

Life pales in comparison to living the dream

Good evening parents, administrators, and fellow classmates. It is an honor to be here as valedictorian for the Greene County High School Class of 2018.

I'd like to start by telling a short story, a modified tale from Bo Burnham's comedy show "What."

"The squares lived happily – in their square houses, in the square yard, in their square town. But then one day a family of circles moved in from the west.

'Get outta here, Roundies!' shouted one of the squares. "whimpering" – Why?" said one of the circles.

Because this is a metaphor for individuality in education."

We are the circles, being told we can accomplish anything but not being given the direction. I still believe we can pursue our dreams. After all, it is our purpose to pave our own roads that will take us where we need to be. It is our own success that we are responsible for.

Over the past four years, I've learned a lot and made memories with a lot of people. Freshman year, as I recall, was not one of the most interesting years I had in Greene County. I made connections with classmen older than me. Being new to high school, I focused on what I had to do before aiming to what I planned to do.

Sophomore year came about and most of the friends I had made were

either gone or becoming seniors and getting ready to leave.

Junior year put me in the position where I became like the people I'd met. I made friends with underclassmen, many of which were freshman and sophomores.

Senior year, this year. I'm preparing to leave my young acquaintances behind and hopefully, the cycle will continue. Memories from faculty and friends will remain with me for a lifetime.

Junior year, I had also learned a good deal from a plethora of educators. Some of these things include:

- Dearman for preparing us for the test and for a blizzard in a constant 68-degree classroom.
- Bill Ricks for a truly original approach to algebra and emphasizing that 76 trombones led the big parade.

- Jenny Layton for lighting the scientific fire in chemistry, not only with matches, but also with knowledge.
- Lesha Lott for health science and pushing me to compete at District Competition for HOSA.

During the entirety of my high school career, students in the same grade kept me going. If trying times came, we stuck together. The fol-

Valedictorian Address

By **Joshua Thompson**

Greene County High School Class of 2018 Valedictorian



lowing classmates come to mind when I think about lasting friendships:

- J.W. – we had practically every class together. We pushed every day to make it to the next, no matter how difficult.
- Kinley – Thanks for the random fist-bumps in the hallway. If one of us were having a bad day, that small interaction acted as a pick-me-up.

- The entirety of the accelerated class – I've spent 4 years with mostly you. At first we all didn't get along, but we built relationships, overcame differences, and now we're like a family, not just a group of young adults finishing high school.
- As far as what I've learned this year (other than the headache of having a job and paying bills) is that if you can pursue what you've dreamed of doing, do it, no matter how miniscule the chances of success may seem. I have faith that even in the most dire circumstance, taking charge of our life paths will ultimately lead to victory. As

we cross the field and receive our diplomas tonight, I want to encourage the future generations with this:

"Life pales in comparison to living the dream"

Once again, I'm quoting comedian Bo Burnham.

So that's what we'll do. We WILL live our dreams. When you think class of 2018, think about the most passionate group of students looking for their place in the world, and when we reunite in 10, 20 years, hopefully we can all boast on accomplishing what we planned in high school.



To Our Wise Graduates...

We wish you health, good fortune and happiness as you begin a new chapter. Continue to work hard, and success will follow.

Congratulations Class of 2018!

Cary E. Williams
Certified Public Accountant & Certified Financial Planner
416 St Francis Street Leakesville, MS 39451 **(601) 394-5017**

The Sky's the Limit!

Best wishes to the **Class of 2018**

REVETTE'S INC.
243 Main Street State Line, MS **(601) 848-7902**



Motes graduates from Mississippi School for Math and Science

Special to the Herald

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) would like to congratulate members of the Class of 2018 on their graduation.

Specifically, MSMS officials would like to honor Julia Leigh Motes of Greene County. She is the daughter of Helen Breeden and Joseph Motes. Julia will be attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham and plans to study Biomedical Sciences.

MSMS is our state's nationally-recognized residential high school for academically-advanced eleventh and twelfth graders. Graduating classes have averaged \$21-million in scholarship offers for the last



Julia Leigh Motes

five years. MSMS graduates attend universities all over Mississippi and the nation. For more information, please visit themsms.org.



Mr. & Mrs. GCHS

Senior year was very good to Hallie Meadows and Tagg Creech. Along with Hallie being elected as Class President and both being inducted into the GCHS Hall of Fame, the two friends were also chosen as Mr. and Mrs. GCHS by their school mates.

Contributed Photo



Congratulations GRADUATES

May the education & experience you've gained serve you well in the years ahead as you pursue new goals and dreams for the future!



piggy wiggly
Down Home, Down the Street



We are proud to recognize three members of the Greene County High School Class of 2018 who are part of the Piggly Wiggly family of employees. Congratulations **Christopher McLain, Chase Stringer** and **Madison McLeod** (not pictured). We are proud of you.

Hwy 63 at Lackey St. in Leakesville **(601) 394.2357**