Communicator
Information for the Grenada School District Community
April 28, 2025

Education Innovation



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

A few weeks ago, I had the honor of speaking at the Mississippi School Board Association (MSBA) Conference, an organization dedicated to advocating for and strengthening public education across our state. As someone who has had the privilege of serving as Superintendent of the Grenada School District since 2006, I've witnessed firsthand how education can transform a community. The MSBA's mission aligns closely with the work we've done in Grenada, focusing on leadership, advocacy, and ensuring school boards have the tools they need to drive positive change in education. When I became superintendent, I was determined to make a difference, not just within the walls of our schools but in the very fabric of our community. With strategic planning, strong leadership, and a dedicated team, we have increased student achievement, improved economic opportunities, and enhanced the overall quality of life for our citizens.

In 2016, our school board adopted a bold vision for innovation and supported an ambitious plan to reshape education in Grenada. This commitment led to our designation as a District of Innovation, a title that allowed us to rethink traditional education models and implement research-backed strategies aimed at developing independent, confident, and capable students. One of the key initiatives under this plan was the expansion of STEM pathways, including Computer Science, Biomedical Science, and Engineering, in every school in our district.

In fact, we even integrated STEM education into our 4th and 5th grade curriculum, blending it with Mississippi science standards to enhance rigor and improve student performance on state tests. As a result, Grenada Elementary School's 4th and 5th grade has been recognized as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for five consecutive years, a testament to our commitment to student engagement, achievement, and access to high-quality STEM education. Our school's Discovery Lab, along with its integrated curriculum, has provided hands-on learning experiences that strengthen students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Outstanding educators like Devon Tipton have been instrumental in teaching and modeling these STEM strategies for both our teachers and students. Devon leads by example, inspiring both students and fellow educators alike. He has been crucial in integrating STEM with the Mississippi science standards, helping to create a learning environment where innovation and academic excellence thrive. We were also proud to see Principal Carol Tharpe honored as a Distinguished Administrator for her leadership in supporting these initiatives.

See "Innovation"
Continued on page 5

Mr. & Miss GHS



By Ben Leatherman
GSD Reporter

Join the Grenada School District in congratulating Miss. Naima Reed and Mr. Bowden Biddy. They have been chosen as exemplars of the class of 2025. We highlight a few of their accomplishments, but they represent the spectacular efforts of every one of their classmates, teammates, and fellow performers.

Regular fixtures for the last four years across campus at athletic competitions, extracurricular events, and in the classroom, the selections for Mr. and Miss GHS 2025 are known to all. Naima's stunning hair, her infectious laugh, Bowden's refined manner, his captivating smile are all instantly recognizable to students and teachers alike.

Mr. GHS Bowden Biddy is the son of Mrs. Laura and Mr. Haley Biddy. Miss. Naima Reed is the daughter of Mrs. LaTifany and Pastor Johnnie Reed. Their families have instilled a faith in God and modeled the leadership roles Bowden and Naima now play in their respective congregations.

Naima's and Bowden's passion for performance has shone the last four years: Both are members of the award-winning Visions show choir. Their school spirit has been an inspiration to all. Naima is an All-American cheerleader, and Bowden is a spirit leader in the student section.

Bowden has been a member of the tennis, cross country, track, and soccer teams while Naima has been a member of football cheer and basketball cheer. Off the field they excel as honors students and serve as members of student government.

Wish the class of 2025 farewell as they all continue in new directions. This fall Naima will lead some to the University of Mississippi while Bowden leads others to Mississippi State University. Whether it's Hail State or Hotty Toddy, we all say Go Chargers!

Football Team Honored



On April 07, 2025 the House and Senate of the State of Mississippi passed Concurrent Resolution 68 commending and congratulating the 2024-2025 Grenada High School Charger football team for winning the MHSAA 6A State Championship. The resolution proclaims, "On December 7, 2024, fans crowded The Rock at Southern Miss to watch the Chargers showcase their exemplary skill and determination on the field, and the team's remarkable performance did not disappoint as they clinched the championship title in a stunning 43-14 victory over the previously undefeated Hattiesburg Tigers."

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GHS Class of 2025


Allison Adams


William Adams


Chelsea Allen


Jamarion Ammons


Shaniyia Anderson


Faith Arbuckle


Caitlyn Avery


Semaj Avery


Rachel Bacon


Jared Badon

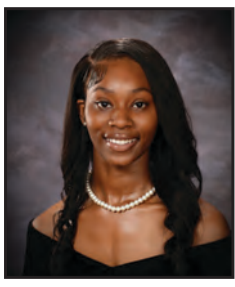

Jaleiha Bailey


Tara Bailey


Madison Barnhill


Alli Beck


Jerry Beck


Caitlin Berry

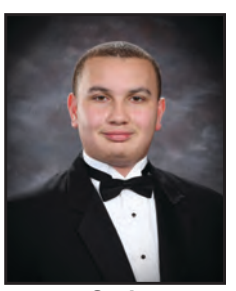

Bowden Biddy


Javaris Bledsoe


Addison Bloodworth


Cory Boatman


Summer Boatman


Cody Borders


Brecklyn Bowden


Saniya Boyd


MaKaiylah Bridges


Leah Briscoe


Loran Brown


Shyanne Bullin


Tykera Bullins


Demi Burney


Kendricks Caffey


Johnathan Cashaw


Jordyn Cashaw


Kiara Cashaw


Michael Cavanaugh


Kalajah Chamblee


Patrick Lucas Chaney


Jamrion Clay


Jakeelah Cleveland


Detraveon Conley

Janiyah Conley

Gabrielle Cooley

Ca'Nasja Covington

Devonte Cox

Memrie Cox

Abigail Crouch

Jordan Cunningham

Drew Dalton

Jaylon Davis

Trinity Davis

Johnathan Dees

Akeyvion Demming

Elyse Dorris

Ethan Dorris

Seth Dorroh

Preston Downs

TyKara Drinkwater

Jillian Dykes

Layla Escobedo

Jordan Ewing

Colby Ferguson

Bryson Flowers

Emmyijah Forbes

Jozy Foster


Kristen Foxx


Calen Gable


Alexander Gibson


Kaleigh Gilmer


Emily Goss


Parker Greer


Christopher Griffin


Miley Guerra


Madison Guess


Terry Rye Haddon


Trenese Hale


Anna Hankins


Aryannah Hankins


Aaron Hanley


Brelyn Hardwick


Alexis Hardy


Kimble Harges


Zakiyah Hargrove


Tykeria Harmon


Alexa Harris


Sara Harrison


Faith Harvey


Alan Henderson


Logan Hentz


Kelsey Hodges


Josiah Holloway


Alyssa Honey


Carson Honeycutt


Jania Hubbard


Brandon Hughes


Macey Hughes


MaKayla Hughes


Tracey Hurd


Halston Ingram


Kalyse Jefferson


Chance Jenkins


James Johnson


Trinaty Johnson


Miley Jones


Ansley Kelly

Melayna Kimble

Frankeya Kincaid

Hannah Knoll

Karlie Kolb

Lamar Lance

Ana Lawrence

Tylecia Lemon

Jack Leslie

Jatavious Lewis

TaNiyah Loggins

Anna Blake Lollar

Dajuan Loston

Kendall Love

Jayden Lumas

Madison Mallet

Elizabeth Mason

Charlie McAnally

Jakayla McCarroll

Khristin McCaskill

Davion McClain

Kaleb McDonald

Freddrion McGary

Taneya McGee

Matthew McWilliams

ShaNiyah Miers

Savannah Miller

Skylar Mims

Ravion Mister

Kaden Mixon

Tristan Monger

Christian Moore

Jaxon Moore


Ruby Moore


Yamileth Nino Moran


Jayden Morris


Demarion Moss


Tykishen Myles


Ekeyvion Noel


Dmaryian Parker


John Caden Patterson


Phillip Penn


James Pernell


Jarques Perry


ZiKeveyon Perry


Damareia Pittman


Eli Pollan


Anna Claire Poynor


Abigail Presley


JaZariah Pryor


Laila Pryor


Keavery Reed


Naima Reed


DeAndrae Rimmer


Tabitha Rinaldi


Ariana Rivers


Corey Robinson


Aubrietta Rodgers


Demetreus Ross


Myles Ross


Wesley Ross


Christopher Rounsaville


Tyrus Russell


Justin Sally


Frank Sanders


Zyshunnika Sanders


Antonio Scott


Gillon Scott


Jacorey Seals


Jakoray Shipp


Makiya Shipp


Emily Smith


Zaniya Spearman

Madison Staten

LaQuaylon Steward

Alexia Lynn Strong

Ayla Sturdivant

Terrell Suddoth

Hailey Tatum

Aurbany Taylor

Harmony Taylor

Layla Taylor

Leasiah Taylor

Macaleb Taylor

Najaylin Thompson

Cheyenne Tidwell

Ciara Townes

Eliziah Townes

TaKiyah Townsend

Zachery Townsend

Allen Tribble

Elijah Vance

Alyssa Walker

Asia Ward

Jahmani Washington

Zion Welch

Demarquis Westmoreland

Daylon Whirl

Joseph White

Braylin Whitt

Jane Wicker

Kamyia Wiggins

Sean Wilbourn

Travis Wilkes

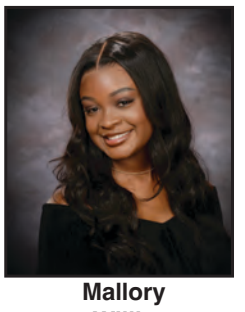
Jaci Willhite


Zavious Williams


Gabrielle Willis


India Willis


Kristiunna Willis


Mallory Willis


Tristin Wilson


Cadin Windham


Mason Winters


Samaria Wrenn


Chloe Wright


Trista Yates


Terrell Young


Wojie Zhong



"Innovation"

Continued from page 1

Furthermore, Grenada School District was awarded the PLTW Community Award, recognizing our efforts to bridge education with industry and create real-world learning opportunities. Our partnerships with local businesses have bolstered workforce development, equipping students with the skills they need for high-demand careers.

The release of "Launching a STEM Story for Every Student," a national Impact Profile, highlighted our journey in transforming education through STEM. The report showcases how early exposure, hands-on learning, and industry partnerships have positioned Grenada as a model for educational innovation, both regionally and nationally.

Our district's success stems from two key strategies that set us apart. First, we prioritize early exposure to STEM, introducing foundational concepts as early as Pre-K and continuously building on them through every grade level. Second, we take an intentional approach to curriculum integration—STEM isn't treated as a standalone subject but is woven throughout all areas of learning to deepen and enhance core academic skills.

These strategies have played a significant role in our transformation into an A-rated district, a direct result of years of strategic planning, quality instruction, and unwavering dedication to student success.

The impact of these efforts continues to be felt across our community. For example, the class of 2023 earned nearly $3 million in scholarships, an achievement that reflects the hard work and support of our school board, teachers, and students. Building on the success of our earlier initiatives, the Grenada School District recently unveiled its state-of-the-art Mobile Fab Lab, a collaborative effort between the district, the Grenada Public Education Foundation, and local industry leaders. This mobile classroom provides hands-on training for students and community members, preparing them with the skills needed for the region's growing workforce.

This mobile lab is just the beginning of our next chapter in STEM education. Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce the Entrepreneurial and Innovation Center (EIC) in the 2026-2027 school year. The EIC will provide students with cutting-edge technologies and real-world experiences in engineering, design, and manufacturing. Some of the innovative programs within the EIC include the Tiny House Project, which applies carpentry and engineering skills to create sustainable homes, and Simulated Forklift Driving, an immersive training program for logistics and manufacturing careers.

Additionally, we will offer HealthTracks and the Anatomage Table, which revolutionizes medical career preparation with 3D anatomical visualization and realistic simulations. The Immersive Learning Lab, featuring zSpace technology, will bring abstract STEM concepts to life through interactive, 3D explorations, enhancing spatial reasoning and problem-solving skills essential for careers in science, healthcare, and engineering.

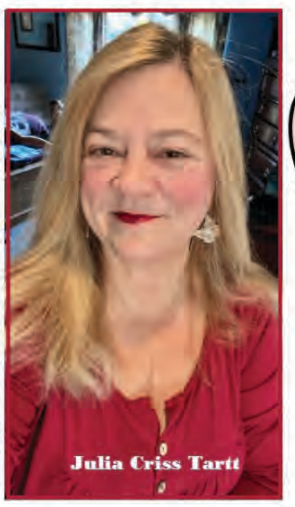
The success of the Grenada School District is a testament to the power of collaboration between school boards, educators, and communities. When we unite behind a shared vision, transformation is not just possible—it's inevitable. Our story demonstrates that intentional, early, and integrated STEM education can drive district-wide change and prepare students for future success. It's a model that any district can adapt to create their own success story.

It was a privilege to share Grenada's journey with the MSBA and to highlight the power of innovative education in unlocking student potential. Our district's success serves as an inspiration, showing that when we provide students with the right tools and opportunities, they can achieve remarkable things.

As we continue our journey toward educational excellence, we remain committed to ensuring that every student has access to the resources they need to succeed. Our students are the future, and we are proud to be preparing them for a world of endless possibilities.

Grenada School District's
Balloon Quest Summer Camp
2025 May 27–30 and June 3–6 $20
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GSD Registration
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GHS Class of 2025 Star Student Wojie Zhong



Wojie Zhong was named STAR Student after scoring the highest in his class on the ACT. Mr. Zhong chose English teacher Melanie Hopper as his complementary STAR Teacher.

By Ben Leatherman
GSD Reporter

GHS senior Wojie Zhong has been named Grenada's STAR Student for the 2024-25 school year by the M.B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program.

The state's most prestigious educational recognition program, STAR rewards seniors with the highest ACT scores in their class. The program selects one student from each of Mississippi's 300+ public, private, and parochial schools.

The STAR program asks each student to designate a teacher who has made the greatest contribution to their scholastic achievement. Wojie qualified for the honor with an ACT composite score of 35–taken in one sitting–and he credits his English and Language Arts (ELA) teacher Mrs. Melanie Hopper for helping him achieve such a high mark.

Mrs. Hopper has the distinction of being designated the STAR Teacher for the second year in a row. The pair declined to attend the awards ceremony because of Wojie's other commitments. Since his sophomore year, Wojie has been responsible for picking up his brother from school every day and driving to work at his family restaurant in Water Valley each afternoon.

Wojie's work ethic and perseverance have earned him a scholarship to attend the University of Indiana at Bloomington in the fall. The future Hoosier hopes to pursue a career in finance at IU's nationally ranked Kelley School of Business, obtain an M.B.A., and move to Chicago to start work as a consultant.

Grenada's curriculum does not always transfer to an out-of-state school, but Wojie was aware of this and opted not to participate in certain programs like GHS's Middle College collaboration with Holmes Community College. Instead he took certain dual credit courses that piqued his interests. He will receive credit for Comp 1, and will be able to test out of certain math courses.

Wojie's dreams of attending a prestigious business school would not have been possible without his parents diligently saving for him to go to college. Wojie is the son of Zhenhui Zhong and Angela Lu, proprietors of Chopsticks in Water Valley. The Zhong's live in Grenada.

The Zhong family has supported Wojie's interests throughout high school, allowing him to learn about the financial markets by trading stocks at home with his father. When he turned 18, Wojie opened a brokerage account in his name and now trades on his own. Wojie noted that he, "was doing very well until this year," and with a grin. He's already got enough financial savvy to steer clear of the markets while they are volatile.

Wojie attended school in Grenada for 11 of his 12 years, noting that a year of 3rd grade in Rhode Island wasn't nearly as nice as Grenada's elementary school, and he was happy when they moved back to Grenada. Now that he's moving on, Wojie is prepared for life a little further north where "summers aren't so hot."

GSD Registration
2025/2026

ms2220.activeparent.net

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The Power of Critical Thinking



By Sherry Worsham
Director of Community Partnerships

Critical thinking is a powerful tool that shapes how individuals navigate challenges, make decisions, and solve problems. In today's rapidly evolving world, success requires more than just technical knowledge—it demands the ability to think independently, evaluate information critically, and adapt to new and complex situations. At Grenada School District (GSD), students are developing this essential skill, equipping themselves not only for the careers of today but also for the opportunities of tomorrow.

The power of critical thinking lies in its ability to transform the way students approach learning across all subjects. In mathematics and science, it allows students to break down complex equations, test multiple solutions, and apply logical reasoning to real-world problems. Whether analyzing data in a chemistry lab or using the scientific method to test hypotheses, students develop the ability to question assumptions and draw evidence-based conclusions—an approach essential to fields ranging from engineering to healthcare.

In English and social studies, critical thinking sharpens students' ability to interpret and synthesize information. Literature classes encourage students to examine themes, perspectives, and character motivations, teaching them to think beyond surface-level reading. Similarly, in history and social sciences, students learn to assess bias, evaluate sources, and understand historical events from multiple viewpoints. This ability to think deeply and critically about texts, media, and historical narratives is a powerful skill that extends far beyond the classroom, preparing students to be informed citizens and effective communicators.

The impact of critical thinking is also evident in Grenada's Career and Technical Center (CTE) programs. Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Welding, Automotive, and Building Construction Science students must analyze design flaws, troubleshoot mechanical failures, and improve efficiency through logical problem-solving. In Biomedical and Health Science classes, students apply critical thinking to medical case studies, assessing symptoms, weighing treatment options, and making informed decisions—skills that are indispensable in fast-paced, high-stakes careers such as nursing, emergency response, and medical research.

Even in creative fields like the arts and athletics, critical thinking plays a crucial role. Musicians evaluate composition techniques, stage performers interpret characters, and athletes analyze their own strategies and adapt based on real-time feedback. Whether refining a painting, adjusting a play on the field, or composing a new song, students harness the power of critical thinking to assess, revise, and improve their work.

By embedding critical thinking across all areas of learning, Grenada School District empowers students with the confidence and problem-solving ability to tackle the challenges of the future. The ability to think critically is not just a skill—it is a source of power that allows students to shape their own success, make informed choices, and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

FALL 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

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graduates

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Ole Miss
Grenada

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