

*Robert L. Merritt Junior High School*

**THE MERRITT GAZETTE**

*Glen Newson, Principal  
Timothy Holmes, Assistant Principal  
Amanda Bowman, Academic Coach  
Latoshia Lewis, Counselor*

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*January 2022*

**“Equitable Education for Every Student”**

**Principal’s Message**

Greetings Parents!

We hope that each one of you have enjoyed the holidays and stayed safe throughout the season. We are ready to continue strengthening our students' academic performance for the second half of this school year. As always, we ask that you help us by ensuring that your child or children are at school daily, on time, and stay the entire day. This step will tremendously help with attendance and the overall performance of our students. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Benchmark Assessment, we are still **#WINNING!** As we enter a new calendar year, expectations are still high for all stakeholders. We encourage everyone to make teaching and learning a **priority** each day at Robert L. Merritt. Let’s continue working together to make this a successful year. Thank you for choosing Merritt!

**Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray**

Happy New Year! Let’s continue to practice safety and social distancing as we enter a new year. Please continue to wear your mask and wash and sanitize your hands regularly. Remember, we have different ways you can be involved in your child' education. Such as: Active Parents, School Status, and Canvas. You may reach me through e-mail at [gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us). **My hours are: Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M. -3:30 P.M. However, I will adjust my schedule to accommodate you.**

**Assistant Principal’s Message**

Welcome to a new year!

We have accomplished many challenges this school year, but I want to challenge students to attend school daily and master daily assignments. Even though we are still dealing with the pandemic, our expectations include excelling academically and improving emotionally and socially. If you are facing any hardships that may be causing you to not be successful in attending school or completing assignments, please contact an administrator or the counselor. Educating students as well as keeping students safe are key concerns of ours. Thank you, parents, for helping us accomplish so many goals. We need your continued support in ensuring your children are attending classes, completing assignments, and engaged in learning. Help us be successful!

**The McKinney-Vento Act**

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the affected children, 1) student attendance decreases and 2. financial situations destroy students’ interest in school. The SCCSD recognizes the importance of education for all children and has adopted the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act that addresses the needs of homeless children. This policy aids with homeless students so that they can continue to be educated despite the challenges they face. If you know of families with children who are homeless, please contact the Homeless Liaison at RLMJH, Geraldine Ray at (662) 884-1270 ext. 317. Your call could be of great assistance to a family in need. For more information visit Website: <http://www.serve.org/nche> or E-mail [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)

## Counselor Corner, Latoshia Lewis



### SEL Word of the Month: Responsible Decision Making

#### Character Ed: Responsibility

*“Accept Responsibility for your actions, Be Accountable for your Results, Take ownership of your mistakes.”*

~Unknown author

*“The time is always right, to do what is right.”*

~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*“Responsibility finds a way, irresponsibility makes excuse.”*

~Gene Bedley

### Media Center, Dr. Jessica James

#### Reading Boards

We are preparing to reincorporate the Reading Fair this year throughout our District. More information will be given to the students at a later date. You can start preparing by going to the school’s library page and follow the steps listed:

- Internal Link & External Link
- Select Robert L. Merritt Jr. High School-Display (Full Opac if you are using a phone/tablet)
- Links-Scroll down to Reading Fair Guidelines

#### Reading Boards due Monday, January 24, 2022

#### Students have three (3) choices to complete a Reading Board

1. Design a Storyboard
2. PowerPoint
3. Google Slide

Empowering Staff, Engaging Communities, Educating Students

*Merritt's Parent of the Month (January)*

*Tammy Golden*



**“Every Day Counts!”**

<b><u>Akela Barnes, School Attendance Officer</u></b> East Sunflower Elementary A.W. James Elementary Ruleville Central Elementary Drew Hunter Middle Ruleville Central Middle Thomas E. Edwards, Sr. High	<b><u>Akela Barnes, School Attendance Officer</u></b> Inverness Elementary Lockard Elementary Carver Elementary Moorhead Central Robert L. Merritt Junior High Gentry High
Tel (662) 887-8107 Fax (662) 887-7306	Tel (662) 887-8107  Fax (662) 887-7306

If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please feel free to call or fax the Attendance Officer assigned to your child/children school.



**Empowering Staff, Engaging Communities, Educating Students**