

A New Way of Life

Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

I was at the first football game of the season, watching the Grenada Chargers take the home field. No one was quite sure if it would happen, but here we were.

The cheerleaders were shouting. The fans were engaged. And at halftime, the band took the field to preview their marching show.

For the first time in a long while, it seemed like things were almost normal.

Sure, it looked a little different from the usual football game. There weren't as many fans in the stadium, due to statewide event regulations, and the majority of spectators were wearing masks. Players on the sideline were required to spread out to six feet apart, running from one end of the field the other. Instead of the traditional post-game handshake, the teams stood across the field and acknowledged each other for a game well played.

GSD's livestream team was out filming the game for those who weren't able to get tickets. This year, it's more crucial than ever to broadcast the game on our livestream channel (vimeo.com/gsdlive) so fans can keep up with the team and watch from home. The broadcast reported record streaming numbers for the season opener.

The football team came up short at the final buzzer, but they fought hard and held their own against Oxford, the number-one ranked team in the state. They looked good, especially when you consider their reduced practice schedule and critical holes in the roster due to players at home on exposure quarantine.

The band experienced some of the same setbacks, facing a dramatically shortened band camp and practice schedule. Mostly they had to rehearse in sections. Some of the performers, who have been attending school virtually, logged into rehearsal and played from home. The band still sounded great. We look forward to seeing their full show, complete with new uniforms, at homecoming on September 25.

All in all, the night was a positive experience. It showed that teachers, coaches, and students have pulled together to do what they've always done. Despite the setbacks and limitations, these groups have adapted and they are making it happen. That gives me great hope for the rest of the year.

At the beginning of the year, many predicted schools would have to shut down from an COVID outbreak, but we've been going strong for six weeks with only a handful of cases. Our school nurses have been swift and effective identifying and isolating possible cases. Most came back negative, thankfully. But plenty more had to wait at home due to exposure from other infected persons.

No outbreaks and low infection numbers can be attributed to our students and teachers rising to the occasion. They've done everything we asked, everything that health experts have recommended. That includes wearing masks and social distancing. They do it even when it's not fun. Even when it's inconvenient. Their cooperation with these policies have made a tremendous impact on our semester.

See "New"
Continued on page 7

Virtual Learning Takes Off at GSD



English teacher Keith Harris conducts a mix of traditional, hybrid, and virtual classes at Grenada High School. He said he's had success with online classes because he structures them "as close to my traditional classes as possible."

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Until this year, online learning was a new frontier in college and homeschool education. But the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed it into the mainstream.

Grenada School District responded to the crisis by offering online classes as two of three learning models — traditional, hybrid, and virtual. The traditional model allowed students to return to class with certain modifications, including social distancing and facial coverings. Virtual classes were conducted online, allowing the student to work from home, and hybrid classes combined in-person and at-home study.

The rollout for hybrid and virtual classes gave teachers weeks instead of months to familiarize themselves with the new technology. After several weeks becoming comfortable with the technology and working with students, teachers are seeing positive results.

Pam Briscoe, a language and reading specialist at Grenada Elementary 4-5, has been teaching fifth grade online classes exclusively this semester. She admitted that it began as a daunting task for students and teachers alike, but they quickly learned to work together.

Briscoe works closely with two

other fifth grade teachers, Lisa Jordan in math and Taylor Buchanan in science, to form a kind of teaching team. They've established shared norms and routines to help the students stay on track.

"Teaching younger kids online is challenging because they don't yet have the concept of time management," Briscoe said. "They're having to learn how to navigate their day, which teachers were helping them do before. It's definitely teaching them more about independence and communication."

Teachers at the Green Top meet weekly to refine their virtual instruction strategies and to help each other solve problems. Briscoe said there are certain obstacles virtual students face, including a lack of social interaction with peers and teachers.

"Ms. Wilkey and Ms. Willis arranged a supervised Google Meet for some of the kids to come together and hang out and talk," she said. "It was kind of like a virtual recess."

Briscoe said one of the keys to learning at home is parental involvement. "We often see parents at the live sessions to help kids," she said. "These students are doing well because of the great collaborations between school and home."

Maggie Harrison started her fifth-grade twins Davey and Charlie in virtual classes. She worked closely with the kids and their teachers to make the adjustment from traditional learning to online and found the process fascinating.

"You get a front-row seat to watch those wheels turning when they learn something new," Harrison said. "Sometimes when they're asked to complete an assignment, and they don't have the school resources, it encourages them to be more creative. You begin to understand why teachers become teachers, to watch those little minds working."

After visiting the Green Top several times, Harrison was impressed by the safety measures the staff was taking and recently decided to switch her kids back to traditional.

"We've seen more students migrating back as parents see the schools thriving," said Briscoe.

At Grenada High School, Keith Harris teaches traditional, hybrid, and virtual sections of his usual Honors and regular English II classes for tenth graders. Harris said, "I structure my online classes as close to my traditional classes as possible."

Students join Harris' class at the prescribed time through Google Meet. Lessons begin with a "bell ringer" exercise that gets students focused on class work. Students log in and find their assignment waiting. "I share my screen, and when students join the Meet, the assignment is the same as it would be on the board in the classroom," Harris said.

Reading assignments in virtual classes are conducted the same in class. Harris calls on students to read and ask questions. "It was a bit difficult establishing the same camaraderie as a face-to-face meeting, but we've built a rapport," he said. "Now they know what to expect from me, and they rise to the expectation."

See "Virtual"
Continued on page 7



Photos by Martha Liberto



Mrs. Liberto's 3rd grade Visual Arts students Rebecca Howell and Fedarius Moore practice their finger knitting. This craft resembles other types of weaving but uses the fingers as a loom. Finger knitting helps develop fine motor skills and serves as a creative outlet for children.

Archery Tryouts for Beginners



Photos by Lois Gaskin

Lily Beth Williams



Lexie Bratcher



Luke Beckwith



James Self

Lois Gaskin, the high school and elementary archery teacher at Grenada School District, recently held shooting try-outs for her 2020-21 team at Grenada Elementary 4-5. Gaskin said she expects to have around 30 students from grades 4-6 on the team. She spends the fall months teaching the newcomers how to shoot at targets. In the spring, they will compete at tournaments around the state "if COVID doesn't stop us!" After rules and safety instruction, Gaskin holds practices every Tuesday, starting outdoors and later moving into the Green Top gym. "This is an indoor sport," Gaskin said. Among the students who tried out for the elementary team were Lily Beth Williams, Lexie Bratcher, Luke Beckwith, and James Self.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Due to COVID-19 Guidelines, The Grenada School District asks for each person to use hand sanitizer when entering the building and to practice social distancing.



Charger Chip says, "Use hand sanitizer and practice social distancing!"



GCTC Welcomes New Instructors



(Photo left) Instructors (l to r) Michelle Downs and Lisa Holland are the newest instructors to join the teaching team at Grenada Career and Technical Center.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

The Grenada Career & Technical Center have welcomed two new instructors for the 2020-2021 School year. Lisa Holland is the new Culinary Arts instructor, after previously working for the Communications Department for Grenada School District for the last eight years.

The GCTC's culinary program teaches students vocational skills for a career in the food service industry. First-year students must score a perfect score on the safety test to demonstrate proper food handling before they're able to prepare food in the state-of-the-art kitchen lab. Students learn other aspects of the food industry, including marketing and financials, in order to prepare for a real-world job.

One of the surprise challenges for the first-year teacher is trying to teach kids who attend class twice a week in the hybrid model or else sit in on class virtually through Google Meet. Holland said she's learning new ways to reach students every day.

Holland is a graduate of Grenada High School and Delta State University. Lisa is married to Adam Holland and they have two children, Allie, a senior at Grenada High School, and Jordan, 22, who is a recent graduate of Delta State University.

Michelle Downs has also joined the GCTC staff as the new Teacher Academy

instructor. Downs has been in education for more than 20 years. The last 18 were spent at Grenada Elementary School teaching second and third grade.

Downs said she loves sharing her passion for education with high school students in Teacher Academy. The class prepares students for their secondary education, introducing them to college programs and license requirements. They learn ethics, strategies and classroom practices.

Students have received considerable first-hand experience by going into classrooms at Grenada Elementary and Grenada Middle School to observe teachers and work alongside them in various activities.

Second-year students develop lesson plans, which they can develop in the classroom working alongside seasoned teachers.

Downs said her goal is to build the Teacher Academy program while helping students determine if they want to go into teaching. The skills they learn in Teacher Academy can benefit them in a variety of other occupations as well.

Downs is a graduate of Grenada High School and Delta State University, where she majored in education. She received her National Board Certification in 2006 and renewed in 2016. Downs has two children at Grenada Middle School, Nelson (6th grade) and Preston (8th grade).



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GSD Student of the Month
Kaylyn Pratt



GHS Grad Phillips Makes NFL Debut



to the team, which fosters a family-oriented atmosphere among the players and coaching staff. The Ravens’ head coach, John Harbaugh, certainly seemed pleased with Tyre’s debut performance.

In the post-game press conference, Harbaugh said, “To start on the offensive line as a rookie at a position that you didn’t play in college, it’s pretty remarkable. [Phillips is] really smart, he’s really a detail-oriented person.... He’s going to learn from every single snap that he takes.... He’s a heck of an athlete.”

The Grenada native was the 106th pick during the 2020 draft last April. Friends and family

the high school did he come back to play football as a senior.

Tyre credits several of his teammates for toughening him up on the playing field. He cited players John Austin Cook, Willie McCaleb, Deon Knox, Tyrus Black, Tony Tillman, Sidney Crump, and Genard Avery, who went on to be drafted by the Cleveland Browns and currently plays with the Philadelphia Eagles. He also thanked Coach Kuhn for his consistency in recruiting him to play.

During his senior year in high school, East Mississippi Community College in Scooba, Miss., became interested in Tyree’s size (6’5”, 330 lbs.) and strength. The championship JUCO team took a chance on Tyre and brought him to play in 2015 and 2016. Those winning seasons were famously depicted in the Netflix docuseries Last Chance U.

Along the way, Tyre confronted the fact that he didn’t love playing football. It took some tough soul-searching to admit that it was something he needed

to do to put himself through college. “I just put it in my hands,” he said. “Tyre, you’ve gotta make it easy on your parents.... You’ve got the opportunity and you’ve got the size. Put something into it. And I found a way.”

From EMCC, Tyree played at Mississippi State where he excelled at the tackle position. Another former Mississippi NFL player, DeShea Townsend, recalled Tyre from an athletic banquet in Grenada and helped him get signed with Mississippi State. He said playing in the SEC helped prepare him for playing at the professional level.

“Seeing the environment and knowing the speed of the game,” Tyre said. “SEC West, that is an animal. It will eat you alive. So I’m glad I actually got to feel it ... to be on the sideline and hear the fans’ noise and see all the stuff happening.... It was all development, grooming me into what I am now.”

See “Phillips”
Continued on page 5

GHS graduate Tyre Phillips was honored at a drive-through reception on April 30. Days earlier, Phillips learned that he’d been selected to play for the Baltimore Ravens in the NFL draft.

By **Jamie Kornegay**
GSD Reporter

Tyre Phillips, the second former Grenada Charger to go pro in the past two years, took the field as a starter for the Baltimore Ravens in their season opening game this month.

Phillips, GHS Class of 2015, protected the Ravens’ star quarterback Lamar Jackson in the team’s 38-6 victory over the Cleveland Browns on Sun., Sept. 13. Phillips started at right guard and played left tackle, performing in 95 percent of the opening game.

Phillips’ father, James Phillips, said he was proud of his son’s debut. His only regret was that the family couldn’t be there to support Tyre in person. The Ravens’ home stadium announced it will play without an audience for the early part of the season due to COVID-19. “As soon as they give us the green light, we’re there,” said Phillips.

He added that Tyre has adjusted well

ily honored Tyre’s accomplishment with a parade and socially distanced reception on April 30. A long convoy set out from the high school and proceeded south on Hwy. 51 to the Moore Law Group. Vehicles cycled through the parking lot in a celebration of honking horns, ringing cowbells, and cheers.

After his draft celebration, Tyre and his family sat down for an interview with Chargers’ radio announcer Mike Smith and GHS head football coach Ashley Kuhn. The interview aired during the Chargers’ live stream football game against Kosciusko on Sept. 11. (The interview is archived on the district’s livestream site, vimeo.com/gsdlive)

During the interview, Tyre recalled how he dropped out of football in middle school to focus on music. He played multiple instruments in church and in the GHS marching band. Only after intense prompting from players and coaches — especially the late Mike McGee — at

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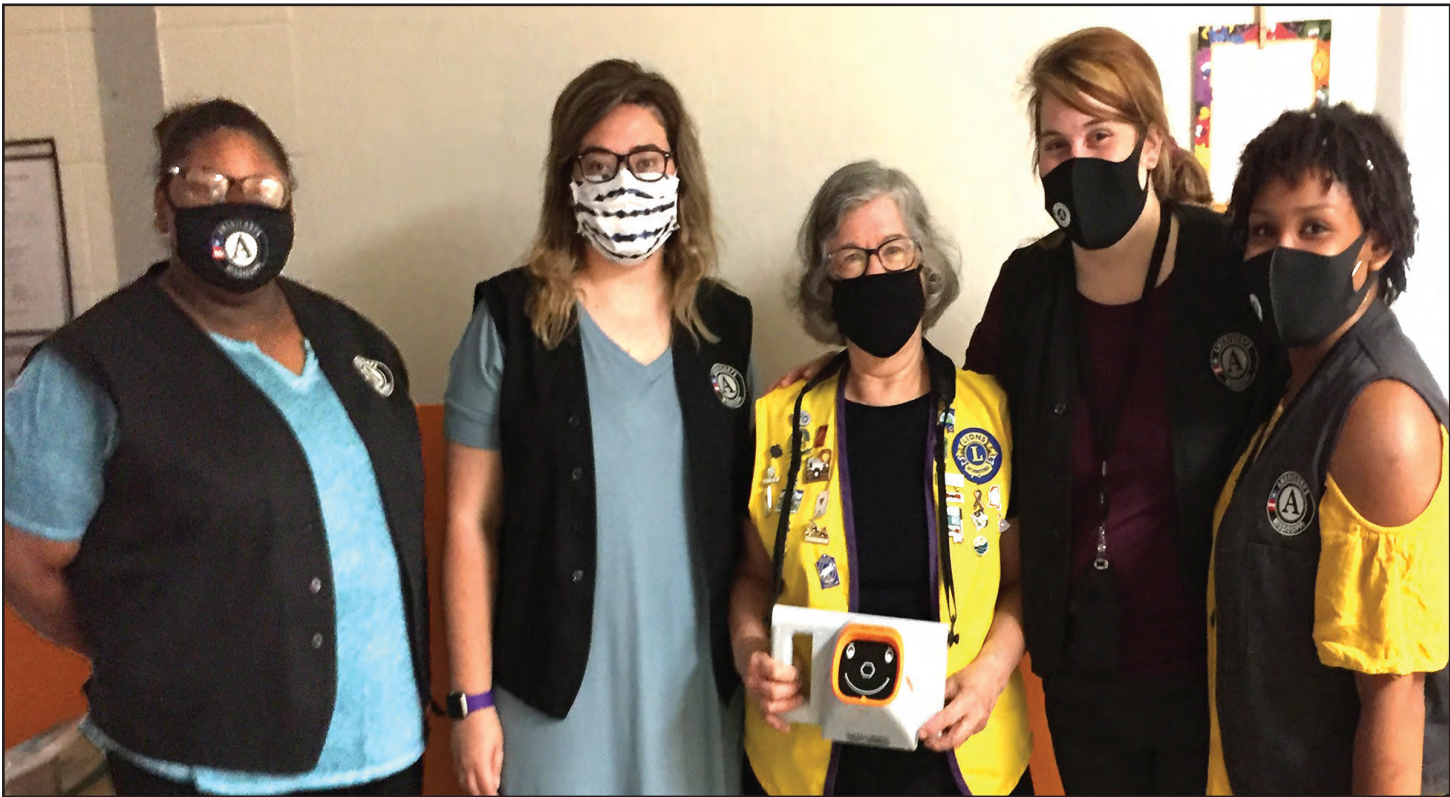
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2020 Football Cheer



(front row, l to r) Madison Hughes, Lexis Jones, Lindsey Ingram (Co Captain), Jakaila Ammons (head captain), Kendyl Jones, Hannah Grace Jacks, (2nd row, l to r) Coach Wilson, Abbi Jackson (Assistant Captain), Callie Smith, Lauren Dungan, Kate Blankenship, Autumn Davis, Katelyn Winters, Harley Henley, Coach Laster, (3rd row, l to r) Jakiya Exson, Ella Brooke Horan, Kayla Robinson, Sydney Allbritton, Kiersten Zinn, Olivia Fulgham, (back row, l to r) Maddie Ingram, Shelby Woodall, Jayla Beecham, Zymarieiona Hammond, Nadia Reed, Lilly Horan, Leah Lemley Not pictured: Vivian King

AmeriCorps Members Assist Lions Club with Vision Screening



By Pamela Hubbard
Lions Club member

The Grenada Lions Club organized a vision screening for Grenada Elementary School Pre-K through 1st grade students to ensure their vision will help them achieve their learning goals. Grenada School District’s AmeriCorps members helped with the screenings.

Due to COVID- 19, safety in conducting the screening was important. The Lions obtained a PlusOptix digital camera three years ago through a Lions International Foundation Grant. The camera

allows screening from a distance of four feet with no physical contact. Masks can still be worn during screening.

The student focuses on the smiley face at the front of the camera, and a picture of their eyes is taken and data stored in the camera. If any vision problems are detected, the camera will flash “Refer” and a small printout with basic data is attached to their permission form and given to the child’s parents for follow-up with an eye doctor. Potential problems range from a student needing glasses to a more serious condition such as “lazy eye.”

The PlusOptix camera was invented to detect vision issues that need correcting before the age of six but can be used effectively into the mid-twenties. The International Lions Club encouraged clubs to obtain these cameras as part of Lions Kids Sight USA.

The vision screening is a Lions Club Service with no cost to the school district. The Lions Club holds fundraisers such as the annual Pecan Sale, music concerts, sale of birdhouses. Funds support purchasing eyeglasses for students who need financial assistance in all grades, including the Adult Education

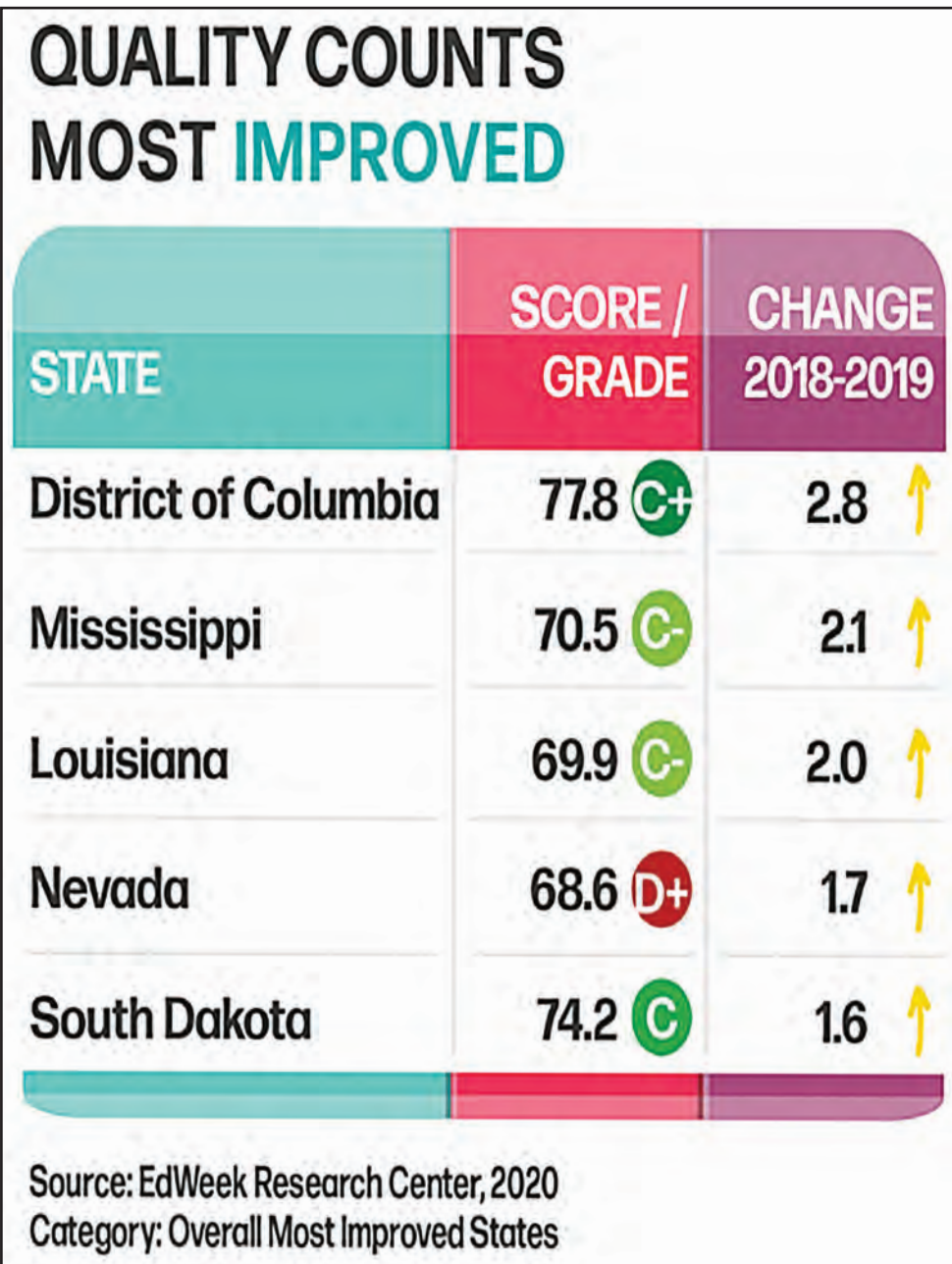
The Grenada Lions Club vision-screened 150 Grenada School District Pre-K members by using the PlusOptix camera. The camera was part of a Lions Clubs International Grant with the goal of detecting any necessary vision corrections in children before the age of 6. The PlusOptix enabled 4 feet of distance between screener and child with no physical contact. These screenings were required to take place before August 31. Pamela Hubbard, a Lions Club member and also an AmeriCorps staff member, enlisted the help of AmeriCorps members to get this task done. Masks were worn by all as members brought children one at a time to be screened. AmeriCorps volunteers helping with the screening included (l to r) Miracle Moore, Crystal Hendricks, Lions Club member Pamela Hubbard, Katie Yates and Tatianna Doss.

Center.

The Lions also send high school students to leadership camps in the spring, support ROTC and the Boys and Girls Club of Grenada, and help Grenada band members who have been chosen to participate in the Lions International Convention Marching Band Contest.

Sight is important at any age. Remember to take care of your own. The Grenada Lions Club is in its 85th year of service. They welcome anyone with a heart for service!

Mississippi Earns National Recognition



Mississippi Department of Education News Release

For the third consecutive year, Mississippi earned national recognition for its progress in education, climbing to be among the top five states or jurisdictions with the greatest improvement, according to the latest Quality Counts report published in Education Week. Mississippi ranked second among states with the most improved states, excluding the jurisdiction of Washington, D.C. The report examines achievement in school

systems from prekindergarten through grade 12 and socioeconomic factors leading to success in adulthood.

Mississippi earned an overall grade of C-minus (70.5 out of 100 points), inching closer to the national average. The nation’s overall grade was a C (72.8 out of 100 points).

Mississippi, District of Columbia, South Dakota and Louisiana all saw their overall scores improve. The Quality Counts report is released in three phases based on indicators for opportunities for success, school funding and achievement. In February, Mississippi was recognized for gaining 6.2 points in the Chance-for-Success Index, improving its grade from a D+ in 2008 to a C in 2020. The report stated key advances in family income, parental education levels, parental employment, 4th grade reading,

and 8th grade math contributed to the state’s success.

Mississippi also made the most progress in the nation on the K-12 Achievement Index from 2019 to 2020. Its score jumped by 5.2 points during that time fueled by increases in the percentage of 4th grade students proficient in math and reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

“This is outstanding national recognition for our teachers and leaders in the state. We have challenged students to

“We have challenged students to meet higher standards of learning, and they are succeeding....” - Dr. Carey Wright

meet higher standards of learning, and they are succeeding,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “This is validation that over time, we can change the trajectory of public education in Mississippi and raise expectations for what our students can do.”

In 2019, Mississippi achieved the No. 1 spot in the nation for gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the Nation’s Report Card. NAEP measures student proficiency in 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics, and Mississippi was the only state in the nation to show significant increases in three of the four NAEP subjects. Washington, D.C., was the only jurisdiction to show gains in three of four subjects.

GHS Counselor’s Corner



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

Grenada High School counselor Chantel Chandler works with juniors and seniors on their college plans. She is currently advising students who feel they’ve fallen behind in their preparations due to last spring’s shutdown.

*By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter*

Grenada High School juniors and seniors concerned that last semester’s school shut-down has delayed their college preparation should take a deep breath.

GHS counselor Chantel Chandler says students across the country are in the same boat. And while last spring’s shut-down cut college preparation short, it’s not too late to get back on track.

Chandler has spent the last several weeks of the new semester meeting with students both in person and virtually. She tells them all the same thing. “Don’t panic ... but it’s time to make a decision.”

She says students who have a plan for their future are best positioned to choose a junior college or four-year university. Knowing what to study could affect the school you attend. “Just because your friends or parents went to a certain school doesn’t mean it’s the right fit if you want to study something specialized like medicine,” Chandler says.

If a student is not one hundred percent certain of what he or she will do with the rest of their life, says Chandler, it’s okay. The college experience often reveals paths of interest that were otherwise hidden.

Most seniors should be completing their college submissions this fall, and Chandler encourages juniors to work on the admissions process throughout the year. Registration for most four-year colleges opens July 1, and housing reservations fill up quickly.

The next order of business for students preparing their admission is to take the ACT. Many students were scheduled to take the exam last spring. All sessions were cancelled when schools began to close in March from the pandemic.

Chandler says new testing dates have been added this fall, including on Sundays. Students who wish to catch up by taking the exam multiple times have new options: October 10, 17, 24, and 25. The deadline for these test dates is September 25.

After October, the next testing date is December 12 (Nov. 6 deadline), and then students must wait until 2021 to take the exam. Testing is expected to return to normal next year.

Students who take the ACT multiple times may benefit from the new Superscore process. A Superscore is calculated by using a student’s highest subject scores from multiple attempts to arrive at an ideal average score that reflects the student’s best performances. ACT stresses that colleges set their own admissions policies and that some schools only recognize composite scores and not a Superscore.

Chandler says one of the best ways to get prepared for college is to take advantage of the many dual-credit classes offered at GHS. There are currently eight face-to-face courses at the high school and even more online classes. The semester-long courses earn college credits and fulfill requirements for high school as well. The classes are free to eligible students.

“Other than a scholarship, where else can you earn college credits for free?”

Chandler says. “We’ve had students who leave here with enough credits to almost qualify as a college sophomore. We’ve had some inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the college honor society, as high school students.”

Students who feel left behind will catch up quickly if they take a little time each day to learn more about college admissions and start building their resumes.

“Grades are important, but remember there may be twenty thousand kids with 4.0 averages trying to get noticed by one college,” Chandler says. “Community service is something schools are looking at more and more. Get out there and build your resume with community work. Add to that a rigorous course load, activities, a strong ACT, and a solid GPA, and that’s when you’ll get a serious look from your top school of choice.”

“Phillips” Continued from Page 3

Tyree was joined in the interview by his father, James; his mother, Tarsha; and his brother, Josh, a GHS senior and the starting quarterback for the Chargers. “Now I have somebody I can look up to in the League,” said Josh, “and I know that I really can do it.”

Kuhn, who coached both brothers, compared their playing styles. He said Tyree was more laid back and had to be charged up to perform whereas Josh comes hyped up and has to be calmed down.

“Obviously Tyree has been a great role model for [Josh], and I know he’s really showed him some work ethic,” said Kuhn. “Where Tyree had to self-motivate a lot, I think Josh has had his brother there pushing him, and I think that’s really going to help him in the long run.”

Kuhn said he always knew there was more to Tyree than his size. “A lot of big guys don’t get this opportunity. You’ve got to put in work. You’ve got to train. You’ve got to be motivated. You’ve got to have discipline.”

Kuhn advised Tyree to take advantage of the platform he has been given — the same he took the opportunity to play high school football and turned it into a junior college offer, and just like he took that opportunity and turned it into a Division 1 offer and then an NFL career.

He said that Tyree’s success shines a positive light on the GHS program. “It shows these kids in Grenada that whether it’s the NFL or a college degree, that if you work hard, good things will happen.”

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College Room Provides a Home for Advanced Studies at GHS



Photos by Jamie Kornegay

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Students returning to Grenada High School last month may have noticed several improvements that were made over the summer.

The band hall, for instance, looked and felt a little different with new lighting, drop ceilings, and air-conditioning. Eighteen other GHS classes were freshened up with new floor tiles, LED lighting, drop ceilings, and a new coat of paint.

Also on campus, a new sidewalk from the band hall to the armory is under construction. Along the way, students may notice the volleyball team’s new sand court, which is being built behind the softball field.

One of the most eye-catching new additions is GHS College 101, an active learning classroom designed for dual-credit students taking college-level courses at the high school.

GHS Principal Emily Tindall and GSD’s head of maintenance, Jeff Pickle, teamed up on the project. “It creates a different vibe in class,” said Pickle. “We built a room like no other room in the building so that the kids could feel like they were in a college environment.”

The new college room, the former computer lab where Coach Aldridge’s classes met, was remade with new carpet, modern furniture, and technology to facilitate advanced learning. “It’s like walking out of high school into a college classroom,” said Tindall. “Only on the same campus and in the same building.”

As with the high school’s engineering and chemistry labs, students enter the college room through glass doors. The double-sized room is divided into multiple centers for independent or group study. They can choose rolling chairs at ergonomic tables or bar stool chairs at high-top tables. There are even cafe-style couches and tables, as well as a refrigerator with snacks and water.

The room is set up as both a classroom, where teachers can guide dual-credit students through lessons, or as a common area where students can come and perform their virtual classwork.

Around the wide room there are four large-screen televisions that can be used for visual presentations and video learning material. A teacher can invite a student working from a laptop to cast their work right onto the screen for the class to see.

“A teacher can even display multiple students’ work at once or conduct simultaneous lessons,” said Tindall. “It really stimulates collaboration and critical thinking.”

Not all of the shiny black screens are televisions. The room offers six glass dry erase boards where teachers or study groups can take notes.

Shan Worsham teaches dual-credit English courses in the college room. She said the space is conducive to higher level learning. “The lighting is excellent, and I love having the large TVs so that every student in the class can see the screen,” Worsham said.

“We haven’t even been able to use the space to its full potential,” she added. “With social distancing measures in

place, we’re not able to break into small groups, but I look forward to seeing how that goes when things get back to normal.”

“We really wanted this room to stand out as an experience, like the newly remodeled cafeteria,” Tindall said. “When a senior leaves school after third period and has to come back for a dual-credit class fifth period, we want them to feel like they’re going to college instead of coming back to high school.”

Tindall said the high school currently offers extensive dual-credit classes with Holmes Community College, both online and face-to-face. The big-subject area classes are English and math, though science courses will be added soon.

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“Virtual”

Continued from Page 1



(Photo left) Taylor Buchanan, Discovery Lab instructor at Grenada Elementary 4-5, teaches virtual science classes for 5th graders this semester.

When it comes to giving tests and assessments, Harris uses the Edulastic platform, which he loves. The software works through Canvas and can measure student assessment through online tests. The questions and answers can be reordered for each student, and the tests are timed to prevent help from Google. Harris said the assessment is as true as if the students were in the classroom taking the test.

“I’m able to watch the students answering questions in real time on one screen,” he said. “It’s even more efficient than if I were walking from desk to desk.”

Harris admitted that technical glitches, often caused by high traffic from other virtual users, can be frustrating when conducting online classes, but it’s nothing out of the ordinary. “You just adapt on the fly,” he said. “It’s the same as in the classroom. If a lesson is not going the way I want it to go, I have to shift my strategy.”

Leah Hollingsworth also

teaches ninth and tenth graders at GHS. Her Biology I class meets with hybrid and virtual students. At most, she will have eight hybrid students in the classroom. They meet on Mondays through Thursday with students in class just two days a week. Her largest virtual class has 27 students.

Hollingsworth admitted that it took her a few weeks to find her feet, but now she has the routine down pat. “I read this somewhere and it describes the situation perfectly,” she said. “It’s like building a plane as you’re flying it.”

One of Hollingsworth’s biggest breakthroughs came when the district gave her an iPad that allowed students in class and online to see what she was writing. “I’ve worked in school districts that aren’t as well-equipped, and I don’t know how you’d do this without the resources we have at Grenada,” she said.

Hollingsworth said she has learned how to teach kids over the computer and in the class-

room simultaneously during her hybrid classes. “I don’t want to leave anyone out, so you have to find that balance,” she said.

“Sometimes kids can be shy to talk and ask questions in class, but I find that some of them come out of their shell online,” Hollingsworth added. “There’s something about being at home and not in plain view. It makes them feel safe and gives them the courage to discuss and ask questions.”

One of the challenges of teaching virtual is helping kids with tech issues, she said. “But those problems would be there anyway,” she said. “With all students using laptops now, it’s a different way of teaching and learning for all of us.”

This is Hollingsworth’s second year teaching at GHS, though she has been in education for the past 17 years.

“I never would have thought in a million years that I’d like teaching virtually,” she said, “but I really do.”

“New”

Continued from Page 1

We must continue to be vigilant as flu season approaches. Colder weather drives everyone indoors and in closer proximity to one another. The same measures we take in classes — wearing facial coverings, washing and sanitizing hands, refraining from touching faces and rubbing eyes, giving one another as much distance as possible — should be applied at home and in the community as well. Especially in big gatherings around holidays, such as the upcoming fall break in mid-October.

If your child must be at home to quarantine, please help us make sure they’re completing their work virtually and that they take the work seriously. It takes some getting used to, but as you’ll read in this issue of the Communicator (page 1), our teachers are working hard to make this new form of education as much like the classroom as possible. But just like at school, the kids have to show up for it to be effective.

In time, we trust that our medical community will diminish the threat of the virus as they have so many diseases in the past. But for now, this is our new way of



Luke (left) and Jack Foster, sons of GSD teachers Chip and Brooke Foster, arrive ready for the first home game of the GHS Chargers’ football season.

life. Our students and teachers recognize that even if we change our ways during this time of infection, life can be fulfilling. We can still do the things we’ve always loved.

Life may never be exactly the same on the other side of this, but we will be able to congregated and interact again without so many layers of protection. When the time comes, we’ll be better prepared for adversity. And maybe we’ll find a greater appreciation for a simpler way of life.



October
(Events subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GHS: Volleyball vs Horn Lake (JV at 5:00 and V at 6:00) GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Rehearsal in Visions Classroom 4:00pm - 7:00pm GHS: Football at South Pansola 5:30pm	2 GHS Football-Lafayette-Away 7:00pm	3 GHS: Volleyball Intramural 8:00am - 1:00pm
4	5 Exams Week GHS: Volleyball vs East Webster (JV at 5:00 and V at 6:00) Band: Beat the Heat Full Band 6:00pm - 8:30pm	6 ACT for 2019-2020 Juniors [Standard Time Administration (Paper Only)] - - [Accommodations (Paper Only) Oct. 6, 2020-October 12, 2020] Exams Week Band: Battery Percussion & Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Rehearsal in Visions Classroom 4:00pm - 7:00pm	7 Exams Week Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	8 Exams Week GHS: Volleyball vs Knoxville (JV at 5:00 and V at 6:00) Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Rehearsal in Visions Classroom 4:00pm - 7:00pm GHS: Football Conference Championship TBA 5:30pm	9 Exams Week GHS Football-Columbus-Home (Pink Out) 7:00pm	10 GHS: Volleyball Intramural 8:00am - 1:00pm
11	12 Columbus Day Fall Break GHS: JV Football vs. South Pansola	13 GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	14 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	15 GHS: Volleyball (ST) Round Playoffs GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Rehearsal in Visions Classroom 4:00pm - 7:00pm GHS: Football vs. Lafayette 5:30pm	16 GHS Football-West Point-Home (Wounded Warrior) 7:00pm	17 GHS: Volleyball Intramural 8:00am - 1:00pm
18	19 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	20 GHS: Volleyball North State Playoffs GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm Band: Battery Percussion and Sectionals 3:40pm - 5:15pm Band: Band Night 7:00pm	21 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	22 GHS: Volleyball State Playoffs GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Rehearsal in Visions Classroom 4:00pm - 7:00pm	23 GHS Football-Lake Cormorant-Away 7:00pm	24
25	26 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	27 Band: Band Night Make Up 7:00; Sectional 3:40-5:15; Battery Percussion 3:40-5:15 GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm	28 Band: Full Band Rehearsal 3:40pm - 5:15pm	29 GHS: Varsity Cheer Practice 2:30pm - 4:30pm Band: Front Ensemble 3:40pm - 5:15pm Visions Rehearsal in Visions Classroom 4:00pm - 7:00pm	30 GHS Football-Center Hill-Away 7:00pm	31 Halloween

High School Sports Continue as a Much Needed Distraction



Dru Barnes



Leah Kinard



Tyler Wilson



Trajerrion "Busta" Brown



Rylee Murphree and Kira Finkley



Jadarius Steen



Nick Stewart



Briella Simmons



(Photo below)
Alexa Milholland

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