

The Eagle Express



May 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



May 2021

Let's Talk!!!!

May brings anticipation of the last days of school, summer vacation and planning for a new school year. After a most unprecedented 2020-21 school year, we also look forward to "a return to normal". We have much to be proud of as a school community for navigating the unknown. We have met the challenge together with grace, unity, and a continued focus on putting children and learning first. GREAT JOB! We salute all of our teachers as they became comfortable with the uncomfortable situations this year has brought.

I would like to honor all of our mothers on this Mother's Day. Thank you for being positive role models for your children. Thank you for the lessons you teach about the importance of acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude, happiness, sharing, perseverance, and kindness. Thank you for your courage, dedication, and compassion for your family. I wish you a Mother's Day filled with joy, laughter, and love. Happy Mother's Day!

We look forward to the last weeks of school with all of you. Please continue to keep solid routines at home as we come down the home stretch. I want to thank you for a great school year and all of the work you do to support your children and help them to succeed and grow.

Thank you for the tremendous amount of trust and support you have given us this year. We have missed having our parents, grandparents, and volunteers in our building due to the Covid safety protocols. We certainly hope the fall brings more opportunities to open our school doors to our community.

Lots of activities are scheduled for May and June: Third Nine Weeks Award Day, Meetings for Pre-K parents and 5th grade parents regarding graduation/promotional activities, MAAP State Testing, Summer School and other end of the year activities. We are going to be very busy! Let's end this unprecedented school year on a positive note as we look forward to a more "normal" 2021-22 school year.

Enjoy the beauty of spring and the final days of school.



Barbara C. Akon
Principal

Mission

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



Vision

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.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Parent of the Month

TaShondria Thigpen is the proud mother of second grader A'Riyah Ingram. Ms. Thigpen works to ensure that her daughter is an active participant, who is fully engaged in the learning process.



Thanks
For All
You Do!

The faculty and staff took a moment to show appreciation to their secretary, Christine Bennett, by showering her with tokens of love on Administrative Professional Day.



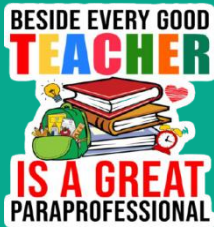
OUR SAFE
RETURN

From taking temperatures, to recording them, social distancing in the hallways and classroom, ensuring breakfast and lunch is delivered in a secure container, and creating a safe, sanitized and disinfected environment, students have finally returned to in person learning. We are excited to have our students back with us and are committed to providing safety measures to keep our students, teachers and staff protected and out of harm's way. We want our parents to know that we are dedicated to making sure our school is a stimulating and enriching place in which we can get students back to some sense of normalcy. Thank you for trusting us to make it happen.



SAFE
RETURN
2LEARN





Paraprofessionals are an integral part of the education team. They work tirelessly each day to support students and teachers. They make important contributions to the educational environment, and we could not be successful without them. We love and salute the hardworking and dedicated members of our team: Yolanda Foster, Brenda Ingram, Brenda Mickey, Hattie Pimpton, Latonya Woodard and our parent liaison, Susan Rash. Thanks for all that you do! We appreciate you.



Student teaching is a college-supervised instructional experience, which occurs prior to students graduating and obtaining their teaching certification from the Mississippi Department of Education. We want to congratulate our student teachers, Heather McCool and Chasidy Green, on completing their student teacher experience. We hope that your experience and desire to educate children lead to a successful and rewarding career in the educational field.



**Ms. Ida Cannon
Attendance
Officer**

According to the attendance policy, students must be in attendance for 63% of the instructional day (minimum of 240 minutes for the 2020-2021 school year) to be reported as present.

Every day
COUNTS!

School success starts
with attendance




Students in Ms. Luckett's Kindergarten class take advantage of being back in the classroom. They show their willingness to be active participants and their desire to take ownership of their learning experience. Below, Aiyla Pointer is working at the sand table station to locate dinosaurs. Martavious Phillips is hard at work excavating dinosaur remains. We encourage our Kindergartners to keep the enthusiasm going.



May 3rd-7th

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**




**Questar®
MAAP Assessment
May 3rd-12th**

Virtual
**AWARDS
CEREMONIES
May 14th**

4th 9-weeks
**ASSESSMENT
June 7th-11th**

**HAPPY
LAST
day of
SCHOOL**
**Teachers' Last Day
June 16th**



May 9th



May 31st

**Student's
Last Day
of
School**

June 11th



June 20th