



**LAMAR COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
P.O. Box 609
Purvis, MS 39475

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Kyle Hill
Mr. Steve Lampton
Mr. Buddy Morris
Mr. Mike Pruitt
Mr. Chris Ryals

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Benjamin C. Burnett
Phone: 601-794-1030
Fax: 601-794-1012
ben.burnett@lamarcountyschools.org

**ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT**

Johnny Downs
Phone: 601-794-1030
Carolyn Adams
Phone: 601-794-5256

**BOARD
ATTORNEY**

Richard D. Norton
Phone: 601-261-4100

Lamar County School District Eighth Grader Receives National Honor

LAMAR COUNTY, MISS., Friday, December 10, 2010—According to Lamar County School District (LCSD) leaders, an eighth grade Oak Grove student has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious John W. Harris Leadership Award by the National Beta Club, the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. Taylor Parsons of Oak Grove Middle School (OGMS) is one of only 25 Junior Beta Club student members *nationwide* to be selected with the leadership award this year.

"We feel very honored that one of our students has been selected with this National Beta Club award, which is presented to students who exemplify the highest standards of the organization," said Wanda Ford, OGMS Junior Beta Club Sponsor. "Taylor is a natural leader and truly has a heart for service, living up to the Beta's motto, which is, 'Let us lead by serving others.'" Parsons received the award during today's Beta Club meeting at OGMS.

Ford said the John W. Harris Leadership Award is one way that the National Beta Club recognizes outstanding leadership exhibited by its junior and senior members. 25 students are also selected for award from Senior Beta members representing high schools across the country.

OGMS leaders nominated Parsons for the award, citing her commitment to the organization's leadership principles and community involvement outside of school. Oak Grove Junior Beta Club has 205 members in grades sixth through eighth. To qualify for membership in the Beta Club, students must have a 90 or above average in each class and demonstrate high character and leadership skills.