Communicator
Information for the Grenada School District Community
September 6, 2022

# Smooth Sailing

**Superintendent's Message**

**Dr. David Daigneault**

After two-and-a-half years living and teaching through the challenges of Covid, I'm happy to report that our principals are finding the start of a new school year to be smooth sailing. Dare I say, things seem to be getting back to normal.

At the Red Top, things are proceeding quite well with an added Pre-K class and a smooth transition to a new reading curriculum. Some enhancements in the building have improved traffic flow, and the children are adjusting well to the new routine and surroundings.

At the Green Top, a new morning news program launched. Students deliver the day's announcements live via video to every classroom in the building. Mrs. Tharpe reported that the program debuted without a hitch and is already wildly popular. (See article on page 4.)

A return to normalcy at the middle school, with few COVID infections or quarantines, makes business as usual seem rather unusual, but you won't hear Mr. Whittemore complaining.

At the Career and Technical Center, Director Barry Rogers was excited about the school's new equipment, including a computer-run plasma cutter in the welding shop. In the automotive shop, a new Hunter front-end alignment machine produces results like students would operate in the finest car garages and repair centers.

Grenada High School was the one school which I thought might be struggling with the new school routine. This year's transition to block schedule was a major shakeup, but I was delighted to hear Mrs. Tindall's report that all was going well — exceedingly well, in fact — with the new schedule.

Instead of the traditional seven class periods per day, the new block schedule narrows the class periods to four with double the meeting time per class. Now students are able to take a full class in one semester.

Mrs. Tindall said numerous students have stopped her to say how much they prefer the new block schedule. It's simpler and less stressful to manage four classes at a time instead of seven.

Teachers report very little complaining from students who must sit through classes that are twice as long as they were last year. "It's because they're more engaged in what they're doing," one teacher told me. "Up until 6th grade they met with teachers for two hours. They've just reverted back to that."

**See "Sailing"**
**Continued on page 8**

# *An Electric New Exhibit at the Kidzeum*

**Austin Dunn, a second grader in Mrs. Ricki Hardin's class at Grenada Elementary's Red Top, learns the properties of static electricity by interacting with the Van de Graaff machine at the Kidzeum. The museum's first exhibit of the new school year teaches students concepts of electricity in a nine-week program that features hands-on activities and experiments.**

***By Jamie Kornegay***
***GSD Reporter***

The Kidzeum at Grenada Elementary PreK-3 powered up a new exhibit this August that incorporates some hair-raising activities and experiments.

The Kidzeum staff, led by Director Melanie Williams, amped up a popular older exhibit, "Shock it to Me," by introducing new components and technology. The unit focuses on current and static electricity and is open to students for the first nine weeks of school.

Students from Pre-K through third grade make two visits to the Kidzeum during each exhibit. The first visit this semester focuses on static electricity and how it's created when electrons rub together and jump from one object to another.

Among the kids' favorite activities is a trick that demonstrates how static electricity works. The experiment uses salt, pepper, a plate, and a balloon. "They all think I'm a little magical when I show them," Williams said. "But of course, we know it's just science."

Students also love placing their hands on the metal globe of the Van de Graaff machine. The machine produces a static charge, which causes hair strands to repel each other and stand up from their heads.

In the center of the museum, students enter an enclosed storm room, where flashing clouds overhead set the mood for a lesson on Benjamin Franklin and his experiments with lightning.

"We're not only learning about science," said Williams, "we're talking about cause and effect, which helps us with our reading standards. And it's also helping us with problem-solving."

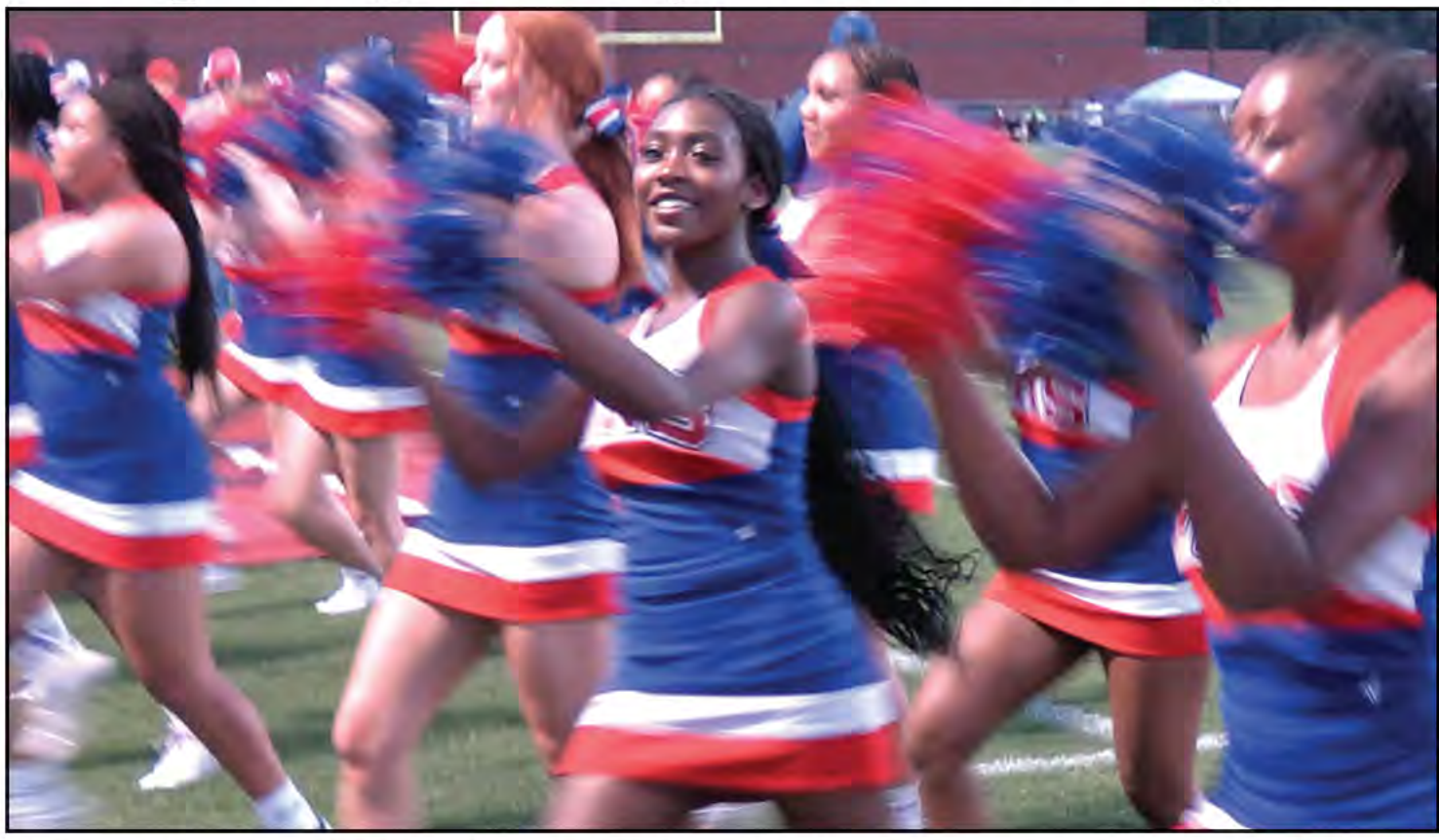
Later in September, students will return to the Kidzeum for their second visit, which explores how electricity works in the home. "Every time you turn on a light switch, we'll talk about why and how that works," Williams said. "They'll learn why it's important that we don't touch power lines and things like that. Also, we're going to learn about circuits and currents."

In the Kidzeum kitchen, students will participate in food-related experiments. They're sure to be amazed when they light a bulb using a lemon and run a clock with a potato.

During the last part of the visit, students will learn about renewable energy. Third graders will have the opportunity to participate in an essay contest on the topic. The prize for the best essay is $50 with cash prizes for second and third place offered too.

The electricity exhibit runs into October, and then the Kidzeum staff — including Tanganetta Moore, Brittany Carpenter and Claudette Avery — will build its popular holiday-theme attraction. The new exhibit, along with this season's featured country, will be revealed later this fall.

# Opening Victory for the Chargers



**GHS cheerleader Trinity Davis (center) cheers at the first football game of the season on Aug. 26 at Horn Lake. The squad rallied the Chargers to a decisive victory over the Eagles, 27-0.**

# Menthol Cigarettes:
# More Addicting than Regular Cigarettes

Fifty-year old Rankin County resident Cissy Jones smoked menthol cigarettes for over 20 years. "I started when I was 16. I was young, dumb, and those menthol cigarettes just tasted better."

Tobacco companies add menthol to cigarettes so that they feel less harsh, which makes them more appealing to young people. The attractiveness of menthol is compounded by the fact it is more addictive. Currently, menthol is the only allowable cigarette flavoring under federal law.

Tobacco companies continue to market menthol cigarettes in poor and under-served communities. Mississippi has the fifth highest rate of smoking in the nation, and the majority of menthol smokers in the state are Black.

The chemicals found in menthol interacts in the brain to enhance nicotine's addictive effects, making it harder to quit. Black Mississippians who smoke menthol cigarettes are more likely to experience health consequences, such as heart attack, stroke and lung cancer due to pre-existing health disparities as shown in the data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While tobacco use has dropped off over the last 20 years, use of menthol cigarettes within groups of smokers has continued to increase, according to the CDC.

"I only quit seven or eight years ago," said Cissy. "Had they taken menthol off the market, I would have quit a lot sooner. I just couldn't smoke those regular ones. And it's too easy, my drug was on every corner."

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) offers free options for those who are ready to quit. Our "Ready. Set. Quit" program has a hotline you can call. 1-800-QUIT-NOW. "We are real people who are ready to help!" said Sue Mashburne, Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties.

Cissy is glad she quit. "I can breathe now, and I don't stink. I've got freedom from the addition," she said.

For more information visit healthyms.com/tobacco. For help with quitting, visit quitlinems.com, or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

## GHS 2022 Volleyball Schedule

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8/9 | Eupora | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/11 | Pillow Academy | Home | 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/15 | Starkville | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/16 | Oxford | Away | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/18 | Horn Lake | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/23 | Tupelo | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/25 | Winona | Home | 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 |
| 8/27 | Tournament Winona | Away | TBA |
| 8/30 | Eupora | Away | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/1 | McEvans | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/6 | East Webster | Away | 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/8 | Tupelo | Away | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/13 | Oxford | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/15 | Horn Lake | Away | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/20 | McEvans | Home | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/22 | Starkville | Away | 5:00, 6:00 |
| 9/27 | Winona | Away | 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 |
| 10/3 | East Webster | Home | 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 |
| 10/6 | Pillow Academy | Away | 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 |

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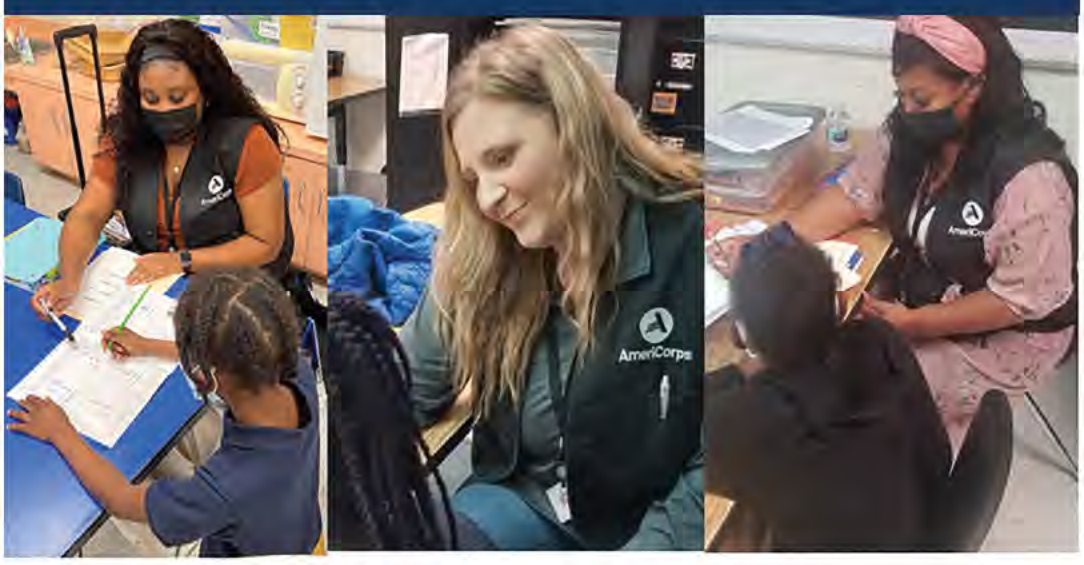

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 18+ |
| Eligibility | No prior experience necessary |
| Duration | 12 months |
| Location | Grenada School District |
| Living Allowance | $1,375.16 monthly |
| Education Award | $6,495 |
| Free Health Insurance | Medical ♦ Dental ♦ Vision |

253 South Main, Grenada, MS | (662) 226-1606 | gwoodson@grenadak12.com
Apply at my.AmeriCorps.gov

## GHS CHARGER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| August 19 - 20 | Jamboree | TBD |
| August 26 | Horn Lake | Away |
| September 2 | Pontotoc | Home |
| September 9 | Hernando | Home (Homecoming) |
| September 16 | Desoto Central | Away |
| September 23 | Tupelo * | Home (Wounded Warrior) |
| September 30 | Madison Central * | Home (Pink Out) |
| October 7 | Murrah * | Away |
| October 14 | Germantown * | Away |
| October 21 | Clinton * | Away |
| October 28 | Oxford * | Home (Senior Night) |
| November 4 | Starkville * | Away |

* Region 2 -6a Games

Grenada School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, veteran status, or other characteristics protected by law in any of its policies, practices, procedures or program operation. Grenada School District is an equal opportunity employer. For inquiries regarding this policy on discrimination contact: Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Tina Herrington; ADA/504 Coordinator, Dr. Lyle Williams; Grenada School District, 253 S. Main, Grenada, MS 38901; 662-226-1606

# GSD Alumni Spotlight

# Jesus Martinez — Class of 2009

***By Jamie Kornegay***
***GSD Reporter***

Jesus Martinez (GHS Class of 2009) arrived in the United States from Mexico two days prior to the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001. Back then, he knew little to no English, but the powerful images on the TV news made an indelible impression. The date has always served as a touchstone for Jesus, who has shown his own resilience in the face of adversity.

Today, as a part of his family's prominent Mexican restaurant chain in north Mississippi, No Way Jose, Jesus has made a name for himself in Grenada and beyond.

Jesus credits his brother, Pablo — "the man, the myth, the legend … No Way Jose himself!" — for bringing him and his brothers to Grenada and serving as a father figure. Before No Way Jose, Pablo established himself locally at La Cabana restaurant and believed there were opportunities for the Martinez boys in Grenada.

After a stint with an uncle in Chicago, Jesus remembers coming to Grenada in the middle of the school year with his three brothers. (Jesus is the youngest of four.) "We were some of the first Hispanics in the school system," he says. "We were pioneers. I'll always remember my 6th grade teachers — Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Trammel."

Jesus admits it was a struggle growing acclimated to the language and culture. The brothers began learning the language by studying the Spanish/English dictionary, but they were still held back in middle school. Instead of seeing it as a failure, the extra year helped them become stronger in their studies.

Jesus enjoyed being able to read books, starting with Dr. Seuss and the Berenstain Bears and then moving on to Nancy Drew and other chapter books to earn AR points. "I really got into literature," he says. "Even now I read books at home. For me, it was more than a grade. I was learning the language and the right way to speak."

Last December, when Jesus volunteered to read to students at Grenada Elementary 4-5's Home for the Holidays literacy event, he explained to students how much reading meant to him. His love of learning and books had a major impact on his life. Teachers and parents said it was an inspirational moment, one of the highlights of the evening.

As Jesus and his brothers became more fluent English speakers, they found their niche in sports. "The coaches were astonished with our soccer abilities," Jesus recalls. "But we'd never played soccer until we moved here."

One of the most pivotal events in Jesus' life happened while he was participating in youth-league soccer. On the way to a tournament in Mathiston, he was involved in a serious car wreck. He was sent to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, where he spent a month and a half in a coma.

The accident didn't end his soccer career, though he was no longer an agile player on the field. Ben Stewart, his best friend and teammate, said, "It broke his spirit when he had his wreck, knowing he wouldn't be able to play competitively. But he never gave up, never got discouraged."

What he lost athletically, he more than made up for mentally, and so his coach, Michael Curry, kept him on the team as a symbol of perseverance. He also served as team manager and occasionally, at the end of a game, Curry would put him in to play. One memorable night, Jesus scored the game-winning goal. "That was like the state championship to me," he said.

Stewart encouraged Jesus to join him at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. Jesus enrolled and earned the manager position on the soccer team. He also studied hotel and restaurant management. The degree seemed like a good option since his brother Pablo had recently opened No Way Jose in Grenada. Jesus attended school and came home on the weekends to work at the restaurant. As the family continued to grow the business, the youngest son's responsibilities grew as well.

Until recently, Jesus was a fixture at the local No Way Jose. This summer, he had the opportunity to follow his dream of opening his own branch of the family restaurant in Greenville, Mississippi, where he lives today.

"It may sound cliche — rags to riches — but it's the American Dream," Jesus says. "You work hard, you'll get it."

KEEP TEACHING
KEEP LEARN
Ole Miss | Grena
Classes offered on campus and onli
Programs include:
M.Ed. in Elementary Education Curriculum & Ins
M.Ed. and Ed.S. in Educational Leadership (K-12 Administration)
M.A. in Teaching
M.A. and Ed.D. in Higher Education
M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education
Ed.S. in Counselor Education
Half-tuition scholarships available for graduate students who attend on campus at the Grenada Center.
1060 Avent Drive in Grenada, on the Holmes CC-Grenada Center ca
For more information, contact Associate Director Jessica Coker-
phone at (662) 227-2348 or by e-mail at jlcoker3@olemiss.edu
OUTREACH.OLEMISS.EDU/COMMUNICATOR

# TGT News Goes Live at GES 4-5

**(L to r) Fifth graders Triston Conley, Corbin McKay, Mary Kate Prescott and Catelyn Nearthery are among the rotating cast of news anchors for TGT News, a morning news show produced at Grenada Elementary 4-5. The program, which is streamed live first thing each morning to classrooms at the Green Top, delivers the day's announcements in an engaging, creative way.**

*By Jamie Kornegay*
*GSD Reporter*

Students at GES 4-5 no longer have to sit and listen to morning announcements over the intercom. This year teachers turn on their classroom smart TVs and log in to TGT News, a daily video program featuring fourth- and fifth-grade students delivering the day's news, weather, and various surprises.

Based on a traditional morning news program, TGT News — TGT stands for "The Green Top" — premiered in August, and the show has already become must-see TV at the Green Top.

Principal Carol Tharpe said, "Students would much rather see their peers deliver the morning announcements than listen to us. It gives our students a chance to show out a bit, and we get to see their personalities."

For years, Tharpe has wanted to produce a live morning show for students, but the expense was always too great. "Now, with smart TVs in every room and all the technology we have, it was easy to do," she said.

School counselor Carie Housel produces the show with help from students. She said incoming fourth and fifth graders were contacted over the summer and invited to audition as hosts. She and Assistant Principal Kasey Lott received more than two dozen video submissions from students who wished to be considered for news anchors, weather persons, and roving reporters.

Housel said they saw so much talent they decided to rotate reporters every two weeks to give everyone a chance to show their newscasting skills. "After the first week," she said, "we started receiving messages from parents. When is the next audition? My kid is dying to be on the show!'"

The show packs a lot of information — and entertainment — into its short running time, anywhere from five to ten minutes each morning. Housel said students and staff look forward to seeing the regular daily features.

Magical Mondays generally feature a science experiment from Mr. Devon Tipton, the Discovery Lab director, who always provides entertaining segments. "The students live for when Mr. Tipton shows up," Housel said. "Especially when he pops up at a surprise location in the building."

Tuesdays and Wednesdays are when Capture the Flag winners are revealed for ELA and math classes. On Thursdays, a health tip is delivered by a special guest, anyone from the school nurse to the PE coach to a cafeteria worker.

The announcement of the Class of the Week is delivered on Friday's show. This great honor is voted on by the adults in the building and awarded to the class that demonstrates the best character traits during the week.

In addition to important announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance, TGT News also features a word of the day segment and a weather report.

Housel said the show has gone remarkably smooth, considering they've never done a news program at the Green Top. She looks forward to giving other students a chance to participate and watching the show evolve over the coming weeks.

For now, TGT News is streamed live in the classroom via the GoogleMeets feature. Log in and check out a sample on the GES 4-5's new website, greentop.grenadak12.com

# The New Sites of GSD

*Special Report from the GSD Communications Department*

If you've referred to the Grenada School District website — grenadak12.com — in recent weeks, you've probably noticed some big changes.

To keep up with the growing school district, our department expanded the website to include new sites for each of the district's five main schools — Grenada Elementary PreK-3, Grenada Elementary 4-5, Grenada Middle School, Grenada High School, and Grenada Career and Technical School.

**District Site (grenadak12.com)**

The main landing page for the district serves as a hub for all information related to Grenada School District. If you can't find the information you're looking for here, there should be a link that leads you to it. Our administrative staff directory, district policies, menus, events, and spotlight programs for all the schools in the district are featured here. There is also information and contacts for our school board and various departments, including Campus Police, Special Education, and the Grenada Enrichment and Transition Center.

**See "Sites" Continued on page 6**

# Grenada Band Shows 'Heart' This Fall

**Marching band co-director Chris Sumrall inspects field positions as Grenada Band members practice field drill for their 2022 halftime show, "If I Only Had a Heart." The elaborate show imagines what happens to characters from The Wizard of Oz after the events of the classic film.**

***By Jamie Kornegay***
***GSD Reporter***

Chris Sumrall and Kim Presley, co-directors of the Grenada High School Marching Band's 2022 halftime show, say their goal is to have "a normal season" this year, which is anything but normal to the 212 students who make up the award-winning band.

After years of limitations from quarantines and Covid measures, the band returns to form with an elaborate, imaginative show based on the classic tale *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

"If I Only Had a Heart" imagines what takes place in Oz after the Wicked Witch's demise and Dorothy has gone back to Kansas.

Presley hopes they've created something memorable for both the audience and the students.

"Coming off of Covid and *Alchemy* last year, we realized that one of our strengths as a band program is our storytelling," Presley said. "And we haven't really had the opportunity to do that since the seniors were freshmen because of the pandemic and because of the nature of our concept last year. We were committed to finding something they would buy into and something our audience would identify with as well."

In this new imagining of the classic book and film, Scarecrow, with his newly acquired brain, has been crowned the leader of Oz. The show's introductory movement is a festive portrayal of the new leader's ascendance to power, though things quickly go awry.

In the second movement, Scarecrow is corrupted by his newfound power and becomes a tyrannical leader. Presley said, "Color quickly drains out of the stage space. The horn line becomes a little more down-trodden. The music takes a minor turn instead of a happy, major turn."

The third movement presents an intriguing medley of two well-known songs — the more somber, Sara Bareilles arrangement of Elton John's "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and "If I Only Had a Brain" from the film The Wizard of Oz.

By now the Tin Man character, who has retreated to the woods, has heard that all is not well in Oz and returns to share his new heart with Scarecrow. "The message being that compassion and humanity is also required of a really strong, intelligent leader," Presley said. "At that point all the color and happiness, the major key comes back with a big triumphant, pretty familiar Grenada Band ending to complete the program."

The directors said the Oz theme will be evident when audiences see the set pieces. A yellow brick road will be unfurled right on the field, winding from the front percussion ensemble to an Emerald City set with three spired towers. The city set provides not only an arresting visual but a functional piece for costume changes.

The color guard and drum majors — Mary Clayton Logan, Abigail Presley, and Jane Wicker — will depict the Scarecrow character. Their costumes reflect the traditional Wizard of Oz Scarecrow with a more modern, edgy flair. Presley said the costumes feature a removable patch that reveals a heart at the appropriate time. Half of the color guard members' costumes will have a metallic overlay that reflects the Tin Man character. By the end of the production, all members of the band will depict a great transformation through costume as well.

With the exception of the ballad medley, Sumrall said the music in this year's show contains all original compositions by Matt Hightower, who has written for the band the last four seasons. The percussion book was written by Josh Powell, and the drill design is by Matt James, who has also written multiple shows for Grenada.

Each spring, the directors brainstorm ideas and share their notes with the various writers, who bring their creations to life. Presley said they have to be careful of copyright issues because the rights to popular songs can cost several hundred dollars each. "When we brought this to our design team, we told them we like the 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road' piece and some of the elements of the original Wizard of Oz. They came back and were so excited about what we were proposing, they said, 'Our production company will pay the rights for the originals.'"

On the eve of the season's first football game on Aug. 26, the band offered a sneak peek of the show at the Horn Lake football game. The directors planned to reveal more at the first home game, Sept. 2, and anticipated the full-dress show would be near-ready by homecoming on Sept. 9.

As every year, the Grenada Marching Band plans to take their halftime show on the road in October, competing every weekend at a regional marching festival. The first competition is the MHSAA Regional II Marching Band Evaluation on Oct. 8. The band will host more than 20 bands from around the state here at Charger Stadium.

On Oct. 22, the band will return to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to compete in the Gulf Coast Marching Band Competition. The band loves to compete in the McNeese State University stadium with other top bands from Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

For the remaining weekends in October, the directors are looking at other competitions in the surrounding states.

The Grenada Marching Band invites everyone out to see them perform "If I Only Had a Heart" at any home football game in Charger Stadium. For more on the band and the show, visit the Grenada Band's webpage, grenadak12.com/programs/band.

**GHS Drum major Mary Clayton Logan**

**GHS Drum major Abigail Presley**

**GHS Drum major Jane Wicker**

# MTFC Elects Officers for 2022

**(Photo right)**

**The Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties (MTFC) recently held its first meeting of the year. Officers were elected and activities for the upcoming year were discussed. Newly elected officers are, (l to r) Crystal Osborne, Secretary; Cassandra Tittle, Co-Chairman; Katherine (Nikki) Hayward, Chairman; Sue Mashburne, Director.**

# GCTC Community Partnership

**(Photo left)**
**Carpentry Students in Lamar Pitcock's class at Grenada Career and Technical Center help notch boards for lap siding to be installed on the front of a new outdoor shop in town, Back Forty Outdoors. Pitcock (center) works with students Kaid White (left) and Eddie Knox (right) to cut grooves into each board.**

***By Jamie Kornegay***
***GSD Reporter***

Local businessman Mike Campbell brought some work to the students of Lamar Pitcock's carpentry classes at Grenada Career and Technical Center.

Campbell, who plans to open an outdoor shop in Grenada, said he knew Pitcock liked to present his students with real-life work projects. "I just wanted to support the kids and give them the chance to learn a few new things."

Campbell had purchased cypress boards, which he delivered to the carpentry shop. The project was to create lap siding to be installed on the front of the new store, a "one-stop shop for all outdoorsmen and women."

Pitcock demonstrated how to use a dado blade on the shop table saw to cut a groove for a rabbet joint. The specialized joint, often found in cabinetry construction, will give the lapped boards a visual appeal when they are installed on the building.

For some first-year students, the lap siding project was their first chance to get into the carpentry shop and work with real tools. "It showed them what to expect working in the shop, a little dusty and sweaty," he said. "You can tell right away the ones with a real knack for the work."

Pitcock said the job took about three days and multiple classes to complete. His students enjoyed the experience and learned a new skill.

Campbell, whose store, Back Forty Outdoors, is set to open later this fall on Hwy. 7 West, plans to make a donation to the class for their efforts.

Pitcock said the students may not realize it yet, but the lasting payment will come from seeing their work on display in the community.

"When that wood is put up on the front of that building, it'll be there a long time," he said. "They can always say, 'I helped build that.'"

# "Website"

**Continued from Page 4**

Under the photo slide show at the top of the page is a row of icons that will direct you to the individual schools, as well as our Pre-K program. On every page of our vast site, you can always find links back to the district page, or to the individual school sites, in the upper right corner.

The five school sites have much in common. The landing page for each site features a photo slide show of students and teachers from the corresponding school. Beside the school name at the top, you'll find links to school calendars, cafeteria menus, a staff directory, a "How Do I…?" button that answers frequently asked questions, a list of quick links, and a search button in case you can't find what you're looking for in the drop-down menus.

The menu across the top of the page is similar on each site. Under "About Us," you can find pertinent information about each school. There are "Academics" and "Extracurricular" tabs to direct you to the various programs at each school. The "Families" tab contains links that parents and guardians may find useful to help their students, including ActiveParent, bus schedules, school guidelines, and information on school counseling.

The "Students" tab quickly connects students to useful resources such as Clever, the student dress code, handbook, and bell schedule. "Teachers" is where staff can go for information on educator licensure and supplementary education as well as staff handbooks. Families and students may access the staff directory to contact teachers.

Finally, the "News" tab is where we will house issues of the Communicator as well as our growing library of videos that showcase the district schools and varied programs. Click on "Watch" under the news tab to access football games and other livestream events.

A quick look at the individual schoolsites:

**Grenada Elementary School PreK-3 (redtop.grenadak12.com)**

Here you'll find news and programs specific to the Red Top. Take a virtual tour of the school on the front page. Dive in and find articles and videos about the Pre-K program, the Kidzeum, music performances, and the after school 21st Century program.

**Grenada Elementary School 4-5 (greentop.grenadak12.com)**

Take a video tour of the school and learn about the school's robust academic and extracurricular offerings. Watch an episode of the morning news program, hear a sample of the Pizzazz show choir, and read about the award-winning Discovery Lab.

**Grenada Middle School (gms.grenadak12.com)**

Principal Marshall Whittemore leads a video tour of the school, including its many extracurricular activities. Learn about the sports, band, and show choir programs as well as its active counseling department.

**Grenada High School (ghs.grenadak12.com)**

The high school's page offers extensive pages for athletics, NJROTC, band, and Project Lead the Way.

**Grenada Career and Technical School (gctc.grenadak12.com)**

Visitors will find descriptions of the various programs, as well as a video tour of the school with Director Barry Rogers.

"We hope the new website can help students and teachers, as well as the public, navigate the many programs and features of our school district," said Communications Director Robbie Buchanan.

The new website is an ever-growing, living document that chronicles our district, so check back often to see news, videos, photos, events and information about new programs and classes.

The Communication staff welcomes your feedback. If you can't find what you're looking for or would like to know more about a particular aspect of the district, email us at gsdcommunications-dept@gmail.com

# *Twice the Cheer with New Charger Mascot*

**GHS Varsity Cheer (back) mascot Ciara Samuels mascot, Naima Reed, Laila Pryor, Kaiya Exson, Tristin Wilson, Kimaria Reed, Faith Arbuckle, Sarah Trotter, Caitlyn Avery, mascot Breanna Elliot, (middle) Trinity Davis, Caille Rushing, Maddie Ingram, Jilli Dykes, Jayla Beecham, Mackenzie Porter, Markiya McNeal, Vivian King, (front) Kayla Robinson, Shelbie Woodall, assistant head captain Nadia Reed, head captain Kiersten Zinn, co captain Zyamarieiona Hammond, and Leah Briscoe**

**Chip (right) and newcomer Chipette (left) at summer cheer camp.**

***By Jamie Kornegay***
***GSD Reporter***

You may be seeing double at this year's GHS Chargers football game. This season marks the addition of a new mascot to the Charger cheer squad — a female version of the sideline favorite, Charger Chip.

"We had two girls as mascots this year, and when we went to camp we decided that it would be cute to put one Chip in a cheer uniform," said cheer coach Tammy Wilson. "Then we talked about a name to call her. We decided on Chipette."

Senior Ciara Samuels is the lucky squad member who gets to don the new Chipette costume and invent the mascot's personality.

"She's sassy," said Ciara. "She likes crowd interaction, and she likes to show her tail and sway."

Ciara served last year as Chip. She enjoys the role as mascot but says running around and rousing the crowd is no simple task in the bulky costume. "It gets hot in there," she said. "In the summer, it's like a tanning bed. But in the winter, it's the best thing ever."

Ciara suffered a leg injury over the summer, which may delay Chipette's debut until homecoming.

The new mascot will alternate quarters with Charger Chip, portrayed this year by senior Breanna Elliot. This is Breanna's first year to suit up as Chip. "I went to camp with the girls this summer and had a lot of fun, training, practicing slides and flips and stuff," she said.

The cheer squad captured several awards at this summer's cheer camp at Mississippi State University, including Breanna and Ciara winning the Mascot Leadership Award. The GHS cheerleaders earned the most spirited squad honors as well as second-place camp routines and third in game day.

In addition, several GHS squad members were named All-American Cheerleaders: Zyamarieiona Hammond, Kayla Robinson, Ja'Kaiya Exson, Vivian King, Maddie Ingram, and Kiersten Zinn. All-American members are invited to participate in special events throughout the country.

Chip and Chipette will certainly turn out for this season's pep rallies for homecoming (Sept. 9), Wounded Warrior (Sept. 23), Pink Out (Sept. 30), and Senior Night (Oct. 28). They'll also be visiting the elementary schools, selling ribbons and temporary tattoos as well as dancing and taking pictures with students on homecoming day. Later, they'll join kids in K-5 during Pink Out Week, which culminates with a large-group cheer exhibition during the first quarter of the game.

Tryouts for next year's squad — including mascots — will be held in early December.

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# GHS 2022 Homecoming Court

**(Photo left)**
**Junior Maid - Jayla Myers, Freshmen Maids - TyLecia Lemon and Peyton Herrod, Sophomore Maids - Naima Reed, and Trinity Davis, Junior Maid - Kimaria Reed, Senior Maids - Kayla Robinson, Kiersten Zinn, Da'Jnea Antoine, and Niterryka Burns**

# *Grenada Middle School Volleyball Team*

*Photo by Jamie Kornegay*

**The first ever Grenada Middle School Volleyball team includes members (front row, l to r) Aubrey Edwards, Jensey Blount, Kirsten Brown, Kaylee Barnes, (back row, l to r) Mary Grace Kilnck, Nickeylah Jackson, Alanna Hankins, and (not pictured) Emma Pitcock. The girls are coached by Colin Ray and Matthew Gardner.**

*By Jamie Kornegay*
*GSD Reporter*

The Grenada School District's volleyball program turns three this year, and this season marks the debut of a girls middle school team.

The eight members on the GMS volleyball team are all relatively new to the sport. Grenada hasn't had a youth league team in the sport, which has risen in popularity around the state in recent years.

Colin Ray, who heads the volleyball program at the middle and high school, said he believes building a viable program in grades 7-8 is critical to fielding a team of experienced players at the high school level. "Right now, they are inexperienced but they're learning, getting better," said Ray. "And the whole goal is to make it pay off in the long run. Just getting them in game situations. I know it will help us."

During seventh period, the middle school girls work with the older JV and varsity players, developing not only their athletic skills but their understanding of the game. "I've always kept middle school girls to practice and work out with us," said Ray. "To prepare them for when they get to high school."

Now the middle school players have uniforms and an eight-game schedule, playing before the junior and varsity teams. Though the team lost their first match to Pillow Academy on August 11, they came away with a win in their second match against Winona. Later in the season, GMS will face both teams again, along with two games against East Webster, both at home and away.

Ray said it's been an uphill battle developing a volleyball program that can compete with other, longer-established programs in Grenada's 6A division, but the girls on his teams are more than ready to meet the challenge. He's watched the junior varsity and varsity teams grow each year. The teams have reached a new level of performance this season, and Ray believes they are poised to get the better of one of their tough district rivals, whether it be Starkville, Oxford or Tupelo.

Several recent matches have been closely fought contests. "Like I told the girls, we're right there," said Ray. "One dig, one serve, and it's the other way around. I think that's going to help them grow and build off that."

For now, Ray said the program is investing in the players of tomorrow. Soon the district's intramural volleyball league will kick off. Players not on the GMS and GHS teams signed up to play locally on teams that scrimmage on Saturday mornings. The experience teaches the ins and outs of the game and develops enthusiasm among the players.

Ray said the program is hosting a volleyball camp for grades 3-6 on Sept. 10. "The game is so new, we're trying to introduce it to these young kids and let them learn a little bit about volleyball," he said. "Because those kids are going to be the high school players one day."

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## "Sailing"

**Continued from page 1**

I spoke to science teachers who enjoyed having more time for lab activities. Teachers can now introduce a concept, let students work hands-on in a lab experiment, and summarize the lesson all in a single day instead of breaking it up into two or three classroom sessions.

The grading and preparation runs much smoother and more efficiently now that teachers have 60 students on their roll instead of 150. As biology teacher Kristy Wilson put it, "Cutting up raw chicken livers for 150 students in a lab — that's a lot!"

Perhaps no group of teachers has been more receptive or creative to the new block schedule as the English teachers at GHS. Their curriculum, which often requires deep dives into long texts, benefits from extended sessions with students.

Many classrooms I saw were set up in stations with both teacher-led and independent study. I spoke with several teachers who told me that students are often more comfortable and engaged in smaller groups. It's easier for some students to ask questions, even to admit they don't understand a concept, if they're with four of their peers instead of 25. When teachers are engaged with students one-on-one, they can often look a student in the eye and know if they understand the lesson.

These teachers spent time in strategy sessions to develop new teaching methods for the longer classes. One strategy, the jigsaw method, calls for students to be divided into groups. Each group learns one aspect of a topic to become "experts," which gives them the opportunity to teach their classmates a piece of the puzzle. Students understand the big picture by collecting all the pieces as well as supplying their own part of the lesson.

Brittany Powell told me these new strategies have given students "the motivation to collaborate, the initiative to become leaders in the classroom, and the desire to advance in their educational journey."

I'm encouraged by what I've seen and heard from educators so early in the new semester. With luck, we'll consider life "back to normal" after this year. And just maybe we'll discover that a few years of hardship has made us better in the end.

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