



Academic Excellence With Support Staff



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

The Grenada School District has earned an “A” rating, a testament to the district’s unwavering commitment to academic excellence. This achievement is a source of immense pride for the district, as it reflects not only the hard work of students and teachers, but also the dedication of parents, community partners, school support staff, and school administrators.

The academic success we’ve achieved in our district is the result of the combined efforts of everyone involved. It truly takes all of us—students, parents, teachers, assistants, support staff, administrators at both the school level and Central Office, as well as our community partners—to accomplish the enormous success we’ve experienced.

A key group contributing to this success is the district’s Instructional Specialists and Lead Teachers. These individuals play an essential role in supporting teachers and students, helping to improve academic performance through a variety of initiatives, including lesson development, professional development opportunities, and targeted interventions.

The Role of Instructional Specialists and Lead Teachers

Grenada’s Instructional Specialists are unique in that they take on dual roles—serving both as coaches and specialists. As coaches, they work closely with teachers, providing direct support through lesson modeling, feedback, and coaching to enhance teaching practices. As specialists, they focus on curriculum development, creating assessments, leading professional development sessions, and aligning instruction with district standards. This dual role allows specialists to provide comprehensive and integrated support to both teachers and students across the district.

In addition to the vital contributions of Instructional Specialists, our Lead Teachers play an equally critical role in ensuring the success of the district’s educational goals. These highly dedicated educators work closely with our specialists and fellow teachers to stay updated on any changes in the curriculum, ensuring that every teacher has the necessary tools to succeed. Lead Teachers also assist in lesson planning and may even model lessons in classrooms when teachers need additional support in teaching certain standards.

See “Excellence” Continued on page 5

2024 GHS Beauty Review



Photo left Results of the 2024 GHS Beauty Review, (l to r) Trinity Davis-5th Alternate; Brooklyn Hardwick-4th Alternate; Julez Moore-Most Beautiful; Emma Pitcock-1st Alternate; Leah Briscoe-2nd Alternate; Abigail Crouch-3rd Alternate

Photo right Tristan Monger, Jahmani Washington, Jamarion Ammons-Most Handsome; Preston Downs, Seth Dorroh



GMS Stephanie Coker Awarded Mississippi Nurse of the Year




At the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) 2024 Conference held in Chicago, Illinois, Grenada Middle School’s School Nurse, Stephanie Coker was celebrated for outstanding contributions to school health. The National Association of School Nurses and the Mississippi School Nurse Association jointly recognized Nurse Coker for “demonstrating excellence in school nursing practice and leadership in school health.”

This prestigious acknowledgment includes being named Mississippi’s School Nurse of the Year, highlighting Stephanie Coker’s exceptional dedication to the health and well-being of Grenada School

District’s students and the community of Grenada.

“I am deeply honored to receive this recognition,” said Nurse Coker. “It is a privilege to work alongside so many talented professionals who share a passion for fostering the health and success of our students.”

The award underscores the vital role school nurses play in promoting student health, enhancing academic performance, and shaping the future of school-based health services.



District Report Card 2023 - 2024

For more detailed information, please visit <https://msrc.mdek12.org>.

A

Grenada School District

Grenada, MS

253 SOUTH MAIN STREET
Grenada, MS 38901

DR. DAVID DAIGNEAULT
ddaigneault@grenadak12.com

School Accountability Grade Components

Mississippi's accountability system assigns "A" through "F" letter grades for schools and districts. Grades are based on student achievement, student growth, student participation in testing, and other academic measures.

Math

Measurements of student performance on the statewide math assessment.

Growth Lowest 25%	Proficiency	Growth
State: 67.0%	State: 55.9%	State: 73.6%
District: 57.3%	District: 70.6%	District: 78.3%

English

Measurements of student performance on the statewide English language arts (ELA) assessment.

Proficiency	Growth	Growth Lowest 25%
State: 47.9%	State: 61.4%	State: 50.6%
District: 58.5%	District: 67.6%	District: 54.6%

Other Measures

Other measurements of student performance that factor into the accountability grade.

US History Proficiency	Science Proficiency	College & Career Readiness
State: 71.1%	State: 63.4%	State: 51.9%
District: 79.3%	District: 78.6%	District: 60.5%

Acceleration	Graduation Rate	English Learners
State: 68.4%	State: 89.4%	State: 10.2%
District: 73.8%	District: 90.5%	District: N/A

Teacher Data

272.7
Teachers

78.9%
Experienced Teachers

3.8%
Provisional Teachers

95.6%
In-Field Teachers

Grenada School District

2023 - 2024

Detailed Assessment and Other Data

Student Performance

The following information shows each level of student performance on statewide assessments.

Math

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
State: 0-10%	State: 11-20%	State: 21-30%	State: 31-40%	State: 11-20%
District: 0-10%	District: 0-10%	District: 21-30%	District: 31-40%	District: 31-40%

English

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
State: 9.1%	State: 17.9%	State: 27.3%	State: 28.8%	State: 16.9%
District: 5.1%	District: 13.0%	District: 24.9%	District: 35.0%	District: 22.1%

Science

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
State: 11.2%	State: 11.0%	State: 19.5%	State: 34.8%	State: 23.5%
District: 0-10%	District: 0-10%	District: 11-20%	District: 31-40%	District: 31-40%

Student Assessment Participation

Math Participation: 98.3%	Science Participation: 98.0%	English Participation: 98.5%
----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Discipline

Incidents of Violence: 18	In-School Suspension: <5%	Out-of-School Suspension: <5%
Expulsions: <5%		

Other Data

22.8%
Chronic Absenteeism

63.9%
Post-Secondary Enrollment

54.3%
Advanced Course Participation

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

Literacy Based Promotion Act Annual Report of Performance and Student Retention

The Literacy Based Promotion Act (LBPA) was enacted to improve the reading skills of Kindergarten through Grade 3 students enrolled in public schools so that every student completing the 3rd grade is able to read at or above grade level. This report displays the components required under [MS Code 37-177-17](#) of the LBPA, which include the number and percentage of students scoring at each performance level on the state assessment in reading and math, taking the alternative assessments (retest), being retained at each grade level Kindergarten through 8th grade, passing for good-cause exemptions; and any revised district policies for promotion and retention.

District: Grenada School District (2220)

State Assessment - 3rd Grade ELA

Level 5	32.0% (86)
Level 4	45.0% (121)
Level 3	14.5% (39)
Level 2	≤5% (12)
Level 1	≤5% (11)

School Year: 2023-2024

State Assessment - 3rd Grade Math

Level 5	40.7% (109)
Level 4	34.3% (92)
Level 3	17.2% (46)
Level 2	5.2% (14)
Level 1	≤5% (<10)

3rd Grade Reading Assessment for Promotion

Initial (MAAP-ELA)	Initial & Retest (MAAP-ELA)
9.8% (26)	90.2% (238)
6.4% (17)	93.6% (247)

Students Retained K-8th

Grade	Retained
K	14.6% (50)
1st	11.8% (41)
2nd	≤5% (16)
3rd	≤5% (<10)
4th	≤5% (<10)
5th	≤5% (<10)
6th	≤5% (<10)
7th	≤5% (<10)
8th	≤5% (11)

Students Promoted by Good Cause Exemption

≤5% (<10)	A. Limited-English Proficiency with less than two Years in English Learner Program.
≤5% (<10)	B. Students with disabilities for whom participation in statewide accountability system is not appropriate.
72.2% (13)	C. Students with disabilities receiving two years intensive remediation or previously retained.
27.8% (<10)	D. Students tested on an alternate assessment (for 2023-2024 this is an alternate form of the 3rd Grade MAAP-ELA).
≤5% (<10)	E. Students receiving two years intensive remediation and previously retained for two years.
100% (18)	TOTAL

GSD Parent Resource Center

423 S. LINE STREET • 662-227-3370
ADULT EDUCATION CENTER/ ROOM 10

HOURS: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 and 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Free computer access for school related items

FREE

Free printing for school related items

Free ACT Practice test

Free financial literacy help

Free FAFSA application and help

Health Science Class Visited MSU

Photo right In December Mrs. Winter's Health Science class toured MSU and heard from the Chef over the Athletic Department on the proper nutrition for athletes. (front, l t r) Bailey Jackson, Jayla Gholston, Crystal Caldwell, Bailey Murphey, Shakira Alexander, Alyssa Dorris, (back, l to r) Health Science Instructor Kristi Winter, Madeline Yawn, Summere Ratliff, Katie O'Rear, Takiyah Townsend, Kaylen Griffin, Lila Makamson, Michaela Raymond, Hannah Smith, Natalee Carpenter, Emma Roberts, Lillian Mattox, and Madison Lott.



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Collaboration Between Balloon Quest and the Swamp Makes a Memorable Field Trip

By Tammie Cavanaugh
Communicator Contributor

Pelahatchie Elementary School in Rankin County recently made a memorable field trip for 44 fifth grade students to explore two of Grenada’s unique educational attractions: Balloon Quest and Chakchiuma Swamp. This collaboration, led by Tammie Cavanaugh, Director of Balloon Quest and Robin Whitfield, local artist, naturalist, and Executive Director of Friends of Chakchiuma Swamp, allowed the students to experience both destinations in one day, providing an enriching educational experience while maintaining smaller group sizes for both activities.

One group of students enjoyed a hands-on visit to Balloon Quest including the Chakchiuma Swamp room while another group ventured outdoors for a nature walk through the Lee Tartt Nature Preserve where the real Chakchiuma Swamp is located. Groups then swapped locations halfway through the day. Along the trails, they learned about the wetland ecosystem, including the diverse plant and animal life that thrives in the swamp’s waters and bottomland forests. The science-based rooms at Balloon Quest reinforced the science content they are learning in the classroom related to Newton’s Laws of Motion, the rock



Pelahatchie students Addy Nutt, Harlee Lamb, and Aviyanna Satcher take a virtual ride in the swamp room at Balloon Quest before touring the Chakchiuma Swamp in person.

cycle, animal and plant life, and so much more. Teacher Britnee Barnette was thrilled by the combination of these two experiences, both within the same town.

“Balloon Quest and the Swamp Tour was truly one of the best field trips I’ve ever been on as a teacher! It was incredible to see our students so deeply

engaged, tackling escape-room-style challenges that connected to science, reading, and problem-solving standards. Visiting the Chakchiuma Swamp and experiencing an ecosystem that tied directly into one of the escape room activities took their learning to a whole new level. This hands-on, immersive experience

will be a fantastic reference point for discussing ecosystems, force and motion, disaster survival, and more back in the classroom.”

The students shared their excitement about the day. Fifth grader Riley Jordan reflected on the creative activity involving berries. “When we colored with the berries, they were really cool! I didn’t know you could do that, and I love art.” Riley also enjoyed the tornado-themed escape room, saying, “I really liked the tornado room. The texture on the tree that was breaking through the roof was really cool! The tornado siren was scary and sounded really real.”

Ava Keeton shared her experience at the swamp, saying, “At the swamp, they had this big man made out of grass that was deadly to the trees. I liked the faces on the trees because it shows you that trees are alive too.”

Preston Stephens talked about his favorite escape room: “My favorite escape room was the swamp room because we saw an alligator and some water that looked very realistic. There was also a real swamp boat that was very raggedy.”

Overall, the collaboration between Balloon Quest and Chakchiuma Swamp provided an engaging and educational field trip, fostering both curiosity and a deeper understanding of the natural world.

VEHICLES FOR LESS?



TOYOTA



LINCOLN



RAM



POLARIS



DODGE



YAMAHA

KIRK CAN



CHEVROLET

GMC



CHRYSLER

Jeep



BUICK



can-am



HONDA

GRENADA • GREENWOOD • VICKSBURG
BATESVILLE • CLEVELAND • FLORENCE • COLLINS

WWW.KIRKCAN.COM

For all the moments
you need care,
we're here.



All for Your Health



umc.edu/YourHealth

“Excellence”

Continued from Page 1

Beyond their collaborative work with specialists, Lead Teachers often go the extra mile by helping to prepare essential test-taking materials, worksheets, and resources that support students’ learning. Most Lead Teachers also manage their own classrooms, balancing the responsibility of their students alongside their leadership roles. Their ability to effectively support their colleagues while maintaining their own classroom responsibilities is invaluable. Lead Teachers have truly been a driving force behind the district’s academic excellence, helping to foster a culture of high expectations and achievement.

As Erica Conley, lead teacher for Grenada Elementary’s 3rd through 5th grades, shared, “A lead teacher is not just a guide in academics but someone that fosters a culture of collaboration, innovation, and growth within a learning community. The goal is to inspire both students and fellow educators to achieve their fullest potential.”

Evolving Role of Specialists

Since the adoption of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards in 2013, the role of specialists has evolved. Initially, specialists focused on introducing teachers to the new standards and developing instructional units. As new materials became available, the focus shifted to providing classroom support, helping teachers implement effective instructional practices, and shaping remediation and enrichment plans.

As the district continues to refine its approach, specialists are now being “dispatched” to specific grade levels and teachers to provide targeted support, especially for teachers new to the district or new to the profession. This targeted approach ensures that teachers receive the personalized support they need to succeed, ultimately benefiting students by improving the overall quality of instruction.

Passion Drives Success

Pam Briscoe, a Senior ELA Specialist in the district, shared her insights on the role of a specialist. “To be a specialist, you need two things—hustle and heart,” Briscoe said. “The daily demands are high, often moving between multiple schools and serving different grade levels, so you must work efficiently and effectively. More than anything, you must love what you do. Passion fuels you—passion for literacy, passion for teachers, passion for students, passion for community, and passion for the profession. It’s that passion that keeps you going, no matter the challenges.”

The district’s success is a reflection of the dedication and passion of its educators, including Instructional Specialists and Lead Teachers, who continually strive to improve teaching practices and student outcomes. Their efforts have been integral to the district’s academic achievements and the overall success of Grenada’s students.

Looking Ahead

As Grenada continues to maintain its “A” district rating, the role of Instructional Specialists and Lead Teachers will remain crucial in driving continued success. Their ability to provide targeted support, foster a love of learning, and improve teaching practices will ensure that the district remains a model of academic excellence in the state.

Grenada Students Explore Advanced Manufacturing at Modine



(l to r) GSD Programs Director Sherry Worsham, Advanced Manufacturing students Ryan Williams, Kylar Gibson, Fisher Jackson, Dajuan Loston, Innovation Mentor Kyle Doolittle, and Modine Engineers Nicholas Kidder and Andrew Nguyen.

By Sherry Worsham
GSD Programs Director

The Grenada School District (GSD), in partnership with Holmes Community College (HCC), is paving the way for a new generation of innovators through its Advanced Manufacturing program. On Friday, January 17, students and teachers in the program had the incredible opportunity to visit Modine Manufacturing in Grenada, MS, where they explored the world of programmable logic controllers (PLCs) alongside industry professionals.

Modine engineers Nicholas Kidder and Andrew Nguyen welcomed the group with engaging presentations that highlighted the importance of systems thinking, curiosity, and continuous learning in engineering. They shared their personal career journeys, providing students with a roadmap of the opportunities available in advanced manufacturing.

“This program is a game-changer for students,” said Jay Burselson, Human Resource Manager for Modine Grenada. “By connecting classroom learning with real-world applications, they are getting a head start on their careers and building skills that will serve them for a lifetime.”

The visit included a guided tour of Modine’s plant floor, where students observed PLCs in action and gained a behind-the-scenes look at how these systems optimize manufacturing processes. For many students, seeing industrial applications up close helped bridge the gap between classroom lessons and real-world industry practices.

Students in the program, including Ryan Williams, Kylar Gibson, Fisher Jackson, and Dajuan Loston, are part of the first Advanced Manufacturing class. This new class builds on foundational skills the students previously gained in welding, automotive, or carpentry courses at GSD’s Career Tech Center. This project-based curriculum not only meets the requirements for Advanced Manufacturing II but also provides hands-on learning experiences, opportunities to earn high school and college credit, and exposure to industry-leading technologies.

“Modine has been a longstanding legacy partner of the Grenada School District and the Grenada Education Foundation,” said Sherry Worsham, New Program Director. “Their unwavering support for education over the years has been invaluable, and we are thrilled to have them championing our students

in the Advanced Manufacturing program.”

As GSD prepares to open a dedicated Advanced Manufacturing space at the Entrepreneurial & Innovation Center, partnerships with companies like Modine continue to be instrumental. Hands-on experiences like this visit not only deepen students’ understanding of the field but also inspire them to explore the expanding career and college opportunities available in advanced manufacturing.

“As a district, we are committed to creating pathways for student success through innovative, hands-on learning opportunities,” said Dr. David Daigneault, Superintendent of GSD. “The Advanced Manufacturing program, in collaboration with our partners, gives our students the tools, experiences, and confidence to excel in high-demand careers, while also strengthening the future of our community.”

The Advanced Manufacturing program is a bold step forward for Grenada School District, ensuring that students are prepared for the workforce while contributing to the growth and strength of the local community.

Grenada’s STEM Initiatives are Nationally Recognized

Grenada’s recently established STEM Alliance between Grenada School District, Grenada Public Education Foundation, Milwaukee Tool, Modine, and others was one of only four programs in the nation recognized by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW established a new Community Partnerships team to study how communities can build stronger ecosystems for education.

PLTW is a national nonprofit organization that uses a teacher-empowered curriculum to equip students of all grade levels and demographics for a STEM-driven world. 12,775 schools across the nation partner with PLTW to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education.



★ PRIMARY LOCATIONS

● SECONDARY LOCATIONS

“Pennies Project” Leads to The Unknown Child Foundation in DeSoto County

By Ben Leatherman
GSD Reporter

This past December Grenada Middle school eighth grade English teacher Melissa Wheeler spoke at a fundraiser for a charity she helped start in 2009. The Unknown Child Foundation is based out of DeSoto county and seeks to memorialize the children lost in the Holocaust.

In 2009 Melissa Wheeler was teaching middle school English in DeSoto county. She and another teacher, Susan Powell, weren't trying to make waves or turn heads. They were looking for engaging content with a historical context.

Mrs. Wheeler found a book about World War II set in Germany that had manageable chapters to make lesson planning easy and had won literature awards in its original German and in English. “Friedrich” written by Hans Peter Richter in 1961 would make excellent source material for an engaging curriculum.

In her DeSoto county classroom in 2009, Mrs. Wheeler's students and a few others set out to visualize the number ‘one-and-a-half-million.’ They wanted to understand how many children were killed in the Holocaust, so they started the Pennies Project, and all of them were devoted to collecting as many

Photo right
Holocaust survivor Jack Cohen with
GMS English teacher
Melissa Wheeler.



pennies as possible. Local news caught on and started interviewing the students. Businesses started contributing and the pennies kept coming in.

They spent almost four years collecting a penny in remembrance of every child of the Holocaust. Along the way they kept learning. Jack Cohen of Memphis is a Holocaust survivor, and he often visited the class to give a first-hand account of what someone like the character Friedrich would have experienced. 2nd and 3rd generation survivors, those whose parents or grandparents experienced the Holocaust, talked to the children about how it shaped their lives.

Fifteen years later, in December of 2024, the pennies have long been collected, and the Pennies Project evolved into the Unknown Child Foundation. The Unknown Child Foundation is based out of DeSoto County and is building a memorial to display the pennies and give voice to the children of the Holocaust. A copper statue and museum exhibit will be constructed to display the nearly 8,000 pounds of pennies collected by students.

Those who are interested in learning more about the Pennies Project or the Unknown Child Foundation can visit www.unknownchild.org/about-us/.

GMS Holds First STEM Night



The FabLab introduced one of the cutting edge technology applications to middle school students during STEM night, ZSpace. (l to r) Ricky Fly, Landon Daves, and Bryce Frazier explore ZSpace, an augmented reality platform which allows the user to view 2D objects as interactive 3D models.



Grenada Middle School Science Teacher April Lee (left) discusses robotic components with student (right) CJ Armstrong.

APPLY
FOR FREE

Ole Miss | Grenada

SPRING VISIT DAYS

February 17-20

FREE T-SHIRT
when you complete a 2+2 evaluation.

Stop by any time 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your unofficial transcripts, and our admissions staff will evaluate them and help prepare you for your bachelor's program. Apply for admission for Summer or Fall 2025 and have your application fee WAIVED.

Undergraduate Programs Include:

Elementary Education, Multi-Disciplinary Studies, General Business, Criminal Justice, Allied Health, Communicative Disorders



1060 Avent Drive in Grenada, on the Holmes CC-Grenada Center campus
For more information, contact Associate Director Jessica Coker-Hughes by phone at (662) 227-2348 or by e-mail at jlcocker3@olemiss.edu

OUTREACH.OLEMISS.EDU/VISITUMG

TEACHERS
APPLY BY
APRIL 1
FOR
MASTER'S AND SPECIALIST
live and online
GRAD PROGRAMS



Dr. Willie Reece, Jr.
Grenada, MS

UM-Grenada Ed.S Graduate, 2019
Principal of Coffeetown Elementary School

GMS Breaks Ground for New Construction



The January 21st groundbreaking ceremony at Grenada Middle School marks the beginning of a three-phase improvement plan reflecting the district's commitment to innovation and community growth. The new addition, designed to enhance the educational experience and prepare students for future opportunities, symbolizes the community's dedication to excellence and collaboration. GSD administrators and board members in attendance were (l to r) Dr. Ezzard Beane, Dr. Tina Herrington, Haley Bidby, Kevin Carnathan, Jamal Brock, Dr. David Daigneault, Dr. Angela Cooley, Jamie Harrison, Lindsey Leggett, Becky Bloodworth, Dr. Lyle Williams, and Dr. Phil Turner.

One Skill at a Time: Local Skill-Based Careers



By Sherry Worsham
Director of Community Partnerships

In Mississippi—and especially in Grenada—the demand for skilled, technology-focused workers is rapidly growing as local industries expand and new companies establish operations. For high school students, building career-ready skills today can open doors to well-paying, fulfilling jobs while directly contributing to the economic vitality of the community.

Grenada High School recognizes this need and has developed programs

tailored to align with the requirements of local industries. For example, the Career Technology Center's new Advanced Manufacturing program provides students with hands-on experience in equipment operation, metalworking, and modern manufacturing techniques. These skills align directly with the needs of companies like Milwaukee Tool, which recently opened a plant in Grenada. This new facility offers opportunities for workers skilled in machining, automation, and workplace safety protocols—

expertise that can be cultivated through Grenada's innovative programs.

Other local industries, such as Modine Manufacturing, Advanced Distributor Products (ADP), and Novipax, also seek employees with specialized technical abilities. At Modine, which focuses on thermal management products, welding expertise is crucial. Grenada High School's welding course equips students with essential metalworking skills and teaches quality control techniques, preparing them for careers in this critical field. Similarly, students who develop precision skills through metal-work courses are well-prepared for roles at ADP, which manufactures components for HVAC systems, where accuracy and attention to detail are paramount.

At Novipax, which produces food-safe packaging, employees must be proficient in operating automated systems, maintaining quality control, and adhering to food-safety hygiene protocols. Grenada High School's computer science and engineering classes equip students with the critical thinking, troubleshooting, and digital literacy skills essential for excelling in these roles and in many other roles in local industry. These programs ensure students are ready to tackle the

challenges of working with modern machinery in a fast-paced, high-tech environment.

Beyond manufacturing, Grenada High's healthcare, automotive technology, and arts programs meet workforce needs in other high-demand sectors. Healthcare courses prepare students to enter the growing medical field, while automotive technology classes offer practical training for careers in vehicle maintenance, a critical need for supporting regional transportation-related businesses. Meanwhile, visual and performing arts programs provide a foundation for creative industries, especially when combined with technology skills. From digital design and music production to multimedia arts, these classes open pathways to thriving careers in Mississippi and beyond.

By fostering these essential skills, Grenada High School not only prepares students for success but also strengthens local industries and fuels community growth. As the school continues to adapt its programs to meet workforce demands, students are empowered to build bright futures while contributing to the prosperity of Grenada and the surrounding region.

GCTC Students Build for a Good Cause



Photo by Meg Newcomb

GCTC carpentry students, (l to r) Shumar Campbell, Josh Kilgore, and Ava Revell built doghouses for the Friends of Grenada Animal Shelter.

“An Extraordinary Merry Christmas” Visions 2024



Visions held their annual Christmas show, “An Extraordinary Merry Christmas” with spectacular soloist and group performances. (photo above, l to r) Kate Cobb, Hayden Bridges, Kyler Pittman, Dylan Burrell, and Jilli Dykes in the performance of “Can't Take My Eyes off of You”. (photo right) Naima Reed opened the show with her solo of “Blue Christmas”.



GHS 6A State Champions



Photos provided by GHS Yearbook Staff, GSD Communications, & Dr. Ezzard Beane

Welcome Aboard Chief Tate



By Ben Leatherman
GSD Reporter

This fall Grenada High School's NJROTC added a new instructor to the faculty, Retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Larry Tate. He will be working alongside Chief Foreman. Chief Tate joins the GHS faculty after a 23-year career in the navy. Most recently he served at Navy Recruiting Command in Millington, Tennessee. His career began as a gas-turbine mechanic and includes time on a guided missile cruiser and in counter-drug operations.

Chief Tate recalls growing up in nearby Webster County and hearing his grandfather's stories about his time in the Navy during the Korean War. He knew that after high school he wanted the chance to travel and experience different cultures.

He was at boot camp on September 11, 2001, and remembers an immediate shift in the military's posture and security concerns. Tate graduated from Naval Station Great Lakes outside of Chicago in a private ceremony as visitors were not allowed on the base at the time.

After graduation, he was an E-2 Seaman Apprentice aboard a guided missile destroyer. Eventually his duties involved working alongside other federal agencies such as the DEA and Coast Guard on drug interdiction in South America.

Junior enlisted ranks in the Navy progress from E-1 (Seaman Recruit) to E-6 (Petty Officer First Class). Each rank requires specific qualifications and leadership responsibilities. E-4s oversee E-1s, 2s, and 3s, while an E5 acts as an intermediary between E4-s and E-6s, the technical experts in a field.

The NJROTC program follows a similar rank structure with responsibilities for training and command over other cadets to being a technical expert for your unit. NJROTC aims to develop well-rounded students who graduate with experience in leadership, discipline, and personal growth. They guide students to use these skills inside or outside of the Navy, not pushing students towards one choice or another.

NJROTC programs help students make decisions about their future, including college and career options. They offer benefits such as financial assistance for college and job opportunities after graduation.

Chief Tate hopes his students build self-confidence and leadership skills. He encourages them to step out of their comfort zones and develop communication abilities. He wants to clarify that

contrary to misconceptions, NJROTC is not a boot camp, but a program that offers valuable life skills and opportunities for personal growth. Students can explore various aspects of ROTC, including drone programs and drill teams,

and may even choose to pursue a career in the military after graduation.

Students can take part in NJROTC programs as early as the 8th grade. Anyone interested can reach out to any of our cadets, Chief Tate, or Chief Foreman.



Julia Criss Tartt



Criss Office Supply

- Custom Forms • Custom Stamps • Banners
- Educational Books • Julia's Jelly & Jams
- Car Magnets • Flyers • B&W or Color Copies
- Business Cards • Yard Signs • Window Decals
- Nic-Naks Pottery • Essential Oils • Local Honey
- Teaching Supplies • Janitorial Supplies
- Lions Club Pecans • Lamination Services
- Send/Receive Faxes • Invitations
- And So Much More!

2245 Commerce St. - Hwy. 51 South
FREE DELIVERY • Call (662) 226-1901 or (662) 307-2394
Mon.-Fri. 8-5 & Sat. 9-12

