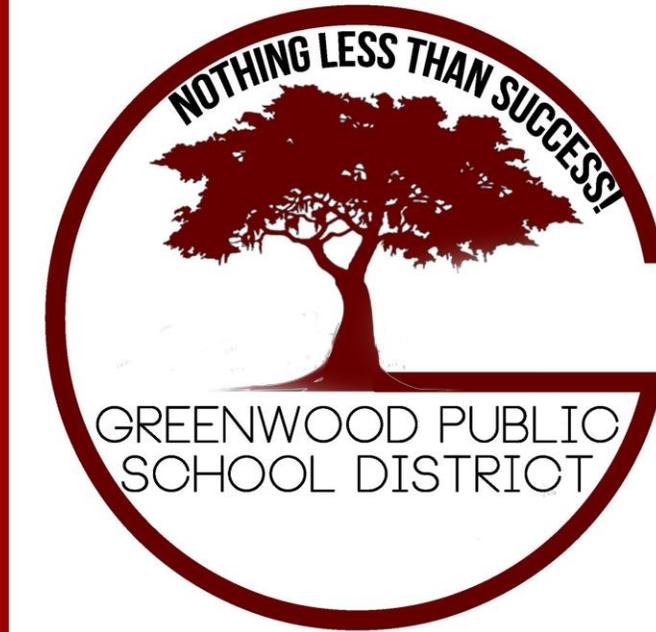


N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R



F
A
L
L

2
0
1
8

District using software, apps to keep parents informed

The Greenwood Public School District has for the past few years a number of software programs, including social media and an automated calling system, to keep parents informed about important events and announcements. This school year, the district is adding a new program and updating an existing one to ensure that parents remain current with how their child is progressing in school.

Parents who attended the Teacher-Parent Conference Day on October 10 were given a username and password to access **Active Parent** (formerly Parent Portal). The software allows parents to view their child's grades, attendance and other valuable information. Parents who did not attend Teacher-Parent Conference Day but who wish to access Active Parent can stop by their child's school, complete a request form and show photo identification to receive the log-in information. A parent must follow these procedures for each child.

To strengthen the partnership between home and school, teachers can now utilize a free safe messaging app- **Remind** - that keeps families up-to-date with what's happening in the classroom. Remind allows teachers to communicate quickly and efficiently by sending text messages to an entire class, small group or individuals. These messages can help parents and students stay informed about homework assignments, field trip updates, schedule changes and other important information.



ActiveParent 3.0
Powered By **CA**

Superintendent's Message

I would like to first thank the more than 1,000 parents who visited our schools during Parent-Teacher Conference Day on Wednesday, Oct. 10. The number of parents who took time out of a busy day is indicative of how involved our parents are with their children's education. The first nine weeks of school are in the books, and I want to encourage parents for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year to continue to be vigilant about their child's academics, attendance, behavior or extracurricular activities.

We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and the school. We know a strong partnership with parents and the community will make a great difference in your child's education, and as partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success.

We look forward to the remainder of the school year and to your continued support of our vision.



i-Ready gets students ready to learn

Parents, if your child comes home bragging about "being ready," that may be because of a new software program the district has implemented in elementary and middle schools that delivers high quality student instruction.

The i-Ready software also offers performance diagnostics and progress reports based in reading and math. i-Ready consists of a suite of four individual tools:

- i-Ready Diagnostic which offers diagnostic assessments in math and reading
- i-Ready online instruction for K-8th grades that target online instruction based on diagnostic
- i-Ready apps which are games that support online instruction; and
- i-Ready Standards Mastery which are mini-standards-based assessments

Students take the reading diagnostic and receive differentiated online instruction according to their ability while individual schools and the district receive customized reports on student performance and progress throughout the year. Immediately following the diagnostic, students work on customized online instruction that includes an interactive lesson, example problems and practice problems by a cast of colorful and diverse online characters. Students earn tokens for completing each lesson, which they can use to play games on the platform. In addition to online lessons, i-Ready has developed a series of drill-based iPad apps to complement online instruction. The apps fit into the lesson storyline and include vocabulary, multiplication and division facts, and abstract math.

TES welcomes grandparents

Threadgill Elementary School recently hosted its first Grandparents Day Program. More than 30 grandparents as well as other relatives attended the event. The students wrote and read about how much their grandparents meant to them. Refreshments were served.



Threadgill Primary producing performers

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! is a phrase normally associated with actors beginning a movie scene. But, these words also elicit funny and sometimes quirky responses from Brandice Brown's performing arts classes at Threadgill Primary School.

Brown, a Spelman College theatre graduate and a first-year teacher, delights in the antics of her 4, 5 and 6-year-olds who showcase their acting abilities. Yet, she is keenly aware that along with the "fun" the students have in class, they are learning valuable lessons that will likely benefit them later in life.

She said her goal for students is to expose them to EVERYTHING under the sun as it relates to performing arts. "I want them to understand how important the arts are to the world and how they are able to become outlets for expression," she said. She also discusses "life lessons." "We always have power talks," Brown said.

Each grade level – pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade- are divided into three groups which allows the students to experience performing arts, physical education and spend time in the library.

So far, the primary school students have learned about African dance and different instruments. They are currently learning improvisation or improv, which is a form of live theatre in which the plot, characters and dialogue of game, scene or story are made up in the moment. The students work with a partner or partners and have to depend on each other to make the dialogue flow smoothly. Brown uses the "trust" method to teach students how to work with their partner.

Brown said she uses the Mississippi Department of Education curriculum to ensure that she is adhering to the state standards, but she also teaches beyond the standards. "I have a feel for my students, so I adjust and may even pull from my college notebooks sometimes," she said.

Being a first-year teacher is a learning experience in itself, but Brown said her inquisitive, energetic and sometimes rambunctious students actually keep her sane. "They are extremely bright. Watching them get over their stage fright is one of the most rewarding feelings ever," she said. "I have the greatest students in the world, and I am at peace with knowing we are both impacting each other's lives daily," she said.



Drama teacher Brandice Brown models "trust" of a partner during an improvisational session with her students.

DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE: GMS students preparing for their future



Yakyla Stasher, left, and Jimidria Harvey

While most seventh graders are adjusting to their first year in middle school, 12-year-old Yakyla Stasher and 13-year-old Jimidria Harvey are preparing for their future.

If recent school assessments are any indication of just how bright their futures will be, the two Greenwood Middle School students will one day have "Dr." associated with their names. Stasher made a perfect score in math on both her four and half weeks and nine weeks assessments; Harvey made a perfect score in math on her four and a half weeks assessment.

Continued on page 4

Dates to Remember

- **November 5-9, 2018-** District Reading Fair (All Schools)
- **November 19-23, 2018-** Thanksgiving Holidays,
- **December 3, 2018-** School level Spelling Bee (5-8th Grades)
- **December 21, 2018-** Christmas Holiday begins (60% Day)
- **January 8, 2019-** Classes Resume
- **January 11, 2019-** School level Science Fair (K-8)
- **January 18, 2019-** GHS Science Fair
- **January 31, 2019-** Greenwood/Leflore County Spelling Bee

UPCOMING HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

GHS: Nov. 13, Nov. 15, Nov. 17, Nov. 20, Nov. 24 (GHS Black Saturday Shootout)

GMS: Nov. 1, Nov. 5, Nov. 7, Nov. 8, Nov. 12

GHS Marching Band rated superior



Congratulations to the GHS Show Band of the Delta for its Superior Rating at the MHSAA contest in Grenada.

Overall rating- Superior; Dance Line- Superior; Color Guard- Superior; Drumline - Excellent



Congratulations to the Volleyball teams on an outstanding season; Jr. Varsity: 12-1 record; Varsity: 13-4 record

Doctors... Continued from page 3

The girls have also begun preparing to take the ACT in December, so they have been in the school computer lab taking online practice tests. "I want to be exposed to taking the test so that I can become familiar with the format," Yakyla said. My goal is to make between 19 and 21 the first time. Jimidria, who has set a target score of 20 for this year, said she knows the ACT requires higher level thinking skills and she wants to be prepared to comprehend better. While both students said they are undecided on which university they will attend, they agree that their dream of becoming doctors revolves around their desire to help people who are in need.