

GHS Promotes ACT Growth



Superintendent's Message
Dr. David Daigneault

Students classified as juniors across the State have been participating in the ACT testing program that contains four multiple-choice tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science. These tests are designed to measure skills learned in high school that are important indicators for success in college. The scores from the ACT are usually used in Mississippi for college entrance qualifications and as a measurement for many scholarships.

The Grenada School District recognizes the importance of ACT scores for our students and has been proactive in providing our students with training to optimize their scores. GHS has been offering an ACT Prep Course before school for juniors, a class that provides strategies for increasing scores by analyzing questions, learning objectives in tested subject matter, and increasing skills in reading graphs and charts.

All GHS classes participate in an activity entitled "bell-ringers", which are mini assignments, about 5 minutes in length, each day to increase skills and knowledge for the ACT Test. Bellringers are implemented after the tardy bell rings and before attendance is recorded, thus maximizing the use of classroom time.

ACT Test preparation objectives have also been incorporated into GHS English and math classes to integrate classroom learning with ACT requirements. Infusing the curriculum with ACT objectives provides the students with vital information for increasing ACT scores.

Students in Mississippi that participated in ACT testing in the spring of 2015 numbered 29,819. The average score for students in our State was 17.6. At GHS, 266 students were administered the ACT, with an average of 18.1, scoring above the State average.

Our District is diligent in providing the optimum skills and environments for our students to be successful on the ACT and in each class at every grade level. We are pleased that our ACT scores are above the State average and we will continue to strive to produce excellence and advancement in our students' performance on the ACT.

Tunes, Talent, and Terror

Visions Show Choir takes audiences on a frightening ride



Photo by Debbie Thomas

(front l to r) Noah Porter, Tripp McCrory, Presley Caldwell, (back l to r) Brianna Shaw, Timmy Herrington, and Anna Gray Neely



Photo by Debbie Thomas

(front l to r) Iyanna Leavy, Savannah Burnett, Peyton Trotter, Jaylon Townsend, (back l to r) Molly Love, and Bailey Muselwhite

By Galen Holley
Reporter

Haunted elevators, pop music, and exhilarating choreography meld into a mystifying, slightly macabre entertainment experience from Grenada High School's show choir, *Visions*.

"Forever Falling," is a disquieting journey back in time, a ticket to the Golden Age of Hollywood. The show, based on the Disney attraction "Tower of Terror," marks the thirtieth anniversary for the forty-member *Visions* group, which got its start performing for the community and by staging seasonal shows, like its annual Christmas extravaganza.

According to Director Jenni Winter, today's incarnation of the show choir is an ideal convergence of ambassadorship, creativity, and good old-fashioned fun. "People see that we work hard and have a good time," said Winter. This is a rewarding and meaningful experience for our students and an enjoyment for the community."

Dark journey

"Forever Falling" opens in the lobby of the ritzy Hollywood Tower Hotel. There, a menacing bellhop, played by Senior Jaylon Townsend, takes particular exception when a ravishing, young starlet, played by Senior Sloane Reid, thwarts his romantic advances. "I play a kooky kind of character," said

Townsend, taking a breather, as he and his cast mates ploughed through a break-neck, mid-January rehearsal session, leading up to competitions. Townsend flashed a kind, almost apologetic smile, the type a father might when removing a scary mask to show his children that it was only he. "I do strange, sinister things," Townsend said, laughing.

When Reid's heroine politely evades the bellhop's starry-eyed overtures, the jilted domestic mysteriously sabotages the elevator, causing it to drift into a preternatural time-out-of-time, namely, *The Twilight Zone*.

As the plot thickens, the choir serenades the audience with a lovely, almost unnerving rendition of "Hotel California" by The Eagles. Along with Reid's character, the audience is tossed about on the seas of weirdness. The performers don formal, evening wear - black dresses for the ladies, smart white dinner jackets for the gentlemen - as they weave an eight-song tapestry of music, including selections as eclectic as Fall Out Boy's modish, virulently infectious "Uma Therman." The music is a mixture of audiotape and the nimble backing of a nine-piece band, comprised mostly of students.

Literary preparation

One is hard pressed to imagine a more fun, raucous era than the show's setting. A time when cinematic icons represented the summit of feminine beauty and the iconic

Hollywood sign pointed the way to the American dream. Reid researched her role and the ribald era in pop culture history by immersing herself in an archetypal story, a saga that is perhaps the greatest, most quintessentially American ever penned, Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. She imbibed the glitz and glamour of Fitzgerald's world, Reid said, the jazzy, laughter-spiced din of dance halls and lavish suppers, the snooty, nasal, condescension-dripping party repartee, and the smoldering, unrequited moan of vaulting ambition.

"It was just a very cool, fascinating period in American history," said Reid, glancing over her shoulder, as Matthew Murphy and Claire Sanford blocked out a few steps and fine-tuned notes with the rest of the cast.

The rehearsal and countless others, as well as time spent under the hot spotlight, served to steel the show choir members, to unite them in a special way, Reid said. "You never know how much you love someone until you spend weeks and months with them in a high-pressure environment, working toward a common goal," said Reid, smiling.

This feels right," she added, gesturing toward the stage, where the evening's rehearsal was about to shift into second gear, this time though, with costumes. "It feels like family," Reid said.

GHS Students Selected for DSU Honor Band



(front l to r) Mollie Searcy, Catheryne Booth, Amber Cummings, (back l to r) Nathan Moss, Dylan Baker, Josh Savage, Jacob Palmer, Dylan Teas, Jordan Holland, Casey Cockerel, and Colton Gray