

The Eagle Express



Aug.- Sept. 2021

A. W. James Elementary School
400 South Blvd. / Drew, MS 38737
Telephone (662) 745-8892
Ms. Barbara C. Akon, Principal
Mrs. Christine Bennett, Secretary



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Let's Talk!!!!

Welcome back to the 2021-22 school year! We hope that you are healthy and well, and were able to enjoy special times with loved ones over the summer break. We extend a warm welcome to our new students and families joining us for the first time this fall. It is an honor to serve you as I begin my 7th school year as your Principal of AWJ. I look forward to a productive partnership with our families as we believe that a strong home and school connection is paramount to each students' academic, physical, social/emotional success.

Our outstanding team of teachers, paraprofessionals, special/related services personnel, custodians, child nutrition personnel, counselor, school nurse, and administrative office staff have been working tirelessly in preparation for this school year, in order to meet the needs of our students. This year, we are delighted to welcome several new staff members to our team. We are grateful to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated team to support our students and mission *to provide a clean, safe and orderly environment that is conducive to student achievement and growth.*

Spring 2020, when first faced with the pandemic crisis, our community rallied together and we found new ways to support each other, like never before. Even from a distance, our focus on strengthening relationships and building community continued, with our core expectations embedded throughout every experience. From school wide assemblies/slide shows, grade level zooms, virtual field days/field trips and class meetings, scavenger hunts and promotion ceremonies, *our community persevered.* We are committed to providing the same level of connectivity and care, along with the academic rigor that is necessary for our students to achieve at high levels and GROW.

Our school staff have been busy preparing meaningful learning opportunities to support our children to ensure that they remain connected and challenged. Providing our students equitable access to high quality learning remains a high priority to us. As a result, we have developed a comprehensive learning schedule that includes a blend of daily rigorous lessons, with a mix of whole group, small group and one on one opportunities, social/emotional learning, and extra support and coaching for students as needed. Regular attendance is required to ensure your child's academic success. Welcome Back!!!

Barbara C. Akon
Principal





The faculty and staff of AW James would like to welcome all of our new team members aboard the AW James success train. 2022 is our year. You came aboard just in time.



**Sheila Harper,
Social Worker**



**Jessica Elmore,
Pre-K Assistant**



**Mary Oliver,
Kindergarten Assistant**



**Deidre Palmer,
Kindergarten Assistant**



**Maria Cockrell,
1st Grade Assistant**



**Diana Hembree,
3rd Grade Assistant**



**Alana Moore,
Gifted Teacher**



**Lisa Whitley,
P.E. Teacher**



**James Phillips,
Custodian**



We take great pleasure in welcoming back to our staff, Annie Banks, who serves as a first grade assistant. We're so glad you rejoined our team.



Annie Banks



We say hello and welcome aboard to Matty Jones. Ms. Jones is a student teacher from Delta State University. She is working with our fourth grade students in ELA.



Matty Jones



Deidre Palmer



Parent of the Month

It is so wonderful to send out a special congratulations to one of our very own staff members for parent of the month. Congratulation Ms. Palmer. We're so proud of you!



Kathryn Gammill



Congratulations are in order for our teacher of the month, Ms. Kathryn Gammill. Ms. Gammill teaches 2nd grade at AW James and has been in education for the past 28 years.

Word of the month

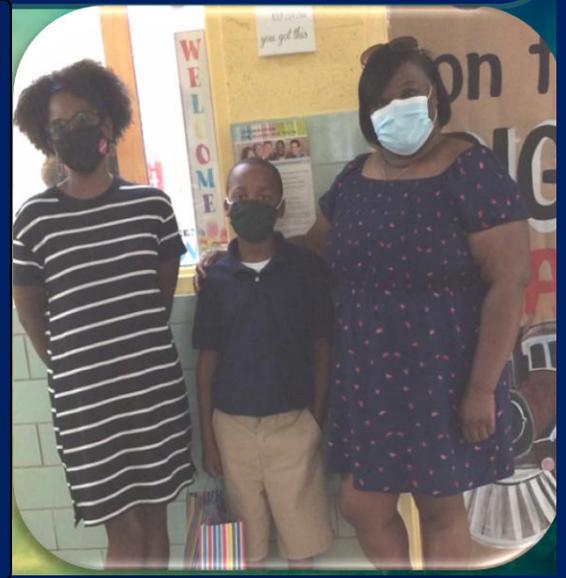
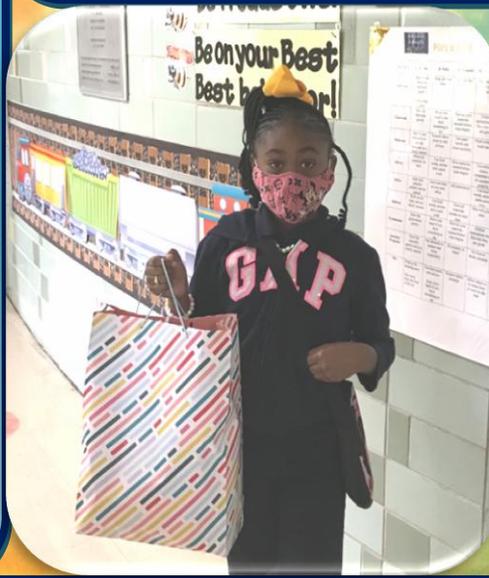
Self discipline is the ability to push yourself forward, stay motivated, and take action, regardless of how you are feeling, physically or emotionally.

SELF-DISCIPLINE

To make yourself do things that should be done.



We want to thank our partners, Magnolia Health for sponsoring the Drew Schools "Back to School Raffle." The winners of raffle were third grader, A'Riyah Ingram and second grader, Walter Harris. We want to say congratulations to you both!



Sept. 6th

DATES TO REMEMBER



Sept. 7th-10th



Oct. 11th



Oct. 18th



Sept. 13th-17th



Oct. 15th



Oct. 18th-22nd



Oct. 31st