

delivering the Promise

A Quarterly Publication of
Indianola Promise Community
WINTER 2015

When children get the right start,
Indianola prospers.

Early Childhood

Kindergarten

Grade 12

College and Career

UNITED FOR EXCELLENCE

The Sunflower County Consolidated School District



Hello, I am Dr. Debra Dace, Superintendent of the Sunflower County Consolidated School District. It has been a very interesting, yet rewarding, six months since I have been appointed as the leader of the newly consolidated district. I am appreciative of the warm

welcome I have received and ask that all stakeholders continue to support the school system and help us to truly be "United for Excellence."

Sunflower County Consolidated School District (SCCSD) strives to provide a safe and secure learning environment, while working to achieve the educational outcomes required by our governing bodies. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are designed to improve the academic achievement of all students and identifies the essential content that all students must experience. Implementing the CCSS and consolidating the three former school districts of Sunflower County have been extremely challenging and complex. However, I, along with my district and school leaders, have been working tirelessly to provide equitable educational services to all students throughout the county.

We began the year with a review of last year's assessment results for Indianola and Sunflower County School Districts. Using this data, we created a district "Plan for Success" that includes district and school level expectations for everyone within the district's teaching and learning community. The vision of the SCCSD states that "All students will experience success by

graduating college and career ready" and this plan ensures that we are preparing our students accordingly.

Currently, the data reveals that there is a need to greatly improve literacy across the county. During the first days of school, the Mississippi State Department of Education administered a new assessment called the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for all entering kindergarten students. Schools with an average scale score of 530 or better indicate that, on average, kindergarten students are ready and prepared for elementary school.

Listed below are the results of the SCCSD Kindergarten Readiness Assessment:

East Elementary School	459
Lockard Elementary School	488
Ruleville Central Elementary School	493
A.W. James Elementary School	491
James C. Rosser Elementary School	452
Inverness Elementary School	530
SCCS DISTRICT	485

The data is clear; we and all of the communities that makeup the consolidated district must join forces to positively impact each and every child. We are in the process of transforming

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DID YOU KNOW? Gentry High School was rebuilt in 1952 after the previous school burned.



The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) is a community-based initiative to provide children with the opportunity to succeed in school, graduate, and attend college. Our priority is making sure children in Indianola have the opportunities they need to excel. The IPC is a project of Delta Health Alliance. For more information, to volunteer, and to get involved, call us or come by and visit us. IPC Office, 135 Front Street, Indianola, MS 38751, 662-686-3933

FAMILY spotlight

Sherease Monroe with her children
Glaveno and Glavenesha



The Indianola Promise Community honors a "Family of the Month."

Every month, a family is recognized for making exemplary efforts to improve their family life, strengthening their connections to the community, and setting an outstanding example for parental engagement.

The Monroe family are members of the Roosevelt Community Association. Mrs. Sherease Monroe is very active within the community devoting her time and money to

the association. She participates in IPC events as well. She is a strong promoter of the community and has been proactive in recruiting other community members such as her mother Shirley Monroe and NV's Dancing Dolls to participate in community events. She is motivated and trustworthy. Her two children, Glavenesha and Glaveno, and her husband are always eager to help in community events, too. Some of the activities the Monroe family are involved in are Roosevelt summer football camp, the tutoring of neighborhood kids,

anti-bullying projects, and the annual Christmas party.



The Indianola Promise Community is making a tremendous impact on the academic, social and economic growth in the City of

Indianola. IPC leaders have a wealth of knowledge and experience that is being used to uplift our community. I commend IPC on the efforts that have been placed in Indianola.

— RUBEN WOODS, WARD 3 ALDERMAN

HEALTH & FITNESS 101



HealthyDelta

CATCH Kids Club (CKC) is an evidence-based, physical activity and nutrition education program designed for elementary and middle school aged children (grades K – 8) in an after-school or summer setting. CKC provides children with the knowledge and skills to make healthy food choices and be physically active. CATCH Kids Club meets the National Afterschool Association (NAA) Standards for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA), covering best practices for out-of-school time (OST) for youth ages 5-14.

"As a CATCH facilitator I strive to promote healthy and safe behaviors among our students and parents in Indianola. It is very important to teach healthy decisions at an early age. My goal is to provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive teenagers and adults. We all know when a student has good health and feels safe this will increase students' capacity to learn, reduce absenteeism, and improve their mental alertness."

—EARL LIDDELL, CATCH FACILITATOR



CATCH is being offered (sponsored by the Indianola Promise Community) at Carver Elementary School and Merritt Middle School, serving 3rd-9th grade students. Students participate weekly in various fun and exciting lessons that promote physical activity in children. Students also learn the importance of healthy eating and how it plays a huge role in their overall health, function, and learning abilities.

"I feel that it helps the kids to learn to be more active and learn to eat and make healthier choices."

—JUSTON WRAGGS, CATCH FACILITATOR

TEENTALK

INDIANOLA YOUTH COUNCIL

MEMBERS MAKING A MARK!

"Growing up with IPC makes me feel like I have a future with the organization. My experience serving with the Indianola Youth Council has made me a better leader and speaker. The IPC family feels like home." S HOSKINS

Samesa Hoskins, former Indianola Youth Council member and current freshman at Millsaps College, has been awarded a scholarship to study abroad in Taiwan during summer 2015.

"IPC has granted me with some of the most amazingly beneficial opportunities that I will get as an adolescent. I've been able to get all of my required volunteer hours for college and I've become more socially interactive. Ultimately, I have become a more positive, involved person and less of a recluse." K. WILSON

Kiara Wilson, Gentry HS junior, has achieved an overall score of 28 on her ACT.

"IPC has helped me to become a better leader. Being a part of the Youth Council is preparing me to become a more productive leader. They have given me the intellectual and social strengths to help me carryout and accomplish my greatest achievement so far, speaking in Washington D.C." Z. PETTY

Zhaquavez Petty, junior at Gentry HS, recently participated in Gentry's Jobs for Mississippi Graduates in Washington, DC where he learned about leadership and becoming a productive leader in the community. He also had the opportunity to attend lectures and presented speeches at the National Student Leadership Academy.



cassandra's rules!

Cassandra Rule, IPC Social Services Coordinator, assists Indianola residents with services available

Our questions for this Cassandra Rule's segment are:

No Health Coverage?

What Does That Means for Your Taxes?

You'll answer a question about your 2014 health coverage when you file your federal income tax return. If you didn't have a minimum level of health coverage for all of 2014, your taxes could be affected.

Here are a few things to know:

You may pay a fee as part of your taxes if you didn't have health coverage in 2014, and don't get an exemption. If you could've afforded health coverage in 2014 but chose not to buy it and you don't qualify for an exemption, you may need to pay a fee with your federal tax return. The fee is based on your income, and how many months you didn't have health coverage. Generally, the higher your income and the more months you were without health coverage, the higher the fee.

You don't have to pay the fee if you get an exemption. If you ask for and are approved for an exemption, you won't have to pay a fee for not having health coverage. You might be able to get an exemption because of a

The Sunflower County Consolidated School District

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the educational system of Sunflower County. We have begun to embed reading skills and strategies in K-3rd grade classrooms that will enable students to read words, find meaning and comprehend what they are reading through quality instruction. We have partnered with the Mississippi Department of Education to place literacy coaches at each of the elementary schools that were deemed to be underperforming based on last year's results.

Consequently, our K-3 literacy teachers are receiving on-going professional development and support that provides the deep foundational knowledge necessary to understand how students learn to read, write, and spell.

Parents and other stakeholders can learn more about the SCCSD and its initiatives by visiting our website at www.sunflower.k12.ms.us.

In light of the 2014 tax season and possibility of penalties to taxpayers (with limited to no health coverage) I feel that the information below would be helpful to all concerned. Also Open Enrollment for affordable health care will be ending very soon -February 15th 2015. So please log on to the website or call the helpline provided for you at the end of this article.

special situation, like not having any affordable health insurance plans available to you, having only a short gap in coverage, or being eligible for services through the Indian Health Service. In addition, if you had coverage starting in May 2014 or earlier, you qualify for an exemption for the months before your coverage started.

Healthcare.gov website: www.healthcare.gov

Call to start or finish an application, compare plans, enroll or ask a question. 1-800-318-2596 TTY: 1-855-889-4325

Additional Assistance-Local

Delta Health Center
Phone: (662) 741-2151 (MAIN)
Email: csellers1390@gmail.com
www.deltahealthcenter.org
P.O. Box 900
702 Martin Luther King Road
Mound Bayou, MS 38762

G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center
Phone: (601) 859-5213 (MAIN)
Email: sbates@gacfhc.org
<http://www.gacfhc.org>
116 Hayden St. Belzoni, MS 39038

Non-English

National Alliance for Hispanic Health, Su Familia:
National Hispanic Family Health Helpline
Phone: (866) 783-2645 (MAIN)
Email: SuFamilia@hispanichealth.org
<http://>



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 5:30-7 PM

**IPC School & Community Survey Results
with performance from the local dance group:
Perfect Example (P.E.)**

*Find out more about your community
Neighborhood Facility Building*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 @ 1:30 PM



Anti-bullying Event

*sponsored by Indianola Youth Council
Carver Elementary gymnasium*

Current funding for the Indianola Promise Neighborhood is made possible in part through a grant from the Department of Education's Promise Neighborhood Program (Award # U215N120032).

Indianola Promise Community
135 Front Street
Indianola, MS 38751

MEET OUR STAFF INDIANOLA PROMISE COMMUNITY



ALLISON POINDEXTER

is a resident of Inverness, Mississippi. She grew up in Centreville, Alabama, and graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. Allison has spent eighteen years in the education field, teaching for ten years at Central Delta Academy in Inverness and later as an educational consultant for a school improvement company.

Allison joined Delta Health Alliance/IPC in June 2013 as Project Manager of Teacher Development. This project provides job-embedded professional development to teachers at Lockard, Carver, Merritt, and Gentry as well as supporting teachers with other training and professional development needs. In year one, the Teacher Development program placed two coaches in the district, one upper-level literacy coach and a science coach. Results from the program showed a link between coaching dosage with teachers and increased student achievement. Based on these results, the number of coaches providing job-embedded professional development to the schools was increased to four in year two: two lower-level coaches mentoring teachers at Lockard and Carver in math and literacy, one upper-level literacy coach at Merritt and Gentry, and one Science coach assisting teachers at Carver, Merritt, and Gentry.

Allison is married to Robert Van Poindexter and is the mother of three grown children. She is a member of the First Methodist Church in Inverness.



LOLITA GLADNEY, Project

Manager for the Triple P program, is a native of Greenville, MS. Triple P is a program that has been in operation in Indianola since September of 2014. The program aims to provide parents with strategies that they can use to build their confidence and build upon the skills that they currently have to help them deal with behavior issues

that their child may be exhibiting. Lolita hopes that parents will view Triple P as a means of taking what they know about parenting and adding a little extra to it. Lolita enjoys the work that she does at IPC and hopes that the community will continue to embrace and be involved with the work that IPC is doing here. Lolita has attended Alcorn State University, Delta State University and Walden University and enjoys public speaking, traveling, arts and crafts, reading, writing, playing kickball, hanging with family and friends, and just living life!