

# Communicator

Information for the Grenada School District Community

# **A** Timely



Superintendent's Message Dr. David Daigneault

For a long time now, I've been imagining different ways to present information to kids who, for various reasons, cannot be in the classroom. Whether at home with an illness for a couple of days or forced to be away for a longer duration, such as an extended hospital stay, there is a segment of our student body at risk of falling behind in their studies.

At the same time, I've heard from concerned parents who tell me they often try to help with their child's homework, but some of the concepts we teach are so advanced, they're the ones who end up need-

About a year ago, we began work on a project to address both problems: an extensive video library that covers every standard taught at Grenada School District from kindergarten to grade 12.

Students who cannot be in the classroom can simply log in, access the assigned lesson, watch a video of the teacher explaining the concepts, and then complete the accompanying homework. It's the next best thing to being in class.

I tasked the district's communication department with facilitating this massive project. We imagined it would take years to film every standard, but the expanding library could be used immediately by teachers for distance learning or inclass review.

Two months into the project, the pandemic hit. Classes at GSD ground to a halt. Parents arrived at the schools to pick up work packets for their children, but teacher instruction, the most critical piece of education, was missing.

We modified the video lesson project to quickly produce as many lesson standards as possible in the critical state-tested areas of each grade — math, science, English, and history. Multiple filming spaces were set up, and teachers came in on a rotating schedule to teach their lessons in front of the camera. Communications team members edited and organized the videos into a catalog of standard lessons that grew more rapidly than we could have imagined.

Work progressed rapidly through the spring and summer. By the time school started back in August, the entire first nine weeks of lessons were filmed, produced, and archived for use in both traditional and virtual classes.

### **GHS Engineering Program Soars** Solution With Industry Grant, Aerospace Class



(L to r) Kimhong Kanheng, Teekeo Conley, and Dylan Carnathan were among the students in Matthew Gardner's Aerospace Engineering class who participated in a class project to build and launch model rockets. Introduced last semester, the new aerospace class is the fourth engineering course offered through Project Lead the Way at GHS.

By Jamie Kornegay **GSD** Reporter

The engineering program at Grenada High School has expanded each year since it started in 2017, but it reached new, gravity-defying heights last semester with the introduction of Aerospace Engineering.

The new class was made possible by a grant of \$10,000 from Novipax, the local industry that helped kickstart the program four years ago by funding the creation of the engineering lab. GHS has offered four Project Lead the Way engineering classes in the lab, including Introduction to

Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Architecture.

"I don't think there's anything in Mississippi like we have in Grenada," said engineering instructor Matthew Gardner. "Most kids in high school never get the opportunity to have this type of preparation."

For the first year of aerospace, Gardner teaches three seniors and three juniors. "The first year of a new class it's always hard to get a big group," he said. "They need to know what type of class it's going to

The aerospace class is

divided into four units. The first semester covers principles of flight and aircraft design. Students learn parts of the plane, including the instrument panel. They learn to operate an aircraft via a flight simulation computer program and must find their way from airport to another by using the cockpit instruments.

The second unit looks at aerospace design. Students learn the forces of atmospheric flight and propulsion and use computer software to design an efficient aircraft for space travel. One class project involved designing and building model rockets of various sizes.

"We took our rockets out to the football field and launched them," said Gardner. "The students were able to see how the altitude changes depending on the stabilizers they install in the rockets."

For the second semester, students will confront the properties and challenges of space travel. They learn about various types of satellites, including how they work and remain fixed in orbit. "They're currently building a Vex robot that acts as a satellite orbiting Mars," Gardner explained.

See "Aerospace" Page 6

Toys Collected By NHS

(photo right)

GHS National Honor Society members Brooke Thomas (left) and Ainsley Craven led their service group in a toy drive in December. The toys were divided between the local **Toys for Tots program** and other Grenada families in need. NHS members plan and conduct their own service projects every month as part of their commitment to the national student leadership program.



See "Solution" Continued on page 2

# **AmeriCorps** Featured Member

By Gwen Woodson AmeriCorps Director

Miracle Moore, a graduate of the Grenada School District, has thrived while serving with the GSD AmeriCorps Program and believes anything worth having is worth working for.

"I wanted to join this program because I needed a change in my life," said Moore. "I heard about the program from a close friend, and I wanted to step out of my comfort zone and give it a try. This program has such a positive impact ... not just on the students, but on the community ... and I am proud to be a member of AmeriCorps."

Before joining AmeriCorps, Moore worked at ADP and volunteered with her church, New Life, to feed the community during Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Moore has a love for the program and the children she helps. She has a grace about helping others and puts everything she has into ensuring that this program is successful. Her love for the program is evident because of her attendance record. She never misses, even when she is not feeling well.

"I have learned a lot in AmeriCorps, not just about life, but about myself," said Moore." I've learned patience and courage, but most importantly my purpose. I believe that my purpose in life is to help others, but AmeriCorps has helped me realize my passion is helping the children."

Moore added, "I have also learned leadership, patience, endurance, kindness, perseverance, consistency, and understanding. This program has impacted my life in a positive way, and I will forever be grateful not only for the opportunity but for the experience."

While serving in AmeriCorps, Moore participated in the MLK Day events and helped with the Breast Cancer walks, Christmas Parade, Thunder on Water, and community dinners. She helped plan and organize community events, worked with children, and gained a forever fam-

In exchange for a year of service, Moore will earn an education award of \$6,195 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. She is enrolled in Holmes Community College, and hopefully, one day to become a teacher or an administrator. "AmeriCorps has inspired me to become a better person in many areas," Moore



said. "I am not as shy as I once was and am able to get my point across with a stronger voice. I have more confidence, which has helped me start a small business. My eyes are open to new things and I have been able to meet people who have inspired me to chase after my dreams."

Moore has started her own personal brand of handmade skincare products branded as Blac Tiger Rose. She said she would have never had the courage to do that without the AmeriCorps program. Moore's advice to people who are thinking about applying to AmeriCorps is, JUST DO IT.

"AmeriCorps opens many doors and it gives you purpose," she said. "To serve in this program you must have a strong mindset, be able to put others before yourself, and to not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. You also have to understand what it means to be and to have the heart of a servant, to be willing to go the extra mile and to get things done. AmeriCorps is a huge asset to our community. I absolutely love this program and what it stands for: helping others."

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

### "Solution"

**Continued from Page 1** 

Early last month, a year into the project, the communication department wrapped up phase one of the video library project, archiving nearly 800 video lessons! That's not including the targeted lesson videos that teachers produce each week for their students. The accumulated videos represent a year's worth of classroom education at 13 grade levels.

Now students who are home on quarantine or snowed in — sorry, kids! can do their work with a computer and internet connection. Teachers who must be out will have ready-made work for their students. Even parents who want to help their children in a particularly difficult standard can tune in and watch how the instructors are teaching the material.

The GSD video library project, which enters phase two this spring with non-tested classes and electives, is a testament to our growth and adaptation during this trying pandemic year. We've outfitted our students with the tools they need to learn at home — including laptops and hot spots — and continue to hone our online instruction. And the development of this ever-evolving, timely solution will ensure that students are never too far from the classroom.

### GMS Continues with the Annual Angel Tree Program



Angel Pollan of Anytime Fitness partnered with Grenada Middle School during the school's annual Angel Tree Project. This popular holiday program enlists the help of students in raising money to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need.



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## GES Spelling Bee Winners



**GES Grand champion - Aarav Kher** 



**Braylen Smith** 



**Kensley Grace Conley** 



**Addison Phillips** 

## GHS NJROTC Air Rifle Meet



GHS Air Rifle team members (I to r) Kimhong Kangheng, Jacob Chavis, and Tyner Kelley were the three highest-ranking shooters from Grenada's NJROTC program at a regional meet in Anniston, Alabama. Altogether, nine cadets represented Grenada, facing schools from around the Southeast.

By Chief Reese Foreman NJROTC Chief

On January 16, the Grenada High School NJROTC Air Rifle team traveled to Anniston, Alabama, for their first time competing in the 2021 Area Eight STS Championship Air Rifle Meet.

The cadets arrived in Anniston the night before the competition. The meet started at 7:30 the next morning. After drawing numbers, the cadets entered the first round, which lasted until 11:00 a.m.

The unit was able to bring both of their Air Rifle teams, Team 1 and Team 2. Team 1 consisted of cadet commander Kimhong Kangheng, Air Rifle commander Jacob Chavis, Chance Melton, Tyner

Kelly, and Ian McCollough, while Team 2 included Kevion McGee, Arnanda Herrod, John Boler, Corban Thayer, and Avery McMechan.

All cadets had to compete in the three firing positions: kneeling, standing, and prone (lying down). Cadets were given a few minutes to sight their rifles, after which they were given 20-25 minutes to fire 20 shots per firing position.

Unlike in their previous meets at South Panola, the CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) range used the Orion and Athena scoring system, which electronically records each shot and shows the shooter exactly where they shot. The system also showed their total score and the scores of the other shooters. Coaches

were able to see these scores and adjust their shooters if needed. Flat-screen televisions were placed above the shooters allowing family members and coaches to view the scores.

The cadets competed against nine other schools from Area Eight, consisting of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Over 80 cadets competed on 19 different teams. The GHS NJROTC's top three scores from Saturday were cadet Tyner Kelly who ranked 43rd, cadet Jacob Chavis who ranked 45th, and cadet commander Kimhong Kane who ranked 69th. Both GHS teams finished 15th and 19th respectively.

Even though the unit did not place in the top three, the unit was still pleased

with their outcome. They learned two things from attending the meet. First, the unit needs better rifles and shooting stands, and second, they need to work on positions while shooting. The cadets had a chance to talk to cadets from other schools as well as other coaches/instructors to get their take on what is needed in order to improve as a unit. They also learned different breathing and standing techniques. More training and practice will benefit the cadets, and they are looking forward to a better showing next year with the hope of earning higher individual and team scores.

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# GES 4-5 Principal's Breakfast



Students at Grenada Elementary Green Top were honored for good or improved behavior with an invitation to have breakfast with the principals. Students selected for January include (front, I to r) Assistant Principal John Daves, James Self, Makynleigh Chandler, Polly Bell, Anna Tipton, Jakira Worthington (back, I to r) O'Darius Conley, Cadence Vanstory, David Cain, Clayton Turner, Nolan Hollingsworth, and Brylee McCammon.



(front, I to r) Rakiya Daniels, Kyslin Craig, Kendra Pouncy, Caleb Bell, Nicolas Pernell, Desmon Harbin, Nickolus Brown, (back, I to r) Tarahji Black, Alondon McCaley, Chrisshawn Shack, Braylon Bell, Brandon Bell, Tyler Cooley and Assistant Principal John Daves



# GHS Students Excel on ACT

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

While test scores are only one factor in determining acceptance into college, the higher a student's ACT score, the more scholarship money he or she may receive.

Grenada High School emphasizes ACT performance with training sessions and prep classes to push students to reach their highest score. Administrators also recognize high-performing students by membership in two clubs — the 25 & Up and the 30-Plus clubs.

Members in the 25 & Up club scored a 25 or above on the ACT, ranking in the top 78 percent nationally. They include sophomores Caleb Chrestman and Tanner Gillon; juniors Elijah Black, Phillip Chandler, Jaylynn Hall, Luther Mattox, Sophia Kornegay, and Maki Topps; and seniors Madelyn Anthony, Mary Bailey, Kristian Bell, Karlie Bloodworth, Shelby Boyett, James Boatman, Hannah Briscoe, Presley Hale, Kayla Herrington, Kimhong Kangheng, Logan Kiefer, Leah Kinnard, Lane Lemley, Gabriel Martin, Russell Reid, Ella Simmons, Corbin Thayer, Brooke Thomas, and Av-

Members in the 30-Plus club scored 30 or above on the ACT, ranking in the top 93 percent nationally. Members include junior Ellie Welsh and seniors John Boler, Kira Finkley, Allie Grace Holland, Lindsey Ingram, and Anna James.

ery Zangri.



Ellie Welsh



John Boler



Kira Finkley



Caleb Chrestman



**Tanner Gillon** 



Elijah Black





Jaylynn Hall





**Allie Grace Holland** 



Lyndsey Ingram



**Anna James** 



Sophia Kornegay



Maki Topps



**Madelyn Anthony** 



Mary Bailey



Kristian Bell



Karlie Bloodworth



**Shelby Boyett** 



James Boatman



Hannah Briscoe **Presley Hale** 







Kayla Herrington Kimhong Kangheng



Logan Kiefer



Leah Kinnard



**Lane Lemley** 



**Gabriel Martin** 



**Russell Reid** 



**Ella Simmons** 



**Corbin Thayer** 



**Brooke Thomas** 



Congratulations!

## GHS Girls Basketball



### "Aerospace"

**Continued from Page 1** 

The final unit focuses on alternative applications of the principles the class has learned. The most unique project of the entire course may be the planet rover. Students will build a simulation of Mars and program their orbiting rovers to scan the terrain and find water.

Gardner said the ongoing pandemic has prevented the class from some of the supplementary studies he had planned, including several field trips. One eye-opening experience the students may miss this first year is a visit to Air Venture Flight Center in Olive Branch. The training school offers an introduction to aviation course that takes prospective students up and gives them an opportunity to control the airplane.

In addition to the flight school, Gardner said he would like to take future aerospace classes to visit the Lockheed Martin plant in Meridian, where airplane components are built, as well as a model rocket competition on the Gulf Coast.

Students who excel in the Aerospace Engineering course won't have to venture far to continue their studies. Gardner said Mississippi State University offers an excellent aerospace program and noted that one of his first engineering students, Charles Pheng (Class of 2019), is currently in his second year with a 4.0 GPA.

Engineering classes count as advanced electives for high school credits and can even earn college credit at MSU with supplementary work. Any student who is interested in taking an engineering class should meet with his or her counselor for details.



Matthew Gardner is the engineering instructor for GHS. He helps students outfit their model rockets as part of the new aerospace engineering class.



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### GES Students Venture to the South Pole





Kindergarten students in Mrs. Chism's class at Grenada Elementary learned about Antarctica during the Kidzeum's winter exhibit. (photo left, I to r) Ayden Handiman and Jole Carmichael identified North and South America on the globe. In the Kidzeum kitchen, (photo right, I to r) Lillian Lipe, Mia Cunningham and Kayliana Garcia learned about icebergs and glaciers.

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

Just in time for February's snow and ice, the Kidzeum at Grenada Elementary PreK-3 wrapped up the first visit for its new exhibit, Antarctica.

Students in pre-kindergarten through third grade began their journey to the South Pole with a virtual reality experience in Kidz Tech. Students put on their VR goggles and found themselves in 360-degree simulation of the icy Antarctic landscape.

According to Kidzeum director Melanie Williams, the museum's VR technology greatly enhances the exhibits and jumpstarts the students' imaginations. "One child exclaimed, 'I know I am in the Kidzeum, but it sure looks like I'm in Antarctica!'" Williams said.

After the VR orientation, students were divided into three smaller groups and rotated through a series of lessons and activities.

One group learned chants to help them remember the names of the seven continents and their relative directions. They used individual globes to find South America, North America, Antarctica, and the equator, then learned about the icebreaker ships that take passengers to Antarctica.

Another group entered an ice cave to learn more about climate. Students were amazed to find out that Antarctica is considered a desert because of its lack of precipitation and harsh living conditions. They determined what type of clothing they would need to survive in Antarctica and discovered that, although Antarctica has thousands of visitors a year, only about 1,000 scientists live there year

Students ended this center with a special video from Ryan Waters, a friend of GES 2-3 looping teacher Addy Walker. Mrs. Walker created the video of her college friend specially for this exhibit. Waters is an expeditionist who has climbed

Mt. Everest and crossed both the North and the South Poles. A world traveler and tour guide, Waters discussed his 70-day adventure across Antarctica.

"We are very thankful for the time Mr. Waters took to share his adventures and for the time Mrs. Walker took to edit the video," Williams said. "This was an excellent addition to the exhibit."

The third small group visited the Kidzeum kitchen, where they became geologists. Students examined a model of Antarctica.

"When students visualize Antarctica, they immediately think of ice," Williams said. "Unlike the Arctic, Antarctica is a continent, a giant land mass. We froze soil and rocks and covered it with layers of ice so students would remember that Antarctica was in fact a large piece of land."

Williams said students were fascinated to learn that Antarctica has mountains and volcanoes. They discussed the three large ice sheets that covered the conti-

nent and completed an experiment to see if icebergs sink or float.

"A little math went into the lesson as we discussed percentages," Williams said. "Ninety percent of an iceberg is submerged under water. What we see is just a small portion of the iceberg."

Finally, students learned about glaciers, large pieces of ice with streams of water flowing through them. "We used every child's favorite item, slime, to demonstrate how slowly glaciers move and how they have properties of both a solid and a liquid," Williams said.

After the mid-February winter storms, Williams said she and her staff were preparing to welcome students back to the frozen tundra to learn about the animals that live in the region's unique climate and how they survive.

# GHS Boys Basketball



(front I to r) Coach Joey Cooley, Thomas Coleman, Dontralus Yates, Derrick Harbin, Jr., Antonio Blackmon, Cameo Noel, Chris Golden, Coach Robert Sapp (back I to r) James Scaife, Joshua Phillips, Ty Moore, Jordan Harris, Jardarius Townes, Brent Jones Not pictured: Trajerrion Brown, Lazarus Conley, J. D. Steen

## School Board Appreciation Week



(front, I to r) District 4 Board of Trustee, Marjorie Hughes, District 3 Board of Trustee, Arlene Conley, (back, I to r) District 1 Board of Trustee, Kevin Carnathan, Superintendent, Dr. David Daigneault, District 2 Board of Trustee/Board President, Dr. David Braswell

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# **Skills Students Create Gifts for School Board**



GHS pottery students (I to r) Briella Simmons and Jasmine Lacey



GMS pottery students (I to r) Tanner Wilbourn, Erin Moore, and Charlee Williams

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

Students in Melissa Taylor's afterschool pottery skills class made clay pots for members of the Grenada School District Board of Trustees in recognition of School Board Appreciation Week. Taylor said the students, who participate in the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) program, filled the pots with potting soil and aloe vera plants.

Taylor has presented the school board with pottery gifts in the past. She has taught the extracurricular pottery classes since the 21st Century program launched 13 years ago.

The 21st CCLC includes two types of

classes. The small-group tutoring sessions, led by GSD teachers, are designed to provide extra help for students who may be struggling in a particular subject. A series of skills classes introduce students to new subjects and offer a deeper focus on areas of interest, including podcasting, pottery, Photoshop, culinary arts, building trades, auto trades, welding, weightlifting, and archery.

The free tutoring and skills classes are held after school from 3:30 to 5:30 on Mondays through Thursdays. Students interested in joining the 21st Century program should have their parents contact the principal at his or her school or call the Parent Center at 662-227-3370.



