



DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT:

Maury County Public Schools, TN

Building the Nation's First STEAM Campus

Educators in Maury County, Tennessee knew they needed to revitalize learning in their schools. So they started to think outside the box.

Starting in 2015, they began using a model that blends project-based learning and STEM education with the arts. The final result was STEAM, interweaving science with the humanities. Educators focused this new method on a community of schools in Mt. Pleasant.

"With its present arts program, and the addition of PBL K-12, the natural progression was to marry the two in Mt. Pleasant," said Maury County Superintendent **Dr. Chris Marczak**.

With the guidance of Mt. Pleasant High School principal **Dr. Ryan Jackson**, educators launched a K-12 STEAM campus dubbed the Mt. Pleasant Arts Innovation Zone, a new era of collaboration between the local schools.

"We wanted the kids to start thinking like creators," Jackson said.

Under Jackson's leadership, the town's elementary, middle, and high school

students began working together on projects across the three schools.

Older students shared what they learned with younger students, who in turn could complete projects that corresponded with their skill set.

Aiding this shift in curriculum and collaboration, a partnership with Discovery Education gave Mt. Pleasant's educators access to professional development resources, mentors, and a lineup of software, including **Science Techbook** and **Streaming Plus**.

"Discovery Education has been the battery in our back," said Jackson.

Marczak said Discovery Education came to Maury County with an organized approach that expedited the STEAM integration in their schools.

"Discovery Education, with their professional development model and world-class content, has been a critical partner to this work," said Marczak.

The end result has been a districtwide achievement that everyone can take pride in.

Students: 12,628

Race/Ethnicity:

White (69%)

African-American (19%)

Hispanic (10%)

FARMS*: 33%

*Percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals

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Dr. Chris Marczak
Superintendent

Maury County Public Schools



Science Techbook is a breakthrough K-12 digital science textbook that changes the way students and teachers experience real-world science phenomena, boosting achievement and igniting interest in the exploration of cross-cutting science concepts.

Learn more at DiscoveryEducation.com/Science

