

AmeriCorps One Key to Success



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

We're taking a hard look at our district right now. Our accountability grades from the state are in, and as we study the data — which has been very positive, but more on that soon — we're evaluating the keys to our success.

One program that continues to help the district perform highly is Grenada's AmeriCorps.

The national civic organization works to improve communities from within, whether they're helping citizens recover from natural disasters, building affordable housing, assisting military veterans, or cleaning up the local environment.

The Grenada chapter works to uphold these values, but the main part of their mission is educating kids and providing mentorship for young people. Currently 29 members serve in the Grenada School District, tutoring at-risk students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Members also participate in community projects, such as literacy events at the Elizabeth Jones Library and delivering food to local senior citizens.

The Grenada program is a distinguished group. They were spotlighted by the Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service selected GSD out of the 11 programs in Mississippi to tour.

Other districts want to know why the program is so successful, and I believe the staff is a key part. The program's director, Gwen Woodson, works closely with the members. They have the heart and the passion to see kids succeed, and she works hard to get the members to buy into the success of the program.

Woodson describes it as a holistic approach. "The members take care of the students and the community. The staff inspire and motivate the members. And the administration provides the support and resource to the program."

Last school year, AmeriCorps set a goal of tutoring 1,015 students. They aimed to raise the math and reading scores of 800 students by 15 percent. By the end of the year, they'd tutored 1,422 students and improved the score of nearly 1,300 students.

That's a lot of kids who received individualized attention. We're always searching of ways to keep struggling students from slipping through the cracks, and AmeriCorps repeatedly demonstrates how effectively they serve as a safety net. The one-on-one and small group attention offered by these members is critical.

AmeriCorps members join the program to help pay off student loans or to go to back to school for degrees in education. In fact, our school district has benefited greatly from members who went on to become full employees. Over 50 alumni from the program work throughout the district, from assistant teachers to certified teachers, to maintenance and public relations.

New Exhibit and Director at GES Kidzeum



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Melanie Williams, new director of the Grenada Elementary School's Kidzeum, explains cattle branding to students in Jessica Boyle's class during their visit to the "Cowboy Corral" exhibit.

By **Jamie Kornegay**
GSD Reporter

The Kidzeum at Grenada Elementary School recently opened its doors for a new exhibit, Cowboy Corral. Students visiting the exhibit in August and September were excited to discover not only the museum redecorated with hay bales, saddles, and imitation barbwire, but also a new director.

Melanie Williams, who succeeded Beth Muselwhite as Kidzeum director over the summer, says her introduction to the elementary school museum and hands-on classroom has been tremendous. "This position really fits my personality," she says. "It's easy to dream big when you're in this room." Williams began her teaching career at Grenada 20 years ago before getting married, moving away, teaching at a handful of school districts throughout the state, and eventually moving back to Grenada. This is her seventh year teaching at GES.

"I loved being a classroom teacher," Williams says. "I loved to make the class my home and make my kids feel like they were at home."

Williams can trace her love for creative, hands-on teaching back to her days as a stay-at-home mom. She volunteered at George County School District in Lucedale as the "big word lady," showing up once a month to teach kids virtues like respect and creativity. "My job was to come up with new ideas and ways to teach them."

She further developed her skills for teaching new concepts to children when she began directing summer church camps with her husband, Mark Williams, the children's pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

When the Kidzeum director's post opened up, Williams jumped at the

first, they heard stories and learned roping tricks. In the second, they learned how to care for cattle and horses, especially the saddles and other tack.

The third group assembled in the Kidzeum kitchen, where they helped measure and mix ingredients for cowboy crackers, which they baked and sampled at the end of their tour.

"In here, just as in my classroom, I love hands-on activities," Williams says. "Kids want to be kids, so if you get on their level, usually they connect with you, and you can teach them lots of things. They're naturally curious so they want to know everything anyway. You just have to figure out what their path is."

The students' follow-up visit started the second week of September. The story of the Circle K continues with the kids venturing out into the ranch, learning about the cattle drive, different cowboy jobs, and listening to authentic cowboy music.

Williams says the sights, sounds, and tastes of the

Kidzeum brings history alive for the kids. "If you think back, you learn the most from your experience and memories," she says. "So I hope that they'll be able to take those connections and their writing and reading and math and science and social studies and bring it

"This position really fits my personality," she says. "It's easy to dream big when you're in this room." - Melanie Williams, Kidzeum director

chance to lead the highly trafficked museum at GES. "To know that I get to see every single kid that comes into Grenada Elementary," she says, "it's like this big open door and I get to influence them."

Grenada Elementary students from Pre-K to third grade make two visits per exhibit to the Kidzeum. Each visit encompasses a different aspect of cowboy life and includes a new set of activities. Williams describes the students' visits as "going back in time."

For their first visit, students entered the museum beneath the arches of the make-believe Circle K ranch. The kids toured a replica of the bunkhouse where cowboys slept and learned about the clothes they wore. They split into small groups and visited three stations. In the

all together."

The concept of teamwork is important at the Kidzeum, and Williams is quick to share the credit. In addition to her husband, the Williams have two kids — Micah, a senior at Grenada High School, and Malaree, a seventh grader at Grenada Middle School.

Williams also claims to have "the best team ever" with her Kidzeum assistants, Tanganetta Moore and Tammy Vance. "We see eye to eye about everything," she says. "They're creative, and when they walk in the door, they make the connection with the kids right away. I love to come to work everyday because I'm with them."

The Cowboy Corral exhibit at the Kidzeum runs through October 5.

The price tag on today’s four-year college education may be high enough to scare away even big spenders, but don’t let rising tuitions discourage you from pursuing your dream of higher education. With some advanced planning and diligence, college can become an affordable pathway to a lucrative career.

You’ve probably heard that most college students depend on financial aid to pay for school. You’ve probably also heard horror stories from graduates who are haunted by student loan debt, even years after attending college.

So let’s take a look at exactly what financial aid means and how you can avoid being saddled with debt.

Financial aid is money applied toward college tuition. It can be awarded by the government, whether federal or state, as well as colleges and private lenders.

If it sounds too good to be true, be careful. Not all financial aid is free money. It can take the form of scholarships and grants, but it can also be a student loan with interest payments that begin to snowball if you’re not able to actively pay down what you owe.

Scholarships and grants are two types of financial aid that you don’t have to pay back. Grants are often based on a family’s financial situation. Scholarships

are based on academic or athletic performance and sometimes through affiliation with certain ethnic, religious, or professional groups.

Another option for financial aid you don’t have to pay back is work-study. Though it’s not offered at every school, this federal program matches students with part-time employment. Generally the jobs are on campus and related to your major. You may get a job working at the library or assisting in the biology lab. Sometimes the jobs are off-campus, generally in a community service position.

One of the program’s added benefits is work experience for students who may have never applied for a job or been interviewed by a prospective employer. Work-study employees earn wages like any employee. Money can be applied directly to your college debt or taken in the form of a paycheck to cover living expenses.

To see if you qualify for government and school-based financial aid — as well as finding out how much and which type of aid you’re eligible for — you must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The first day to file is October 1, so get started now. You may need your parents help filling out the FAFSA, as

it requires your social security number, federal income tax returns, bank statements, and any other financial records that show income or investments. Apply online at fafsa.ed.gov or you download a copy at www.studentaid.ed.gov/PDFafsa. If you need a paper copy mailed, call 800-4-FED-AID.

The online application is thorough, and while it may sound like a monumental task, it’s easier to complete now that your family’s tax data can be transferred from the IRS website. Many state governments and colleges also use this application when determining aid, so it’s well worth the effort — especially if it helps you locate all eligible funding.

After your federal and state financial aid options are assessed, you may find the price tag still too high. At this point, you may wish to seek a student loan, whether through the government or a private lender. A student loan is just what it sounds like — borrowed money that must be paid back with interest. That means you’ll pay a percentage above what you borrowed, one of the unavoidable costs of doing business.

Interest rates are important to consider. Private lenders will often charge you more than federal aid. Any way you cut it, the best plan is to set up a payment

plan and treat your loan payments like any bill. The longer you wait to pay, the more it will cost in the long run.

One option you shouldn’t ignore is to seek more scholarships. It will require dedicated research, but you should know there are billions of dollars in scholarships out there just waiting for you to apply. Dedicate yourself to the task as you would one of your classes, and you may find a surprising amount of aid waiting at the end.

Set up a new email account expressly for your scholarship hunt, and get to work. Here are some useful websites that will match your strengths and interests with scholarships you didn’t even know existed:

- Scholarships ([scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com))
- Fast Web ([fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com))
- The College Board (bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- Broke Scholar ([brokescholar.com](https://www.brokescholar.com))

Finally, don’t be afraid to strive for expensive private universities. Sometimes they offer more financial aid. You may be just the student they’re looking for, and they will often make it convenient for you to attend.

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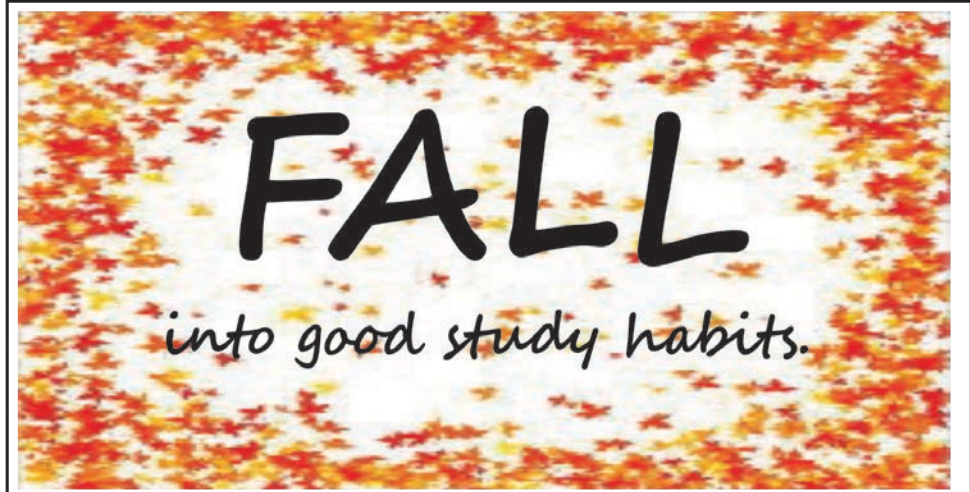
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New Officers for MTFC



MTFC (Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition) of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun counties recently held elections for the 2018/2019 year. (l to r) MTFC Director Sue Mashburne; Secretary - Cassandra Tittle; Chairman-Suzanne Smith; and Co-Chairman. Crystal Osborne.



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2018 GHS Varsity Cheer



Morgan Banks, Ebonee Webster, Jamya Bowdry, Anna Gray Neely, Brianna Shaw, Anna Palmer, Haley Williams, Kayla Reece, Kayla Horne- Captain, Back row left to right, Joy Madkins, Brooke Little, Abby Williams, Taylor Harrell , Molly Brewer, Kyra Edwards, Braylee Shaw- Co-Captain, Reagan Wooldridge, Kendyi Jenkins, Lindsey Ingram, and Chip the Mascot Savannah Laughlin

GES 4-5 Principals' Breakfast



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 August include (photo top) (front, l to r) Zion McDaniel, Darrious Ray, Thaley Jones, Noelani Steele, Zoe Beane, Lani Mabry, Isabella Ford, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Peyton Herrod, Rylin Crosby, Alivia Mills, Auria Collins, Logan Costilow, Tristan Smith, Lila Makamson, and Assistant Principal John Daves.



(Photo bottom) (front, l to r) Jacob Cossey, Jamarcus Watson, Aliyah Quinn, Gracie Dean, John Hollinsworth, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Justiz Davis, Emma Roberts, Josslyn Johnson, Makala Yankee, Olivia Lashley, Tanner Fowler, and Assistant Principal John Daves

Calendar Sponsored By						
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The Best Meats In Town!						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October	1 GLAD-DAAIS Preschool LETRS training-GLAD Cafe 7:30am - 4:30pm Band: Drum Major Sectional 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS V/DH Slow Pitch New Hope (Home) 4:30pm Band: Beat the Heat FULL BAND 6:00pm - 8:30pm Jr. Varsity Football-Lafayette-Away 6:00pm	2 Culinary Arts: Jr. Chef Competition at GCTC GCTC-Jr. Chef Competition GLAD-DAAIS Preschool LETRS training-GLAD Cafe 7:30am - 4:30pm GHS Football Freshman & Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Auditorium 3:30pm - 6:30pm Band: Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS V Slow Pitch Cleveland Central - Senior Night (Home) 5:00pm	3 Culinary Arts: Jr. Chef Competition at GCTC GCTC-Jr. Chef Competition GLAD-DAAIS Preschool LETRS training-GLAD Cafe 7:30am - 4:30pm Band: Full Band 3:40pm - 5:15pm	4 7th (5:00pm), 8th (6:00pm) & 9th (7:30pm) Grade Football-West Point-Away Culinary Arts: Jr. Chef Competition at GCTC GCTC-Jr. Chef Competition GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice (Christmas) 4:00pm - 8:00pm	5 NIROTC Community Service at football game NIROTC Bennie Thompson Job Fair for Seniors and Juniors in Greenville 9:00am - 4:00pm GHS Football-Olive Branch (Pink Out) (Home) 7:00pm	6 GHS Slow Pitch 1st Round Playoffs NIROTC Steve Palazzo Academy Day in Tupelo, MS
	7	8 Columbus Day 9 Weeks Exams!!! Band: Beat the Heat FULL BAND 6:00pm - 8:30pm Jr. Varsity Football-Oxford-Home 6:00pm	9 9 Weeks Exams!!! GHS Slow Pitch 2nd Round Playoffs GHS-PSAT for 9th grade 3:00pm - 5:00pm GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Auditorium 3:30pm - 6:30pm Band: Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm School Board Meeting-Central Office 6:00pm Visions Practice (Competition) 6:00pm - 8:00pm	10 9 Weeks Exams!!! GHS-PSAT for 10th & 11th grade 3:00pm - 5:00pm Band: Full Band on Practice Field (3:40pm-4:40pm) & Stadium Field (4:40pm-5:10pm) 3:40pm - 5:15pm	11 9 Weeks Exams!!! GHS Slow Pitch 3rd Round Playoffs GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice (Competition) 4:00pm - 8:00pm	12 9 Weeks Exams!!! GHS Football at Lafayette 7:00pm
	14	15 FALL BREAK HOLIDAY!!! GHS Football Freshman & Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 3:30pm - 5:30pm	16 GHS Slow Pitch North State Playoffs GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Band: Full Band 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Practice (Christmas) 4:00pm - 8:00pm	17 GLAD Cafe-MIBEST Week 8:00am - 6:00pm Band: Full Band on Practice Field (3:40pm-4:40pm) & Stadium Field (4:40pm-5:10pm) 3:40pm - 5:15pm	18 GLAD Cafe-MIBEST Week 8:00am - 6:00pm GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice (Christmas) 4:00pm - 8:00pm GHS Beauty Review-GHS Auditorium (Cafe-4:30pm) 6:00pm	19 NIROTC Community Service at football game GES 4-5-GES 4-5 Reading Fair-GES 4-5 Gym (Awards 1:30pm) 8:00am - 2:00pm Educators Rising Fall District Conference at Madison Career & Technical Center - Madison, MS (9th -11th Grade) 9:00am - 2:00pm GHS Football Senior Night-West Point (Home) 7:00pm
21	22 Report Cards Issued Entertainers Practice (Competition) 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS Football Freshman & Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 3:30pm - 5:30pm Band: Full Band 3:40pm - 5:15pm	23 GMS: Reading Fair - Setup in GMS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Band Night 7:00pm	24 GMS: Reading Fair (Award Ceremony at 2:30pm) in GMS Gym 7:40am - 3:20pm GCTC-Nissan Tour-Canton MS 8:00am - 3:00pm Band: Full Band on Practice Field (3:40pm-4:40pm) & Stadium Field (4:40pm-5:10pm) 3:40pm - 5:15pm	25 MDE Gifted Monitoring GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice (Christmas) 4:00pm - 8:00pm GMS-OPEN HOUSE-GMS 5:00pm - 6:30pm	26 GES K-3: Reading Fair in GES Gym 8:00am (Awards at 1:30pm) GHS Band-PEP BAND to Football Game GHS Football at Lewisburg 7:00pm	27 ACT Band: Marching Competition - TBA NIROTC Afterglow Festival Community Service NIROTC Grenada Drill Meet on GHS Football Field MAPQSL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm Afterglow Film Festival-GLAD Auditorium (Open Ram) 10:30am - 9:00pm
28	29 GHS Football Freshman & Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 3:30pm - 5:30pm Band: Full Band 3:40pm - 5:15pm	30 Band Night (Rain Date) Entertainers Practice (Competition) 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS: Drama Department Play Practice - GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice (Competition) 6:00pm - 8:00pm	31 Halloween NIROTC Community Service - Halloween Safe Haven at Armory Band: Full Band on Practice Field (3:40pm-4:40pm) & Stadium Field (4:40pm-5:10pm) 3:40pm - 5:15pm			

GHS Slow Pitch Softball



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

(front, l to r) Blake Sides, Bryce Smith, Kate Blankenship, Anna Kuhn, Presley Rice, Hannah Briscoe, Aikema Spencer, Lauren Dungan, Shelby Boyett, Makenzie Jones, Rylee Murphree, Assistant Coach Josh Angle, (back, l to r) Coach Leslie Lancaster, Haley Beckwith, Madilyn Green, Leah Kinard, Jenna Coker, Lainee McKelroy, and Assistant Coach Taylor Norris



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GMS Students of the Month



Sixth grade August Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Ravion Mister, Damareia Pittman, Leah Briscoe, Jace West, (back l to r) Madison Staten, Gabe Lee, Principal Marshall Whittemore, Layla Escobedo and Kardaish-uanna Eskridge.



Seventh grade August Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Jackson Channell, Case Smith, Jackson Staten, Shelbie Woodall, Garriel Cunningham, (back, l to r) Lauren Harges, Malaree Williams, Principal Marshall Whittemore, Deondra Johnson, and Rileigh Brogan.



Eighth grade August Students of the Month are (front, l to r) Devon Shack, Sarena Hickingbottom, Lazaria Hubbard, Chloe Hash, Jaden Cooper, Anna Dorris, Alyria Roberts, (back, l to r) Carmen Rosenthal, Layton Pressgrove, Jackson Lucius, Principal Marshall Whittemore, Anthony Franklin, Jacorey Cunningham, and Leroy Fox.

GCTC Students Prepare for Certification



GCTC (Grenada Career and Technical Center) Health Science students recently practiced for their CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) certification. Health Science students are given the opportunity to earn the certification as part of the safety unit. (photo top) Haley Shaw and Rykela Lee practice chest compressions. (photo bottom) Memory Brown works with the bag mask.



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GHS College & Career Day



Jenna Coker, Anna Kuhn, and GHS Counselor Chantel Chandler



Anna Gray Neely, The University of Mississippi Assistant Director of Admissions Hope Tulchinsky, and Haley Williams



R'Tisha Golden, Millsaps Admissions Counselor Samesa Hoskin, Carnesha Tillman, and Domnique McClain



Ty'kerra Chambers, Southern Mississippi Office of Admissions Counselor Carl Thomas, Jr., Naomi Wise, and Colton Gray



Christopher Davis, Jordan Simmons, and Holmes Community College Representative Courtney Dees



Elora Clark and Sara Murphy



Mississippi Valley Admissions Counselor Joanne Taiheng, Aikema Spencer, Andrew Whittemore, and Remington Smith

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GSD Student of the Month

Carson Little



2018 GHS Football Seniors



Photo by Lori Chavez

Seniors on the GHS Varsity football team are (back, l to r) Jeremiah Love, Kennedy Norwood, Jalen Stokes, Ja'vunta Woodall, Phillip Cook, Trevor Tims, Trey Hubbard, (middle, l to r) Markus Ivy, Fredarion Eskridge, Malik Jones, Tyriq Rounds, Ja'Marcus McNeal, Chris Hardwick, Devarious Willis, D'Onterris George, (front, l to r) Jamarius Robinson, Christian Willis, Hunter Smith, Dontavious Shipp, Alex Seeden, Jasper Williams, and Samuel Craven.

GSD Benefactor Honored at Opening Meeting



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

GSD Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault (right) presents Bobby Biddy of the district's maintenance department with a plate of glass inscribed "HHB 631st Field Artillery Brigade Commander." The glass hung in the office of Biddy's father, Brigadier General James Harold Biddy, who was instrumental in securing the armory site for the school district. The wood frame and lighting was built by GSD business manager Rodney Murphy.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

One of Grenada School District's own was presented with a family memento and a piece of history at the "Welcome Back" faculty meeting on August 2.

Bobby Biddy, a carpenter with the district's maintenance department, received a framed piece of glass that hung in the office of his father, Brigadier General James Harold Biddy. The glass was salvaged during the renovation of the Grenada National Guard Armory, which was relinquished back to the school after the National Guard finished their use with the building in 2017.

Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault presented the framed glass to Biddy with commendations for his father, who served as a member of the Grenada School District Board of Trustees from 1965 to 1976. "[Gen. Biddy] was relentless and instrumental in making plans for using

this building for educational purposes," Daigneault said. "This was done 50 years ago. What a vision!"

Biddy, a general in the U.S. Army, was a veteran of World II and Korea and served as Assistant Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard.

"The city of Grenada and the Grenada School District should never forget the dedication of Brigadier General James Harold Biddy, who was always looking towards the needs of the city and the education of our children," Daigneault said.

The armory building currently houses the school district's media department and Communicator offices. It also serves as a multi-purpose space for various groups such as NJROTC and cheerleading, as well as the school's spring prom.

Grenada Lions Perform Eye Screening

By Pamela Hubbard
Lions Club member

Grenada School District AmeriCorps members assisted the Grenada Lions Club in their annual vision screening for pre-K students at GES this September. They used the new PlusOptix Digital Camera to screen 116 students and 30 pre-K SPED students. Each student received a Lions Club pencil after their scan.

The mission of the Lions KidSight USA program is to find and correct vision problems in student before the age of six. The cameras not only screen for near- and far- sightedness, they also detects astigmatism, strabismus (eye deviation), anisometropia (unequal refractive power), and anisocoria (unequal pupil size). Lions Club chapters have been screening school children all over the world for decades. The local club will screen students at Grenada Elementary 4-5 and Grenada Middle School later this year.

GES's pre-K program added four new classes this year. Eight AmeriCorps alumni are working as assistant teachers: Shavonne Bradley, Karesha Bratcher, Sarah Conley, Diamond Lemon, Bethany Montgomery, LaShawn Perryman,



Grenada Lions Mo and Pamela Hubbard were assisted by AmeriCorps member Tesheena Walker with eye screenings at Grenada Elementary.

LaQuita Craig Wiggins and Rashonda Wiggins.

The Grenada School District AmeriCorps program is a federal grant administered through the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) and Volunteer Mississippi the State Commission in Jackson. The members serve as tutors in K-8 and participate in other community services.

The program has been very important and successful for the school district and begins its 11th year this fall.

GSD Adult Night Classes

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

Grenada Career & Technical Center, 2035 Jackson Avenue, Grenada, MS

Every Tuesday - September 25 thru October 30, 2018 (for 6 weeks) 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Classes Available

Pod Casting/Music Production/iMovie - \$50.00

Welding - \$75.00

Microsoft Word - \$50.00

Automotive - \$50.00

Financial Literacy - \$50.00

Class size must have at least 5 enrolled to make each class.

Call Grenada Career and Technical Center for questions 226-5969.

2018 GHS Homecoming Court

The 2018 - 2019 Homecoming Court includes (l to r) Freshman Maid Autumn Davis, Senior Maid Kayla Reece, Senior Maid Brianna Shaw, Freshman Maid Harley Henley, Junior Maid Makiya Hughes, Junior Maid Braylee Shaw, Senior Maid Iyonna Harges, Senior Maid Presley Caldwell, Sophomore Maid Cinaya Brown, and Sophomore Maid Allie Holland.



Photo by Stephanie Raper

