

Still Growing



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) has approved letter grades for schools and districts based on Mississippi's A-F accountability system that assesses how schools and districts performed in the 2017-2018 school year.

According to ratings released by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Grenada School District is once again a "B" District. All schools – Grenada Elementary School, Grenada Middle School, and Grenada High School – earned a B. Grenada School District is in the top 18% of school districts in the state and increased a total of 27 points from the 2016-2017 school year.

I am very proud of the success of our district. I would like to thank our parents, students, teachers, specialists, and administrators for working diligently each day preparing for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) tests.

Grenada School District made its greatest strides increasing the number of Level 4 and 5 scores in third grade math (+9 percentage points), fourth grade math (+21 percentage points), sixth grade math (+15 percentage points), eighth grade science (+9 percentage points) and fourth grade English language arts (+21 percentage points). Additionally, Grenada School District had 249 students with perfect scores in English language arts and math.

Several grades ranked high in the state for number of students scoring proficient and advanced. Fourth grade math ranked #6 in the state, eighth grade math ranked #7 in the state, and eighth grade science ranked #15 in the state.

Part of the district's success can be attributed to having the support from the members of the Board of Trustees. Working together, Grenada School District has made many changes in the different programs available to students throughout the past several years. Because of these changes the district was awarded the distinction of District of Innovation. Mrs. Marjorie Hughes, President of the School Board, leads the charge to help our board continue to strive for excellence in Grenada.

Accountability grades for high schools include the four-year graduation rate, ACT tests, and student participation and performance in advanced coursework such as Advanced Placement and dual credit/dual enrollment courses. Grenada High School continues to show growth in these areas by helping our students better prepare for college and career readiness. Grenada High School focuses on preparation for ACT and offers many different avenues for students to participate in advanced course work.

See "Growing"
Continued on page 3

GHS Most Beautiful & Most Handsome



Photos by Torrance Photography

GHS Most Beautiful Anna Kuhn and GHS Most Handsome Shane Vazquez



Grenada High School Beauty Review top ten results were (l to r) Morgan Banks, Miss Congeniality/Third Alternate; Hallie Staten, Second Alternate; Carson Lollar, Fifth Alternate; Hannah Briscoe, Top Ten; Jayden Phillips, First Alternate; Anna Kuhn, GHS Most Beautiful; Kelsey Baker, Top Ten; Abigail Martin, Top Ten; Brianna Shaw, Top Ten; McKenzie Cummings, Fourth Alternate.

(photo right)

Each year, six seniors are chosen by the students at GHS for the title of Handsomes. The senior with the most votes is named GHS Most Handsome. The 2018-2019 GHS Handsomes are (back l to r) Javarus Bowdry, Hunter Smith, Jasper Williams, Dalton Moore, Blake Morgan, (front) 2018-2019 GHS Most Handsome Shane Vazquez.



Partners In Education Enjoy Lunch in Culinary Arts Facility



(photo left)
(l to r) UMMC representative Gale Moore and Renasant Bank representative Fran Harper

(photo right)
Modine representative Mickey Reeves



*By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter*

Grenada School District recently hosted a lunch break reception to honor community members of their Partners in Education program, High Hopes. Representatives from participating local businesses joined district staff in the new culinary arts classroom kitchen. A team of culinary students, recently named regional winners at the state Junior Chef competition, prepared the lunchtime fare.

Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault said, "We're grateful for our local community partners who understand that the good work we're doing with the young people of Grenada — not to mention the adults who receive training and resources via our Grenada Adult Education Center — benefits everyone in the community."



(l to r) Mississippi State Extension Service representative Jan Walton, EMI Staffing representatives Raven Tyler and Jeanette Hankins

UMMC Helicopter Visits GCTC Health Sciences Class

(photo right)
The University of Mississippi Medical Center helicopter recently visited the Grenada Career and Technical Center to demonstrate the equipment and procedures of emergency transport. Students (l to r) Hayden Whatley, Jacolby Nixon, Serilda Phillips, Jakiya Moss, Melonie Little, Jada Carpenter, and Treasure Jones were among many students in Anise Shuffield's Health Sciences class who received a close-up tour of this sophisticated emergency care aircraft.



Photo by Meg Newcomb

AmeriCorps Member of Excellence

By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

Portia Booker lives by a simple rule: put others first. Booker's service at the Grenada Elementary School (grades 2-3) and as AmeriCorps team leader proves just that.

Before joining AmeriCorps she assisted the elderly in her neighborhood with everyday needs such as grocery shopping, paying bills, or going to the polls to vote. She also volunteered with the community girls' basketball team.

"I wanted to join AmeriCorps because I enjoy helping others in need," Booker said. "I also enjoy being around the children and in the classrooms observing the teachers and their different teaching techniques. I know my experience as an AmeriCorps member will help me with my goal of becoming a teacher."

Booker graduated from Grenada High School in 2006 and from there she attended Holmes Community College. She cherishes her time with her 9-year-old son, Tylann, and her 5-year-old daughter, Ryleigh.

Booker has gone through a lot in her personal life, but her focus remains on helping others. She has done an exceptional job as a member and team leader. I am absolutely certain that she will be a great asset to a school district, company, or organization after she completes her term of service.

"Joining AmeriCorps was one of the best decisions I made," said Booker. "I never knew much about the community needs and the value of volunteering before this program. I really enjoy serving, especially the children. I love knowing that I have the opportunity to help a child to improve in school and to change their attitude towards school. I'm really glad I made this decision of joining AmeriCorps."

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. Booker will use her Education Award to continue her education to become a teacher. Her goal is to attend Ole Miss to get a degree in elementary educa-



tion and later become a basketball coach.

The Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program is supported and administered by Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

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

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GES 4-5 Reading Fair



Group and Family
 (sitting, l to r) 1st place: Tanner and Mary Tylour Wilbourn; 2nd place: Eleana McCullough and Braley Carnathan; 3rd place: Ethan Dukes; (standing, l to r) Honorable Mention: Meah Dirks and Tanner Fowler; 5th place: Lila and Leah Makamson; 4th place: Eli Palmer and Drew Klink; and 3rd place: Justin and John Hollingsworth



Group and Family 1st Place
 Mary Tylour and Tanner Wilbourn



Non-Fiction
 (sitting, l to r) 1st place: Shanvi Kher; 2nd place: Mary Grace Klink; 3rd place: Brysen Arbuckle; 4th place: Tylae Cox; 5th place: Anna Goldwater-Deussen; (standing, l to r) Honorable Mention: Blakely Kirk, Rylin Crosby, Addy Elliott and Kathryn Cobb

(photo right)
Non-Fiction
 1st Place
 Shanvi Kher



Fiction
 (sitting, l to r) 1st place: Rylee Ryals; 2nd place: Devin Bailey; 3rd place: Brooklyn Sykes; 4th place: Micah Samples; 5th place: Devin Lawson; (standing, l to r) Honorable Mentions: Noelani Steele, Remington Roberson, Madeline Holiday, Jeff David Milner, Daniel Hopper, and Emily Finkley

(photo right)
Fiction
 1st Place
 Rylee Ryals



Photos by
 Krystle Laster

“Growing” Continued from page 1

Each year, Grenada School District concentrates on each student growing academically in both English language arts and math. Grenada School District focuses on the individual needs of students and utilizing best learning practices to aid in positive impacts on student learning.

Several highlights with student growth include fourth grade math growing 92% of all students, sixth through eight grade math growing 77% of all students, English II students growing 72% of all students, and Algebra I students growing 70% of all students.

These test results are valuable in helping Grenada School District continue to focus on the district’s vision of Education, Training, and Dreams. We strive to follow our mission of educating the children of Grenada to their maximum potential. We will use the data to drive instruction, make educational decisions, and prepare our students for college and career readiness. I am looking forward to another great school year with continued growth.

2018 GMS Basketball Cheerleaders



(l to r) Danetra Thomas, JaKaiya Exson, Alyssia Biggins, NiTerrka Burns, Chole Williams, Markeeria Purnell, and Tia Ewing.

Photo by Anna Johnson

GMS Students of the Month



Photo by Lisa Holland

Sixth grade October Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Tara Bailey, Jared Badon, Emily Smith, Zakiyah Hargrove, Seth Dorroh, (back, l to r) Jordan Cunningham, De'Aysia Golden, Emma Pope, Javorius Rounds, Abby Crouch, Drew Dalton, and Assistant Principal Becky Bloodworth.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Seventh grade October Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Anna Ferguson, Luke Westmoreland, Lilly Horan, Latavien Pritchard, (back, l to r) Brittany Clardy, Harlee Williams, Markita Kinsey, Qwesinique Nason, and Assistant Principal Becky Bloodworth.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Eighth grade October Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Braxton Smith, Olivia Fulgham, Keantrah Pritchard, Karlee Pollan, Taylor House, Ciara Samuels, (back, l to r) Teresa Dunn, Keshawn Brown, Colby Hays, Lavaurius Harbin, Leah Oakes, Laine McKay, and Assistant Principal Becky Bloodworth.



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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <h1>December</h1> | | | | | | <p>1</p> <p>Christmas Parade GHS Boys Basketball Houston Classic at Houston NJROTC Community Service at Grenada Christmas Parade NJROTC Neshoba Drill Meet - Neshoba Central High School Visions and Entertainers in GHS Auditorium</p> |
| <p>2</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent Visions Practice 2:00pm - 6:00pm</p> | <p>3</p> <p>GHS Soccer Olive Branch (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-1 Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm Visions Practice 3:30pm - 4:30pm GES Grade K-5th Beauty Pageant Practice GHS Auditorium 5:00pm - 6:30pm GMS: Basketball at Quitman County 5:00pm</p> | <p>4</p> <p>GHS Soccer at Strayhorn - 5:00pm;7:00pm GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm Visions Practice 3:30pm - 4:30pm</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Band: State Band Clinic - Natchez, MS GES 1st Grade-Christmas Play (8:15 & 9:15am) GES Prek-3 Cafe Visions Practice GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm GMS: Boy's Basketball Practice - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Band: State Band Clinic - Natchez, MS GES 1st Grade-Christmas Play (8:15 & 9:15am) GES Prek-3 Cafe GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Coffeeville Tournament at Coffeeville GMS Soccer Lafayette (Home) - 5:00pm;6:00pm Visions Christmas Show - Maizee 2:00 PM / Night 7:00 pm GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm GMS: Basketball at Bruce 5:00pm</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Band: State Band Clinic - Natchez, MS GES 1st Grade-Christmas Play (9:15am only) GES Prek-3 Cafe GHS Soccer Saffilo (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm GHS V Girls/Boys Basketball Coffeeville Tournament at Coffeeville Visions Christmas Show - Night 7:00 pm GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>8</p> <p>ACT Band: State Band Clinic - Natchez, MS Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm Elementary & GMS Beauty Review (Grades K-8) - GHS Auditorium 9:00am - 5:00pm GHS Boys Basketball Shannon (Bruce Classic) at Bruce 12:30pm</p> |
| <p>9</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in Classroom TBA GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm GMS: Basketball vs. Lafayette (Home) 5:00pm</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in Classroom TBA GES 2-3-Kid Shopping 8:00am - 2:30pm GES Prek-3 Book Fair 8:00am - 2:30pm GMS: Basketball vs. Lafayette (Home) 5:00pm</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium GHS Soccer at Lafayette - 5:00pm;6:00pm Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in Classroom TBA GHS JV/V Basketball Germantown at Germantown 4:00pm School Board Meeting-Central Office 6:00pm</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Band in GHS Auditorium Visions Practice in Classroom TBA GMS: Boy's Basketball Practice - GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>13</p> <p>GMS Soccer Oxford (Home) - 5:00pm;6:00pm GES 2nd Grade Christmas Program-GES Prek-3 Cafe. (Group A-8:15am & Group B-9:15am) 3:00pm - 5:00pm GMS: Basketball vs. Winona (Home) 5:00pm Band: Christmas Concert 7:00pm</p> | <p>14</p> <p>GHS Soccer West Point (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm GES 2nd Grade Christmas Program-GES Prek-3 Cafe. (Group C-8:15am & Group D-9:15am) 3:00pm - 5:00pm GHS JV/V Basketball Calhoun City at Calhoun City 4:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm GES 4-5-Pizzazz Christmas Show-GES 4-5 Gym 6:00pm</p> | <p>15</p> <p>GHS Boys Basketball Calhoun City Loggins Classic at Calhoun City NJROTC Area Eight Orienteering Meet in Alabama Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p>Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9 Weeks Exams!!! GHS Soccer Center Hill (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>18</p> <p>9 Weeks Exams!!! Band: Midwest Band Clinic - Directors ONLY Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA Adult Education: Student Awards Ceremony - GLAD Conference Room 1:00pm - 7:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>19</p> <p>9 Weeks Exams!!! Band: Midwest Band Clinic - Directors ONLY Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA Adult Education: Student Awards Ceremony - GLAD Conference Room 7:30am - 12:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>20</p> <p>9 Weeks Exams!!! Band: Midwest Band Clinic - Directors ONLY Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>21</p> <p>60% Day!!! 9 Weeks Exams!!! Band: Midwest Band Clinic - Directors ONLY GHS Soccer Cleveland (Home) - 5:00pm;7:00pm Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA GHS JV/V Basketball Saffilo (Home) 4:00pm Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Practice GMS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Band: Midwest Band Clinic - Directors ONLY Visions and Entertainers Practice (Competition) in GHS Auditorium TBA Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm</p> |
| <p>23</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | <p>26</p> <p>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | <p>27</p> <p>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | <p>28</p> <p>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium GHS Boys Basketball Holly Springs (South Panola Tourney) at South Panola 1:30pm</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium Grenada Parks & Rec Basketball Game GMS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm GHS Boys Basketball Amanda Ely (South Panola Tourney) at South Panola 12:00pm</p> |
| <p>30</p> <p>Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | <p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!!! Visions in GHS Auditorium</p> | | | | | |

GMS Reading Fair



Group and Family
 (l to r) 1st place: Danica Caulder and Gracie Colbert; 2nd place: Case Smith and Marlee Grimmatt; 3rd place: Tia Ewing, Alyssia Biggins, and Jakaiya Exson; (back, l to r) Honorable Mention: James Darren McCree, Baley Bowen, Rhyhan Haley, Abigail Presley, and Drew Dalton



Group and Family 1st Place
 Gracie Colbert and Danica Caulder



Non Fiction
 (l to r) 1st place: Leah Briscoe; 2nd place: Jadan Reece; 3rd place: Caslyn Trost; 4th place: Bowden Biddy; Honorable Mention: Darshi Kher, and Alyssa Walker



Non-Fiction 1st Place
 Leah Briscoe



Fiction
 (l to r) 4th place: Aiden Harris; 1st place: Meredith Meriwether; 5th place: Jayla Beechem; 2nd place: Karlee Pollan; Honorable Mention: Corey Robinson; 3rd place: Anna Elise Ferguson; and Honorable Mention: Mary Clayton Logan



Fiction 1st Place
 Meredith Meriwether

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But there's good news too. You can ease the burden on yourself and your family when it comes time for college by putting in a little extra effort now that could set you up for a better education and more job opportunities down the road.

A high score on the ACT exam can earn thousands of dollars toward your annual college tuition. A 4.0 GPA looks impressive on your college admissions application, but it won't earn you money like a great ACT score.

Grenada High School encourages students to start looking seriously at the exam during their sophomore year. Ambitious students take the exam many times, and all juniors take it at no charge on February 20.

Why is the ACT so important?

It's difficult to judge a student by GPA alone. A 3.5 GPA at Grenada is different from a 3.5 at another high school. Criteria such as course variety, difficulty, and enrollment all factor into the equation.

Your ACT performance is measured on a

level playing field with students who are taking the exact same test all across the country.

GHS administrators have seen the difference a high ACT score can make in paying for college, so this fall they launched a new prep course that will help students develop the skills needed to raise their scores. The key is practice and familiarity. If you understand what you're trying to achieve, you'll have better results.

ACT prep books and websites can give you very specific strategies for taking the test, but generally, here are some things to keep in mind:

The Basics

First off, a perfect score on the ACT is 36. It's rare and extremely difficult to earn that on the first try. The average score is 21. Normally, it costs around \$50 to take the test (except that one time during junior year). But what's \$50 — or \$250 if you take it 6 times — when you could earn back thousands?

Establish a goal

What are you trying to achieve? Certification from a two-year college? A

four-year degree? A score of 20 will start earning serious money toward junior college tuitions, but you'll have to earn closer to 30 to start earning significant money toward four-year universities. Determine how much help you'll need paying for college, and then you'll have an idea what score you'll need to get there.

Identify Your Weaknesses and Attack

After taking the test and receiving your scores, you'll have a much better idea where you need to work harder. If you made a bad score on math, work with your math teacher to understand why you missed those questions. If your reading score sunk you overall, focus your attention there. Don't let your weaknesses take money from you. With enough discipline and determination, you can study and raise your score significantly. GHS counselors can give you a booklet with a complete practice test, including answers. You'll also find many practice tests online.

Timing is Everything

Prepare to battle the clock when you

take the ACT. On certain sections, you may have an average of 30 seconds per question. Stay focused and don't labor too long over the tough ones. Circle back around, answering the ones you know first. Work practice tests to help you train for this race. Be prepared to beat your own time-wasting habits like taking too long to fill in the answer circles. It's also a long test, so practice is the best strategy for building your endurance.

Build on Your Success, However Minimal

If you took the ACT late and scored around 18, don't despair. With extra study, you can try again and earn a 20, which qualifies for full tuition at Holmes Community College. Many students buckle down once they get to college. Keep up your grades, and you may qualify for Phi Theta Kappa membership, which will earn greater scholarships if you decide to transfer to a four-year college.

Visit with your counselor to help you understand your options and formulate a sound strategy for tackling one of the biggest hurdles of college — paying for it.

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Alumni Spotlight Andrea Lee



Photos by Lisa Holland

Grenada alumnus Andrea Lee (center) visits with Grenada Middle School students (l to r) Erriyanna Young, Anna Ferguson, Piper Langham, and Quentasia Mack after a presentation for Lee's local mentoring program, The Diamond Project.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Andrea Lee (GHS Class of 2003) recently returned to Grenada High School to give back some of the inspiration she took when she was a student here 15 years ago. As director of the Diamond Project, Lee has found a local outlet for her love of public service — mentoring young teenage girls.

Lee's mission is to connect young girls with other women from Grenada who have become successful. "I want to help them be what they want to be, teach them health and wellness, and offer personal advice."

"We're Mississippi girls," Lee added. "We can relate because we've been here."

Lee brought two fellow mentors and GHS graduates, Adryan Markham (GHS Class of 2003) and sister Kendra Lee (GHS Class of 2006), to launch the project before a crowd of girls from Grenada Middle School.

Lee told students she started the Diamond Project last year after hearing from a cousin who had been bullied in school.

Lee recalled her own high school experience being picked on for her height and weight. She said it happens in every school in America and is an unfortunate reality of the teenage experience.

Lee chose her project's motto — "Diamonds are formed under pressure" — as a way to assure girls they can rise up from difficult circumstances to become stronger, shining people.

At the middle school assembly, Lee touched on a few common problems experienced by most teenage girls — bullying, gossip, low self-esteem, peer pressure, depression. One key to rising above these problems, Lee said, is talking with others who have experienced similar difficulties.

Lee encouraged students to bring their parents to a Diamond Project baking class orientation on November 11. Parents, she said, are crucial to the conversation. The Diamond mentors aren't meant to take the place of parents but to forge strong ties outside the home, where girls often have trouble making meaningful connections.

"If you forget everything else from this talk, don't forget to continue your

education," Lee told students at the assembly. "Students who feel trapped can always use education as their way out."

Andrea Lee's education at Grenada took her all the way to Washington, D.C., where she currently serves as chief of staff for U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson. "When I was in school, I hated politics," she admitted. "No one could have told me I'd be working on Capitol Hill. That was completely outside of my wildest dreams."

After high school, Lee graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and took a job at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She worked on the side as an event planner, organizing showers, reunions, and parties. Bennie Thompson's deputy chief noticed her social media posts and was impressed by her sense of design and organization. He invited her to join the Congressman's staff in D.C.

At first, Lee admitted, it was intimidating to handle events and schedule meetings for a busy U.S. Congressman. But after taking on a few high-profile projects, including events for the Congressional Black Caucus, the Grammys,

and the Housewives of Atlanta, Lee found her groove. She worked her way up the ranks, from executive assistant to administrative director to her current position leading the Congressman's staff.

Lee credited the positive influence of many teachers at Grenada High School for contributing to her professional success.

Two of her most fond mentors were accelerated English teachers Dorothy Watson and Rena Dantone, whom Lee described as the hardest teacher she ever had. "Even after college, Mrs. Dantone was the toughest," she said. "To this day, I can tear a sentence apart because of her. I do so much correspondence for the Congressman, and I think of Mrs. Dantone all the time."

Lee also recalled her French teacher, Rosanna Milner, and Coach Smith, her driver's ed teacher, whose encouragement made a lasting impression. In addition, she cherished her time in the Grenada Band, calling out her teacher, Lynne Russell, now the district's administrative director, as well as former band director and current superintendent, Dr. David Daigneault.

"I'll never forget playing and marching, and every time he'd say, 'Back it up, let's go again!' It taught us perfection and the benefit of doing it over and over."

Her positive memories of home and enduring love of community service drew Lee back home in 2012 to form a group of ladies to help adopt families for Christmas. "I just wanted to do something bigger to help a lot of people all year around," she said.

Now Lee has turned her talent for creative design into fun, uplifting activities with the Diamond Project. Along the way, she has enlisted the help of many friends to pass along the valuable lessons they used to achieve success in health-care, law, education, and politics.

Visit the Diamond Project's website to learn more about the group's mission, and check their schedule of events to get involved — www.thediamondproject.org

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M - F -10:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. • Saturday - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Located next to McDonald's

Grenada School District Band Night



(l to r) Anna Herring, Shelby Woodall, Mary Faith Vance, Maddie Ingram, Sadie Rose Williams, and Payton Parker



(l to r) Lilly Ingram and Candice Karow



(l to r) Kamrean Hurst, Teresa Dunn, and Lillie Brown



(l to r) Derek Holman, Jalynn Hall, and Lillian Williams



(l to r) Colby Ferguson, Noah Morgan, and Jonathan Dees



(l to r) Casey Clanton, Kari Grace Marshall, Lexi Smith, Ian Cook, and Marlie Sturgis



(l to r) John Landon Dubard, Colton Gray, Bethany Fulgham, Dalton Dawson, Seth Reed, and Shaunna George



(front, l to r) Akera Jones, Taliyah Hawkins, (back, l to r) Amaiya Noel, Gariel Cunningham, Kemya Rounds, Alvin Benford, and Ameraya Edmond



(l to r) Kira Finkley, Lindsey Ingram, Katie Beth Bennett, Allie Grace Holland, and Madelyn Anthony

Photos by Lisa Holland

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Sponsors

GSD Student of the Month

Hailey Hayward

Garlands & Gifts MARKETPLACE

Your ONE STOP holiday shopping experience

The Event Center
Grenada, Mississippi

Thursday, November 15
VIP Night
5 pm until 9 pm

Friday, November 16
9 am until 7 pm

Saturday, November 17
9 am until 5 pm
Pictures with SANTA

\$10.00
3-Day VIP Pass
(includes giveaway entry for a porch bedswing)

\$3.00
Friday & Saturday
General Admission

Partial proceeds benefit

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