot about life," Gordon said. "There's always that one person who will encourage you to overcome challenges or to inspire you to greater things, and he did it for me."

During his third year of collegiate basketball, Gordon was sidelined by an

injury and turned his focus to academics. He completed his management degree and then went straight to the University of Missouri at Kansas City, where he earned a graduate degree in educational administration.

At the time, Gordon guessed he would spend his career on a university or college campus as a teacher or administrator, but something made him apply to the FBI, the Secret Service, and the ATF at the age of 25. The ATF ultimately recruited him to join the bureau as a special agent.

Gordon's talk to the students at GETC, an invitation made by Principal Charles Washington, focused on his years as an ATF agent. He posed this question to students in attendance: "Youth violence ... is it a generational curse or a generational choice?"

The kids were intrigued by stories of Gordon's undercover work as well as his involvement in such high-profile assignments as the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing case and his 45-day stint with the State of Georgia Law Enforcement at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, during which a pipe bomb went off in Centennial Olympic Park.

He also advised students on the importance of thinking long-term, even in high school. He spoke about making choices, thinking about the future, adopting a plan to achieve their goals in life, and warned

them of the realities of dropping out of school.

"Good decisions start now," Gordon said. The aim of his talk, he later explained, was waking kids up to the consequences of bad decisions.

"I'll share with you some of the things I wish someone had told me," he told the students. "Education is important. When I finally woke up to that fact, I was behind in college because I'd been playing around. Also, read. Learn to speak a foreign language. Take care of your health. Start thinking about what you put in your body."

Gordon spent the last 17 years of his career with the ATF as a supervising agent, helping to recruit new agents. He retired this past December and lives in Chicago. He returns to Grenada several times a year to visit family, including his mother, Carolyn Holmes.

Gordon is proud of his 27 years as an ATF agent but said it was never his identity. When he worked for the federal government, he wasn't allowed any outside jobs. But now, in his retirement, Gordon has enjoyed turning one of his passions, landscape photography, into a business.

"I have a whole life ahead of me," he said. "The best is yet to come. I'd like to help as many people as I can along the way."

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GMS Students of the Month



6th grade September Students of the Month are, (front, l to r) Ladarius Avery, Presley Williams, Zayvien Cristal, Chloe Blakely, (back, l to r) Elle Lucius, Braxton McCormick, Jalijah Wright, Kayla Jackson, Tyler Leigh, Rylin Crosby, and Assistant Principal Angela Cooley.



7th Grade September Students of the Month are, (front, l to r) Tanyiah Loggins, Tripp Penn, Jay Havens, (back, l to r) Shasta Jones, Brayden Ellett, Mallory Willis, Madison Mallet, and Assistant Principal Angela Cooley.



8th Grade September Students of the Month are, (front, l to r) Baylee McElroy, Vanessa Coggins, Jamison Woodson, Anna Herring, Katie Fisk, (back, l to r) Blake Williams, Dalton Campbell, Nicholas Love, Skylar Edwards, Samuel Davis, and Assistant Principal Angela Cooley.

GES K-3 Celebrates Homecoming



GES K-3 students (l to r) Lane Dees, Jersi Greer, Bradley Holliday, and Carter Black, celebrated homecoming by showing their school spirit with Charger Chip -Savannah Laughlin, (center).

(photo right)
GES 2-3 Secretary
Frankie Heath
(right) shows her
team spirit with
Charger Chip -
Savannah Laugh-
lin, (left).



“Strong”

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So where do we go from here?

The state accountability score determines how well schools are performing based on established criteria, including student proficiency, individual student growth, graduation rate, acceleration, college and career readiness, and participation rate. The extensive data we receive from this evaluation helps us pinpoint where we need to work to continue growing.

We scrutinize the data to look for weaknesses in our instruction. When we find standards that our students aren’t fully grasping, we’re able to share that

information with teachers and specialists, who go back to the drawing board to revise how certain lessons are taught.

The data is so precise that we can look at individual grades, departments, teachers, lessons — even students. It’s almost like developing an individual education plan for every child.

This drive and determination, from administration to students, to push ourselves to the highest level of achievement is what accounts for our growing performance. I’m looking forward to another year of continued growth.

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