



St. Andrews Episcopal School Launches the Inspire and Innovate Program

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St. Andrew's Episcopal School, based in Ridgeland, Mississippi, has announced the launch of the the i2: Inspire and Innovate movement. This program was the result of the realization that the traditional classroom was designed for lecturing and not for learning. The classroom environment had to be modified in order to encourage creative, curiosity, and critical thinking in 21st century students.

Dr. Julie Rust, one of the school's Associate Heads for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, says, "In the i2: Inspire and Innovate program, we lead educators and innovators committed to helping teachers develop measurable strategies that maximize learning. We offer everything from tech-centered ideas to pedagogical best practices learned from years in the classroom."

The i2 Team supports the specific goals of professional teachers, while not promoting any specific teaching method over the others. They will then document and curate the innovative results of the work being done by the teachers with the goal of inspiring their colleagues.

i2: Inspire and Innovate makes use of three remodeled i2 classrooms designed to be used for a range of

research-based and innovative technologies that will improve teaching and learning. These innovative classrooms are used as research sites to measure the impact of teaching practices and improve upon them.

In i2: Inspire and Innovate, all of the teachers, students and parents are encouraged to take a look at the i2 classrooms and to explore the many perspectives on how such educational spaces can be used.

Aside from the i2 Classrooms, the program also resulted in the creation of i2 Labs, which serve as brainstorming hubs where teachers can go to in order fine-tune their ideas and get additional resources and professional support. In the i2 Labs, "drop in" hours are provided so that teachers can go test ideas and imagine possibilities. These labs will also have schedules where teachers can arrange meetings with specific i2 team members.

To create i2: Inspire and Innovate, a taskforce of educators was organized to research innovations in learning environments and pedagogies. After traveling to various schools around the U.S. and observing best practices, they realized that most traditional classrooms are built for lecture and not for active learning. Modern ideas about education are no longer based on the idea that learning is a static, passive process. Thus, students need to have an active classroom that encourages them to think and create, engage and explore their environment.

At St. Andrew's Upper School, advanced classes are offered that cannot be found anywhere else in the state of Mississippi. i2: Inspire and Innovate allows teachers to know where each student is in their learning in real time, allowing them to better support students every step of the way.

The curriculum at St. Andrew's Upper School has been designed to inspire and support the students in such a way that not only are they prepared for college, but they are also encouraged to be lifelong learners, engaged citizens of various communities, and creative problem solvers.

As students advance through the Upper School, more academic choices are provided and the varying levels of classes are offered to best meet the specific needs of each student. They also offer a range of artistic, athletic, and service-learning opportunities designed to round out their educational experiences.

To prepare the Upper School students for college, college counseling is provided for the families as the students enter the ninth grade. However, college preparation does not stop there at St. Andrew's. Every facet of daily student life is designed to encourage self-direction, independence, critical thinking, and discussion. This is because those are the skills that will ultimately allow the graduates to become leaders in whatever field they will choose to pursue.

i2: Inspire and Innovate is just the latest step in St. Andrew's long tradition of strong academics and

innovation. St. Andrew's was the first school in Mississippi school to have a community service requirement for graduation, a one-to-one laptop program, a Cum Laude chapter, an Honor Code for students on the high school level, an on-campus observatory, as well as the first to offer AP classes and field soccer and lacrosse teams.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9KzvTb_8AM

Those who are interested in an innovative private high school in Jackson, Mississippi Metro, can visit the St. Andrew's Episcopal School's website or contact them on the phone or through email at 601-853-6000 or sa@gosaints.org.

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For more information about St. Andrew's Episcopal School, contact the company here: St. Andrew's Episcopal School
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St. Andrew's Episcopal School

Founded in 1947 and grounded in the Episcopal tradition, St. Andrew's Episcopal School is a coeducational college preparatory day school serving students on campuses in Jackson and Ridgeland, Mississippi.

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