

Robert L. Merritt Junior High School

Christopher Turner, Principal

Mary L. Giles, Assistant Principal

Latasha Lewis, Counselor

Allison Washington, Academic Coach

705 Kinlock Road
Indianola, MS 38751
662-884-1270 (phone)
662-884-5247 (fax)

cturner@sunflower.k12.ms.us

October 2019

Principal's Message

The results from last year's test scores are in and we are extremely excited to share them with you. Our students and teachers worked really hard to achieve good academic results and it paid off. According to the MS Department of Education, Robert L. Merritt scored 375 points on the state assessments, which makes us a successful school. We want to build on this success by making sure our students receive high quality instructions throughout this school year. Please continue to support our students by getting them to school on time and supplying them with the materials they should have for class. At Merritt, our goal is **Growth for all Students** and with your support, we will meet our goal. On October 17, we are having a data night for parents to receive information about how well students are performing and the school as a whole. As always, we thank you for allowing Robert L. Merritt Jr. High to be your child's educational home.

Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray

WE ARE STILL WAITING!!Come on out and visit our Parent Center at RLMJH. By visiting the center you will receive parenting literature and learning tools for you and your child. Our goals are to make a difference in the lives of children and provide support to parents. I am still looking forward to seeing you at workshops. We have different ways you can be involved in your child education. Such as, Active Parents, Reminders, PTO/PTA meetings, school events, and you may also volunteer. You may reach me through e-mail at gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us. My hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday's from 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. **PARENTS WE NEED YOU!!!!**

McKinney Vento Act

Is an Act that provides urgently needed assistance to protect and improve the lives and safety of the homeless, with special emphasis on elderly persons, handicapped persons, and families with children. If you know of any families who are displaced, please inform the parent liaison.

Upcoming Events at RLMJH

10/7-Fall Break p. m.(All)

10/8-Fall Break p. m. (Students Only)

10/10 Football Game Clarksdale (A) 5:30 p. m.

10/14 District Celebration @ 4:00 p. m

10/17- Data Night @4:30 p. m.

10/24- Learning Walk/Advisory Team 10:30 a. m.

10/30-Breast Cancer Awareness Program @ 10:30 a.m.

Assistant Principal Message

We would like to thank you for your support thus far. Merritt students are making outstanding progress academically, socially, and behaviorally. We ask all stakeholders to continue to support us and encourage students to always do their best. We will continue to solicit stakeholders to take part in our community walk and teacher recognition program. If you are interested, please sign up with Mrs. Ray, the parent liaison, at Merritt.

1st Learning Walk for 2019-2020



Benchmark Assessment Workshop on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Our presenter was Dylan Jones, Data and Information Technology Specialist. We also had two guest presenters in attendance. Mrs. Ida Cannon, Truancy Officer and Lacia McIntyre of Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi.



Dr. Jessica James, Media Center Specialist

This year in the library we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our new books. Please continue to go to our school's web page so that you will be the first to know when the new books arrive. I am so thankful for being a bundle winner of books from the Junior Library Guild. **YA High School bundle** is perfect for your older student readers (and even your teachers and parents). Books included are as follows:

- ◆ Virtually Yours by Sarvenaz Tash
- A Room Away From the Wolves by Nova Ren Suma
- The Astonishing Color of After by Emily X. R. Pan
- ◆ Tell Me How You Really Feel by Aminah Mae Safi
- eBooks codes are still available for those that like to read books on various devices.

How Parents Can Stop Cyberbullying

- 1. **Keep the computer or laptop in a common area of the home.** Do not allow it in your children's bedrooms. Monitor their online usage.
- 2. **Learn how various social networking apps and sites work.** Become familiar with Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Ask your children if they will show you their profile pages.
- 3. **Talk regularly and specifically with your children about online issues.** Let them know they can come to you for help if anything is inappropriate, upsetting, or dangerous.
- 4. **Build trust with your children.** Set time limits, explain your reasons for them, and discuss rules for online safety and Internet use. Ask your children to contribute to establishing the rules; then they'll be more inclined to follow them.
- 5. **Tell your children not to respond to any cyberbullying threats or comments online.** However, do not delete any of the messages. Instead, print out all the messages, including the email addresses or social media handles of the cyberbully. You will need the messages to verify and prove there is cyberbullying.
- 6. **Don't overreact by blaming your children.** If they are being bullied, be supportive and understanding. Find out how long the bullying has been going on and ensure that you'll work together to find a solution. Let your children know they are not to blame for being bullied.

Counselor's Corner, Latoshi