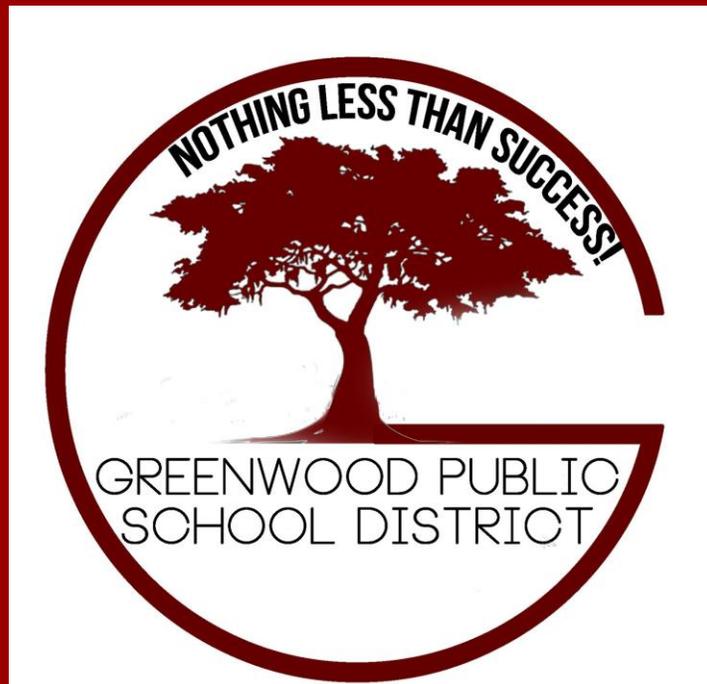


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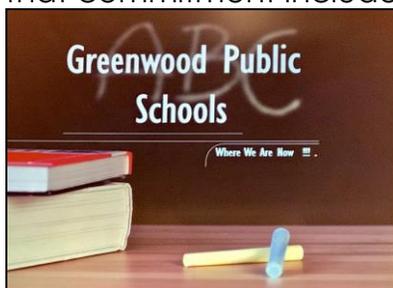
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## GPSD: Where we are heading

Where we are now in terms of academic achievement is important, but where we are heading is equally important, Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson told faculty and staff at the district's first professional development session of 2018. With a little more than two months before students begin statewide testing, Dr. Wilson said it is critical that every hour, minute and second of the day is spent preparing students for success. "The district's vision is to be the best option in the state whereby all students are graduating college and career ready," she said.

During the session, Dr. Wilson and the faculty analyzed student data from the first semester of school and noted areas of improvement and acknowledged areas that still need improvement. She said she is confident that the school district will raise its current accountability rating from a "C" to a "B" as a result of the hard work of faculty and students. She said she needs the faculty's commitment to reach the district's goal, and that commitment includes being at work each day and giving 100 percent.



Dr. Wilson emphasized that schools should not settle for being average. "Success is what we're driving for, success is what we're aiming for and success is what we will achieve," she said. Teachers and staff vowed to work just as hard - if not harder - to ensure that the accountability ratings increase and that every child succeeds.

## Superintendent's Message

As we embrace the beginning of a new year and new beginnings, our mission, vision and focus remain constant: the **MISSION** of the Greenwood Public School District is to improve student achievement so that all students are prepared to compete in a global society; our **VISION** is to become the "Best Option in the State"; and our **FOCUS** is teaching and learning.

With only four months left in the school year, faculty, staff and students are hard at work preparing for state testing.

The Greenwood School Board is also continuing its work on behalf of students and employees. I am happy to share with you several items that the school board recently approved at its January meeting:

- The receipt of a \$50,000 donation from Alliance Health Services of Delaware to the district's Early Learning Collaborative, dedicated to pre-kindergarten education.
- Accepting sealed bids for technology equipment to purchase 10 smartboards.
- The purchase of two new 71-passenger buses.

As always, my door is open and I solicit your comments and suggestions. It is only through collaborative work that includes administrators, teachers, staff, students and parents, that the GPDS will become "the best option in the state."



## GHS English teacher earns National Certification in one year

Greenwood High School English teacher Ja'Net Blackmon comes from a distinguished group of educators, so it wasn't a surprise that she became an educator as well.

It's not even surprising that after graduating from Alcorn State University, Ms. Blackmon returned to her hometown and her high school alma mater to begin her teaching career.

What may have surprised some, except for Ms. Blackmon, was the speed in which she would reach an academic milestone that usually takes others years to achieve – national board certification.

National Board Certification was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education. The certification process requires that teachers demonstrate standards-based evidence of the positive effect they have on student learning in alignment with the four core propositions. The teachers must exhibit a deep understanding of their students, content knowledge, use of data and assessment and teaching practice.

Normally, the process to become board certified takes years to complete but Ms. Blackmon was determined to finish in just one year. But, she says she won't rest on her laurels, and is willing to help any other teacher who wants to achieve the goal of becoming national board certified.



GHS teacher Ja'Net Blackmon earned National Board certification in one year.

# High school Beta Club gets national recognition

The Greenwood High School Beta Club has been named a 2017-2018 National School of Distinction. This award is an honor for Beta Chapters striving towards academic achievement, exemplary character, demonstrated leadership and service to others. With an ongoing quest to instill these qualities in more students, the National Beta School of Distinction Award is designed to award those schools that show an increase in membership for the current school year. GHS received a *National Beta School of Distinction* banner that is proudly displayed as a symbol of the organization's accomplishment. In addition, the Beta Club will be publicized at the 2018 National Beta Convention in Savannah, GA in June.



## After-school program offered at Bankston, Davis and Threadgill Primary

Students at Bankston, Threadgill Primary and Davis elementary schools are being provided after-school academic enrichment opportunities thanks to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant.

The U.S. Department of Education's allocated funds are being used to offer the after-school program, which began after the Christmas break.

The students receive enrichment in core academic subjects such as reading and math. The program also offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement the students' regular academic programs.

Elementary students can attend the program Monday through Thursday from 3:35 p.m.-5:50 p.m. Along with a strong instructional staff, the district also provides snacks and transportation.

The district's other three schools – Threadgill Elementary, Greenwood Middle and Greenwood High schools, are also offering after-school programs using funds allocated through a School Improvement (SIG) grant.



## District implements PBIS

The district is committed to positive behavior in and out of the classroom. To achieve this goal, administrators have implemented a decision-making process known as **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)** which will ensure that all students have access to the most effective instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible.

Continued on p. 4



Head football coach Clinton Gatewood accepting a trophy from the Greenwood City Council after the Council proclaimed Dec. 5 as Bulldog Day. Mr. Gatewood presented the trophy to Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson.

## Dates to Remember

- **February 16-** Third quarter progress reports issued
- **March 9-** End of Third Nine Weeks
- **March 12-16-** Spring Break
- **March 19-** Parent Conference Day (No Students: Report Cards Will Be Issued)
- **March 30-** Good Friday (Schools are closed)
- **April 2-** Easter Monday (Schools are closed)

### POLICY REVISIONS

As of Dec. 20, 2017

AA, AAA, AB, ABA, ABB, ABBA, ABC, ABCA, ABCB, ABCC, ABCDA, ABCDB, ABCF, ABD, AC, ADA, ADB, AE, AEA, AEEA, AEAB, AEBA, AF, AFA, AFC

BAAA, BBB, BCAC, BCAD, BCBA, BCBD, BDE, BJ

CE, CEA, CEB, CEC, CEE, CEI, CGA, CGD, CGM

DJED, EBBABB, GBK, GBOA, ID, IDAG, IH, IIAAA,

Policies can be viewed on the district website at [www.greenwood.k12.ms.us](http://www.greenwood.k12.ms.us)

## Mayes re-elected board president; Milton re-elected board secretary

The Greenwood school board unanimously elected Deirdre Mayes to her third term as board president at its January meeting. The board also unanimously elected Samantha Milton to her second term as board secretary. Ms. Mayes was appointed to the school board in 2016, and Mrs. Milton was appointed in 2015. The three other board members are George Ellis, Jr. Randy Clark and Antwoine Williams.



Deirdre Mayes



Samantha Milton

## Bankston's new leaders

Tara Harris has worked at Bankston for eight years as a teacher, instructional coach and recently, as assistant principal.



Chiqueta Daniels has served as Principal at Greenwood Middle School and most recently, as the district science coordinator.

### PBIS continued from p. 3

PBIS helps behavior in a number of ways, including identifying appropriate school-wide expectations and rules; developing a system to teach students appropriate behavior; generating a reinforcement system that increases the likelihood that students will exhibit the expected behavior, and establishing a communication system among staff, students and families.

PBIS is supported by Realizing Excellence for All Children in Mississippi (REACH MS) which is Mississippi's State Personnel Grant which focuses primarily on supporting school-wide and district-wide implementation of (PBIS) at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.