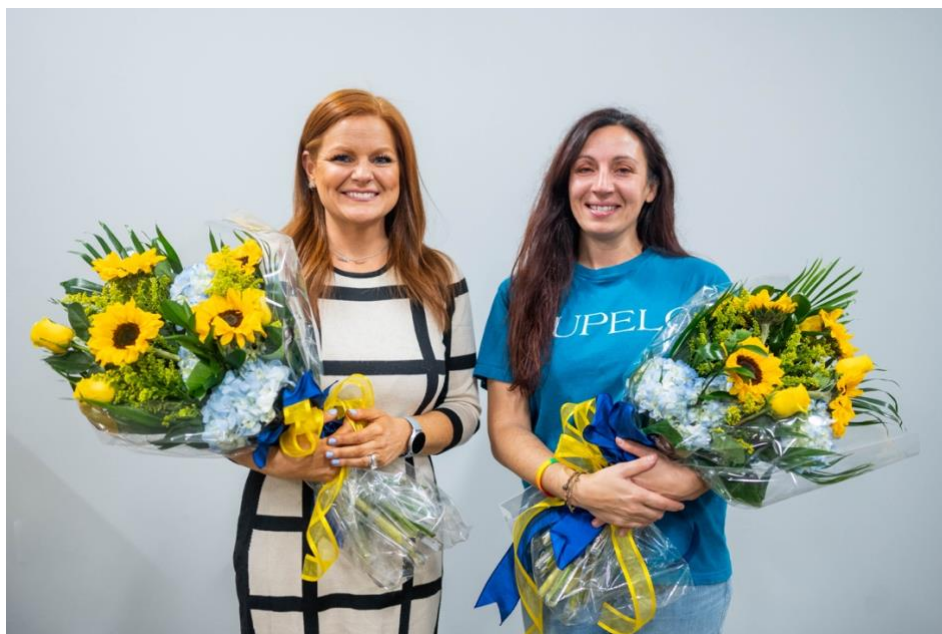




### **Davis, Headings Receive TPSD Major Recognition**

**TUPELO, Miss.** — Tuesday was a day of celebration for the Tupelo Public School District at its December Board of Trustees meeting, as Christina Hudgins-Davis and Hillary Headings were named teacher and parent of the year, respectively.

A 15-year veteran in the profession, Hudgins-Davis has been at Tupelo High School since 2018, where she teaches English I, II and III. She also spent six years at the Middle School after beginning her career in the Marion County School District.

“I have been given the unique opportunity and privilege of instilling a number of vital principles in our youth through my work as an educator,” she said. “The focus of education is not just the skills and knowledge in our content areas. It is helping our youth find themselves and their place in the world. It is helping them learn the skills they will need to positively impact their communities and the world around them. Educations are here to shape the next generation.”

A National Board Certified teacher and 2022 Teacher of Distinction winner, she is a PLC leader and helped champion Tupelo High School’s Capturing Kids Hearts initiative. She believes class engagement is key, and she understands each student learns differently.

“She possesses a unique ability to connect with students on a personal level, fostering strong relationships that inspire trust and motivation,” THS assistant principal Ryan Curry said. “Her commitment to differentiated instruction ensures that every student receives the support and challenges they need to succeed.”

As a child, Heading never knew the career path she should take. However, she always knew she wanted to be a mom and be involved. And volunteering has become a passion.

Field trips, decorating floats, staff lunches, PTO leadership roles and fundraisers have become her life. One of her success stories is the \$6,523.80 she helped raised.

That passion carries over to her community and church, too. And she does all of this while her husband, Major Drew Headings, is deployed in Africa for long periods of time, which she says has been challenging for her family.

“My children are looking to me for inspiration, and I want to show them that they can make it through every difficult challenge,” she said. “I want them to see we are not just surviving, but that we are thriving despite our circumstances.”

She and her husband have two children, Crosby, who attends Carver, and Glory, who goes to ECEC.

—[www.TupeloSchools.c](http://www.TupeloSchools.c)