

## Preliminary Report, Highlights: Design and Architecture Senior High, Miami-Dade

**EDUCATION BY DESIGN:** “*Education by Design*” describes the philosophy at the Design and Architecture Senior High also known as DASH. The mission of this public magnet school is to provide a high level, integrated education in design and academics, using both traditional faculty and career professionals to facilitate learning within a well-designed, state-of-the-art educational environment. The four-year design career program culminates with field based design internships. The principal has been able to hire specialized personnel from the design industry to work with students and staff at the school. The high morale and low turnover indicate the school is a desirable place to work. To be a successful educator at DASH, one must be flexible, creative, energetic, a team player and able to motivate students.

**Results:** Teachers report high morale; Low rate of teacher turnover; Student absentee rates considerably lower than the district and state; School Grade: 2002 A; 2003 A.

**Practices that Promote High Performance:**

- Providing a high level integrated education with an extensive hands on component
- Clearly articulating and focusing on the schools mission
- Being creative in using traditional and non-traditional strategies to achieve academic and career goals

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH) builds extensively upon relationships with community partners, creating a motivating learning environment. An industry-related Advisory Board meets monthly to promote internship and mentor programs, community relations and outreach opportunities, fundraising, participation in school/industry/education opportunities and curriculum ideas reflective of design industry standards. The Advisory Board is composed of 36 professionals who give input into curriculum and design and serve as a vital link between the school and the community at large. Community partners, collectively referred to as Friends of DASH, make unique contributions by sponsoring events; bringing in live performances by internationally renowned artists; creating press releases; providing mentorships, internships and sponsors for both students and activities; providing awards/trophies for academic achievement, attendance and special events; and donating art supplies and materials. A web academy lab focusing on web design was established through a Friends of DASH contribution. Additionally, a large grant was received for Arts Related Technology for Entertainment Careers to prepare students for technical careers in the film and entertainment industry.

**Results:** FCAT School Accountability Data: Grade nine reading mean scale score of 338 and mathematics mean scale score of 335 as compared to district at 270 and 265 and state at 287 and 286 respectively. Grade ten scores of 342 in Reading and 355 in Mathematics as compared with district scores of 284 and 302 and state scores of 303 and 319 respectively. FCAT writing 4.7 compared to district and state averages of 3.8.

**Practices that Promote High Performance:**

- Utilizing community expertise in developing educational opportunities and curriculum
- An Advisory Board that meets monthly to promote internship and mentor programs
- Organizing and recognizing community partners who support programs - *Friends of DASH*

**CONTENT AREA EXPERTISE:** The four-year design career program culminates in design internships matching students with design professionals throughout Miami-Dade County. The year long student internship, for one to two periods a day, exposes students to the real world of design and provides a truly unique perspective. The state-of-the-art equipment and facility that houses DASH offers other unique opportunities including a college preparatory program within an extended school day which utilizes semester block scheduling, extensive dual enrollment opportunities with local colleges and the use of adjunct instructors who enhance the students’ learning experiences. Academic programs include advanced placement, honors, and standard level courses. The combination of high academic standards and exceptional design curriculum allows DASH students to compete for scholarships for the country’s finest colleges and universities.

**Results:** In 2002-2003 over \$5.2 million in scholarship dollars were offered the 121 graduating seniors.

**Practices that Promote High Performance:**

- Internships matching students with professionals in the field
- Fusing academic achievement with real world application creating high student motivation
- Extensive dual enrollment opportunities with local colleges and universities