

Kindergarten pre-registration to be held April 14 at Clinton Park

Special to The Clinton Courier

A kindergarten pre-registration day will be held at Clinton Park Elementary School, the Clinton Public School District's kindergarten and first-grade school, from 4 until 7 p.m. on April 14. The pre-registration is for students entering kindergarten in the 2020-2021 school year.

Clinton Park is on Arrow Drive near the Natchez Trace overpass. Parents or guardians are encouraged to complete online registration ahead of the in-person event by using the link on the CPSD website.



For on-site registration, parents are asked to bring the following items to the Tuesday, April 14, pre-registration event:

- Original birth certificate of the child
 - Social Security card of child
 - MS Immunization Form 121
 - Parent Identification
 - A lease, deed, mortgage document or 2020 homestead exemption
 - A current utility bill – gas, water or electric
- For more information, call Clinton Park at 601-924-5205.

Art exhibit at Visitor Center to feature Smathers' works

Special to The Clinton Courier

Modern landscape painter Albert Andrew Smathers will bring his "Traces of the Mind" exhibit to the Clinton Visitor Center. The solo exhibit will run from Thursday, April 2, through Saturday, April 11. The viewing hours will be Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-5 p.m. A reception open to the public is planned for Thursday, April 2, from 5 – 8 p.m.

The main emphasis of the "Traces of the Mind" exhibit are paintings inspired by images in and around the environs of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The show will consist of sixteen to twenty images directly influenced by the Natchez Trace Parkway and will also feature various subjects from other regional areas and from previous painting excursions.

"I like to give my viewers a 'spike head view,' rather than a 'pin head view,'" said Smathers. "My desire is to show the full breadth of a landscape. I try to represent a view, often with tall majestic trees, enveloped with a poetic sensibility. Many of

my canvases are large by modern standards. I think the large format is necessary to capture the grand... the epic. However, I believe many of my smaller canvases can capture, at times, the mood, as well. Since early childhood, I have felt the call of this particular drum."

"My hope is other 'kindred spirits' will enjoy these poetic evocations, as well. They are painted with you in mind. I love a well-placed brushstroke. I cherish a great line when needed. Never should my use of shapes and values be under-considered. Texture aptly placed can beautifully engage the viewer's physical space. A masterful use of color makes a painter a painter. I'm painting what I love and enjoying the journey."

Albert Smathers is the founder of The Mississippi River School of Art, a club dedicated to the beauty and uniqueness of the Mississippi River Valley and environs and is also a professor of painting at Mississippi College.

The Visitor Center is located at 1300 Pinehaven Road. For more details, call 601-924-2221.

CHS math teacher Mina Darnell named Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year

Special to The Clinton Courier

Clinton High School math teacher Mina Darnell was recently recognized as Clinton Public School District's teacher of the year, and now she is one of four teachers in contention for the Mississippi Department of Education's Teacher of the Year.

Darnell, a veteran teacher of thirty years, was surprised before the start of school earlier this month by District Superintendent Dr. Tim Martin, Assistant Superintendent Anthony Goins and CHS Principal Brett Robinson.

"Congratulations to Mrs. Mina Darnell on being chosen as the Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year," Dr. Martin said. "She represents all of our phenomenal teachers in the Clinton Public School District and shows why we are so successful each year."

Principal Robinson said Darnell's devotion to her job and students is an encouragement to her students and

fellow teachers.

"Mrs. Darnell is exactly who we are at CHS. Her hard word in and out of the classroom not only benefit the kids but her fellow teachers. We are proud that she has made it to the final selection round for the

Mississippi Teacher of the Year and feel extremely fortunate to call her an Arrow."

Darnell has taught at CHS since 1989, with courses including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Honors Trigonometry, ACT prep, Humanities (ACT/SAT prep), Honors Pre-Calculus and Honors Algebra III. She has served as the CHS math department chair since 2013.

Darnell holds an associate degree from Hinds Community College and

a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Mississippi College.

As the Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year, she will be recognized by the Mississippi Department of Education at the Mississippi Teacher of the Year program later in the spring.



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Clinton High School math teacher Mina Darnell will represent Clinton Public Schools as the Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year in this year's Mississippi Teacher of the Year. She is one of four teachers in the state in contention for the award. Pictured (l to r) are Clinton Public School District Superintendent Dr. Tim Martin, Darnell, Clinton High School Principal Brett Robinson and Clinton Public School District Assistant Superintendent Anthony Goins.



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