

**From:** Pam Millice [mailto:PMillice@creatingpride.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2009 11:13 PM  
**To:** Mills, Diana; Colton, Cathy; Breshears, Dollie  
**Cc:** Pickett, Debra  
**Subject:** Thank You!

Hello Incredible Hickory Hills Leaders!

What an outstanding day at Hickory Hills!! You definitely put your best foot forward!! Upon arrival, the hospitality was unbelievable. Every guest (including myself!) felt extremely welcome and at home. Beyond the hospitality, all were impressed with the teaching and learning evidenced across the entire building. The entire school culture reflected engaging, meaningful arts-integrated experiences for students. Teachers seemed at ease with arts-integrated instructional delivery, with having guests in the building and in their classrooms, and with showcasing arts integrated experiences being provided to students. Students also seemed at ease with this type of instruction and with having guests in their school. This indicated that this type of instruction is occurring not just on ArtsNOW days . . . but is becoming a natural and more common part of every day instruction. Arts integrated implementation appears to be truly becoming a part of your school's culture! Congratulations. As Dr. Larry Scripp said, "it was obvious that this was not a 'show'; you can't fake this type of instruction with the ease that I saw." He was extremely impressed with your leadership, with the instruction he saw, with your teachers and students, and with the overall school environment – including student work displays with standards listed across the building. In addition, he had never seen a school supported by a team such as we did with ArtsNOW – and with interactions where teachers and consultants seemed open, honest, and comfortable - and seemingly, our team not being "external" but part of the process. On a final note about his comments, he is in arts-integrated schools across the country and saw the depth of educational experiences you are providing for students! Again, congratulations.

I can't tell you how proud I was of what I personally observed! It has been a journey and I am delighted to have played a small role in the development and evolution of your arts-integrated school. You have accomplished much and are becoming a model for others to learn from! I look forward to continuing this journey and pushing forward to take this to the next level!

With that said, you have been offered the opportunity to begin taking your efforts to the next level . . . and with my (ArtsNOW) facilitation, become a Learning Laboratory School with the National Consortium!! I will be discussing exact next steps with Larry and will be in touch.

Thank you for allowing me to showcase your school! I know it was a hectic (and perhaps stressful) day. But it was a successful day – hopefully on all fronts. Ultimately, it is about student learning . . . and I know I saw students learning!

With Gratitude for You!

Pamela Millice  
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**-Some feedback about the exciting news from Hickory Hills.  
Please read the email thread below-**

- That is awesome. They are really doing some cool stuff over there. I was able to spend one semester over there and saw how much enthusiasm that the school has in implementing their arts curriculum outside of the classroom and integration into the regular classroom.
- **Just another example of why MCS shines.**
- This is fantastic news! Thank you for sharing.
- Randy, thank you for the informative email - great news for Hickory Hills.

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Lembeck, Emily](#)  
**To:** [Tom Smith](#) ; [jill@strategicconsultgroup.com](mailto:jill@strategicconsultgroup.com) ; [jmmkcc@aol.com](mailto:jmmkcc@aol.com) ; [Whatapane@bellsouth.net](mailto:Whatapane@bellsouth.net) ; [RBerens140@aol.com](mailto:RBerens140@aol.com) ; [rdcemail@bellsouth.net](mailto:rdcemail@bellsouth.net) ; [tfasola@bellsouth.net](mailto:tfasola@bellsouth.net) ; [allenchiropractic@gmail.com](mailto:allenchiropractic@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2009 10:15 AM  
**Subject:** Hickory Hills - Exciting News!

Members of the Board:

Last week Hickory Hills hosted a visit from a national consultant and arts integration expert. Larry Scripp is *Director of the Research Center for Learning Through Music at New England Conservatory*. As a result, Hickory Hills has been asked to become a Learning Laboratory School with the National Music Consortium! More details will follow.

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