

The Clinton Courier

105 East Main Street
Clinton, MS 39056
601-990-9511



Volume 11, Number 9
Circulation 9,000

Publisher/Editor

Clay Mansell

claymansell@theclintoncourier.net

Design/Production

Brad Henderson

Copy Editor

Lauren Von Foregger

City Beat Reporter

Katherine Dougan

Writers

Mike Christensen

Carole Kelly

Danny C. Davis

Katherine Dougan

Janet S. Lee

Sherry Lucas

Photographers

Carrie Chennault

Emily Dacus

Sales

Clay Mansell

Office Manager

Doris Bynum

Office@TheClintonCourier.Net

Distribution

Ben Barnett

Print Shop

601-990-9511

The Clinton Courier is published on the first and third Tuesday of every month in Clinton, Mississippi.

For **submission** information, email news@theclintoncourier.net

Copyright © 2020 All rights reserved. Materials may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher.

For reprints of any article, please contact the editor.

www.theclintoncourier.net



Marijane Whitfield: The heart of teaching art

By Katherine R. Dougan

Marijane Whitfield, a retired art teacher who taught at Clinton Junior High School for twenty-nine years, confessed she didn't think she was interesting enough for an article to be written about her. However, the nearly 3,500 students she taught likely do not feel the same way.

Former students recall her classroom with fondness: "We were in the old seventh grade building; the basement underneath the east wing, I guess you'd call it." The old junior high building was where the current Mississippi College band and theater annex on Fairmont Street is now located.

Whitfield recalls that, when she first started teaching at Callaway High School in Jackson prior to coming to Clinton, she was very young and very tiny.

"I went into the faculty room and got into trouble for getting a cup of tea," she said. "They thought I was a kid." However, things had changed by the time she retired from teaching in Clinton years later. "Before I retired,



Special to The Clinton Courier
Marijane Whitfield as the Pope and Anthony Thaxton as Michelangelo during Thaxton's first year of teaching alongside Whitfield at CJHS

I'm pretty sure I was the oldest person in the building; that's including the janitors and principals!" she said.

Whitfield taught in one of the two basement rooms in the seventh grade building in Clinton, and was at that time the only art teacher.

"I told them [students] every year my expectations: One of the big things I was about is [that] in this class, we're all going to respect each other. If you disrespect me, you'll be in trouble; but, if you disrespect others, you will be in just as much trouble," she would say. "I'm going to be upset with you if you don't do your work, but you should be just as upset if I'm not doing what I'm supposed to be doing to teach you."

She and her students were, in a sense, partners, Whitfield explained.

"It was a lot more about teaching than art." She would tell her students at the beginning of each year: "This class might be the most important class you're going to have this year. I'm telling you right now - you have a chance to think, to do things that you didn't know you could do. English

cont. on page 8

Value You Can Trust

At Alfa Insurance®, value means more than just great prices. It's fast claims service and personal attention from our helpful, hometown team. With Alfa®, you can count on us to be there when you need us most. Call Alfa®, and let us help you save on car, home and life insurance.



Jonathan Ford
543B Highway 80W
Clinton, MS 39056
(601) 924-4567
jford2@alfains.com



Auto Home Life
www.AlfaInsurance.com

Call Alfa®. The best agents in the business.