



GUES Receives Gold Award from Healthier US School Challenge

The Grenada Upper Elementary School is making national news by receiving a Gold Award for their work supporting and improving the health of our children and our community. The award, given by the Healthier US School Challenge, recognized GUES for their efforts in featuring healthy items on their menus, having a school wellness policy, and emphasizing physical education and activity. GUES went above and beyond the minimum requirements to qualify for the award, which was presented by two Washington officials, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Dr. Janey Thornton and U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Administrator for the Southeast Donald Arnette. The presentation took place on November 2 at 9:45 a.m. at GUES.

To qualify for the award, GUES submitted a formal application and met criteria set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Healthier US School Challenge (HUSCC), a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The criteria reflect the recommendation of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published recommendations (April 2007).

The Healthier US School Challenge supports the *Let's Move* campaign by recognizing schools that are creating healthier school environments through their promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. The initiative encourages all schools to take a leadership role in helping students to make healthier eating and physical activity choices that will last a lifetime. Part of the criteria included changes to the school nutrition environment which encompassed: (1) improving the quality of the foods served, (2) providing students with nutrition education, and (3) providing students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

GSD School Nutrition Director Rita Bonner spearheaded the HUSCC application process. She states, "Special recognition also goes to GUES Cafeteria Manager Dianne Morgan for all of her assistance and to the nutrition staff for their efforts in achieving school lunch changes leading to the HUSCC Gold award."

Grenada Food Pantry Receives 5 tons of Donations

The Grenada AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps programs worked together to exceed their goal of a ton of canned food donations with the receipt of 5 tons, or 10,000 pounds of food donations. The initiative was part of a national service program, *Make a Difference Day*. AmeriCorps VISTA Gerry Morris states, "Dynamite Kirk and Kirk Auto Company donated a ton of food by themselves and kicked off the whole event...There were just so many donations from all of the churches, businesses and schools that helped us meet our goal."

AmeriCorps Director Pamela Hubbard says, "Our community's widespread response to our *Make a Difference Day* initiative has certainly helped the Grenada Food Pantry during this time of lean resources. The overwhelming reaction of Grenada in this request for help for our needy citizens has indicated the caring spirit of our town. Many thanks to our generous donors for helping us exceed our goal."

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<http://www.gsd.k12.ms.us/newslettersignup2.html>

Grant Received from Dollar General

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Grenada Elementary School Library to strengthen and promote literacy efforts. The grant, written by Technology Director Michael Liberto, will enable the Library to purchase NEO II laptops to facilitate testing of student comprehension in the students' reading of Accelerated Reader books. These laptops will be used by the students to input their answers for Accelerated Reader tests. This method of testing will enable students to receive immediate feedback concerning the accuracy of their responses to the AR test questions and, therefore, enable optimum learning from the Accelerated Reader quizzes.

The new lab consists of 30 NEO2 wireless laptops loaded with software for word processing and Accelerated Reader assessment. Lynne Marascalco, GES Media Specialist, plans to use the laptops to aid students in their participation in the Accelerated Reader program. The laptops will allow students to take tests on books they have read as well as encourage them to read more. Students can also practice math and learn word processing using the small, personal computers.

Lynne Marascalco states, "With the NEO lab, all students in the class will be able to test at the same time rather than sharing a single computer over several days. This will allow for

faster turn-around time which, in turn, will allow students to be able to read more books. Our school has 64 classrooms with over 1,400 K-3 students. The children are highly motivated to read and participate in our Accelerated Reader program. Because of our large number of students, the taking of AR tests has been limited due to the low number of accessible computers in the classrooms and in the library. The NEO laptop lab solves this limitation."

The 30 portable NEO laptops are part of a mobile cart, therefore, it can be assigned and rolled to classrooms for use in taking AR tests, word processing, and other skills. The computers possess the 2Know! Wireless Instant Assessment feature that allows students to instantly answer teachers' questions. When students answer, the response is sent wirelessly to a computer and can be privately viewed by the teacher, or projected on a wall or white board for instant class feedback. The software displays the total number of correct responses and incorrect responses, but does not display individual student answers. After confirmation of the correct answer by the teacher, students and teachers can distinguish how many participants comprehend the information and how many do not. This allows teachers instant verification of the class's grasp of a concept. They can then choose the option of immediately re-teaching material that the majority of students don't understand or moving on to new material.

Participation in the Accelerated Reader program has provided students with opportunities for recognition for their reading achievements. By reading books, taking tests about these books, and accumulating and earning certificates, students receive recognition at award assemblies during the school year.

Children First Annual Report Available

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

The 2010 State Accountability Label defines Grenada School District as "Successful" and our District as "Accredited." Grenada High School and Grenada Upper Elementary School were specifically described as "Successful" by the Accountability Label and Grenada Middle School is designated as "High Performing." (Lower elementary students are not part of the designation.)