



Canton Public Schools

Tiger Talk



Teacher of Year Issue

January 2012

“District Teacher of the Year” 2011-2012



Nichols Middle School's Teacher of the Year
Cristal Nix

Mrs. Cristal Nix, an outstanding teacher at Nichols Middle School, was selected as the District's Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012. A panel of judges selected Mrs. Nix based on her accomplishments at Nichols Middle School, her commitment to the students of Canton Public School District, the merit of a submitted portfolio, and her responses to questions during an interview session. We congratulate Mrs. Nix on this honor, and we thank her for her dedication to her students. Mrs. Trina Nichols,

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a remarkable teacher at Canton School of Arts and Sciences, was named as 1st alternate. We congratulate Mrs. Nichols on her designation as well.

Keep up the good work!

A Salute to Our Teachers of the Year

You have been selected by your principals and colleagues for going above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of our children. Your commitment and dedication to elevating young minds to reach their full potential is priceless. You never know the countless lives you touch or hearts and minds you inspire. Children deserve a concerned and caring teacher to open him or her up to the world of possibilities awaiting them. You are to be commended for empowering our students to reach for the stars. A special salute to our “*District Teacher of the Year*”, Mrs. Cristal Nix for inspiring students to strive for excellence.

It truly takes all of us working together with one vision, one mission, and one goal to make a difference. *Keep up the good work!*



“WORKING TOGETHER WORKS”

ONE TEAM ...ONE GOAL

With our talent, commitment, and unity, we’ve built one strong team. Through our ability to always reach beyond our potential, we achieve our most important goal: success.



A Salute to Our District Teacher of the Year Surprise! Surprise!



Mrs. Nix is surprised after Superintendent Dwight Luckett, and Nichols Principal Tina Manning inform her she has been selected as the "*District Teacher of the Year*". Students and faculty celebrate her accomplishments.



District Teacher of the Year & Nichols Middle School Teacher of the Year Cristal Nix



Teaching to some may be a hobby. However, to Cristal Nix it is a passion. She has been teaching for five years, all of which have been devoted to Canton Public School District. She is the wife of Marerllis Nix and the mother of three beautiful children.

Education has always been a part of Nix's background. Her mother, Lucille Holmes, is a Guidance Counselor at East Side High School in Cleveland, MS. Her father, Clarence Holmes is a physical therapist and her brother, Clarence Holmes, Jr., is currently studying to also become a physical therapist at UMMC. Cristal Nix has always known that education was her calling. She majored in Mathematics at Mississippi Valley State University and just recently completed her masters in MAT Secondary Education at Jackson State University.

Nix's professional career extends further than teaching at Nichols Middle School. Nix played 4 years of NCAA Division I softball at MVSU. Softball is another passion of Nix's and as a result, she coaches the Canton High School softball team. She focuses on responsibility and confidence which plays a big factor in education to her players. She instills in her players and students a quote by Marva Collins that states that "optimism is the faith that leads to achievement; nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

Throughout her years of teaching and coaching, Cristal Nix has been able to see the potential of students inside and out. She has even been able to see things in students that they couldn't see in themselves. As a result, she is able to motivate students to do things that they wouldn't normally do, both inside and out, and on and off the field. She is a great teacher, coach, mother, and wife. Her students believe in her and she believes in them. Because of her open mindedness, she also learns from them. She takes these lessons and improves all that she does so that she may be as beneficial to her students as possible.

Canton Elementary “Teacher of the Year”

April Wallis graduated high school from West Lauderdale in Collinsville, MS in 1998. She received her associate’s degree from Meridian Community College in Meridian, MS in 2000. Wallis graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement of Remedial Reading in December 2002. She is certified in the areas of Elementary (K-8) and Remedial Reading (K-12).

In August of 2009, Wallis began teaching fifth grade at Canton Elementary School. She has been a fifth grade reading/language arts teacher for two years. This year, she is a fifth grade reading teacher as well as the Grade Level Chairperson for fifth grade. Wallis is also the chairperson for the Homecoming Committee and the Courtesy Club. While teaching in the Canton Public School District, she was awarded two Mini-Nissan Grants. The first grant entitled “An Adventure of a Lifetime” for the amount of \$1,490.67 in August 2010. The second grant was entitled “Don’t Judge a Book by Its Cover” for the amount of \$1,446.93 in August 2011.

Wallis believes she was called to be a teacher. Her teaching philosophy is children are a gift from above that should be treated with respect. Wallis believes each child is unique and an individual. My teaching philosophy is simple...love the children. She believes in order for children to grow and prosper in the learning environment she has to first build a rapport with both the children and their parents. “The children must first know and see that I care about them and that I love them. Then the learning can begin”, says Wallis

Wallis believes teaching is a life changing and life impacting profession. Teachers are called and held to a higher standard. We can affect children in one of two ways—either for the good or the bad. Everyone can remember that one teacher that truly made a difference in his/her life, and they also can remember that teacher that left a negative, lasting mark on his/her life as well. She says it is her job and her prayer to impact her students in a positive way—in a way that will change their lives and help develop them into life-long learners; in a way that will make a positive impact in our society and community.



April Wallis

McNeal Elementary “Teacher of the Year”



Cartessia Angrum

Cartessia L. Angrum is a native of Tylertown, MS, where she graduated top of her class in 2000. She has taught at McNeal for the past 7 years. Cartessia received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Alcorn State University and a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi College. Cartessia’s motto is “Treat others as you would like to be treated.” She also believes that it is the responsibility of the teacher to provide and engage the students with the best instruction. She has been married for 5 years to Jimmie Angrum and they have one child, Jacob.

CSAS "Teacher of the Year"



Trina Nichols

Trina Davis Nichols was born in Jackson, Mississippi, to James and Rosezella Davis. She is the ninth of ten siblings. She is married to Leothas Nichols, II. They have four wonderful children Lorrin, Erin, Ethan and Nathan.

Trina attended Luther Branson Elementary School in Farmhaven, Mississippi.

She received her high school education at Velma Ware Jackson High School in Camden, Mississippi. Trina was a member of several organizations during her high school years. She demonstrated great school spirit and pride. She received numerous certificates for superior achievement and excellence of performance in academics and sports.

Having a drive to educate, Trina enrolled in and graduated from Alcorn State University where she received an Elementary Education degree. Upon graduation, she moved to Memphis, Tennessee where she taught three years at Charjean Elementary School. She began her teaching career in the Canton Public School District in 2003.

Trina attributes much of her success to the students of whom she has taught for allowing her to plant seeds of knowledge and success like her teachers did for her so many years ago.

Canton Career Center "Teacher of the Year"

Ethel Mayberry-Luckett is a native of Canton, Mississippi and an active worker in her church and community. She began working at Canton Career Center five years ago teaching Business and Computer Technology I & II and now Marketing and Economics. She is certified in Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³) and Certification of Online Learning (C.O.O.L.). Mrs. Luckett received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and Master's degree in Teaching from Belhaven College in Jackson, MS. She is a recent graduate of Delta State University, receiving an Educational Specialist degree in Administration and Supervision. Mrs. Luckett serves as an adviser for student organizations FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) and enjoys working with students on community service projects.



Ethel Mayberry-Luckett

Canton High School "Teacher of the Year"

Melvin Gillum is a 1973 graduate of Canton High School. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mississippi Valley State University in 1978. He obtained a Math Certification from Jackson State University in 1980 and a Teacher of Calculus Certification from Millsap College 2009.

He has over 32-years experience teaching and working in the area of Mathematics. Since August 1993 to present he has taught at Canton High School in the areas of Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry and AP Calculus. Over the course of his career, he has also taught in the Madison County School District and the Ridgeland Separate School District.

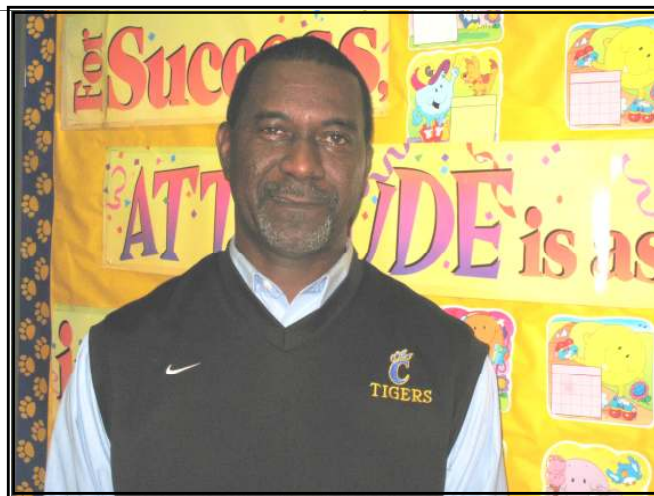
Gillum has been an active sponsor of Mu Alpha Theta.

He says it was a tremendous honor working with the students that were blessed with the love and knowledge of math.

Gillum has been married to his loving wife, Annie Burnette for 29 years. They are blessed with two sons Brandon and Garrison, who are students in the Canton Public School system.

Gillum says the prayer of Serenity states, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." Hopefully in my years as an educator I have helped those whose paths I have crossed."

His teaching philosophy is he believes that each student should be afforded the opportunity to be taught. Regardless of the situations or circumstances as educators, one should give their all to the young mind that has been entrusted to them. He says teachers hold the present and future in their hands. As an educator there are certain elements that Gillum believes are conducive in establishing a learning relationship, (1) act as a guide, (2) allow the students self discovery to aide in his learning, (3) teach and promote respect for all things and toward all people and (4) instill the love of learning in each student.



Melvin Gillum



Achieving the Mission



MISSION

The mission of the Canton Public School District, with full participation of parents and the total community, is to enable all students to become analytical thinkers, self-directed lifelong learners and effective communicators who are prepared to continue their education and /or to enter the global workplace and to participate in society as responsible citizens.





www.cantonschools.net



A Teacher's Impact

- "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." -- *Benjamin Franklin*
- "I challenge you to make your life like a masterpiece. I challenge you to join the ranks of those people who live what they teach, who walk their talk." -- *Anthony Robbins*
- "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, the excitement, and the mystery of the world we live in." --*Rachel Carlson*
- "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank...but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in the life of a child." -- *Forest Witcraft*
- "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child." -- *Carl Jung*
- "Every time you wake up and ask yourself, "What good things am I going to do today?," remember that when the sun goes down at sunset, it takes a part of your life with it." --*Indian proverb*
- "Education would be much more effective if its purpose was to ensure that by the time they leave school every boy and girl should know how much they do not know and be imbued with a lifelong desire to know it." -- *William Haley*
- "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." -- *Albert Einstein*
- "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." --*William Butler Yeats*
- "It is not what is poured into a student that counts but what is planted." -*Linda Conway*
- "If not us, who? If not now, when? " -- John F. Kennedy

Keep sharing your light.