

The Great Leap Year



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

Some years are uneventful and pass with little fanfare. And then there are years like 2017.

By the calendar, it wasn't a leap year, but for Grenada School District, last year definitely represented a giant leap forward.

It started off with Grenada being named a District of Innovation by the Mississippi Board of Education. We were selected, among very few other state districts, for our formal plans to conduct more forward-thinking curriculum. This distinction has already allowed us special exemption from certain state regulations, especially in our integration of advanced strategies into our science classes.

Our implementation of advanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) strategies through Project Lead the Way has seen tremendous results. Middle school and high school students are now being trained in such cutting edge classes as design and engineering, biomedical science, and robotics. The program will expand this year in first through sixth grades.

To establish a more updated learning environment for our advanced Project Lead the Way curriculum, we built two new labs at the high school — one for engineering and one for biomedical. Phase one of an extensive high school renovation took place last summer, which reflects a more modern, professional aesthetic.

Meanwhile at the elementary school, we expanded our Pre-K program. Early test results for four-year-old students completing the class have been astounding, and we raised the bar with the state's first three-year-old Pre-K class. Watch for further expansions of these early learning programs in the near future.

And finally, we received our accountability grades from the Mississippi Department of Education. Grenada earned a grade of B and a ranking of 40th out of 147 other state school districts. We've used the data to close learning gaps and redouble our efforts.

Following this reflection on our district's many proud achievements in 2017, it's time to get back to the drawing board and push ahead. We're developing new programs and forming new relationships to give our students the best educational experience possible.

Here are just a few of the exciting things we're looking forward to this semester at Grenada Schools:

The Arts Center

The district recently purchased a house behind the bus yard, and our crackerjack construction team has completed renovations. (Read the story on page 7 of this issue.) This will be the new home for the GHS art department, headed up by Melissa Taylor, who has done a remarkable job teaching visual arts. Her students have held multiple exhibits to showcase their paintings and pottery, and we anticipate the program to grow with this new dedicated space. Watch for adult night classes in the future.

See "Leap Year" Continued on page 2

Grandparents Day Open House Goes Down Under for Christmas

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

The annual Grandparents Day Open House at GES fell on December 15, and organizers say it was one of the most well-attended events they'd held in the Kidzeum's history.

Grandparents lined up in the foyer and out the front doors of Grenada Elementary, eager to get inside and tour Down Under with their grandchildren. After signing in, they waited in the library for their grandkids, who showed up with plenty of hugs and kisses.

The tour started with the elementary book fair in the gymnasium. Everyone milled around tables and shelves arranged with books, toys, and games. Kids demonstrated their new reading skills, and grandparents couldn't resist purchasing early Christmas presents.

Next it was on to the Kidzeum to tour this year's holiday exhibit, "Christmas in Australia." Director Beth Muselwhite stood out front and welcomes everyone with a cheerful, "G'day, mates!" Grenada School District superintendent Dr. David Daigneault and Principal Raleigh Wood greeted guests too, crouching down to hug the little ones and shaking hands with grandparents.

The atmosphere inside was festive with plenty of holiday decorations, all done up with Australian flair. Surfboards and sunglasses replaced sleds and snowmen. Local pianist Mo Hubbard performed jazzy Christmas carols to the side.

The tour began in the Kidzeum kitchen, where everyone received a "biscuit," the Australian term for cookie. The visitors filed around and took photos in front of the tall Australian-themed Christmas tree, adorned with colored lights, sunglasses, boomerangs, and "thongs," which is the Australian term for flip-flops.

Along the way, they stopped to inspect the plush marsupials — kangaroos, koalas, and wallabies, all unique to Australia. Students toured their grandparents around, sharing what they'd learned about Australian phrases and Christmas traditions.

"Some grandparents told me the children had already told them three weeks ago about this exhibit and how they knew everything about Australia," Muselwhite said.

After touring the Australian exhibit, guests exited through the Piggly Wiggly, the simulated grocery store full of plastic fruits and vegetables and canned goods where kids sometimes make "purchases" to learn about everything from counting money to phonetics. Some even pre-ordered the new Kidzeum t-shirts, which will be available in February.

The annual Grandparents Day has been a favorite for 15 years. Grandparents come from far and wide to take part. "They love the school, and it puts a smile on their grand baby's face," said Mr. Wood.

"In August we start getting calls asking when Grandparents Day will be,"



Brianna Harris (front) and Ophal Tedford



Joe Ward and Emma Grace Rocha



Aden Dickerson and John Vooker (back)



Griffin Garrard and Carter Reid Garrard



Chasity White, Addyson White, and Jean Hogan



Richard LaMantia, Madison Hobbs, and Betty LaMantia



Bella Cruz Gober and Rita Gober (back)

said Muselwhite. "They actually plan their vacation and holiday events around it."

The open house always revolves around their holiday exhibit, which explores Christmas customs from various cultures. The staff gave out recipes for pavlova, a popular Christmas-time meringue-based dessert in Australia.

"All the recipes and cookies were gone before we had a chance to count," said Muselwhite. "It just seems like there were so many more grandparents this year than normal."

The "Red Top" library had a successful book fair. A portion of the proceeds goes to keeping the library's inventory fresh and full, as well as supplies for the many library activities students perform during their visits.

Mr. Wood said that often the principals and local volunteers will go into classrooms and get students who don't have grandparents living nearby. "We want as many kids as possible to be able to share in the fun."

After the open house, Muselwhite was busy dismantling the grand Christmas tree and Australian decor, making way for next year's first exhibit, The Night Sky. Elementary students will make three visits to the Kidzeum this winter to learn about outer space, the constellations, and even experience the Star Lab, a miniature planetarium that has been a Kidzeum favorite in years past.

See the video, "Grandparents Day at Grenada Elementary School," at our YouTube channel, bit.ly/GSpresents

Career Clusters

Sponsored by



As early as eighth grade, students at Grenada Middle School are plotting their path through high school with an eye toward college and a career beyond. Counselors help students devise their plans by linking their individual interests into the Career Clusters framework.

Career Clusters offers learning plans for 16 different career paths, each representing a major sector of the U.S. job market. Each month we've been exploring one of the 16 clusters, and this month we'll look at Manufacturing.

Strong planners and organizers with a love of technology, engineering, and design may find a rewarding career in the manufacturing industry.

A student who chooses the Manufacturing cluster can further specialize his or her study by choosing one of six different Career Pathways. These include:

Production Pathway

People with careers in production work on the shop floor making parts or assembling them. They work with ma-

chines, making or assembling electronic parts, constructing or assembling modular housing, performing welding jobs, or printing materials.

Manufacturing Production Process Development

Employees in this pathway are responsible for the design of products and the manufacturing process, ensuring that the final product meets or exceeds customer expectations. They also monitor the manufacturing process and the materials used to manufacture the product.

Maintenance, Installation and Repair

Workers in this pathway routinely perform preventive maintenance procedures on machines, tools and equipment. They also troubleshoot and repair electronic and mechanical systems. This will include mechanical repair as well as using computer-based inventory control systems, retrieving information histories on each machine from computer records,

and recording repair activities on the system to keep accurate records of repairs performed on each machine.

Quality Assurance

Employees in this field ensure that standards and procedures are upheld and product and service standards are met. They may be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the quality of parts and manufacturing processes. This could include identifying the raw product ensuring it meets specifications, as well as measuring and testing products and parts.

Logistics and Inventory Control

Employees in this field work with an inventory of raw materials and finished parts. They move raw materials to the production line, unload trucks, wrap pallets of finished products for shipment, and communicate with traffic managers.

Health, Safety and Environmental Assurance

Employees in this pathway ensure that the equipment is being used safely

in the workplace; plan for safety in new production processes; conduct health, safety and/or environmental incident and hazard investigations; and implement health, safety and/or environmental programs, projects, policies or procedures. They may train workers in health, safety and/or environmental issues and provide event documentation.

For more information on required and recommended classes for a pathway to the manufacturing 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 — 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.

MTFC Representatives



Sue Mashburne, director of the local Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties, recently recognized two MTFC team members for their outstanding leadership qualities participating in youth-led tobacco prevention programs. Jenna Coker (left), a junior at Grenada High School, is a statewide member of the Youth Advisory Board with the Partnership of a Healthy Mississippi, and Layney Goss (right), a freshman at GHS, is a local member.

“Leap Year”

Continued from Page 1

Culinary Arts

Due to dramatic student interest, we're expanding the culinary arts program at the Grenada Career and Technical Center. Construction begins in early 2018 on a new classroom kitchen with work stations to provide even more in-depth, hands-on learning for students. Once things get up and running, we hope to open classes to adults as well.

Welding

Modine, the local manufacturer of heating and cooling systems, has committed to enhancing our welding program at GCTC. They've already begun updating the welding shop with new equipment and lighting to teach brazing, a specialized metal-joining process that will prepare students for this specialized trade. We're excited and thankful for Modine's extraordinary commitment, which will help train a local work force when the program gets up and going later this year.

Integrated Marketing Communication

This spring GHS will expand its journalism program by launching a dual-credit class with the University of Mississippi's Meek School of Journalism. This unique class blends online learning with on-site instruction from Ole

Miss journalism professor R.J. Morgan. Students will earn high school credit for Marketing Essentials as well as college credit for the Meek School's introductory class Integrated Marketing Communications, which provides an introduction to advertising, public relations, and brand management.

Future Problem Solvers

One of the most innovative programs at the Grenada Elementary Green Top School is Future Problem Solvers International. Fourth and fifth grade students use critical thinking skills to research and develop creative solutions to large-scale, real-world problems. Mrs. Frankie Fortier and Ms. Muffett McPhail coach the teams, which compete against each other to confront hypothetical scenarios set 20-30 years in the future. Teams from all over the state meet each year to test their problem-solving skills in the Mississippi Affiliate Bowl, which Grenada Elementary is proud to host for the first time on March 1-2.

We hope 2018 brings good fortune to our community. Please know that we'll continue to work hard cultivating the young minds of Grenada and striving to bring about the next great leap forward.

Adult Classes Offered

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

LOCATION: Grenada Career & Technical Center, 2035 Jackson Avenue, Grenada, MS 38901

DATES: Tuesdays-January 23 thru February 27, 2018 (for 6 consecutive weeks) **Time:** 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Microsoft Word Cost \$50.00 Instructor: Lisa Jones
Participants will learn how to create great looking customized documents using some of the following: format, pictures and clip art, drawing tools, WordArt, and mail merge. With some of these skills, they will be able to change the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Welding Cost \$75.00 Instructor: Phillip McCarter
Participants will be trained in Basic Safety as well as receive an introduction to basic welding processes and techniques.

PodCasting/Music Production/iMovie Cost: \$50.00 Instructor: Lynne Russell
Participants will be offered the opportunity to work on Apple iMac computers, use the "Garageband" programs, create podcasts and original music.

Beginner Photoshop Cost: \$50.00 Instructor: Robbie Buchanan
Participants will be offered the opportunity to work on Apple iMac computers, use the "Photoshop" and Adobe programs.

The Grenada School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, national origin, or military status with regard to any policy, procedure, or program operation. For inquiries regarding this policy on discrimination contact:
Title IX Coordinator - Mrs Kim Ezell ADA/504 Coordinator - Mr. Lyle Williams

Call 662-226-5969 for questions and registration information.

Monthly School Calendars

available at

www.grenadak12.com

Alumni Spotlight - Desmond Purnell



By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

When we caught up with Grenada High alumnus Desmond Purnell (Class of 1998), he was studying. As a television sports reporter for ESPN, he may spend his weekends at the game, but during the week, Purnell says there are scores, statistics, and player histories to learn.

The Grenada native was preparing for two big sideline gigs — covering the Cactus Bowl in Phoenix and the Music City Bowl in Nashville. Millions watched and listened when

the games were held December 26 and 29 respectively.

That's a significantly larger crowd than the ones that watched him as a running back for the Grenada Chargers. Purnell went on to play football at Mississippi State. During his junior year at MSU, he accepted that he didn't have the talent to go pro but didn't see it as a failure. He'd

studied hard and developed other interests in high school. He'd played in the band as well as football and graduated with honors. When it came time to pivot, Purnell had something precious — options.

"He's driven, that's what I remember most," said David Aldridge, who coached Purnell at GHS in football and powerlifting. "I'll never forget the first day I met him. I was coaching the powerlifting class, and he was one of the first students to arrive. He asked me how he could get stronger with the deadlift, and I just couldn't believe this kid was so anxious to get better. He was receptive to

everything I told him to do."

Aldridge's mentorship remains one of Purnell's bright spots at Grenada. "I wasn't just a player in a position to him," he says of Coach Aldridge. "I was Desmond."

Another eye-opening experience at GHS was Mrs. Donna Gordon's ninth grade English class. She asked the students to create a newscast, and each student chose a role, including host, guest, and producer. Purnell elected to be host. "I've always had a gift for gab. Sometimes teachers found it charming, sometimes I ended up in the principal's office," Purnell joked.

The assignment in Mrs. Gordon's class made an impression. "I thought, Hey man, I think I could do this," Purnell says. "And I always loved watching SportsCenter, but after that assignment, I began to pay closer attention. I began to analyze and study instead of just watching for entertainment."

Of all the inspiring people from his upbringing, none were more critical to Purnell than his parents. He gives them credit for instilling him with the drive and discipline to succeed. They were hard-working, educated people who took factory jobs to

give their six kids everything they needed.

"They busted their tails for us," says Purnell. "I mean they worked! We saw them come home and have to rest before they could help us with homework or drive us to practice. To this day, I still don't know how they did it."

Desmond's parents, George and Bobbie Purnell, still live in Grenada. His other five siblings are scattered across the South in their respective careers. "Of course, after watching our parents, we were all gonna go out and work," says Purnell. "We knew we had to give it back or their sacrifice would have been in vain."

After college, Purnell's determination led him through a series of internships and entry-level broadcast jobs, working for local news stations in Winona, Columbus, Greenwood, and Greenville — even a brief stint in Rapid City, South Dakota — before he moved to Texas and began his trajectory to speaking in front of 80 million viewers.

Purnell has worked his way up from news station photographer to sideline reporter and analysis show host for Fox Sports and the NFL Network. Last year he landed with the

worldwide leader in sports, ESPN. He has interviewed some of the best in the business — LeBron James, Tony Romo, Dez Bryant, Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez — and has won two Emmy Awards for his reporting, along with several nominations.

Along the way he has fostered a work ethic and success principle founded on what he calls the three Cs: consistency, being relentless in your pursuits and your standard of excellence; confidence, knowing you have something special to offer but not being cocky; and Christ, understanding that there is something bigger than you.

In addition to spreading the message of faith, Purnell spreads the good news about fitness and nutrition in his popular exercise classes in his current home of Texas, where he teaches weight-training and cardio dance. His reputation as a positive, inspiring role model, both in front of the camera and behind, further proves he understands the value of giving back.

Said hometown friend and mentor, Coach Aldridge, "He's just got a heart for helping people who want to do the right thing."

High Hopes Discounts for GSD Employees

333 Restaurant- Allison Worsham- free tea with buffet or entree'

All in Fitness- Matt Howell- \$32 per month, \$20 additional member (same household)

Anytime Fitness- Sarah Hannan-\$29.95 per month with 12 month membership

Array Boutique- Amanda Brooks-15% off regular priced merchandise

AT&T- 17% off rate plan

Carroll Black Flowers- Brenda Deloach- 10% off cash and carry items

Custom Printing- Chris Collins- 20% off custom car tag

C-Spire- 15% off Unlimited Everything Plan

Direct Insurance- Rachel Card- 5% off policy

Dolly's- Dolly Marascalco- 10% off collegiate items

Flowers on the Square- Robert Hicks-10% off all regular priced merchandise

Merle Norman- Becky Kendall- 10% off Merle Norman moisturizers

Puddleducks- Karen Hartley- 10% off regular priced merchandise

R & S Storage- Donny Sultan- 50% off 1st months rent, requires at least 2 month contract

Snap Fitness- \$30 single per month, \$50 joint per month, \$60 family(3-5) per month

Tassin Jewelers- Betty Tassin-10%off regular priced gifts; 20% off regular priced jewelry

The Gift Box- Alice Marascalco-10% off all regular priced gifts

Zaxby's- Alan Gant-10% off with GSD I.D. and a free cookie

***Must provide GSD I.D. in order to receive discount**

Businesses interested in participating in the High Hopes Discounts for GSD Staff may contact Lisa Holland - lholland2@grenadak12.com

EMI Staffing Visits Grenada Career and Technical Center



Natalie Bement (center front) from EMI Staffing, a GCTC High Hopes partner, spoke to the students about job applications, resumes, interviews, and the benefits of applying at EMI. GCTC (Grenada Career and Technical Center) students (front row) Jeremiah Love, Shaquan Shipp, Jacob Turner, (back row) Blake Thornhill, Adrian Alldread, Javon Herron, and Joseph Harrison were in attendance.



GHS Assistant Principal Charles Washington



GHS Assistant Principal Charles Washington

By Ny'lasia Randle
GHS Journalism Student

Your future depends on how many positive opportunities you take advantage of throughout your life. Charles Washington, ninth grade principal at Grenada High, also believes that everyone should be given an equal opportunity to succeed in life.

An alumnus of Grenada High, Washington believes the school provided many opportunities, which persuaded

him to help upcoming generations reach their fullest potential. He spends every week motivating and leading students down the correct path to their future.

He grew up in a big family where they helped each other prepare for the next step in life. He is the seventh out of a family of 11 children. His large family inspired him to help other people find success and made him feel at ease around a lot of people at once. Now he is comfortable being around many students right away.

After he graduated from Grenada High School, Charles Washington decided that he wanted to go to a historically black college and had to choose between Alcorn State University and Jackson State University. He enrolled at Alcorn State but later recognized that the four-hour drive from home was too far. After his first year, he transferred to Jackson State University and completed the remainder of his education there with a major in special education. While at Jackson State University, he met his wife, Mary. She was 20 and he was 23 years old. His positive high school experience encouraged him to come back to Grenada.

Later he noticed that teacher salaries were lower in the state of Mississippi. He was working two part-time jobs to maintain his family. He attended a teacher

recruitment day in Illinois and found out that Kankakee had the highest teacher pay. He and his wife decided to move when he was 35 years old. He was a special education teacher during the time.

He noticed that principals can impact more students than a special education teacher could. He could help lead more students down the correct path. He left Illinois and came back to Mississippi, regardless of the lower pay. He felt that Grenada was the place where he belonged. Grenada has always been a special place to him because this is where it all started.

Washington has been the ninth grade principal at Grenada High for 15 years. He enjoys helping students of many different personalities and races. "Mr. Washington has integrity and he treats everyone the same no matter who they are," said ninth grade secretary Mrs. Sherilyn Harris. "He is almost like their parent because when he worries, it shows you how much he truly cares."

Washington said, "I had one student who graduated approximately four years ago, and this student actually wrote a letter to me about how he appreciated my guidance and insight as he was going through Grenada High School."

He constantly thinks of how to improve school and make high school

experiences better. "The school district has improved tremendously over the past 10 to 12 years," he said, though he believes the school needs more programs where students can interact with each other. "Some students don't think highly of themselves and these students tend to follow one another. Those students in particular need the proper guidance to know they can be leaders too. I try to encourage all individual students to be leaders and to stay on track for their future."

Mr. Washington is not only a principal, but a father, a grandfather, and a husband. He has been married to his wife for 37 years and counting. He enjoys barbecuing for his family and watching his fish pond expand. He enjoys grilling, which he finds to be a better alternative to frying fish, and has been expanding his fish habitat for three years now. His pond contains his favorite fish, crappies and bluegill. In addition to his three grown children, Mr. Washington has five grandchildren.

Charles Washington took advantage of all the opportunities available at Grenada High and utilized them in the most positive way imaginable. This Grenada High alumnus has made multiple impacts on students at GHS.

Calendar Sponsored By SPAIN'S SUPERMARKET The Best Meats In Town!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February				1 Entertainers Practice 3:30pm-5:00pm/Visions Practice 5:00pm-8:30pm/GHS Aud. Archery Practice/grades 7-12/GHS Gym 4:00pm - 5:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec.-Basketball Practice- GHS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	2 GMS Entertainers Competition at Jackson Academy I-55 Band Clinic/Senatobia NIROTC at Camp McCain Visions in GHS Aud. Grenada Parks & Rec.-Basketball Practice- GHS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	3 GHS Visions Competition at Jackson Academy I-55 Band Clinic/Senatobia Visions in GHS Aud. Grenada Parks & Rec.-Basketball Games- GHS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm MAPQL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm
4	5 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions GHS & GMS Football Cheerleaders-Tryout Clinic-GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm	6 GCTC-Educators Rising Club State Comp. GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions GHS & GMS Football Cheerleaders-Tryout Clinic-GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS JV/VAR Basketball-North Panola-Senior Night (Home) 4:00pm	7 GCTC-Educators Rising Club State Comp. GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions GHS & GMS Football Cheerleaders-Tryout Clinic-GHS Gym 3:30pm - 5:30pm	8 GCTC-Educators Rising Club State Comp. GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions GHS-Blood Drive-GHS Parking Lot (Bloodmobile) 8:00am - 3:00pm Archery Practice/grades 7-12/GHS Gym 4:00pm - 5:30pm Grenada Parks & Rec.-Basketball Practice- GHS Gym 5:30pm - 7:30pm	9 GCTC-Educators Rising Club State Comp. GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions GHS & GMS Football Cheerleaders-Tryout Clinic-GHS Gym 3:30pm GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Desoto Central (Away) 6:00pm	10 ACT GHS Aud. reserved for Visions NIROTC Community Service-Roadside Clean Up Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions Grenada Parks & Rec.-Basketball Games- GHS Gym 7:00am - 5:00pm
11 Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions	12 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Div.Tourn.-West Point (Away) TBA 3:00pm	13 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions TMEA Clinic/San Antonio, TX (Directors Only) GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Div.Tourn.-West Point (Away) TBA 3:00pm Archery Practice/grades 4-6/GHS Gym 4:00pm - 5:30pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day *Professional Development for Teachers!!! NO Students! (Possible weather make up day.) Entertainers & Visions Practice in GHS Aud./TBA GHS Aud. reserved for Visions TMEA Clinic/San Antonio, TX (Directors Only) GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Div.Tourn.-West Point (Away) TBA 3:00pm	15 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Rehearsal for Entertainers and/or Visions TMEA Clinic/San Antonio, TX (Directors Only) GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Div.Tourn.-West Point (Away) TBA 3:00pm Archery Practice/grades 7-12/GHS Gym 4:00pm - 5:30pm	16 GMS Entertainers Competition at West Jones High School/TBA TMEA Clinic/San Antonio, TX (Directors Only) GUES Science Fair-GUES Gym 7:45am - 2:30pm GHS G/B VAR Basketball-Div.Tourn.-West Point (Away) TBA 3:00pm	17 GHS Baseball Jamboree-Water Valley (TBA) GHS Visions Competition at West Jones High School/TBA TMEA Clinic/San Antonio, TX (Directors Only)
18	19 President's Day Band moves to GHS Auditorium Possible Visions Rehearsal at GMS Choir Room Band-GHS Guard Training-GMS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS & GMS JV/V Fast Pitch Softball-Hernando (Home) 4:00pm GHS Ft. Ball Freshman/Varsity New Squad Member/Parent Meeting-GHS Cafe 6:00pm	20 Band in GHS Aud. ALL DAY GHS Basketball-Round 1 State - TBA GHS Fast Pitch Softball-Open Date Possible Visions Rehearsal at GMS Choir Room Band-GHS Guard Training-GMS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm	21 Band in GHS Aud. ALL DAY GHS Basketball-Round 1 State - TBA Possible Visions Rehearsal at GMS Choir Room Band-GHS Guard Training-GMS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm	22 Band in GHS Aud. ALL DAY GHS Fast Pitch Softball-Open Date Possible Visions Rehearsal after concert Band-GHS Guard Training-GMS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS Band Percussion Ensemble Concert/GHS Auditorium 7:00pm	23 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions GHS Baseball Classic-Kosciusko (TBA) 21st CCLC After School Program Professional Development-GHS Auditorium (Admin. & Teachers Only) - Set Up 2:30pm--- 3:30pm - 5:30pm Visions Practice in GHS Aud. 3:30pm Band-GHS Guard Tryouts-GMS Gym 3:40pm	24 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions GHS Baseball Classic-Kosciusko (TBA) GHS Basketball - Round 2 State - TBA GHS V Fast Pitch Softball at Winona (2 games) GHS Visions Competition at Auburn High School/TBA NIROTC Community Service at Food Pantry NIROTC Northern Region PT Meet
25 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions GHS Basketball - Round 2 State - TBA	26 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions Possible Visions Practice Tennis-at Tupelo (Var. & JV) GHS Fast Pitch Softball-Oxford (Home-2 games) 5:00pm	27 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions GHS Baseball at Tupelo (JV at 4:00pm, V at 6:00pm) Possible Visions Practice GLAD Advisory Board Meeting/Conference Room at GLAD Building 8:00am - 8:00pm Archery Practice/grades 4-6/GHS Gym 4:00pm - 5:30pm GHS JV/V Fast Pitch Softball at Calhoun City 5:00pm	28 GHS Aud. reserved for Visions			

GES Children's Book Club



Anna Hankins reads through a passage before a book club discussion.



Jeanne DuPrau is the author of "The City of Ember."



Da'Mareon Sims and Hayden Lee discuss "The City of Ember," a novel being read by the GES Children's Book Club.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

In 2016, when she became principal of Grenada Elementary's 4th and 5th grade school, Carol Tharpe was troubled by a gap she noticed in classroom reading instruction. A lot of time was spent taking texts apart and looking at individual portions.

But something was missing. Teachers and students didn't have the time to put the text back together and view the work as a dynamic whole.

So Tharpe had the idea of starting a book club that would offer students a chance to read a book based on their interests and to give them adequate time to discuss it with their peers.

"It was a little selfish, I have to admit," she says. "I thought if we could get a little more time with them during the day, they could experience reading in a more relaxed atmosphere and engage with books the way I did when I was a girl."

Thus the Grenada Elementary School Children's Book Club was born.

Tharpe gave the idea to Pam Briscoe, an English language arts instructional specialist at the 4th and 5th grade "Green Top" building, who was in charge of making it happen.

"I thought it was a great idea," said

Briscoe. "Kids have a natural desire for interaction with their peers. They really want to talk and share and be involved in the text, but you don't always find time for that in the class."

Tharpe and Briscoe first approached students and parents with the idea at Open House last fall. They polled kids on what type of book they'd like to read — fantasy was the number-one selection — and how often they were willing to stay after school to discuss the book.

They hoped 20-25 kids would show up to the first meeting at the Green Top library. They were astounded when 70 students joined the club. The interest was so great the meeting had to be moved to the gymnasium.

For the club's first book, Tharpe and Briscoe researched the best contemporary novels for fourth and fifth graders. One title that turned up frequently was *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. The story is set in a mysterious underground city, built as a last refuge for the human race. The two young heroes must work together to help ensure the city's survival.

At one of the last meetings before the holidays, the gymnasium stage was decorated with an elaborate winter scene, including an evocative design of the Ember skyline. Clusters of students sat in the center of the floor, conversing in small groups of five and six. Teachers — not

only ELA instructors but art, LEAP, and science teachers too — walked around to listen and often sat down to join the group. They were there to facilitate the discussions, but it was clear these kids needed little prompting.

"Once you show students how to have good talks, you can sit back and enjoy watching them blossom," says Briscoe. "Our teachers have changed too. They're like flies on the wall."

The imaginative city of the novel helped prompt discussions about the importance of setting. Students also discussed how characters change over the course of a story and talked about the novel's wider themes.

"A diverse group of students share their different experiences and circumstances, which allows them to have good conversation," says Briscoe. "We want them to see the intrinsic value in reading. This helps them share ideas, take on leadership roles, make connections to characters and to each other."

The club's in-depth study of the novel will spill over to the spring semester. By the time the kids complete the book, they will have had nine sessions in all. That depth of reading is simply not possible in the classroom, where texts get a week's worth of discussion at most.

This semester, Tharpe will bring in more outside figures from the community to share their love reading, including Grenada mayor Billy Collins and songwriter Charlie Worsham. Guests will also be asked to read so that students pick up an ear for reading fluency. (Santa Claus read to them at their year-end meeting.)

The club's first season will culminate with a parents night event that will include a Skype discussion with the author and a screening of the movie based on the book.

Briscoe predicts an even bigger club next school year. She can also imagine this approach finding its way into general English classes as students and teachers embrace this unique approach to reading.

"We're not teaching books," says Briscoe. "We're not pushing a standard or curriculum. This is the students talking about what they're reading. They're in charge."

Teacher EEF Card Sale

Up to 50% Off Select Merchandise

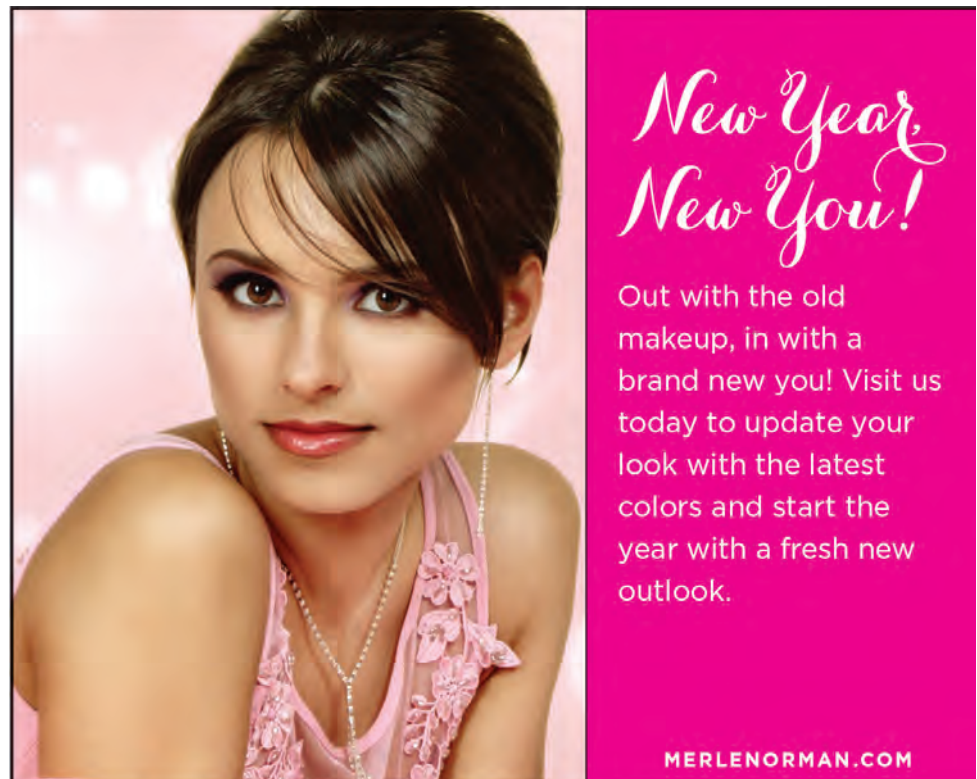
- 1 Sale Item = Save 10%
- 2 Sale Items = Save 20%
- 3 Sale Items = Save 30%
- 4 Sale Items = Save 40%
- 5 or More Sale Items = Savings of 50%



Cris Office Supply

2245 S. Commerce St. in Grenada • Hwy. 51 South • Call 226-1901 for details.
Regular Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-12

Order online at www.crisofficesupply.com



*New Year,
New You!*

Out with the old makeup, in with a brand new you! Visit us today to update your look with the latest colors and start the year with a fresh new outlook.

MERLENORMAN.COM

1321 Suite L • Grenada, Ms 38901 • 662-226-0605
Monday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 10:00 - 2:00

MERLE NORMAN
MADE IN THE USA

21st Century Teaches Photoshop Skills



Jamia Collins chose to put herself in the leaves for her "tiny person" project.



The project "Make Yourself Fly" created a lively discussion. Breanna Elliott chose to "fly" with Superman.



Taylor House was inspired by her love of wolves to create this sweat-shirt design.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Kids these days are expected to be more intuitive about computers and technology than their elders.

They may be comfortable navigating websites and searching up movies and music, but 21st Century skills instructor Robbie Buchanan has discovered that such basic tasks as copying and pasting text are completely foreign to a lot of students.

In her extra-curricular Photoshop class, Buchanan teaches middle school students some of the tools of computer graphic design. They learn how to move and set type, how to capture video and digital photographs, and how to create photo illustrations by manipulating color and content. She says the kids in this after-school class are learning a lot and having a blast.

"It's supposed to be fun," Buchanan said. "It's not for a grade. We want to give them something to look forward to, which is the best way to keep kids in school."

The 21st Century program at Grenada Schools was designed to expose students to new skills and potential career paths. The class started ten years ago with funds from a 21st Century grant awarded by the Mississippi Department of Education.

In addition to after-school tutoring, the 21st Century program offers skills classes — which include podcasting, pottery, cu-

linary arts, carpentry, automotive repair, urban agriculture/archery, and, of course, Photoshop — that make the Grenada Career and Technical School a buzzing hive of extra-curricular instruction on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

During most sessions, you'll find Buchanan's class of eight sitting at their Apple computers, working in the Photoshop program. They may also be designing movies on iPads or taking photos in front of a large green screen, which allows them to swap out the background with anything they can imagine.

Jamia Collins, an eighth grader at Grenada Middle School, has been enjoying the class. She enjoys taking photos of people and nature and has learned to load her images into Photoshop, where she can improve and change them. "I get to make it my own," she said.

Seventh grader Taylor House became interested in the class because her mother uses Photoshop at work. She enjoys dropping photos of herself into different settings. "It's like going into another world," she said. She looks forward to creating digital art when she gets older. "I can do my art on paper and then customize it in Photoshop."

Breanna Elliott, seventh grade, is taking the Photoshop class for the second year in a row. In addition to superimposing her photo onto different scenes, she likes creating her own designs and applying them to keychains and necklaces.

Buchanan said the kids had the most

fun making Christmas presents for parents, siblings, and teachers. Each student made seven to eight gifts, ranging from t-shirts and aprons to bags and candles, all imprinted with their own designs.

Still to come this year, Buchanan plans to introduce the students to robots and basic coding as well as stop-motion animation.

"They're learning patience and perseverance too," she said. "Sometimes they get a little frustrated trying to learn the program because it can be difficult. But

when we start making things like t-shirts and gifts, they can really see what the results of what they've learned."

Buchanan said, "One student was so happy after we finished making Christmas presents, she said, 'And I thought this was going to be a boring class!'"

AmeriCorps Member of the Month



By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

Keon Townes joined AmeriCorps to make an impact on students' lives and to help them achieve academic excellence. Her goal is to improve their reading and math scores.

"AmeriCorps has had a positive impact on my life," said Townes. "Serving is what I love to do and making an influence in children's lives has changed my life. I think being a positive role model and telling children they can do whatever they dream of doing helps the children strive to do better. Hearing stories of children's dreams, and what they would like to become when they grow up, has inspired me to go back to school and get my masters in social work. I also have gained skills that will enhance my career.

The teachers here in the district have encouraged me to keep working hard and to do my best. That encouragement flows to the students through me."

Townes is the mother of Kevondria Steele, a ninth grade student at Grenada High School.

Townes graduated from Grenada High School in 2002 and Holmes Community College in 2012 with an associate's degree in social work/ sociology. In May 2014, she graduated with her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Mississippi.

Townes was selected to serve as team leader this year because she embodies the spirit of leadership. She volunteers for almost every project and ensures that the project is completed to my expectations. I love her professionalism and her commitment to "Getting Things Done."

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. Townes plans to use her education award to return to the University of Mississippi to get her master's degree in social work.

According to Townes, her experience as a second-year member has taught her to stay humble and focused. She said, "I have learned that every student in the elementary school is not on the same reading and math levels and helping the students stay focused will help change their lives."

Be Responsible

Be Caring

Remember the Charger Traits!
Take pride in our community!
Help Keep Grenada Clean!

Be Respectful

Be Safe



Grocery Basket WE PUT MORE IN YOUR BASKET FOR LESS!

Supporting our community for over 35 years.
1770 South Commerce Street

Grenada

662-226-0541

New Arts Center Opens on GHS Campus



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

(l to r) Micah Williams, Katie Mims, teacher Melissa Taylor, and Anna Kuhn enjoy the first week of Art II in their new “classroom,” the Art Center, a renovated house on the GHS campus.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada High School art teacher Melissa Taylor received a nice surprise last year before Thanksgiving break. She learned that her art classes would have a new home next semester.

The new space, a remodeled house on property the district acquired behind the bus depot and next to the tennis courts, is called the Arts Center.

When Taylor first visited the space, she found the construction project well un-

derway. Maintenance director Jeff Pickle had torn out sheetrock and varnished the original wood in one of three studio rooms where students will work in small groups. He sought Taylor’s input to add functionality to the space.

“It was a small house, and we didn’t want to crowd it up with tables like her classroom,” Pickle said.

Taylor gives Pickle credit for coming up with creative solutions to the space issue. He recycled old doors from the house to make corner display shelves as well as retractable easels that fold against

the wall when students aren’t working.

The space also has gallery-style track lighting for displaying student artwork on the walls, as well as a bathroom, kitchen and storage space for art supplies. Despite its previous incarnation as a home, the space still functions well as a classroom. The hallway was opened up, and Taylor can stand in the middle and see the students in all three studios. They’ve also planned to install television screens to project in each room when she’s demonstrating techniques.

Taylor said she feels “excited, grateful, and blessed” to have a new home for the art program. And she’s not

the only one.

Her students were so excited about the new space, they helped her move over the holiday break. She said they enjoy getting out of the main building for a little while and enjoy in a tranquil setting more conducive to creating art.

They also have more room to stretch out. Pickle designed and built new drawing tables — also out of recycled materials — with LED light boxes that illuminate the surface which comes in handy for tracing and drawing.

A back porch looks onto a wide, fenced-in yard with two towering shade trees. “Now I’m walking around here, and my mind is whirling with ideas,” Taylor said. “I see all the things we could do like designing stained glass for the windows and sculptures in the yard.”

Taylor teaches five sections of Art I and a section of advanced art, along with two pottery classes at the Career & Technical Center — one for the 21st Century extra-curricular program and an adult night course. “She’s done a remarkable job teaching visual arts,” said Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault. “We’re excited to see where this program goes next.”

In addition to an open house this semester to show off the space and the students’ work, Taylor says she wants to use the space to showcase the work of local artists, as well as take on more advanced projects.

“I just want the community to know more about the art program at Grenada High,” said Taylor. “This new space is a big step towards that.”



f /umgrenada
@UMGrenada

TEACHERS:
Keep teaching!
Keep learning!
Earn your master’s
and specialist of
education degrees
in Grenada.

Stop by any time 4-6 p.m.
Tuesday, February 6
Holmes Community College-Grenada,
Phillips Hall, Room 115

OPEN HOUSE GRADUATE INFO SESSION

Graduate-level degrees offered at the UM-Grenada campus include:

- Master’s of Elementary Education in Curriculum & Instruction
- Master’s and Educational Specialist (Ed.S) in Educational Leadership (K-12 Administration)
Become a principal in your area. All courses offered in Grenada.



THE UNIVERSITY of
**MISSISSIPPI
GRENADA**

on the Holmes-Grenada campus
1060 Avent Drive, Grenada, MS 38901

Call Jessica Coker-Hughes at 662-227-2370 or e-mail jlccoker3@olemiss.edu

outreach.olemiss.edu/openhouse

Grenada Middle School Students of the Month



Photo by Lisa Holland

Sixth grade Students of the Month for December are (front l to r) Greyson Patton, Latavien Pritchard, Alvin Benford, (back l to r) Assistant Principal Angela Cooley, Kayla Cannon, Damysia Coffey, Chastiey Cyr, and Marlee Caswell. Not pictured- Nadiya Hurd



Photo by Lisa Holland

Seventh Grade Students of the Month for December are (front l to r) Sandra McDaniel, Jaden Cooper (back l to r) Assistant Principal Angela Cooley, Luke Hardin, Kateara Edmonds, Damon Dulin, and Cayden Thrash.



Photo by Lisa Holland

Eighth Grade Students of the Month for December are (front l to r) Jakeyia Demming, Harley Henley, Blake Allen, Dylan Carnathan, (back l to r) Assistant Principal Angela Cooley, Caleb Milam, Levi Goldwater-Deussen, Dequaveon O'Bryant, and Jaheim Shack.

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, Mrs. Kim Ezell; ADA/504 Coordinator, Lyle Williams; Grenada School District, 253 S. Main, Grenada, MS 38901; 662-226-1606

197 Scenic Loop #333
662-227-9210
www.grenadalakecharters.com

Grenada Lake CHARTERS 'FISH WITH US'

Sponsors

GSD Student of the Month

Huey Chan

GES Green Top Celebrates Veteran's Day



Photos by Green Top Staff

GES Green Top celebrated Veteran's Day with a parade around the school grounds. (photo left) (l to r) Kate Cobb, Blakely Kirk, Lylah Kate Burnett, (photo center) (l to r) Mary Mitchell Hill, Marlow Bean, (photo right) (l to r) A'lante Hubbard and Darshi Kher participated in the parade with posters and smiles.

GMS Angel Tree Project



Photo by Stacia Jackson

Grenada Middle School recently hosted its annual Angel Tree project, a program that collects money to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need. Lacey Walker (left) and Tereasa Bennett, representatives from Continue Care Home Health and Hospice, were among the Angel Tree partners on hand to help collect and distribute gifts.

GETC Students Practice Dining Etiquette

(Photo right) Students from the Grenada Enrichment and Transition Center, including Miriam Crump (seated) and Romeo Chamberlain, dined at Orleans Bistro as part of their reward for good behavior. Proprietor Diane Chidlow demonstrated restaurant dining etiquette and behavior for the attending students.



Photo by Lisa Holland

