

# HANCOCK HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Edition 2008

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## Superintendent's Message

*Congratulations to the 216 seniors who graduated from Hancock High School on Friday, May 16th. This year's Senior class earned more than three million dollars in scholarship opportunities. Seeing this type of accomplishment makes all that we do in education extremely rewarding. On behalf of all the staff from HCSD, we wish these seniors the best on their journey into adulthood.*

*Another exciting accomplishment in the HCSD will be the opening of the two new elementary schools this fall: South Hancock Elementary in Lakeshore and West Hancock Elementary in Leetown. SHE is targeted to open in August and WHE is scheduled to open by early October. I hope you will join me in the grand openings of these fine educational facilities in the near future.*

*Since February of this year, the school board and administration have been working with the John Stennis Institute for Government at Mississippi State University in setting up elementary boundaries for the three elementary schools in the central and northern parts of the county. The concentrated growth areas of population in Kiln, Diamondhead, and the other rural areas of the county have caused some growing pains at the East and North Central campuses. Working with the Transportation Department, efforts have been made to divide the populations at the three north elementary schools to numbers that will allow future growth at all sites. Through careful planning, new boundaries have been set by the school board for the upcoming 2008-09 school year. You can review the re-districting map at our website [www.hancock.k12.ms.us](http://www.hancock.k12.ms.us). Students assigned to West Hancock will begin the school year at the Hancock North Central site. These students will be housed in concentrated areas until the new campus is ready.*

*Again, it is exciting to be a part of the many future educational endeavors of the students of the HCSD. Please join us in recognizing our students and working with our staff to make our students' educational accomplishments the highest priority. Working together, we can truly achieve more.*

**Alan Dedeaux**

## Hancock Middle School P.L.E.D.G.E.

Being committed to improving the drop-out rate for Hancock County schools, Hancock Middle School hosted the first annual 8th Grade P.L.E.D.G.E. Ceremony on April 17, 2008. The emphasis of this activity was to encourage the students to make a commitment to graduate in front of witnesses and to visualize their future graduation. The school invited parents and family to join the students as they gathered in the school's gym. Students shared information about the importance of staying in school. Student leaders from Hancock High School's Junior Class came to reinforce the message of the importance of education. These students will be seniors for this group of eighth graders' freshman year next year and officially welcomed them to Hancock High. Each student was escorted by a caring adult to the ceremony table to sign the pledge which was an acronym for I Promise to Learn Each Day and Graduate Empowered. As students signed the P.L.E.D.G.E. they were presented a necklace with P.L.E.D.G.E. 2012 — The year that they will graduate. Community members attended as well. The ceremony was a huge success and will become an annual event.



Cody Ladner, Class of 2012, poses as a graduate as part of the P.L.E.D.G.E. day ceremonies.



Elizabeth Fucich  
Valedictorian of the  
Class of 2008



Melissa Ambrosino  
Salutatorian of the  
Class of 2008

## Hancock High School Class of 2008

Hancock High School Class of 2008 graduated with a total of 216 graduates on May 16, 2008. Elizabeth Fucich was Valedictorian. Elizabeth's Valedictorian address was on Personal Success. She was a member of the National Spanish Honor Society and the History and Government Club. Elizabeth has served as a Student Council Representative for two years. She has represented Hancock High School as a Youth Legislature Representative. Elizabeth is the recipient of many academic awards at Hancock High School and was selected for Who's Who Among America's High School Students. She placed in the top 10% at Mississippi's Science and Math Tournament the last three years. Elizabeth attended the State Beta Convention the last two years placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Math last year and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Senior Scholarship this year. Elizabeth is also an active community volunteer including volunteer work at Woodland Village and as a student poll worker. Ms. Fucich was the winner of the Scholastic Award in the Hancock County Junior Miss Pageant. Elizabeth's interest is in science and math. Elizabeth plans on attending University of Southern Mississippi as a Presidential National Merit Scholar and majoring in some field of science. Elizabeth hopes to one day teach. Elizabeth is the daughter of Clayton and Kathleen Fucich.

Melissa Ambrosino was Salutatorian of the Hancock High School Senior Class of 2008. Melissa is a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society and the History and Government Club. She has represented Hancock High School as a Youth Legislature Representative. Melissa is also the recipient of many academic awards at Hancock High School and was selected for Who's Who Among America's High School Students. She placed in the top 10% in Biology and top 25% in Mathematics at Mississippi's Science and Math Tournament. Melissa was Hancock High School's Star Student for 2007-2008. Melissa is an active community volunteer including volunteer work at Woodland Village and as a student poll worker. Melissa also volunteers at the Kiln Public Library. Melissa's favorite subject is English. Her passion is writing. She will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi as a Presidential National Merit Scholar and majoring in English and Journalism. Melissa hopes to become a journalist or an author with the ultimate goal of serving as the editor of a major publication. Melissa is the daughter of Patrick and Nancy Cuty.

Elizabeth and Melissa were named Mississippi Scholars and Hancock High School Hall of Fame. Melissa and Elizabeth have been best friends all through their high school years and have encouraged and supported one another.

### Class of 2008 Honors and High Honors

#### Honors

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Nahid Akhtar      | Cody Moak          |
| Brittany Bentley  | Courtney Moran     |
| Henry Breazeale   | Raven Moran        |
| Andrew Esslinger  | John Munger        |
| Caleb Finch       | Cody Necaize       |
| Jacob House       | Kayla Necaize      |
| Courtney Lacoste  | Jameson Sacco      |
| Kirsten Ladner    | Samantha Smith     |
| Maggie Ladner     | Heather Stephenson |
| Bryce Maggiore    | Samantha Thompson  |
| Tiffany Marquar   | Waseem Uddin       |
| Kord McCarty      | Keith Wall         |
| Samuel McElveen   | Jessica Wingfield  |
| Stephanie McGowan | Keeli Winston      |

#### Highest Honors

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Daniel Agudelo-Cuervo | Jessica Hoda     |
| Melissa Ambrosino     | Jessica Jelinski |
| Ashlen Bissell        | Amanda Lemay     |
| Elizabeth Fucich      | Mykeal Maes      |
| Charissa Garriga      | Joseph McCleskey |
| Taylor Graham         | Skye Necaize     |
| Rycki Haas            | Chelsea Wahl     |
| Jessica Hanson        | Charles Young    |
| Jennifer Hightower    |                  |

### Skills USA Student to Nationals

Summer McLain, Hancock Vo-Tech student will be competing in SkillsUSA national competition in Kansas City, Missouri this summer. Summer will compete as a pre-school teaching assistant. She will present a story, prepare a transition activity and create a lesson plan.

## Hancock High School Senior receives

### West Point Appointment

Hancock High School senior, Charles Young Jr., was nominated by Congressman Gene Taylor and has received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Charles was a member of the History and Government Club, and the National French Honor Society. He served as president of the Hancock High National Honor Society and he was the Battalion Commander of the Junior ROTC. He has been a member of the Color Guard, Rifle Team, Drill Team and Honor Guard. He has received the numerous awards: Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the World Wars, VFW Award, and Hugh O'Brian Leadership Award. Charles was an Honor Roll student and a community volunteer. Charles is a member of the Crane Creek Baptist Youth Group. Congressman Taylor praised Charles, "It is a great accomplishment for Charles to have been accepted to one of the most prestigious schools in the world. West Point has a several 100 year history of taking young people and turning them into Army officers. Charles has been chosen because they see the qualities of an Army officer in him. It will be difficult but we have every confidence that Charles can do it."

Charles is pictured with Congressman Gene Taylor.



## TSA Qualifies for Nationals

Students from the Hancock County Vo-Tech Center took time out of their spring break to compete in the Mississippi State TSA competition. Jesse Stennett and Todd Padron won first place in Construction Systems; Casey Linn and Spencer Breland won second place in Cyberspace Pursuit; Dustin Platt and Steven Leonard won third place in Structural Engineering; Alexis Summers won third place in Imaging Technology. All these students qualify for Nationals. Alicia Burton, Heather Neal, Dewey Pullman, Matthew Rester, made finalists in Medical Technology; Solomon Swift made finalist in Promotional Graphics; Jesse Stennett, Alexis Summers, Casey Linn, Ben Northrup, Ian Keenum, Todd Padron made finalists in Chapter Team; Ian Keenum made finalist in Dragster. Jesse Stennett, Todd Padron and Alexis Summers will be competing in Orlando June 28- July 3.



## District Teachers of the Year



Pictured: District Teacher of the Year: Stacy Necaice (Hancock High School), Dianne Pagano (South Hancock Elementary), Angela Shoemaker (Hancock North Central Elementary), Chad Davis (Hancock Middle School), Kim Gurley (East Hancock Elementary), Tony Adams (Hancock County Vo-Tech), Wendie Peterson of Statewide Insurance and Alan Dedeaux, Superintendent of Education.

## Hancock High Band Members to Participate in Lions Band

Lauren Stealey and Connor Ryan, two members of the Hancock High School Band, have recently been selected to participate in the Mississippi Lions All-State Band. Both Lauren and Connor were selected through a rigorous audition among over nine hundred high school band students. They will represent the Lions Club this summer in performances at the Statue of Liberty and in America's National Independence Day Parade in Washington D.C. Lauren, a sophomore, is an accomplished flutist. She has been active in band since sixth grade and was selected as second chair flute in the Lions Band. Connor, a freshman, is a talented euphonium player. He was most recently chosen to attend the high school state band clinic in Tupelo.



## HANCOCK HIGHLIGHTS

Hancock Highlights is published three times each year (Spring, Summer, and Fall/Winter) by the Hancock County School District's Superintendent's Office.

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*The Hancock County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national origin, religion, age or disability.*

## School Registration Dates

All students new and returning are required to register for the 2008-2009 school year.

Please bring two proofs of residency.

### Hancock High School

July 21-23 8:00am – 2:00pm

July 24 8:00 am– 7:00pm

### Hancock Middle School

July 24 – 25 8:00am – 2:00pm

July 28 11:00am – 7:00pm

### East Hancock Elementary

July 22-25 8:00am – 2:00pm

### Hancock North Central

July 22-25 8:00am – 2:00pm

### South Hancock Elementary

(registration site TBA)

July 22-23 8:30am – 1:30pm

(returning students)

July 24 8:30am – 1:30pm (new students)

### West Hancock Elementary

(at Hancock North Central)

July 28-29 8:00am – 2:00pm

For more information visit our website at [www.hancock.k12.ms.us](http://www.hancock.k12.ms.us).

Company Name

Address

City, State, ZIP Code

## Dress Code 2008-2009

Hancock County School Board has made some modifications to the Dress Code Policy. The entire policy is posted on the website and copies are available at the schools and District Office.

**ALL CLOTHING MUST BE OF ACCEPTABLE CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN PURSUANT TO THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY ALL CLOTHING MUST FIT PROPERLY NO OVSIZED OR TIGHT FITTING CLOTHING IS ALLOWED**

**SHIRTS/TURTLENECKS/BLOUSES/KNIT POLOS-button closure and must have collar**

All Schools – White, Navy Blue and Red (Solid colors only) Additional Colors by School – EHE-Hunter Green, SHE-Light Blue, WHE- Gold, HNCE, HHS & HMS-Royal Blue (Solid colors only)

Shirts may be long or short sleeve, with or without pockets

“Crop tops”, midriff shirts, or tight-fitting shirts are not allowed .

All shirts, whether worn outside or under another garment, must be of a solid required dress code color.

Plain front, no trim, lace, ruffles, pleats, etc. No visible trademarks, brand logo, etc.

A school logo is allowed, but limited to the following areas: pocket, collar, or sleeve and may include school name, mascot, school club or team logo, or a combination of the above.

School-sponsored team and club shirts must meet dress code policy guidelines.

**PANTS/SLACKS/SHORTS/CAPRIS**

All Schools – Navy Blue, Khaki (tan or beige) (Solid colors only)

Length of shorts, must be mid-thigh or longer Cuffed or uncuffed, pleated or unpleated, must be hemmed.

Denim, stretch material/spandex fabric, velour or fleece is not allowed. Denim jeans of any color are not allowed.

Must fit properly; sagging, “hip huggers” or low riding pants, shorts, skorts, culottes are not allowed.

**WAISTBAND MUST BE WORN ON THE WAIST.** “Low riding” clothing will not be allowed.

Very small trademark or logo is allowed.

Length of P.E shorts and/or shorts worn for all athletic practices must be mid-thigh or longer.

Cargo/carpenter style with low-profile/flush pockets is allowed. No pleated pockets or extended pockets are allowed.

**JUMPERS/SKIRTS/CULOTTES/SKORTS**

All Schools– Navy Blue, Khaki (tan or beige) – (Solid colors only) Length must not be higher than four (4) inches above the top of the knee. Denim, stretch material/spandex fabric, velour or fleece is not allowed.

**SOCKS/TIGHTS/HOSE (REQUIRED)**

Solid color only – White, navy blue, red, beige/tan/khaki, black, brown No visible emblem, trademark or logo

Fish net, leggings, lace hose or similar design is not allowed.

**SHOES**

Navy blue, white, brown, black, red or gray Athletic shoes, loafers, and dress shoes are allowed.

Closed toe is required. Boots are allowed to be worn with pants; pants must come down over the top of the boot.

No platforms, high heels, cleats, skates, sandals, flip-flops, or croc-style shoes.

Both shoe laces must be of a solid basic color that matches the shoe (Shoe laces or shoe straps must be tied or fastened at all times.)

**BELTS (Optional)**

Solid colors only – Navy blue, black, brown, khaki/tan (Solid colors only)

No visible emblems, brand logo or trademark; student’s name only may be on the belt

May be worn with pants, shorts, etc. that have belt loops.

Large belt buckles are not allowed. Belts may be cloth or leather.

**SWEATERS/VESTS/SWEATSHIRTS/FLEECE - Pullover or Zip-up**

All Schools – White, Navy Blue or Red (Solid colors only) Additional colors by school – EHE-Hunter Green, SHE-Light Blue WHE- Gold, HNCE, HHS & HMS-Royal Blue

Cardigan-button up; Pullover-scoop or V-neck or zip up

Not to be worn tied around the waist, shoulders, or any other parts of the body while inside buildings.

Hoods are allowed; hoods may not be worn on the head while inside buildings.

Oversized or extremely tight fitting clothing is not allowed. A shirt acceptable pursuant to this Dress Code Policy must be worn under the sweater and the collar must be visible.

Visible trademarks, brand logo, etc. are not allowed. A school logo is allowed, but limited to the following areas: pocket, collar, or sleeve and may include school name, mascot, school club or team logo, or a combination of the above. Coats and jackets may be worn inside the buildings and do not have color specific requirements.

**COATS/JACKETS**

Trademarks and logos are allowed. Not to be worn tied around the waist, shoulders, or any other parts of the body while inside buildings. Hooded coats/jackets are allowed; hoods may not be worn on the head while inside buildings. Trench coats are not allowed. Coat length is limited to mid-thigh. Coats and jackets may have hoods and may be any color.

**H**ANCOCK  
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