

Our Vision Statement

We commit to engage all Meridian Public Schools to join the community in a unique, creative culture integrating the arts to inspire and enhance learning for all pre-K through 8th grade students.



Our Mission

We believe that every child deserves a continuous, quality arts education. All students should experience all the arts (music, visual arts, drama, and dance/creative movement) in school and in the community, so they may become creative, engaged learners prepared to lead successful lives.

How to be a Part of Any Given Child

To volunteer or support, contact
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Ensuring the Arts for  The Kennedy Center
ANYGIVENCHILD
Meridian, Mississippi

*Every child
deserves a
continuous,
quality arts
education.*

601.484.5557 | AnyGivenChildMeridian.org

Check us out at  [AGCMeridian](https://www.facebook.com/AGCMeridian)

What Is Any Given Child?

Meridian is one of the select few communities chosen by the John F. Kennedy for the Performing Arts to partner in an initiative to assist communities in developing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools... ensuring access and equity for all students.

This collaboration includes Mississippi State, members of the Meridian community, local educators, and the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center selected Meridian as the 23rd Any Given Child city in the nation in September 2016. The Kennedy Center experts provided consulting to facilitate strategic planning for arts education into the pre-K-8 experience in the Meridian Public School District. The goal of the program is to touch every child in their school experiences with the arts across many different forms – dance, music, theater, and visual arts.



Community Arts Team

Members of the Meridian community formed a 30-member Community Arts Team (CAT) and a smaller Working Group that collaborated in Year 1 (September 2016-May 2017) to develop long-term goals and short-term action steps for sustained arts education.

What are the goals of the Community Arts Team?

- Goal 1:** Expand and sustain arts education for all students through integration of the arts across academic disciplines and more direct arts instruction in one or more art forms.
- Goal 2:** Ensure active parental and community understanding and support of arts education for all students.
- Goal 3:** Sequentially build the integration of the arts through professional development of school personnel, artists, and arts organizations.
- Goal 4:** Create a funding model and organizational structure to sustain arts education in Meridian.
- Goal 5:** Continually assess AGC implementation and impacts through comprehensive, collaborative data analysis.



Why the Arts?

Arts are essential elements for a complete education and helps students:

Stay in School = Succeed in School

Succeed in Work = Succeed in Life

- Students engaged in the arts are...
 - 4x more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.
 - 4x more likely to participate in a math or science fair.
 - 3x more likely to win an award for school attendance.
- Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than TWICE as likely to graduate from college as their peers with no arts education.

How does it work?

Any Given Child will...

- Enhance the quality of arts programs.
- Create equal opportunities for students in Meridian Public School District.
- Provide training for teachers to integrate the arts throughout all subjects and grade levels.

