

# The Eagle Express



February 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



February 2021

## Let's Talk!!!!

Welcome February! We are now into our third nine weeks grading period. Please use this time to remind your in person (Pre-K) and remote students to fully engage and take their work seriously as we continue to push them academically! Report cards for the second nine weeks will be issued Tuesday- Thursday, February 9-11, 2021.

With third nine weeks well under way, we want to thank everyone for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day.

There is no question about it—success in school starts at home. Families are the most significant influence in a student's schooling. Families model both spoken and silent language in front of their children. One of the great hallmarks of a great school is the partnership between the school and families who work together for the best interest of all AWJ students. Make an effort to partner with the school.

Family has been the foundation of African American culture from times of slavery through the turbulent days of forced racial segregation. Family is not only defined by our blood lines but by our shared commitment to each other as members of this community. In the month of February we recognize the central role of African Americans in American history like Dr. Ralph J. Bunche. February is Black History Month and our students need to be provided time to explore their world and experience the joy of discovery. As we celebrate this month, it is helpful to keep in mind the contributions made by all ethnic groups but more importantly African Americans. School and home must work together to build skills and knowledge, develop a strong sense of self-worth and reinforce values.

We continue to share with families that attendance and lateness concerns negatively impacts a student's performance in class.

### TIPS for Families

- Let your children know that you think school is important.
  - Set a regular bedtime and enforce it so that he/she may be ready for school on time.
  - Provide a plan for your child to have a quiet and undisturbed place to learn.
  - Classes begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students should login at least five – ten minutes early.
  - Plan medical, dental, and other appointments after school if possible. If appointments must be during the school day, plan them so that your child does not miss the same class every time and send an excuse to school.
  - Request a meeting with the Parent Liaison to discuss your child's attendance concerns.
- Parents/caregivers who fail to have their children attend school may be subject to the following:
- Neglect charges may be filed against the parent/caregiver;
  - Students may be referred to the Family Court and other community based interventions.

As cases of COVID continue to increase in our area, it is important to share how wonderful our students and staff are doing to keep everyone healthy and safe. Please continue to wear masks properly, watch your distance, and wash your hands!

Barbara C. Akon, Principal



*Congratulations!*

*Parent of the Month*

**Barbara Brady**  
Retired educator and grandmother of 2nd grader Braylen Wiggins, Mrs. Brady shows her relentless support, dedication and commitment to ensure virtual learning success.



**WELCOME BACK**

The A.W. James faculty and staff are excited to once again welcome the return of another former staff member, Mr. David McPherson. We are delighted to have you back on our team. You were truly missed.



*Have a  
Bright &  
Beautiful  
Wednesday*

Wednesdays continue to be joyful, mind relaxing and stress relieving days thanks to the efforts of our Parent Liaison, Susan Rash. From brewing coffee to providing breakfast and a variety of snacks and drinks, she makes sure that staff is met every Wednesday morning with the opportunity to fuel their energy level before stepping into the virtual world of educating students. Thank you Ms. Rash. We appreciate everything you do!



  
**COMPUTER LAB**

While K-5th grade students are at home learning virtually, A.W. James Pre-K students continue to take advantage of in person learning. Although they are on a hybrid schedule, the expectations are still to provide them with a high quality education. They take are reaping the benefits of computer time away from the classroom. Keep striving for excellence Pre-K students!





**Thanks  
for  
Giving**

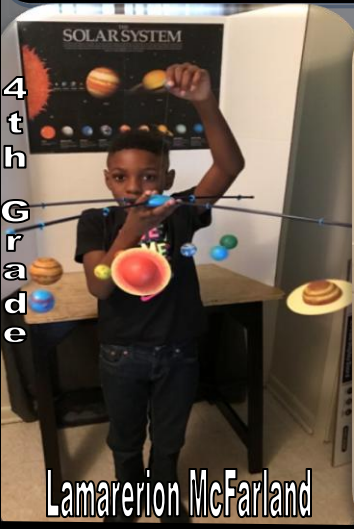
Thanks to an everlasting impression left by the teachers, students and staff of A.W. James, our school was blessed to accept a building full of furniture shipped by a school district in Centerville, Iowa. We are so grateful to Mr. Michael Thomas, the Superintendent and the board members for taking us into consideration. We certainly thank Mr. Thomas and his wife for visiting our school and keeping us in mind to receive this wonderful blessing.



**Solar System Project**



Students in Ms. Davis' 4th grade and Mrs. K Barber's 5th grade Science classes show off their talents as they share their creativity in presenting information on the solar system. There was an amazing variety of models presented. We are so proud of our students. We want to encourage you to keep up the great work in the world of virtually learning.



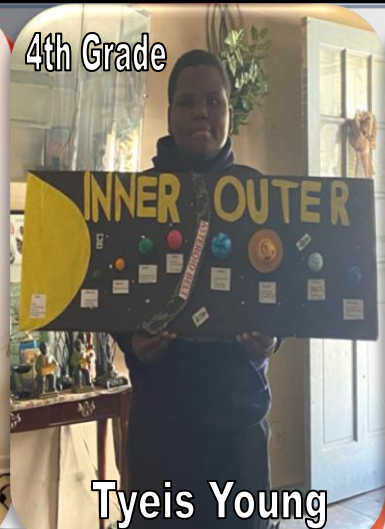
4th Grade

Lamarerion McFarland



4th Grade

Jakerriun Hooper



4th Grade

Tyeis Young



4th Grade

Damarrian Burnett



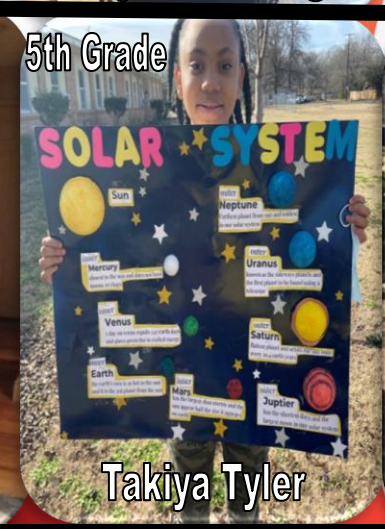
5th Grade

Melody Lockett



5th Grade

Janiqua Roebuck



5th Grade

Takiya Tyler



5th Grade

Markeai Clark



**Ms. Ida Cannon  
Attendance Officer**

Ms. Ida Cannon works for the Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement. This office is responsible for ensuring that all Mississippi students are afforded the opportunity to attend school and enforce the Mississippi Compulsory School Law § 37-13-91 of the Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated. She has been working in Sunflower County since 2014. She serves as the attendance officer for all public schools in Sunflower County as well as three private schools and homeschooled students. Her office is located at the D. B. Floyd Administration Building located at 702 Highway 82 East in Indianola, MS.



## Mission

To provide a clean, safe, and orderly environment that is conducive to student achievement and growth.

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We envision our school as a "Successful" or (above rated) school. We hold ourselves accountable for implementing, with fidelity teaching and learning processes that will enable all students to achieve academic growth.



## DATES TO REMEMBER



**Mar. 8th-12th**



**Feb. 1st-5th**



**Feb. 8th-12th**



**Feb. 15th**



**Mar. 15th-19th**



**MOY Diagnostic  
Feb. 1st-19th**



**Feb. 14th**



**Bi-weekly Assessment  
Feb. 22nd-26th**



**Mar. 17th**