



Charger Pride



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

It's hard to put into words just how proud I am of our Grenada High School football team, both for what they accomplished last season and what they're already working toward this year.

As Superintendent of the Grenada School District, I have the unique privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication, teamwork, and community spirit that define our students—and nowhere is that more evident than in our football program under the leadership of Head Coach Michael Fair.

Last season was one for the history books. On December 7, 2024, our Grenada Chargers captured the school's first-ever MHSAA Class 6A State Championship, defeating the Hattiesburg Tigers in a dominant 43-14 victory at M.M. Roberts Stadium on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. That unforgettable win followed a hard-fought victory over Warren Central in the 6A North State Championship game—another milestone on our road to the top.

The entire community rallied around that team, and we couldn't be prouder of how they represented Grenada—both on and off the field.

Now, as we kick off the 2025-2026 season, we carry that championship legacy forward with excitement and optimism. Head Coach Michael Fair, now in his third year with the Grenada School District, has continued to build a program rooted in character, commitment, and excellence. Coach Fair recently told me, "This is one of the hardest-working teams I've had the pleasure to coach." That speaks volumes coming from a leader of his caliber.

This year's team is led by a strong group of 23 seniors—student-athletes who are determined to defend our title and bring another championship back to Grenada. With five returning starters on both offense and defense, fans will see plenty of familiar faces. At the same time, we'll also be counting on younger players to step into new roles left open by our graduating seniors from last year's squad. As always, player development is key, and Coach Fair and his staff have done an exceptional job preparing these young men to rise to the challenge.

See "Charger"
Continued on page 2

New Tech at GCTC



(l to r) Director of Community Partnerships Sherry Worsham, GCTC Nursing Instructors Kristi Winter and Mallory Lester, and GCTC Director Dr. Ezzard Beane, take delivery of the Anatomage Tables.

By Carol Tharpe
GSD Administrator

The Grenada School District is making bold strides in healthcare education with the exciting addition of not one, but two state-of-the-art Anatomage Tables—a transformative investment that will elevate learning opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students across the district and surrounding communities.

These advanced virtual dissection and anatomy visualization systems—used at prestigious institutions like Vanderbilt University, Mississippi State University (MSU), and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC)—are now part of the Grenada School District's growing healthcare education program. The Anatomage Tables are more than just impressive technology; they represent a giant leap forward in student preparation, and opportunity.

"This investment brings our students closer to the tools used in actual medical and nursing schools," said Dr. David Daigneault, Superintendent of Grenada School District. "We are building con-

fidence and career readiness in the next generation of healthcare professionals—right here in Grenada."

Immersive, Real-World Learning

With stunning 3D, life-like models of the human body, the Anatomage Table allows students to virtually dissect and examine organs, muscles, bones, and body systems with unmatched clarity. It creates an immersive, hands-on experience, modernizing classrooms into simulated clinical labs that mirror the settings students will encounter in college and the workforce.

This technology is now part of the district's new Health Tracks Program, an initiative designed to prepare students for high-demand careers such as Medical Office Assistant and Patient Care Technician, while also supporting pathways into nursing and medical fields.

Why It Matters

The impact of this innovation is profound and:

- Boosts comprehension in anatomy and

physiology

- Sparks interest in health science careers
 - Provides early access to college-level tools
 - Supports certification programs and career tracking
 - Builds confidence in rural students often underserved in specialized training
- This investment isn't about bells and whistles—it's about building real futures. Too often, rural students are told to dream big while being offered less. Not in Grenada. With tools like the Anatomage Table, our students now receive the same exposure and experience as students in leading universities and urban districts.

Partnerships Powering Progress

The acquisition of these tables was made possible through strong partnerships with UMMC and MSU, both of which have provided valuable collaboration and guidance to ensure that the Health Tracks Program meets the highest standards of healthcare training and education. With their continued support, Grenada is aligning high school training with the expectations of college and clinical programs, setting our students up for real, long-term success.

A Celebration on the Horizon

The Grenada School District is incredibly proud of this major step forward and invites the community to keep an eye out for an upcoming "Open House" celebration to officially unveil the Health Tracks Program and showcase the new immersive learning lab. We believe every student deserves a shot at success, and with the launch of this program, we are leveling the playing field and empowering students with the confidence, tools, and skills to pursue careers in one of the nation's fastest-growing fields—healthcare. This is more than just technology—it's vision in action.



The Anatomage table allows students to learn anatomy and physiology in both humans and animals. Students are able to study the systems of the body at work, for example, a normal heartbeat versus an abnormal heart rhythm.

“Birds of Prey” Visits GMS



Photo by Lindsey Leggett

GMS sixth graders Lacie Strickland (left) and Lexie Boozer (right) interact with the talking crow during the recent visit from the Freedom Ranch - Birds of Prey.

By Lindsey Leggett
GMS Assistant Principal

Grenada Middle School’s sixth graders had a unique opportunity to see science come to life during a recent visit from the Freedom Ranch - Birds of Prey program. The interactive event gave students a close look at a variety of rescued animals, including an albino ball python, a great horned owl, a talking crow, a red-tailed hawk, a vulture, and a cavy.

The presenter, Krissy Hamilton, shared fascinating facts about each animal, explaining their roles in the ecosystem and the importance of wildlife conservation. Students were especially excited to see the birds of prey up close and to learn how the Freedom Ranch Wildlife Center provides a safe home for animals that cannot return to the wild.

The program connected directly with

the sixth grade science curriculum reinforcing concepts such as food chains, animal adaptations, and habitats. More importantly, it sparked curiosity and gave students a hands-on experience that made learning memorable.

“Events like this bring science lessons to life,” said GMS 6th grade principal, Rebecca Bloodworth. “Students are able to connect what they’ve learned in class with real-world experiences they’ll never forget.”

Grenada Middle School is proud to partner with organizations like the Freedom Ranch to bring engaging educational opportunities to its students. With programs like Birds of Prey, and many other engaging programs scheduled for the year, GMS continues to create experiences that inspire students to “Bring Your Best” in and out of the classroom.

Business Donates Supplies to Welding Program



Photo by Meg Newcomb

(l to r) Tanner Medders, Javontae Williams, Mariah Pittman, Zaiden Black, and Kalanden Brooks are ready to use the donation of gloves, rods, tools, and other supplies from Crazy Charlie’s Pawn Shop in Greenwood.

By Meg Newcomb
Student Services Coordinator

The Grenada Career & Technical Center’s Welding class received a generous boost this week thanks to a donation from *Crazy Charlie’s Pawn Shop*, a locally owned business based in Greenwood, Mississippi.

The donation included welding gloves, rods, tools, and other vital supplies that will be used by students as they train for careers in the skilled trade. The contribution will have a direct impact on students’ learning experiences by expanding hands-on opportunities and better preparing them for work in the welding industry.

“We’re incredibly grateful for the support from *Crazy Charlie’s*,” said Welding Instructor Landon Hentz. “Donations like this make a real difference for our students.”

The Grenada Career & Technical Center continues to serve as a hub for students pursuing vocational and technical education, and partnerships with local businesses like *Crazy Charlie’s* help ensure these young professionals are equipped with the tools and experience they need to succeed.

Trying to find School Holidays?
Check www.grenadak12.com
Calendar Tab at the top of the page

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

“Charger”

Continued from page 1

The 2025–2026 team has set ambitious goals, with the top one being crystal clear: win back the state championship. That’s a lofty aim, but I believe this team is up to the task. They’ve already started the season strong with an impressive 42–6 victory over Pine Bluff (Arkansas), setting the tone for what we hope will be another memorable year.

We know the road ahead won’t be easy. Our schedule is once again packed with tough competition, but this team has shown they have the grit, focus, and heart to compete at the highest level. Most importantly, this group continues to be a

shining example of what it means to be a Grenada Charger. Coach Fair often talks about how proud he is of his team—not just for their performance on the field, but for the way they represent our school and community. I couldn’t agree more.

To all of our students, faculty, families, and fans—thank you for your continued support. And to this year’s football team: we’re already proud of what you’ve accomplished, and we’re excited to cheer you on every step of the way. Go Chargers!

GCTC Health Students Visit MSU Veterinary Program



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Students, (l to r) Terryann Lane, Jaycee Wine, Madison Hobbs, Jensey Blount, Mia Warren, Emma Kendall, Jewels Ingram, Gracie Mitchell, Jaslyn Rounds, Maziah Jones, Hannah Love, Lashuntia Holman, Anaya Williams, Shundria Cole, Jayden Caldwell, and Orlandrion Hayes, from the Health Science class at Grenada Career & Technical Center got a firsthand look at the world of veterinary medicine during an educational tour of the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The group explored various parts of the vet school, including the Animal Health Center (MSU’s teaching hospital), research laboratories, and classrooms. Students learned about the day-to-day responsibilities of veterinary professionals and were introduced to the university’s Veterinary Medical Technologist Program—a unique opportunity for those interested in combining science, medicine, and animal care.

One Skill at a Time: Laying the Groundwork for Entrepreneurs



Did You Know?

- *USM's Hatchery supported over 600 students and 130 startups last year*
- *MSU launched a full entrepreneurship major in 2025*
- *JSU offers credit-bearing internships and a senior capstone where students launch real ventures*

Grenada's Entrepreneurial Hub will give students a head start on all of it—before they even leave high school

*By Sherry Worsham
Director of Community Partnerships*

Across Mississippi, universities are doubling down on innovation. At The University of Southern Mississippi,

students pitch business ideas through the Hatchery. At Jackson State University, undergraduates earn credit for launching small business plans and gaining startup finance skills. At Mississippi State University, entrepreneurship is now a

formal major, with capstones focused on building real companies.

These programs -each unique- have one thing in common: they rely on a strong foundation of skills. Design thinking. Public speaking. Budgeting. Branding. Risk assessment. Digital fluency. These are not just concepts taught in college—they are skills that must be practiced early, built layer by layer. And that's exactly what Grenada High School students will begin doing in the Entrepreneurial Hub (eHub), part of the new Entrepreneurial & Innovation Center now under construction in the former Daily Star building.

College-level entrepreneurship programs are built to stretch a student's potential. They demand clarity of thought, creative problem-solving, collaboration, and self-discipline. At Mississippi State, students in the new entrepreneurship major study innovation, automation, and business venture development. At Jackson State, the curriculum blends classroom lessons with applied internships and senior capstone projects that launch real initiatives. And at Southern Miss, the Hatchery supports hundreds of students with mentorship, startup funding, and access to national competitions.

But those opportunities don't start in a college classroom. They begin earlier: when a student realizes they can create something of value and share it with others. That spark of agency is what the eHub at Grenada High School is designed

to cultivate.

The Entrepreneurial Hub (eHub) will not try to replicate a college business school. Instead, it will prepare students for those settings by introducing the mindset and skills that colleges and employers are already searching for. Students will explore what it means to identify a problem, design a solution, pitch a concept, take feedback, and iterate toward improvement. Whether it's a custom mug business or a website for local tourism, the process is the same: create, test, improve, deliver. This early practice will give students a powerful edge—especially as more Mississippi colleges open the door to entrepreneurship as a formal career path. By the time they apply to programs like the ones at USM, JSU, or MSU, Grenada students will already have a portfolio of work. They will have practiced the vocabulary of business. They will understand what it takes to turn an idea into action.

Not every student will pursue a business degree, and not every idea needs to become a company. But the skills gained through early entrepreneurial experience—collaboration, communication, adaptability, resilience—are transferable across every career and classroom. One skill at a time, students in Grenada will be building the foundation for tomorrow's opportunities.

BRING YOUR VISION BUILD YOUR LEGACY

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE!



- ✓ Bring your unofficial transcript for an evaluation
- ✓ Apply for admission and have your Spring, Summer, or Fall 2026 Application Fee Waived*
- ✓ Pick up your **FREE T-SHIRT!**



Classes offered on campus and online. Undergraduate programs include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Allied Health Studies | Elementary Education |
| Communicative Sciences & Disorders | General Business |
| Criminal Justice | Multi-Disciplinary Studies |



Grenada

1060 Avent Drive in Grenada, on the Holmes CC-Grenada Center campus

Can't stop by in person? Contact Associate Director Jessica Coker-Hughes by e-mail at jlccoker3@olemiss.edu

OUTREACH.OLEMISS.EDU/COMMUNICATOR

* Fee waiver only applicable for programs available at UM-Grenada.

**ASHLEE HANKINS
AND ANNA PALMER
FROM GRENADA, MISS.**

*UM-Grenada 2023 Graduates
Teachers at Grenada Elementary*

NJROTC Wants You!



NJROTC Cadets (l to r) Justin Sally, Summer Boatman, Frankeya Kincaid, Tara Bailey, and Jamarion Ammons present the colors for the 6A football Championship game.

By Chief Foreman GSD NJROTC Commander

Last year was a landmark school year for Grenada's NJROTC program. Cadets attended and competed in events across the southeast, and everyone shared a taste of success. Join 125 other cadets in a challenging and fulfilling extracurricular program recognized as a leader in STEM education across Mississippi.

Individual Cadets Honored in 2025

- 16 seniors graduated in the class of 2024.
- 15 college scholarships were offered for a total of over \$1.5M.
- 9 National Honor Society members.
- 7 graduating cadets are joining the military.
- 6 ranked among the top of the class of 2024.
- 4 cadets inducted into GHS Hall of Fame.
- 2 cadets won the Congressional App Challenge.
- 2 cadets named Volunteers of the Year
- Outgoing unit commander Summer Boatman received a \$225k ROTC scholarship in addition to the Minute Man Award worth nearly \$70k.

Historic Success in 24/25

Competitions

- Rated Outstanding in all categories during 32nd annual military inspection.

- Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors amongst 30 schools across 5 states.
- 1st place in Mississippi CyberPatriot for the fourth year in a row.
- The Drone Team won the Southeast regional and placed 2nd nationally at the JROTC Drone Championship.

Color Guard Presented at Regional Events

- Mississippi State Football Championship
- Memphis Redbirds
- Mississippi Mud Monsters
- Mississippi Valley State University

A Variety of Competitive and Academic Teams

- Unarmed Drill
- Armed Drill
- Exhibition Drill
- Color Guard
- Air Rifle
- Saber Team
- Brain Brawl
- JLAB
- CyberPatriot
- StellarXplorers
- E-Gaming
- VEX Robotics
- REC Drones
- SeaPerch
- First Robotics
- Drones

GES 5th Grade Students Dissect Owl Pellets

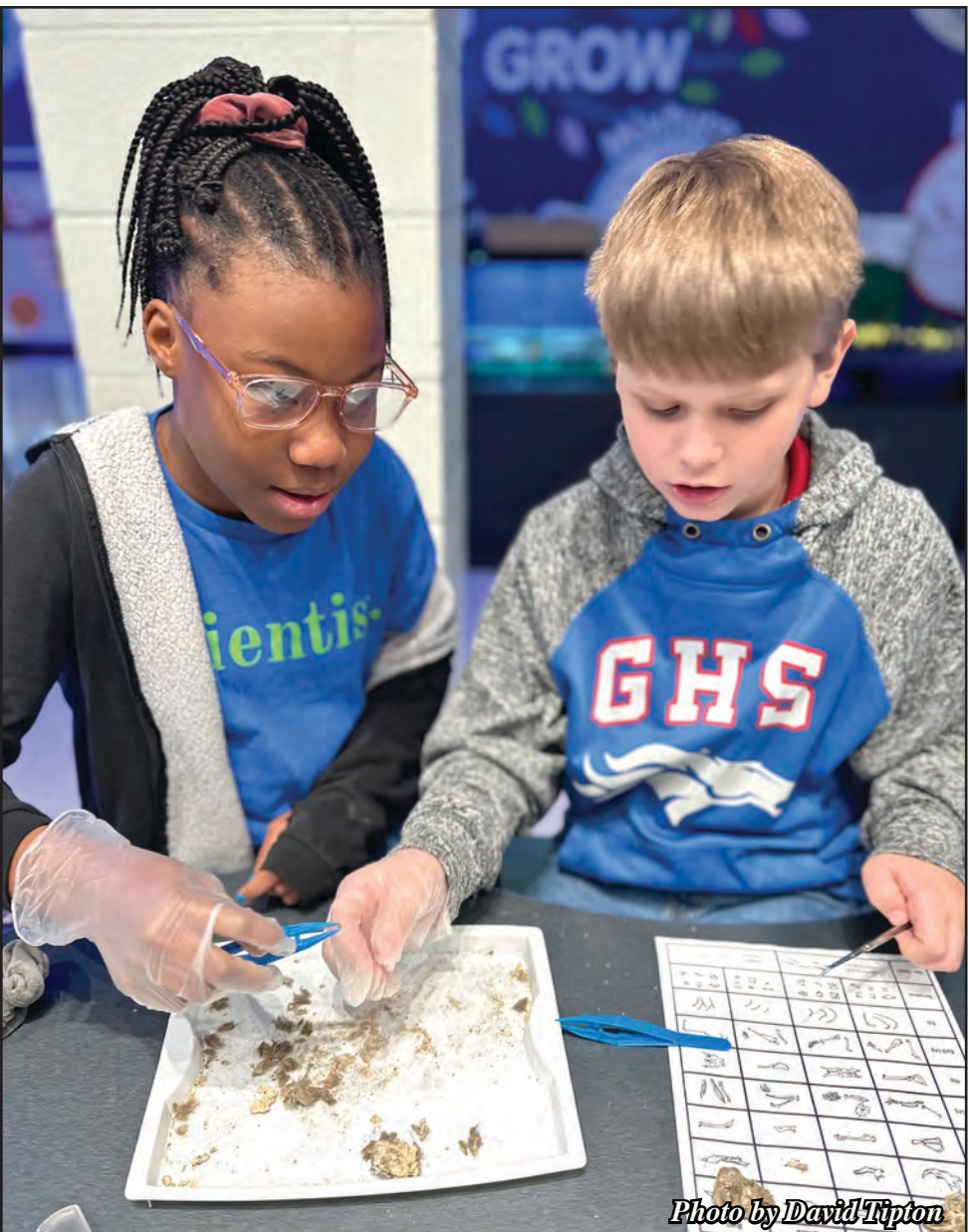


Photo by David Tipton

Fifth graders Rmonei Brooks and Brysen Adams work as a team to identify the contents of an owl pellet they are dissecting in the GES 3-5 Discovery Lab.



SCAN ME

Pay for School Lunches



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

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



All for Your Health



umc.edu/YourHealth

GMS Rewards Students with Academic Growth

By Lindsey Leggett
GMS Assistant Principal

Grenada Middle School is proving that achievement deserves to be celebrated. From field trips to Oxford to banners hanging proudly in the hallways, GMS is shining a spotlight on students who brought their best on the state MAAP assessment.

For the second year in a row, Grenada Middle School rewarded students who met their academic growth goals with a special trip to Oxford for bowling and a movie. The criteria were rigorous: last year's sixth and seventh graders had to meet goals in both reading and math, while last year's eighth graders—now ninth graders at Grenada High School—were required to meet goals in reading, math, and science. Thanks to strong collaboration between the middle school and high school, those freshmen were still included in the celebration alongside current students.

Over the course of three Fridays, students who achieved these milestones took part in a reward trip. In all, 44 ninth graders, 81 seventh graders, and 118 eighth graders earned their place on the buses to Oxford. Principal, Jamie Harrison, has made these trips a priority, ensuring that every student who meets their goals sees their hard work honored in a meaningful way. Their achievement represents not only academic growth, but also the persistence and pride encouraged throughout Grenada Middle School.



(Photo left) (l to r) Marley Jenkins, Claire Martin, Karen Lin, and Theresa Wei were excited to start bowling as part of the celebration of milestones they achieved.

The celebration doesn't end with the trip. Grenada Middle School is also recognizing 98 incredible students for making perfect scores on their last MAAP assessment. To spotlight these outstanding students, GMS partnered with the district's Communications Department to create bold, colorful banners that will be proudly displayed in the hallways. Whether perfect in reading, math, or both, these banners serve as daily

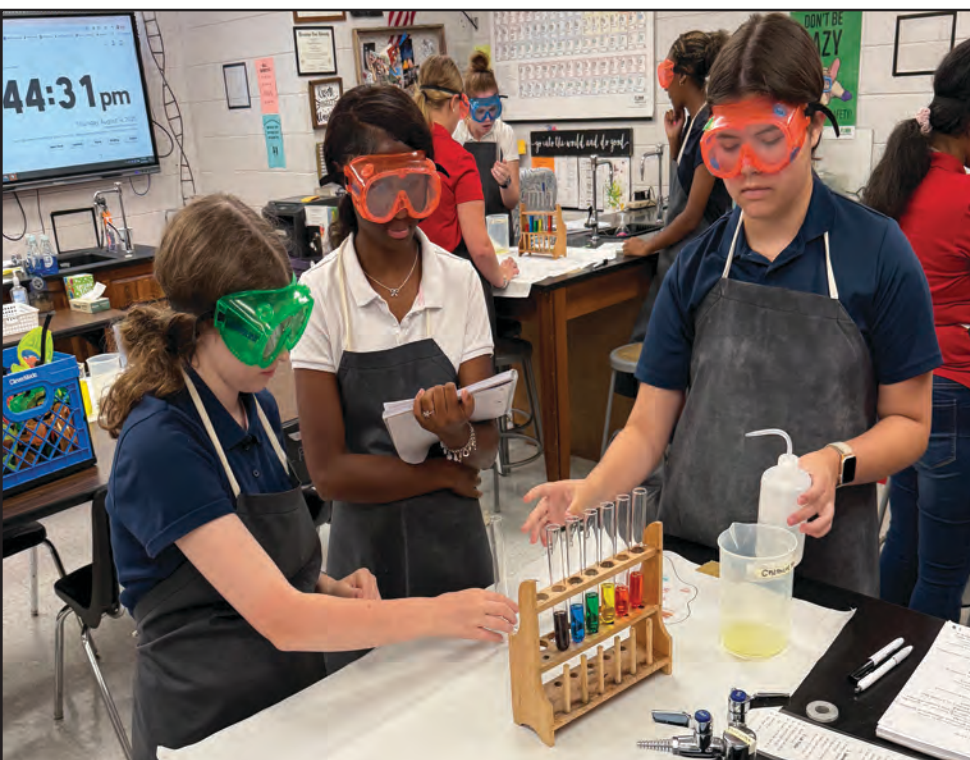
inspiration for classmates, proving that excellence is within reach. Among them, eight students achieved the remarkable feat of earning perfect scores in both reading and math.

Together, these rewards highlight the culture being built at Grenada Middle School: one where effort is recognized, goals are celebrated, and excellence is possible for every student. With a focus on the theme "Bring Your Best," GMS is

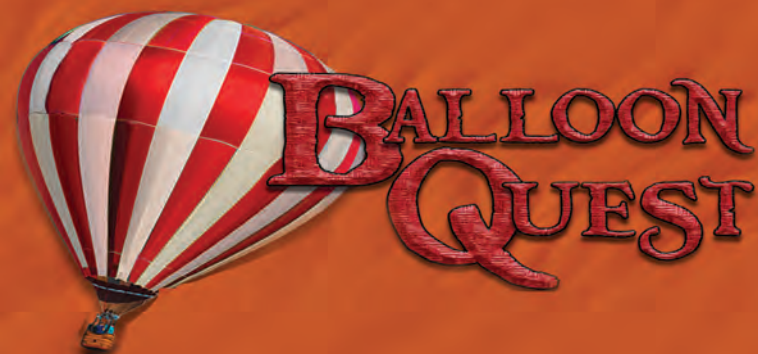
motivating students not just to succeed academically, but to carry that determination into every challenge ahead.

As the trips continue and the banners hang proudly, current 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are already setting their sights on next year's rewards. Grenada Middle School is excited to see just how many students will rise to the challenge when they choose each day to bring their best.

Activity Demonstrates the Importance of Accuracy



GHS Chemistry students practice precision and lab safety while creating rainbows in test tubes. (photo left) Morgan Bowden, Tolaryana Brown, and Kaitlyn Snyder completed their rainbows and are calculating percent error to assess measurement accuracy. (photo right back l to r) Emma Rocha, Shelby Harper (front l to r) David Cain, and Layla Thornton carefully add red to build the orange layer. White table covers help highlight spills, reinforcing the importance of caution and chemical safety in the lab.



Visit Grenada School District's newest hands-on learning facility — a science-based, escape-room-style museum.

Director: Tammie Cavanaugh
Phone: 662-307-4546

Email: balloonquest2022@gmail.com
Web: bit.ly/balloonquest

Location: 1779 Jackson Ave. Grenada, MS

A JOURNEY OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

College Preparation:

Start Packing for the Journey ... Here's What You'll Need



The journey to higher education is a long one, and it starts well before you settle on the right school. If you're dedicated to attending college, then your entire high school experience is the journey.

The peak assignment for your college bid is the application process. If you're a high school senior, then you need to start this process right away. If you're an underclassman or even just entering high school, you can make the process easier on yourself by keeping records and files over the next few years to document your academic performance and extracurricular activities.

So what is a college application? This is what colleges require to consider your enrollment. It can be your

own personal statement about your value and readiness to attend the college of your choice, so it's nothing you want to throw together at the last minute to beat a deadline.

To maximize your chances of getting in, choose more than one school — five to eight is the recommended number — and apply to each one in the fall semester of your senior year. Most applications are similar, and there are several items you need to prepare that can be used for each school.

Application Form

This is the nuts and bolts of the college application. It contains the standard information about you, your family, where you attended school, your aca-

ademic performance, activities outside of school, and your intentions for college life. Most institutions will offer electronic or written applications. Be prepared for application fees in the \$25-\$70 range, though some colleges offer waivers based on financial need.

High School Transcripts

Naturally, grades play a critical role in your college acceptance as well as your chances for financial aid. If you're just starting out, work hard to keep your grades high and take challenging courses like advanced placement, college-credit, and innovative electives like Project Lead the Way's engineering and biomedical science. This will show admissions officers you took advantage of Grenada High's most challenging classes and that you're ready for college-level courses.

It's also important to establish a relationship with your guidance counselor. Set and keep meetings and let them know whenever you apply to a college. Your counselor will send your transcript, which is simply a record of your high school course load and grades. Your final transcript, which will be completed and sent after graduation, is highly important as colleges want to know if you worked hard your final year or if you slacked off. Show them you're an ambitious student who will continue to perform at a high level in college.

Admission Test Scores

Standardized college entrance exams are a way for admission officers to determine if you're ready for rigorous college courses. The weight of these

scores vary from school to school, but a great ACT or SAT score will never hurt your chances of getting in. Try your best, and take the exam early and often to earn your highest score. Colleges only accept official score results from the test organization, so refer to the corresponding test group's website for information on how your scores are submitted.

Letters of Recommendation

Some schools require letters of recommendation from teachers, administrators, or work managers. This will help them understand who you are, how hard you're willing to work, and how you've contributed to your community.

Extras

Depending on your college path, you may need additional materials for your application. Some athletes must participate in a recruitment process or compile a highlight reel of their best performances. Some art and music schools require auditions or portfolios of your work.

Certain schools require an in-person interview to be considered. You may wish to arrange one anyway to give college officials the chance to meet you. If you have a dynamic personality, it may give you the edge you need.

In the meantime, make the effort to gather this information along the way. You'll have a better idea of what colleges are looking for, and you'll be able to make better decisions while plotting your high school career. The sooner you begin, the better prepared you will be to get into the school of your choice.

A Magical Visit to GES PreK-2 Kidzeum



Photos by Melanie Williams

Kidzeum students enjoyed the exhibit *Once Upon a Time*. (photo left) Emmarie Overstreet, Penelope Harris, Nova Woodall, Charlee Kate Spencer, (photo center) Royalty Booker, Mabry Hamilton, (photo right) Ezra Harris, and Holden Welsh

By Melanie Williams
Kidzeum Director

Walking into the Kidzeum feels like stepping straight into a storybook. The museum, made just for children in Pre-K through 2nd grade, is filled with exciting exhibits that let kids play, explore, and learn.

The current exhibit is called *Once Upon a Time*. As soon as students arrive, they are welcomed by a giant beanstalk stretching toward the sky, just like in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The adventure

begins right at the door!

Inside, children become part of their favorite fairy tales. They dress up as brave knights or royal princesses and even learn about heraldry—the symbols and designs that go on shields. This has created a new connection at GES. The Kidzeum now connects with the first and second grade art classes. This collaboration allows students to extend their Kidzeum lessons during art class. Currently students are using “chomp saws,” to design and decorate their own shields to take home. These amazing tools were

checked out from the Fab Lab during this portion of the visit.

In another area, students explore the Seven Dwarfs' mine. They dig for gems and use them to solve fun math problems. Some children rush to Rapunzel's corner, where they build tall towers for her to live in. Others visit the *Three Little Pigs* station, where they build houses out of different materials and compare how strong they are—just like in the story.

The exhibit also sparks creativity. Students use shadow puppets to retell classic tales, making the characters dance across

glowing screens. Everywhere they turn, there is something new to see, touch, or try.

Teachers say students are completely engaged during their visit. The Kidzeum makes reading, math, science, and art come alive in a fun and magical way. By the time the trip is over, children leave with smiles, stories, and maybe even a little fairy-tale magic of their own.

Lions Club Eye Screenings at Local Schools Begin



Lions club member Allison Ashmore with Pre-K Director Paulette Oakes, and students (l to r) Armintie Herrington, Ann McKay Hiram and Beau Pruden who have just had their eyes checked with the PlusOptix Machine.

By Julia Criss
Grenada Lions Club

Some of our Grenada Lions met up at the Grenada Elementary School the last couple of weeks of August to begin screening the eyes of the Pre-K students. Pre-K Director Paulette Oakes helped with the process as over 150 students had their eyes checked. Grenada Lions use the PlusOptix Machine to perform the eye screening.

The new PlusOptix Camera our club uses makes the screening process much more efficient and allows us to screen the younger children who may not know their alphabet yet. Eye chart testing can be subjective and relies on a well-trained school staff person as well as a very cooperative student in order to produce quick, reliable results. Eye chart screenings can miss such potential issues, such as farsightedness, amblyopia factors, low-grade cases of myopia and astigmatism. In contrast, the digital, touch-less technology used in our primary screening devices is highly accurate, automatic and reliable. Our testing systems also provide immediate results.

Lions KidSight is now an international vision screening and correction campaign to help clear the backlog of the millions of children, aged 6 months through early grade school, who are going without basic vision screening. Lions KidSight is a worldwide program bringing Lions clubs together to ensure our children receive eye screenings and follow-up care when needed. We train and mobilize caring people to be able to easily and efficiently screen the vision health of our nation's youngest, dearest, and most vulnerable children to help ensure they receive early academic and social development success that we all deserve—guided by the fact that 80% of a child's learning and development requires healthy, corrected vision. We also maintain a database of annual vision screening results, assess the continuing technological developments in the field of childhood vision screening and correction, and promote rigorous medical and public health standards and continuing visual health research and development when it concerns our youth—our entire future.

A.I.'s Role in our Lives Evolves in Band's "AlgoRHYTHM"



The pit crew, (l to r) Roman Bowden, Bo Miller and Treshawn Cotton perform while the marching band moves around the field telling the story of "AlgoRHYTHM".

By Ben Leatherman
GSD Reporter

On a fall evening in Grenada, Mississippi, the lights of the football field will shine on a show unlike any other. Grenada High School Marching Band will perform a production that combines familiar melodies, digital effects, and powerful imagery to explore the role of artificial intelligence in everyday life.

Concept and Design

Kim Presley, GHS Colorguard director described the premise clearly: "Our 2025 production is called *The AlgoRHYTHM*. It's conceived upon the idea of technology that's available to us, and more importantly, generationally for the students. These algorithms are coded into social media apps. They're designed to tailor content, to keep users engaged. So instead of perspectives being broad-

ened, they're narrowed."

She noted how this translates emotionally: "It actually creates distance between us, where human connection starts to be lost because we become so engulfed in this technological world. That isolation becomes vast, and we need actual human interaction."

For the show's finale, she explained, the theme flips toward empowerment: "We choose to then take it upon ourselves to see the world through our own eyes and broaden and shape the way we want to experience it."

Musical Layers

GHS Marching Band Director emphasized the variety: "We use a lot of electronic sounds. You'll hear text messages, distorted sounds, even dialog. We also use an electronic wind instrument, or EWI, as a solo instrument."

He laid out the musical journey: We

travel through a number of genres—classical, folk, rock. We're using "America the Beautiful," but in a minor key. Later it fuses with "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by The Byrds. In the closer, we use Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall." We overlap all of it to force home the motive we're going with—the algorithm. "We don't need no thought control."

Every movement carries a title: *Into the Feed*, *Like Comment Share*, *Seasons of Self*, and finally *Who's Controlling Whom*. Each movement pushes the story forward, using both sound and symbolism.

Visual Dimension

The color guard's role is emphasized in their choice of silks for each movement. At first you'll see a big maze inviting you to sign in and join the feed. Later, in *Seasons of Self*, the visuals shift to represent putting the device down and choosing to see the world your own way. Mrs. Presley added that lighting enhances the concept: "We have four stationary props equipped with LED lighting. They represent screens. You'll see lights activate, change colors, even strobe as the algorithm evolves."

Creative Process

According to Sumrall, concept design begins long before the season. "Every year's show is tailored to our senior class. We play to our strengths, and we look for possible gaps in their musical education. After finishing one season, we start thinking about the next. By February, we've come up with an idea, and we sit down with coordinators and writers to throw out ideas and pick what fits."

The directors also value originality. "We try to be really original every year," Sumrall said. "We want to have something that always catches the audience, something memorable."

Student Connection

The theme resonates with students. The show invites the user to sign in, to join. Through likes, comments, and shares, the algorithm redesigns itself to keep you engaged—almost addicted. It's their world. They live this every day.

That connection deepens the performance. When musicians and guard members understand the symbolism behind each move or note, their execution gains meaning.

Broader Significance

The directors stress that *AlgoRHYTHM* is more than a halftime show. Marching band is an art form, but it's also a classroom. This show makes students think critically. We want to entertain the audience, but also want them to walk away thinking about how they engage with technology.

A Performance With Purpose

From the opening electronic voice—"I am the algorithm"—to the Pink Floyd's final strains "We don't need no thought control," *AlgoRHYTHM* challenges both performers and audience to reflect on the digital forces shaping modern life.

Grenada High School's band has long prided itself on innovation and excellence. With *AlgoRHYTHM*, the directors and students continue that tradition, proving that music on the field can be as relevant as it is resonant.

