



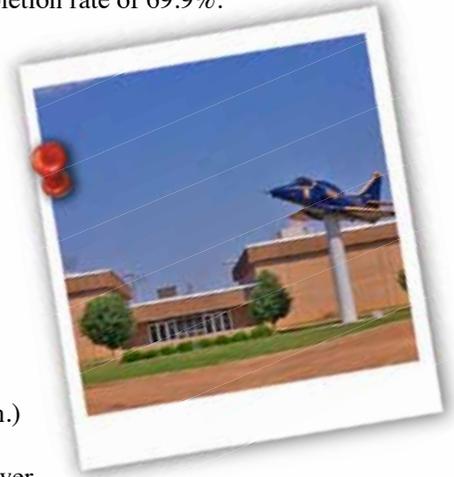
Communicator

December 2009

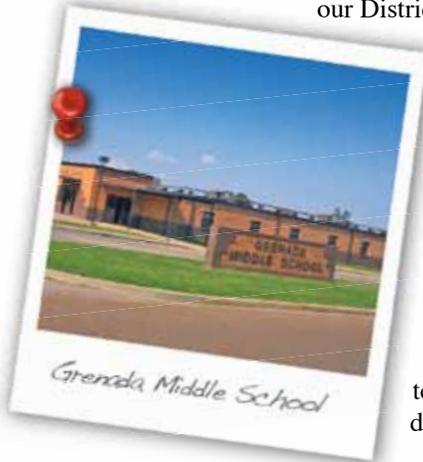
Children First Annual Report to be Distributed

In compliance with the *Children First Act of 2009* (Senate Bill 2628), the GSD will be distributing the required annual report which includes general information, testing and achievement data, and budget information about our District. The complete report will be published in *The Daily Star*, will be available at the office of each school and Central Office, and will be posted on our website. (<http://www.gsd.k12.ms.us>)

The most notable achievement is the improved GSD graduation rate of 59.4% and the completion rate of 69.9%. (This figure includes GED recipients.) These statistics reflect a 12.9% improvement of the completion rate over the last three years. This improvement reflects the results of many strategies and programs implemented to address drop-out prevention. The completion rate is expected to rise as the implementation of these programs impacts more and more students as they approach high school and graduation. Director of Community Services Lynne Russell says, "We strive for students to be motivated to stay in school and to be prepared for today's workforce, and have therefore provided opportunities for our students to address these issues."



The 2009 State Accountability Label defines Grenada School District as "Successful" and our District as "Accredited." Grenada High School and Grenada Middle School were specifically described as "Successful" by the Accountability Label. (Lower elementary students were not part of the designation.)

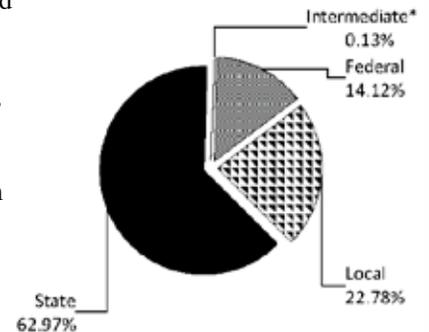


The GSD millage rate of 38.07 is significantly lower than the Mississippi average of 42.73. Our successful educational outcomes are derived from a per pupil expenditure of \$7,655, which is much lower than the State average of \$8,737. Grenada receives only 22.78% of its annual budget from local sources, 62.97% from the State, and 14.12% from Federal sources.

Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault states, "Our teachers and administrators are proud of the Successful designation for our District and for Grenada High School and Grenada Middle School.

In the midst of economic difficulties and budget cuts, our District continues to provide instructional excellence, offering the optimum educational experience for our students."

Revenue Sources



Millage and Assessed Valuation

	This District	Mississippi
Operational Millage Rate	38.07	42.73
Debt Service Millage Rate	3.44	4.09
Net Ad Valorem Requested	\$6,265,779	
Assessed Valuation	\$179,255,351	

Estimated Per Pupil Expenditures

	This District	Mississippi
Local	\$1,744	\$2,476
State	\$4,820	\$4,827
Federal	\$1,081	\$1,431
Intermediate ³	\$10	\$3
Total	\$7,655	\$8,737

View past issues of the newsletter and/or receive the *Communicator* newsletter automatically each month in color via email by registering at : <http://www.gsd.k12.ms.us/newslettersignup2.html>



Making pasta with community volunteer Tricia Shankle was a favorite activity in the Grandparents' Day festivities in Grenada Elementary's Kidzeum.



Stuffee celebrates Grandparents' Day- Visiting with Stuffee, the Kidzeum's own Christmas elf, was an important stop during the Grandparents' Day events. When not functioning as Santa's stand-in, the nine-foot tall doll instructs students about the functions of the organs of the body-the children can even take his pulse and hear a heartbeat!

Kidzeum Hosts Grandparents' Day

Grenada Elementary's Kidzeum, the first school-based children's museum in the US, was the site of visits by scores of grandparents and grandchildren as they toured the Kidzeum and participated in first-hand experiences in the authentic settings of a grocery store, a bank, a kitchen, and various exhibits. Enjoying cookies, making pasta, visiting with Stuffee, and partici-

pating in the hands-on exhibits, the grandparents experienced how the Kidzeum encourages children's natural curiosity and promotes exploration of interesting subjects and materials. Grandparents' Day was an exciting day for all participants as the interactive exhibits encouraged both young and older learners to pose questions, search for answers, and work out solutions.



Upper Elementary presents play...

The GUES music department presented their Christmas theatrical performance, *A Christmas Carol*. In the spring, the department will perform another familiar children's classic.