MSU welcomes high school students from rural districts for advanced physics, computer science program

Students and teachers taking part in the Advanced STEM Summer Preparatory Program at Mississippi State University are pictured with Stedman Graham, an educator, businessman and bestselling author, who spoke to students virtually this week to share advice and answer questions about how to develop skills needed for success. Students are holding copies of Graham's book "Teens Can Make it Happen: Nine Steps for Success." (Photo submitted)

STARKVILLE, Miss.— Nearly 100 promising Mississippi high school students from 13 rural districts are finishing their second week of the Advanced STEM Summer Preparatory Program at Mississippi State University to prepare for success in rigorous, advanced placement coursework this coming academic year.

Along with learning STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills to help them in upcoming AP classes in physics and computer science at their respective schools, students are hearing from successful mentors encouraging them to apply practical strategies for growth as they advance toward academic, personal and professional goals.

Stedman Graham, a New York Times best-selling author and national speaker who teaches a nine-step success program called "Identity Leadership," shared advice with the group this week and engaged with students extensively during a question-and-answer session following his talk.

"The beautiful thing about all of you is that you all have potential," said Graham, who also emphasized that the process of success is the same for everybody. The educator and businessman, also known for his longtime relationship with Oprah Winfrey, underscored the importance of creating a vision and writing down goals, utilizing time effectively, and organizing a plan of action. "Success is all about preparation," he said.

The privately funded program, which also has received a competitive federal Education Innovation and Research grant, is facilitated by the Global Teaching Project in conjunction with the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access. There is no charge to students, families, schools or districts to participate.

Students are involved in classroom instruction and tutoring sessions in an immersive math and science learning environment to develop study skills and other fundamentals. They also take part in hands-on learning activities and experiments, as well as campus tours of research facilities. While on campus, the students attended one of this week's NCAA Super Regional playoff baseball games and enjoyed other recreational activities. Students are selected by participating school districts and identified by their schools as having the aptitude and strong work ethic needed for success in advanced placement courses.

Matt Dolan, founder and CEO of the Global Teaching Project, explained that even very bright students often have gaps in their substantive foundations.

"COVID disruptions put students even further behind. Our summer program helps fill in those gaps and overcome learning losses so that our students are better prepared for the rigorous STEM courses they will be taking this year," Dolan said.

The Global Teaching Project and Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access also facilitate the AP classes during the school year in the participating rural and low-income districts that otherwise would not provide these courses. By utilizing a "blended" format and a network of AP-certified teachers and additional tutors, the program seeks to increase student enrollment in advanced coursework, particularly in STEM areas, which correlates strongly with college and career success.

MSU has hosted the summer program since its inception five years ago, and students are back on campus this year after the 2020 event was presented virtually due to the pandemic. Once they begin the academic year in their respective schools, they will take AP Physics or AP Computer Science, with supplemental programming throughout the year. Previous evaluations have shown that students achieved dramatic gains in substantive understanding of course content, according to nationally recognized pre- and post-program assessments.

Schools participating this year include Aberdeen, Clarkdale, Greenville, Holmes County Central, Humphreys County, Leflore County, Leland, McAdams, New Albany, Newton, Northeast Lauderdale, O'Bannon, Madison S. Palmer, Riverside, South Pontotoc and Quitman high schools. Dolan said he expects to have approximately 28 schools offering the AP classes through the consortium this coming year, although not all the schools were able to participate in the summer program.

For more on the Global Teaching Project, visit www.globalteachingproject.com.

The Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access can be found at www.educationaccessms.org.

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
West Hill Water Association
PWS#: 0260018
June 2021

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Leah Allen at 662.582.2907. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at 103 China St, Lexington, MS 39095

Our water source is purchased from the HIUD that has wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Holmes Interstate Utility District have received moderate susceptibility rankings to contamination.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st , 2020. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2020, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
10. Barium	N	2018*	.073	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2018/20	0	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	N	2018/20	0	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	2020	.11	No Range	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2019*	78000	No Range	ppb	0	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.
Disinfection By-Products								
81. HAA5	N	2017*	1	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2017*	3.65	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2020	1.5	1.19 – 1.73	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

** Most recent sample. No sample required for 2020.*

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The West Hill Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

OUTDOOR Truths BY GARY MILLER

Holmes/Attala County Bank T-Ball Team

Pictured front row: Brayden Thomas, Beau McBride, John Landon Hood, Cainslee Bishop and Shep Engle; back row: Coach Kristan Durff, Wes Durff, Joseph Womack, Parker Langford, Noah Carnathan, Cinlee Bishop and Coach Paul Durff. Not pictured: Walker Winstead and Coach Peyton Killebrew.

This is the year of the Cicadas. And no, a Cicada is not a new hybrid car. It's actually a type of flying insect that some call a locust, even though they are not related to the locust. They arrive in droves only about every 13-17 years. Right now, you can hear them in the woods, singing their mating song. The arrival of this bug is a special time for fishermen. It's top water heaven, and there's no better way to catch fish than on top water baits. The story of the Cicadas and the fisherman goes something like this. Even though the Cicada lives a long time, they only come above the ground for about a four-to-six-week period. During that time, the male sings his mating song. Once the female mates, she cuts small slits into trees and lays her eggs there. Once the male mates, he dies shortly thereafter. When he dies, he falls into the river or lake and is quickly gobbled up by a fish that has been lying in wait. And the action really heats up when hundreds or even thousands begin falling at once. This four-to-six-week period is the best time to be on the water with a lure that imitates this dying Cicada. I have heard stories from the past of fish losing all sense of fear in order to get their share of these 17-year rarities. One story shared with me was from days gone by when catfish and even carp would join the bass in the feeding frenzy. Fishermen would literally catch every species imaginable on top water baits. Now that would be fun! So, now's the time to put off mowing the grass and get on the water. It may be another 17 years before this opportunity comes around again. And if your wife doesn't believe that excuse, just have her read this column, because you know I'm going to tell you the Outdoor Truth!

I'll see you next week. I'm goingfishing!

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