



Education

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SCHS selected as AMSTI school

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN — Southern Choctaw High School has been selected as one of 154 schools across the state to take part in the expansion of the highly-successful Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI).

Governor Bob Riley announced the expansion of AMSTI last week, citing the success of the program in the schools

where it has been implemented since its inception in 2002. The program was piloted in 20 schools in Alabama the first year, was then expanded to include 89 schools, and now another 154 have been added to the initiative, including SCHS.

Developed by the Alabama Department of Education, the AMSTI program is designed to improve math and science instruction in schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade by

providing resources and services for activity-based, research-oriented curriculums — all at no cost to the school. The program was established by a committee of educators, college and university representatives, and business leaders throughout the state and is funded through a legislative appropriation of \$22 million for the fiscal year 2007.

As an AMSTI school, SCHS will receive instructional materials,

professional development opportunities, equipment, and supplies to implement a math and science curriculum — such as the well-known Science in Motion program which has been adopted as the high school component of AMSTI — in order to boost math and science assessment scores and give students a heightened interest in learning.

Since its beginnings, AMSTI has shown obvious success in the schools where it has been

implemented. According to the Institute for Communication and Information Research at The University of Alabama, schools served by AMSTI have shown significant improvements in student achievement measured by the Stanford Achievement Test, the Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test, and the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.

AMSTI schools showed consistent increases over non-

AMSTI schools in all areas tested by the Stanford 10 and the Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test, in both elementary and middle school grades. In fact, math and science scores have increased between 8.95 and 13.64 mean percentile rank points on the SAT 10.

For SCHS students, the AMSTI program could also mean significantly higher scores on the

See AMSTI page 6B



Doing the Math

Submitted photo

PA students raise money for St. Jude

BUTLER — Fifth and sixth graders at Patrician Academy participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon. The students raised \$927 dollars by working math problems, and each student will receive a T-shirt. Sommer Horshok (far right, front row) was the top participant who raised \$301 and will receive a digital camera. The money that was raised by the students will be sent to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Participants included: first row — Courtney Means, Emily Clark, Ashleigh Christopher, Carson Lewis, Caleb Bonner, and Sommer Horshok; back row: Madison Beck, Harley Loper, Parker Allen, and Haley Doggette.



Photo by Brandon Kelly, SCHS

\$7,000 gift from the State of Alabama

GILBERTOWN — Southern Choctaw High School was the recipient of a \$7,000 grant from State Sen. Pat Lindsey (Dist. 22). The money was appropriated for the school's athletic department.

SCHS's Patricia Miller named Outstanding American Teacher

By Hope Ratcliff
SCHS reporter

GILBERTOWN — Congratulations to Patricia Miller, of Southern Choctaw High School, for being inducted into National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers.

The program was established to provide positive recognition to educators who have been identified by their students as



having had the greatest influence on their lives, either as a student or as an individual.

Mrs. Miller teaches 9th grade world history and 12th grade economics at SCHS.

"We are proud of the fact Patricia Miller is on our team," students said.

AT LEFT: Patricia Miller photo by Allen Reed

The Choctaw County Public Library has copies of *Santa Makes House Calls* by Dr. John McCormack, on sale now. Go by and get you one!

Excitement at SCHS

By Clint Lee
SCHS Journalism staff

GILBERTOWN — Southern Choctaw High School is in an uproar thanks to Mr. Lance Boston, our Jostens Class Ring Representative. On February 5, the Senior class ordered cap and gowns for their graduation ceremony in May. When asked how they feel, most of the Seniors reported that they are highly anticipating the ceremony.

Passersby could see the sheer happiness in the faces of the Seniors as they paid for their caps and gowns.

The senior class is not the only class who gets to take part in the fun. The Sophomore class has received packets for their class rings, too.

This marks a significant time in the academic life of a student, shows accomplishments, and provides a sense of achievement.

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To speak directly with Pastor Mason, listeners and Sun readers may call (205) 372-3681.

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