

The Hawk

Holly Springs, Mississippi

Fall-Winter 2024-25

District Newsletter



'A unified effort'



Members of the Holly Springs School District leadership team are (front, from left) Director Susie Brown, Principal Vikki Marion, Assistant Superintendent Eileen Dowsing, Superintendent Irene Walton Turnage, Principal Casshaunda Davis, Principal Tannya Sanders, and Principal Cravin Turnage; (back, from left) Coordinator Laverne Sanders, Director Karin Autry, Lead Teacher Tywana Hunt, Director LeTashia White, Coordinator Sherna Jones, Lead Teacher Terrica Crawford, Assistant Principal Laketia Petty, Lead Teacher Maurica Sims, and Assistant Principal Jorgell Jones.

School district makes history again with A-Rating

Last year when the Holly Springs School District obtained a B-Rating and high performing status for the first time in history, the district celebrated. The possibility of obtaining an A-Rating was also discussed.

"Some think an A-Rating is impossible, but those of us who truly believe know that it can be done," said Irene Walton Turnage, superintendent of education.

This year, the results from the Mississippi Department of Education's Accountability Ratings show the Holly Springs School District obtained that A-Rating for the first time in history.

"The A-Rating is a result of a unified effort from school board members, district and school leaders, teachers and staff, parents, community, and most of all, our students," Turnage said. "There is still a lot of good work to do, but we believe we have found the secret to success: the more we all work together, the better our schools and district perform."



School board honored

Holly Springs School Board members were recognized as part of their December 10 meeting for their service and dedication in helping the Holly Springs School District achieve its first-ever A-Rating from the Mississippi Department of Education. “Behind every A-District is an A-Rated School Board,” said superintendent of education Dr. Irene Walton Turnage. “All of you are always supporting and caring, and striving to do what is best for our children. We appreciate each of you.” A dinner was also held in honor of the school board following the meeting. Members of the Holly Springs School District Board of Trustees are (from left) Ejeera Dukes, Dr. Gemma Beckley, Lemon Phelps, Charisse Harris and Kim Mayfield.



Central Office staff recognized

Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of education, honored Holly Springs School District Central Office team members for their “valuable and essential part” in the district attaining a first-ever A-Rating from the Mississippi Department of Education. “It’s a unified effort, and we appreciate each of you,” she said. In front, from left, are Frederick Prowell, Florence Wilson, Kimosheia Rucker, Tennys Mayfield and Latoya Tallie. In back, same order, are Barry Burleson, Joseph Selman, Melissa Hunt, Brian Mullinix, LeTashia White and Karin Autry. Not pictured are Anthony Johnson and Xavier Ware.

The Power of Teamwork in our schools

*A message from Dr. Irene Walton Turnage,
Superintendent of Education*



After being a successful school district for many years, the Holly Springs School District rose to an A-Rated School District for the first time in history this year. Although it sounds wonderful each time we hear it, we are humbled more and more each time it is said or written.

Education is a beautiful and rewarding profession. To make an impact in the lives of children and to have them make the same or higher impact on our lives is something that cannot really be measured or quantified. Without a doubt, being an educator is one of the most powerful professions that exist!

Education also has many challenges. Today’s academic standards that have to be mastered are higher than they have ever been. Students must be a certain reading proficiency level to move to fourth grade, and students must meet some type of exit criteria to graduate. Additionally, we want our students to be more than just good test takers. We want them to have good character and be well rounded, prepared for whatever career they choose, and contributing successful citizens who can take care of their families.

As the District has achieved and maintained high performance status, there is one thing that has become very clear. Educating students is not a job that any one group can do alone. Student achievement is a shared responsibility that must be completed by students, parents, community, and school and district staff or as we call it, the village. Through the Power of Teamwork, our students receive the support they need to excel in our global community. They learn that challenges are going to exist, but even more important, they learn how overcome those challenges by working together.

The A-Rating achieved by the school district is a testament to the Power of Teamwork and is a win for students, parents, community, school board members and district and school staff. The district would like to take this time to thank each member of the team. The more we all work together, the better our district and schools perform.

The newsletter is dedicated to the teamwork that helps our schools and district kick off a great school year!



Holly Springs Primary School staff with awards (A-Rated school for first-time ever)

School district celebrates A-Rating

The Holly Springs School District held the first of multiple celebrations Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 15, in connection with its first-ever A-Rating from the Mississippi Department of Education.

District leaders, teachers and staff gathered at the Intermediate School gymnasium to wrap a full day of professional development.

Superintendent of education Dr. Irene Walton Turnage asked all staff to “get up and give yourselves a standing ovation.”

“You deserve it,” she said. “This is not just an accomplishment; it is a huge accomplishment. We are being recognized all over the state for our work. The Holly Springs School District could not be where it is without you.

See CELEBRATION on page 4



Holly Springs High School special recognitions

‘Give yourselves a standing ovation. You deserve it.’

- Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, Superintendent



Holly Springs Primary School special recognitions



Holly Springs Career and Technical Center special recognitions



Holly Springs Intermediate School special recognitions



Holly Springs Junior High School special recognitions

Celebration

Continued from page 3

“Are we finished? No. Do we still have challenges to meet? Yes. But, we have the people in this room who are smart enough to figure out ways to overcome any challenge we face. We’ve come a long way, and we have a great story to tell.”

Turnage also urged all district employees to continue to work together as a team and strive to be even better.

“The hardest work is to keep the A-Rating as a district, but we know we can do it,” she said. “We have everyone and everything we need to take all of our schools to A-Ratings by this time next year.”

Each employee of the district was recognized with an A-Rating plaque in appreciation of his or her hard work and dedication.

In addition, administrators, teachers and support staff who made significant contributions by reaching or exceeding their goals related to the district’s overall growth and A-Rating were honored.



Holly Springs High School



Holly Springs Intermediate School



Holly Springs Junior High School



Holly Springs Career and Technical Center



Third Grade (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced on 2024 State Tests

(Back row) Rosylen Walls, Joshua Jones, Ashton Guins, Kenney Robinson, Nadira Logan, Peyton Thomas; (middle row) SuhMary Evans, Abel Davis, Laila Muhammad, Kaylee McFadden, Jakhari Johnson, Chandler Pitts, Janella Bates, SLayla Coleman, Kaiya Moss, Journee Crawford; (on knees) Alayna Jones, Skylar Smith, Madisyn Johnson, Tashayla Washington, Isaiah Martin, TraLiyah Kirkwood, Serenity Scales, JaisLeigh Brisco, JaMiracle Lane, Shaniah Isom; (sitting) Bella Turner, Takarree Lewis, Caileb Harden, Loyalty Jones, Tyllan Brown, Andre Rankins, Kylilee Bowen, Octavis Bowen, JaCarrion Gunn, Daniel Woodson; (not pictured) Alyssa Manning.



Fourth Grade (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced on 2024 State Tests

(Back row) Kaleb Alexander, Bobby Harris, Julian Johnson, Kevin Scott, Samuel Swopshire, Rwa Alhalemi, Zakiyah Farrow, Tracy Hampton, Aiden Anderson; (middle row) JaCali Cowan, Arryn Wilkins, Kirsten Moore, Marion Douglas, Anwarul Hugais, Torian Robinson, Kaidynce Spates, Ayden Glover, Jamun Echols, Natalie Davis, Hadeel Hugais, Kahtie Garner; (sitting) Jaydon Jones, JaNya Rogers, Talia Hardy, Ava Tucker, Krystianna DeBerry, Elijah Brown, Avery Batts, Cameron Campbell, Kaitlyn Mason; (not pictured) Kimberly Lopez, Quari McKinney, Kaylyn Meadors, Ayden Sharp, Quoderick McKinney, Mused Alfarin.



Fifth Grade (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced on 2024 State Tests

(Standing) Olivia McAdams, Gianna Hamer, Brenyria Matthews, MaLyk Mays, Kaleb Boyd, Kendra Pignes, Zion Gibson, Madalyn Dawkins, Shariya Holt, Latarian Isable, Arianna Jones, Aunesty Davis; (sitting) Preston Wilson, Ayden Hampton, JaMarrien Brown, Zechariah Verge, Jazmine Tipton, Andre Manning, Adha Nunnally, Mason Cowan, Emari Beard, JaMaunte Lane; (not pictured) Quadrii Shelton and Alaysia Smith.



Sixth Grade ELA (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

Kirk Brown, Rudianna Montgomery, Josiah Jones, Markel Harris, Angel Vaughn, Salina Hezam, Kristen Aldridge, Rudianna Montgomery, Kylah Robinson, Richard Akins, Justin Garcia.



Seventh Grade ELA (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

Tyler Jones, Kaelib Campbell, Jefferson Gutierrez, Kaitlyn Brewer, Kylee Houston, Nyjeer Riley, Jeremiah Jefferson, Xyairre Harvey.



Sixth Grade Math (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

Richard Akins, Jaylen Nunally, Hayden Zinn, Justin Garcia, Kirk Brown, Rudianna Montgomery, Zavion Mason, Karyle Folsom, Tyler Reliford, Angel Vaughn, Rosherne Hall, Kylah Robinson, Daija Smith, Ghriya Kimmons, Jhalise Johnson, Salina Hezam, Rosie Brittenum, Coranae Jones, Tramia Rooks, Kyler Jefferson, Angel Vaughn, Josiah Jones, Markel Harris, Rekeyia McKinney, Kristen Aldridge, Justiss Lesueur, Zkobie Harris, Jaquan Powell, Jakyriah Lesure.

Seventh Grade Math (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

Mariah Glover, Xyairre Harvey, Daniya Jones, Charles Williamson, Jefferson Gutierrez, Monique Brown, Takerra Oliver, Coreyuna Smart, Kylee Houston, Kenniyah Walls, Airreo Johnson, Jeremiah Jefferson, Kayleb Jefferson, Kaelib Campbell, Nyjeer Riley, Katelyn Kennedy, Kiison Wicks.





Eighth Grade ELA (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(From left) Rejanay Short, Zaryah Martin, Elexcia Ford, Jariyah Richard, Jlon Byers, Michael Hughes Jr.; (not pictured) Cornea Pritchard, Makayla Franklin, Jayla Williams, Makiyah Glover, Moriah Hubbard, Weston Sheffield, Pierre Burgess.



Eighth Grade Math (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(Seated, from left) Jariah Richard, Rejenay Short, Lakiadra Tinnin, Briyunna Pegues, Allison Jeffries, Zariyah Martin; (standing, from left) Michael Hughes Jr., Jlon Byers, Jordan Williams, Makiyah Glover, Andre Brown, Corniya Pritchard, Elexcia Ford; (not pictured) Kelnaysha Anderson, Calecia Faulkner, Yealoni Brown, Makayla Franklin, Weston Sheffield, Kazariah Mcadams, Kamryn Faulkner, Cyanni Riley, Moriah Hubbard.



Eighth Grade Science (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(Seated, from left) Kymoarth Holloway, Jariah Richard, Tacorah Seldon, Allison Jeffries, Jatia Gentry, Rejanay Short, Zariyah Martin; (standing, from left) Reginald Short Jr., Braylyn Alexander, Jlon Byers, Makiyah Glover, Andrea Brown, Cornea Pritchard, Jordan Williams, Michael Hughes Jr., Nicketris Smith; (not pictured) Kamryn Faulkner, Cyanni Riley, Moriah Hubbard, Pierre Burges, Makayla Franklin, Erianna Stewart, Jayla Williams, Weston Sheffield.



High School Biology I (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(Seated, from left) Kalisa Tucker, Taniela Richard, Kaliyah Edwards, Ajhari Ingram, Laikyn Smith, Ajah Shelton, Dakira Buford, Taniya Harden, Ariana Cowan, Aniyah Jones; (standing, from left) Jamal Moyo, Sahreef Thomas, Damontrell Cochran, Davon Johnson, Leeanthony Stephens, Markeis Payne Jr., Lorenzo Jones, Kamauri Payne, Joshua Walker, Tealon Warren, Lasean Rooks Jr.; (not pictured) Logan Craig, Corey Hines, Cameron Parnell, Ladarius Smith.



High School U.S. History (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(Seated, from left) Brianna Guy, Kalea Jones, Talyah Mcadams, Jonisha Scott, Janiya Brown, Leah Odum, Asia Jackson, Aeryiel Glover, Braya Crane, Saimira McAuley, Brithany Garcia; (standing, from left) Kameron Cooley, Nathan Lester, Demarquez Strickland, Jason Jeffries, Malicia Selman, Jakhya McIntyre, Kennedy Terry, Natalya Jones, Aziah Wright, Sonya Hosmer, Itzel Arce, Shaniyah Storey, Addam Brown, Giovani Espino Jimenez; (not pictured) Cayenne Burton, Jaylen Buford, Joseph Hezam, Dejah Howell, Taniya Hunt, Jayden Johnson, Tiara Levenson, Denzel Lumpkin, Future Matthews, Takayla Oliver, Treavion Reynolds, Joshua Harris.



High School Algebra I (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(Seated, from left) Aryauna Ingram, Taniela Richard, Kaliyah Edwards, Ajhari Ingram, Nakia Martin, Laikyn Smith, Chanelle Isom, Ajah Shelton, Kalisa Tucker, Ariana Cowan; (standing, from left) Markeis Payne Jr., Brandon Garcia Espino, Demontrell Cochran, Sahreef Thomas, Leeanthony Stephens, Camiya Robinson, Taniya Harden, Aniyah Jones, Catera Ingram, Kyson Isom, Joshua Walker, Karlo Strickland; (not pictured) Logan Craig and Corey Hines.



High School English II (2023-24) Proficient and Advanced

(Seated, from left) Kaliyah Vaughn, Ameliya Washington, Jaidan Hall, Christen Gray, Kanyjah Mcadams, Kalisa Tucker; (standing, from left) Chakarion Gullede, Sahreef Thomas, Joshua Walker, Leeanthony Stephens; (not pictured) Jerry Lofton, Eric Nugent.



High School – Holly Springs Fire Department



Junior High School – Holly Springs Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center



Career and Technical Center – Holly Springs Police Department



Primary School – Community Lunch

Dr. Irene Walton Turnage Day in the City A Day of Community Service – Giving Back



Proclamation from Mayor Sharon Gipson –
Dr. Irene Walton Turnage Day



Intermediate School – Marshall County Sheriff's Department



Holly Springs School District leadership and community members unite for the strategic planning meeting at the Eddie Lee Smith Multi-Purpose Center.

Strategic plan emphasizes teamwork

Working together to achieve goals was the point of emphasis in the Holly Springs School District's annual strategic planning meeting Thursday, Oct. 31.

The district's strategic plan is the way it will achieve its mission and vision as well as increase student achievement. The plan should be reviewed and updated every year by the strategic planning committee, which includes parents, community, school board members, school staff and students.

"We have everyone and everything we need to make sure our students reach the highest levels and are ready for careers," said superintendent of education Irene Walton Turnage. "The more we all work together, the better our district and schools perform. Our community embraces us, and we thank you for our many partnerships."

The five-year strategic plan includes five great goals: grow students academically through transformative instructional practices; revive and increase family, parental, and community engagement; ensure students graduate college and career ready; attract, recruit and retain quality administrators, teachers, and staff; and target the needs of all students to provide support and success.

The Holly Springs School District, for the first time ever, attained an A-Rating from the Mississippi Department of Education for the 2023-2024 school year. All those in attendance for the meeting at the Eddie Lee Smith Multi-Purpose Center applauded that historic achievement, and Turnage emphasized the importance of the unified effort that led to the district's success.

"We have come a long way, but we still have a lot of good work to do in all areas," she said. "Continued improvement is our goal."

Eileen Dowsing, assistant superintendent, presented updates on use of pandemic funds by the district. A few of those included keyless entries for all buildings in the district; renovated restrooms throughout the district; the purchase of four new buses; renovating the auditorium at the high school; intervention programs for ELA, math, and social emotional support; dual enrollment classes; and after-school and extended school year programs.

Turnage announced parent and community forums will be held in the near future to unveil the high school auditorium restoration, what she called a "great project for the school district and the community."

Also during the strategic planning meeting, participants formed groups, provided feedback on the strategic plan goals and came up with their own recommendations for improving the school district.

Turnage emphasized the importance of strategically implementing and measuring the plan and goals for continued improvement and shared a quote from Antoine de Saint-Exupery, "A goal without a plan is just a wish."



From left are Lemon Phelps, president of the Holly Springs School Board; Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA executive director; Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, Holly Springs superintendent of education; Kim Mayfield, secretary of the Holly Springs School Board; and Dr. Delores McNair, president of the MSBA Board of Directors.

MSBA Conference

The 2024 Fall Leadership Conference for the Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) was held November 18-19 in Flowood with educational sessions and awards.

Attending in person from the Holly Springs School District were board members Lemon Phelps and Kim Mayfield and superintendent of education Dr. Irene Walton Turnage. Attending virtually were school board members Dr. Gemma Beckley and Ejeera Dukes.

Conference topics included Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Workforce Development, Cell Phones in Schools, Supporting Student Mental Health, Data Leadership, Navigating School Budgets, Telling Your Story through Strategic Communications, Engaging the Families of English Language Learners, and Literacy Success through Strong Leadership.

The Holly Springs School District was recognized with a Board of Merit Award based on 167 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the 2023-2024 school year.

Distinguished Circle awards for 2023-2024 went to board members Kim Mayfield, 62.75 CEUs, and Dr. Gemma Beckley, 44.25 CEUs. A Superintendents Premier Circle award went to Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, 39.75 CEUs.

Student receives letter from President Biden

Teacher Caryn Swanson couldn't wait to make a special delivery to one of her former students.

Her class at Holly Springs Intermediate School studies American history each day. In the spring semester of 2024, they learned about the presidents, from George Washington to Joe Biden.

"We also studied about the White House and learned the address," Swanson said. "I told my students that when I was their age I wrote to President Reagan and then to President Bush, and I received letters and autographed pictures back from them."

One of her sixth graders, Myyanna Howell, was so excited that she decided to write President Biden. She wrote him in April or May, using the intermediate school address as the return address.

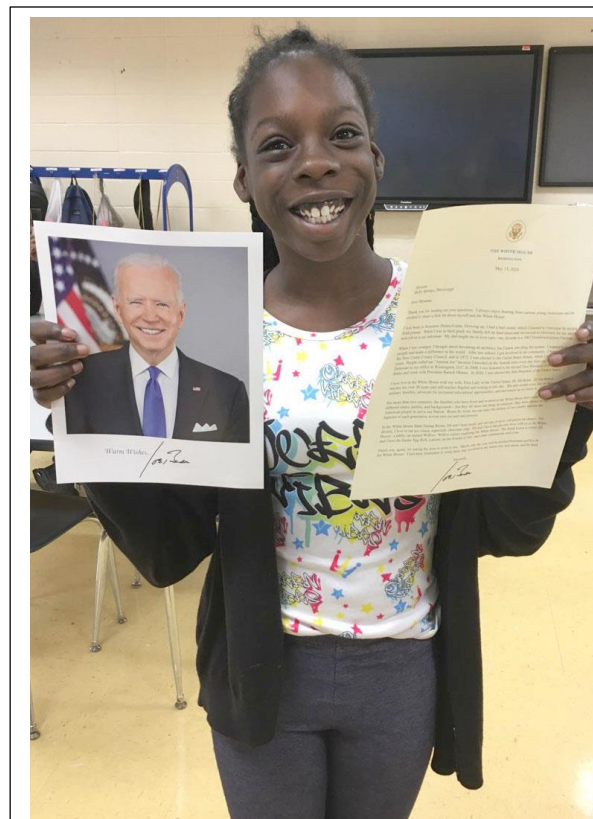
"She asked every week if he had responded yet," Swanson said.

In August, a package from the White House arrived at the intermediate school. President Biden had replied to her letter.

Howell is now a seventh grader at Holly Springs Junior High School.

"Mrs. Jacqueline Buford and I delivered the letter to her in her new classroom with teacher Patricia Waldrop," Swanson said. "Myyanna was so thrilled to receive not only a letter, but also an autographed picture and a book."

A smiling Myyanna Howell said she is "so happy," and she plans to get the letter and photo framed as a forever keepsake.



Myyanna Howell

School activities



Muffins with Mom

Marco House and China Pool are pictured enjoying the Muffins and Morning Instruction with Moms event at Holly Springs Primary School in October.



Grandparents Day luncheon

Joyce Isom and Shaniah Isom enjoy Grandparents Day at Holly Springs Intermediate School.



Welcome

Teyuana Reaves, a student at Holly Springs Junior High School, welcomes everyone to the school's Honors Program.



Obstacle course

Holly Springs Career and Technical Center's Law and Public Safety program hosted a day of fitness Tuesday, Oct. 29, at Sam Coopwood Park. Braylon Robinson is pictured participating in the obstacle course.



King and queen

Homecoming king and queen at Holly Springs High School are Tyler Mayfield and Anesha Vasser. Festivities were held October 4.



‘Empowering leadership’

The Holly Springs School District conducted summer leadership training for principals and leadership teams. The theme this year was “Empowering Leadership on All Levels to Continue a Legacy of Increased Student Achievement.” The goal is to empower leadership at all levels, including principals, teachers, students and stakeholder groups. All must play key roles in bettering the district as a whole.



‘Building Teacher Leaders’

New Teacher Academy recently kicked off the calendar of a new school year for the Holly Springs School District. “Building Teacher Leaders” began on July 29 in the high school library with district orientation for all new teachers. Then on July 30-31, new teachers moved to orientations at their individual schools. Session topics included Overview of Important Areas on the District Level; District Staff Handbook/Teacher Supplies and Educational Enhancement Funds (EEF); Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) and A Culture of Academic Rigor, Respect and Responsibility; and Using Technology to Increase Student Achievement and Success.

Holly Springs Career and Technical Center (CTC) recently hosted its fall advisory committee meeting. During the meeting, CTC staff members provided their partners with updated information about the center, and Holly Springs Fire Chief Rodney Crane spoke about taking partnerships to the next level. Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, superintendent of education, thanked the partners for their work in the Holly Springs School District, which helped contribute to the school district's A Rating.

CTC fall advisory committee meeting





Pictured are Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, Jarvis Jones and Eileen Dowsing.

Jones delivers inspirational message to Holly Springs educators

Inspirational speaker Jarvis Jones told teachers in the Holly Springs School District that they can make a long-lasting impression on the children in their classrooms.

“It might not be your job to see the tree bear fruit, but it is your job to plant the seed,” he said.

Jones spoke to teachers, staff and administrators the day before school started for the 2024-2025 year. He grew up in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Jackson. He struggled to make school a priority and found himself in trouble with the law as a teenager. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail for armed robbery.

He said while in prison he took a “new approach” to life.

“Education then became a priority,” Jones said. “I studied and got my GED. Nothing was going to stop me – college, PhD and change the world. I got out in 2013, and it was time to make my mark.”

He first went the junior college route and then received a full-ride scholarship to Jackson State University. Jones received his bachelor’s degree and next went to graduate school and attained a master’s degree. He is now a licensed professional counselor, and later this year, he will start working toward his PhD.

Jones again stressed that educators can be a tremendous influence in the lives of young people. He urged teachers to show love, be patient and give grace.

“When they see you care, it will have a domino effect,” he said. “Plant that encouraging word. One day, they will believe everything you told them.”

Eileen Dowsing, assistant superintendent of education, invited Jones to come to Holly Springs and speak, and she closed the assembly with some final thoughts.

“You are here for a reason,” she told teachers, staff and administrators of the Holly Springs School District. “You can make a huge impact on the lives of our children.”

Primary School celebrates historic ‘A’



Holly Springs Primary School celebrates its first-ever A-Rating from the Mississippi Department of Education with a huge sign on campus – “History Made.”

National Board Certification



Two Holly Springs Primary School teachers recently received their National Board Certification. Congratulations to Jennifer Hernandez (left) and Lakesha Mason on your dedication to education.

Back-To-School Nights



All schools in the Holly Springs School District hosted Back-To-School Nights as the new school year kicked off in August 2024. Pictured are (top, left) Holly Springs Intermediate School; (top, right) Holly Springs High School; (left) Holly Springs Career and Technical Center; (bottom, left) Holly Springs Primary School; and (bottom, right) Holly Springs Junior High School.





Community supporters



The Holly Springs School District appreciates its many community partners. Here are a few recent examples. (Above) Darrel Thomas (left), with the TPC Foundation, presents a \$7,000 check to Cravin Turnage, principal of Holly Springs High School. Alumni Basketball Games were held September 14 and once again a huge success. In the past two years, Thomas has organized and implemented alumni games that have yielded \$34,000 for athletics and academics in the Holly Springs School District. (Top, left) Dr. Darlene Washington, with the Mississippi Roses Chapter of The Links, Incorporated makes a presentation Wednesday, Sept. 25, at Holly Springs High School. The writing project aims to enhance students' ability to express themselves in both academic and professional settings, equipping them with the confidence and tools needed to succeed beyond high school. (Middle, left) Monet Autry, Marshall County circuit clerk, and Shirley Byers, attorney at law, conduct a voter registration drive for Holly Springs High School students in the library. (Bottom, left) The Psi Rho (graduate) and Kappa Beta Beta (undergraduate) chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. held their annual "Fill Up the Bus" school supply drive at Walmart on August 3, and some patrons contributed cash. As a result, a \$2,920.75 check was presented to the school district during an October 8 board of trustees meeting. School supplies donated were previously delivered to the schools. From left are Conery M. DeBerry, Brian White, superintendent of education Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, Robert Curry, Michael Armstead and Teo Mason.





Rotary Club makes contributions to school district

The Holly Springs Rotary Club recently handed out checks as part of the Rotary's Family Youth Initiative grant program. The Holly Springs School District received \$4,250 for Dress for Success and also \$2,628.65 for its District Incentive Program. Those pictured include Fergenia Hood, Rotary president; R.J. Wilson, coordinator of the Dress for Success program; Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, superintendent of education; and Kim Mayfield, school board member.



Hopewell donates coats

Hopewell #1 MB Church recently donated coats to the Parent and Family Engagement Center located on the Holly Springs Intermediate School campus. Pictured are Vikki Marion, principal; Melvin and Eula DeBerry, Hopewell #1 members, and Joyce Isom, student attendance clerk.



Framed photo of Ida B. Wells-Barnett

Board members of the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Museum presented a framed photo of the legendary civil rights activist to the Holly Springs School District. Pictured during an October 8 meeting of the school district board of trustees are (from left) Eula Wilson, Landry Hearn, superintendent of education Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, Toni Burton and Leona Harris. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, born in Holly Springs, was an American investigative journalist, educator, social worker and activist.

Firefighting

Holly Springs Fire Chief Rodney Crane, with assistance from other firefighters, recently taught a lesson on fire protection at the Holly Springs Career and Technical Center. Students were able to get hands-on experience during exercises led by the firemen.





Book giveaway

B.L.A.C.K 2 Life helped spread kindness and literacy during the annual book giveaway Thursday, Nov. 7, at Holly Springs Primary School. All the children were excited as they made their way around the library to tables filled with books and picked out their favorites to read. The book giveaway is courtesy of B.L.A.C.K. 2 Life in conjunction with the brothers of Kappa Beta and Psi Rho chapters at Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. At right, first grade teacher Melanie Swinford assists Kinsleigh Turnage with selecting books.



School supplies

The Marshall County Sheriff's Department and the Holly Springs Walmart store donate school supplies to Holly Springs Intermediate School.



Fall gardening activity

The Mississippi Roses (MS) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated conducted a gardening activity with third grade ambassadors at Holly Springs Primary School on Thursday, Sept. 26, as part of the Ambassadors for Health program. Pictured is Tony Jones with Chulahoma's Garden giving some instructions to students.



Goodies for Red Ribbon Week

TyKeria Vance, right, from Communicare, brought some goodies for Holly Springs Junior High School students during Red Ribbon Week. Also pictured is school secretary Robyn Jones. It was Crazy Hat and Sock Day (drug free from head to toe).

‘Always working together’



Fire chief Rodney Crane



From left are Charles Powell and Anthony Jones with the Marshall County Sheriff's Department; Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, Holly Springs School District superintendent of education; Darryl Bowens, Holly Springs police chief; and Rodney Crane, Holly Springs fire chief.

Schools, first responders review safety

All Holly Springs School District personnel participated in Active Shooter Training on Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the Intermediate School gymnasium. Making the presentation were first responders, including representatives of the Holly Springs Fire Department, Holly Springs Police Department and Marshall County Sheriff's Department.

Active Shooter Plans are already in place at each school in the district, and first responders reviewed important steps to follow in the case of an active shooter on campus, plus asked school district staff to bring up any safety issues and/or problematic areas that needed to be addressed in the various buildings.

“Be prepared,” fire chief Rodney Crane emphasized. “It can happen in small towns. We are not exempt.”

He said both announced and unannounced active shooter drills are upcoming in the school district.

“We appreciate our law enforcement officers and all emergency responders in Holly Springs and Marshall County,” said Dr. Irene Walton Turnage, superintendent of education. “We are a team – always working together.”



Police chief Darryl Bowens

Sports Hall of Fame for Tucker

Maxine Tucker of Holly Springs was inducted into the Northwest Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony October 24 on the Senatobia campus. She played a prominent role on two of the most dominant basketball teams in Northwest women's basketball history (1980-82), coached by Harry Adair. The Lady Rangers finished 26-1 and 27-2, respectively, winning North Division and conference championships. After Northwest, Tucker signed with Ole Miss and played under legendary coach Van Chancellor. She was the team captain in 1983-84 and led the team in assists. She helped Ole Miss to a 24-6 overall record. The Lady Rebels advanced to the second round, Sweet 16, of the 1984 NCAA Tournament. Tucker retired in May 2024 after 28 years in education, with 26 of those years in the Holly Springs School District. She is pictured at the Hall of Fame ceremony with her daughter, Brandi Woodson.



A 'truly unforgettable' experience

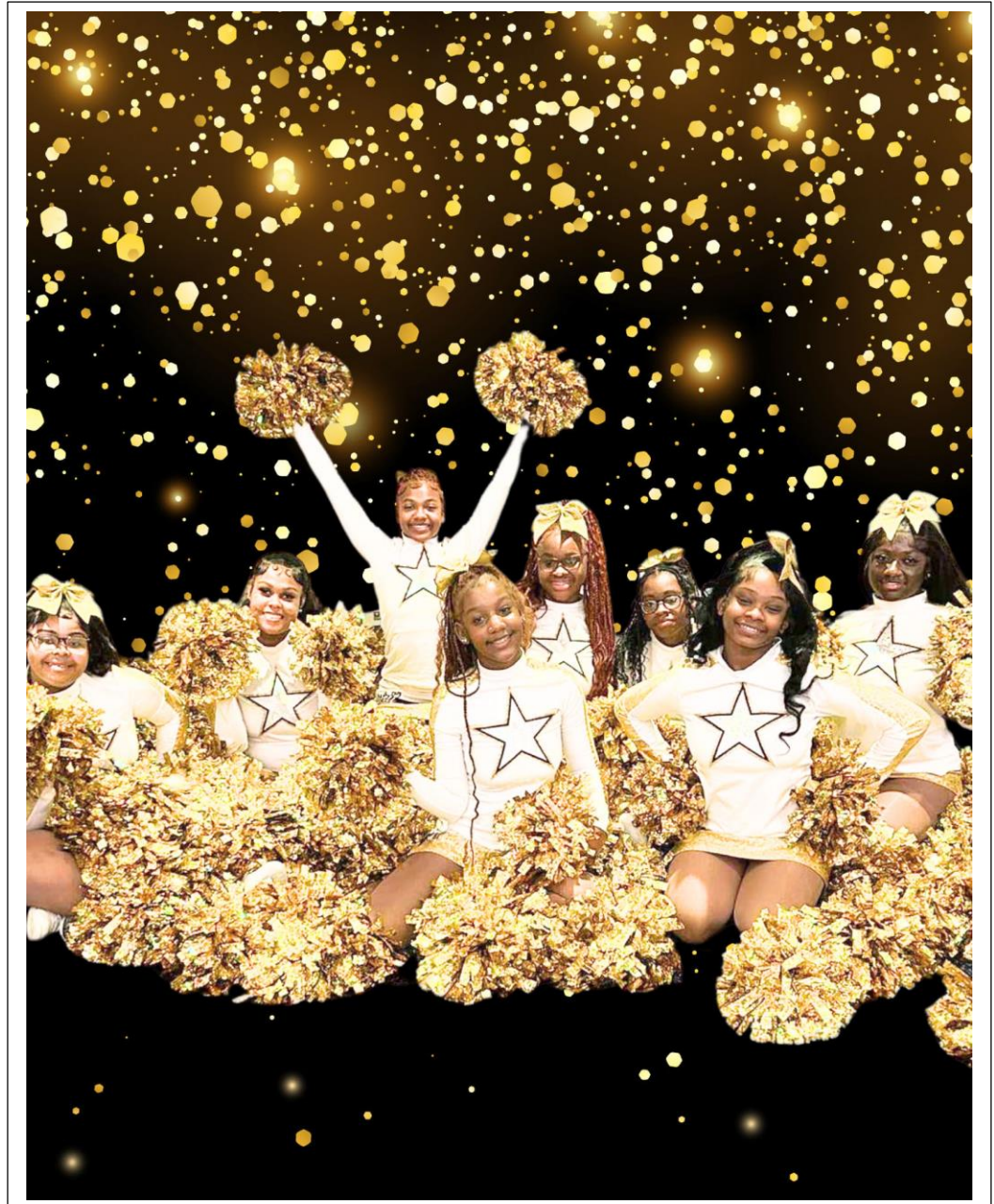
Holly Springs majorettes shine at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NEW YORK CITY, November 28 – The bustling streets of Manhattan paused in admiration as the Holly Springs Majorettes performed at the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Representing their Mississippi hometown with pride, the team dazzled audiences with their vibrant routines, showcasing months of hard work, determination, and passion.

The team, composed of Akira Williamson, Zianna Schlender, KaNyjah McAdams, Kelnaysha Anderson, Taniya Hunt, Tra'Vanna Manning, Cormaiyah Jeffries, and Cor'Niya Pritchard, brought Southern flair to the Big Apple. Their energy and precision captivated spectators lining the streets and millions tuning in from home.

"It's an absolute honor to represent Holly Springs on such a grand stage," said Akira Williamson, one of the team captains. "We've worked tirelessly for this moment, and to see the smiles and hear the cheers—it's truly unforgettable." said Kanyjah McAdams, the other team captain,

Under the guidance of coaches Tywana Hunt and Shantanika Hunt, the majorettes have dedicated countless hours to perfecting their performance. Their routine blended traditional choreography with contemporary moves, all set to a rousing mix of music that reflected their cultural roots and the spirit of Thanksgiving.



Coach Tywana Hunt expressed her pride in the team: "These young women have shown the world what Holly Springs is all about—talent, heart, and unity. Watching them perform in front of millions is a dream come true for all of us."

The majorettes received support from their community to make the trip to New York possible. Fundraisers and donations helped cover travel and lodging expenses, emphasizing the bond between the team and their supporters back home.

For many of the majorettes, this experience was a first-time visit to New

York City. "The city is amazing, but the best part has been sharing this journey with my teammates," said Taniya Hunt. "We're not just a team; we're a family."

As the parade concluded, the Holly Springs Majorettes reflected on their unforgettable day. Their performance at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade wasn't just a highlight of the season—it was a moment of history, marking Holly Springs' place on a national stage.

"We're already thinking about what's next," said Cor'Niya Pritchard with a smile. "This is just the beginning."