

About the Starkville School District

A vital part of the Starkville community, the Starkville School District is a pace-setter for education in Mississippi. SSD strives to provide every student with an education that is rigorous and relevant in every classroom, every day, preparing them to be college/career ready.

Located in the same town as Mississippi State University, Mississippi's largest public university, SSD is one of the largest school districts in the state, with a student enrollment of more than 4,300 students. SSD combines rigorous academic instruction with innovative technology in the classroom to develop the unique talents and interests of our students through our diverse range of award-winning academic, artistic, athletic, and extra - curricular offerings to help them achieve their potential. SSD provides students with the ultimate learning environment, integrating hands-on opportunities with lessons in history, art, economics, foreign language, horticulture, literature, science, and mathematics. It is this kind of classroom experience that empowers our students to chart their course for college/career and prepares them for success.

In 2012, SSD earned highest marks from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancED during their Quality Assurance Review in four of seven standards, including Vision & Purpose, Governance & Leadership, Resource & Support Systems, Stakeholder Communications & Relationships.

Elementary

As the Starkville School District prepares to fully implement Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Sudduth Elementary School and Henderson Ward Stewart School have implemented Scott Foresman Reading Street - Common Core, a reading program specific for Mississippi and developed by Pearson, a leader in language arts curriculum. The research based English language arts program is the first to offer 100 percent compliance with CCSS in print and digital formats. It is also aligned with the Mississippi Language Arts Curriculum Framework and the Mississippi Science and Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks. In addition, Reading Street provides weekly assessments in MCT2 format and offers digital components, including interactive whiteboard lessons, allowing teachers and students to embrace 21st century skills. Advanced readers will have the opportunity to accelerate their learning while struggling readers will have access to additional resources to help them succeed through

Reading Street's differentiated instructional tools, allowing teachers to customize lessons for students. With Reading Street teachers and parents can see how lessons focus on critical skills, such as identifying statements as fact or opinion, and comprehension strategies, such as monitor and clarify.

The SSD believes this new reading curriculum combined with the expansion of Singapore Math/Math in Focus® now offered in kindergarten through fifth grade will provide instructional tools not only for teachers but also for parents as we strive to put our students on par with national standards.

SSD has also adopted Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), online testing program, for grades K-8. MAP will reduce the number of tests administered to students in grades K-8 by more than half while also providing a customized education plan for every child. With MAP teacher and parents will also have access to valuable information about a child's strengths and weaknesses, including a detailed plan to help guide instruction in the classroom and at home.

Armstrong Middle School

Armstrong Middle School offers students the opportunity to concentrate their focus. AMS offers pre-Advanced Placement courses in math and English and a wide range of electives including foreign language, band, music, art, and drama. Beginning in the sixth grade, students may also elect to study more arts in specific courses, such as drama, chorus, music, band, and art. Advanced courses are offered for students who demonstrate exception talent in the visual and performing arts. AMS is also expanding its award-winning robotics course to include 120 students. The program earned second place in the state and an invitation to the International Robotics Tournament in Florida last year. Sports include football, basketball, soccer, track, baseball, tennis, softball, swimming and golf.

Starkville High School and Millsaps

Starkville High School and Millsaps Career and Technology Center are recognized at both state and national levels for innovative curriculum and advanced instruction. Utilizing a 4X4 block schedule, SHS's more than 1,200 students are offered in-depth instruction in a wide range of offerings, including more than 140 course selections and 10 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. SHS offers students four units of foreign language instruction in Spanish and French. Students can also choose from a wide range of mathematics courses,

Biology, AP Chemistry and AP Physics challenge even the most advanced student. English and social studies instruction encompasses a wide range of course offerings and provides students a well-rounded humanities curriculum. Electives include world geography, creative writing, Mississippi writers, American novel and journalism as well as AP U.S. History, AP European History and AP Literature.

Millsaps Career and Technology Center has been recognized by the Southern Regional Education Board for exceptional programs in the Allied Health Cluster (medical technology) and horticulture. A full range of other technical and occupational programs are also offered through MCTC. Students in these programs are provided the opportunity for hands-on learning experiences ranging from clinical rotations to greenhouse management.

A rigorous curriculum is credited with preparing students in the Starkville School District to achieve significant academic accomplishments. Eleven of 21 students in Mississippi who earned a perfect score on the AP European History Exam attend SHS. That's more than half of the perfect scores in the state! The Class of 2013 produced a three Presidential Scholars at Mississippi State University, the most of any public or private high school in the country, 16 highest honors graduates, 40 honors graduates, and 89 Mississippi Scholars, amassing more than \$3 million in scholarship offers, while being accepted to high-caliber colleges and universities across the country to pursue careers as scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, artists, teachers, and more.

Athletics

Students in the Starkville School District are competitive not just in academics, but in athletics and the arts. With 21 state championship titles, including three in 2012, SHS claimed the All Sports Award for Class 5A, recognizing SHS as the best athletic program in its class in the state. Football, Boys' Soccer and Girls' Tennis Doubles claimed state titles, while every athletic team at SHS except one advanced to the state playoffs this year. SHS' student athletes collected a mountain of individual awards including Class 5A Player of the Year, Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete, Pop Star Award, Clarion Ledger Dandy Dozen, and All State and numerous others.

Fine Arts Focus

The Starkville School District also boasts a nationally recognized fine arts program with its award win-

ning visual and performing arts programs. A recipient of the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Creative Ticket Awards, the District's fine arts program continues to excel with numerous student artists honored for their talents in 2012-13, compiling more than 50 state and national awards. From photography and charcoal drawings to honor choir and orchestra, children in the Starkville District participate in music and art education beginning kindergarten. The music program expands to include strings and band in sixth grade. Art and drama programs expand in the sixth grade and continue through high school. From the halls of the United States Capitol to Carnegie Hall, students are recognized on the national stage for their talents in the performing and visual arts.

The Starkville High School band holds a state record for 43 consecutive years of All-Superior Ratings in concert, sight-reading, and marching at the State Band Festival. The band continued its tradition of excellence in 2013, earning the Sweepstakes Award for delivering all superior performances in every category. The All-Superior SHS Singers performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the National Youth Choir in 2012, and 22 singers were selected to perform with the All State Honor Choir in 2013. Artistically gifted students consistently earn highest honors for their work the Mississippi Scholastic Art Awards Program, including 10 Gold Keys in 2012.

Extra-Curricular

SSD offers a full range of extracurricular activities with dozens of school clubs, programs and organizations, including journalism, National History Day, MathCounts, National Forensics League, Mu Alpha Theta, Millsaps BEST Robotics, AMS LEGO Robotics, JROTC, and many more. SHS's award winning journalism program, which produces The Jacket Buzz, The Yellow Jacket Yearbook, and My Morning Jacket was honored by the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association with 10 first place awards for their outstanding work as writers, editors, and photographers while Millsaps BEST Robotics won the state competition and finished eighth in the region. Armstrong Middle School earned top honors as Quiz Bowl Champions and Top Middle School for the second year in a row in the Mississippi National History Day.

Facilities and Technology

A \$26.5 million school bond issue has transformed the District, providing new classrooms and facilities on four campuses and strengthening the District's commitment to maximize students' educational

experiences with new opportunities for learning. Teachers use innovative techniques to engage students in learning, and technology is a key component of that effort. With interactive SmartBoards in every classroom, our students begin school in a classroom designed for 21st century learning. Fully equipped computer labs designed for whole classroom instruction offer additional learning spaces for teachers and students. The District is has also provided every teacher with a laptop to further enhance opportunities for classroom instruction.

The last major construction project completed this summer is the new athletic complex which anchors the south end of Yellowjacket Stadium. It features an impressive Hall of Honor that welcomes visitors into the facility. The complex also includes locker rooms for four sports and an up to date weight room.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Located in the same town as Mississippi's largest university, the Starkville School District partners with Mississippi State University to provide teachers and students with educational resources and opportunities. High school students can take advantage of the dual credit/dual enrollment agreement between MSU and SHS, earning as many as 18 college credit hours. SSD joined the MSU network in the spring of 2012 giving the district access to Internet 2, an advanced networking consortium led by the U.S. research and education community. It is a revolutionary-class IP and optical network offering advanced technologies that enable services and achievements beyond the scope of individual institutions. This will allow our students and faculty direct access to these resources over the Web at higher speeds and connectivity than accessing them through a commodity network.

Environmental Education

Environmental education receives strong emphasis throughout the district and particularly in grades 3, 4 and 5, where students participate in the Youth Environmental Science (YES!) program. Another partnership between SSD and MSU, the YES! program incorporates hands-on learning into a week-long scientific journey. SSD students also enjoy the benefits of The Larry Box Environmental Center, a state-of-the-art environmental education center featuring indoor and outdoor classrooms and labs, which provide additional opportunities for learning. Fourth and fifth grade students are immersed in nature during field trips to the Center, hiking along trails and bird watching on the 48,000 acre property. The Center

combines wildlife, incredible natural beauty, and education into an unforgettable learning experience. The Center, recognized for excellence by the Mississippi Public Education Forum, was built at the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge through a unique partnership with the U.S. Wildlife Service. A highly competitive science club is also offered to fourth and fifth graders, who have a keen interest in the subject.

Health and Wellness

SSD's GoPlay initiative, designed to encourage imaginative play and to create student learning opportunities beyond the classroom, features a modern playscape, school garden, outdoor classroom, and all-weather pavilion on the campus of Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary. GoPlay's latest effort is the Sudduth Elementary Friendship Playground Project, financially supported by the Sudduth PTA and a \$20,000 grant from KaBOOM! and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. This inclusive playground will allow all children to explore, socialize, and learn through play, regardless of ability level. GoPlay has earned state and national honors for its innovation, receiving a Golden Achievement Award and Gold Medallion Award. It was also recognized by the Mississippi Kids Count project as one of 15 programs significantly impacting Mississippi's children in 2011.

Award-winning Faculty

The backbone of the Starkville School District continues to be the strength of our teachers. SSD's highly qualified faculty exemplifies a passion for teaching and boasts advanced degrees and a lengthy list of awards and accomplishments. Year after year, teachers in the Starkville School District are recognized for outstanding achievement, including National Board Certification, Mississippi Teacher of the Year, Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, Thad Cochran Distinguished Arts Educator Award, Thad Cochran Economics Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Science Teacher, Starkville Area Education Hall of Fame, Mississippi Hall of Master Teachers, STAR Teacher Hall of Fame, Milken Award, Christa McAuliffe Fellow, Disney National Teacher, Governor's Award for Excellence in Art Education, and more.

The Starkville School District prepares students to be productive members of the local and global community. Nurtured by caring, concerned teachers and a supportive administrative staff, the lessons our students learn in the classroom span beyond academics and prepare them for college, career, leadership, and life.