

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dropout Prevention News



Fall 2008

Mr. Michael D. Kent, Superintendent

Office of Federal Programs



Dropout Prevention Community Awareness Rally

The Velma Jackson High School marching band rang the corridors and greeted Rally attendees at Camden

Elementary School as Madison County School District Office of Federal Programs held the first of two scheduled Dropout Prevention Rallies, Saturday, November 1, 2008, at Camden Elementary School in Camden, MS. The event brought in approximately 200 parents, community members, faculty, and staff.

A general assembly opened the rally where Mr. Donnell Bell with the Mississippi Department of Education, Division of School Counseling, gave remarks on the advantages of staying in school. A presentation given by Mrs. Marilyn Naron, principal of Luther Branson Elementary School, and Ms. Jessica Ghoston, Instructional Specialist at Luther Branson Elementary School, gave details on dropout statistics and indicators parents should look for in their children in order to be proactive toward school performance.

Several of the State Department's dropout prevention videos clips were shown and musical selections were provided by the Luther Branson Elementary and the Camden Elementary Choirs. Door prizes were also given to the first ten parents who signed in.

The day continued with breakout sessions where presenters discussed programs and events their organizations offered to encourage higher education. Breakout sessions participants were from Tougaloo College, Division of Federal TRiO Programs, Corinthia Bradfield; Holmes Community College, Angela Boyd, WIA Education

Coordinator; the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Alicia Wilson; Job Corp, Tamiko Williams,

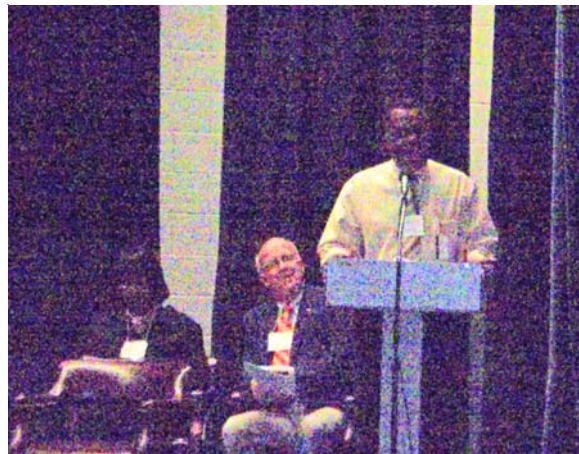


LeAndrew and Felicia taking a break during the Dropout Prevention Rally.

and Madison County Schools Career and Technical Center, Aimee Brown, Director.

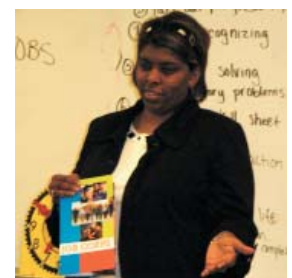
While parents, middle school, and high school participants were in their breakout sessions, the elementary students watched several videos on the importance of an education. After which, the students were treated to several activity booths which included face painting, space jumps, volleyball, snocones, cotton candy, popcorn, and Joyful the Clown.

The Rally ended after a delicious catered lunch which was provided by the areas schools Parent Teacher Associations.



Mr. Donnell Bell, Division Director, School Counseling, Mississippi Department of Education addresses the general session.

Tamiko Williams explains Job Corp's mission during her breakout session.





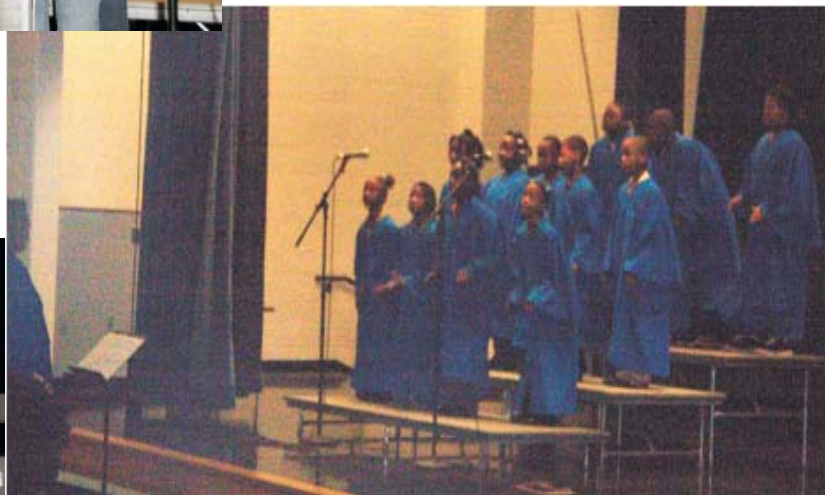
➤ The band welcomes the crowd during sign-in for the Rally.

➤ Audience members listen attentively during the general assembly.



➤ Luther Branson Elementary Choir prepares to perform during the general assembly.

➤ Camden Elementary Choir performs during the general assembly.



➤ Ms. Jessica Ghoston, back left, and Mrs. Marilyn Naron present a dropout prevention statistics presentation during the general assembly.



▼ Corinthia Boyd, left, talks with a parent about the Upward Bound Programs offered at Tougaloo College.

▲ Career and Technical Center Student Ambassadors explain the program to breakout session participants. The session was conducted by Aimee Brown, MCSD Center Director.



◀ Angela Boyd, Holmes Community College, discusses the importance of job training skills for high school students.



▶ Participants complete paperwork during the University of Mississippi Medical Center breakout session presented by Alicia Wilson.





Susam Adam, left, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, and Lillian Conway, Teacher Assistant, create sno cones for the eagerly awaiting students.



Jermeria, Genoris, Jeremiah, and Michael wait their turn for the Spiderman Space Jump.



Kendravious gets his face painted by Cynthia Scott as Jasmine looks on.

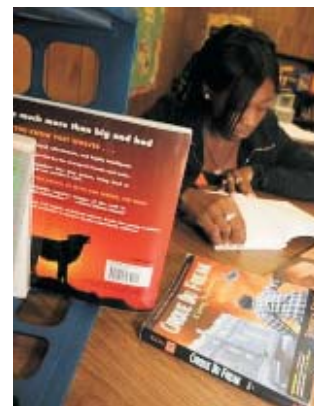


Rally participants enjoy lunch provided by the area schools Parent Teacher Associations.

Madison County School's BRIDGE Program

The Madison County BRIDGE Program is designed for students in grades six and seven who are two or more grades behind. Once in the program, students are afforded a valuable opportunity to advance two grades in one academic year through a strict regimen of mathematics, reading, science, and social studies. Students are taught by highly qualified instructors, offering the same curriculum used in all Madison County Schools by blending the Mississippi frameworks. Students can only enter the program at the beginning of a school year or within seven days of school starting.

The BRIDGE Program attempts to identify each student's academic, social, and emotional needs and to design a unique instructional program to meet those needs. The intent of the BRIDGE Program is to return each student to his or her home school with skills necessary to be successful in a grade appropriate school environment. Every student in the program is expected to give one-hundred percent. More BRIDGE updates to come in the next *Dropout Prevention News*.



Brianna, left, and B.J., below, are two students in the BRIDGE Program.

Photos courtesy of the Madison County Herald

