

## One School, Two Tops



### Superintendent's Message

**Dr. David Daigneault**

You may have heard the news that Grenada School District is seeking approval from the Mississippi Department of Education to re-structure our elementary schools. The Pre-K to 3rd grade school and the 4th to 5th grade school — commonly referred to as Grenada Upper Elementary — will now be known simply as Grenada Elementary School.

To help distinguish the two, we're referring to each building by their roof color. "Red Top" is where we house Pre-K through third grade, while "Green Top" is fourth and fifth grade.

In many ways, the elementary schools at Grenada have always been one. They're two buildings in the same complex with a shared mission — to provide the best fundamental learning experience for the children of Grenada County.

By joining our resources and sharing expertise between the two schools, Grenada Elementary can now draw on the strengths of both schools with the goal of elevating our entire elementary program.

Recently in this space, I've written how our Pre-K and early grades at Grenada Elementary exemplify this district's mission of innovation. The teachers and administrators at the Green Top demonstrate their own brand of excellence and innovation through a variety of stand-out programs.

Among the highlights is the Discovery Lab, which provides a hands-on learning experience similar to the Kidzeum at the Red Top. In the Discovery Lab, fourth and fifth grade students apply their classroom science lessons in a laboratory setting, conducting experiments and simulations.

With the recent implementation of Project Lead the Way curriculum — including a recent unit on how infections are spread — the Discovery Lab will continue to evolve and introduce students to higher-level science.

Our gifted program, LEAP, is flourishing thanks to activities like Future Problem Solving teams, spearheaded by Frankie Fortier. Students confront large-scale, real-world problems and use critical-thinking procedures to come up with solutions. Our teams have competed with other schools and performed so well they were invited to the international competition in Minnesota last summer. This curriculum challenges our students to think big and instills leadership qualities that place them ahead of the curve.

Likewise, Mrs. Tharpe has moved to the front of the pack in elevating the school's physical education to a fitness-based curriculum that promotes healthy lifestyles, regular exercise, and team-building activities.

Her efforts to revamp the P.E. program have highlighted the correlation between physical fitness and mental acuity and resulted in the school being named "Healthiest School in Mississippi" by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi.

**See "Two Tops"**  
**Continued on page 8**

## GES Fourth and Fifth Graders Get Drumfit

*By Jamie Kornegay*  
*GSD Reporter*

It sounds like a stampede in the fourth- and fifth-grade gym at Grenada Elementary. Mrs. Vance's fourth-grade class has gathered for their weekly P.E. session, and each student wallops his or her own giant blue exercise ball with drumsticks in time to the music blaring from the loud speakers.

No signs of gym-class anxiety appear on the faces of these kids. They're all focused and smiling. No one is cutting up or complaining. The girls get into the dancing and motion. The boys love the pounding and jumping. On screen, the video instructor conducts the performance in unison, but the kids enjoy putting their own spin on this innovative new fitness program.

It's called Drumfit, and Principal Carol Tharpe knew she wanted to bring it to Grenada Elementary after the school was named "Healthiest School in Mississippi" last year.

"I love to see how the students react to Drumfit," Tharpe said. "Now when I walk into the gym, I'm greeted with smiles and children having a great time. They're engaged, they want to come to P.E. And they don't think about it being exercise."

With only a pair of drumsticks and an exercise ball on a stand, each kid drums and jumps along to the instructor projected on the large screen, leading a workout that's accompanied by popular contemporary songs. In addition to the cardiovascular exercise, the program works fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, stability and cognitive association.



**Otis Cashaw demonstrates Drumfit, a new fitness-based physical education at Grenada Elementary 4-5.**

"It's individualized for the child, so it's very much like academics," Tharpe said. "The kids are able to scale it to their ability. If a child's legs get tired, they can stop and just work the arms for a while. And the kids are precious the way they add things, certain little dance moves or gestures. It really allows for personal expression."

"This is unlike anything we've ever done," said P.E. instructor Amy Barham. "We've never had so much equipment for everybody to start with."

Tharpe purchased the Drumfit equipment with funds from the \$50,000 grant that accompanied the elementary school's designation as "Healthiest School in Mississippi." The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation selected Tharpe's grant application as

the top among other state schools with programs that promote healthy lifestyle habits for students and staff.

The road to Grenada Elementary's "Healthiest School" designation began in 2006 when the fourth- and fifth-grade school received a \$100,000 grant from the Bower Foundation, which supports programs that seek to improve the health of Mississippians.

"That really made us look closely at the correlation between physical education and student achievement," Tharpe said. "It goes a long way to keeping students at school. There's not as much illness, and there's less disciplinary action. For administrators, that's very important."

**See "Drum Fit"**  
**Continued on page 2**

## GES Kidzeum Finishes Pioneer Exhibit

**(Photo right)**  
**Grenada Elementary School's Kidzeum ended its "Pioneer Days" exhibit with Pioneer Week, Sept. 25-29. Kindergarten students Averi Hood (left) and Jordin Knox tested out saddles and other horse-riding and grooming equipment brought by horse farriers Tasha Lemley and Lakela Lancaster. Members of the community donated their time and visited the Kidzeum to teach students about pioneer-era skills such as storytelling, beekeeping, juggling, critter-trapping, and banjo-picking. Later this month, the Kidzeum unveils its next exhibit, an installment of their annual Christmas Around the World series. This year, they focus on Australia. The anticipated Grandparents' Day open house will be held December 15.**



*Photo by Martha Liberto*



# NNDCC Strives for Success

Photo right Cadet Iyonia Bankston participates in the tire rolling competition at the recent Charger Challenge meet.



By Chief Foreman  
NNDCC Instructor

Grenada NNDCC hosted our third annual PT (Physical Training) meet, the Charger Challenge, on Sept. 23. The cadets competed against Yazoo County, Starkville, and Aberdeen. The competition included several skills -- tire-roll, ammo-cans, stretchers, trolley, sit-ups, pull-ups and hang, 100-meter relay, and 200-meter relay. This meet gave new NNDCC members a chance to participate and show off for the home crowd.

Grenada NNDCC attended the North-

ern Region Drill meet on Sept. 30 in Batesville. The meet is held annually, and the top three winning schools compete against the best in the state. The cadets did not qualify for the JROTC State Meet but they left with first place in Inspection (first time for the unit), second place in Unarmed Exhibition, and third place in Unarmed Basic. The cadets competed against 12 schools from Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama, and they will continue to charge forward through the end of the year with the goal of winning.

## “Drumfit”

Continued from Page 1

In addition to purchasing the Drumfit equipment, the school has used the “Healthiest School” funds to outfit a new staff exercise room and will be upgrading the school water fountains to water bottle-filling stations, which they hope will encourage the kids to stay hydrated.

One of Mrs. Vance’s fourth graders, Rowdy Staten, approves of the new Drumfit program. “It’s pretty fun because you just listen to your favorite songs, and you get to burn energy instead of doing work-outs,” he says.

“They absolutely love it,” says Barham. “You stay with the upbeat songs, they’re wanting more. They want to do it again, do it again. I’ve heard the same song fifteen times.”

To see the Grenada Elementary School fourth-graders performing Drumfit, visit our YouTube channel and watch the video “Drumfit at Grenada Elementary” — [bit.ly/GSPresents](http://bit.ly/GSPresents)

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# AmeriCorps Recognizes Member of Excellence



By Gwen Woodson  
AmeriCorps Director

Lavaya Johnson is a full-time member of the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, and she knows how to get things done. She serves as team leader at Grenada Middle School, where she mentors and tutors 17 students in math and reading.

Grenada School District has hosted AmeriCorps members as tutors for the last nine years. Over 1,015 students participate in the tutoring program. GSDAP also offers skills training, continuing education, and other benefits. These opportunities enable members to better serve local needs while gaining work experience.

Johnson is married to Bobbie, and they have two children, Olivia and Demere. She is also an active member of New Life Christian Fellowship Church, where she has been immersed in service for years.

“I wanted to join AmeriCorps to make a difference,” Johnson said. “Having a child that was once tutored by AmeriCorps members gave me insight on how big of an impact one person can have on so many lives.”

Since the start of the current service year, Johnson helped organize “Hearts for Houston” with AmeriCorps and is currently working on the “Make A Difference Day” project to engage local senior citizens. This past summer, Johnson served as a tutor at the Summer Enrichment Camp at New Life working with teenagers. She continues to serve her community many other ways.

“Since enrolling in the program, my ‘what’ and ‘why’ has changed a little,

such as my career choice,” Johnson said. “My passion is now education. To see the look on a student’s face when he/she realizes ‘I know this information’ or ‘I can do this.’”

According to Johnson, the program has helped her become a stronger, better person. Now her desire is to make a difference in people’s lives.

“I was reserved about allowing others in, but after serving, I gained my extended family within AmeriCorps, genuine sisters and a brother,” she said. “I also believe and want my children to know that in life, you can be whatever you aspire and desire to be! All you have to do is put God first and be obedient- the rest will fall in place!”

Johnson has proven to be an outstanding member and team leader. I love her enthusiasm and “can do” attitude. She takes her students’ progress seriously and gives her all to ensure their success. I am extremely thankful that she is a member of the GSDAP.

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$5,815 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Johnson will use her Education Award to continue her education and to pay off her student loans.

The Grenada School District AmeriCorps Programs is supported and administered by Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service and The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). For more than two decades, CNCS has supported education strategies by employing positive youth development through in-school and after-school tutoring, as well as mentoring programs that help youth stay on track and prepare graduates for college or career.

CNCS is the federal agency for volunteering, service, and civic engagement. The agency engages millions of Americans in citizen service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation’s volunteering and service efforts.

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at [gwoodson@grenadak12.com](mailto:gwoodson@grenadak12.com). For more information about AmeriCorps, visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

An advertisement for Zebra Pink ZMulsion Pens. It features three pens in a package, with the Zebra logo and 'EMULSION INK' text. The pens are black with pink accents. The background is pink and black striped.

## Pink ZMulsion Pens

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An advertisement for Grenada Lake Charters. It features a large fish (a bass) and a young boy holding a fishing license. The background is blue with white and yellow text.

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## GSD Student of the Month

# Cooper Tipton



# Alumni Spotlight - Shay Harris



By **Jamie Kornegay**  
*GSD Reporter*

“When you’re young, you want to be some of everything,” says Grenada High School graduate Shay Harris (Class of 1988), who dreamed of being a singer and teacher among other things. “Thankfully, my mom told me I could do all those things. Whatever I wanted.”

Her mother, Shirley Harris, owns Shirley’s Place, one of the oldest black-

owned businesses in Grenada, and her father is James Harris. She credits them with making the sacrifices which allowed her to pursue a variety of after-school activities — from cheerleading to beauty pageants to singing with Visions choir — in place of working a part-time job.

“For me, extracurricular activities were just as important as work because it taught me to be part of team,” Harris says. “These activities teach young people how to be accountable to others and to put others ahead of yourself. There’s something to be said for making other people shine.”

Harris remains grateful for two teachers who saw promise in her writing. English teacher Mary Ann Mahan always commended her journal entries. “I was just expressing myself, but she convinced me to take it seriously,” Harris says. Edna Washington — now Edna Williams, an inclusion teacher at Grenada Elementary — was a student teacher when she met Shay in middle school. Even then, said Williams, she was exceptional and driven.

Harris recalls one Mrs. Williams’ most memorable and useful pieces of advice:

“You can’t soar with the eagles if you land with the turkeys.”

“She was telling me to watch the company I keep,” Harris says.

Harris took the advice and focused her sights on television news. During the 1980s, it was rare to see an African-American woman news anchor until Claudia Barr began at WHBQ-TV in Memphis. Shay was inspired and saw the possibility of a career in broadcasting.

She studied broadcast journalism at the University of Mississippi and received several offers after graduation. Harris took the best offer with the Delta station WABG in Greenville, and she moved along a determined career path, working at stations in Texas, Florida, and Ohio.

“Throughout my career, I always felt that Christ was pulling me to places with strong church communities, and I continued to be very active and passionate about the ministry wherever I lived,” Harris says.

She developed her vocal talent and recorded a single, “Dear Jesus,” that was picked up in 30 major markets. “God will guide you, but you have to watch and follow,” she says. “Parents are important

too. They must pay attention and help guide their kids in the way they’re naturally wired.”

Harris is currently a freelance anchor in Jackson and continues to perform music. She’s also writing an inspirational book about the simplicity of salvation. “I’m open to whatever God has for me next,” she says. “I want to make sure the rest of my life is the best of my life.”

In times of doubt and difficulty, she turns to Psalm 91, a scripture on protection that reads like a song.

Another piece of advice that her mother used to say: “I can, you can, and together, we all can.”

And naturally, Shay Harris has developed her own advice for current students at Grenada High School. “Stay focused,” she says. “Discern what you need from what you want.”

She adds, “And remember, there is so much virtue in patience. Anything worth having has to be worked for and earned.”

## GCTC Health Science Class Visits UMMC School of Medicine and Blair E. Batson Hospital



Photo by *Meg Newcomb*

GCTC health science students (front l to r) Aailyah Elliott, Ashanti Beckum, Amber Guinn, McCasland Ferguson, Haley Shaw, Memory Brown, Quintayjah Avery, Dominique McClain, Rykela Lee, (back l to r) Chanteria Wrenn, Kennesha Brock, Chelsaye Wiggins, Morgan Malone, Katlin Federick, Janiya Berry, Carneshia Tillman, and Kenny Wiley toured the new University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine.

By **Meg Newcomb**  
*GCTC Student Services Coordinator*

The Grenada Career and Technical Center Health Science classes traveled to Jackson, Mississippi, to tour the new University of Mississippi Medical Center’s School of Medicine and Blair E. Batson Hospital on September 22, 2017.

The tour began with a walk through the new School of Medicine to the old anatomy lab. One instructor gave the students hands-on experience by allowing them each to hold cadaver samples of a skull, brain, and spinal cord. Students stopped at the helipad, to see the helicopter takes off and lands with patients on the roof of the hospital. The last stop at the School of Medicine was the simulation lab. The students were shown

a simulation with a patient, “Stan,” who was having a heart attack. The students administered medicine and shocked his heart back into rhythm. Also in the simulation lab they were taught how to insert a trach tube and helped a person who was not breathing. Finally, they were shown the new simulation lab, which will open soon with all new virtual reality simulators, child-birth simulators, and a fully simulated operating room.

After lunch, the students toured the emergency department at Blair E. Batson Hospital, where children up to age 16 are treated. The students saw one of the trauma rooms they use to receive new patients. The Health Science students thoroughly enjoyed the day spent at UMMC and received first-hand experience of what it is like to be a medical student.

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# GES 4 - 5 Principals' Breakfast



Photo by Taylor Buchanan

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 September include (Photo top) (front, l to r) Janarlow Yates, Kaden Holman, Rylee Ryals, Olivia Lashley, Keelin Bender, Tripp Penn, (back l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Eli Pollan, Zayion Cotton, Andrew Borders, Madison Staten, Ma’Kaiya Wilson, Destiny Hall, Caslyn Trost, and Assistant Principal Johnny Daves



Photo by Taylor Buchanan

(Photo bottom) (front, l to r) Jane Wicker, Skylar Abraham, Ta’Niyah Loggins, Avery Browning, Auria Collins, Star McGlothlin, Ke’Avery Reed (back l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Justin Sally, Caitlyn Kirk, Drew Klink, Keyvion Noel, Payton Campbell, Anna Hankins, De’Aysia Golden, and Assistant Principal Johnny Daves

Calendar Sponsored By

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## November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Full Band Rehearsal in GHS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm	2 NIROTC Annual Military Inspection-GHS Gym (subject to change) Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 6:00pm - 8:00pm	3 NIROTC Community Service at football game Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football-Saltillo*(Senior Night)-Home 7:00pm	4 GHS Band-Old South Marching Competition-Newnan, GA GHS Boys Basketball-Holmes Classic(Away) - TBA GHS Girls Basketball-Calhoun City Classic(Away) - TBA GHS Soccer-Desota Central (Classic)-Away-TBA NIROTC Drill Meet at Warren Central (All Service NIROTC Drill Meet Championship) MAPQSL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 GMS Choir in GHS Auditorium Adult Ed. Registration-GLAD Cafe. 7:30am - 12:30pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GMS Boys & Girls Basketball vs Horn Lake (Home) 5:00pm	7 Election Day GMS Choir in GHS Auditorium Adult Ed. Registration-GLAD Cafe. 7:30am - 12:30pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course-GCTC 5:00pm - 9:30pm GES-Choir Concert 6:00pm GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Southaven (Away) 6:00pm	8 Adult Ed. Registration-GLAD Cafe. 7:30am - 12:30pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GMS Choir in GHS Aud. & cafeteria 3:15pm	9 GHS Soccer-Olive Branch(Away) Girls-5:00pm/Boys-7:00pm Adult Ed. Registration-GLAD Cafe. 7:30am - 12:30pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GMS Choir in GHS Aud. & cafeteria 3:15pm GMS Boys & Girls Basketball vs Oxford (Home) 5:00pm	10 Educators Rising Club-Community Service work at Chakchluma Swamp 8:00am - 3:15pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GMS Choir in GHS Aud. & cafeteria 3:15pm	11 Veterans Day GHS Soccer-Oxford Tourm.(Away) - TBA GMS Choir in GHS Aud. Lions Band Auditions NIROTC Community Service at Veterans Day Parade GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm GMS Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament at Bruce 5:00pm
12 GMS Choir in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm	13 GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GMS Choir in GHS Aud. & cafeteria 3:15pm GMS Boys & Girls Basketball at Horn Lake 5:00pm	14 GHS Soccer-South Panola(Home) Girls-5:00pm/Boys-7:00pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GMS Choir in GHS Aud. & cafeteria 3:15pm GMS Science Fair-GMS Gym (Set Up) 3:30pm - 9:30pm GHS JV/VAR Basketball-Hernando (Away) 4:00pm GMS Choir Concert-GHS Auditorium 6:00pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	15 GMS Science Fair-GMS Gym 7:30am - 3:30pm DECA Club Pro Career Sports Marketing Day-Fed Ex Forum in Memphis, TN 8:00am - 11:30pm GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Educators Rising Club-Community Service work at Grenada Food Pantry 8:15am - 3:10pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	16 Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	17 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS JV Soccer-Winona(Home) Boy's Only 5:00pm GMS Boys & Girls Basketball vs Bruce (Home) 5:00pm	18 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale GHS Boys Basketball-Horn Lake (Away) - TBA Lions Band Callbacks NIROTC Community Service-Roadside Clean Up Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm
19 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm	20 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS!!! Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	21 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS!!! Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	22 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS!!! Visions Disney Trip GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	23 Thanksgiving Day GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS!!! GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	24 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS!!! GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	25 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale Visions in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm
26 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale Visions in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm	27 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale GHS JV Soccer-Oxford(Away) Girls-5:00pm/Boys-7:00pm Visions in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm GMS Boys & Girls Basketball vs Coffeeville (Home) 5:00pm	28 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale Visions in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS JV/VAR Basketball-South Panola (Away) 4:00pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 6:00pm - 8:00pm	29 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale Visions in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	30 GCTC Skills USA Fundraiser-Fruit Sale GHS JV Soccer-Lafayette(Away) Girls-5:00pm/Boys-7:00pm Visions in GHS Aud. GES-Book Fair: Grades PreK - 3 8:00am - 2:30pm Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm Charisma Dance Winter Review Recital-GHS Aud. 6:00pm		



# GSD Receives Early Learning Donation



Photo by Lisa Holland

Grenada School District Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault (left) accepts a donation from Representative Tommy Reynolds (District 33) for Grenada's Pre-K Learning Blocks program. Under Mississippi's new Early Learning Collaborative Act, taxpayers may donate the amount of their state income tax to their community's Pre-K learning program and receive a tax credit for the full amount. Reynolds is state representative for District 33, which includes Grenada, Tallahatchie and Yalobusha counties.

# GSD Robotics Team Demos at Afterglow Festival



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Ninth graders (L. to r.) Amelia Ferguson, Marlie Sturgis, and Shelby Boyett demonstrated their robot, Clawy, at the Grenada Afterglow Film Festival, October 7. Participants were encouraged to take the robot for a test-run on the obstacle course set up by students of Grenada Schools' robotics team, Pure Imagination.

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\* This promotion is only available on the UM-Grenada campus. The application fee waiver is not available for students applying to the Ole Miss main campus in Oxford.

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[outreach.olemiss.edu/umgvisit](http://outreach.olemiss.edu/umgvisit)



# Career Clusters

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Career Clusters is a program designed to guide students along their path of study in high school and college, preparing them for the career of their dreams. Each cluster represents a major sector of the U.S. job market, and within each cluster, a specialized pathway helps focus knowledge and skills

Each month we inspect one of the 16 Career Clusters, and this month we look at Information Technology.

Earlier this year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics identified math and computer-related jobs as the second-fastest growing field in the nation. As our society relies increasingly on digital communication and technology, companies will continue to seek experts to design, develop, and manage different types of software and hardware.

Though this field requires a solid foundation in math and science as well as strong technical skills, careers in information technology exist in virtually every part of the economy. The four pathways that lead to specific careers in Information Technology include:

### Network Systems

Successful organizations rely on efficient technological infrastructure,

which allows users to communicate and share information. People with expertise in designing, installing, maintaining, and managing computer networks are in high demand by organizations of all types. For example, a student with proficiency in computing and an interest in health and medicine could work in a medical facility, creating and maintaining the network that enables multiple doctors to view the same patient's X-rays in real time to determine the diagnosis and best treatment. Network professionals often specialize in specific areas of an organization's infrastructure, such as computer security and data storage.

### Information Support and Services

Most modern companies rely on successful IT deployment to keep their organization's technological resources in top shape. Students entering this pathway will use their computing expertise to provide technical assistance to employees, implement systems and software, maintain and repair systems, and create technical documentation for information systems. IT technicians are in high demand across all sectors of the job market. For instance, a motivated support and service technician may find plenty of work integrating multiple databases at

a global investment company, enabling employees to share between the New York, Paris and Hong Kong offices, and improving service to customers.

### Web and Digital Communications

Careers in Web and Digital Communications involve creating, designing and producing interactive multimedia products and services, including development of digitally-generated or computer-enhanced media used in business, training, entertainment, communications and marketing. Organizations of all types and sizes use digital media (the World Wide Web, CD-ROM, DVD) to communicate with existing and potential customers, to track transactions, and to collaborate with colleagues. Web and digital communications experts will find a variety of employment opportunities, from websites and social media platforms that require designer, developers, administrators; e-business sites that allow people around the world to buy and sell items in real-time; and entertainment companies that produce digital animation, virtual reality, and video production.

### Programming and Software Development

Students with a knowledge of comput-

er systems and proficiency in programming languages may find exciting work in design, development, implementation and maintenance of computer systems and software. They'll work with cutting-edge technologies to develop tomorrow's products for use by businesses and consumers. While many of the career opportunities in this area are in software companies, large organizations of other types, such as financial services and business, also need talented programmers. Among the exciting jobs in this field are developing new apps and video games and creating the software that launches and runs NASA space shuttles.

For more information about required and recommended classes for a pathway to the information technology industry, Grenada High School students should make an appointment with their counselors. For more information on Career Clusters, visit the Advance CTE website — [www.careertech.org](http://www.careertech.org) — where you'll find useful resources including a description of all 16 Career Clusters, a list of credentials required for each Career Cluster, and a Student Interest Survey that uses your responses to help guide you to your top three Career Clusters of interest.

# GCTC Classes Visit Nissan



Photo left GCTC classes visited Nissan. (back l to r) Trevonia Powell, Amanda Parker, Jonathan Cook, Melissa Wiggins, David Amorin, Alex Ferguson, Chris Smith, Kyle Nix, Tyler Dulin, Nic Permenter, Alex Shepherd, Dylan Ables, Case Parker, Daniel Fike, Cade Whitfield, Randy Walker, Breyton Howell, Brianna Hundley, Gage Rokasky, Thomas Coleman, (front l to r) osh Allen, Peyton Allen, and Evan Hobson

Photo by Meg Newcomb

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# Follow Your Heart Arts



**Photo left: Grenada Elementary student Sydney Beane practices her Fender guitar at a Follow Your Heart workshop.**

**Photo right: Charlie Worsham (right) meets with GHS student Aidan Moore at the Follow Your Heart graduation ceremony at the Grammy Museum last July.**

“We’re building a program that will grow every year,” she says.

For last year’s pilot program, the Worshams expected five to ten students and got 15 high school and middle school students, based on recommendations from the community. This year they’ll review applications and select 30 more students.

“Every kid gets a Fender guitar, and the DMI instructors will teach them how to play it,” Sherry explains.

The two-hour workshops will meet once a week during the spring semester. For every lesson they attend, students earn credit toward their instrument. Perfect attendance earns them a free guitar.

Grenada native Barry Bays, a professional musician and a DMI instructor, coordinates the Delta State student teachers. He says, “This is great program for kids who don’t fit in the traditional band or choir program. It gives them an outlet to be creative.”

Last spring’s graduating class took part in a ceremony at the Grammy Museum in Cleveland. Charlie flew in and talked with each student individually about their aspirations in music, and then he performed with them on stage.

While they were in town, the Follow Your Heart students visited the Delta Music Institute, where they explored Delta



**Delta Music Institute instructor Tyan Nash (left) teaches Grenada School District students Dylan Smith (middle) and Reid Viner how to play guitar as part of the Follow Your Heart Arts Program. The instructional workshops grew out of a scholarship started by Grenada native Charlie Worsham to help Grenada graduates aspiring to study the arts in college. Delta State University students taught local kids how to play guitars, which they were able to keep, courtesy of Fender Guitars and the Follow Your Heart program. Students interested in next spring’s workshops may apply starting November 1.**

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*“Why wait until you get filthy rich to help people?”*

*Charlie Worsham*

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Charlie always looked forward to the day when he became rich and famous so he could reach back and lend a hand to help kids like him. And one day it hit him: “Why wait until you get filthy rich to help people?”

With the help of generous friends, Charlie started the Follow Your Heart scholarship. The fund offers aid to Grenada County graduates with “a demonstrated passion for the arts” and a desire to turn that passion into an academic degree. The non-profit Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee manages the scholarship and independently reviews the applications, which are available to graduating Grenada High School students.

Charlie took the scholarship a step further last year when he created the Follow Your Heart Arts Program, a series of instructive guitar workshops that directly benefits the students of Grenada Schools. Charlie’s mom, Sherry Worsham, who has spent the last year developing some of Grenada School District’s most innovative programs, recruited the first group of kids. They partnered with Fender, who donated guitars, and the Delta Music Institute (DMI) at Delta State University, who provided student instructors to teach the lessons.

State’s extensive music performance and production spaces. They also made a pilgrimage to Dockery Plantation, the refurbished cotton plantation outside of Cleveland where such iconic bluesmen as Charlie Patton, Robert Johnson, and Howlin’ Wolf got their start.

Sherry Worsham says the workshop students get an added education in the rich musical history of their home state. “No other place in the country can claim a musical heritage like Mississippi,” she says. “We’re teaching with the hopes of keeping that tradition alive. We should be growing musicians here like we’re growing cotton and soybeans.”

“What’s happening with Follow Your Heart is exactly how the blues was passed along,” says DMI Director and Grammy-winning artist Tricia Walker. “It’s just people passing down knowledge and stories to younger players who are just starting out.”

“It’s also great for our instructors,” adds Bays. “Whenever you have to teach something to someone else, it makes you stop and think about it. You become better in the process.”

Follow Your Heart has made Charlie Worsham a better artist. Of all his remarkable experiences in the music business, he says working with these kids

has been the most fulfilling. “I see myself and I see the difference that one opportunity can make.”

Charlie says, “There are folks in Nashville rooting for us and for these kids, and I know there are folks in the Grenada community who already see the difference it’s making. And I think we’re

just getting started.”

Applications will be available Nov. 1 at Grenada Middle and High Schools as well as the group’s Facebook page, @FollowYourHeartArts.

**Did you know?**

**You Can Announce Birthdays and Anniversaries on the GSD Digital Sign for only \$25 per day!**

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**662-226-1575**

**Must be reserved 4 days in advance.**



# Grenada Middle School Students of the Month



Sixth grade Students of the Month for September are (front l to r) Gabriel Keeler, Leah Lemley, Eli Brasher, Anna Ferguson, Sara Beth Burden, (back l to r) Jackson Jenkins, Paris Hall, Javaion Reed, Assistant Principal Barry Rogers, Madarrius Ewing, Gary Davis, Mary-Faith Vance, and Kayden Walters.



Seventh Grade Students of the Month for September are (front l to r) Carson Little, Tia Ewing, Meredith Meriwether, Hilary Beckwith, Alyssa Smitherman, Jalyn Bullin, (back l to r) Braden Johnston, Anthony Frankin, Assistant Principal Barry Rogers, Tirell Conley, Caleb Chrestman, Carmen Rosenthal, and Azaria Owens.



Eighth Grade Students of the Month for September are (front l to r) Lacey Johnsey, Asia Brock, Jaylynn Hall, (back l to r) Casey Clanton, Haylee Smith, Mason Byars, Assistant Principal Barry Rogers, Marquavious Townsend, and Chris Rhodes.

## “Two Tops”

Continued from Page 1

Finally, the school is launching its first-ever book club for fourth and fifth graders that will enhance the students’ understanding and enjoyment of reading.

We look forward to seeing how these innovative strategies cross-pollinate when we open the lines of communications between teachers at both schools who are working hard to enrich study at Grenada Schools.

With an easier transition to upper

grades, we believe our students will be more successful academically and socially, and they’ll be better prepared for middle and high school.

Grenada School District prides itself on offering an education that lasts not from one grade to the next, or even one school to the next, but for a student’s entire journey, from Pre-K to 12th grade. And the journey begins right here ... at Grenada Elementary School.

# Lions Club Eye Screening



Lions Club member Gwen Nichols (left) screens GES student Tate Shirley using the new Plusoptix computerized camera.

By Pamela Hubbard  
Lions Club Member

The Grenada Lions Club brought their new Plusoptix computerized camera to Grenada Elementary School and conducted 71 vision screenings of preschool students. The Plusoptix detects many eye problems, including “lazy eye,” and registers data for each student. If the test indicates any potential vision problems, a print-out of the data is given to the teacher and parent to encourage a follow-up visit with an ophthalmologist.

In addition to using the Plusoptix for special-education students at Grenada Elementary, the Lions used two new Titmus V2 screeners purchased by the district to screen most of the other students at the elementary and middle school.

The Lions Club vision screenings are made possible through a Lions Club International Foundation grant to support the Lions KID Sight USA project. The project’s goal is to screen as many children between the ages of six months and six years of age in order to detect any abnormalities that need to be corrected. Some abnormalities cannot be corrected after the age of six. It is important to discover these issues as soon as possible to ensure a child’s eye health.

Physiological changes in middle school kids make it important to scan that age group as well. Good eyesight helps children learn better and gives them confidence in the classroom, which is why the Grenada Lions Club has screened students’ vision for decades.

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