

## A Rising Tide *GHS Senior Finkley Wins STAR Student, Lindsay Callahan Awards*



**Superintendent's  
Message**  
**Dr. David Daigneault**

Last month, we hosted our annual Superintendent's Breakfasts for students who have maintained a 90 or above average for all classes thus far in the 2020-2021 school year. During last year's quarantine, we resorted to a virtual ceremony to celebrate the top scorers in grades K-12, so it was great to host the students in person this year.

We held four separate breakfasts at the Red Top, Green Top, middle school, and high school. It struck me how many students attended each breakfast, how well-behaved they were, and how great they all looked. They were attentive, respectful, and dressed for the occasion. To me, that demonstrated a pride in achievement, and it was written all over the faces of these students.

It has taken a concerted effort among teachers and administrators to convince students that it's cool to work hard and be smart. Great work invites positive attention. Positive attention creates a level of respect and earns certain rewards and privileges. When others see what great achievement brings, they want a taste too.

Among the many students at the high school breakfast, I recognized some of the junior and senior class members who had been in second and third grade when we started this initiative to produce higher achievers. They were joined by quite a few more of their peers, and it seemed to me that we had more students to congratulate than ever before.

(By the way, this wasn't some rinky-dink breakfast. Our cafeteria staff put out a spread befitting our brightest.)

We began rewarding these top performers for doing their best on tests and assignments, acquiring the most Accelerated Reader points, and exhibiting good behavior. What may seem like small rewards — candy, a free-dress day, a class pizza party — are often a big deal to students.

It wasn't always easy, but we convinced them, one student at a time, to reach their highest potential. The more who joined the cause, the more other students wanted to come along.

Esteem is a powerful motivator. That's why we live streamed the Superintendent's Breakfasts and archive them on our website. (You can see them at our devoted live stream website, [vimeo.com/GSDLive](https://vimeo.com/GSDLive)) Not only so that proud parents can see their kids being honored, but so the community can witness the up-and-coming excellence right here in our town.

It's like the old aphorism, "A rising tide lifts all boats." Every drop of water adds up to create a dynamic wave. It takes time, but with patience and hard work, we're seeing the current gaining strength here at Grenada School District.



*Photo by Ezzard Beane*

**STAR Teacher Melanie Hopper and  
STAR Student Kira Finkley**

*By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter*

GHS senior Kira Finkley has captured two prestigious state honors, the STAR Student Award and the Lindy Callahan Scholar-Athlete selection.

Finkley is one of 16 seniors from across Mississippi who were selected as Lindy Callahan Scholar-Athletes for the Class of 2021.

The honorees — one boy and one girl from each of the Mississippi High School Athletic Association's (MHSAA) eight geographical districts — were chosen for their academic accomplishments as well as their participation in high school athletics and extracurricular activities. The recipients were chosen by a committee made up of MHSAA partners and school administrators.

Among her sports and activities, Finkley made notable contributions this year in fast-pitch softball, girls soccer, volleyball, and the Grenada Band's color guard.

"Balancing athletics and academics has not been an easy feat, but I am super excited to see that my hard work and perseverance have paid off," Finkley said. "I am also super proud to be able to represent the Grenada School District with such a high honor."

Each of the 16 Lindsay Callahan winners will receive a \$1,500 college scholarship.

Finkley was also named Grenada's STAR Student for the 2020-2021 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M.B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students & teachers in Mississippi.

STAR Students are selected on the basis of academic excellence. Both ACT scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the school's STAR Student.

Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

Finkley designated Melanie Hopper as STAR teacher.

This is Hopper's second year in a row to be named a STAR teacher. (Last year's STAR Student, Alexa Simko, also named her for this honor.)

"This is my fourteenth year in the classroom, and I am incredibly humbled to have Kira choose me as a teacher who has made a positive impact on her life," Hopper said. "Kira has had amazing teachers and coaches throughout her educational experience, which makes her selection even more special to me."

Hopper said she has enjoyed having Finkley as a student for the past two years. "She is dedicated, sincere, driven, giving, and a joy to teach. Her desire to learn and question makes me be a better teacher. I know that Kira will succeed at all her future endeavors and am so grateful to have played a small part in her education."

**See "Star Student"  
Page 5**

## *A Return to Tradition for Class of 2021*



*By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter*

After a year of masks, social-distancing, and limits on school activities, the GHS Class of 2021 overwhelmingly supported a measure to hold a traditional graduation this May.

Graduation will be held traditionally, almost as normal, in Charger Stadium on Friday, May 21, at 7 p.m. Seating will be limited, and masks are required to enter, but otherwise, GHS seniors will receive their diplomas as a unified class on the football field.

"I'm extremely excited to provide a traditional graduation for our seniors this year," said GHS Principal Emily Tindall. "In a larger sense, I hope this prestigious event will mark a shift toward normalcy in our school routine."

Tindall announced that each graduate will receive eight tickets for entrance. Seating will be for seating either on the home side or visitor's side, based on where they are seated on the football field.

In the event of inclement weather, Tindall said, the ceremony will be pushed back to Sat., May 22. Further instructions will be made available on social media if inclement conditions persist.

Last year's "drive-through graduation" was a fun and creative solution to mandatory quarantine in 2020, but this year, Tindall said she met with the senior class in two groups to get their feedback.

"We offered multiple scenarios, and the students overwhelmingly supported one traditional graduation," she said. "They appreciated us asking for their input, and they felt very strongly about experiencing this monumental event with their friends instead of being divided into groups."

The graduation ceremony will be livestreamed on the district's channel — [vimeo.com/GSDLive](https://vimeo.com/GSDLive) — for out-of-town relatives and other friends and family.



# GHS Class of 2021

								
Ja'caitlyn Adams	Trevor Alldread	Jakaila Ammons	Tyesha Ammus	Ryanne Anderson	Ta'kilya Anderson	Madelyn Anthony	Gabriel Arreola	Kayden Ashmore
								
Hope Avery	Lilli Bailey	Lana Ballard	Iyonia Bankston	Melody Barnes	Kristian Bell	Katelynne Bennett	Ravin Bennett	Ja'Niya Berry
								
Ja'Niyah Berry	Madison Bishop	Ty Blanch	Edith Blaylock	Karlie Bloodworth	James Boatman	Javarious Bocclair	Zachary Bolden	John Michael Boler
								
Shelby Boyett	Bethany Boykin	Elijah Bridges	Hannah Briscoe	Harlee Brooks	Cinaiya Brown	TraJerrion Brown	Zaylon Brown	Skyler Buchanan
								
Chanicyah Burden	Cade Busby	Jacarri Caldwell	Dawson Carnathan	Jada Carpenter	Martrevion Carver	Riley Cheek	Dawson Clark	Jaliyah Cleveland
								
Joe Cobbs	Bryant Conley	Derrein Conley	Rose Cranford	Kameron Cunningham	Kaleb Daniels	Jaiden Davis	Jonathan Davis	Dalton Dawson
								
Madelyn Dubard	Dakeyveon Dunn	Jaylen Eden	Garian Edwards	Austin England	Breanna Eskridge	Darius Eskridge	Caleb Estes	Noah Ferri
								
Breanna Fielder	Kira Finkley	China Fly	Elizabeth Fray	Bethany Fulgham	Jamie Gant	K'Leigh George	Ny'kiya George	Michelle Glover
								
Dylan Goad	Christopher Golden	Jamyria Golliday	Mariah Gosnell	Layney Goss	Zharia Green	Madison Haire	Presley Hale	Angel Hall



								
Gregory Hall	Ja'messia Hankins	Derrick Harbin	La'darius Hardiman	Jaden Hardwick	Tyler Hardwick	Jordan Harris	Zachary Hathcock	Mysia Hears
								
Kayla Herrington	Amanda Herrod	Allison Holland	Breanna Hollins	Derek Holman	Kyera Hubbard	Trent Hubbard	Ashauna Hughey	Courtney Ickom
								
Lindsey Ingram	Destinee Ivy	Anna James	Joshua Johnson	Kaitlin Johnson	Niko Johnson	Tristen Johnson	Ty Johnson	Kendyl Jones
								
Lexis Jones	Samaya Jones	Anfernee Jones	Kimhong Kangheng	Alton Kee	Hallie Kerr	Leah Kinard	Aric King	Deandre Kinsey
								
William Kissling	Kylie Laird	Ashanti Latham	Jaheim Latham	Zion Lee	Lane Lemley	Eddie Lewis	Denarius Liddell	Summer Liles
								
Melonie Little	Keifer Logan	Tiyonna Loggins	Mileke Long	Zion Lott	Johaunna Lumas	Joy Madkins	Olivia Malm	Anna-Claire Marascalco
								
Karington Marshall	Gabriel Martin	Joseph Martin	Jaylan Mathis	K'naiya Mathis	Lexie Mayhan	Omarius Mays	Tyeshia Mays	Cameron McBride
								
Lem McBride	Yasmine McCaskill	Traderic McCord	Sandra McDaniel	Kevion McGee	Troy McIntosh	Faith McKellar	Hope McKellar	Jadyn McMechan
								
Annalisa Meadows	Chance Melton	Ce'donte Miers	Aubreanna Miller	Garrett Miller	Keianna Miller	Makelya Miller	Shamira Mister	Alyssa Monger
								
Tykeidriel Moore	Reid Mullen	Rylee Murphree	Robert Nason	Danielle Nix	Janay Noel	Alex Ortega	Aundrell Parker	Jamie Parrish





Khushi  
Patel



Landon  
Perry



X'zabeon  
Perry



Malaija  
Petty



Jayden Celeste  
Phillips



Joshua  
Phillips



Lazarus  
Pratt



Marshayla  
Purnell



Andreas  
Rabb



Russ  
Reid



Keeochius  
Rhymes



Sadie  
Roberts



Auric  
Ross



Ashanti  
Rounds



Makaiya  
Rounds



Tymion  
Rounds



Laynee  
Rutledge



James  
Scaife



Dan  
Seals



Laci  
Sellars



Blake  
Sides



Ella  
Simmons



Riley  
Simmons



Amaria  
Smith



Richarda  
Smith



Roquade  
Spencer



Delayne  
Stamper



Kyla  
Steele



Jadarius  
Steen



Nick  
Stewart



Auston  
Strong



Jayson  
Swinford



Brooke  
Tatum



Emory  
Taylor



Brooke  
Thomas



Therese  
Thornton



Emily  
Tillman



Hailey  
Tompkins



Serina  
Tompkins



Ja'naletoveia  
Williams



Anna Grace  
Toombs



Deanna  
Townes



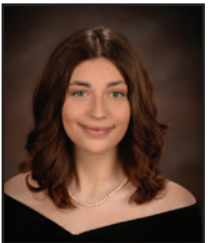
Phillip  
Turner



Sierra  
Ward



Hayden  
Whatley



Ashton  
Whitfield



James  
Whitt



Elizabeth  
Whitten



Ashaureah  
Williams



Jaylon  
Williams



Lillian  
Williams



Alexandria  
Williamson



Ronnie  
Willis



Bratton  
Willoughby



Daniel  
Wilson



Victoria  
Wilson



Zackery  
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Class of 2021!

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Seth Dorroh



## 2021/2022 GSD Registration

### GSD Registration For The 2021-2022 School

#### Year Opened April 9th!

The MS Dept. Of Education is allowing a residency proof waiver for the 2021-2022 school year.  
This Does Not Apply to Parent/Guardians that used an Affidavit last year.

#### If Your Address IS The Same As Last Year,

You may complete the residency waiver form found in registration.

You must complete a waiver form for each student.

Go to the ActiveParent Website [ms2220.activeparent.net](https://ms2220.activeparent.net)

> Click the Registration Icon in the Top Right >

Choose your student > Link to the waiver will be below > Click the link for your student's grade. > Complete the form > **The Waiver Signature must match the name on the proofs from last year.** >

You're Done!

#### If your address has changed or you registered with an affidavit last year,

Complete registration as normal. Please go to [grenadak12.com](https://grenadak12.com) for instructions.

## "Star Student"

### Continued from page 1

After graduating, Finkley plans to attend Union University in Tennessee, where she'll play softball and pursue a major in nursing.

Over 600 STAR Students and STAR Teachers will be recognized for their exceptional achievement by MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation with medallions, certificates, and lapel pins. Finkley will be listed with the 2021 STAR Students and STAR Teachers in the STAR booklet.

The top 20 STAR Students — "the ALL-STAR Scholars" — will receive scholarships and their STAR Teachers will receive awards provided by the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation. The highlight of STAR is the naming of the Mississippi ALL-STAR Scholar for 2020–2021 school year and winner of the coveted \$24,000 Cook Foundation Scholarship.

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# Grenada High School

## Class of 2021 Hall of Fame



Cinaiya Brown



Kira Finkley



Kayla Herrington



Allie Grace Holland



Lindsey Ingram



Anna James



Kimhong Kangheng



Hallie Kerr



Leah Kinard



Brooke Thomas

Ten seniors have been named to the GHS Hall of Fame for the 2020-2021 school year.

The new members are Cinaiya Brown, Kira Finkley, Kayla Herrington, Allie Grace Holland, Lindsey Ingram, Anna James, Kimhong Kangheng, Hallie Kerr, Leah Kinard, and Brooke Thomas.

Considered the highest honor of a student’s high school career, the Hall of Fame recognizes students who have earned attention for their school through their individual service and high performance.

A committee of administrator-appointed faculty determines the Hall of Fame from a pool of students who have applied. Members are selected on a point-based system that considers GPAs, club affiliations, leadership positions, and awards on various levels, from district to national.

Congratulations to the 2021 Hall of Fame honorees!

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# GES 4-5 Principal’s Breakfast



Photo by Kayla Henson

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 March include (front, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Adyson Nichols, Logan Grace Bridges, Elaina Estes, Kara Cockrum, Sophia Stewart, Emma Albritton, (back, l to r) Sara Kate Rowland, Zaniya Williams, Lacy Loggins, Jordan Shoemaker, Gracie Mayhan, Damion Pryor, and Assistant Principal John Daves.



Photo by Kayla Henson

(front, l to r) Hayden Chandler, Taylor Lipe, (middle, l to r) Camron Hancock, Deontrae Conley, Javontae Williams, Amariyae Leigh, Emma Grace Rocha, Izabella Thomas (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Armani Archer, Eli Rushing, Josiah Knox, Mariah Pittman, Klayton Roberts, and Assistant Principal John Daves

## Take Down Tobacco Day



Photo by Michael Sanford

GHS NJROTC cadets (l to r) Kimhong Kanghang, Ian McCullough, and Kelsi Forest participated in Take Down Tobacco Day, a nationwide effort to raise awareness among youth of the harmful effects of tobacco use. The national action day encourages youth, educators and community members to stand up and speak out against the tobacco industry’s deceptive marketing strategies to lure young people. The cadets collaborated with Sue Mashburne, Director of the MS Tobacco Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties, in “Pick Up Cigarette Butts” efforts for Take Down Tobacco Day.

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25	26	27	28	29	30
31					



# Seuss Week at GES Red Top



Photo by Martha Liberto

PTA Vice President Allie Douglas, GES librarian Katie Hood, and PTA President Kathryn Shirley



Photo by Martha Liberto

Blake Kendall



Photo by Martha Liberto

Carter Black



Photo by Martha Liberto

Jessica Jackson

By Jamie Kornegay  
GSD Reporter

Grenada Elementary School Pre-K-3 celebrated National Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day (March 2) with a week-long tribute to the beloved children's author and illustrator, March 1-5.

The Red Top's school librarian, Katie Hood, spearheaded the festivities. She read Seuss books over the intercom each morning and dressed up as the Cat in

the Hat to make classroom deliveries of books, stickers, pencils, and bookmarks to each student. She said the Red Top PTA helped sponsor the event by providing the books.

Each day, the students heard a new Seuss book and were invited to dress up to support the theme.

On Monday, the children heard *The Sneetches* and wore stars on their clothes. Tuesday was Silly Socks Day with a

reading of *Fox in Socks*. On Wednesday, they heard *I Can Read with my Eyes Shut* and wore a shirt with words printed on it. Thursday was Zoo Day with a reading of *If I Ran the Zoo* and animal-themed shirts. Friday's book was *Many Colored Day*, and students were encouraged to wear as many colors as possible.

"Dr. Seuss' books are timeless in their ability to delight and spark the kids' imaginations," said Hood. "They're

the perfect introduction to reading and always get our students excited about books."

Read Across America was started by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1997 as a way to encourage children to read more books.

## GHS Tennis



Photo by Lynsie Carpenter

(front, l to r) Allie Williamson, Hannah Palazzolo, Evey Moore, Emily Tillman, Allie Grace Holland, Hannah Briscoe. (back, l to r) Bratton Willoughby, Ethan Klink, Coach Chris Klink, Luke Hardin, Brandon Williams, Phillip Chandler, and Luke Westmoreland

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