



Work in Progress

2023 GHS Beauty Review



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

Excitement around Grenada is ramping up as our community continues to grow, both in terms of size and opportunity. The construction of Milwaukee Tool's new manufacturing facility outside of town promises positive change for our city.

And that's not the only construction in progress.

This spring, Grenada School District began construction on new elementary school facilities. The success of our Pre-K program — along with expected enrollment increases when Milwaukee Tool opens next year — prompted the expansion.

Since starting our pre-kindergarten program in 2015, enrollment has grown by leaps and bounds. Grenada's three- and four-year-old students continue to rank among the highest-performing in the state, and word has gotten out about our success. We've been adding classes for new students each year, and we're now up to nine classrooms. That puts a strain on the Red Top's capacity, which is already brimming with students in K-3.

The growth of our Pre-K program compelled us to draft plans and begin work on a new 16,250-square-foot addition. The expansion will include space for 12 new classrooms, a conference area, offices, storage, and restrooms.

The new classrooms will accommodate our third grade classes, which will move up the hill to the Green Top when construction is completed next year. There are several reasons why this shift will be more beneficial to our elementary students.

For starters, moving 300-350 third graders to a different building will free up much needed space at the Red Top. It also balances out the number of elementary students between the two buildings.

The Green Top administration is excited about the opportunity for growth, not only bringing in more students but expanding its close-knit staff as well.

It makes good sense to group third, fourth and fifth grades together, as this is the age when state testing becomes a critical factor in charting student progress. Having all of these children under one roof will improve planning and communication while preparing our students.



Photos by Torrance Studios

Most Handsome Jalon Townes (left)
Most Beautiful Alyssa Evans (right)



(l to r) 5th Alternate - Meredith Meriweather; 4th Alternate - Chloe Gillis; 1st Alternate & Audience Choice - Julez Moore; 3rd Alternate - Rylee Ryals; 2nd Alternate - Haylee Jones



(l to r) Luke Hardin, Tylon Hubbard, Nate Gomiller, Most Handsome- Jalon Townes; Cameron Hosey, & Jadon Reece

Joe Barry Mullins Band Festival

(Photo right) Trombonists Lexi Harris (left) and MarKayla Brooks (right) rehearse with the Grenada Band. Each year, the program hosts the Joe Barry Mullins Band Festival, welcoming junior high and high school bands from north Mississippi. This year's festival includes twenty bands with four different groups from Grenada.



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Twenty bands are scheduled to descend on the Grenada High School campus Thursday, April 6, for the annual Joe Barry Mullins Band Festival. The annual event for school bands has been hosted by Grenada for approximately 40 years.

GHS Band Director Joe Presley said the festival is a great opportunity for middle school bands, as well as second and third high school bands, to compete and receive critical evaluations from "top-notch band directors" who serve as judges at the festival.

Competing bands will perform a concert of selected material, as well as "sight-read" a piece of music they've never rehearsed, on the stage in the GHS auditorium. A panel of four judges will evaluate their performance, offer critiques, and award each band

a score from one to four, with one being the highest.

Four bands from the Grenada program are scheduled to compete — the 7th Grade Symphonic Band, the 8th Grade Symphonic Band, the GHS Concert Band and the GHS Symphonic Band.

"For a lot of the younger kids, this will be their first or second time to compete," said Presley. "They always rise to the occasion, and they'll do wonderfully."

Presley said high school students who are used to competing appreciate the chance to see how their work compares to other bands in the state. "The judge's comments will give us an idea of things we need to work on going forward for next year," Presley said. "It's a little stressful, but it's a lot of fun too."

AmeriCorps Hosts Reading Program



Photo by Pam Hubbard

AmeriCorps members (l to r) Lorella Monger and Doris Brown teamed up with Elizabeth Jones Public Library personnel Jaron Williams (the Grinch) and Javaril Hankins (the Cat in the Hat), as well as retired GSD teacher Allison Ashmore, to give away books at the library's Dr. Seuss event in February.

By Pamela Hubbard
AmeriCorps Assistant Director

When students were out of school on Valentine's Day, AmeriCorps offered a fun reading and craft program. Sixty-seven students and their parents or grandparents attended the reading program that morning at Elizabeth Jones Library. AmeriCorps members read stories about family, love and friendship. Members were Edis Booker, Freddie Watt, Doris Brown, Lorella Monger, Amber Forrest, McKenzie McCalop, Willie Forrest, Aasha Brister, April Lodge, Jessica Hudson, and Shicorea Ross-Kitt. Program Director Phyllis Chism and Assistant Pamela Hubbard led them through the process of making valentine cards for their loved ones.

AmeriCorps members also helped at the Dr. Seuss event at Elizabeth Jones Library on Feb. 27. Students received the book Dr. Seuss' Horse Museum, another book for their grade level, and a treat bag. One hundred and thirty seven students participated.

On July 7, AmeriCorps will present another reading session as part of the Elizabeth Jones Library Summer Reading Program. All of these programs are supported by the Grenada School District AmeriCorp Program, which is funded by a federal grant through Volunteer Mississippi in Jackson and the National AmeriCorps office in Washington, D.C. Dollar General, which has a literacy initiative, also supplied materials used at the programs.

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JV 1st Pitch – Gale Holliday

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***6:00 – Varsity Team Line up**

National Anthem

Varsity 1st Pitch – Dr. Ann Reece

***Post-game: Lantern Release**

Wind and Weather Permitting

“Progress”

Continued from page 1

Third-graders will also get the opportunity to participate in some of the Green Top's top-flight programs, including the Discovery Lab, which gives them an extra year of science background. Moving up also expands extracurricular opportunities such as archery and choir.

The bulk of the new expansion will occur on the south and east end of the Green Top building. The facility's origi-

nal design was conceived with expansion in mind. When construction is completed in 2024, the new addition should appear seamless and flow nicely with the current building.

In the meantime, please excuse our construction as we lay the groundwork for the future at Grenada School District!



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Show Choirs Wrap-Up for the Year



GHS Visions Show Choir members (l to r) Danica Caulder, Presley Williams, and Bowden Biddy perform a selection from the 2023 show, “Something to Believe In.” The choir captured two grand champion trophies during their competition season.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada School District upheld its tradition of show choir excellence this year as all three competition choirs — from elementary to high school — earned first-place honors at various festivals throughout the southeast.

Grenada High School’s Visions show choir took home two Grand Champion titles and a host of other citations with their show “Something to Believe In.”

The production featured seniors Jadon Reece and Nate Gomiller as twin brothers born near midnight — one on Thursday the 12th, the other on Friday the 13th — and explored the ideas of luck and faith. The uplifting story featured dazzling choreography and upbeat popular music with a mix of classic and new material, from Stevie Wonder and Blondie to Rihanna and Panic! At the Disco.

The show’s centerpiece was a stunning rendition of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” which routinely brought audiences to tears and earned senior Darby Renfro a Best Female Soloist award at the Madison Central Deep South Classic.

Director Jenni Winter said the choir premiered their show at Jackson Prep on January 28 but were unsatisfied with

their third place finish. “They came back and said, no, we’ve been working hard, and we’re going to make this better,” Winter said. “And they did.”

Vision clenched the top spot at their next two festivals. At the Jasper Foothills Show Choir Classic in Alabama, the choir won Best Vocals and Best Choreography in addition to the Grand Champion trophy. The following weekend, at the West Jones Invitational in Laurel, Miss., Visions added Best Visuals, Best Show Design, Best Costumes, and Best Performer (Case Smith) to best vocals and Grand Champion honors.

“I’m proud of the work they did because it’s been hard this year without our two main choreographers (Matthew Murphy and Claire Sanford) in town,” Winter said. “But a lot of the kids stepped up and took ownership.”

Winter said that Reece and Gomiller arranged much of the choreography in their solo numbers, and Reece even helped design the costumes. She said the choir’s overall vocals were exceptional this season, and she praised the solo performers, including A.J. Benford, Braley Carnathan, Kenny Everett, Tori Harbin, and Hannah Palazzolo in addition to Reece, Gomiller, and Renfro.

Many Visions choir members volunteered to help choreograph and coach

Entertainers, the competitive show choir at Grenada Middle School. Performers in grades six through eight make up Entertainers, in addition to two other middle school groups, Starz and Ovations.

Entertainers’ show “Road to the Grand Prix” told the story of a small-town race car driver who aspired to earn an invitation to the championship race. The lead character shines when the racing helmet comes off to reveal Aubrey Edwards, who won Best Female Soloist in the middle-school division at the Madison Central Deep South Classic.

The Entertainers’ show featured classic road songs such as “Danger Zone” and “Life is a Highway,” along with new favorites by Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber.

Like Visions, the Entertainers members weren’t thrilled with their first competition performance. “It took a lot of pulling and pushing to get them to practice with the same intensity that you use to perform at competition,” Winter said.

The group earned second place in their division at the next competition, but they still weren’t generating the intensity they wanted. One strategy Winter used was having the students perform in small

groups so that they were accountable to each other.

“The next day, we ran the show and every single person performed the best they ever had,” she said. “And then they did it Saturday at the competition in Brandon and won first place.”

At that competition on March 25, Entertainers also won Best Vocals and Best Choreography. Winter said it was a great way to end their season and should give them strong momentum for next year. Meanwhile, at Grenada Elementary 4-5, the fourth- and fifth-grade show choir Pizzazz built on last year’s successful first competition season with strong performances at three festivals.

The choir kicked off their season at Jackson Prep, where they finished first in the elementary division and received the Audience Choice Award. Waylon Elliott also won the elementary solo competition. The group competed next at Jackson Academy, where they beat out middle school choirs to win top honors in the tier III middle school division.

“See Choir”
Continued on page 8



Members of Grenada Middle School’s Entertainers show choir include (l to r) Logan Grace Bridges, Maddie Lipe, Tylann Stewart, Devin Lawson, Helen Liberto, Londynn Jones, and Lily Beth Williams.



Fourth- and fifth-grade members of this year’s Pizzazz Show Choir include (front, l to r) Adley Franklin, Anna Austin, Carsyn Chandler, Lilly Belle Leggett, Libbie Grace Anthony, Randi Rae Moak, Jersi Greer, Catelyn Neathery, (back, l to r) Gabe Day, Kaleigh Reed, Kasen Surrell, Jordin Knox, Rebecca Howell, Jonah Clark, Audrey Claire Toth, Rileigh Stewart, Waylon Elliott, Mabry Anderson, Addisyn Adams, Corbin McKay, Hadley Douglas, and Josiah McGhee.

GES 4-5 Hosts Math Mystery Night



(Photo left) Grenada Elementary 4-5 students Brooks Ray (left) and Aarav Kerr (right) solve math problems to win clues that may tell them which of eight guests knows the whereabouts of their missing principal, Mrs. Tharpe. They, along with 60 of their fellow students, attended Mystery at the Mansion, a math-themed event to sharpen their math skills and bring community members together at the Green Top school.

headed by math teachers Erica Conley and Lindsey Leggett.

Conley said she got the idea for a Clue-theme math night from the games she plays with students in her classroom. She collaborated with Lindsey Leggett to create a narrative for the evening and to round up volunteers who portrayed the various characters.

Leggett rounded up community members to play the roles, including Elizabeth Jones Library Director Crystal Osborn, Rev. Daniel Herring of Grenada First United Methodist Church, Matt Howell of All-In Fitness, local attorney Sabrina Howell, and Kim Hawkins of Universal Fitness.

“They each had a role to play throughout the night, and they did it fantastic,” Leggett said. “They really made the night fun and exciting for the kids.”

“One of our biggest goals was to make sure that parents are connected, students are engaged, and to make them understand that you can have fun doing math,” Leggett added. “You can really have fun while you’re learning.”

The Green Top’s next family event will be a science night on May 2.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada Elementary School 4-5 enlisted the help of students, parents and community members to solve a “Mystery at the Mansion” on Thursday, February 16.

Administrators and teachers used theatrical performance, brain-building exercises, and a narrative educational experience to strengthen math engagement at this family event based on the board game Clue.

Parents and students arrived at the school early in the evening and congregated in the gymnasium, where Principal Carol Tharpe had called an assembly. She introduced a panel of her fictitious friends, played by community members and based on characters from the board game. After the curtain closed, the lights went dim and a noisy disturbance created confusion. When the curtain rose again, Mrs. Tharpe was missing.

Students were invited to join a group of detectives — played by fourth- and fifth-grade teachers — to gather clues and determine who among Mrs. Tharpe’s special guests was responsible for her disappearance.

Groups adjourned from the gymnasium and made their way down the school hallways, which were decorated with antique furniture and low lighting to mimic an eerie mansion. They were assigned specific classrooms made up to resemble one of the rooms from the game, including the Billiard Room, the Library, and the Ballroom.

Students worked in groups and with their parents to solve math problems. Correct answers earned clues before everyone moved to the next room to continue their investigation. The suspect characters turned up periodically to plead their innocence or to throw suspicion on someone else.

“We’re trying to teach students to use not just math but deductive reasoning, problem-solving, and higher-order thinking,” said Lisa Jordan, a math specialist at GES 4-5 who participated in the event.

In addition to finding novel ways to teach math concepts, the goal was to increase family involvement. “We hope it will bring a sigh of relief to parents when they see their kids so engaged in math problems,” Jordan said.

The night culminated in the gym with the safe return of Principal Tharpe,

who identified the culprit and awarded students a gift bag, including their own Clue board game.

Tharpe said GES 4-5 has adopted learning games and indelible experiences as a key educational strategy. “Research has shown that classroom games and creative play goes a long way toward

helping students retain knowledge and build fluency,” Tharpe said. “We’re big believers in this type of learning at the Green Top, and we’ve made our themed night events a regular part of the school year.”

Tharpe commended her teachers for organizing the event, which was spear-

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LaTiffany Reed, GHS Career Coach



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

There are a thousand students at Grenada High School. That's a thousand young people with a thousand different paths, and guiding each one toward his or her proper path is no simple task.

LaTiffany Reed embraces the challenge in her role as the school's new career coach. A long time employee of the district, Reed joined GHS in October in a position funded by the state-sponsored workforce development organization Ac-

celerate Mississippi.

As a career coach, Reed meets one-on-one with students to discover their interests and aspirations for life after high school. Whether it be college or straight to the workforce, she guides students toward the industry that best suits their passion and trains them to become valuable employees.

Reed has built connections with the City of Grenada, the Chamber of Commerce, and the county's workforce development office, making it possible for her to gain an audience with the movers and shakers in business and manufacturing. Recently, she organized a meeting for GHS seniors to meet with a Milwaukee Tool representative to learn more about local job opportunities, what the company

produces and how the operation is run. She has also arranged with local leaders in law, real estate and health care to provide students with paid internships.

Principal Emily Tindall said Reed's addition at the high school is a major asset to the school.

"All of this was Mrs. Reed and her intrinsic motivation to come in, figure out how our school works, find the needs, and start working to help us fill those needs," Tindall said. "She has met and had conversations with hundreds of

students, a lot (of them) multiple times because what she does helps."

Reed said her unique position between industry and education presents the opportunity to develop students' soft skills — the non-technical aspects of the job that pave the way for success.

"What I tell my students is exactly what the business and industry tells us," Reed said. "We can teach you robotics, we can teach you law. What we cannot teach you is to show up on time, to make sure that you're accountable. It's not enough to get the job, you have to keep the job. And you have to become a valuable employee for the job, whatever the career path you choose."

Recently, Accelerate Mississippi visited GHS to produce a video on Reed and the program she has built in a short time. "One of the reasons we were spotlighted is the inclusivity at the school district," Reed said.

She credits the administrators and counselors at GHS with giving her access to students and including her in the decision-making process. "Knowing that I'm with a school district that absolutely puts the well-being of the student first, that's what I think has made career coaching a success here," Reed said.

Accelerate Mississippi's film crew shined a spotlight on two students who classify as success stories for the program.

The first is GHS senior Emory Ross, a dual-credit student who attends classes at

Holmes Community College while completing her work at GHS. Being a first-generation high school graduate, Ross didn't have anyone in her family to advise her on how to get scholarships, how to apply, or where to begin. "I wanted to go to college, but I didn't know what I wanted to do," Ross said. "I'd never admitted that, and it was hard."

Forming a relationship with Reed made all the difference, Ross said. During their conversations, Ross revealed two places she could see herself working — a nail salon and a law office.

Ross wasn't sure which direction to lean in, so Reed used her connections to line up opportunities to speak to business owners at a nail salon as well as an internship with a local law firm.

Visiting an actual law office was eye-opening for Ross. "You can see things like that on TV or social media, but it's different being there in person and seeing people who work there, the routines they have," she said. "It made me certain that's what I wanted to do."

Reed helped Ross focus her college plans and apply for scholarships. Ross's tuition will be covered this fall when she attends the University of Southern Mississippi to study criminal justice.

"See Career"
Continued on page 8

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Kidzeum Traditions Round out the Year



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Aaron Adams, a third grader at Grenada Elementary's Red Top, uses the magic of science to reach through a bubble to shake hands with classmate Chad Harris. Both members of Lakela Lancaster's third-grade class learned about bubbles in the Kidzeum's final exhibit of the spring semester.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

As the school year draws to a close, the Kidzeum at Grenada Elementary PreK-3 is bringing back some favorite traditions for students.

The Red Top's in-school museum recently wrapped up its annual escape room challenge for third graders. The staff modeled the escape room on a town that featured a park, a library, a bakery and a campsite. Students were divided

into teams of five to eight and solved different puzzles in each room. They had 35 minutes to escape, and the team in each class that finished the quickest won an ice cream party.

"The kids loved it," said Melanie Williams, the Kidzeum's director. "They work math problems and complete reading standards to finish the rooms. They get to dress up like different characters, and we've hidden locks to help them escape. Some of the kids get super excited because they're hidden in places you

wouldn't imagine."

One group from Ms. Walton's class finished the fastest out of the entire grade — escaping in under thirty minutes — and they received a special delivered lunch.

After the escape room, all classes have started to visit the Kidzeum for the last exhibit of the semester, "Bodacious Bubbles."

"This one is a Kidzeum classic," Williams said. "It's been around for a long time, and when people in our community ask about the Kidzeum, Night Sky and Bubbles are the exhibits they ask about the most."

The bubble exhibit allows many opportunities for hands-on learning, especially enhancing science skills. Students learn why bubbles are always spherical and why you can see a rainbow inside. They also learn about soap and how it gets us clean, and they study the chemical reactions in yeast that creates tiny bubbles on the surface of warm water.

Williams said the kids all wear aprons due to the large number of bubbles they encounter at the various stations around the museum. Among their favorite activities is the bubble wall, where students sit across from partners and raise a bubble panel between them.

"When their hands are wet, you can actually poke your finger through a bubble and it won't pop," Williams said. "They love getting their hands wet and then reaching through to shake hands

through the bubble wall."

The main event, though, is the full-body bubble. Students are invited one-by-one to stand on a concrete block inside a pool of soapy solution. An assistant uses a pulley to raise a soapy frame around the kids, drawing up a bubble that surrounds them head to toe.

"Their expressions are priceless," Williams said. "And they always remark how you can really see the changing colors inside the bubble."

The bubble exhibit will carry on for several more weeks as each class gets a turn to come and explore.

Then the Kidzeum year wraps up, as it does each year, with a birthday dance party for Stuffee on May 5. Stuffee, the Kidzeum's oversized stuffed character that is used to teach health and body lessons, turns 28 this year.

It was a great year at the Kidzeum, according to Williams. They were able to welcome back families for Grandparents Day in December, and students have enjoyed programming robots and telling stories through Legos in Kidz Tech.

Williams extended thanks to her hard-working assistants — Tanganetta Moore, Brittany Carpenter and Claudette Avery — who make the Kidzeum's many unique activities possible.

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GMS Turns Out for Night of Legends



Frank Bradford, Jr., Senior Vice President of Guaranty Bank in Grenada, entertained Grenada Middle School students, with the assistance of Valeri Geiger, by reading the Greek myth of Narcissus and Echo as part of the Night of Legends festivities. The event brought together students, families, and community members for a night of stories and activities to celebrate literacy.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada Middle School hosted its first-ever family literacy event, Night of Legends, on Thursday, March 23. The event introduced students in grades 6-8 and their families to exciting stories featuring classic figures from Greek mythology.

Following on the heels of other successful themed events throughout the district, Night of Legends brought out 100 participants to celebrate literacy. "Time and time again, our teachers, students, parents, and community members have remarked on how unique and refreshing these events are," said event organizer Pam Briscoe, the district's ELA Instructional Specialist. "There's just something special about hearing a good story read aloud."

Students and their parents were divided into four groups to hear classic Greek myths

read aloud by members of the community. Staff members, dressed in Greek garb, ushered families into classrooms that had been transformed into fanciful settings with the help of community business and civic organizations.

In the Grenada Chamber of Commerce-sponsored room, representative Alexia Gavin read the story of Baucis and Philemon. This tale, representing hospitality, features two peasants who welcome the disguised gods Zeus and Hermes into their home when no one else would take them in.

GSD Business Manager Rodney Murphy read the story of Phaethon and Helios, the story of a son's disastrous ride in his father's chariot. After the story, participants were invited to drive their own robot chariots through an obstacle course set up and managed by the school's robotics team, Pure Imagination.

Dodie McElmurray, CEO

of community hospitals for the University of Mississippi Medical Center, read the tale of Perseus and Medusa in a room that was dramatically lit and decorated by Grenada Elementary LEAP Art teacher Martha Liberto and Sara Frances Horan, Director of Physician and Community Relations for UMMC.

Finally, Guaranty Bank and the Flower Company sponsored a room featuring the bank's senior vice president in Grenada, Frank Bradford, Jr. He read the story of Narcissus and Echo, and then students were treated to a daffodil bulb-planting demo by volunteer gardeners from Guaranty Bank.

In each room, students received a commemorative trading pin, designed exclusively for the event by Kaysha Siemens of Kaysha Siemens Fine Art in Asheville, North Carolina.

The evening culminated with a reception, where students and family members enjoyed re-



Chris and Meredith Edwards, parents of GMS 8th grader Aubrey Edwards, dressed as Perseus and Medusa as part of the Night of Legends event to celebrate literacy at the middle school.

freshments and took photos with Perseus and Medusa, played by GMS parents Chris and Meredith Edwards. Each student received a gift bag with books of Greek myths to commemorate the evening. The reception was sponsored by MC + Three Party Co., Bloomin' Hills Farm & Flowers, Carroll Black Flowers, 333 Restaurant, and the GMS Cafeteria.

"Visiting these classrooms, our families had a unique opportunity to not only listen to a story but to fall in love with a story, much like they probably did when their children were younger," Briscoe said.

GMS Principal Marshall Whittemore commended the staff and community partners who contributed to the event. "A lot of hard work has gone toward the shared goal of encouraging literacy within our school," Whittemore said. "We want all students to be good readers and to enjoy reading."

I think events like this help promote reading in a new and unique way that students can relate to."

Briscoe said she has heard a lot of positive feedback from students, parents, and the community following a string of successful literacy nights and plans to organize more events at various schools around the district.

"These events give families the opportunity to come together, not just for sporting events or celebrating arts, but celebrating academics as a family," she said. "This is an instructional celebration. It's a unique opportunity for our families to be involved in the actual learning that takes place in our district."

GHS Parent-Teacher Outreach



The GHS Parent-Teacher Outreach brought donuts to teachers at Grenada High School during their professional development day on February 14. Pictured are (l to r) GHS teachers Sidney Samples and Dominique Miller, PTO treasurer Amy Mattox and president Terry Lane, and teachers Melanie Hopper and Chuck Crouch. The group works with the community to demonstrate appreciation for teachers and often serves as an advisory panel for the high school administration on new policies and programs. Parents interested in joining the organization may call the GHS office at 662-226-8844.

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2023 NHS Inducts New Members

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

A new class of sophomores, juniors and seniors were inducted into Grenada High School’s chapter of National Honor Society on February 19. The 150-member organization is made up of motivated, high-performing students who are dedicated to service as well as academics.

GHS sophomores with a minimum overall average of 92 are eligible to join the GHS chapter of National Honor Society (NHS). Students with high achievement in academics, as well as extracurricular activities and community service, are invited to become a member. Though most enter the club as sophomores, junior and seniors who reach the GPA requirement are invited to apply for membership as well.

“This group of new members is a very large class,” said Melanie Hopper, a GHS teacher and faculty adviser for NHS. “It was evident from their applications that this is a very involved and driven group of students. The faculty committee who does the selections for membership were blown away at how much these students — the majority of whom are current sophomores — have already accomplished in high school.”

As part of their membership, new members are asked to complete community service hours before the end of the term — six hours for underclassmen and 10 hours for graduating seniors. Each full year of membership requires students to complete a minimum of 40 community service hours.

In addition to their individual hours, Hopper said, members are also required to complete monthly service projects with their assigned officer and group. “Each of our senior officers is in charge of about 10-15 members to organize and follow through with a different project each month,” she said. “By the time they graduate, members will have well over 90 hours of service to our school and community logged.”

NHS students are encouraged to reach all schools and the community at large. “Their service has been wide and varied, and we are so proud of the hard work they have put in throughout this year,” Hopper said. “This has been one of our most successful years as far as reaching as many groups as we could.”

This year’s NHS students participated in a water drive for residents of Jackson during the water crisis. They worked locally at shelters, nursing homes, the food pantry, toy drives and various events at each school in the district. Student volunteers have delivered food and gifts

to custodians, cafeteria workers, teachers, and other employees around the district, as well as provided tours for incoming freshmen.

According to Hopper, student members of NHS are often some of the most active students in the school. They hold leadership positions in many clubs and participate in all athletic and extracurricular activities.

“We tell them every year that they are the leaders in our school,” Hopper said. “These are the students who other students look to for guidance and advice. These are the students that the faculty and staff look to set examples for the rest of the school.”

Currently, the organization has five senior officers — President Luke Hardin, Vice President Chloe Gillis, Secretary Jakedrick Exson, Treasurer Meredith Meriweather, and Reporter Kiersten Zinn — as well as two junior representatives, Bailey Bowen and Anna Ferguson.

“These students never fail to astonish with the amount of dedication they bring to our club,” Hopper said. “Every year they are tasked with making this club their own and leaving their mark on our school and community in a positive way. This year’s group has set the bar very high, but I know next year’s will raise it even higher.”

New inductees to the GHS chapter of National Honor Society this year include:

Seniors — Kayleah Daniels, Tamyrah Miller, Cyphus Mohead, Emory Ross.

Juniors — Charles Bardo, Dylan Black, Zoniquah Brown, Moriah Calhoun, Aiden Carollo, Caitlyn Huckaby, Joshua Ja’Corey Hughes, Ava Hunt, Henry Jackson, Aaron Kinney, Ian McCullough, Jessica Moore, Manuel Avila Moran, Layla Snyder, Bryce Stegall, Mary-Faith Vance, Jekerious Williams.

Sophomores — Allison Adams, Jamarion Ammons, Deanna Arbuckle, Summer Boatman, Demi Burney, Michael Cavanaugh, Gabrielle Cooley, Abigail Crouch, Drew Dalton, Trinity Davis, Elyse Dorris, Seth Dorroh, Jillian Dykes, Layla Escobedo, Bryson Flowers, Jozy Foster, Calen Gable, Holt Gober, Emily Goss, Parker Greer, Anna Hankins, Brelyn Hardwick, Zakiyah Hargrove, Kelsey Hodges, Darshi Kher, Frankeya Kincaid, Hannah Knoll, Jack Leslie, Anna Lollar, Madison Mallet, Kaleb McDonald, Ricki Montgomery, Yamileth Nino Moran, Ekeyvion Noel, Abigail Presley, Makiya Shipp, Emily Smith, Alexia Strong, Layla Taylor, Ciara Townes, Allen Tribble, Alyssa Walker, Jane Wicker, Gabrielle Willis, Mallory Willis, Cadin Windham, Terrell Young.



Photo by Martha Liberto

Members of Grenada Middle School’s Entertainers show choir — including (l to r) Kedderion Miers, Aubrey Edwards, Jamie Herron, and Luke Viner — perform their competition show, “Road to the Grand Prix.” The choir won first-place in the middle school division at the Brandon Show Choir Elite competition, along with Best Vocals and Best Choreography.

“Choir”

Continued from page 3

The choir finished its season at Madison Central with a first runner-up trophy and Overall Best Performer honors for Jeri Greer.

“The students amaze me everyday with their talent and go get it attitude!” said Director Amy Killebrew. “They weren’t at all nervous when I told them we would be going up against middle school kids! They love a challenge!”

Pizzazz’s competition show, “From Villain to Hero,” describes a journey from evil to good and includes songs by Mariah Carey, Michael Jackson, and a choir favorite, “Set it Off” from the Disney movie *Descendants*.

“This show reminds us that there is good in everyone and that there is a hero living in all of us,” Killebrew said.

Auditions for next year’s Pizzazz group have begun for current 3rd and 4th graders and will be accepted by video through May 4. Applications for interested students are available at the GES 4-5 office.

There’s still a chance for the community to watch these talented performers showcase their show for the last time this season. Pizzazz’s spring show will be on April 27 at 6 p.m. in the Green Top auditorium. The final springs concerts for Entertainers (April 13) and Visions (April 20-21) will be held in the GHS Auditorium.

“Career”

Continued from page 5

Another memorable student for Reed was JaQuan Williams, a senior with no plan for his future and little motivation in his school work. Reed struggled to get him to talk about himself but ultimately learned that he loved video games. He thought he might like to design games, and the more they talked, the more engaged he became.

After several conversations, Reed steered JaQuan toward Base Camp Coding in Water Valley, where he was accepted with a full scholarship. He plans to attend in the fall and earn his associate’s degree in coding.

Since deciding his future, Williams said he is more engaged and his school work became easier. “To have someone not even related to you care about your future so much, it’s outstanding,” he said. “And I’m very grateful to have Ms. Reed here for me.”

“I believe that, above all, one of the major things a career coach provides is hope in sometimes hopeless situations,” Reed said. “Encouragement in the face of what a student is actually dealing with ... and making sure you have somebody in your corner who’s going to cheer you on.”

GSD Website
www.grenadak12.com

