

Robert L. Merritt Junior High School

THE MERRITT GAZETTE

Christopher Turner, Principal
Catasha Brown, Assistant Principal
Sherby Hale, Counselor
Mary Carter, Academic Coach

705 Kinlock Road
Indianola, MS 38751
662-884-1270 (phone)
662-887-5247 (fax)
cturner@sunflower.k12.ms.us

April 2018

“Equitable Education for Every Student”

Principal’s Message

We are in the 4th quarter of this school year and we are extremely excited about the growth of our students. Currently, we are completing small weekly assessments to ensure that our students and our school as a whole will be successful on MAAP Assessments. Our students and teachers are working hard every day to be overachievers in the classroom. We will continue to provide solid instruction to students for the remainder of this year. Please continue to assist us in making sure that your child/children have the resources they need for school, be on their very best behavior, and strive to perform to their highest potential. Attendance plays a major role in educating our students, so please try to get students to school. With these things in mind, there is no doubt about whether or not we will be a successful school. We will have our 3rd 9 weeks awards program on May 4th. We will recognize our honor students and our students who showed growth on their 3rd 9 weeks assessment. As always, we thank you for your continued support and for making Robert L. Merritt your child's place of education.

One School...One Team...One Goal! Student Achievement

Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray

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 goal is to make a difference in the lives of children and provide support to parents. I am still looking forward to seeing you at workshops. Parents, if you have any particular areas you would like to have a workshop on please let me know. Remember, we have different ways you can be involved in your child education. Such as, Active Parents, Remind, PTO/PTA meetings, school events. In addition, you may volunteer. You may reach me through e-mail at gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us. My hours are:

Upcoming Events at RLMJH

4/8 Softball Game (Home) Greenwood 3:00 P.M.
4/5 Softball Game (Away) Yahoo City 5:00 P.M.
4/10 Softball Game (Away) Tunica Rosa Fort (DH) 5:00 P.M.
4/11 Health Fair 9:00 P.M.-12:00 P.M.
4/12 Softball Game (Home) Ruleville -4:30 P.M.
4/14 Amanda Elzy (DH) (Home) 10:00 A.M.
4/17 Softball Game (Away) O’Bannon 5:00 P.M.
4/24 Doughnuts for Dads 10:30 A.M.
4/30 Spa Day 9:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.
5/7-18 MAAP Assessments- State Tests- 8:00A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Past and Present News

During the week of February 23, 2018. It was Severe Weather Awareness Week . We were privileged to have Christopher Mathis, Chief Meteorologist of Delta News to come and share information on the weather and how to be safe during severe weather with Miss Walthena Bruce’s classes.



On April 24, 2018 at 10:30 a. m. Dads will be invited to visit the campus and share a doughnut or two with their child.

IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- ◆ In a motel, shelter or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- ◆ In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- ◆ Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship (Please Contact your Parent Liaison)

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for Homeless students. For more information please visit our MDE website at:

www.mde.k12.ms.us/OFP/titlex

Counselor's Corner

Zest - Approaching Life with Excitement and Energy

Zest is approaching life with excitement and energy, feeling alive and activated. What an amazing concept! Can you imagine, as an adult, waking up every day with excitement and energy for what the day is about to bring? Of course this is an unlikely scenario as an adult but for children the opportunities are far greater with their young imaginations and the world in front of them.

Zest is a key component to child happiness, success in education and living a fulfilling life. Therefore, as parents, we should look for opportunities to encourage zest and help this trait flourish in our children for the long term.

How to Encourage Zest; Excitement; Enthusiasm

There are many resources dedicated to helping parents learn how to encourage excitement in their children. However, every child is different and what works for one may not work for yours and vice versa. This isn't a bad thing though. The creativity and experimentation to get our children excited about a specific topic or activity is also a way for us parents to be engaged with our children on a daily basis.

With that being said, here are Kidamentals 2-Steps to helping deliver Zest in your child:

Step 1: Identify the activity that your child could benefit from added enthusiasm

This sounds simple but there are many opportunities that may go unnoticed. Let's use the example of a toddler putting together a puzzle. It's hardly rocket science and certainly isn't necessary to their future college entrance submission. However, if the child consistently gets frustrated (after all, they are difficult) then they may have the tendency to stop and move onto other activities. Why is Zest important here? Because the enthusiasm and excitement for finishing the puzzle helps the child learn to push through those adverse situations. Some people call this particular trait "Grit" and it is also one of the traits that can help predict life satisfaction and high achievement.

Step 2: Utilize creativity and experimentation to learn what excites your child

Continuing with our previous example, perhaps it's reminding the child how they 'feel' when they work hard and then accomplish a goal. Or perhaps you have an artistic child who loves to see the finished picture. Or perhaps you have the child who loves animals and will be so excited to see the giraffe when the puzzle is complete. The above example is specific to a toddler. But as our kids get older, the sheer number of activities and implications of such activities increase. For example, those that are concerned with their child's excitement to read or those looking for cool math games to encourage excitement for math.

A fun experiment for parents can be to google search what other parents are trying to excite in their child. Given time and effort, your creativity and encouragement will shine through in your child.

This article can be found at <http://kidamentals.com/happiness/74-zest>

The character word for the month of April is Zest...Which means-approaching life with excitement and energy...

IN THE NEWS-LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, during a Health Fair, Dr. Jessica James, Media Center Specialist was surprised with a donation of books from Sunflower County United for Children Organization. Students are encouraged to visit the library and take advantage of the new selection. Among the selection are *All American Boys*, *Girls Think of Everything*, *The Cricket in Time Square*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *A Long Walk to Water*, and more,

Parent-Teacher Incentives for supporting **ALL** events at the school!

Parents + Teachers = Successful Students

