

Robert L. Merritt Junior High School

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November 2021

“Equitable Education for Every Student”

Principal’s Message

Greetings Parents,

Thank you for allowing the dedicated staff of RLMJH to educate your child/children. Our 2nd 9-week benchmark assessments start Monday, December 13, 2021, please be sure that your child/children are preparing daily for their assessments and classroom activities.

We are very intentional about creating a learning focused building for our staff and student body.

Our goal is growth for all students on every assessment! We are moving in the right direction. As you may or may not know, we received recognition as being “October School of the Month”. We are hoping to do the same next month. We also received the “Killing It” awards trophy for the 1st 9wks benchmark assessments. At this point we are a “B” school. Hopefully, we can do the same or better for the 2nd 9wks assessments. Again, I thank you and appreciate your support of Robert L. Merritt Junior High School. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at (662) 884-1270.

Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray

The year has kicked off with a great start. Let’s continue to practice safety and social distancing. As the holiday’s approaches, let’s enjoy family and food with love and care by continuing to wear our masks and sanitize. My days at RLMJH are Monday through Friday from 7:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. I will adjust my schedule to assist you with your needs. You can reach me at gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us or (662) 884-1270 ext. 317.

Upcoming Events at RLMJH

(Mon) 11/15- Moorhead (Home) 5:30 p. m.

(Thurs) 11/18 -Leflore (Away) 5:30 p. m.

(Mon) 11/29- Drew (Home) 5:30 p. m.

(Wed) 12/01- Shaw (Home) 5:30 p. m.

(Mon) 12/06 -Ruleville (Home) 5:30 p. m.

(Thurs) 12/09 -Leflore (Home) 5:30 p. m.

County Tournament (TBA)

Assistant Principal, Timothy Holmes

We are seeing that our students are getting more focused in the classrooms. This was displayed due to the fact that we won the award for having the highest scores on the benchmark assessments. Teachers also got to see that their hard work did not go unnoticed. We are slowly changing the culture at Merritt and when we get everyone on board, the results will speak volumes about how much more we can improve as a school. We would also like for everyone to enjoy the Thanksgiving Break and come back rested and refreshed because we still have work to do in order to reach the ultimate goal. (Growth for All Students)



Merritt's Student of the Month



Aadrian Gooden



Shakyra Moffett



Sergio Gudino



Destiny Sherriod



Brendasia Price



Ja'Kayla Boatman

Merritt's Teacher of the Month



Eddie Ivory



Leola Wright

Breast Cancer Awareness Honoring Miss Felicia McKinney



Merritt's 2021-2022 Annual Coronation



The McKinney -Vento Act

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the effected 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 let us know at (662) 844-1270. For more information visit Website: <http://www.serve.org/ncheor> E-mail homeless@serve.org.

Librarian's Corner, Dr. Jessica James

Reading Fair

Parents, students and Community Members

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

Spelling Bee

Students will let their ELA teacher know that they are interested by November 17, 2021. The students will receive the list of words on November 19, 2021 before going home for the Thanksgiving Break.

Dec. 3, 2021 - Deadline for Classroom-level Spelling Bees
Jan. 31, 2022 - Deadline for School-level bees & to select your Spelling Champion

Counselor's Corner, Latoshia Lewis

November is the month of gratitude and thanksgiving. If you are concerned about how to raise teenagers who are grateful, please read the following excerpt from an article found on the following website <http://davidwalsh.com/posts/tips//174> and posted by Erin Walsh on November 19, 2013.

5 Ways to Teach Your Child Gratitude- Plus Tips for Teens

Adolescence can be seen as a self-absorbed time in life but it is also a great time for transformation when young people are opening up to the world around them and figuring out who they want to be. Gratitude helps teens be more resilient as they travel on the rocky and exhilarating road from childhood to adulthood. Here are a couple of tips for nurturing gratitude in teens:

- **Don't give up.** You may need to modify family gratitude traditions or let your teen shape them, but don't abandon them completely. They are likely more important to your teen than you know.
- **Gratitude is a practice, not a script.** Avoid "correcting your teen if he or she express gratitude about something that doesn't meet your expectations. It is okay if your teen goes in and out of taking gratitude seriously around you.
- **Modeling still matters.** While they may never tell you this, your actions will matter. A lot. Practice gratitude.
- **Give credit to others.** Teens are vulnerable to the "self-serving bias" which means that when something good happens they think it is because of them and when something bad happens they blame the circumstances or someone else. Encourage them to think of how others have helped them succeed and to take responsibility for their own actions.
- **Expand the conversation.** Talk to your teen things like rights versus privileges and equality versus justice. Gratitude calls on us to be more aware of our relationships with others.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



“With us plus you, there’s nothing our students can’t do”!