

Innovation from the Ground Up



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

Earlier this year, the Mississippi Department of Education deemed Grenada Schools a "District of Innovation," one of only five districts in the state to enjoy such distinction. Innovation status grants us exemption from certain state education requirements and allows us broader freedom to explore more forward-thinking curriculum.

Every school in the Grenada School District has seized this opportunity. "Innovation" is the new watchword around here, and it is our sincere belief that through innovative learning, we can improve this school and, in turn, our whole community.

Our mission of innovation begins at a very young age, younger than most suspect. GSD's Pre-K Learning Block programs, which started in 2015, grew by leaps and bounds last year, and starting this semester, it will expand to include three-year-old students.

When we first approached Grenada Elementary kindergarten teachers with the idea of a Pre-K program, they were enthusiastic but also warned us about bringing small children into such a big environment. The prospect of sending a four-year-old child to school, where they attend classes in the same building as kids up to twice their age, can be intimidating, both for parents and students. Therefore it was critical that the program be well-planned and developmentally appropriate.

We're proud to say that, after the first year, the students exceeded our high expectations. Not only have the kids' test scores shot up, their self-confidence and social skills have soared as well. To design the learning environment of our Pre-K classrooms, we turned to the experts at Hatch, an education company that has been designing innovative classrooms for over 30 years. Everything they designed for the Pre-K classes are developmentally appropriate for four-year-olds, from the furniture to the centers to the hands-on activities. We even installed a new playground, made especially for and used only by the Pre-K classes.

For our first Pre-K class last year, we had the students come earlier than the older kids to get them acclimated to the school, and we were amazed how quickly they adjusted. They learned the building, how to navigate the cafeteria, how to walk quietly in the hall, and how to stay in line. By the end of the school year, you couldn't tell our Pre-K class from the kindergarten class!

To staff the classes, we hired certified teachers who specialize in early learning, along with assistants, providing a one-to-ten teacher-student ratio. We've met all the state guidelines for these early-learning classes as well.

The classroom environment is fun and energetic. There's a lot of movement, music, games, and hands-on activities. One class had a pet bunny that the children learned to care for and clean up after. There is small-group instruction with decodable readers to prepare the children for phonics. The four-year-olds have shown remarkable growth in letter-recognition, counting, and story comprehension. Social interaction is a big component, and they've learned to work with others and take direction from adults other than their parents.

See "Innovation"
Continued on page 8

Walls that Teach Tour Returns



By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

When students arrive for their first day at Grenada Middle School, seventh-grade social studies teacher Michael Jackson likes to ask them what they know about ancient Egypt. "Of course, some of them talk about mummies and things like that," Jackson says. "And then I like to tell them, 'You may not realize it, but as you walked here to class, you actually toured ancient Egypt.'"

The eye-catching artwork that adorns the hallways throughout the Grenada Middle School — a project called Walls That Teach — is comprised of painted murals, timelines, and sculptures that reflect periods of ancient civilization from Egypt, China, and Rome to the Mississippi Choctaw and even Grenada Lake circa 1950s.

Not long ago, the walls were part of the middle school's history and social studies curriculum. Students would wander the hallways listening to a guided audio tour through headphones on cassette tape players.

But like the civilizations depicted in the murals, the technology became

antiquated. New curriculum moved in to eclipse the lessons written right there on the school walls.

Recently, the guided audio tour was excavated and uploaded to YouTube. New QR codes, posted near the murals, allow the audio to be launched from a cell phone. Students once again have access to an audio program that explains the walls' symbols, artistic styles, and scenes of daily life from ancient cultures.

Jackson is pleased to have the Walls That Teach audio tour back in service. His students enjoyed it, and the lessons matched the textbook units he taught on ancient Egyptian, Chinese, and Roman cultures. "Lots of students learn by taking notes, but other students have to see it," Jackson says. "So it's a really great tool for those students."

Walls That Teach was a five-year project that started in 1996 when the district commissioned the murals. Mississippi artist Robin Whitfield, finishing her degree in art from Delta State University at the time, packed up and moved to Grenada to tackle the project.

"The school wanted to turn their middle school into a time machine,"

Whitfield recalls. "They wanted to have the environment itself teach the student body as they walked around, the kind of learning where you soak it in. Little did I realize what I was stepping off into."

Whitfield had never held a real job as an artist and took this project very seriously. She'd been asked to depict the history of human civilization and quickly realized she didn't know near enough about human civilization.

"Back then I didn't have internet, so I used the Ole Miss library, the Grenada library. Every library I could find."

With so much history to choose from, she decided to focus on the daily life of her subjects. She studied the artwork of each time period for an authentic representation of how each culture saw the world. She also seized on the idea of how societies responded to their environment to develop what they needed to advance.

The Walls That Teach tour starts at the west-side entrance beside the gymnasium, where a timeline mural chronicles historical events from 6,000 B.C. to 2001.

See "Walls"
Continued on page 2

Knights of Columbus Donates to GUES



(back l to r) GSD Director of Special Education Bea Colbert, GSD Computer Technician & Knights of Columbus Member Joseph Liberto, GSD Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, Knights of Columbus Trustee Lee Munstenteiger, and GUES Special Education Teacher Shannon Potter

On July 26, 2017, employees of the Grenada School District were presented a check from the Knights of Columbus Council #10443 of Saint Peter's Catholic Church in Grenada. The generous gift, totaling \$4430.12, came from funds generated by the Knights of Columbus' annual

Tootsie Roll Fundraiser held every May, as well as matching funds from the Wal-Mart Corporation. The gift will be used to purchase educational materials and adaptive equipment for students with intellectual and physical disabilities in the Grenada School District. As a result of this gift,

special education students at every school campus will have specialized equipment to promote cognitive, physical, social, emotional, communicative, and adaptive skill development in their classrooms.

Photo by Lisa Holland

GMS Basketball Cheerleaders Earn Awards



GMS basketball cheerleaders Katelyn Winters, Ashlyn Boclear, Summer Booker, Kayla Robinson, Tia Ewing, Erinisha Savage, Autumn Davis, Tanija Townes, Alyssia Biggins, and Mersie Watkins attended UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) Summer Camp held at the University of Mississippi. The squad was awarded three trophies, a superior rating for sideline cheers and motion skills, and numerous gold ribbons for performances throughout the week.

“Walls”

Continued from Page 1

From there, the sixth grade hall depicts the hieroglyphics, artistic styles, and scenes from daily life of the ancient Egyptians. A nine-foot sculptural sarcophagus of female Pharaoh Hatshepsut stands guard at one end.

The seventh grade hall traces the ancient Chinese culture, focusing on the art, symbols, philosophy, and technological advances. The next hall, toward the library, showcases Roman murals and street scenes through the setting of Pompeii.

A mural in the cafeteria, painted later by Ginger Wolfe, portrays famous figures from the 1950s in the setting of Grenada Lake.

The last leg of the tour is through one of the school courtyards and features an outdoor environment depicting a Mississippi Choctaw village. On the site is a replica cabin, constructed by Whitfield and her student volunteers with help from actual members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

“Often teachers would allow students to come out and work with me to complete sections, especially on the walls themselves,” Whitfield says. “It allowed them to have a personal connection to what was going on and I think have a level of excitement and memories associated with this whole process.”

Whitfield says she occasionally sees these former students, now in their 30’s, around Grenada. “It’s true they have never forgotten that experience and they always know me and they always want to tell me what that meant to them,” she says.

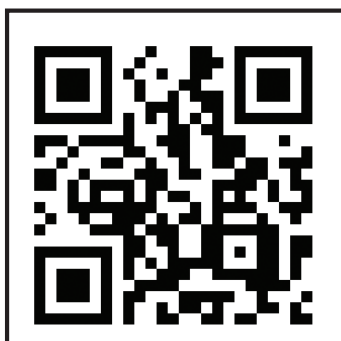
The Walls That Teach experience made such an impact on Whitfield that she settled in Grenada permanently and continues to explore art through nature, a concept she developed during her work on the murals. Through her artwork, she has brought awareness to the local Chachiuma Swamp near downtown Grenada and had led an effort to preserve the area as a public wildlife site.

Now that it has been a part of the middle school for more than twenty years, the Walls That Teach is a part of school history itself.

Angela Cooley, an assistant principal at Grenada Middle School, believes that having the walls as part of the middle schoolers’ daily experience teaches them about the world, even if they aren’t consciously learning.

“I think it’s a brilliant way of helping students understand the diverse culture in which society — not just the school, but society — originated,” says Cooley. “I think it helps students understand the connections between those civilizations and that in which we live.”

To understand how a QR code works, download a free application for a QR Code Reader for your smart phone from the Apple Store or Google Play. Click on the QR Reader app and scan this QR code.



**For more on Walls That Teach
Visit our YouTube channel,
Grenada Schools Presents**



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and receive notices of
new videos featuring
Grenada School District
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AmeriCorps Celebrates Program Graduates



(back l to r) Darvis Purnell, Parissa Randle, Sharon Sayles, Ashley Taylor, Lavaya Johnson, Latoya Shipp, Shavonne Bradley, (center l to r) Crystal Mitchell, Sheila Noel, Jasmine Loggins, Star Boyles, Debbie Cunningham, Markita Booker, Kirsandra Gayden, Masheavia Booker, Tiffany McCuiston, (front l to r) Shatasa Smith-Jones, Alicia Hayes, Devetris Pratt, April Lane, Markitta Chamblee, Shalunda Hardiman, Shirlesha West, Keon Townes, LaShawn Perryman, Tamara Hobgood, and Shonqilla Small

By AmeriCorps Director
Gwen Woodson

The Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program has proven to be a winner! Each year the members tutored students who needed extra attention in order to stay up to grade level. They have continually succeeded in reaching their goals to help students grow at least 15 percent academically. Many achieved even higher numbers.

The members also proved to be a blessing to many community efforts like the Boys and Girls Club, Food Pantry, the Grenada Chamber of Commerce, and Grenada Tourism Commission. The Elizabeth Jones Library has partnered in presenting Reading Programs, Holmes

Community College cooperates with training space and ACT Work Keys testing, Dollar General donates items for the reading programs, and the City and County provide job skill training opportunities for the members.

Congratulation 2016-2017 AmeriCorps class for receiving your required 1,700 service hours. The members will be graduating on August 31, 2017, at Taylor Hall at 6 p.m. We appreciate your service and dedication to our school and community.

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com. For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov

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Conner Jackson and Amanda Moorman



Leigh Vance, Madison Bennett, and Tyree Jones



Laigan Conley and Jaslyn Forrest



Ja'Mya Benson and Jensyn Havens



Arlein Palmer and Olivia Lee



Chip Foster and Arlon Wise



Phyllis Chism and Josiah Knox



Gwen Booker and Mary Clayton Logan



(photo left) Reid Kelly and Caleb Mayfield



(photo right) Mary Hill and Jaylen Singleton



(photo left) Natalie Carpenter and Haley Liddell



(photo right) Brittany Conley and Alyssa Honey

Photos by Lisa Holland

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- Amanda Austin, Grenada School District
- Nancy Jacks, Grenada School District
- Lindsey Leggett, Grenada School District
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- Joshua Warren, Calhoun County School District
- Kanequa Willis, Grenada School District

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2017 GHS Football Seniors



(4th Row l to r) Antonio Whatley, Timothy Covington, Baylee Trusty, Jacob Dickson, Ken Cook, Ja'Darrius Ward, Austin Ruthelford, (3rd Row l to r) Ty Williams, Colton Cahill, Camron Johnson, Deantrell Long, Samuel Stewart, Tommy Bridges, T.J. Cook, (2nd Row l to r) Christian Cain, Will Baker, Jahmeir Johnson, Chaz Trost, Chris Caldwell, Will Rounds, David Meadows, Gavin Kolb, (1st Row l to r) Jared Barnes, Quen Thompson, Jamarcus Hubbard, Isaiah Townes, Deon House, Easton Curry, and Jadarius Carver

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football at Oxford 7:00pm	2 MAPQSL Class - "B" Building, Room 23A 7:30am - 5:00pm
3 Visions in GHS Aud.	4 Labor Day HOLIDAY!!! Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 6:00pm - 8:00pm	5 GHS SP Softball- Open date Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course- GTC 5:00pm - 9:30pm GHS Football Freshman & Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 6:00pm - 8:00pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 6:00pm - 8:00pm	6 Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm MAE Member Benefits-GMS Rm. 24 3:30pm	7 7th (4:30pm), 8th (5:30pm) & 9th (6:30pm) Grade Football-Starkville-Home Band Beginner Parent Meeting- 5:00pm & 7:00pm at the Band Hall Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm GHS V Soft Pitch Softball at Starkville 4:30pm	8 GHS Football-Kosciusko-Home (HOMECOMING) Pics at 4pm in B Bldg; Parade 6:20pm; Homecoming at 6:30pm; and Game 7pm NJROTC Community Service at Homecoming game Visions in GHS Aud. Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm	9 ACT NJROTC Air Rifle at Warren Central Visions in GHS Aud.
10 Visions in GHS Aud.	11 Visions in GHS Aud. Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football Freshman & Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS Band Drum Major Sectional 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm Band in GHS Gym 6:00pm - 8:30pm GHS Beat the Heat FULL BAND Rehearsal 6:00pm - 8:30pm	12 GHS SP Softball- Open date Jr. Varsity Football- Charleston-Home-TBA Visions in GHS Aud. Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Band Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	13 Visions in GHS Aud. Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Full Band Rehearsal in GHS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm	14 7th (4:30pm), 8th (5:30pm) & 9th (6:30pm) Grade Football-Louisville-Away Visions in GHS Aud. Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm Visions Practice/GHS Aud. 4:00pm - 8:00pm GHS V Soft Pitch Softball at Holmes Co. 5:00pm	15 Visions Show-GHS Aud. (School Show 8:30am) Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football at Louisville 7:00pm	16 Grenada's Downtown Jubilee (Vision's & NJROTC)
17	18 Jr. Varsity Football-Clarksdale-Home-TBA Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Band Drum Major Sectional 3:40pm - 5:15pm Band in GHS Gym 6:00pm - 8:30pm GHS Beat the Heat FULL BAND Rehearsal 6:00pm - 8:30pm	19 Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Band Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS V Soft Pitch Softball at Cleveland 5:00pm GHS Football Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 6:00pm - 8:00pm	20 NJROTC Air Rifle at South Panola NJROTC visits GMS Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Full Band Rehearsal in GHS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm	21 7th (4:30pm), 8th (5:30pm) & 9th (6:30pm) Grade Football-Oxford-Home NJROTC Air Rifle at South Panola Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS V Soft Pitch Softball at Greenville 4:30pm	22 NJROTC Air Rifle at South Panola Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football at Center Hill* 7:00pm	23 GHS V Soft Pitch Softball Charleston Tourney at Charleston-3 Games NJROTC @ Grenada 4th Annual Charger Challenge Meet (GHS football field) NJROTC Air Rifle at South Panola NJROTC Community Service at Food Pantry GHS Baseball-Alumni Baseball Game/Homerom Derby-GHS Baseball Field 10:00am - 6:00pm
24	25 Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football Varsity Cheer Practice/Armory 3:30pm - 5:30pm GHS Band Drum Major Sectional 3:40pm - 5:15pm Band in GHS Gym 6:00pm - 8:30pm GHS Beat the Heat FULL BAND Rehearsal 6:00pm - 8:30pm	26 Jr. Varsity Football-Charleston-Away-TBA Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Band Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm GHS V Soft Pitch Softball-Starkville (Home) 4:30pm	27 Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Full Band Rehearsal in GHS Gym 3:40pm - 5:15pm	28 7th (4:30pm), 8th (5:30pm) & 9th (6:30pm) Grade Football-Tupelo-Away Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS V/DH Soft Pitch Softball-Winona (Home) 4:30pm	29 NJROTC Community Service at Wounded Warrior Game Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm GHS Football-Lake Cormorant* (Wounded Warrior)-Home 7:00pm	30 NJROTC Northern Region Drill Meet at Batesville Band in GHS Gym 10:45am - 12:35pm

2017 GHS Band Camp



(l to r) Shannon Turner, Dallin Foreman, and Christopher Davis



Arlon Wise and Braden Waugh



(l to r) Ja'Mya Benson, Kennedi Hardy, and Mary Anne Frazier



Maeci McCullough

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

With a week before classes, the intensity and execution of the Grenada Band is like a military operation. The sounds of their rehearsal echo over the campus. Clacking sticks keep time in quarter notes. Bass drum beats wallop every half measure. The brass section wails as the director calls out instructions over a megaphone.

Every year, band camp announces the end of summer and the start of a new school year. It's also the time when Grenada Band band members dig in to rehearse their anticipated halftime field show.

The buzz surrounding this year's show is the inclusion of popular songs — both contemporary and classic — which comprise the musical portion of "If You're Reading This," a tribute to U.S. soldiers and their families during times of war.

Written and choreographed by Grenada Band Assistant Directors Chris Sumrall and Kim Presley, "If You're Reading This" is a love story told in letters, set across different time periods and conflicts in American history, from World War II to modern-day Afghanistan.

Sumrall, who directs the marching band, says the show is "not only about the sacrifice of the men in battle but a message of empowerment for the women who keep the home front as well."

"Through the different wars, the stories are very much the same," says Presley, who directs the color guard. "By setting this over different eras, it allowed us to explore different time periods in popular music as well."

One of the goals of the show, according to the directors, was to perform music that people recognized. The show contains a World War II-era Broadway number ("You'll Never Walk Alone" from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*), classic rock from the Vietnam years ("Fortunate Son" by Creedence Clearwater Revival, "American Woman" by the Guess Who), an upbeat rocker from the 1980s ("It's the End of the World as We Know It" by R.E.M.), and more recent hits that honor today's veterans ("If You're Reading This" by Tim McGraw and "Coming Home, Part 2" by Skylar Grey).

Known for their elaborate, symphonic-style shows, the Grenada Band hasn't performed rock-and-roll on the field for several years. "From a competitive aspect, the types of shows we've done have many more depths and layers and demands from an individual music standpoint," Presley says. "This year, we just



(back l to r) Henna Dadlani, Zykel Shack, Samantha Rankin, (front) Kari Grace Marshall

decided, hey, we can be entertaining and we can do these recognizable pieces of music, but we're gonna tie them together in a way that's going to be relevant and still going to have competitive validity."

The directors are also pleased with how the theme of the show exposes students to valuable history lessons. "That's part of how we teach this to them," Presley says. "Along with their music education, they're going to learn why we were drawn into World War II and what Vietnam was about."

The show, told in four movements, presents a broad spectrum of emotions — from fanfare and romance to the tragic third movement, which may tug at some heart strings, and an uplifting, patriotic finale. All in all, the directors wanted to create a show that told a relevant story and spoke to the audience.

"As we were coming up with this, the thing that dawned on us is that there are so many families in this community that deal with this," Presley says. "Even some of these students. This is a real deal for them. They have mothers, fathers, or aunts and uncles, other extended family or friends that have been deployed."

Fans of the award-winning marching band will see the return of many familiar elements: elaborate set pieces, color-guard costume changes (including a tribute to Rosie the Riveter, a symbol of women's changing role in the 1940s workforce), pre-recorded samples, and a high-concept story told through both music and imagery.

The show will be phased in throughout the semester, adding elements each week until their first contest, a regional competition here on October 14.

"It takes time to rehearse these complicated moves, and it's a safety issue with these big props moving on and off the field," Presley says. "We have to make sure every movement is exactly the way it needs to be."

She adds, "This is Grenada, so we definitely don't play it safe. We try and really put it out there, and the kids are awesome about going with us on it. They come to expect that. If we changed our minds and decided to go safe, the kids would be highly disappointed. We really

try to please them ... because it's a lot of work. We want to have them learn a whole bunch, become better people, but yet enjoy themselves while they're doing it."

Home audiences will have their first opportunity to see a portion of "If You're Reading This" at the Grenada Chargers' opening home game against Kosciusco Whippets on September 8. (Photos by Lisa Holand)

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Career Clusters

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Students entering Grenada High School this fall could be taking the first steps toward their preferred future career. With revamped counseling centers and a new emphasis on helping students chart their own path of study, GHS students are better equipped than ever for a successful future.

This career pathways program at GHS is based partly on Career Clusters, created by the non-profit education group Advance CTE (Career Technical Education). The program offers learning plans for 16 different career paths, each representing a major sector of the U.S. job market.

We've been looking closely at each category, and this month we'll explore the Hospitality and Tourism cluster.

Mississippi is uniquely positioned to benefit from new jobs in hospitality and tourism. The industry provides hope for areas affected by manufacturing job losses. Many communities in the state are creating new economic opportunities by catering to visitor interested in our rich, varied history, especially in popular music, literature, and civil rights.

Students looking to explore the world beyond Mississippi may opt for a pathway in hospitality and tourism to give themselves flexibility when it comes to finding a job out of state. Virtually every corner of the country — wherever civi-

lization exists — you'll find restaurants and hotels. Training and experience in these fields will give jobseekers a distinct advantage in competitive markets.

Among the classes offered at Grenada that will better prepare students for a job in hospitality and tourism are marketing, information technology, and the culinary arts program at the Grenada Career and Technical Center.

Within the Hospitality and Tourism cluster, there are four specialized career pathways, which can guide you to specific areas of study.

Restaurants & Food/Beverage Services Pathway

Employees working in this pathway perform a variety of tasks to maintain operations and promote guest services in eating and drinking establishments. Most begin their careers in an entry level position such as host/hostess, line cook, server, or bus person. Specialized training opens up opportunities in more skilled positions such as baker, bartender, and specialty chef. Experience and business training can lead to a management level position, whether as owner, manager, and/or executive chef. There are also plenty of careers outside the restaurant, whether as a caterer, food researcher and developer, food/beverage wholesaler, and personal chef.

Lodging Pathway

Employees following this pathway perform tasks related to the operation of lodging facilities and the care of guests who use these facilities, either through direct guest contact or the provision of background services that enhance the guest experience. Entry level positions include front desk clerk, laundry attendant, and valet, while skilled positions including concierge, maintenance specialist, and bell captain. In addition to owner and manager, other executive level positions include director of operations, sales and marketing, food and beverage director, and director of housekeeping.

Travel and Tourism Pathway

Employees in this pathway focus on the development, research, packaging, promotion, and delivery of a traveler's experiences. There is a broad range of jobs in this pathway. Employees may be involved in developing a heritage area for the enjoyment and education of visitors, creating guide books, planning trips and events, transporting tourists, serving as an interpreter, managing a customer's travel plans or overseeing a huge urban convention center.

Recreation, Amusements and Attractions Pathway

Employees looking for exciting and diverse work situations are best suited for this pathway. The work is often demanding but never boring. Good customer service skills are essential for success. Employees must also understand what makes each operation unique. Technical skills are location-specific, and training is handled on the job. There are a variety of careers — from managing to marketing to maintaining — in clubs and resorts, family centers, casinos, museums, art galleries, state parks, theme parks, zoos, historical centers, and sporting complexes.

For more information on required and recommended classes for a pathway to the hospitality and tourism 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.

Lady Chargers Slow Pitch Softball



Photo by Melinda Little

(back l to r) Coach Leslie Lancaster, Leah Kinard, Haley Beckwith, Laine McKelroy, Jenna Coker, Aikema Spencer, Macie McNatt, (front l to r) Madelyn Riley, Rylee Murphree, Madilyn Green, Gracie Gustafson, Kasey Carpenter, Kate Blankenship, Shanna Melton, Hannah Briscoe, and Anna Kuhn

Alumni Spotlight - Dr. Kit Bowen, Jr.



By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

When Kit Hansell Bowen, Jr., graduated from Grenada High School in 1966, he had already refined uranium and built a nuclear accelerator. His experiments twice earned him first place at the Mississippi State Science Fair, as well as placement in an international science fair.

But it took him a while to solve the formula for personal success.

Bowen — now Dr. Bowen — admits, “I was a terrible student until high school.”

After falling in love with chemistry and physics in fifth and sixth grades respectively, it wasn’t until later that Bowen made the connection between good grades and his dream of becoming a scientist. After that, he became a straight-A student “essentially overnight.”

He gives credit to his “dear friend, chemistry teacher, and mentor” — O.E. Boyd — for driving him and validating his ambitious ideas for science research and experiments. “Mr. Boyd gave me free rein of the John Rundle High School lab, and I will always be grateful to him for trusting and believing in me.”

Today Bowen is a chemistry professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He leads an award-winning research lab, the Bowen Group, and has

given lectures at university chemistry departments all over the world. He credits his success with the freedom and motivation that came from his early experiments in Grenada.

With the blessings of his teacher, Bowen produced three substantial science fair projects in high school that would lead to his research today, dealing mostly in atom clusters and nanoparticles.

As a high-school sophomore, he refined uranium and turned rock into metal. “I had no prescriptions for how to do this, no internet, and only a modest library,” Bowen recalls. What he had was a knack for forging long-distance relationships with pen pals all over the world.

Bowen wrote Kerr-McGee, an energy corporation that produced crude oil and natural gas, as well as mined uranium. They donated a sample of carnotite, a mineral which appears as green or yellow flakes on sandstone found primarily in the western U.S.

Starting with the yellow flakes, Bowen designed a chemical pathway that refined the ore to a solid, which he further processed using simple household materials such as a casserole dish and a fish aquarium. Finally, he turned the solid to metal through a high-temperature reaction with magnesium powder. A fair-winning project was born.

For his junior year experiment, Bowen opted to build a small nuclear accelerator called a cyclotron. A Grenada shop owner agreed to wind the magnets, and the local Carrier air-conditioning company offered to buy the copper wire. But political instability in Chile, which sent the price of copper through the roof, thwarted his plans.

Undaunted, Bowen searched for an alternative and found, in the high-school physics lab storeroom, a van de Graaff generator, which could produce two to three hundred thousand volts of electric energy. “With it, I knew enough nuclear physics to realize that I could reach the nuclear world.”

Bowen adapted the machine to suit his purposes, producing helium ions and accelerating them through beryllium. The released neutrons made adjacent materi-

als mildly radioactive, as confirmed by a civil defense Geiger counter. “Once optimized, I ran my uranium for many, many hours after school and into the night, in hopes of making an ultra-tiny amount of plutonium.”

The inspiration for his nuclear experiments was the world in which he grew up. “The early 1960s sat in the middle of the nuclear age and the Cold War as well as intense social upheaval.”

And while today, it seems improbable that a high school student would dabble in radioactivity, Bowen insists, “It was, in many ways, a more innocent time. I was always very careful. I knew I was out on a limb, but that was okay.”

For his senior project, Bowen wanted to experiment with the chemical effects of light. Without a useful light source, he convinced several doctors in town to let him use their x-ray machines as a source. Through Bowen’s network of pen pals, scientists at Argonne National Laboratories in Chicago steered him toward an unsolved problem involving radiation and the oxidization of the rare-earth element samarium.

But the experiment failed. Bowen set it aside and completed his senior year. He went on to earn his bachelor of science at the University of Mississippi and masters

and doctorate degrees from Harvard. He started at Johns Hopkins as an assistant professor in 1980 and became a full professor in 1990.

But early failure, as Bowen experienced, can come back to help you down the road. He recalls an incident that occurred about ten years ago.

A group of his students were preparing experiments that required rare-earth metals, but they didn’t have the proper materials. He suggested they use the samarium sample from his failed senior science experiment, which he kept among his lab’s chemical inventory. The students ran the element through their mass spectrometer and discovered it wasn’t samarium at all but holmium, another rare-earth metal.

“Suddenly it all became clear,” Bowen recalls. “My senior-year high school project had failed because the samarium I purchased, in fact, had been mislabeled!”

Bowen, who lives in Maryland with his wife Annette Garofalo and their daughter, Margaret, says his formula for success still applies to Grenada students today, no matter their area of study.

“It’s all about motivation and believing in one’s self. With it, the sky’s the limit.”

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GSD Procedure for Bus Changes



Often parents find it necessary to change a student’s placement from one bus to another. A specific process is in place that is required to implement this change. Bus changes will not be ac-

cepted by phone. The process requires the following:

1. Parents must send the appropriate information to the student’s teacher or take the info directly to the Transportation Department at 1823 Fairground Road. Information must include:
 - Name of student
 - Parent contact information
 - Address of student destination
 - Contact info at student destination
 - Dates of change (If a change applies for the entire year, one notice will suffice. However, if the change is temporary, a note must be sent for each day.)
2. Teachers will send the note

to the school office to have the change logged on the bus change form.

3. The student will receive the yellow bus change form to present to the driver upon boarding the school bus.

Guaranty Bank & Trust Company Welcome GSD Staff Back to School



Photo by Lisa Holland

Grenada Elementary music teacher Meg Wood (middle) won an Apple Watch at the district's general faculty meeting to start the 2017-2018 school year. Lee Murphy (right) and Misty Carson (left) of Guaranty Bank and Trust, sponsors of the morning reception, presented the grand prize after a drawing. The bank awarded door prizes to nine other faculty members throughout the day.

Freshman Football Cheerleaders



Photo by Tiffany Walters

(back l to r) Haley Beckwith, Kayla Herrington, Kendyl Jones, Lindsey Ingram, (front l to r) Ja'Kaila Ammons, Lexis Jones, Joy Madkins, and Keeochius Rhymes

Varsity Football Cheerleaders



Photo by Tiffany Walters

(back l to r) Braylee Shaw, Brooke Little, Taylor Harrell, Kyla Edwards, Molly Brewer, Mia Parker, Abby Williams, Reagan Wooldridge, (middle l to r) Anna Palmer, Kayla Horne, Anna Gray Neely, Jamya Bowdry, Haley Williams, Ebonee Webster, Morgan Banks, (front l to r) Brianna Shaw, Ky'Nija Robinson, Haley Kinard, Jada Bridges, and Lexi Byford

HIGH HOPES Discounts for GSD Staff

- 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
- *Must provide GSD I.D. in order to receive discount
*Zaxby's - 15% Off any meal during August with school I.D.

"Innovation"

Continued from page 1

We visited a class one day and found students on the floor clapping out syllables in words, a first-grade skill! To see that level of learning going on in a four-year-old class gives us the idea that by the time these kids get to kindergarten, they'll be challenging the teachers and really pushing the limits of what kindergarteners are expected to achieve.

We're extremely encouraged by the positive feedback we're hearing from the parents of these children, who are amazed

by how much their children have learned. They feel so much better about sending their young ones to kindergarten because the kids are so confident. Now they know the school environment, they know what to expect from their teachers and classmates, and they're well-established in their alphabet and numbers, along with advanced concepts in language and math.

The success of our first-year Pre-K program has compelled us to expand the Learning Blocks mission. This summer, we offered extended care. Students attended from 7 to 5 Monday through Friday, continuing their learning and engaging in activities such as building a castle playhouse and horseback riding.

We took another big leap this year by introducing our first three-year-old program. We'll begin nudging these kids toward the same skills the four-year-olds have mastered, making it our mission to have them recognizing letters, counting to ten, and writing their names by the end of the year. We can't find another district in the state offering this level of early learning.

That's how Grenada is leading the pack, not only for the children of our county, but for the whole state. You better believe we'll be watching these students as they progress through the elementary, middle, and high schools — pushing us toward even greater heights of achievement and innovation in the coming years.

www.grenadak12.com

