



New diploma options for incoming freshmen

To The Class of 2022: You now have options:

Parents and guardians of Greenwood Public School District incoming freshmen were on hand at the middle school for an information meeting regarding the new **Mississippi diploma options** recently approved by the Mississippi Department of Education. Parents met with Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson and middle and high school administrators and counselors on April 23 and May 1 at GMS.

Parents were asked to discuss the options with their children before counselors begin working on the new class schedules. A parent signature is required before any schedule is approved and schedules must be complete before students transition to Greenwood High School for the 2018-2019 school year. The two diploma options are:

- ❖ **Traditional Diploma Option (for all students)**
- ❖ **Alternate Diploma Option (an option for students with a significant cognitive disability (SCD)).**

Students choosing the Traditional Diploma Option will have to select one of three endorsements:

- ❖ **Career and Technical Endorsement-** which includes earning 26 Carnegie Units (credits) (2 more than what is currently required). Student must earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- ❖ **Academic Endorsement-** which includes earning 26 Carnegie Units (credits) (2 more than what is currently required); 7 ½ electives (2 more than what is currently required). Student must earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- ❖ **Distinguished Endorsement-** Includes earning 28 Carnegie Units (credits) (4 more than what is currently required and 8 electives (2 ½ more than what is currently required). Students must also earn an overall GPA of 3.0.

GMS Counselor Raven Ray talks to parents and students about the diploma options.



Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Stakeholders:

As you most likely are aware, our third graders have completed the Third Grade Summative (GATE) assessment. Some of our students are taking tests this week and others will soon be administered their state tests in English Language Arts, Reading, Science, Math and History for high school juniors.

WE ARE READY!!!

The work that has been done up to this point- from the students and teachers in the classroom, to the administration at the school level to the support staff at Central Office to you, parents and guardians at home- will pay off in the end because we are determined that every child will improve academically and will graduate college and career ready.

We are optimistic that each school will improve its accountability rating and that the district will, for the second consecutive year, be a **SUCCESSFUL** school district.

Please continue to support the district's efforts. As the majority of our students prepare for the upcoming assessments, continue to encourage them to do their very best. Make sure your child comes to school each day of testing and make sure he/she gets a good night's rest.

I appreciate your continued support, and I wish each of you a happy and enjoyable summer!



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The required courses for each endorsement basically remain the same with students needing four (4) Carnegie units in English and math. Students choosing the Career and Technical endorsement will need 3 ½ units in science; 3 science units for the academic endorsement; and four science units for the distinguished academic endorsement. The CTC and academic endorsements require 3 ½ units in social studies while the distinguished endorsement requires four units. Each endorsement also requires students take a College and Career Readiness course their junior or senior year.

Along with courses housed at GHS, four courses are currently offered at the CTC: business management technology, construction, culinary arts and career pathway experience. Dr. Wilson said four other courses are being proposed, including industrial management, digital media, law and public safety, and a Techer Academy.

Parents were given an opportunity to ask questions after the meeting and were told to follow up with the school's administrators or counselors if they had additional questions.

HEY KIDS!!
Join Us For
FREE SUMMER MEALS!
Available to all kids 18 years and younger!

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Place:
Bankston, Davis, Threadgill Primary, Threadgill Elementary and Greenwood Middle

Dates: June 4-June 28

Meals & Times: Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

For more information, contact 662-644-0660.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Jaylin Smith is GHS's STAR Student for 2017-2018

Ja'Net Blackmon chosen STAR Teacher

It is little surprise to anyone who knows Jaylin Smith that she has achieved another milestone in her young life. An orator, poet, writer, Superintendent's scholar and leader, Jaylin is also Greenwood High School's 2017-2018 STAR student. She scored a 27 on the ACT and has a grade point average of 4.5.

Jaylin chose as her STAR teacher, Ms. Ja'Net Blackmon, an English teacher who earned her National Board certification in one year. They, along with other STAR students and teachers from around the state, were recently honored at a Mississippi Economic Council awards ceremony in Jackson.

Jaylin, 18, has received numerous awards and honors during her high school years and has participated in local and state organizations.

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STAR Student Jaylin Stanley, left, and STAR Teacher Ja'Net Blackmon.

DISTRICT TESTING DATES

GPSD third graders were administered the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment on Tuesday, April 24. Third grade retesting is scheduled for May 14-18 and June 25.

Elementary Assessment Dates:
(Each school has specific testing dates during this period)

May 1-18 Science
May 7-18 English/Math
Until May 18- Algebra

GMS Assessment Dates:
May 1 8th grade Science
May 8-9 English
May 10-11 Math

GHS Assessment Dates:
May 8- ACT
May 8-9 Algebra
May 10-11 English II
May 15- Biology
May 16 U.S. History

GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Approximately 145 Greenwood High School seniors will receive their diploma during commencement exercises on Friday, May 25, at the Leflore County Civic Center. The event begins at 7 p.m. GHS administrators are asking that the public come early. Once the procession begins, entry into the arena will not be granted until all graduates are seated.

Greenwood Leflore Early Learning Collaborative



Pre-Kindergarten Program
Greenwood Public School District
Mississippi Action for Progress (Gilliam Head Start Center)

The Collaborative is now accepting applications for the Pre-Kindergarten Program.

Applications can be picked up at the GPSD Central Office, 401 Howard Street and Gilliam Head Start Center, 100 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions, please contact the GPSD Central Office at 662-453-4231 or Gilliam Head Start Center at 662-453-5442.

Limited space is available.

Threadgill Primary fathers, grandfathers, community actively involved in promoting success of students, school

Threadgill Primary School's (TPS) "Million Father March Initiative" has been a complete success this school term as dozens of fathers, grandfathers and community members have shown up and shown out on behalf of their children and all the children in pre-kindergarten through first grade.

Parent Center coordinator Elnora Collins, who spearheads the initiative, says the initiative is a nation-wide effort to engage and empower all fathers, grandfathers, guardians and other male community members to become more committed and active in a student's life- whether it's educational or social development or any other areas that help mold young minds. "The positive involvement of fathers and other male in the school has a significant effect on children, which has resulted in improved academics and fewer behavior problems," Mrs. Collins said.

The Center has hosted three meetings this year- all of which have been well attended. The first meeting drew more than 100 men. The final meeting of the year, held in March, had as its topic: "Empowering and Engaging Men and Male Role Models for Student Success." The guest speaker was Minister Joe McCall.

Mrs. Collins said the "Million Father March Initiative" campaign usually begins the first day of year when fathers show their support by accompanying their children to school and assisting other students. She plans for this to be an ongoing effort and hopes that fathers will be even more active and committed to the educational success of their children.

TPS Principal Dawn Stamps-West is an advocate for the Million Father March Initiative and is very instrumental in it being a resource for the Threadgill fathers, Mrs. Collins said.

Fathers, grandfathers and community members who have been actively engaged in planning meetings, providing guidance and promoting the success of the initiative includes Lavoris Weathers, Cedric Martin, Sr., Willie Dickson, Sr., Derrick Quarles, David Blackmon, the Rev. Terry Williams, the Rev. Jonathan Hopkins, the Rev. Dennis Russell, the Rev. Dr. Calvin E. Collins, Carl Winters, Charles Carter, Jr., Dr. William Ware and Bill Clay. TPS Counselor Natalie Waterman also assisted in planning the meetings. And, members of the Million Men Initiative came out to clean the school's playground. When the men aren't attending a specific Million Men Initiative meeting, you can find many of them at the school's regular monthly parent meeting where Mrs. Collins has invited special guests like Rev. Joe McCall, who spoke on healthy relationships. GPSD Pre-K-1st Grade coordinator Shemica Pitts has also spoken on data expectations and parent strategies for student success.

"Carl Winters, a member of the initiative, said he joins Mrs. Collins in encouraging fathers, grandfathers and males in the community to come out and be a part of the group so that Threadgill Primary will be the 'best option' and that all students will have the opportunity to become successful.



Pictured with Rev. Joe McCall, center, is Lavoris Weathers, left, and Donterious Williams Sr.

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She has served as the 4-H State Ambassador and Northwest Region vice president and 2017 Magnolia Girls State Governor. She has won first place in district and regional science fairs; first place in public speaking at the 4-H Congress; named Rotary Club Student of the Month; received the YELL Leadership Impact Award; named the U.S. Congressional Student of the Month; and has received awards in English, geometry, world history, biology, U.S. History and Dual Enrollment.

Jaylin says she chose Ms. Blackmon as her STAR teacher because Ms. Blackmon challenged her to be a better student both socially and academically. "She disregarded the self-image I had of myself, and she pushed me to be a better, brighter Jaylin."

Jaylin, the daughter of Angela Smith and granddaughter of Josephine Smith, plans to attend Tougaloo College and major in mass communications with a minor in computer science. She aspires to be a public relations director.