

Walls to Windows Expansion



Superintendent's Message Dr. David Daigneault

Grenada School District's Walls to Windows program, our multi-faceted initiative to impact grades K-12, has been organized to provide a success pathway for our students. GSD is expanding and refining the Walls to Windows components to prepare students to be life-long learners and productive members of society. Walls to Windows begins with a new world class Pre-Kindergarten program and progresses to a pilot group of advanced learners that will participate in comprehensive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) training in elementary and middle school. In addition, high school students will have real world experiences in new Biomedical Science and Engineering courses.

Career and college pathways will be enhanced with expanded opportunities to enroll in dual credit / dual enrollment classes and online coursework. Finally, high school students will begin regular ACT preparation using research-based methods of instruction.

Embarking on a cultural renaissance, the Grenada School District will start by increasing student readiness for kindergarten by opening a Pre-K Program where state of the art learning centers and proven learning strategies will challenge students who are learning at a higher academic level. Advanced learners in grades two to six will be engaged in STEM experiences via the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. The elementary educational experience, PLTW Launch, integrates science and math with technology and engineering in student-centered, project-based activities that prepare the students for the more advanced middle school experience. PLTW Gateway in GMS uses coding, robotics, flight, space, and DNA to engage students' natural curiosity and imagination. Creative problem solving, applied to challenges such as crime scene analysis, is at the heart of the PLTW curriculum. The District plans to expand on this program to include more students over the next few years. The PLTW curriculum exposes students to a number of careers – especially careers in medicine and engineering. The District is adding the first of several courses in PLTW Biomedicine and PLTW Engineering at the high school level.

Pathways to college and careers will be strengthened by opportunities for advanced high school students to earn college credit. The District works closely with Holmes Community College and has an impressive number of dual credit / dual enrollment courses as well as online courses available for students who qualify. Additional counseling and support will be given at the middle school and at the high school level to aid students in gaining valuable work skills and in exploration of possible career choices. The addition of ACT preparatory classes will help our District make the possibility of graduation from high school with college credit a reality for an ever-increasing number of students.

To coordinate and oversee this ambitious initiative, the Grenada School District has hired Sherry Worsham to serve as the Director of Innovation in Education. Stating that she feels privileged to be of service to the community, Mrs. Worsham enthusiastically embraces this opportunity to build on the impressive past accomplishments of the award-winning District and to be a partner in improving the quality of education for all students.

In the Classroom and Beyond

GMS math teacher Leigh Ann Melton is the GSD Teacher of the Year



Photo by Lisa Holland

Grenada Middle School Teacher, Leigh Ann Melton chosen as the 2016 GSD Teacher of the Year.

Leigh Ann Melton is a dedicated, tireless and generous educator, one who gives freely of her time and knowledge, consistently inspires her students to excellence and epitomizes cooperation. For these reasons she's earned the honor of 2015-16 Teacher of the Year in the Grenada School District. A 13-year veteran of GSD, Melton was honored by her peers and

administrators May 24, as the District said farewell to retirees and gave staff and faculty their final sendoff for the summer. "Leigh Ann is an absolute professional educator," said Superintendent Dr. Daigneault, as he invited Melton forward to receive her award, amid a standing ovation. "She is committed to performance and the improvement of her students. Grenada School District is proud to have her."

Among her most recent accolades, Melton led the Math Team to a fourth place ranking statewide in the PARCC assessment last year. A Grenada graduate, Melton has poured herself into the job she loves and aptly serves as the department's lead teacher, according to her principal, Lyle Williams. "She is innovative in her methods, creative in her classroom management and caring when addressing the needs of her students," said Williams.

A dedicated wife and mother, Melton extends her lifestyle of service beyond the regular hours and four walls of the classroom. She has lent her expertise to the 21st Cen-

ture Program's tutoring sessions and taught during the extended school year.

Since earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Delta State University as well as her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Mississippi, Melton has continued to bolster her education through development opportunities, demonstrating to her students that learning is a lifelong endeavor. "Mrs. Melton truly represents the ideal Mississippi educator," said Williams. "In every area of consideration, from the classroom to her personal commitments, she exemplifies the very finest in our field."

"I want to thank the District for bestowing this honor on me," said Melton. It was very unexpected. I work with a great group of people at Grenada Middle School. We all work very hard and do everything we can to help the students. I am lucky enough to work with a great team of teachers."

Grenada Middle School Hall of Fame



(Photo left) GMS students selected for the Hall of Fame are (front l to r) Gracie Gustafson, Anna Hurd, Shaunna George, Monaye Woodall, Alexa Simko, Jamya Benson, (back l to r) Cole Dungan, Trace Harlow, Sterlin George, and Elena Chaney.

2016 GSD Retirees Honored



Retirees from the Grenada School District were honored in May with a reception. Staff members honored were: front row, left to right, Dr. Vivian Simmons, 33.75 years of service; Janie Houston, 25 years of service; Sandra Richardson, 33.25 years of service; Inez Jackson, 22 years of service; Kitty McNeer, 27 years of service; Lisa Howell, 20 years of service; middle row, left to right, Debra Tillman, 28.5 years of service; Margaret Wimberley, 35.5 years of service; Debbie Hutchins, 32 years of service; Carol Ciarloni, 30.25 years of service; Mitzie Garner, 34 years of service; Gale Dorroh, 20 years of service; Melanie Jennings, 31.25 years of service; Bonnie Brunt, 40 years of service; Dr. Becky Terry, 36 years of service; Elizabeth Moore, 13.75 years of service; Wanda Ward, 33 years of service; Coach Randy Blaylock, 35 years of service; back row, left to right, Bobby Welch, 10.5 years of service; and Les Tillman, 22.5 years of service. Not pictured: Glenda Branscome, 15 years of service; Dr. Cliff Craven, 31 years of service; Steve Fowler, 34 years of service; Cora Ingram, 32 years of service; Melanie Rutkowski, 25.25 years of service; and Fred Taylor, 29 years of service.