

Middle College



Superintendent's Message

Dr. David Daigneault

Education, Training, Dreams is the motto of Grenada School District. When I walk the halls and visit the classrooms of our schools, I see education and training going on every day.

Dreams are a little harder to quantify. But rest assured, we're always dreaming big. And we're always looking for new ways to meet the needs of our biggest dreamers.

For middle and high schoolers who can't wait to achieve their dream of college and career, we're working on an exciting new plan to catapult them into the future by developing a Middle College program. This will be one of the most exciting new developments we've announced in years.

Once it's approved by the Mississippi Board of Education, Grenada's Middle College program, in conjunction with Holmes Community College, students may choose to pursue an associate's degree or national certification by the time they graduate from high school.

This program will benefit a wide variety of students and families —

- * For the ambitious scholar who can't wait to start earning a college degree, this will provide a direct pathway to exciting classes in their field of interest.

- * For students who are eager to enter the workforce, especially in the fields of welding and health science, advanced certification will give them a chance to start earning a good salary right out of high school.

- * For first-generation college students with limited means, it's a great way to supplement an advanced education at a drastically reduced cost.

We've already begun paving the way for Middle College at Grenada Middle School, where students can now earn Carnegie credits to meet their high school requirements. Computer science and engineering courses in the 7th and 8th grade earn credits, along with 8th grade math. Ambitious math students may take Algebra I in 8th grade, earning a credit. And starting this year, the Mississippi Studies and Geography classes have moved from 9th to 8th grade, each earning half a credit for a total of one.

Right now, a motivated middle schooler can advance to high school as a freshman with five Carnegie credits. That's a quarter of the way toward fulfilling his or her graduation requirement! This great advantage allows students to take more advanced classes and activities in high school. Very soon it will allow them to enter the Middle College program and pursue a college degree alongside their high school diploma.

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GES 4-5 Students Get a Second Chance with Fast Track



Photos by Jamie Kornegay

Grenada Elementary 4-5 teachers (l to r) Carledia Russell, Stacy Henson, and Melissa Whitehead, with the help of assistant Shay Hardiman (not pictured), run the Green Top's Fast Track program. The classes help students who have been held back recover up to two academic school years in one.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada Elementary 4-5 Principal Carol Tharpe says student growth is a measure of success at her school. But inevitably, and for various reasons, some children fall behind.

Four years ago the school started a Fast Track program to help such students recover up to two academic school years in one.

"Research shows that retention leads to a significant increase in the likelihood of students dropping out of school," says Tharpe. "This program provides a pathway of opportunity to those children who have gotten off track along the way."

When Tharpe was planning the Fast Track program, she asked for volunteers among her teaching staff to lead the program. She credits a team of devoted teachers for taking up the charge and making the program a success.

ELA instructor Carledia Russell,

math instructor Stacy Henson, inclusion teacher Melissa Whitehead, and assistant Shay Hardiman work with the Fast Track program's 32 students. "They've been called to this special group of students," says Tharpe, "and there's no doubt in my mind that they are right where they are meant to be."

The Fast Track teachers point out that not everyone gets a second chance, and many of their students recognize this and work hard to succeed. The smaller classroom size and one-on-one attention often brings these children out of their shell, but the teachers say the key is fostering an environment of acceptance, tolerance, and encouragement.

Ms. Russell, whom her fellow teachers describe as "the compass" of the program, says many of her students have failed twice before, so they're used to defeat. "You have to constantly build up their confidence, and that requires building a relationship," she says. "Sometimes we forget to encourage those students.

I've seen so much growth in students who are being encouraged. If you have a solid relationship, they will do a lot. They don't want to disappoint you."

Ms. Henson says many of her students have experienced academic setbacks due to behavioral struggles that they can't control. She and her fellow teachers act as mentors as well as teachers. "I am about building the whole child," Henson says. "Because there's a social component to this as well as academic."

"What I've discovered with this program," says Russell, "is there are so many intelligent children who may be struggling with behavior. This doesn't mean that the child is not capable."

Henson says the role of Fast Track is not simply to push kids quickly to the next grade. "It's not just come to school, do your stuff, and go home — it's a hard challenge," she explains. "We push the child and reach out to the parents to let them know we're working one-on-one. We tell them, 'We're not giving up on your child.'"

Recently, Tharpe checked in on the Fast Track classes and was amazed to see the progress the kids have made since August. One child entered the program at a second-grade level, and after six months, the student is already mastering fifth-grade standards.

"Sometimes, the child is only a year behind, and I'll tell them, you could potentially play sports and join the band next year," Russell says. "Give them short-term goals, and they start achieving them. That's encouraging to them."

The Fast Track teachers say that the pandemic has created learning gaps resulting from absences to the challenges of virtual learning, which add to the problem of student retention. It has made the Fast Track teachers' work more difficult this year but also more rewarding.

See "Fast Track"
Continued on page 4

Taking Aim in Archery



Photo by Michael Sanford

(photo left)

Ninth grader Taniyah Loggins practices her shooting skills as a member of the Grenada High School archery team. Nearly 60 students in grades 4-12 participate in the program. Read more on page 5.

AmeriCorps Recognizes Member of Excellence

By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

As a Grenada School District AmeriCorps member, Mia Bridges has continued to follow the AmeriCorps pledge of “Getting Things Done!” — since 2020. Her focus has been tutoring GES K-1 students.

“I joined AmeriCorps because of the impact that the program has made on our students, and I love to work with children,” Bridges said. “Serving in AmeriCorps has allowed me to not only help children but to learn how to be patient, to provide grace to those around me, and it has taught me accountability because the students depend on me to be there daily.”

Bridges said that students have stolen her heart. “They are such a joy to be around, I look forward to going to serve because I know I will get to see my students’ daily progress,” she said. “They make being a member such a joy”

Bridges is not a stranger to service. While attending Belhaven, she was associated with the Fellowship of College Athletes (FCA), Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), and served as an event coordinator on the Belhaven Leadership Staff. She was also on the Board for Belhaven’s very first Black Student Alliance and participated in community service projects in the Jackson, Mississippi, community.

She graduated from Grenada High School and majored in criminal justice and psychology at Holmes Community College with a concentration in dance at Belhaven University. She is also a member of Word of Life Church.

As an AmeriCorps member, Bridges is engaged in many service activities and has met a diverse group of people. She is currently the second to the team leader and has gained many awards serving in the program.

“I have learned how to step up when needed, help encourage other members when things get hard, and I have learned how to push through the tough times with a smile,” said Bridges.

Mia serves with grace and dignity, and she has a love for this program and her students. There are some people you meet in life that are hungry for success and joy and she exudes both of those traits. I am thankful for her dedication and commitment.

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$6,345 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified



student loans. Bridges plans to use her award to pursue a master’s degree in secondary education through the University of Mississippi.

“AmeriCorps is a great program that teaches accountability,” Bridges said. “This program has pushed me to become a better form of myself, and while being a member, it has allowed me to find out new things about myself. AmeriCorps has also given me lifelong friends that have turned into family.”

Her aim in life is to go into each day with God first, a positive mindset, and a fresh pair of lashes!

“People will be surprised to know that I have had a total of three businesses since 2017,” Bridges said. “I used to hand-make headwraps for women and children with natural hair (Crowned Headwrap Company LLC). My sister and I hand-made makeup highlighters and eyeshadows (Royal Lush Cosmetics), and I am currently running an eyelash extension business (Minx Bar Lashes LLC) as a double-certified lash technician!”

Her advice to future AmeriCorps members is to remember that you are here to help the students. She said, “Leave personal life issues outside of work. Participate in as many events as you can in the beginning of the term to be sure that you will reach your 1700 hours. And always, always go into work with a positive mindset and attitude. Your experience in the program is what you make of it. Make it a great one!”

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com or visit my.americorps.gov to create an account and apply.

Heart Disease Top Killer in Mississippi



In 2020 more Mississippians died of heart disease than cancer and diabetes combined. Smoking, in any amount, contributes to heart disease by making the blood sticky, which restricts the flow to and from your heart, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).

A CDC promotion illustrates the dangers of heart disease. Tonya M., now age 49, had to have major surgery when she was diagnosed with heart failure at just 38 years old. While waiting for a transplant, a mechanical heart pump was inserted in her chest. This device continuously moves blood through Tonya’s body. “Because I smoked, I have heart

failure. I had to have open heart surgery, and a battery operated heart pump installed inside of me to keep me alive. At night, I have to plug myself into the wall to keep the pump working. My tip is, try not to be a restless sleeper. Because if you’re not plugged in, you don’t have very long to live.”

Mississippi has the fifth highest rate of smoking in the nation and the highest rate of heart disease mortality reports Amy Winter, the Director of the Office of Tobacco control at MSDH.

“Through the Ready. Set. Quit program the Office of Tobacco Control at the Mississippi State Department of Health stands ready to serve Mississippians who want to quit,” said Sue Mashburne, Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties. “We can provide you with the tools and support you need to find success. We are here to help you quit, and to help you stay smoke free.”

For information about the dangers of cigarettes, visit www.healthmys.com/tobacco. For help with quitting visit www.quitlinems.com, or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



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GCTC Culinary Field Trip



Students in Lisa Holland’s Culinary Arts 2 class at the Grenada Career and Technical Center took a field trip to Table 100, a bistro in Flowood, Mississippi. Students were able to see first-hand how a fine-dining establishment is run and were given a tour of the kitchen, prep area, event space, and dining room. Best of all, they sampled a variety of dishes from the menu to experience the chef’s culinary technique. Culinary Arts students who visited Table 100 include (front, l to r) Malaysia Westmoreland, Kylee Goad, Keasia Anthony, Jamya Woods, (back, l to r) Blake Williams, Sofia Rinaldi, Payton Parker, Michael Beach, Hayden Dunga, and Deterrian Harris.

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The Beat Goes on with Indoor Percussion



Photo by Jamie Kornegay

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Members of the Grenada High School Band typically end their marching season in November, but this winter, the band’s percussion section has elected to march on.

The newly formed Grenada Indoor Percussion ensemble, composed of 31 GHS students, are polishing their first indoor show to compete across the state this winter and spring.

Percussion director Blayde Clark said

he’s tried to get the program up and running for a couple of years now, and things are finally in full swing.

“The structure of an indoor percussion show is similar to a marching band halftime show,” said Clark, now in his fourth year as assistant director at Grenada. “A typical halftime show is three movements, and so is ours. But our show is faster paced with a lot more drill.”

The group performs in the gymnasium instead of outside, with a percussion battery — including snares, bass drums,

tenors and cymbals — and a front ensemble, which includes marimbas, xylophones, keyboards, and more auxiliary percussion. The group has its own props and costumes, which add a greater theatrical element than a typical drum feature.

The group’s first show is entitled “Bound,” and it explores the theme in three movements. The first movement focuses on physical bonds and is reflected through the dramatic music as well as cinched and buckled-up costumes. The second movement portrays emotional

(photo left)

Members of the Grenada Band’s snare line study drill with their director, Blayde Clark (crouching), at a rehearsal for Grenada Indoor Percussion. Students include (l to r) Kendrick Caffey, Alexis Triplett, Alyssa Winters, Eli Black, and Alan Henderson.

bonds with more hopeful music. By the third act, the costumes come unbuckled, and the music and drill depict common bonds that bring people together.

“It’s a lot more than marching band,” said section leader Eli Black, a GHS senior. “I don’t think we knew exactly what we were getting into, but it’s super fun. It’s like fitting an entire marching show that generally lasts eight to nine minutes into four or five minutes. It’s a lot more fast-paced and requires a lot more energy than marching band.”

At its first-ever competition at Brandon High School in mid-February, Grenada Indoor Percussion finished first in visuals and effects. They will go on to compete at Southaven (March 5) and Pearl (March 26) before attending the Mississippi Indoor State Championships April 1-2 in the Pavilion at the University of Mississippi.

“I think people are going to like the show,” said Black. “To me it’s more fun than marching band because it’s all drum line. It’s a lot more challenging, but that’s okay. We always accept a challenge.”

The public will have an opportunity to come out and experience Grenada Indoor Percussion at a send-off show on the eve of state championships. The event will be held Thurs., March 31 at 6 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

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For more information, contact Associate Director Jessica Coker Hughes by phone at (662) 227 2348 or by e mail at jlcoker3@olemiss.edu

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Students Learn to Lead in GCTC



(l to r) Teacher Academy instructor Michelle Downs accompanies her second-year students Jermelia Lumas, Laci Roberson, and Trinity Harbin to Grenada Elementary School, where they help teachers with small-group learning. The Grenada Career and Technical Center program allows high school students to prepare for a career in education by providing hands-on learning in the classroom.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Any teacher will tell you, it’s a good feeling when students wish they could stay longer in your class. That’s the sentiment from the eleventh-graders in Michelle Downs’ Teacher Academy program at the Grenada Career and Technical Center.

The program prepares high school students to work as teachers, and second-year students have the opportunity for on-site training in the classroom.

At Grenada Elementary School, three 11th graders in Downs’ Teacher Academy II class work in centers as assistants and help first and second graders with

their lessons. When it’s time to go back to the high school, the young kids call them out by name. Some approach them in the hall and offer hugs.

The high schoolers are all smiles. They’ve already learned a fundamental lesson of teaching: when you establish a relationship with a child, they trust you and will learn from you.

“It’s nice to see them learn while we’re learning too,” says junior Laci Roberson.

“And we’re relearning the elementary school lessons from them,” adds Trinity Harbin.

In her second year as Teacher Academy instructors, Down brings more than 20 years of teaching experience to her students as she guides them through les-

sons in ethics, strategies and classroom practices,

Downs says her students are a mix of kids like Roberson, who came to the program knowing they wanted to teach, and others like Harbin and Jermelia Lumas who were merely curious but came to enjoy working with children.

“We do a lot of hands-on activities and build a community in the classroom,” Downs says. “They learn to work with others, which will help them in the field of education or any career path.”

Downs lets her first-year students observe in the classroom at Grenada Middle School, while second-year students are assigned teachers and classrooms for more hands-on assistance.

“Whenever I’ve had a student helping in the classroom, it’s been a wonderful experience,” says Amanda Bowen, a first grade looping teacher at GES. “They seem open-minded and willing to learn. I think it’s a great thing that our school provides.”

Back in the classroom at GCTC, students design lesson plans and create the materials that go along with it. “They actually get up in front of the class and teach the lesson,” says Downs. “They put their lesson plan into action and then hear their classmates’ critiques.”

The class also prepares students for their higher education, introducing them to college programs and license requirements. Downs says the class recently

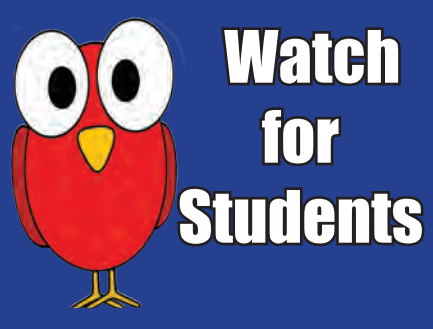
toured Holmes Community College and are planning a visit to the School of Education at Ole Miss later this spring.

GES 4-5 teacher Heather Vance’s daughter, Mary-Faith, is a second-year student in Teacher Academy. “As a parent, I love knowing that there is a program that allows her to learn about her future career and allows her the opportunity to be able to experience what it will be like one day in her own classroom,” she says.

“I have been especially impressed with Ms. Downs taking into consideration Mary-Faith’s specific interest in Special Education,” Vance says. “Ms. Downs arranged for Mary-Faith to observe in a special education classroom so that she would have the opportunity to see if that was truly where she wanted to put her focus in education.”

Vance says it’s heartening to be able to hear Mary-Faith’s excitement after working in the classroom and being able to discuss her experiences like a colleague.

“Ms. Downs has given her students assignments that get to the root of teaching,” Vance says. “Mary-Faith has come to understand the responsibilities and ethical requirements of an educator. As a teacher, it is encouraging to know that there is a program in our very own district that is adequately preparing students to become the future educators in our district.”



“Fast Track”

Continued from Page 1

“Sure, it would be ideal to get a group of students who are where they need to be and who are passionate about learning, but that’s not always the case,” says Russell. “But the students I have, that’s my group, and they need me. That’s the driving factor for me.”

“Teaching Fast Track is not for the faint of heart,” Tharpe says. “As their

principal, I recognize the difficulty of this assignment as a teacher and am thankful for these ladies and their ability to overcome these struggles and adversities daily. Their stamina, day after day, is something we can all hope to match.”

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A photograph of Julia and Scott, the owners of Criss Office Supply, standing in front of shelves stocked with various office supplies. Julia is on the left, wearing a teal sweater, and Scott is on the right, wearing a maroon shirt.

A logo for "Learning Blocks" featuring a wooden block with the number "20" on top, a red apple with a yellow star on the side, and the text "Grenada School District" below it. To the right of the block, the words "Learning Blocks" are written in a large, stylized, blue font.

For the 2022-2023 school year,
Grenada School District
is offering a
pre-kindergarten program
for three and four-year-old children.

Applications must be completed and submitted online.

Online applications will be available on the Grenada School District website beginning
Monday, February 21, 2022, at 8:00 A.M.
until
Friday, March 4, 2022, at 3:00 P.M.

Application Link:
<https://forms.gle/E9ysArXP1XfMtGSw6>

If you have any questions, please call
Grenada Elementary School at 662-226-8900
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GHS Archery Team Shoots for State



Photo by Lois Gaskin

Archery team members Lexi Taylor and Addie Worsham hit the mark.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Student archery at Grenada School District is unique among other sports and activities. It requires no prior skill and welcomes all competitors, regardless of gender, race, age, and physical abilities. One need not be athletically inclined to join, which may explain why nearly sixty students from grades four to twelve participate — and often excel — in the school’s program.

Lois Gaskin, groundskeeper for the district, coaches the archery team, which

is comprised of 37 elementary students and 21 high schoolers. Her assistant coach, GES 4-5 school nurse Kim Holland, books shooting meets with other schools and handles the team’s business while Gaskin teaches shooters how to practice good form and achieve solid aim.

“I’ve shot an awful lot of arrows, so if they follow my steps, they will be good,” Gaskin says. “If you learn to use muscle control and do exactly the same movements every time, then you can become an arrow-shooting machine.”

The archery team meets every Tuesday at the GES Green Top gymnasium. On Friday afternoons from 4 to 5:30, practice is open to anyone who wants to shoot. “It’s a lot of fun,” Gaskin says. “And there’s no thrill like watching a child shoot a bullseye for the first time.”

The Mississippi High School Activities Association deems January the official start of archery season for high school competition, so the elementary shooters get a jump by practicing in the fall. Gaskin says there aren’t many elementary teams in the region, so they don’t often get the opportunity to compete against shooters their own age.

In place of a dedicated venue for exhibition with room for many spectators, Gaskin makes the most of things by hosting mock tournaments in the Green Top gymnasium. Students wear their team shirts, and parents come out to watch. Students shoot by competition rules, and the coaches use the team scores to compare against other high schools to determine how Grenada stacks up.

Matches are scored with teams of 24 shooters. The top 12 scores — with a set number of males and females, determined by the competition rules — are combined to calculate a school team’s match scores.

Grenada’s first archery meet is March 1 with Cleveland Central, but Gaskin

says all competitions are to help prepare for the state championship series.

The first step toward shooting at state finals is the AIMS North State Qualifier, which will be held March 29-31 at Itawamba Community College in Fulton. The top eight teams from the north meet the top eight teams from the south in Jackson for the state shoot at the Kirk Fordice Equine Center, April 4-9.

Assistant coach Holland says Grenada’s elementary team routinely qualifies for state finals.

“My elementary team has actually outshot high school teams,” Gaskin says. “They shoot the same bows from fourth to twelfth grade,” says Holland. “It’s the same playing field, same target. The only real difference is the age.”

Last year’s standout shooter on the elementary team was 6th grader Brayden Campbell, who won top male shooter in the state for his classification. Campbell

moved up to the high school team this season.

Gaskin says male and female shooters who win at the state finals are awarded scholarship money, which is banked and follows them to college. Holland says there are many colleges and universities in Mississippi that have strong archery programs. Some of the top in-state schools that offer scholarships for archery include Blue Mountain College, William Carey University, and Mississippi State.

The Grenada teams plan to compete at North State this year and then go on to show their skills at the statewide tournament. “We don’t train and pack up to go anywhere and just shoot,” the coach says. “We go to win.”

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GHS Archery



Photo by Michael Sanford

(front, l to r) Tyner Kelly, Kendall Busby, Alyssa Smitherman, Brayden Campbell, Garrett Lee, Cameron King, Lilly Hughes, Meah Dirks, (back, l to r) Coach Lois Gaskin, Kayleah Daniels, Gabe Lee, Tykera Bullins, Breanna Elliott, Bryce Lee, Anna Hankins, Lexi Taylor, Addie Worsham, Assistant Coach Kim Holland, and Taniyah Loggins

Elementary Students Build and Code at Kidz Tech and Kidzeum



Photo by Melanie Williams

(photo left)

Isaiah Brown, a student in Ms. Jenkins’ class at Grenada Elementary, was proud to build a working fan out of Legos during a recent visit to Kidz Tech. The recently added program to the Kidzeum incorporates STEM lessons by teaching the students new skills such as computer coding and robotics.

By **Jamie Kornegay**
GSD Reporter

Students at Grenada Elementary Pre-K-3 tried their hands at engineering and coding this semester at Kidz Tech, the cutting-edge addition to the Red Top’s beloved Kidzeum.

Director Melanie Williams devoted several weeks to letting students play and build while teaching them beginner-level computer programming. “There was a lot of discovery,” she said. “Every child did something they’ve never done before.”

The Kidzeum instructors — including assistants Tanganetta Moore, Britany Carpenter, and Jennifer Surrell, in addition to Williams — assigned activities based on grade levels.

Pre-K and kindergarten students programmed Dash the Robot to play the xylophone. “We started our first robot marching band here in Kidz Tech,” Williams said.

The youngest age group also learned to care for Parker Bear, a plush teddy bear with augmented reality learning

features. By using an iPad, students were able to view the bear’s organs and bones, and they learned first aid, such as how to treat a fever and how to remove a splinter.

Finally, the Pre-K and kindergarten classes built a snail out of Legos. For an extra reading comprehension lesson, they programmed the snail to flash different colors to correspond with the story in a picture book.

During the first-grade visit, students built a fan from Legos and programmed the blades to spin. “That was the first time they’d built something that moves,” Williams said. “When they see the blades on the fan spin, the look on their face is priceless. It’s the best moment in Kidz Tech.”

Second and third graders built Milo, a robot with a job similar to the Mars rovers. Students programmed the rover and learned how robots are used to explore hard-to-reach places so that humans can learn more about the environment.

Third graders were given the toughest challenge of all, programming

Spiro, a ball-shaped robot. “He’s very picky about his code, so it takes a lot of problem-solving to make him go,” said Williams. “The students participated in challenges to make Sphero travel a certain distance or around objects. They had to figure out speed, distance, and time to complete their task.”

Williams said the kids loved devoting an entire visit to the smart toys and devices at Kidz Tech. “We enjoy teaching this exhibit too,” she said. “It’s so much fun to watch their wonder.”

The Kidzeum’s next exhibit opened in mid-February. Students will make multiple visits throughout the spring to learn about inclined planes, wedges, pulley systems, levers, and screws in a brand-new exhibit entitled Simple Machines. Here they learn the fundamental principles of physics by using classic, everyday tools that help multiply force to move objects.

“We’ll talk about where we find simple machines in our home and life and do lots of building and experiments,” Williams said.

In addition to building a car out of straws and strings, students will use life-sized lever and pulley systems. They will also get creative with various art projects to enhance the lesson.

One new attraction is a Rigamajig set, which Williams likens to a life-size Tinker Toy set. The set was purchased with help from the 21st Century Community Learning grant and will be used in the upcoming after-school 21st Century program. Students in Williams’ STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) class will use these simple machine concepts, as well as robots and computers, to construct bridges, towers, and catapults.

“We love watching their eyes light up when they begin to understand how something works,” Williams said. “The more they can touch and feel and create, the more knowledge they retain and the better they understand.”

“College” Continued from page 1

Pending state approval, qualifying GHS students may begin a general college pathway toward earning an associate’s degree from Holmes Community College as soon as the 2022-23 school year. This will be a full junior college degree, earned mostly on the high school campus, both virtually and with face-to-face instruction. For certain courses, such as science, students will be required to attend class on the Holmes campus in Grenada.

We’re currently collaborating with My Way Mississippi, through the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer Tool, to ensure that GSD students who earn their associate’s degree will be able to transfer to a Mississippi public university. We anticipate that a student who has completed the program in good standing will be eligible to enter a school such as Mississippi State or the University of Mississippi as a junior right out of high school.

Beginning in 2023-24, students who seek a more direct path to the workforce may start to earn three levels of certification through the Middle College. They may opt for welding certification, advanced certification training, or an Associate of Applied Science degree in welding. The higher a student aims, the more likely he or she will enter the labor pool with high industry qualifications.

For the subsequent phase of Middle College, we plan to introduce advanced certification in Health Sciences in the pathways of pre-nursing, pre-applied health, and health sciences. This will give students looking to enter the medical field a head start in their career.

More information will be made available as we finalize plans. Once the state board approves our plan, we will announce parent seminars with representatives from both GSD and Holmes to determine if Middle College is right for you.

In the meantime, we’ll be planning for this exciting future, which will broaden access to college for all students. And we’ll keep up the education and training in order to make our students’ dreams come true.

GCTC Students Visit Holmes Campus



Photo by Meg Newcomb

Grenada Career & Technical Center advanced level students (l to r) Taylor Alldread, Mackenzie Porter, Torrie Alldread, Tia Ewing, Jaliya Jones, Alana Fancher, and Leah Brassfield toured the Grenada campus of Holmes Community College. The students met with recruiters, advisers, and teachers as they toured the school and learned about the various programs, including nursing, physical therapy, welding, HVAC, and EMT. Holmes Ambassadors showed the students around campus and told them about student life as well as how to apply for the programs.



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GES Green Top Principals' Breakfast



Photos 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 January include (photo top) (front, l to r) Sharod Davis, Alexis Shaw, Alaira Martin, Makayla McCandles, Loren Sumner, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Caris Tyler, Kyslin Craig, Ryineshia Jackson, Blakely Jenkins, Assistant Principal Dr. John Daves, (photo bottom) (front, l to r) Kollie Kate Adams, Jordyn George, Meadow Williams, Jaxson Shows, Kaitlyn Cole, (back, l to r) Principal Carol Tharpe, Nate Woods, Zyrin Kelly, Cade Snell, Jayden Carter and Assistant Principal Dr. John Daves.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March		1 English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS: Basketball State Championships in Jackson Band: GHS Guard Training 3:40pm - 5:15pm @ GHS Gym GHS: Baseball vs Water Valley 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm GHS: JV/V Tennis vs Kosciusko 4:00pm GHS: DH Softball at Starkville 4:00pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Softball vs. Senatobia JV/V 5:00pm	2 Ash Wednesday English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS: Basketball State Championships in Jackson Visions in Auditorium Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm Band: GHS Guard Training 3:40pm - 5:15pm @ GHS Gym	3 English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS: Basketball State Championships in Jackson MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Band: GHS Guard Additions 3:40pm @ GHS Gym GHS: JV/V Tennis vs South Panola 4:00pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Softball at Desoto Central JV/V 4:30pm GHS: Baseball vs Kosciusko 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GHS: DH Softball vs Ethel 5:00pm	4 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window Entertainers: Madison Central Competition GHS: Basketball State Championships in Jackson GHS: Softball at Oxford Tournament V/DH MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Prek Online Application Closes Today Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: Baseball vs Bayou Academy 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm	5 Band: Indoor Percussion Competition Southaven, MS GHS: Basketball State Championships in Jackson GHS: Softball Tournament Pizzazz: Showchoir Competition (Possible) @ Madison, MS Visions: Madison Central Competition GHS: Baseball at Senatobia 11:00 & 1:00 11:00am GHS: JV/V Tennis at Vicksburg 11:30am
	6	7 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window Exams Week MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: Softball vs. Starkville JV/V 4:30pm GHS: Baseball at Oxford 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm	8 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window Exams Week MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative GHS: Baseball vs Desoto Central 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm GHS: JV/V Tennis vs Bayou Academy 4:00pm School Board Meeting 6:00pm	9 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window Exams Week MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm	10 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window Exams Week MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative GHS: JV/V Tennis vs Hernando 4:00pm GHS: Softball at Tupelo JV/V 5:30pm	11 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window Exams Week MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: Baseball at Olive Branch 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm GHS: Softball at South Panola JV/V 4:00pm GHS: Softball at South Panola 4:00pm
	13 Daylight Savings Time Begins GHS Band Spring Trip Orlando, FL	14 English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS Band Spring Trip Orlando, FL MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Spring Break	15 English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS Band Spring Trip Orlando, FL GHS: Baseball ECCC Invitational in Decatur, MS TBA MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Spring Break Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ Visions Classroom	16 English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS Band Spring Trip Orlando, FL MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Spring Break	17 Saint Patrick's Day English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Spring Break Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom	18 English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Spring Break
20	21 English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Visions in Auditorium Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: Baseball at South Panola 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm	22 English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Visions in Auditorium GHS: Baseball vs Oxford 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm GHS: JV/V Tennis at Starkville 4:00pm GHS: Softball at Oxford JV/V 5:00pm GHS: DH Softball at Oxford 5 & 7 5:00pm	23 English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Visions in Auditorium Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm	24 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Visions: National Competition in Nashville GHS: JV/V Tennis vs Tupelo 4:00pm GHS: Softball vs. Tupelo JV/V 5:00pm GHS: Baseball vs Lafayette 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm	25 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window GHS: Softball South Panola Tournament V/DH MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Visions: National Competition in Nashville Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm GHS: Baseball at Oxford 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm GHS: DH Softball vs Starkville 4:00pm	26 Band: Indoor Percussion Competition Pearl, MS GHS: Softball South Panola Tournament V/DH Visions: National Competition in Nashville GHS: Baseball vs Oxford 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm
27	28 English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Band: Symphonic Winds 3:30pm - 5:15pm @ GHS Auditorium GHS: Baseball at Tupelo 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GHS: DH Softball vs Lafayette 5:00pm	29 Band in Auditorium Band: Symphonic Winds MHSAA State Contest-Oxford English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade GHS: Baseball vs Tupelo 4:00 & 6:00 4:00pm GHS: V Tennis vs Sallis 4:00pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 6:00pm @ Visions Classroom GCTC-Mississippi Safety Services Defensive Driving Course 5:00pm - 9:30pm GHS: Softball vs. Oxford JV/V 5:00pm	30 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm	31 Band in Auditorium English Language Proficiency Testing Window MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternative Universal Screeners for K-3rd Grade Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal in GHS GYM 3:30pm - 6:00pm Visions: Practice 4:00pm - 7:00pm @ Visions Classroom GHS: Softball at Starkville JV/V 4:30pm GHS: Baseball vs Tupelo 5:00 & 7:00 5:00pm GHS: DH Softball vs Senatobia 5:00pm Band: Indoor Percussion Ensemble Performance in GHS GYM 6:00pm		

GCTC Reality Fair



(photo left)
Bryce Lee, Lori Chavis, Lydie Barefoot

(photo right)
Jonathan Gholston, Holmes Representative Nic Johnson, Kody Messersmith

(photo below)
Damon Dulin, Renasant Representative Fran Harper, Emory Ross, Renasant Representative Kim Hawkins, and Blake Vincent



Photos by Michael Sanford

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Jan Walton, Mississippi State University Extension Agent, presented her annual Reality Fair to students at the Grenada Career and Technical Center this February.

The exercise is like a trial run at life as an adult, Walton said. “It puts them in the real world and allows them to see the economics of managing a household — getting their education, having a career, managing their money, and being a responsible adult.”

Students are presented a job scenario with wages. After taxes, they take their net income to various booths to apply their earnings to real-world necessities: housing, transportation, utilities, insurance.

They are assigned a marital status and must pay for their childrens’ daycare in order to understand the realistic expenses of parenting. They’re presented with options for food, a car — expensive or used — and even leisure items such as movies and vacations.

“Some will buy the most expensive vehicle and realize later that they don’t have enough money to buy food,” said Meg Newcomb, Student Services Coordinator for GCTC, who helps coordinate the event.

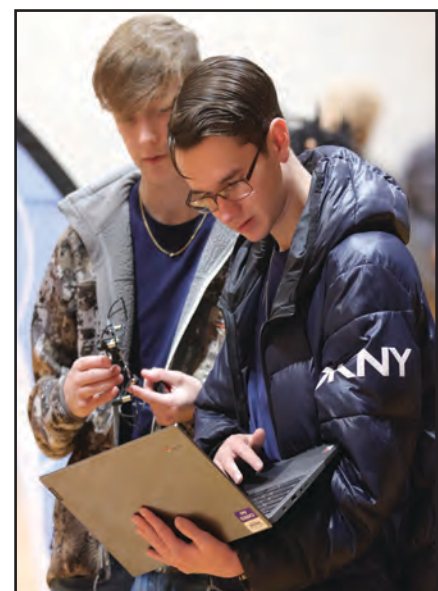
After the exercise, students reconvene with Walton to discuss their insights. “Someone in the last group said, ‘This really opened my eyes to what my parents go through each month,’” Walton said.



NJROTC Wins Competitions



Photos by Ezzard Beane



(Photo left) New NJROTC eighth-grade member Peyton Nichols competes at the RADC Drone Derby at GHS. (Photo middle) Members of the Grenada NJRTOC unit’s Team A include (l to r) Tyner Kelly, Avery McMechan, Ian McCullough, and Summer Boatman. The team finished 7th overall at the Area 8 Championship Brain Brawl at Brother Martin High School in New Orleans. (Photo right) Cadets Baley Bowen (left) and Phillip Crawford program their drone at the qualifying tournament.

By Jamie Kornegay
GSD Reporter

Grenada’s NJROTC unit maintains one of the busiest activity schedules in the district with competitions and field trips scheduled throughout the spring. Cadets recently posted fine showings in two competitive events.

On January 28, the unit sent three academic teams to compete in the Area 8 Championship Brain Brawl at Brother Martin High School in New Orleans. The competition put the cadets’ military knowledge to the test in a Quiz Bowl-style format.

Teams were made up of four members

— with a range of ages and experience, from 12th to 8th grade. The “A” team finished 7th overall out of 28 teams from five states and were the only Mississippi team to reach the semifinals.

On February 12, Grenada hosted the RADC Drone Derby at the GHS Gymnasium. Three other schools — South Panola, Madison Central, and Greenwood — competed alongside Grenada’s NJROTC teams in a contest presented by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation.

Teams had three minutes to earn as many points as possible in the drone tournament. Points are earned using wind stirred up by the drone’s rotors to propel

ping-pong-style balls into goals on the playing field and by landing drones in the designated zones. Teams also competed in the Programming Skills Challenge where one drone attempted to score as many points as possible by student programming.

The meet was organized by RADC and served as a qualifying tournament for the RADC Championship in Dallas May 10-12. Two of the four NJROTC teams qualified for the national event with rankings of first and fourth place.

The other two drone teams will have another shot at qualifying for the championship event at a drone meet hosted by South Panola on March 3.

Chief Reese Foreman said the Grenada unit has the only NJROTC teams in the state competing in drones on a national level.

In addition to academic bowls and drone competitions, the NJROTC will also compete in various STEM-related competitions — including VEX robotics, SeaPerch (underwater drones), and Cybersecurity — while also attending various meets in drill, fitness, and air-rifle. The unit continues to host events as well as take field trips and perform community service.

