

RESEARCH AS INSPIRATION

MIND, BRAIN, AND EDUCATION SCIENCE AS A DRIVER FOR SCHOOL INNOVATION

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

SCHOOL
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
Potomac, MD

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IMPERATIVE

The imperative for St. Andrew's to innovate in the field of **MIND, BRAIN, AND EDUCATION SCIENCE** research was driven by the desire to claim and achieve **TEACHING EXCELLENCE**, a culture of **CONTINUAL RESEARCH-INFORMED** school improvement, and a **DISTINCTIVE AND COMPELLING SCHOOL PROFILE** in a highly competitive independent school market.

Beginning in 2007, a strategic plan, some challenging market forces, and a revised school mission statement helped us "put on our pack" as we tried to solve the problem of **BRIDGING THE GAP** between the **SCIENCE OF LEARNING AND TEACHER PRACTICE**.

"As I work with schools across the country, there is no question that St. Andrew's and its Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning is a sterling example of how educators are informing the teaching and learning process through research-based practices. St. Andrew's is on the forefront of not only practicing but also advancing this knowledge by engaging in research and discovery that has the potential to inform their own teaching practices as well as the entire field of education."

DR. MARIALE HARDIMAN, FOUNDER, MIND-EDUCATION INITIATIVE, THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, AUTHOR OF THE BRAIN TARGETED TEACHING MODEL

"Through its association with The Johns Hopkins University and its work with Teach for America and schools throughout the Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C. area, the CTTL has put St. Andrew's on a trajectory to be a leader in school-based research. In addition, the CTTL has demonstrated an excellent capacity to connect teachers with research through its workshops, publications, and trainings. We are enthusiastic about the cutting-edge work they have been carrying out, and we look forward to working together to further advance this work as well as create new collaborative initiatives."

DR. KURT FISCHER AND DR. CHRISTINA HINTON, FACULTY AT HARVARD'S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND CO-FOUNDERS OF RESEARCH SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL AND MVI/NUCLEUS TEAM

IDEA

Become the destination school for **RESEARCH-INFORMED TEACHING, LEARNING, AND SERVICE** and recognize the multiple paths we can take to get there.

IMPLEMENTATION

The summit idea was implemented by first training 100% of the St. Andrew's Preschool through 12th grade faculty and administration in Mind, Brain, and Education Science over a two-year period. To sustain this summit idea, the Dean of Studies was tasked with the goal of **"NEVER LETTING HIS FOOT OFF OF THE GAS FOR THIS MBE INITIATIVE."**

The early work of the St. Andrew's faculty attracted the attention of Teach for America (DC Region) and led to research and programming partnerships with individual faculty from Harvard's Graduate School of Education that lead Research Schools International, Johns Hopkins Science of Learning Institute, and EvidencedBased Education (UK).

It has been ten years since the first cohort of St. Andrew's teachers received their MBE training. Every year, St. Andrew's teachers receive additional training in MBE research through the school's internationally recognized **CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING** whose publication, **THINK DIFFERENTLY AND DEEPLY**, that is a collection of research informed articles written by St. Andrew's teachers, has now been distributed to over 10,000 public, private, and public-charter school teachers, leaders, and policymakers. The goal of the CTTL is to work with and present to **20,000 TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS BY 2020** all the while making sure that St. Andrew's remains a model school for research informed teaching and learning.

Looking back, we certainly did not "waste a crisis" but if we could start over we would definitely **ADDRESS THREE ERRORS**.

1. Come up with a shorter name for the center and make sure its acronym related better to the center's work.
2. Find ways to develop a Mind, Brain, and Education Science language that is understood equally well internally (among the faculty) and externally (among current and prospective students and parents).
3. Get a qualitative and quantitative baseline measure of the St. Andrew's teachers and school leader's Mind, Brain, and Education Science knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

BASECAMP 1

Train and provide ongoing **professional development to a 100%** of the St. Andrew's Preschool through 12th grade faculty in the field of Mind, Brain, and Education Science research.

BASECAMP 2

Challenge and support each individual teacher's efforts and experimentation in using MBE research to inform how he or she designs their classes and works with each individual student.

BASECAMP 3

Synergistic research-to-practice partnerships with leading research universities and professors to help evaluate research and design research studies.

BASECAMP 4

Launch the **Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning**

BASECAMP 5

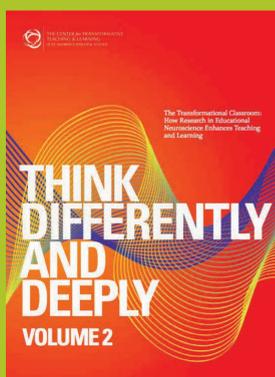
Efficiently and confidently communicate St. Andrew's Mind, Brain, and Education Science journey to demonstrate the value added of a St. Andrew's education.

BASECAMP 6

Measure the impact of this MBE mountain climb on teacher quality and student achievement.

BASECAMP 7

Create a clearly defined "blended" professional growth pathway for both St. Andrew's teachers and the larger educational community to become MBE research-informed "experts."



RESOURCES

SCHOOL WEBSITE
saes.org