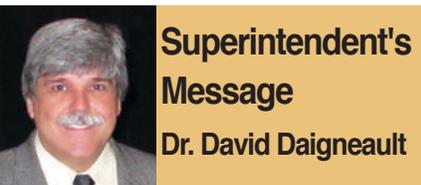


Reading at the Tops

GSD Show Choirs End Semester on a High Note



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.

That timeless quote from Dr. Seuss perfectly expresses one of our school district's cornerstone philosophies: reading helps you succeed in school and beyond.

Books help us in so many ways. They allow us to explore things, to imagine what life can be, to solve problems. Books teach us how to express our thoughts and feelings. Books give us the opportunity to visit other lands and places.

The key to making lifelong readers is to start them young.

When my son was young, my wife and I read to him everyday. It was just part of our daily routine. It was a great way for our family to bond, and it gave us the opportunity to explain things outside the realm of our normal lives. I have to admit, he's a sharp kid, and I know his love of reading drove him to success.

Administrators at Grenada Elementary School's Red Top building are taking the same approach. Back in the fall, they decided to increase the school's emphasis on its Accelerated Reader (AR) program.

The computer-based AR software measures and manages student reading proficiency. Students read a grade-appropriate book, take a short quiz on the content to assess their comprehension, and if they pass the quiz, they are awarded points based on the reading level. Studies of the program have shown significant increases in standardized test scores, not only in reading but mathematics and language arts as well.

GES has long championed AR reading, but this year it became a requirement. Student must achieve a certain number of AR points, which factors into their reading grade each nine weeks.

Instead of students pushing back or coming up short, they've embraced the new reading challenge. They love to read! Especially at such a young age. Now they're keeping the librarians jumping each morning before class, when they're allowed to check out books. Some students come in every morning to check out a new book.

Naturally, the Red Top has seen its AR points skyrocket. Students earned a combined 19,768 AR points over the course of the 2017-18 school year. By second semester this year, they'd already surpassed that number!

See "Tops"
Continued on page 8



Visions Show Choir members (l to r) Anna Hurd, Alexa Simko, and Kristian Bell performed selections from the Broadway musical *Hamilton* at the choir's Winter Spectacular.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

The Grenada School District show choirs ended their semester with a series of holiday performances in November and December.

Jenni Winter, director of show choirs at Grenada Middle and High Schools, staged two productions that incorporated the choirs' spring competition material with selections from popular musicals.

For their Fall Revue on November 15, the middle school choirs — including Ovation, Starz, and Entertainers — performed music from *The Greatest Show on Earth*, *Coco*, and *Waitress*. The competition group, Entertainers, performed selections from the Tony Award-winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

The high school choir, Visions, designed a varied set of songs and choreography for their Winter Spectacular on December 6 and 7.

They performed a selection of Christmas and seasonal songs, including a rendition of "12 Days of Christmas" that incorporated over 150 students from Grenada Elementary School.

Visions also revealed a portion of their anticipated competition show, and as an added bonus, the choir performed a medley of songs from the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, featuring their own choreo-



Fifth grade students in the Pizzazz Show Choir include (front, l to r) Jatya Boclair, Olivia Lashley, Camaya Wiggins, Tekenya Walton, Presley Williams, (middle, l to r) Kate Cobb, Kyler Pittman, Zayedeon Whaley, Blakely Kirk, Brayley Carnathan, Emmory Elliott, Beau Vance, (back, l to r) Manzo Bean, Mary Tylour Wilbourn, Bay Kornegay, and Emily Finkley.

graphy.

"I've always wanted to do part of a musical, and one of the biggest shows in recent years is *Hamilton*," Winter said. She was shocked when many of her students confessed they weren't familiar with the Tony-, Grammy-, and Pulitzer Prize-winning smash hit. "This is my job," Winter said. "To teach good music to these kids."

With its mix of traditional show tunes and hip hop, the musical appealed to high school students, and the early American period setting allowed them to use the lavish historical costumes from their competition show.

Visions and Entertainers will spend the winter brushing up on their competition shows. Both choirs will travel to several competitions, including Jackson Academy (Feb. 1-2), West Jones High School (Feb. 15-16), and Madison Central High School (March 1-2).

Over at Grenada Elementary School's Green Top building, the fifth-grade Pizzazz Show Choir performed their holiday show, "Karaoke Christmas," on December 14. The show featured pop Christmas favorites like "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree" and "Believe" from *The Polar Express*, mixed with more traditional numbers such as "Silent Night" and "Frosty the Snowman."

The show was a step forward from the

usual skits and plays that Pizzazz has performed in years past. New director Amy Killebrew said she would like to grow the choir into a competition group.

Killebrew taught music at the GES Red Top for ten years to second and third graders. An alumna of Visions, she attended Holmes Community College on a show choir scholarship before earning her elementary education degree at Delta State University.

"I want to make it all about the music," she said, though the show also featured its fair share of choreography. Killebrew believes the 16 fifth-graders in this year's Pizzazz have made her first year with the choir special.

"This group blends really well together, and their sound is amazing," she said. "Pizzazz never does vocal harmonies, but we were able to do it for the first time this year because these students are so talented."

Learning harmonies and choreography at this age will help them in the future, Killebrew said. Especially when they move up to the middle and high school choirs.

Local audiences can get their next look at these talented Grenada singers and dancers when all choirs perform their spring concerts in April.

GES 4-5 Leadership Team Tours Grenada Star

(first row, l to r) Rylin Crosby, Mikayla Burchfield, McKenzie Ingle, Bailey Murphey, Jhordan Sally, Crystal Caldwell, Shakira Alexander, (second row, l to r) Malik Taylor, Heston Hatcher, Eli Housel, Grenada Star Editor Nanette Laster, Khameron Washington, Bryson Waugh, Luke Viner, (third row, l to r) John Hollingsworth, Ryan Williams, Otis Cashaw, Grenada Star Reporter Reggie Ross, Ty Stewart, (fourth row, l to r) Tristan Smith, Fletcher Harges II, Nolton Adams, and Corey Nixon



Photo by Krystle Laster

AmeriCorps Member of the Month



Holmes Community College in 2011 and attended Jackson State University for a few years. She has one son, Jordan.

April has a true heart of service and is dedicated to improving her students' academic achievement. When asked to do a task, April takes charge and does more than what is asked of her. She does a great job as team leader and will be truly missed.

She loves to see others smile. Some of her favorite community projects she has participated in before AmeriCorps include Christmas in April and Relay for Life. While serving in the AmeriCorps program, she has helped fourth and fifth grade students reach a 15 percent gain in reading or math, participated in many reading programs at the Elizabeth Jones Library, assisted the Chamber of Commerce and Grenada Tourism Commission with various community events, and served at the Food Pantry and Grenada Lake Visitor Center. She has taken advantage of networking opportunities within the community and developed some lasting friendships.

"My advice to those who are thinking about volunteering is to be positive and enjoy yourself," Kimble says. "Remember volunteering is a great way to meet new people, and it can help make a huge difference in your community. When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements."

Kimble adds, "I love the GSD AmeriCorps, and this program has truly opened many doors for me. I am very thankful to be given a dream-come-true opportunity. I will begin my next journey as a teacher assistant at Grenada Elementary 4-5."

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$5,920 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Kimble plans on going back to Jackson State University to finish obtaining her bachelor's degree in

elementary education.

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com.

By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

Since beginning her service as an AmeriCorps member, April Kimble has demonstrated that she knows how to "get things done"! She wanted to join AmeriCorps because she is very passionate about helping others and making a difference in her community. Also, Kimble saw an opportunity to gain the tools she needed to further her career.

"AmeriCorps has helped me learn a lot about strengths and weaknesses," Kimble says. "I have gained many valuable life experiences and skills."

Kimble was an active member in the Key Club while attending Grenada High School. She went on to graduate from Grenada High School in 2009. She received her associate of arts degree at

www.grenadak12.com



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21st Century Grant Renewed



Photo by Melissa Taylor

Jamison Woodson and Brooklyn Austin prepare ceramic molds for pouring in the skills pottery class.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

After-school learning at Grenada School District continues this year, thanks to the Mississippi Department of Education's approval of the district's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, called "the Learning Quilt."

The 21st Century program expands educational opportunities beyond school hours while offering literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

The grant provides \$700,000 for three years, and this marks the program's third term in a row to be funded. The two previous grants were each for five years and totaled \$2.5 million.

"To be funded three times, that almost never happens," said Lynne Russell, the district's operations officer and director of the 21st Century program.

"I think it's a testament to the strength of our program," Russell added. "The Mississippi Department of Education routinely cites us as one of the best 21st Century programs in the state. They direct a lot of other schools to us as a model for how 21st Century should be run."



Photo by Lois Gaskin

(photo left)
(l to r) Ashton Thornton, Blain Vincent, Blake Lollar, and Trent Beam take turns working with the tiller in urban ag/archery.

(photo right)
Blake Lollar takes aim during a recent urban ag/archery class.



Photo by Lois Gaskin

The 21st Century program is divided into skills and tutoring classes, which include nearly 400 students in grades 6-12.

The skills classes meet for two hours on Monday and Wednesday afternoons with close to 100 students. Students sign up for hands-on instruction in traditional vocational skills such as carpentry, automotive repair, pottery, and culinary arts, urban ag/archery or computer lab classes that teach computer graphics and design, video film production/editing, sound engineering, and podcasting.

The tutoring classes meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Nearly 300 middle and high school teachers mentor students who need help in English, algebra, biology, and history. The small class settings provide the extra attention these students need to enhance their studies and raise their grades.

In addition to the skills and tutoring classes, the 21st Century grant helps fund the Parent Resource Center. Located at 423 S. Line St. in the old Lizzie Horn school building, the center provides parents with resources to help kids at home, including supplementary material for home-tutoring, reading and math instruction, and assistance with college submissions.

Russell said the after-school programs will continue as usual, though there are some new faces. Crissy Harrison has taken over the podcasting class, and GSD school resource officer Hiram Elliott is

offering a special weightlifting class for young men in need of mentoring.

See "21st"
Continued on page 8

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GHS 2018/2019 Girls Soccer



Photo by Stephanie Raper

(front) Elora Clark, (middle l to r) Caitlyn Zangri, CisLee Trost, Brooke Little, Bryce Smith, Caroline Carmody, Gracie Willis, (back l to r) Madelyn Riley, Abigail Griffin, Gracie Gustafson, Mary Claire Jacks, Terra West, Delanie Williams, Sadie Stockton, Abby Martin, Allie Williamson, Harley Henley, Anna Claire Marascalco, Lauren Brogan, Heidi Clark, Lauren Dungan, and Kate Blankenship

GES 4-5 Principals' Breakfast



Photo by Krystle Laster

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) Luke Beckwith, Jalijah Wright, Chloe Blakely, Addyson Rosamond, Orlandrion Hayes, Ryder Kendall, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, William Bryant, Brody Evans, Sierra Winters, Matthew Sills, Emma Simpson, Bailee Johnsey, and Assistant Principal John Daves.



Photo by Krystle Laster

(Photo bottom) (front, l to r) Ja'Narlow Yates, Nelson Downs, Connor Brower, Autumn Crocker, Brayden Jackson, Ja'Kayla Wiggins, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Tylae Cox, Tanajah Crockett, Ian Ringo, Brooklyn Johnson, Brysen Arbuckle, and Assistant Principal John Daves

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February

					<p>1</p> <p>1. ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR OPENS FOR ALL GRADES!!!</p> <p>2. ALL NEW GSD STUDENTS MUST GO TO SCHOOL TO START REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR</p> <p>Band: I-55 Band Clinic</p> <p>Entertainers Competition at Jackson Academy</p> <p>NJROTC Camp McCain Visit</p> <p>GHS JV/V Basketball Winona at Winona 4:00pm</p> <p>Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Band: I-55 Band Clinic</p> <p>Visions Competition at Jackson Academy</p> <p>Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm</p> <p>MAPQSL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm</p> <p>GHS V Basketball Corinth (Home) 3:00pm</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GMS/GHS - Football Cheer Clinic - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Starz Practice 3:30pm - 6:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GMS/GHS - Football Cheer Clinic - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Starz Practice 3:30pm - 6:00pm</p> <p>GHS JV/V Basketball South Panola (Home) 4:00pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GMS/GHS - Football Cheer Clinic - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Starz Practice 3:30pm - 6:00pm</p> <p>Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NAEP for selected 8th grade students</p> <p>NJROTC Annual Military Inspection Final - GHS Gym</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GHS - Football Cheer Tryouts - GMS Gym 3:30pm</p> <p>Starz Practice 3:30pm</p> <p>Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Starz Competition TBA</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GES 4-5: Science Fair - GES 4-5 Gym (Awards 1:30pm) 8:00am - 2:00pm</p> <p>Educators Rising Club State Competition (9th-11th Grade) at Oxford Schools - Oxford, MS 9:00am - 10:00pm</p> <p>GHS - Football Cheer Tryouts - GMS Gym 3:30pm</p> <p>GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Desoto Central Senior Night (Home) 6:00pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>ACT</p> <p>Starz Competition TBA</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm</p> <p>Educators Rising Club State Competition (9th-11th Grade) at Oxford Schools - Oxford, MS 9:00am - 3:00pm</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Educators Rising Club State Competition (9th-11th Grade) at Oxford Schools - Oxford, MS 9:00am - 3:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic - San Antonio, TX (Directors ONLY)</p> <p>GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Division Tournament at West Point</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic - San Antonio, TX (Directors ONLY)</p> <p>GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Division Tournament at West Point</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>School Board Meeting-Central Office 6:00pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 6:00pm - 8:30pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic - San Antonio, TX (Directors ONLY)</p> <p>GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Division Tournament at West Point</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Visions Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic - San Antonio, TX (Directors ONLY)</p> <p>GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Division Tournament at West Point</p> <p>Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 5:30pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>*Professional Development for Teachers!!! NO Students! (Possible weather make up day.)</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic - San Antonio, TX (Directors ONLY)</p> <p>Entertainers Competition at West Jones</p> <p>GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Division Tournament at West Point</p> <p>GLAD - SPED Training - Writing IEPS - GLAD Cafe (8:30 - 11:30 or 12:30 - 3:30)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Band: TMEA Clinic - San Antonio, TX (Directors ONLY)</p> <p>GHS Baseball Jamboree at Water Valley</p> <p>NJROTC Area Eight Brain Brawl</p> <p>Visions Competition at West Jones</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GHS Basketball Round 1 State TBA</p> <p>HOLIDAY!!! (Possible weather make up day)</p> <p>Visions Practice in Classroom TBA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GHS Baseball Classic at South Panola</p> <p>GHS Basketball Round 1 State TBA</p> <p>Visions Practice in Classroom TBA</p> <p>GMS-GMS Basketball Cheerleader Clinic-GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GHS Baseball Classic at South Panola</p> <p>Visions Practice in Classroom TBA</p> <p>GMS-GMS Basketball Cheerleader Clinic-GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:00pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Band: Percussion Ensemble Concert 7:00pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Entertainers Competition at Petal High School TBA</p> <p>GHS Basketball Round 2 State TBA</p> <p>21st CCLC in GHS Auditorium 3:15pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>GMS-GMS Basketball Cheerleader Tryouts-GMS Gym 3:30pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>GHS Baseball at Kosciusko (JV - 11:00am; V - 1:00pm)</p> <p>GHS Basketball Round 2 State TBA</p> <p>GHS W/DH Fast Pitch at Winona</p> <p>NJROTC Community Service at Food Pantry</p> <p>Visions Competition at Petal High School TBA</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Band: High School Guard Training - GMS GYM 3:40pm - 5:15pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm</p> <p>GHS Softball Oxford (Home) 5:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>GLAD Spring Board Meeting - GLAD Conference Room 8:00am - 8:00pm</p> <p>Entertainers Practice 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Band: High School Guard Training - GMS GYM 3:40pm - 5:15pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm</p> <p>GHS JV/V Fast Pitch Calhoun City (Home) 4:30pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>NJROTC Academy Day at Passapoula 8:00am - 11:00am</p> <p>Band: High School Guard Training - GMS GYM 3:40pm - 5:15pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>GHS Baseball Tupelo (Home) (JV - 4:00pm; V - 6:00pm)</p> <p>GHS Basketball State Championships at Jackson TBA</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> <p>Entertainers Practice TBA 3:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Band: High School Guard Training - GMS GYM 3:40pm - 5:15pm</p> <p>Visions Practice 4:00pm - 8:00pm</p>		

GSD Perfect Score Club



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Two hundred and forty of Grenada School District's best and brightest were invited to attend a recent photo shoot to honor their membership in the newly formed Perfect Score Club.

Students from all over the district — elementary, middle, and high schools — arrived on a sunny December afternoon to the high school band practice field. Lynne Russell, the district's administrative operator, arranged each student to form columns and curves that stretched across the field.

From above, a drone camera captured the message clearly — "100%."

The photo shoot, spearheaded by Russell and ELS specialist Pam Briscoe, honored these 240 students, all of whom earned perfect scores on their state assessment tests last spring.

Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault said these students represent the largest number of perfect scores the school has produced. "These kids have done incredible work, and we're proud to show off their excellence," he said. "Greatness needs to be recognized."

Russell, who taught drill for the Grenada High School Band before moving to central office 13 years ago, designed the formations for the photo. "We'll also have receptions at each school," she said. "The parents will be invited, they'll receive a t-shirt, and each individual school is having additional activities for kids

who made perfect on their state tests."

Before holiday break, Carol Tharpe, principal at GES 4-5, presided over a school-day ceremony honoring their 85 students who earned perfect scores. Each student received a certificate and then attended a reception with their parents in the school library.

Beginning in third grade, students are required to take the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) test to assess their performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and Algebra I and English II in high school. The test is aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards and measures students on the content and skills they have learned during the school year.

"The MAP scores are important because they allow us to see how the students are progressing," said Daigneault. "It also lets the teachers see how well they're doing. I think the proof is in how many students we saw this year who maxed out their scores. It's a tremendous encouragement."

Students with a perfect score include:
Nolton Adams, Sydney Allbritton, Bryson Arbuckle, Jayden Armstrong, Jordan Armstrong, McKenzie Austin, Faith Avery, Devin Bailey, Dakota Barksdale, Cade Barton, Luke Beckwith, Keelin Bender, Avery Bennett, Madison Benson, Dylan Black, Eli Black, Antonio Blackmon, Kate Blankenship, Karlie Bloodworth, Nicholas Booker, Sarah Bowers, Shea Brasher, Madison Brassfield, Lauren Brogan, Preston Brooks, Zoniquah Brown, Jaylan Burl, Dylan

Carnathan, Anthony Carollo, Danica Caulder, Phillip Chandler, Caleb Chrestman, Brittany Clardy, Eli Clark, Alex Clevenger, Kathryn Cobb, Jayden Coffey, Gracie Colbert, Takayla Collins, Caleb Connerley, Tylae Cox, Matt Cummings, Jacorey Laroy Cunningham, Terrellus Davenport, Parker Daves, Autumn Davis, Gary Davis, Justiz Davis, Bryan Deloach, Alyssa Dorris, Ethan Dukes, Hayden Dungan, Lauren Dungan, Jhordan Durning, Payton Easley, Addyson Elliott, Dalton Elliott, Allison Escobedo, Alyssa Evans, Ashton Brody Evans, Emily Finkley, Olivia Foster, River Franklin, Oliva Fulgham, Kayden Garcia, Jayla Gholston, Kylar Gibson, Chloe Gillis, Layne Gillon, Tanner Gillon, Abigail Griffin, Gage Griffin, Jaxon Haley, Jaylynn Hall, Matthew Hamilton, Kaylin Hardin, Luke Hardin, Carter Harris, Colby Hays, Takiya Hemphill, Harley Henley, Kaden Holman, Baleigh Hood, Rosemary Hood, Daniel Hopper, Ella Horan, Lilly Horan, Cameron Hosey, Keymon House, Eli Housel, Caitlyn Huckaby, Jaxon Huff, Jailen Hurd, Nadiya Hurd, Lilly Ingram, Lindsey Ingram, Madison Ingram, Brayden Carter Jackson, Brandon Jones, Stephanie Keel, Gabriel Keeler, Maci Kent, Tyne Kelly, Brendan Keys, Blakely Kirk, Bryce Kirk, Ethan Klinck, Sophia Kornegay, Thomas Kuhn, Devin Lawson, Gabby Lawson, Nate Lawson, Tramiah Leason, Christian Lee, Garrett Lee, Lane Lemley, Jack Leslie, Jett Lewis, Chloe Lipsey, Carson Little, Mary Clayton Logan, Misty Logan, Luke Mainelli, Marcus Mallet, Savannah Mallet, Hunter Manseill, Luke Mattox, Jamie McCluskey, Eleana McCullough, Kevion McGee, Avery McMechan, James Darren McRee, Cera Meredith, Meredith Meriwether, William Meriwether, Caleb Milam, Landen Miller, Takya Miller, Jeff David Milner, Jr., Cayden Mitchell, Cyphus Mohead, Mawrese

Morris, Laura Moss, Alayna Murphree, Kaitlyn Nance, William Nisbett, Harper Newcomb, Caley Newton, Nate Newton, Kelly Nino Moran, Leah Oakes, Eli Palmer, Kayleb Parker, Payton Parker, Tripp Parker, Wyatt Parker, Jeel Patel, Emily Pearson, Jacob Pearson, Mason Pettit, Jordan Phillips, Tyler Pittman, Eli Pollan, Nicholas Powell, Abigail Presley, Andrew Rankin, Sydney Reece, Kimaria Reed, Carson Renfro, Gabe Reyna, Christopher Rhodes, Wesley Cole Richardson, Carmen Rosenthal, Cali Rupp, Destinie Russell, Lora Ryals, Rylee Ryals, Mikael Sajjad, Simrah Sajjad, Waleed Salameh, Rye Scott, Hanna Self, Briella Simmons, Emma Grace Simpson, Alexi Smith, Callie Smith, Erika Smith, Calyx Spencer, Rowdy Staten, Noelani Steele, Sadie Stockton, Allen Carter Sullivan, Brooklyn Sykes, Madalyn Tatum, Gavin Taylor, Kaydreayanna Taylor, Alvin Thomas, Samantha Elise Thomas, Jordan Topps, Maki Topps, Keosha Travis, Christian Vaughn, Blake Vincent, Luke Viner, Ty Wallace, Kayden Walters, Robert Walters, Khameron Washington, Zakiya Washington, Landon Waters, Mersie Watkins, Marterrion Watson, Bryson Waugh, Ellie Welsh, Zayedon Whaley, Addyson White, Aiden White, Ryan Caid White, Jane Wicker, Parks Wilbourn, Tanner Wilbourn, Trey Wilbourn, Blake Williams, Brandon Williams, Charlee Williams, Chloe Williams, Gabriel Williams, Jekerious Williams, Malaree Williams, Marcus Williams, Ryan Williams, Zion Williams, Peyton Willoughby, Makaiya Wilson, Alyssa Winters, Christian Wolfe, Dacey Yawn, Wojie Zhong, and Kiersten Zinn.

See the video documenting the Perfect Score photoshoot, filmed and edited by students from Grenada High School's broadcast journalism class.
bit.ly/GSDperfectscore

GHS 2018/2019 Boys Soccer



Photo by Stephanie Raper

(front, l to r) Davion Rosenthal, Ryan Wood, Bailey Albritton, Gage Williams, Hayden Pickle, Dawson Ballard, (middle, l to r) Riley Dale, Michah Williams, Owen Dale, Shane Vazquez, Javarus Bowdry, Blake Morgan, Andres Mendez, Cody Junkin, (back, l to r) Jacob Chavis, Mason Blakenship, Saavon Washington, Austin England, Luke Mattox, Grayson Dale, Johnathan Davis, Dawson Carnathan, McCarron Clausel, Avery Zangri, Remington Smith, Lane Lemley, Landon Waters, Caleb Estes, Dylan Carnathan, and Kade Robertson

College Prep: The Campus Visit

It's almost time to apply to college. You're looking at a couple of schools, maybe several, but how can you decide which location is right for you?

Sounds like it's time for a road trip. If you don't actually see and walk around the place where you'll be spending the next several years of your life, then college may as well be just a photo in a brochure.

There are many things to consider, including such obvious questions as — am I comfortable here? Do the students seem happy and energized, or down-trodden and annoyed? Can I see myself at this school for four years?

Also, the experience of being on a college campus may help you make more informed decisions later. So if you have the means to get there, it's a good idea to plan a trip — or trips, depending on how many colleges you're considering.

Your junior year of high school is a good time to start visiting. Make a realistic list of schools to see. Perhaps you could tie in a school visit with a family vacation. Or perhaps you could take a day trip. Visiting a school nearby, even if you haven't considered going there, may give you a comparison with other schools. (There are 35 colleges and universities within 100 miles of Grenada.) Here are some tips for navigating your campus visit:

Plan ahead

Once you've decided where to visit, do some research. Find out all you can about the school. You don't want to arrive and then just wander around aimlessly. Have a plan. Study a campus map and decide what you'd like to visit. The more you know, the more questions you'll have, and the more answers you can get while you're there. The best way to get answers is to...

Schedule meetings

You're not just soaking up the atmosphere on this trip. Take the time to find out what the classes, professors, and students are like. Start at least two weeks ahead of your planned visit and set up meetings and tours.

If you have a pretty good idea of what you want to study, try and meet the department chair or arrange to speak with a professor during his or her office hours. Find out what resources the department offers, and visit the labs and work places where you'll actually be learning and spending time.

Most schools offer guided tours of the campus, though generally on week days only. A guided tour is ideal for your top-choice schools, though a self-guided visit may be better if you're just popping in out of curiosity.

The admissions process for some

schools require a personal interview, so a visit would be an ideal time to get that out of the way. If interviews aren't required, it would still be a good idea to drop by the admissions office to let them know you're there. By taking the time to visit the school, you're demonstrating that you're a candidate to be taken seriously. And who knows ... you may just make the right connection and present yourself as an irresistible candidate.

Finally, consider getting in touch with someone from Grenada (or someone else you may know) who attends at the school you're visiting. Meet them after class for a quick chat and get their opinion of the school. More than likely, they'll be glad to see a face from home, even if you don't know each other that well.

Talking to people will help you get the most out of your visit, so make sure to...

Visit when school is in session

Holidays and weekends may be the most convenient time for you to make a campus visit, but you won't get a true idea of a school if class is not in session. Even if you can only make a weekend trip, try and spend some time on campus Friday. Some campuses are like ghost towns on the weekend.

Of course, college life isn't all about classes, so when you're there, make sure to...

See the neighborhood

Even if you love the school, there are other factors to consider. After all, you'll be living in a new town. Where will you eat and shop? Is there a good job market if you need to supplement with a part-time job? What amenities are offered? Are there opportunities to enjoy recreation, museums, and parks?

You'll want to talk to someone who has lived on their own and may think of things you haven't considered, which is a good reason why you should...

Bring the parents

More than likely you'll want them to come along, and most likely they'll insist on coming. They want to know where you'll be living, and they'll be able to help you understand how to navigate the town.

Once you get your bearings, you may want to see some of the campus alone. Just tell your parents you'd like to try on a little independence. Tell them you'll meet them in a couple of hours, and then you can really start to imagine what life away from home will be like.

May your year be filled with blessings!

2019

Happy New Year!

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GMS Science Fair Winners

6th Grade



Behavioral and Social Science
1st place - Beau McPhail; 2nd place - Jaci Willhite;
3rd place - Zachary Townsend



Biochemistry
1st - Makayla Ballard



Inorganic Chemistry
1st place - Corey Robinson; 2nd place - Caitlyn Kirk;
3rd place - Nairia Reed



Organic Chemistry
1st place - Anna Hankins



Animal Sciences
1st place - Jace West; 2nd place - Eli Pollan



Biomedical and Health Sciences
1st place - Hannah Know



Physics and Astronomy
1st place - Jacob Bennett; 2nd place - Layla Escovedo;
3rd place - Alyssa Walker



Plant Sciences
1st place - Darshi Kher; 2nd place - Trista Yates;
3rd place - Gabbie Willis

7th & 8th Grade



Behavioral and Social Science
1st place - Mackenzie Porter



Inorganic Chemistry
1st place - Mary Clayton Logan; 2nd place - Chloe Casey;
3rd place - Destinee Russell



Organic Chemistry
1st place - Sarah Trotter; 2nd place - Jkira Spearman;
3rd place - Aidan Harris



Earth and Environmental Science
1st place - Nicholas Love



Plant Sciences
1st place - Damiyon Horton



(photo left)
Biomedical and Health Sciences
1st place - Keantrah Pritchard and Alysia King; 2nd place - Kimaria Reed



Physics and Astronomy
1st place - Caitlyn Huckaby; 2nd place - Theron Hubbard;
3rd place - Markiya McNeal



Engineering Mechanics
1st place - Jimmy Cashaw; 2nd place - Nate Lawson;
3rd place - Arrian Hancock

Photos by Anna Johnson & Lisa Holland



Best of Fair - Corey Robinson
Runner Up Best of Fair - Mary Clayton Logan

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GSD Student of the Month
Colin Keys

GMS Students of the Month



Photo by Lisa Holland

Sixth grade December Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Allie Adams, Lainey Self, (back, l to r) Hailey Tatum, Kalajah Chamblee, Rye Haddon, Rachel Bacon, and Assistant Principal Angela Cooley.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Seventh grade December Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Dylan Black, James Darren McRee, (back, l to r) Auique Bridges, Drudarius Barnes, Savannah Mallett, Saniyah Johnson, and Assistant Principal Angela Cooley.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Eighth grade December Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Layla Spires, Ciara Breeland, Meredith Meriwether, (back, l to r) Kymberlie Benefield, Kennedy Beamon, Azaria Owens, Jaquan Williams, and Assistant Principal Angela Cooley. Not pictured- Antonie Bridges

“Tops”

Continued from page 1

Make no mistake, the kids’ competitive spirits have something to do with the sharp increase. They really love to see who can earn the most points. Each grade has its own reading trophy, and at the end of each week, the class with the most AR points gets to hold the trophy. The proud class takes the trophy everywhere — to lunch, special activities, even recess!

At a recent assembly for third-graders, Assistant Principal Cole Surrell announced a new individual rewards program to encourage students to read even more. Second and third grade readers who reach 100 AR points get to read to Principal Raleigh Wood (and reach into his candy drawer). If they earn 150 points, the principals will take them off-campus for lunch at a restaurant, and if they earn 175, they’ll join the wall of fame and see a poster of themselves gracing the walls of the cafeteria.

Principal Wood introduced the grand prize — a championship ring. He presented the first-ever ring to third-grader James Self, who had read 68 books since school started for a total of 306 points.

James’ proud parents, Brady and Sarah, attended the ceremony and said their kids have always loved stories and reading. “Once they got past the hard part of learning how to read, it just took off,” said mom Sarah.

And like the other elementary students,

part of the incentive for James is beating his sister’s AR record of over 400 points.

Hannah is now one of the biggest readers at the 4th and 5th grade Green Top, where reading teachers have introduced a program called Status of the Class. Teachers take ten to 20 minutes each day to check in with students individually to hear what they’re reading, chart their progress, and keep them engaged.

Teachers have reported positive results from this new program, which creates a conversation not only between teacher and students but among the students themselves. Suddenly book discussions are routine conversation.

This discussion of books thrives in the Green Top’s excellent after-school book club. A group of 75 kids meet once a month to hold in-depth discussions about their current selection, *The BFG* by Roald Dahl.

We can’t wait to see how this renewed interest in reading will reflect in test scores. But that’s a method of quantifying what we already know — students who become better, more frequent readers become better students and people. They generally have more empathy, less stress, a broader vocabulary, and valuable communication skills. They think sharper, stay focused longer, and retain information better.

Oh, the places they’ll go.

“21st”

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The 21st Century program at GSD started in 2007 as a way to help curb the dropout rate by helping students and parents.

In 2005, prior to the program’s launch, Grenada’s graduation rate was 47.5% and the dropout rate was 35.7%. Since then, the school has seen a 35% increase in student graduation (currently at 82.7%) and a decline of 26.3% in dropouts (currently at 9.4%). In 2005, GHS graduated 184 seniors, and in the past three years, 230-265 seniors have graduated in each class.

Over the past 12 years, the program

has grown beyond that goal.

“Our 21st Century classes have not only helped students improve their classroom skills, they’ve introduced students to skills they may have never discovered in a normal class setting,” Russell said. “This program offers the potential to start them on a career path that could change their lives.”

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