

## MADILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AWARDED GEAR UP GRANT

In one more positive school improvement measure, Madill Public Schools has been awarded a GEAR UP grant. GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federal grant program designed to help middle and high school students better prepare for college. The professional services provided through this grant for teacher training, parental involvement and student services will better prepare our middle school and high school students to achieve postsecondary success. GEAR UP provides academic preparation programs and scholarships for students, professional development activities for educators, and college access information for students and parents. The services provided through the grant will also assist with adoption of the Common Core State Standards; college access interventions for students; improvement of teacher effectiveness and classroom performance through use of student data and a new state teacher evaluation system. Students will receive direct assistance with: ACT and standardized test preparation; understanding college admission and course requirements; Oklahoma's Promise application process; financial aid and college applications. Students will also be able to attend free summer academies on college campuses in science, math and technology, participate in college campus tours and work individually with college liaisons. GEAR UP will also work directly with parents through Parent Leadership Academies and meetings that emphasize improving education in high school to increase opportunities for college and career success later. The GEAR UP strategies are research based and proven to help reduce student achievement gaps; improve classroom rigor; enhance teacher effectiveness; boost student knowledge of college and career paths and improve college going rates.