

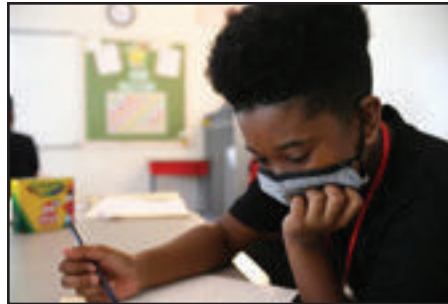
## CPSD test scores remain strong, despite statewide declines

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

After a year without standardized testing due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 and the Governor's subsequent order to close schools, Mississippi public schoolers took state assessments once again earlier this spring. As projected, test scores across the state fell, with educators citing learning loss and disrupted learning as the leading causes of student performance on the yearly assessments.

"The disruption and stress caused by COVID-19 has had an impact on student performance in every state in the country, and the impact has been more marked in mathematics than in English Language Arts," State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carey Wright said in a statement regarding the release of scores. With this in mind, the Mississippi Department of Education agreed to allow students to be promoted without receiving a passing score and have thus far declined to rank Mississippi schools based on 2020-2021 test scores.

Though the Clinton Public School District did experience the shortfalls that plagued the rest of the state, its



results were generally positive, and the district ranked well above the state average. In fourth grade ELA and Mathematics, the District's percentage of students scoring a 4 or a 5 (which constitutes "proficiency" by state standards) were 23.1 and 34.6 percentage points higher than the state average, respectively.

Clinton was one of only six districts in the state to be in the top ten in both mathematics and ELA. Other districts on the list include Enterprise School District, Madison County School District, Ocean Springs School District, Petal School District and Rankin County School District.

Despite state- and district-wide trends to the contrary, the Clinton's eighth graders demonstrated growth in both ELA and Mathematics from

their 2019 year-end assessment to their 2021 year-end assessment, rising from 50.1% to 54.5% in ELA and from 47% to 65.4% in Mathematics.

Roughly half of the students in grades 3 through 8 were considered "proficient" in both Math and ELA, with only sixth grade ELA test-takers falling below the 50% proficiency threshold, with a district-wide proficiency percentage of 49%. That proficiency percentage sailed as high as 67.8% in fourth grade Mathematics and as high as 65.6% in seventh grade Mathematics.

Although high school test takers

fared slightly worse than elementary and middle school students in the district, their 46.2% proficiency percentage in ELA still shattered the state average by more than 11 percentage points, and their 42.8% proficiency percentage in Algebra toppled the state's 33.2% average proficiency.

Clinton performed particularly well when compared to other area high schools, outperforming three of Madison County's four public high schools on the English II assessment and turning in a better district-wide performance on the same assessment than the Rankin County School District.

Proficiency Percentages, ELA & Math, 2019 & 2021

ELA 2019	3rd Grade 65.9%	4th Grade 72.6%	5th Grade 67.5%	6th Grade 51.2%	7th Grade 57.4%	8th Grade 50.1%	Eng II 58.3%
ELA 2021	3rd Grade 56.6%	4th Grade 60.3%	5th Grade 52.8%	6th Grade 49%	7th Grade 52.7%	8th Grade 54.5%	Eng II 46.2%
MATH 2019	3rd Grade 72.6%	4th Grade 84.8%	5th Grade 72%	6th Grade 70.9%	7th Grade 67.4%	8th Grade 47%	Alg I 64.4%
MATH 2021	3rd Grade 57.7%	4th Grade 67.8%	5th Grade 59.3%	6th Grade 53.1%	7th Grade 65.6%	8th Grade 65.4%	Alg I 42.8%

## MC's 2021 Homecoming promises something for everyone

Special to The Clinton Courier

Following a rain-dampened celebration in 2019 and a 2020 schedule abbreviated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the much-anticipated activities scheduled for Mississippi College's Homecoming this year promise a rich blend of exciting new elements and traditional favorites.

According to Chad Phillips, associate director for alumni and parent engagement at MC, all of the events scheduled Friday and Saturday, October 29-30, are designed to help MC alumni, parents, students, family, and friends get the most from their annual pilgrimage to the Clinton campus.

"Homecoming is our largest event for alumni on campus every year," said Phillips '93, '98. "It's the one day we want all of our alumni, from those who graduated fifty years ago to those who graduated just last year, to come back and see their friends and fami-

**Blue**  
AND  
**Gold**  
**RISING**  
MC HOMECOMING 2021

ly and enjoy themselves. It's a time when those who graduated five or six years ago can come back and see all the changes that have been made on campus."

### Friday, October 29

Friday's slate of activities will begin with a 10 a.m. reception for the Department of Communication distinguished alumni in President's Dining Room B. But Mississippi College's traditional Homecoming kickoff event is set to take place an hour later – and about twenty miles away.

At 11 a.m., alumni, students, and guest linksters will gather at Patrick Farms Golf Club at 300 Clubhouse Drive in Jackson to register for the annual Homecoming Golf Tournament. The four-person scramble with a shotgun start will tee off at noon, and the top three teams will receive

cont. on page 19

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HATTIESBURG, MS  
PERMIT NO. 142

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

CALL 601-990-9511

**ROBERT BOYD**  
AND ASSOCIATES  
LAW FIRM PLLC

103 Woodchase Park Drive  
Clinton, Mississippi 39056  
601-925-5511

Your Business With Us Is Confidential.

**CAR WRECK? BIG TRUCK WRECK?**



**ROBERT BOYD**  
and ASSOCIATES  
[www.Wreck.Law](http://www.Wreck.Law)  
601-925-5511

Free Background Info Available Upon Request • Main Office: CLINTON, MS



Free Background Information Upon Request.