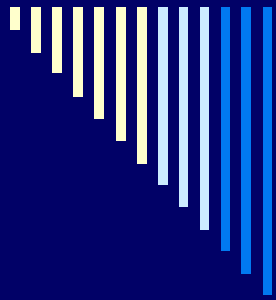


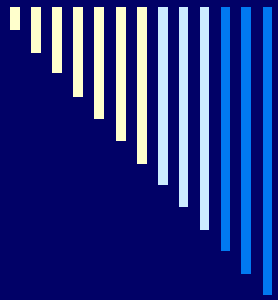
Arts Front and Center Forum
Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education
March 23, 2007

Meridian High School Redesign
Arts & Culture Learning Community



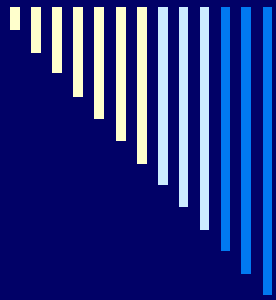
High School Redesign

- Community Interviews
- Steering Committee
- Consultant
- Task Forces
- Planning and Visits
- Recommendations
- A New Vision
- Design Teams



A New Vision

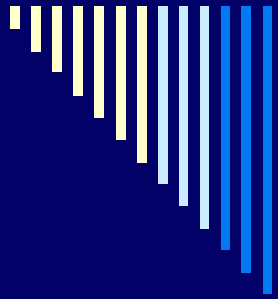
The vision of small learning communities is guided by the importance of education to the well-being of students and to the future of the community.



A New Vision

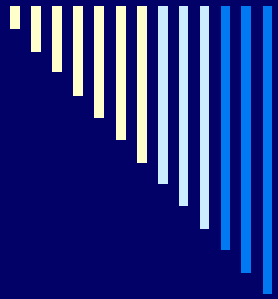
The Steering Committee and the Task Forces decided on a shared vision of transformation that includes:

- All students engaged in learning
- All students exposed to the opportunities in work and higher education
- All students receiving counseling and support they require to succeed



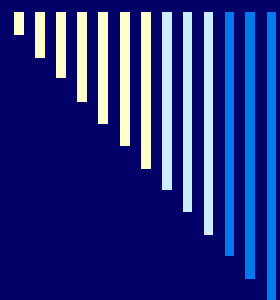
A New Vision

- All students graduating and pursuing postsecondary **education** and/or **meaningful and challenging** work
- A curriculum that is **relevant** and meaningful
- A curriculum that is tied to the **interests** of the community
- Educators at all levels receiving the support and encouragement they require to ensure **successful learning for all**



A New Vision

- A community that supports education and understands its importance to Meridian's future
- An emerging competitive economy that draws on the skills and knowledge of students who were trained in the Meridian public schools
- A dynamic quality of life for the community that draws upon the benefits that a well-educated populace brings to the community



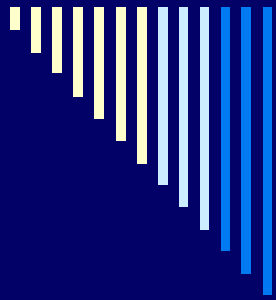
Arts & Culture Learning Community

Meridian, Mississippi – a community that values the arts and arts education

Meridian High School – an educational community currently providing numerous challenging arts courses

The location and the time is right to implement a small learning community for the arts.

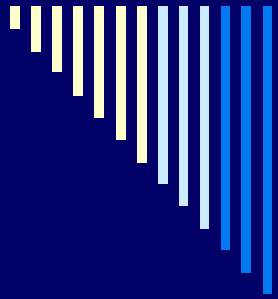




Arts & Culture Learning Community

Benefit students by

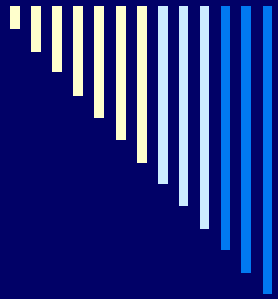
- engaging them in learning
- building student awareness and confidence
- encouraging them to develop skills and interests that will last a lifetime
- motivating them to pursue postsecondary education and satisfying work



Arts & Culture Learning Community

Benefit the greater Meridian community by

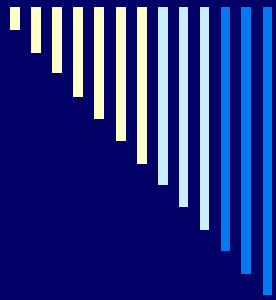
- building on and helping to promote the community's interest and investment in the arts and cultural facilities
- helping to attract and concentrate additional resources to arts and culture
- helping to promote economic development strategies around arts and culture
- promoting additional and longer-lasting ties to the community through the experiences a small learning community in arts and culture will foster



Arts & Culture Learning Community

Distinguishing Characteristics

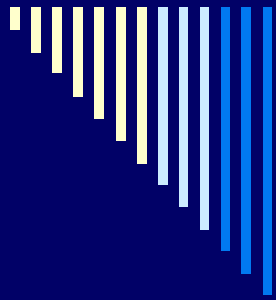
- Rigorous
- Multi-disciplinary
- Practical
- State-of-the-art
- Flexible



Arts & Culture Learning Community

Design Principles

- Theme-based approach to encourage students to pursue learning
- Themes should permeate all subjects and classes
- Interest Inventories
- Begin with appreciation classes and experiences
- Family participation
- Substantial investment is in both professional development and adequate numbers of counselors
- Close connection to the community and draw on identified community assets

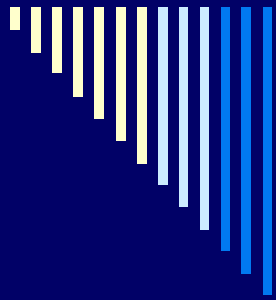


Arts & Culture Design Team

MHS Currently Offers

Concert/Symphonic Band
Band Sectional
Concert Choir
Women's Choir
Lamplighters
Music Theory
General Music
Guitar I/II
Art I/II
Drawing I/II
Painting I/II
Photography
Ceramics I/II
Graphic Design
AP Studio Art
Introduction to Theater
Theater II

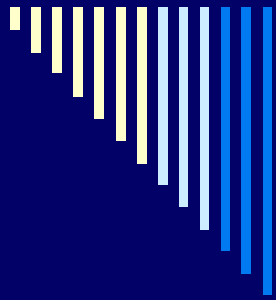




Arts & Culture Design Team

Planning Includes

- Jazz Band
- Instrumental Strings
- Piano
- Show Choirs/Vocal Music
- Further expansion of the visual arts
- TV
- Dance
- Increase interdisciplinary instruction
- Increase arts instruction at lower grades



Contact Information

Bruce Pugh, Assistant Principal
Meridian High School

601-484-4428

bpugh@mpsd.k12.ms.us

Cheryl Thomas, Assistant Principal
Meridian High School

601-484-4431

cthomas@mpsd.k12.ms.us
