

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:  
**EMPOWERING  
FUTURES**





# ABOUT US

Established in 1854, the Mississippi School for the Deaf is the state's official school for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. From the earliest detection of a hearing loss, we can provide children with the communication skills and confidence they need to live productive lives.

Our dedicated teachers are certified professionals who are recognized as leaders in the field of deaf education. They assist each student in reaching his or her full potential by providing excellent instruction in a deaf friendly environment.

The earlier a child can learn to communicate, the better his or her chances are of success. Our SKI\*HI Early Intervention certified advisors work directly in the homes with parents of children ages birth to three who are deaf or hard of hearing, providing them with language, communication and support as early as possible.

Beginning with preschool students are challenged in a stimulating learning environment. MSD also provides speech therapy, audiological services, physical and occupational therapy and counseling on campus free of charge.

At age four, children can join us on our beautiful campus as members of our residential community, where we provide round the clock supervision in a safe and cheerful setting. Meals and clinic services are also provided free of charge.

MSD students have access to the most up-to-date educational materials and technologies available. They benefit from the well-equipped language labs filled with books, computers and educational resources. Students may also enjoy participating in our athletic program or academic team.



# INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING

Mississippi School for the Deaf (MSD) is the place to be for children to excel academically, develop socially and gain educational proficiency. Parents from all over the state have chosen to enroll their children in MSD because of the excellent, well-rounded day programs we offer and the comfortable and safe residential community we provide. Through high-quality tuition-free services, children (birth through high school) are given the tools needed to excel in their daily lives and future careers.



# EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

*Our goal is to minimize challenges and make life more rewarding for students and their families.*

MSD's high quality educational services are available to students at no cost. We follow the state standards as mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Our technologically advanced educational curriculum includes language arts, math, science, social studies and physical education. A variety of highly trained professionals are on staff to provide essential assessments and services on site.



## MSD OFFERS

- bilingual instruction
- state-of-the-art technology
- small class sizes
- athletic opportunities
- early intervention services
- on-site 24 hour nursing staff
- comprehensive assessments
- residential education

## BILINGUAL PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Mississippi School for the Deaf is to provide for early language acquisition and to facilitate the development of two languages: American Sign Language (ASL) and English. This goal is accomplished with the belief that for most deaf students, American Sign Language is the accessible, dominant language used for communication and thinking, while English is learned as a second language. By fostering competencies in these two languages and by providing an academically and culturally enriched learning environment, deaf students will have the skills necessary to function effectively as members of both the deaf and hearing communities.

OUR 80-ACRE CAMPUS IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF MISSISSIPPI, JUST MINUTES AWAY FROM THE STATE'S FINEST CULTURAL AND MEDICAL CENTERS.

WE SERVE NEARLY 700 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES EACH YEAR.





# SKI\*HI EARLY INTERVENTION

*We assist parents through their child's most critical development period with our in-home services.*

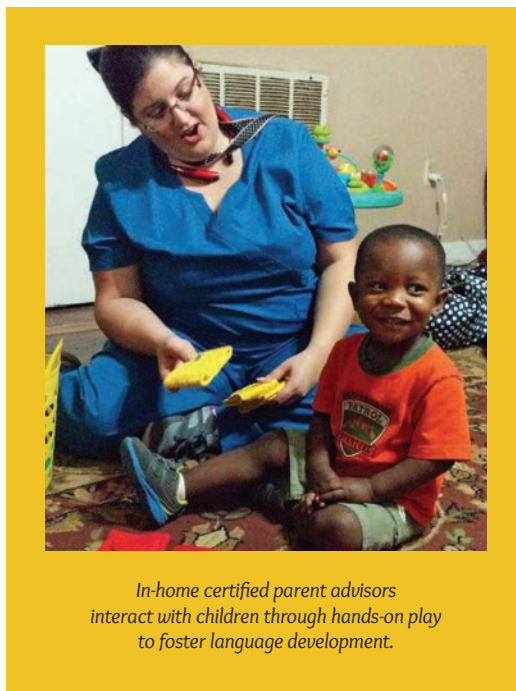


The SKI\*HI Early Intervention Program provides early intervention services statewide to families of deaf and hard of hearing children ages birth to three years.

Services are usually provided in the home during home visits by a certified parent advisor who has received training in the use of the SKI\*HI Early Intervention Model.

Parents become active partners in their child's educational development by making informed decisions about communication methodology and educational placement.

SKI\*HI provides information to parents on the use and care of hearing aids and cochlear implant processors, development of auditory skills, establishment of meaningful, two-way communication and the development of language skills.



*In-home certified parent advisors interact with children through hands-on play to foster language development.*

***“Hats off to the excellent faculty and staff at the Mississippi School for the Deaf. They prepare their students for life with a well-rounded education through a myriad of activities and stimulating educational programming.”***

MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATOR ALICE HARDEN, DISTRICT 28 - HINDS COUNTY

97% OF DEAF AND  
HARD OF HEARING  
STUDENTS ARE BORN  
TO HEARING PARENTS.

THE EARLIER  
A CHILD LEARNS  
TO COMMUNICATE,  
THE BETTER  
HIS OR HER  
CHANCES ARE  
OF SUCCESS.



NOT ALL STUDENTS  
COME TO MSD  
KNOWING AMERICAN  
SIGN LANGUAGE.  
WE HELP STUDENTS  
OVERCOME OBSTACLES  
WITH OUR POSITIVE  
APPROACH TO TEACHING.

## EDUCATION

*MSD offers a direct approach to education by utilizing a communication mode easily accessible to all students.*

*By providing instruction via American Sign Language and English, students are afforded the opportunity to receive information in such a way that ensures they have adequate opportunity to learn.*

A common frustration that some parents and students have experienced in mainstream school settings is the non-direct approach to teaching deaf or hard of hearing students in which instruction is passed from teacher to interpreter and then to student. Information lost through this filtering process makes it challenging for students to keep up. They may be incorrectly labeled as incapable of learning which may lead to behavioral problems at school.

At MSD, our students receive instruction directly from their teachers.

This approach not only empowers students to learn, it opens doors to their full capacity for academic excellence.



### PRESCHOOL AGES 3 - 5

MSD preschool students benefit from our extraordinary bilingual early education program which includes an intensive curriculum of pre-reading, pre-math, science, social studies and both signacy and oracy labs.

Mississippi School for the Deaf:

- follows early education requirements set forth by the state of Mississippi while incorporating bilingual strategies and ideals
- provides an intensive language-rich environment where children learn through active hands-on experiences
- utilizes multiple resources and programs to assess and further the growth of language through American Sign Language and written or spoken English
- utilizes cutting-edge strategies developed for the implementation of a quality bilingual program
- provides transition support from our bilingual program to the educational program of the parent(s) choice

*The staff and classmates at MSD become your child's extended family.*





## ELEMENTARY PRE-K - 5TH GRADE

Bilingual education consisting of American Sign Language and English continues in the elementary education program. Students are introduced to various means of communication through technology, which enhances their academic and social-emotional growth and development.



Elementary students delve into language arts, math, science, social studies and physical education through state standards. Appropriate modifications, such as the use of captioned films and learning strategies, are provided to support student access to the curriculum.



Our highly qualified instructors and capable staff demonstrate exceptional competencies in ASL and English. As positive bilingual role models, they provide open access to communication for students as they grow and become proficient in both languages.

To ensure student exposure to communication, we provide support services such as speech therapy, audiological services, counseling, occupational therapy and physical therapy — all based on student assessment.



Each classroom is equipped with a SmartBoard, iMac, iPad and visual public announcement system.

STUDENTS FLOURISH  
WHEN EDUCATED  
IN A LANGUAGE-  
RICH ENVIRONMENT  
DESIGNED TO MEET  
THEIR COMMUNICATION,  
LANGUAGE AND  
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

*“As a parent of a former deaf student at MSD, I can attest to the need for bilingual education as early as possible. In fact, ASL should, in my opinion, be the child’s first language to develop educational competency and personal ego strengths.”*

SELBY PARKER SR., ED. D, AUTHOR, PSYCHOLOGIST, AND PARENT





## CAREER TRAINING

MSD offers CTE (Career Technology Education) programs that prepare students to enter a variety of workforce opportunities. MSD has top-notch CTE labs with excellent learning environments to assist students in the development of skill sets that lead to a successful transition into career/technological programs. A well-prepared workforce is the goal of the CTE programs at MSD.

A RIGOROUS  
CURRICULUM AND  
SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS  
ARE THE FOUNDATION  
FOR SUCCESS  
IN LITERACY,  
CAREER/WORK  
AND LIFE SKILLS.

## SECONDARY 6TH - 12TH GRADE

Our top priority is enriching the lives of our students with the same curriculum and high standards as all Mississippi public schools. In addition, we take pride in furnishing students with experiences to develop skills needed for transition into adult life.

MSD's comprehensive secondary education program provides every student with the opportunity to obtain an appropriate education based upon his or her individual abilities and interests. Our teachers provide challenging assignments and vigorous classroom interaction. Innovative use of technology challenges students to test their skills and grow into successful, well-rounded young adults.



*"If every other staff was as devoted, conscientious and caring as the staff of MSD, we would have the best school system in the country."*

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MOORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EDUCATION COMMITTEE



# STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY

*Our technology-rich campus engages students and optimizes learning experiences.*

Each student is provided with the necessary tools to enable him or her to grow as a digital learner. These tools are integrated into the instructional process in the classroom to prepare them for the local and global workforce.

All classrooms are equipped with computers, INTERWRITEMOBI and the Classroom Performance System (CPS), which facilitates interactive classroom testing. MSD also has a distance-learning classroom which allows collaboration with other deaf schools across the country.

MSD was the first deaf school in the nation to have a fully equipped visual PA system which streams text or American Sign Language (ASL) to classrooms. We also have a media room to broadcast information to the community through a variety of online outlets.



## THE AUDIOLOGY ADVANTAGE

*MSD uses state-of-the-art audiology equipment in its Assessment Center. The GSI Audiostar audiometer and Maico EasyTymp are used to assess current MSD students, as well as children (ages birth to 21) statewide. In addition to testing, our audiologist dispenses and programs hearing aids and maps cochlear implants.*

## KEY POINTS

- campus-wide visual public announcement system
- each elementary student is provided an iPad.
- each secondary student is provided a MacBook Air
- each classroom is equipped with a SmartBoard, iMac and iPad

THROUGH EXACTING  
ACADEMIC TRAINING AND  
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY,  
STUDENTS COMPETE  
ON A NATIONAL LEVEL.

*MSD's academic team  
at the Gallaudet University  
National High School  
Academic Bowl for Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing Students.*





WHILE OUR  
PRIMARY OBJECTIVE  
IS TO EDUCATE,  
WE DEVOTE EQUAL  
ATTENTION TO ENSURING  
THAT STUDENTS  
REACH THEIR FULL  
POTENTIAL PHYSICALLY  
AND SOCIALLY.



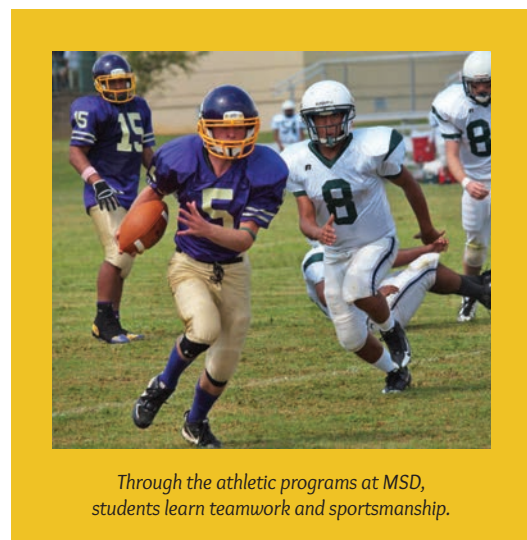
## ATHLETIC PROGRAM

*Athletics teach life lessons. Having coaches who sign keeps communication accessible at all times. It's a genuine team effort.*

The Mississippi School for the Deaf athletic program has brought positive national attention to the state, and served as a great source of pride for students, parents, and alumni.

The MSD football and basketball programs consistently rank among the nation's best performing teams. Balanced with the MSD academic program, athletics provide our students with opportunities to compete in team and individual sports on a national level.

Students participate in four Mississippi High School Athletic Association sanctioned team sports: football, basketball, volleyball and track as well as other intramural sports.



*Through the athletic programs at MSD, students learn teamwork and sportsmanship.*

In addition to physical sports, MSD's academic team has competed in the High School Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students for almost 20 years. This annual event is sponsored by Gallaudet University to foster the pursuit of academic excellence, and to promote a spirit of academic competition as well as good sportsmanship. It is a great opportunity for collegiality among students!



*Extracurricular activities help shape children! Motivation in sports leads to higher self-esteem and better performance in the classroom.*



# ADMISSIONS

Our administrators, teachers and staff are rewarded daily by showing children that there are no limits to how successful they can be in life and future careers.

And there's no better place to learn than MSD!

Candidates for admission to MSD must have a documented hearing loss as their primary disability and be a resident of Mississippi. Students may be referred by their Local Education Agency (LEA), families, doctors, rehabilitation counselors or other interested individuals. It is highly recommended that parents work through their LEA when making application for their child.

Once initial application information has been received, contact is made with the LEA to assure their participation in the admissions process. After all appropriate application information is gathered, the MSD Admissions Committee meets to review the application folder and make a recommendation regarding placement.

Prior to making the decision to enroll, a child and his/her parents are encouraged to visit our campus and see our proactive approach to learning.







As a comprehensive center—providing education, resources and services for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, their families and educational partners—Mississippi School for the Deaf’s mission is to empower students with a positive deaf identity so that they will possess confidence, discipline, leadership and productivity in becoming contributing citizens of their communities.

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**Dr. Sandra Edwards**  
SUPERINTENDENT

**Dr. Bradley Porché**  
PRINCIPAL

**Dr. Leigh Warren**  
DIRECTOR OF MISSISSIPPI  
ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR HEARING LOSS

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*Mississippi School for the Deaf was established by an act of the Mississippi Legislature in 1854 for the express purpose of providing an educational program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.*

*Mississippi School for the Deaf has achieved full accreditation through AdvancedED.*



MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF | 1253 EASTOVER DRIVE | JACKSON, MS 39211 | WWW.MSD.K12.MS.US  
PLEASE CONTACT DR. LEIGH WARREN FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 1-844-332-3464