



Good Hands



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

As another school year comes to a close, I imagine what Grenada School District, and even the town of Grenada, will look like a few years down the road. There are exciting changes coming to our community, and it's something we can all get excited about. As the old saying goes, a rising tide lifts all boats.

One of the big developments in our community is the imminent arrival of power tool manufacturer, Milwaukee Tool. The company plans to invest \$60 million in advanced technology and manufacturing equipment to support a new 500,000-square-foot facility outside of Grenada. They have projected that 800 jobs will be created at the new site. That's a real boon for not only Grenada but Mississippi too.

A successful company like Milwaukee Tool doesn't just randomly pick a location to set up shop and bring in hundreds of workers. A lot of forethought and planning goes into such a decision. The company continues to perform its due diligence, making sure the area can serve the needs of its prospective employees.

One of the main signifiers of a healthy community is its education system. We were proud to show off our robust district when a delegation from Milwaukee Tool recently came to town. We took the visitors on a tour of various programs and facilities throughout the district, and they were impressed by what they saw.

Joey Greco, the Plant Manager at the Greenwood hub, remarked on the passion of the teacher and principals he met. He said it was "amazing" and promised to share the good news with the greater team at Milwaukee Tool. Greco envisioned the school district being a positive instrument for recruiting good workers for the new plant.

Matthew Waldrop, Senior Manager Manufacturing Engineer at the Greenwood plant, described Milwaukee Tool as a company built on culture and people. He said, "You can see the culture you guys have here, on top of great facilities and programs too."

We showed the Milwaukee Tools group our elementary campus, where Principal Cole Surrell introduced them to the three- and four-year-old preschool students. Each spring, our Learning Blocks program posts top scores among all preschool learning collaboratives in the state, and the brightness of these young students — most of whom are already reading sight words! — was evident.

See "Good"
Continued on page 6

Carol Tharpe Named Principal of the Year



By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada Elementary School 4-5 Principal Carol Tharpe was named National Principal of the Year for Mississippi by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Dr. David Daigneault, Grenada School District Superintendent, convened a special meeting with teachers at the Green Top school to make the announcement. He praised Tharpe for improving the school's performance and creating a close-knit community among the teachers.

Carol was an amazing teacher in the classroom, and she has carried that same passion from the classroom to

being principal," Daigneault said.

Tharpe first taught 34 years ago in the Delta at school districts in Anguilla, Greenville, and Greenwood before coming to Grenada. She taught elementary classes at the GES Lower Elementary for ten years. Tharpe said her experiences in the classroom have been invaluable to her work as an administrator. "You have a true understanding for what teachers and parents need," she said.

Tharpe moved to the GES 4-5 Green Top to serve as assistant principal for nine years. "In my years as a teacher, the idea of becoming an administrator began merely as a dream," she said. "With wisdom and experience, I eventually learned that it was my passion."

Tharpe's selection to represent Mississippi out of more than 700 elementary schools means that she will be honored at the state conference in Biloxi this summer. As a National Distinguished Principal representing Mississippi, she will attend the national festivities in Washington, D.C., this October, vying for the honor of National Principal of the Year among other state representatives from across

the country.

Public school elementary and middle-level principals are nominated by peers in their state, and final selections are made by committees appointed by each of NAESP's state affiliate offices.

Among the criteria for this honor, representatives must have been a practicing principal with at least five years of experience in the position and demonstrate outstanding contributions to the community and to the education profession.

Among Tharpe's greatest achievements in her first six years as principal at GES 4-5 was bringing the school's C grade up to an A, based on assessment scores from the Mississippi State Board of Education. She also saw benefits from creating common planning times to give teachers an opportunity to meet and share ideas while developing lesson plans.

In the past few years, Tharpe has found innovative ways to enhance and expand the classroom experience. For example, the school's robust after-school programs have been embraced by students and parents alike, beginning with a student book club that drew 60-70 students in its first

year. "I thought if we could get a little more time with [students] during the day, they could experience reading in a more relaxed atmosphere and engage with books the way I did when I was a girl," Tharpe said.

She built on that concept by hosting numerous night events, including the popular Family Literacy Night, Math Carnival Night and Mad Science Night that brought parents, students and community members together.

Tharpe admits, the Principal of the Year honor has given her cause for reflection.

"It's funny how time passes by so quickly," she said. "I can vividly remember very fond times with my 2nd and 3rd grade students — reading The Secret Garden, going on train rides, visiting museums — watching them learn and grow. Fast forward 20 years and those same students are now leading in their own classrooms at the Green Top, pouring back into the school district that once poured into them.

"That's when you know you've come full circle. That's when you know you've done something right!"

Industry Tours Schools

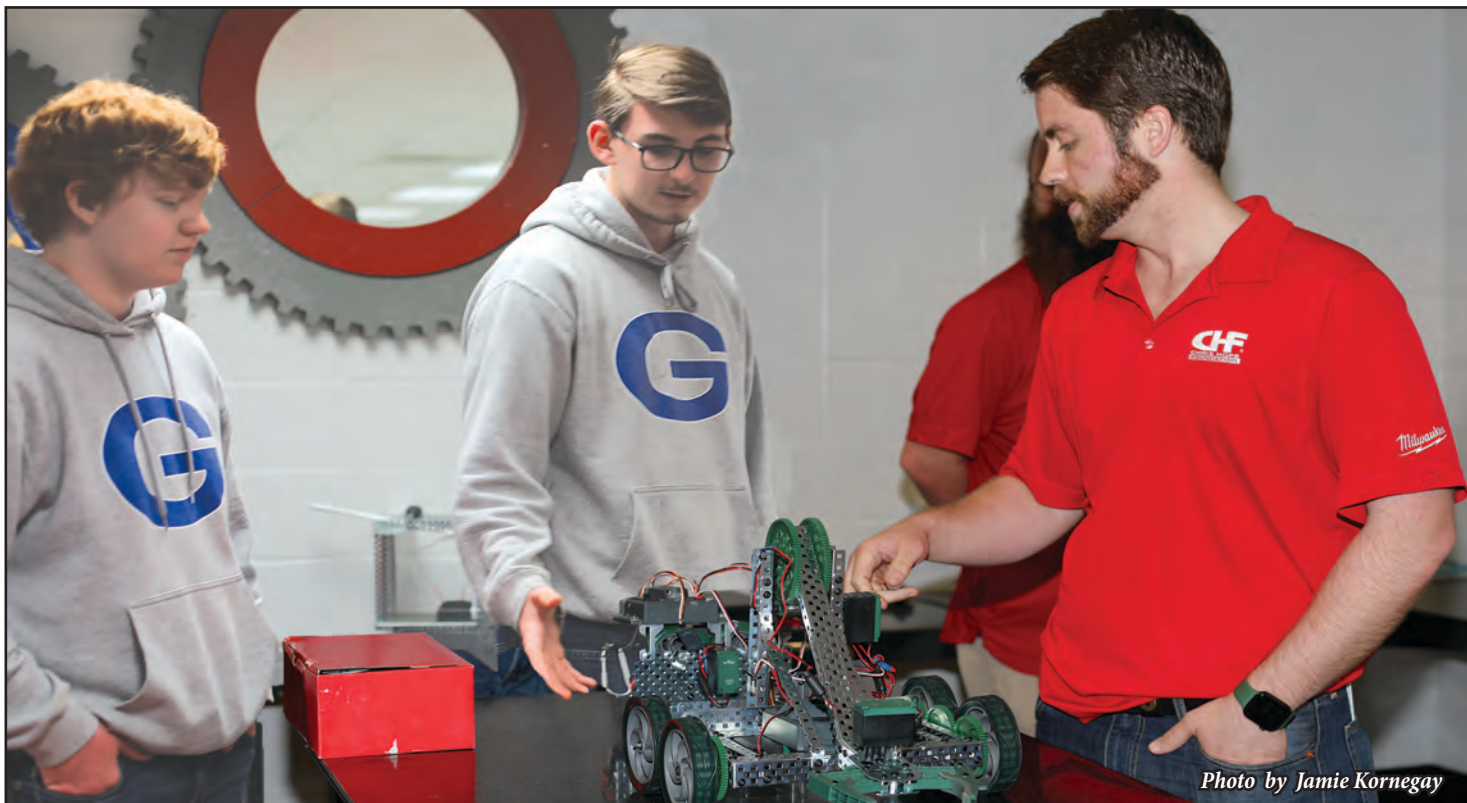


Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Carson Little (left) and Colt Conway (middle), students in Matthew Gardner's Aerospace Engineering class, explain their engineering project to Matthew Waldrop (right), Senior Manager Manufacturing Engineer for Milwaukee Tool in Greenwood. Waldrop joined representatives of Milwaukee Tool on a tour of the Grenada School District to learn more about educational opportunities in the community. The power tool manufacturing firm plans to create 800 new jobs at a facility currently being built outside of town. Read more about the visit in the Superintendent's Message.

GHS Class of 2022



Jacob Allbritton Blake Allen Camden Beamon Madison Benefield Elijah Black Antonio Blackmon Kate Blankenship Jaquon Bledsoe



Reagan Boatman Ashlyn Boclear Christopher Booker Summer Booker Landon Bowdry Rickiyah Bowdry Madison Brassfield Asia Brock



Marcus Brooks Jonathan Brown Sydney Claire Brown Dylan Bush Dylan Carnathan Taylor Carver Jackson Caswell Kedrick Chambers



Phillip Chandler Jacob Chavis Casey Clanton McCarron Clausel Camila Clevenger Zaquarrius Cobbs Sontero Coleman Jamia Collins



Arica Conley Lazarus Conley Teekeo Conley Alexxis Cook Bo Cox Ainsley Craven Phillip Crawford Rachel Cummings



Cassidy Cummins Ladarius Daniels Archie Daves Autumn Davis Jakeylia Demming John Landon Dubard Stanesha Dubard McKenna Dulin



Lauren Dungan Payton Easley JaNiyah Edwards Dalton Elliott Elizabeth Farmer Gabrielle Fedrick China Fly Ava Ford



Jaylin Fray Brittany German Tiffany Greenlee Easton Greenwood Zachariah Guthrie



Grayson
Harbin



Amare
Harris



Smariya
Harris



Jonathan
Hayward



Takiya
Hemphill



Odarius
Hill



Hayden
Hobbs



Anthony
Hodo



Keajah
Holloway



Baleigh
Hood



Peyton
Hoop



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Hughes



Hannah Grace
Jacks



Abbi
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Christian
Johnson



JerKeria
Johnson



Nykia
Johnson



Wisdom
Johnson



Caden
Jolly



Brandon
Jones



Brent
Jones



Makenzie
Jones



Saniyah
Jones



D'Vontae
Journey



Stephanie
Keel



Tyner
Kelly



Jackson
Kennedy



Tylann
Kimble



Jeffrey
King



Asia
Kinney



Adriana
Knox



Sophia
Kornegay



Tramiah
Leason



Nikki
Lee



Nygel
Lofton



Chatoni
Long



Mirian
Lorenzo



Nicholas
Lowrimore



Luther
Mattox



Joseph
McCarroll



Kamryn
McCullough



Kaci
McGahey



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Messersmith



Caleb
Milam



Alexa
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Carrie
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Kelly
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Joe
Moss



Jesse
Muilwyk



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Nisbett



Natalie
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ZaKayla
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Colin
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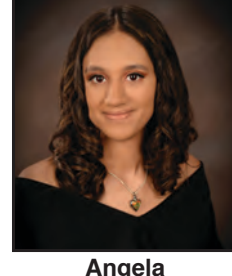
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Angela
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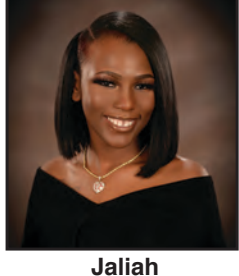
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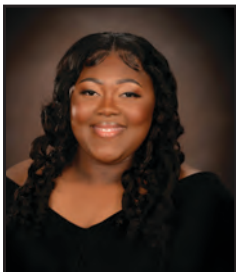
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Erinisha
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Shack



Makayla
Shepherd



Madison
Simmons



Alexis
Smith



Callie
Smith



MaKayla
Smith



Trelyn
Smith



Barrett
Stanford



Jaydon
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Jamesia
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Keithrick
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Sadie
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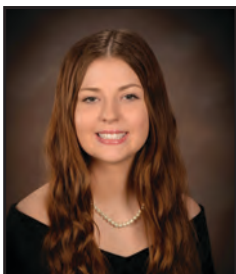
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Zakevion
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Angelica
Thrash



Jordan
Topps



Maki
Topps



Jadarius
Townes



TaNiyah
Townes



Jazmine
Travis



Alexis
Triplett



Landon
Trusty



Chandler
Tyler



Andrew
Wallace



Landon
Waters



Mersie
Watkins



Steven
Webb



Ellie
Welsh



Shawn
Wicker



Hayden
Wiggins



Gabriel
Williams



Katelyn
Winters



Jakhevious
Woods



Rachel
Woods



Tra
Yates



Jamya
Yates

Congratulations

Grenada High School Class of 2022

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GHS Golf Team Drives Home Another Season

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Among all the teams and extracurricular activities at Grenada High, one sport goes largely unrecognized. Some are surprised to learn the school has a team at all.

It’s golf.

Not only does GHS have a golf team, they practice at one of the state’s top ten courses, and they’re coached by a PGA Class A professional golfer.

Jeff Sanford has been in golf for many years. He underwent rigorous training and internship to secure his professional player status. He mentored young players at one of Atlanta’s premier courses before coming back home to run Dogwoods Golf Course at Hugh White State Park. Sanford has served as the GHS golf team for the past three years.

The small group of dedicated players from GHS meet weekly throughout the short season — generally March and April — where they brush up on the fundamentals before hitting the links to play.

“It’s golf team, not golf class,” says Sanford. “Players need to have a general idea of how to play before joining the team.”

Sanford advises players on their grip, aim, alignment and swing. After that, he says, it’s just practice. “Get out there and play.”

In addition to mentoring the players, Sanford schedules matches with other



Photo by Jeff Sanford

The GHS Golf team, coached by Jeff Sanford, includes members (l to r) Jadon Reece, Matt Cummings, Jacob Chavis, Luke Mattox, Aidan Carollo, Eli Black. The players practice and compete at the picturesque Dogwoods Golf Course overlooking Grenada Lake.

schools, both in the district and outside. He usually schedules 8-10 matches, both away and at the Dogwoods.

By Mississippi High School Activities Association standards, a school team needs at least four players. A coach can take up to five players to compete but most take the four lowest scores to determine the team score. At the end of the match, there are individual player and team awards.

Golf is a co-ed sport and has previously included girls and boys on the

team. Sanford says no girls tried out this year, so the team consists of six boys — Eli Black, Aidan Carollo, Jacob Chavis, Matt Cummings, Luke Mattox, and Jadon Reece.

The GHS team performed well this season, finishing third place in three of its matches. The most valuable player, senior Eli Black, shot a 77 in his best match, earning a third-place individual medal.

Tryouts for next year’s team will be held in early 2023 prior to the spring

season.

In addition to technique and basic rules, Sanford says he tries to teach players gamesmanship and course etiquette. But in the end, as with any sport, it all comes down to practice.

“I encourage them, when golf season is over, now’s the time you get better,” the coach says. “It’s up to you to come out and practice. I’m always happy to give my time and help.”

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Elementary Archery Team Wins State



The Grenada Elementary Archery team captured the state title in their Class 3A division at the 2022 AIMS State Championship on April 8 in Jackson. The team, coached by Lois Gaskin, is made up of students in grade 4-6. The archers outscored their opponents from Clinton after beating them at the North State Qualifier back in March. This was the first state title for the elementary team. Pictured left are fourth- and fifth-grade archery team members Jax Brown, Addison Phillips, Brendan Taylor, Colton Kidder, Jessie Williams, C.J. Moss, Triston Conley, (middle, l to r) Amelia Melton, Olivia Martin, Beau Blakley, Khole Jackson, Anna Austin, Rhett Gibson, John Ryan Hill, Corbin McKay, (back, l to r) Wyatt Dickerson, Brodie Dirks, Noah Smith, Tucker Koonce, Isabella Winter, Zoey Hamann, Assistant Coach Kim Holland, and Coach Lois Gaskin. On the right are sixth-grade members (l to r) Kara Cockrum, Anna Tipton, Lily Beth Williams, Assistant Coach Kim Holland, Caroline Harrison, Nolan Hollingsworth, Remmington Skeen, and Coach Gaskin.

Follow Your Heart Ukulele Group Performs

(Photo right)
The Follow Your Heart ukulele group from Grenada Elementary 4-5 performed with the Pizzazz show choir at their spring show in April. Grenada alumnus and Nashville singer-songwriter Charlie Worsham founded Follow Your Heart to teach kids how to play guitar and ukulele. The program, which has been affiliated with Grenada School District since, recently expanded to introduce younger players to the guitar through ukuleles. GES 4-5 Music Director Amy Killebrew teaches ukulele after school on Tuesdays as part of the 21st Century Community Grant. She also selects one of her music classes a week to teach students how to play the ukulele. The instruments were provided by Fender and Follow Your Heart. Performers at the public concert included (front, l to r) Zoey Craigen, Olivia Johnson, Chansity Reed, Wyatt Mooney, and Larry Nix. Pictured in the back are Pizzazz members Macy Howell (left) and Anna Austin.



“Good” Continued from Page 1

The group also stopped in to see the hands-on learning in the Kidzeum, where students from Pre-K to third grade apply their classroom objectives and are exposed to first-rate technology.

Up the hill at Grenada Elementary 4-5, Principal Carol Tharpe showed off the Discovery Lab, where students were designing windmills. In this award-winning facility, science curriculum is enhanced through projects and experiments in a dynamic learning environment.

The delegation went on to Grenada High School, where Principal Emily Tindall and 9th Grade Principal Ezzard Beane showed off the College Room for dual-credit learning and the Project Lead the Way science labs for engineering, biomedical, and chemistry.

They visited Barry Rogers at the Grenada Career and Technical Center, who showed off the Culinary Arts classroom kitchen and Computer Science robotics lab. The welding program at GCTC will be a cornerstone for our Middle College next year. High school students may qualify for a pathway toward

advanced certification or an Associate of Applied Science degree in conjunction with Holmes Community College. The GCTC may very well be the training ground for Milwaukee Tool’s next generation of workers.

The tour’s last stop was the Grenada Armory, where Chief Reese Foreman’s NJROTC cadets performed a drone demonstration. The program offers classes and competitive teams in four disciplines — robotics, aerial drones, underwater drones, and cybersecurity.

Before the team from Milwaukee Tool arrived, I had already given them my enthusiastic pitch about Grenada School District. After touring the schools and programs, they could see it wasn’t just bluster.

“Not only are the facilities nice but the teachers, the administrators, the principals — everybody had a passion for what they’re doing,” Waldrop said.

When it comes to educating kids in Grenada County, Milwaukee Tool can tell their future employees the same thing we tell our parents —

Your kids are in good hands.



2022/2023

GSD

Registration

Now Open

ms2220.activeparent.net

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, RaNiyah Wiggins, Byson Peacock, Levi Makamson, Gabe Day, CJ Moss, Cameron Quinn, Riley Rush, (back, l to r) Erica Bryant, Tyler Tanksley, Jon Rylee Searcy, Kyden Harris, Tyler Edwards, Lamarion Anderson, Jaiden Amos, and Assistant Principal John Daves.



Photo by Kayla Henson

(front, l to r) Brandon Bell, Cadance Henson, Jacob Miller, Haygen Austin, Joshlynn Cortesi, Maddox Van Namen, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Tristan Youngblood, Learia Vanburen, Shycurious Shack, Charles Long, Kian Woods, Tyra Rounds, Deahna Moss, and Assistant Principal John Daves.

GHS Girls Track



Photo by Sylvia King

(front, l to r) Chloe Gillis, Niterryka Burns, Kayla Robinson, Tori Harbin, Breanna Elliot, Jakyra Sledge, TaKaila Exon, Paris Hall, Markeeria Purnell, Ariana Rivers, (middle, l to r) Strakeysha Wheeler, Lauren Harges, Nadia Hurd, Tamyrha Miller, Keyunna McCaskill, Amya Anderson, Gabriel Burt, Alyssia Biggens, Arrianna Daniels, Lamonica Murry, Akera Jones, (back, l to r) Takeria Gholston, Gabbie Willis, Elyse Dorris, Alyiana Burt, and Samaria Wrenn.

GHS Boys Track



Photo by Sylvia King

(front, l to r) Ian McCullogh, Micheal Daniels, Zytavius Clay, Lazarius Harbin, Jayln Petterson, JaKameon Perry, Jahmani Davis, Chance Jenkins, Coty Golden, (second row, l to r) Shane Rosenthal, Richard Smith, MaCaleb Taylor, Jahquarioun Perry, Chris Booker, Devon Shack, Jayvon Heron, Jakerious Williams, Alvin Thomas, Ekeyvion Noel, (third row, l to r) Nick Booker, Jeremiah Lee, Trey Parker, Zach Townsend, Jaques Perry, Kelton Jones, Ethan Dorris, (back row, l to r) Omarius Winfrey, Jadarius Townes, Tay Lewis, JaQuon Bledsoe, Jaylon Skinner, and Jaylon Townes.

Shooting STAR Luke Mattox



Photo by Sylvia King

By Jamie Korngay
GSD Reporter

GHS senior Luke Mattox has been named Grenada's STAR Student for the 2021-22 school year by the M.B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the

Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) 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.

Mattox designated Mathew Gardner as STAR teacher. This is Gardner's fourth time in eight years to be named Star Teacher in Grenada.

"I chose Gardner because he has always been there for me," said Mattox, who was in Gardner's Algebra II class and is currently taking AP Calculus from him. "He always helps me, and he is

very easy to work with. Not to mention he's one of the funniest guys I've ever met. He makes school a fun and safe place."

In addition to teaching advanced math and engineering classes at GHS, Gardner is also the assistant coach of the boys soccer team. Mattox has been a four-year member of the team and served as captain. He was also selected for the North Mississippi All-Star Team his senior year.

"Luke has consistently improved each year in and out of the classroom," Gardner said. "He will continue to be very successful in his collegiate career and in his life. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to teach, coach, and mentor Luke. We started as coach and student, and we will leave as friends."

Luke, the son of Chris and Amy Mattox, is also a member of the golf team, National Honor Society, and Phi Theta Kappa. He is lead recruiter for the Excel

Club and participates in other clubs and organizations. He served as class president and a member of the student council his junior year.

Mattox is the current Mississippi 4-H Shotgun State Champion and participated in the National 4-H Competition in Nebraska, where he was ranked 12th overall in the nation. He was named the 2022 Grenada County 4-H Outstanding Teen.

Mattox will attend Mississippi State University in the fall and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering, as well as shoot for the MSU shotgun team.

This year, the MEC's M. B. Swayze Foundation recognized 320 STAR Students across the state. Each STAR Student received a medallion, lapel pin, and certificate in recognition of their academic achievement.

GSD Parent Resource Center

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GHS Tennis Team



Photo by Sylvia King

(front, l to r) Shanvi Kher, Perrin Jackson, Evey Moore, Demi Burney, (middle, l to r) Leah Briscoe, Faith Arbuckle, Sydney Beane, Jane Wicker, Darshi Kher, Mary Grace Klinck, Blake Lollar, (back, l to r) Michael Cavanaugh, Luke Westmoreland, Aaron Hanley, Greyson Patton, Drew Klinck, Bryce Kirk, Jack Leslie, Seth Dorroh, Phillip Chandler, and Luke Hardin.



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