

EMPOWERMENT Through Reading

In 2016, the Mississippi legislature passed a bill raising the bar of the third grade “reading gate” that was originally passed in 2013. This initiative was to further ensure that Mississippi students learn to read by the fourth grade. In His Steps Ministries (IHS) has continued to fulfill its mission by using ongoing innovative and specialized programs through the S.P.A.S.E. Saturday Morning Reading program.

Research makes it clear that students who never fully learn to read early on will be unable to succeed in higher grades. Our reading program continues to equip struggling students with the individualized instruction that they need to be successful.

Carolyn Bacon, the program’s coordinator, states, “It is important that we help our students gain and master essential comprehension skills and strategies so that they are successful not only in school, but also in life. It is our desire that this program improves our students’ ability to understand what they read.”

The overall goal of the program is to provide literacy-rich environments



IHS grandparent, Mallie Branch, and her grandson, Seth, who attends the Saturday Morning Reading Program

focusing on reading fluency, reading comprehension, phoneme awareness, sight word recognition, and writing. This is achieved by providing many different paths for the student to construct knowledge about reading. We understand that it is important that we require our students to engage in action, analysis, and reflection of program areas of knowledge, skills, and dispositions through core program components. Christian values are taught and emphasized in the program. Nurturing our youth with Biblical truth is at the heart of the program.

One grandparent, Ms. Mallie Branch, states, “I am so excited about Seth’s growth level in reading since he started coming to IHS for the reading program. Seth is currently in the 4th grade and is reading on the 6th grade level according to the data from Canton High School.

I contribute Seth’s success to his participation in the reading program at IHS.” Ms. Branch goes on to explain how Seth started attending the reading program two years ago due to some difficulties he was experiencing in reading literacy. IHS desire is that student reach their God-given potential. This is why IHS is committed to ensuring that our students excel at every level.



Students increasing reading and comprehension skills with interactive learning



PERSONAL NOTE From Carolyn Bacon

Brothers and Sisters,

God has placed IHS in Canton, MS to serve and empower our youth for the future. My greatest joy is to see youth reach their full potential in order to succeed in life and be prepared for life eternally. I remind the youth often of Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” We also understand that our youth need to develop 21st century skills. These have been define as abilities needed in order to succeed in this

information age. Because our youth find themselves in a knowledge based world which is characterized by rapid changes and complexities, one of IHS main emphasis is Christ-centered educational enrichment.

We believe that educational services are exceedingly instrumental for the full realization of our children God-given abilities. Education is a key factor of change in the life of our students.

“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela

“To be successful, the student needs Jesus Christ, a skilled mind, and the courage to apply what he or she has learned.”

-J. Bacon

“For with God nothing will be impossible.” **Luke 1:37**

SPECIAL NEEDS

- ⇒ **Assistance with funding for Summer Interns (1 sports, 2 educational and 1 marketing). Amount needed \$9,900.**
- ⇒ **Assistance with supplies for Teaching Garden. Amount needed \$500.**

Computer Programing Prepares Our Students for the Future



Cameron Arcemont, ARC Technologies, LLC, conducts Computer Coding sessions at IHS

Research makes it clear that computer programming is an important aspect of developing 21st Century Skills for learners and has become a popular initiative in K-12 education. IHS believes that a focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and *collaboration is essential to prepare* students for the future.

Today's students need to develop these skills so that they are able to navigate complex life situations and work environments. Our goal at IHS is to ensure that our students are empowered academically, spiritually and socially for God's glory. We understand that by introducing coding to learners early on, we can prepare them for life.

IHS has continued to offer computer programming opportunities to students to ensure that they develop the critical thinking skills that are an integral part of 21st Century Education. **Cameron Arcemont has been coming every Monday for two years to teach our students computer coding.** Coding is important because it helps students reflect on their own learning. Cameron uses various strategies such as Khan Academy to ensure students are able to make connections to real-world applications while learning computer programming. He has been very committed to working with our students, and we praise God for Cameron's faithfulness.

Career Readiness Helps Students Focus on College

In January 2018, **In His Steps Ministries** started **THE NEXT CHAPTER** program as another way to empower our students. This program, developed and executed by Andrea Jones-Davis with Toot, Teach and Roll LLC, seeks to ensure that all students will have an individualized plan for life after high school. In a partnership with the Canton Public School District, students were selected from the 9th grade academy to participate in this program. The program is held weekly on Thursdays. The students being served include IHS S.P.A.S.E. students and those who were referred from the school district.

Zariah Ingram states that she is glad that her teacher referred her to the program because it teaches her Christian values that help her in school. She makes it clear that this program has helped her understand what to look for in a college and how to start preparing now while she is still in school. **Cedrick Grant, IHS student, states** that he is grateful for the program because it shows him how much his academics matter now. **THE NEXT CHAPTER** program allows students to develop their own college plan for life after high school. Topics include study habits, time management, resume building, career goals, financial resources, important information on the process of selecting a school, etc. We understand that ongoing progress monitoring is vital in education and the **THE NEXT CHAPTER'S** evaluation process evaluates the outcomes and goals of services provided through pre-and-post surveys, verbal feedback, participants' active contributions to the targeted projects and plans. **Carolyn Bacon** believes that this is an important tool that will help students understand what it takes to accomplish their career goals.



Kevin Lopez, Kanitra Thompson and Braylan Agustin participating in College and Career Readiness



Presenter, Andrea Jones-Davis Toot, Teach and Roll, LLC, THE NEXT CHAPTER Program

THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Thank God for His faithfulness.
- ◆ Thank God for In His Steps' friends who give and serve with IHS.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OUR YOUTH

- ◆ Pray that they will **know Christ as Savior early in life and desire a close relationship with Him** throughout their childhood, teen, and adult years.
- ◆ Pray **that they will sense God's calling on their lives** and their lives will count for His kingdom.
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **RESPECT**. "A respect for others".
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **REVERENCE**. "The fear of the Lord"
- ◆ Pray that **God will bring into their lives godly adults and friends who will help them grow** in godly living.
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **PURPOSE**. "A wisdom to set goals".
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **SERVANTHOOD**. "The ministry of helps".
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **SELF-DENIAL**. "A sacrifice to surrender".
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **SUBMISSION**. "Choosing to yield".
- ◆ Pray for a spirit of **TEACHABILITY**. "A quality of meekness".
- ◆ Pray that God will protect them from emotional, physical, and spiritual danger.

GENERAL PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Pray for proper diagnosis and medical help for Sharon Clark's health issues.
- ◆ Pray for one-on-one evangelistic meetings with local athletes.
- ◆ Pray for God's blessings on spring ministries.
- ◆ Pray for college students as they finish the semester. (*Damien, Demario, Brian, Montravious, Breanna, Shelby, Connell, Malik and Shaylyn*)
- ◆ Pray for ongoing development of outreach ministry in Saw Mill Quarters and other neighborhoods.
- ◆ Pray for salvation and revival for all Canton High School athletes.
- ◆ Pray for safety and good health for IHS staff.
- ◆ Pray for special summer discipleship program for S.P.A.S.E. students.