

The Eagle Express



Sept.- Oct. 2020

A. W. James Elementary School
400 South Blvd. / Drew, MS 38737
Telephone (662) 745-8892
Ms. Barbara C. Akon, Principal
Mrs. Christine Bennett, Secretary



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Let's Talk!!!!

Much talk is going around about what the schools should do. There are many opinions about what to do and how to do it when it comes to this new world of school. However, there are two goals upon which we all seem to agree:

1. Safety first – we want to assure that all of our children are safe from the virus and becoming ill and cannot attend school at all.
2. We must instill a love of learning. Virtual, hybrid, traditional, face-to-face – however students are learning, we must instill a love of learning so that they will want to do it for a lifetime.

So, what can we do to achieve these goals?

First, we must acknowledge that safety encompasses body, mind, and spirit. If our children are feeling defeated, we must change our methods of teaching and learning. We must relentlessly question what and how we are teaching until we find ways that effectively connect with our students and simultaneously empower them. Of course, this will require an incredible amount of effort by both teachers and parents. Together, parents and teachers are creating a new educational system.

Secondly, we should remember that our goal is not to check off the boxes to say that we did this and we did that, that's what was required – done! Instead, we must teach to the heart of our children, inspiring them with wonder, delight, and beauty so that they long to engage in learning for a lifetime. Technology affords us this opportunity. No longer are students required to memorize facts and figures - they can Google that. We must teach the assimilation of knowledge to solve problems and create new solutions.

We understand that some don't believe that learning packets and technology are not the best ways to learn. It is believed that having our students in the teachers' presence is the best way to serve our children. But, we all believe that these are means to educate our children until we can get back together. We want to make sure that we establish goal one – Safety First!!! Let's continue to wash our hands, stay our distance and wear a mask. When we do this, we will get back together and we will be BETTER when we get back together! Be encouraged and we will get through this.



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.





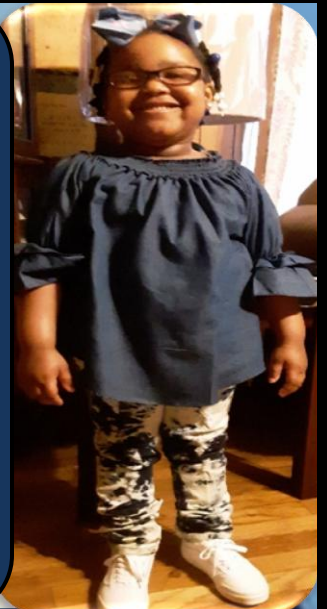
Parent of the Month

Congratulations to our Virtual parent of the month, Angela Wilson. We applaud your efforts, dedication, academic support, flexibility and willingness to go above and beyond to ensure student success!

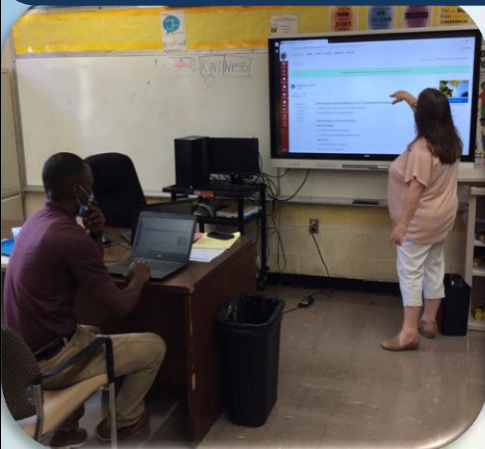


PRE-K superstar

Jaida Jones showed up to a brand new school year as a shining star. She scored the highest on the MKAS assessment in her Pre-K class. She is the daughter of our parent of the month Angela Wilson. Way to Go!



During Professional Development, the faculty and staff at A.W. James found a way to safely come together to become familiar with the district's new Learning Management System. Canvas is a course management system that supports online teaching and learning. It is a platform that provides the tools to support online learning in a variety of ways.



Nurses Kakawonda Hibbler, Tawanda Wilson, and Amanda Cole visit A.W. James to enhance the staff's knowledge and ease some of the tension, anxiety and stress brought on by the existence of COVID-19. They found an interactive way to encourage active participation and involvement from staff members to provide answers to frequently asked questions about the Coronavirus. Job Well Done Ladies!



Thank You!

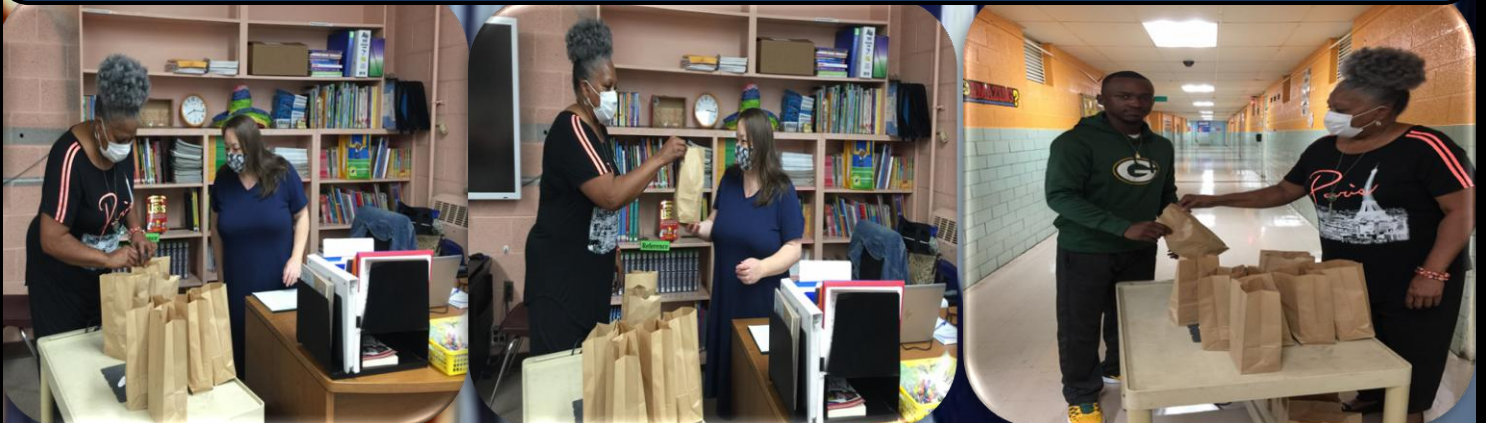
Principal Barbara C. Akon worked hard to help her staff feel a sense of normalcy during Professional Development work sessions by sponsoring her regular morning breakfast. Staff members were welcomed to partake safely in a wonderfully prepared breakfast by former teacher Barbara Thigpen. We say thanks to our principal for her constant generosity even during times of the unknown!



COVID 19 didn't stop Open House. The only thing it did was changed how Open House would be conducted. Parents were invited to a parking lot meeting where they received Title I information as well as information for how learning would take place. Teachers were available to meet parents and students and to issue the instructional resources for the school year.



Wednesday is a special day at A.W. James. It is a special day because our Parent Liaison, Susan Rash, finds time to bring a moment of happiness during these unprecedented times. Every Wednesday she provides teachers with a special treat to help relieve some of the stress of virtual learning.



School Attendance Officer

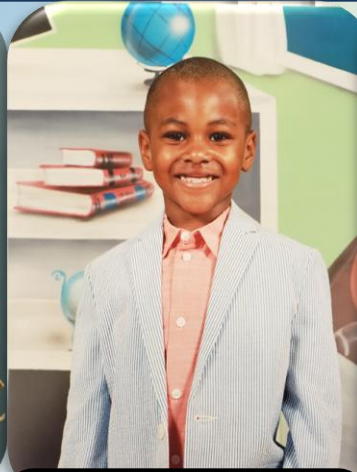
The faculty and staff of A.W. James would like to say welcome aboard to Ida Cannon. Ms. Cannon is the new attendance officer for A.W. James Elementary School.



Corona who? Virus what? COVID 19 had no effect on these shining stars. Our Kindergarten students rose to the challenge on their MKAS assessment. The purpose of the MKAS assessment is to improve the quality of classroom instruction. Congratulations! We're so proud of you! Keep up the good work!



Alfrenette Baggett
Elizabeth Hatch,
Teacher



Tristan Harris
Jacqueline Luckett,
Teacher



Mariyah Davis
Elizabeth Hatch,
Teacher



Oct. 2nd



Oct. 5th-6th



Oct. 5th-9th

DATES TO REMEMBER



**Bi-weekly Assessment
Oct. 15th**



**Bi-weekly Assessment
Oct. 29th**



Oct. 31st

Nov. 2nd-6th



Nov. 23rd-27th



Nov. 26th

Nov. 16th-20th 