



Targeting the Effectiveness of Instruction

Academic improvement is a primary area of focus for the teachers and administrators of the Grenada School District. Implementing the most effective strategies for the delivery of instruction has been one of the major components of this initiative.

Collaboration with education experts from the Excellence Group, comprised of former principals and exemplary teachers, has provided cutting edge techniques for our teachers in improving instruction. Assisting teachers to implement the most effective delivery instruction methods to target student learning styles has improved student learning and standardized test scores.

Impressive gains in test scores have been achieved in many class-

rooms. One of these exemplary teachers is Karma Simmons at Grenada Middle School. "The success of Mrs. Simmons' students on the state test is an excellent example of the academic achievement which we are realizing at Grenada Middle School," says GMS Principal Tim Wilder.

Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault states, "The delivery of instruction is most effective when correlated with the specific learning styles of the students. Using the appropriate and most relevant method of teaching determines the quality and quantity of student retention of the instructional objectives. Our teachers are learning different ways of approaching instruction to accommodate the learning styles of our children."



GMS teacher Karma Simmons uses the overhead projector to emphasize curriculum objectives for her students.

Grenada Podcasting Classes Showcased at MECA Convention

A group of Grenada School District teachers, administrators, and technical personnel recently attended the annual Mississippi Educational Computing Association (MECA) conference held in Jackson, Mississippi. The conference focused on integrating technology into the current educational system.

The Grenada School District not only attended classes this year, but was also a featured presenter at the conference. Lynne Russell and co-presenter Jerome Gilmer presented the program, *Creative Podcasting for At-Risk Students*, describing the GHS

Podcasting class that is part of the 21st Century Learning Quilt grant.

The Podcasting class uses state-of-the-art computer, video, and audio equipment to engage at-risk students in activities that help improve their core curriculum skills. In the class, students improve their English language proficiency by writing scripts, proofreading and correcting, and then recording the finished project in a fully equipped sound studio. According to Lynne Russell, Podcasting Instructor, "Podcasting requires students to develop an audio-video project using images, music, and their own personally written

and recorded script. Students are encouraged to write about a subject that interests them – and they have written about anything from photography to family. At first students are reluctant to write more information than absolutely necessary, but as they expand their projects over time, students develop a desire to add more information to their story – thus improving their English skills and dismissing any negative feelings they may have about writing."

Jerome Gilmer, Audio Consultant, stated, "Podcasting gives these students the opportunity to say *Grenada Podcasting continued on page 2*

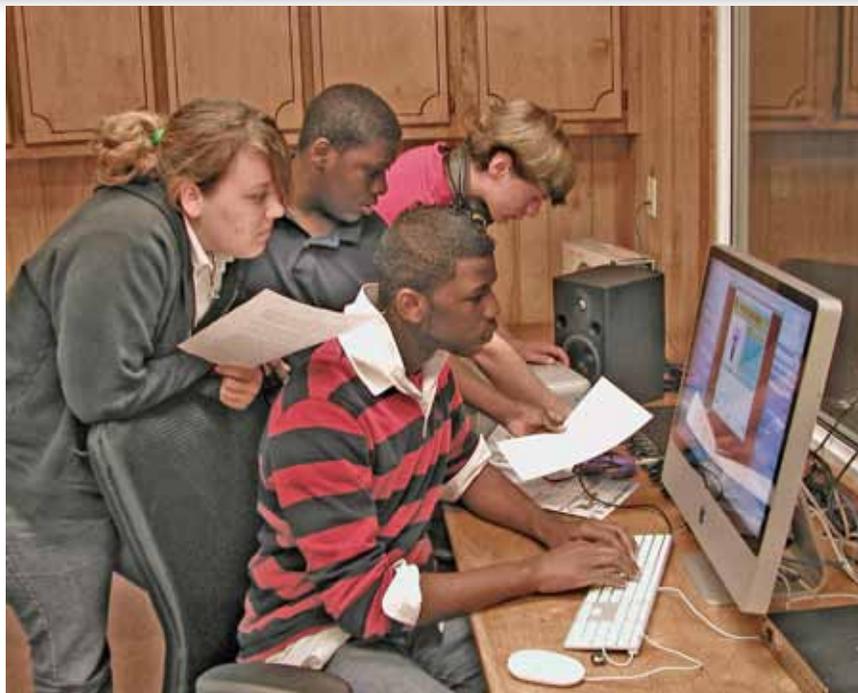
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what they really feel and to share those feelings with the world. Some of these students may never have had the chance to voice their opinions on any subject – much less one of their own choosing. The power to voice your opinions to the world can empower even the most tentative individuals.”

During the presentation, participants heard the origins of the 21st Century grant project at GHS, learned the basics of Garage Band, the software used to create the podcasts, and also viewed a podcast created by a GHS student. More information about podcasting and podcasts created by GHS students, can be found at www.grenadapodcasting.com.



Book Author Visits Grenada Elementary

In celebration of Read Across America and the 106th Birthday of Dr. Seuss, Grenada Elementary School hosted a visit by children’s book author David M. Sargent, Jr. He spoke to the students, sharing his experiences of being a responsible dog lover and the path he followed to become an author. Using their love for animals as a basis for plot development, Sargeant encouraged the children to try story writing. His four dogs, characters in his books in *The Doggie Tails Series*, also attended and participated in his presentation. The children had the opportunity to speak with the author, purchase the selection of their choice, and have their titles autographed.



Children’s Book Author David Sargent, Jr. left, discusses his books with student David Morgan. Spike, the central character in several of the books, is ready to receive any friendly pats from fans.