

HANCOCK HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Edition 2017

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Superintendent's Message

I find it hard to believe that another semester has come and gone and we are well on our way to a successful spring semester. As you look over the exciting news from fall semester, you will find that we have many reasons to be proud. I know that you will be filled with pride as you read about successes of our students, teachers, coaches and all staff. We are very much a part of our community, and you are very much a part of who we are as well. We depend on your support to accomplish all that we can as we turn today's learners into tomorrow's leaders! Thank you!

Alan Dedeaux

Hancock Lady Hawk Class III State Champs

Congrats to the Hancock Lady Hawk volleyball team on winning the Class III State Championship. The Lady Hawks set a school record for volleyball wins in a season as they finished 36-3. Coach Rick Rechten was named the state volleyball coach of the year. Madison Ladner, Catie Ladner, and Riley Swilley were all named to the all state volleyball team as well. Congrats --- Lady Hawks!



Front row from left to right: Harleigh Lafontaine #3, Destiny Hariel #8, Brooke Fagan #10, Rylee Swilley #21, Amanda Kay Shubert #9, Maddie Ladner #7, Karrington Perkins #1 and Morgan Rechten- assistant coach
2nd row- Amanda Cloy-coach, Belle Thoennes #6, Faith Ladner manager, Chloe Swilley #12, Catie Ladner #14, Jesse Rechten Assistant

HHS National Merit Semifinalists



Hancock High School Class of 2017 has 3 National Merit Semi-finalists – Amy Keith, Marie Konopacki, and Timothy Papania. The National Merit Scholarship Program, conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, is an annual academic competition for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships. The semifinalists represent the top 1% of the over 1.5 million students in about 22,000 high schools who enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Two of the three students participated in Hancock High School's PSAT prep class before school last year.

Amy Keith of Diamondhead is the daughter of David and Sharon Keith. Amy is a member of the Hancock Youth Leadership Academy and serves on the Chemours Community Advisory Panel. She is active in the BETA Club serving as President and a state officer. She was an inspirational speaker at the Mississippi and Virginia BETA Conventions. She has participated in numerous leadership programs including Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Coast Electric Power Cooperative Rural Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour of Jackson, MS and Washington, D.C. Power Cooperative, American Legion Magnolia Girls' State, Beta-Broyhill Leadership Conference, and the Mississippi Governor's School. Amy has received many academic and involvement awards. She is applying to many universities across the United States and plans to double major in Biological Sciences and Mathematics.

Marie Konopacki of Diamondhead is the daughter of Mark and Ivette Konopacki. Marie is founder & Editor-in-Chief of the Hancock High School newspaper and captain of the cross country team. She was the 2016 Doodle 4 Google Winner for Mississippi. She is a member of the Hancock County Youth Leadership Academy. She has been awarded a Gold Key in Poetry and is an American Voices Nominee. Marie is an active Beta club member serving as vice-president. She participated in McMullan Young Writers Workshop, American Legion Magnolia Girls' State and Mississippi's Governor School. She is applying to several universities including Harvard and plans to major in government/political science and one day run for office or work on a campaign.

Timothy Allen Papania of Picayune is the son of Cynthia & Brian Papania. Timothy has served as the Battalion Commander for Hancock Junior R.O.T.C. Hawk Battalion. He received the Military Order of the Purple Heart Medal for unrivaled cadet performance as the Battalion Executive Officer/Acting Battalion Commander in the Hancock High Junior R.O.T.C. and the Military Order of the World Wars Medal for outstanding cadet performance in the Hancock High Junior R.O.T.C. He is a member of the Hancock County Youth Leadership Academy and has served as a Habitat for Humanity Housing Initiative volunteer. Timothy has been a member of the Varsity Archery team. He plans to attend the University of Chicago and major in Economics.

Hancock High School teacher awarded the MS Outstanding Biology



During the Mississippi Science Teacher Association luncheon, Hancock High School teacher, **Shani Bourn**, was awarded the MS Outstanding Biology Teacher Award that is sponsored by the National Association of Biology Teachers and the Fred W. Brown Outstanding High School Teacher Award sponsored by the MS Science Teacher Association. She has been teaching for 24 years at Hancock High. Her current assignments include DC biology, AP biology, zoology, marine and aquatic science, Science Department Chair, and HHS National Science Honor Society sponsor. She earned her Bachelor's in 1992 and Master's in 1998 from USM. She also obtained a Master Teacher Certificate from National Board Professional Teaching Standards For Adolescence, Young Adulthood in Science during 1999, with successful recertification in 2009. Her Adjunct assignments have included PRCC, William Carey, and Bryan College, TN.

Recycle Comes to HMS

This fall, the Hancock Middle School Pathfinders Team celebrated the delivery of a recycling container at the middle school. Many of the Pathfinder students participated in writing letters to the board of supervisors last year to request the recycling dumpster. The HMS EARTH Club will be monitoring and encouraging participation within the school and will be making and placing signs at the dumpster in order to discourage dumping of anything other than the acceptable recyclables. The EARTH Club has worked for this opportunity for the past 3 school years and is excited to finally have reached its goal! This was an effort in partnership with the Hancock County Chamber Greenways Committee to encourage recycling at every middle school in Hancock County and to foster awareness of single-use plastics and the need for recycling. Kristy Daspit, Hancock Middle School teacher and HMS EARTH Club sponsor was instrumental in getting students to attend the Hancock County Solid Waste Authority meeting, along with Allison Anderson and members of the Greenways Committee, to request the recycling dumpsters from Team Waste. The Greenways Committee learned about recycling at one of their meetings, and how the old materials are used to make new things. Representatives from the schools attended. HCSD believes it is important to get students involved early, so that they make a lifelong commitment to considerate consumer practices. Efforts to increase recycling have been successful thus far.



Excel By 5

Hancock County is officially recertified as an Excel By 5 Community. This milestone was celebrated with some of the area child care centers performing "Grateful to be Growing Up in Hancock County." Excel By 5 is Mississippi's innovative early childhood community certification process focusing on a community's young children and we are working hard to emphasize the important roles parents and early childhood educators play in the lives of children during their most formative years - birth to age 5. Only through incredible collaborative efforts did recertification occur for Hancock County. Hancock County School District partnered with other schools and the county's child care centers to form educational partnerships. Hancock County's dedication to its children through Excel By 5 has helped lay a foundation on which the coalition will continue to grow.

Congrats to our

Teachers of the Year!

Hancock County Career-Tech

Sarah Elliot

Hancock Middle School

Tina Lagarde

Hancock High School

Seandee Bennett

East Hancock Elementary

Dawn Dainello

Hancock North Central
Elementary

Maggie Shorter

South Hancock Elementary

Leslie Gaude

West Hancock Elementary

Robin Dedeaux

District Teacher of the Year

Leslie Gaude – SHE

Administrator of the Year

Tara Ladner – HHS



Leslie Gaude

HCSD Teacher of the Year



Tara Ladner

HCSD Administrator of the Year

**Hancock County Career Technical Center Fall Festival
DECA Event Focuses on Service**

The Hancock County Career Technical Center DECA Chapter sponsored The Fall Festival, an annual event designed for the district's middle and high school students with special needs. After weeks of planning, 52 students with special needs were entertained with games and activities purposely created by members of career technical student organizations and classes. Pre-teens and teens who attended the festival were treated to face painting, coloring activities, games, dancing, and goody bags. The Kiln Fire Department was on hand to participate. The festival ended with lunch prepared for the students by the Culinary Arts Program. The event was a huge success. Planning for the event began in early September. Under the direction of Ms. Lady Anne Bruce, DECA Advisor, members of DECA set a date, determined event location and layout, and developed methods of recruiting volunteers to participate in the event. Students were responsible for recruiting student organizations and classes to participate, writing emails and developing flyers to inform attendees and school sponsors about the event, creating and distributing invitations, organizing games, activities, and event clean up. Volunteers from the Career Technical Center who sponsored booths and activities were as follows: DECA, Educators Rising, Early Childhood Education Class, Health Sciences, TSA, Skills USA, Hungry Hawks Café, Career Pathway Experience, Drafting, and the Career Technical Office. The Hancock County DECA Chapter is comprised of students from Hancock, Pass Christian, and Bay-Waveland High Schools, who are enrolled in the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program. DECA's comprehensive learning program integrates into classroom instruction. The learning program allows students to apply learning. Not only does DECA prepare the next generation of leaders to be academically prepared for school and professionally responsible for their actions, it also helps them become more community oriented.

Hancock Highlights
Hancock Highlights is published two times each year by the Hancock County School District's Superintendent's Office.
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Back left to right: Lady Anne Bruce, Kailey Moran, Brittany Beech, Andrea Lavinghouse, Daytona Coles, Angel Galloway, Sceria Herring.
Front left to right: Angie Smalley, Cristina Vincent, Aleah Bethelot.

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