



## GSD Responds to State Budget Cuts

The Grenada School District has been forced to decrease the District 2010-11 budget by \$1.8 million due to the reductions in funding from the State MAEP (Minimum Adequate Education Program.) Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault states, "Difficult decisions have been made and are continuing to be made to ensure the financial solvency of our District. We must prudently prepare for the reductions in the State funds. All of the reductions that are being implemented have been carefully studied to reduce negative educational impact upon our students. Over 110 employees are affected by these cuts, including reductions in staff, decrease in extended day contracts, and voluntary reductions in salary by the administrative team."

GSD has responded to State budget cuts with the following:

- Reduction of 27 assistant teachers
- Reduction of 17 certified staff including athletics, band, and ROTC, encompassing retirements, relocations, and reductions in force
- Reductions in extended day contracts
- Elimination of driver's education program, drama program, and the lead teacher program
- Reductions in security, custodial services, and secretarial services
- Limits out-of-district travel to essential trips
- Increase in class sizes
- School and program budgets reduced including athletics, band, and visions by percentages of 30-40%

- Schools and central office will be completely closed during the week of July 5-9, except for essential staff
- Administrators will receive reduction in salaries. All administrators, including superintendent, business manager, administrative assistant, principals, and assistant principals are taking a voluntary leave during the week in July that schools are closed and will receive a reduction in salary to compensate for these days of closure.

The Mississippi State Department of Education is recommending that districts reduce the budget (the June 2009 allocation) by 12-15%, which could possibly reduce Grenada's MAEP funding up to 2.5 million dollars each year. The State is projecting budget shortfalls for at least 2-3 more years.

The exact funding level from the State is currently unknown. The GSD is working to implement the best fiscal decisions possible with the information available. However, even after the budget has been set, as we have seen last year, the Governor has the authority to reduce the budget after contracts have been issued. Two bills have been introduced into the legislature that could affect funding. Stimulus funds may also be received. However, the impact of these issues will only be available at a later date.

Dr. Daigneault says, "The GSD regrets the impact of the budget cuts upon our faculty and staff and the effects that

these reductions will have upon our students and community. However, we have been forced to implement these reductions in response to the projected State MAEP cuts. The School District budget reductions of \$1.8 million dollars have been extremely difficult and painful, but we have had no alternatives to ensure the financial well-being of the District. The GSD will continue to educate our students effectively. We will perform our duties and teach our students in the best possible manner in these difficult economic circumstances, despite over 1.8 million dollars in cuts in our budget."

## Superintendent Statement

In response to the reaction of the publication of the top salaries of the Grenada School District employees, I wish to say that teachers and administrators deserve to be paid appropriately. Salaries are set by the State of Mississippi with increments added for additional degrees, additional responsibility, and years of experience. If others are jealous of these salaries, they may enroll in the excellent classes at Holmes Community College leading to a teaching degree and come and join us at GSD. However, to reach the top salaries, one must usually work 30 years, have multiple advanced degrees, and/or have passed National Boards to receive an extra bonus from the State.

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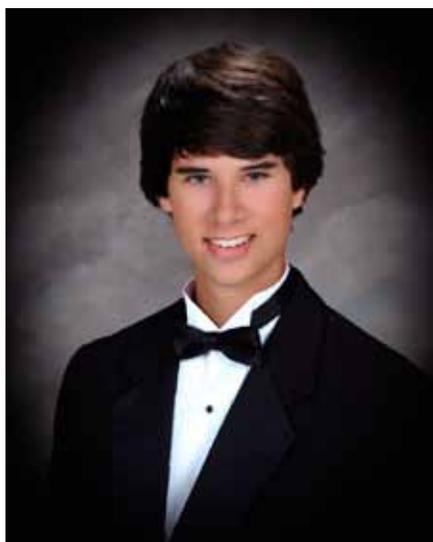
## GSD Graduates Record Number of 256 Students

Grenada School District's Graduation Ceremonies on Friday, May 21 will have a few more chairs to contain the record number of students graduating from Grenada High. This year's graduating class will be 256 students, up from the 2009 total of 251 and the 2008 total of 219. This improvement reflects the results of many strategies and programs implemented to address drop-out prevention. The completion rate is expected to continue 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."

To address Mississippi's dropout problem, the Grenada School District has developed strategies to fight the dropout rate in our community with a Dropout Prevention Plan designed to increase school attendance and prepare a qualified workforce. "The Dropout Prevention Plan addresses the needs of students from elementary to high school and maintains a goal of developing new perspectives for students concerning the value of education," said Superintendent Dr. David Daignault. "Our Dropout Prevention Program provides students and parents with options and solutions to lower the dropout rate in our community. We have received enthusiastic community support of the Dropout Prevention Program and we anticipate further improvements for the future of our children and our community." Principal Jerry Williams states, "We are proud of our record number of 256 graduates and the positive outcome of the hard work of our faculty and staff."

### Strategies incorporated into the Dropout Prevention Plan include:

- Extended School Year option for grades 2-12
- Challenge Program for middle school students
- GED Skills/Classes
- Tie Plant GED Program
- Relocated and expanded Parent Center with computers and Internet access
- 21st Century After School Tutoring and Skills Classes
- Establishment of Department Chairpersons to focus on curriculum implementation
- K-8 tutoring by AmeriCorps



Valedictorian Evan Ciarloni  
GPA-99.9804



Salutatorian Miriam Creswell-  
GPA-99.9479

In good weather, Graduation Ceremonies will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Stadium. If it rains, Graduation Ceremonies will take place in the GHS Auditorium with students A- C. Martin at 7:00 p.m. and students R. Martin -Z at 9:00 p.m. All graduates will receive 6 tickets for seats in the Auditorium.