



Canton Public School District

Tiger Talk



3 Schools Rated Successful

September 2012



Inside this issue:

<i>School Ratings</i>	3
<i>Graduation Rate</i>	3
<i>Nissan/BankPlus Grants</i>	8
<i>Uniform donations</i>	14
<i>School News</i>	15
<i>Schools</i>	17





MISSION STATEMENT

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.

OUR VISION

Children are our greatest asset and value. It is the responsibility of the parents, school and the community to serve as a perpetual bridge for the development of our children's character and the enhancement of their ability to master data, interpret knowledge, and apply the practical principles of their mastery.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

- **All children can learn, but at different rates and in different ways.**
Students must be actively involved in the learning process.
- **Education is a community effort.**
It is the responsibility of the parents, the community and the schools to be active participants in nurturing and educating our youth.
- **Family is a powerful influence on both children and the community.**
Parents must be informed about and involved in the education of their children.
- **Self-respect and self worth are essential to success.**
The schools are the vehicles for students to develop the positive attitudes and goals that lead to a sense of motivation and self worth.
- **High expectations for our children will produce higher achievement.**
The schools provide the environment to model and reinforce higher goals for students.
- **Working together it is possible to change negative perceptions and environmental factors that affect student learning.**
Civic organizations, businesses, churches, news media, and the schools must become active partners in change.

3 Schools Rated Successful



The Canton Public School District has worked hard to increase student achievement. Over the last several years it has made undeniable, continuous progress. As a result, this year the Mississippi Department of Education has rated **three** of the district's schools "**Successful**". Canton Elementary went from "Academic Watch" to "**Successful**". Canton School of Arts & Sciences went from "Low Performing" to "**Successful**". Nichols Middle School met growth and maintained its "**Successful**" rating. However, Canton High School did not meet growth; it now has a "**Low Performing**" label. As a result, the district was rated "**Low Performing**". We are disappointed that we missed getting a higher label by **1.7 points**. However, we are not discouraged. Our district is still making progress. To move from having only one successful school to having **3 successful schools**, shows that we are clearly making progress as a district. Under the federal model, Canton Public Schools had **no** priority schools. We are definitely encouraged by our progress.

As the Canton Public School District works to overcome years of challenges, its progress is evident in its lower dropout rate and increased graduation rate. In 2006, the district's dropout rate was 42.7% and its graduation rate was 41.8 percent. Today the district's graduation rate has improved to **71.6 percent**. That's **30%** more of its students graduating from school. The district's dropout rate has been tremendously lowered to **22.4 percent**. That's **20%** more students choosing to stay in school. Over the last six years, approximately 400 more students have earned their high school diploma. The district has also improved its culture and climate, decreased student discipline problems, increased student attendance, and increased parental involvement. The district has made tremendous social and academic progress among other improvements. It has also been very fiscally conservative and responsible with taxpayer dollars.

However, while we have made some incredible gains, we know we must continue to intensify our efforts to keep improving our students' academic performance. We are looking at data and are devising a plan of action to strengthen areas of weakness. We are putting forth all our efforts to provide quality personnel and other resources needed to improve in these areas. We have an improvement plan already in motion to support more focused efforts at Canton High School. We still want to make sure that our successful schools continue to improve and grow academically. As a district, we are continuing to focus on improving teaching and learning for all of our students.

As the district continues to work hard to improve its performance, it is encouraged by the progress that its students, teachers, administrators, and parents have made. We are all working together to move our district to greater academic success.

Therefore, when you hear these new labels please also know that we are a work in progress, we are improving, and **we are achieving** as we reach new heights.

Progress: No Failing Schools

New Mississippi Department of Education Accountability Labels:

Letter Grade	Label
A	Star
B	High Performing
C	Successful
D	Academic Watch
F	Low Performing
F	At Risk of Failing
F	Failing

Canton Public School District Accountability Results 2012

	Label		QDI	Growth
F	Low Performing	District	131	NOT MET
C	Successful	Canton Elementary	133	MET
C	Successful	Canton School of Arts & Sciences	135	MET
C	Successful	Nichols Middle School	141	MET
F	Low Performing	Canton High School	115	NOT MET

Mississippi Department of Education Accountability Labels:

Star
High Performing
Successful
Academic Watch
Low Performing
At Risk of Failing
Failing

Accountability Ratings Chart Our Schools' Progress

	2009-10		2010-11	2011-12
Canton Public School District	At Risk of Failing		Successful	Low Performing
Canton High School	Failing		Academic Watch	Low Performing
Nichols Middle School	At Risk of Failing		Successful	Successful
Canton Elementary	Academic Watch		Academic Watch	Successful
Canton School of Arts & Sciences	At Risk of Failing		Low Performing	Successful

Graduation Rate Increases/Dropout Rate Decreases

The Canton Public School District Makes a Significant Increase in its Graduation Rate

In 2006, when Superintendent Dwight Luckett took the helm of the Canton Public School District, he faced a daunting task of lowering the district's dropout rate from 42.7% and raising its graduation rate from 41.8 percent. Today the district's graduation rate has improved to **71.6 percent**. That's **30%** more of its students graduating from school. The district's dropout rate has been tremendously lowered to **22.4 percent**. That's **20%** more students choosing to stay in school. Over the last six years, approximately 400 more students have earned their high school diploma. This accomplishment comes after several years of constantly communicating the district's vision, restructuring the leadership team, and refocusing the district by raising expectations. While the district still faces many challenges and has not reached its full potential, there has been steady progress and the district is encouraged to stay the course until more of its students graduate and go on to pursue higher degrees.

What are the district's improvements over the last several years attributed to? "There are a number of factors involved. An increased focus on academic performance, communicating the message of the importance of graduation starting from kindergarten through high school, identifying students who are at risk of failing and dropping out, removing 90% of our over-aged students in middle school and placing them in a fast track program that better caters to their needs are all factors that helped the district improve. The district has also done a better job of tracking students in terms of what courses or subject area tests they need and offering more assistance to their specific needs. It has been a district wide effort coupled with better parental involvement. The district has raised expectations for students to not only graduate but to go on to college to pursue higher degrees."

Luckett says he appreciates the efforts of the team of professionals working together to accomplish the goals and mission of the district. "I cannot praise our teachers and administrators enough for their relentless efforts to move our district to a higher level of success. It takes a team effort to reach greater academic performance." He says the State Department of Education and the district's School Board of Trustees have also been supportive in the process.

Dropout prevention starts with making parents and the community aware by placing more emphasis on the needs of students. The district pays close attention to the demographics of the students it serves. The district understands the environments from which they come and place a greater emphasis on meeting them where they are. The district also focuses on the needs of students with disabilities so they can graduate or receive certificates of completion.

Here are just a few of the changes the district has made over the years to aid in its dropout prevention efforts:

- ***Improved Curriculum alignment***
- ***Developed district test to track students' progress***
- ***Revamped curriculum and state and federal programs offices***
- ***Hired new principals***
- ***Increased intense data-driven professional development and teacher & principal coaching***
- ***Improved the culture and climate at all schools***
- ***Increased daily average attendance at all schools***
- ***Improved parental involvement***
- ***Implemented a speaker series to get professionals to talk to students about career choices***
- ***Increased mentors***
- ***Offered Saturday school***
- ***Offered afterschool tutorial***

Luckett says he is hopeful the district is positioning itself to reach its full potential in the near future and meet the challenges of more rigorous state requirements.

CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

<i>2006</i>	<i>GRADUATION RATE</i>	<i>DROPOUT RATE</i>
	<i>41.8%</i>	<i>42.7%</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>71.6%</i>	<i>22.4%</i>
<i>PERCENTAGE OF IMPROVEMENT</i>	<i>29.8% ROUNDED OFF: (30%)</i>	<i>20.3% ROUNDED OFF: (20%)</i>



Nissan/ BankPlus Awards CPSD more than \$52,000

NISSAN



Member FDIC.



McNEAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



CANTON SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES



CANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NICHOLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



CANTON CAREER CENTER



CANTON HIGH SCHOOL

Enriching the Lives of Our Students



Nissan and BankPlus awarded the Canton Public School District more than \$52,000 in Educational Mini-grants

The district salutes its supportive community partners for helping enrich the lives of its students. Dan Bednarzyk, Vice President of Manufacturing at the Nissan-Canton North America Plant and BankPlus Senior Executive Vice President, Gene Delcomyn, presented Canton Public School Teachers with a check totaling \$52,295.00. Officials awarded the district 46 mini-grants to support innovative teaching and learning projects that teachers created to enhance and enrich students' academic performance. The grants cover everything from reading and math to science and health projects to enhance student achievement. Superintendent Dwight Luckett thanks Nissan, BankPlus and the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson for selecting these deserving educational projects that met their criteria to support the district's educational curricula in grades K-12. Nissan held a reception, August 27, at its Canton plant to honor the winning teachers.

- McNeal Elementary School - **\$12,637.00**
- Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts & Sciences- **\$11,889.00**
- Canton Elementary School - **\$9,468.00**
- Nichols Middle School- **\$8,670.00**
- Canton Career Center- **\$6,294.00**
- Canton High School- **\$3,337.00**

Nissan/BankPlus Education Mini-Grant Winners

Canton Elementary School Nissan/BankPlus Mini-Grant Winners

Extra! Extra! Read All About it!	\$ 1,500.00	3rd-5th	Lakesha Doyle
Flipping My Light to Comprehension	\$ 580.00	3& 4	LaTory Satcher
Integrated Technology to Improve the Modern Class	\$ 1,494.00	4th	LouElla C. Allen
We're "GAME" for Reading!	\$ 1,452.00	3	Natascha Beals
Growing Minds, One Plant at a Time	\$ 1,380.00	5	Jessica McKenzie
Math-Magical Reading Treasures	\$ 1,499.00	4	Carrice Sims
Books Build Brilliant Brains	\$ 1,188.00	4	Tammy Nash
Striving for Excellence in Writing	\$ 375.00	4	Delores Potts

Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences

MIND OPENER	\$ 1,239.00	K	Shirley White
READMATCS PROJECT	\$ 687.00	K	Avery Goodloe
Through the Eyes of a Kindergartener	\$ 661.00	K	Lakisha Watkins
Using UDL to Create Better Learning Centers	\$ 1,081.00	Pre -K	Katherine Culpepper
Building A Solid Foundation	\$ 1,425.00	K	Patricia Green
Comprehending Comprehension	\$ 629.00	4	Shawonna Coleman
Sensory Seating	\$ 348.00	1 – 5	Pam Cassreino
Money Doesn't Grow on Trees or Does It?	\$ 1,300.00	K-5	Trina Nichols, Belinda Palmer, Harry Watson
Young Scientists! Real World Investigations	\$ 1,446.00	5	Henry Doyle
Creative Writers at Work!	\$ 1,484.00	3	Jena Perry, Sheila Warren
Strengthen Our Reading: Reading for Stars	\$ 250.00	5	Ariel Osby
Why Mathematics	\$ 1,339.00	4	Felicia Pinkston

Canton Career Center

CPR OK	\$ 440.00		Vanessa Bennett
21st Century Technology	\$ 175.00		Gary Freeman
Kid's Lit	\$ 1,500.00		Sheila Sumrall
Beautify Your Part	\$ 1,500.00		Sheila Sumrall

Canton Career Center cont'd

Science Museum	\$ 382.00	Richard Austin, Carol Drane
Service Learning	\$ 169.00	Mack Robinson, Rodney Harris, James Madison
Skills USA	\$ 666.00	Rodney Harris, James Madison, Mack Robinson
DECA Dues & Competition	\$ 1,462.00	Kathy Warren

McNeal Elementary School

With Reading as a Guide, Learning is a Ride	\$ 1,255.00	K	Cartessia Angrum
Buddy or Bully: Which are you?	\$ 1,500.00	K-2	Keyshia Readirs
Increasing the Rigor for Readers	\$ 1,467.00	K-2	Alphia Myers, C. Rene' Johnson
Kid's Edible Garden	\$1,120.00	K	Roberta Dowell, Darlene Rahaim, Judy Packer
Race to Fitness D. Lambert, Lanius	\$ 1,398.00	2nd	Tara Smith J. Cunningham, C. Robinson, S. Harris, S. Wilkes, Gardner,
Characters Counts 4	\$ 1,489.00	K-2	Alphia Myers
Perfect Attendance II	\$ 1,492.00	K-2	Charlotte Luckett
Tiger Pride	\$ 1,492.00	K-2	Jamilah Ruffin
Feeding the Need to Help Children Succeed 3	\$ 1,424.00	K-2	Rene Johnson

Nichols Middle School

I "Can" Reduce Waste!	\$ 1,497.00	6 – 8	Veshell Lewis
Let's Break it Down!	\$ 1,492.00	6 – 8	Ashley McGee, Thomas Mayes
Working with MOTHER NATURE-Nature Trail and Garden	\$ 1,379.00	8	William Fowler
Bringing out the Best at NMS	\$ 1,499.00	6 – 8	Leandra King
Fire Up and Ready to Read	\$ 1,490.00	8	Leandra King, Dotta Miller
Get a GOAL: KICK out OBESITY	\$ 1,313.00	6 – 8	Tera Sheriff

Canton High School

Living On Your Own Coast to Coast	\$ 837.00	9 – 12	Sabrina Williams
Project "KINDLE"	\$ 1,500.00	9 – 12	Shelethia Bolton
Project R.A.D. (Research Above Discovery)	\$ 1,000.00	12	Terwinda Banks

Nissan/BankPlus Mini-Grant Winners



Nissan/BankPlus Mini-Grant Winners



Reuben B. Myers Canton
School of Arts and Sciences



McNeal Elementary School

Belk/United Way Uniform Donations



Parents of the Canton Public School District who received school uniforms donated from Belk Department Store and the United Way, were elated to get much needed help. The United Way of the Capital Area selected Canton, Pearl and Jackson Public School Districts to distribute the items. Principals at Canton Elementary, Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences, and McNeal Elementary chose families who could use a little assistance. Superintendent Dwight Luckett thanks the United Way and Belk for helping our students be prepared and come to school ready to reach their full potential.





Nissan representatives Mr. Donald Lyons and Mr. Jerome Bell spoke with students at Canton Educational Service Center Monday, Sept. 10th. They talked about the importance of education and the endless possibilities a good education affords. They also talked about the importance of making good choices in order to be successful in school and life.



Hats off to the Canton Lions Club for donating dictionaries to CSAS third grade students. Displaying their dictionary with Lions Club president is (l to r) Dontavian Smoot, Janston Ball, and Elton Thompson.



Canton Educational Services Center Principal Jacqueline Griffin holds a GED training session with GED teacher Mr. Satcher and McGraw Hill Representative Wendy Tyler.



CSAS Kindergarten students clap to the beat as they learn about rhythm from Music Teacher Landros Jones.



CSAS Explore Students built the Eiffel Tower while learning about France. Pictured from left to right Keion Smoot, Xavion Fleming, India Lewis, and Jamarion Bennett



(Left) CSAS fifth grade students listen as Mrs. Belinda Palmer teach them a new game called beat the ball which is similar to kickball.



(Right) At CSAS, Mrs. Pinkston-Cleaver's class observed how seeds sprout and the amount of time it takes them to germinate.

School News: Parents Get Involved



Canton Career Center Parents didn't miss this opportunity to see how their students are doing. CCC held its annual Parent Day to give parents a chance to meet their child's teacher and visit classrooms. CCC students are offered courses in Health Science, Automotive Service Technology, Engineering and Robotics, Marketing and Economics, Collision Repair, Construction Technology and Career Pathways Experience. Parents were pleased to see the hands on training their children receive.



Students at McNeal Elementary get excited when their moms and dads show up to have lunch with them. The school holds "Lunch with Dads" every first Friday of the month and "Lunch with Moms" every first Monday of the month. Students say it makes them feel special when their parents or guardians take time out of their busy schedules to eat with them and see how they are doing in school. Sometimes when their parents can't make it, grandparents check on them.



Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts & Sciences



Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts & Sciences is rated *Successful!*

Administrators and teachers are working hard to enhance learning and improve student achievement. Supportive PTA members are also helping by encouraging more parents to get involved and work with educators to improve. CSAS PTA Meetings are held every fourth Thursday of the month. (Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. TBA, Dec. TBA, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, April 25 May 23) PTA members for 2012-13 are: Kristy Robinson- President, Daphne Sims- Vice President, Tiffany Jones-Secretary, Cassandra Love-Asst. Secretary, Bridgette Gillim-Treasurer.



McNeal Elementary School



McNeal Elementary School administrators and teachers say here are a few ways parents can help their child have a successful school year: participate in school activities, visit their child's teacher, attend PTA meetings, help with homework and just stay involved. McNeal has an active PTA and hosts many events to encourage parental involvement. The school also encourages and rewards students' good behavior and builds strong character. After a week of displaying good behavior, every Friday students who manage to stay on "green" are allowed to go to the McNeal Behavior Store and pick out a prize. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA. Membership dues are just \$5.00. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Meeting dates are :September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, January 1, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7.



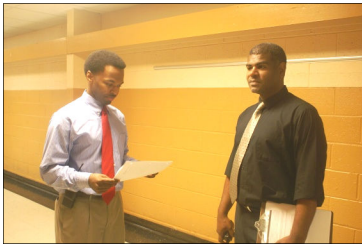


Canton Elementary School is rated *Successful!*

At Canton Elementary School, administrators and teachers share with parents how they can get involved to help their children have a successful school year. PTA members are actively involved in working with teachers to improve their child's academic performance. They encourage all parents to attend their PTA Meetings. PTA meetings are held the fourth Thursday of every month. CES PTA Dates are: August 23, September 27, October 25, December 6, January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25.



Nichols Middle School



Nichols Middle School is rated *Successful*!

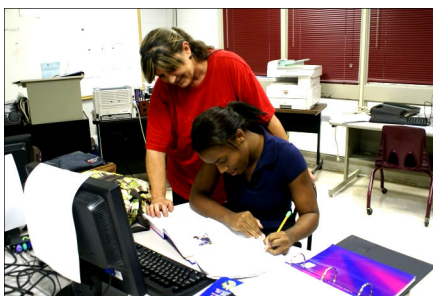
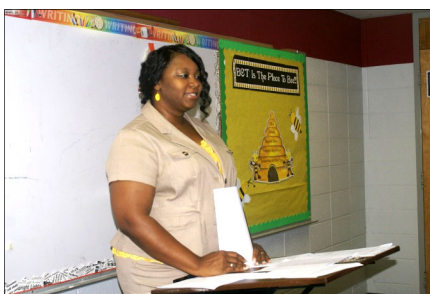
Nichols Middle School administrators and teachers work hard to encourage students to stay focused on achieving their mission. At PTA meetings, administrators and teachers shared with parents the good news of getting rated “Successful” two years in a row and encouraged them to stay involved by working with them to keep raising the bar to improve academic performance. Nichols PTA meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are held on the following dates at 5:30: September 18 , October 15, November 14, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May (TBA).



Canton Career Center



The Canton Career Center offers students a variety of award winning programs to build strong careers when they graduate. **Program Spotlight: Health Sciences**, taught by Vanessa Bennett, provides instruction to enable students to make realistic health career goals and develop basic skills necessary for healthcare professionals. Instruction during the two year course includes an overview of health career opportunities, theory and principles of healthcare, basic entry level experiences are also correlated with classroom instruction to help students acquire the knowledge, skills, and behavior necessary for health care careers. Students also become certified in CPR as well as participate in “real life” clinical settings at local nursing homes, hospitals, specialty clinics and field trips to the universities in the surrounding areas.

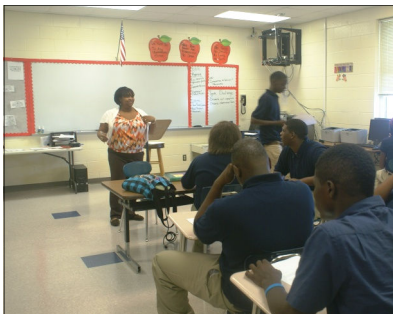
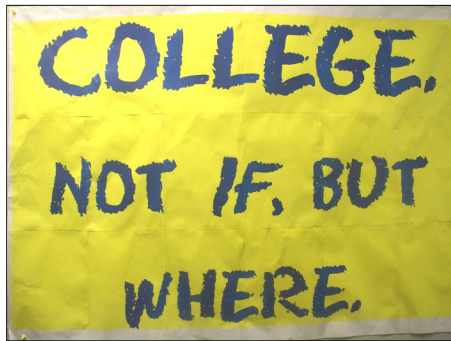


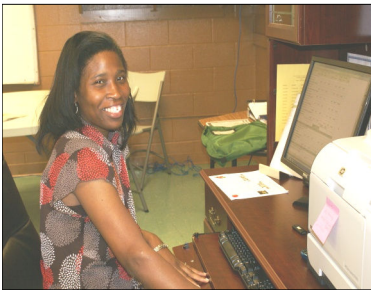
Canton High School



Canton High School is rated Low Performing

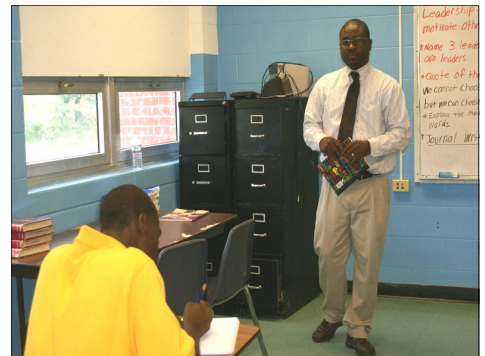
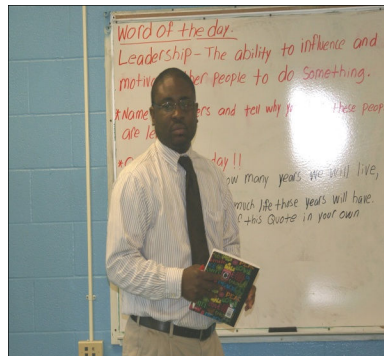
CHS Administrators and teachers share with parents the action plan already underway to improve the school's academic performance. PTA members encourage concerned parents to get involved and work with administrators and teachers to help their children improve. Administrators encourage parents to help their children develop good study habits, keep abreast of when Subject Area Tests are given, and find out if they are on track to meet their graduation requirements. Administrators say working together with parents they are sure CHS will achieve greater academic success.





CESC students are also working hard to improve their skills as teachers work to help them achieve their goals. Now CESC is offering a GED Program. The GED program is part of the Canton Public School District's initiative to reduce the dropout rate. The GED program option is available to **students ages 16—19 who meet the eligibility requirements and are enrolled at Canton High School.**

Fast Facts: 1. The student must be at least 16 years of age; 2. The student must be at least one (1) full grade level behind his or her ninth grade cohort or must have acquired less than four (4) Carnegie units; 3. The student must have taken every opportunity to continue to participate in course work leading to a regular diploma; and 4. The student must be certified to be eligible to participate in the GED course by the school district superintendent, based on the developed criteria. 5. There are only 15 slots available and students will be selected based on the greatest need using specific criteria outlined in district procedures. For more information call -859-5010 **GED INFO: TABE Test - October 11, 2012, Parent Orientation - October 25, 2012 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm at CESC ,Class Begins - November 5, 2012**



We're on the web!
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