

St. Andrew's Episcopal School Launches Inspire and Innovate Program

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[St. Andrew's Episcopal School](#), based in Ridgeland, Mississippi, has announced that they have launched their Inspire and Innovate program, also known as the i2 program. This program was the result of the realization that the 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.

Patrick Taylor, Director of Communications at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, says, "In the i2 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."



In the i2 Program, 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 then curate the innovative results of the work being done by the teachers with the goal of inspiring their colleagues.

The i2 Program 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 will be used as research sites to measure the impact of teaching practices and their improvement.

[In the i2 \(Inspire & Innovate\) program](#), all of the teachers, students and parents are encouraged to take a look at the i2 classrooms in order to explore the various 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 the brainstorming hubs where the 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 where teachers can go there and imagine new possibilities. These labs will also have schedules where teachers can arrange meetings with specific i2 team members.

For the i2 Program, a taskforce of educators was organized in order to encourage innovations in learning environments. After traveling to various schools around the US and observing the best practices, they realized that most classrooms are just built for lecture and not for learning. Modern ideas about education is no longer based on the view that learning is a static 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. Their teachers know what each student is capable of accomplishing and are always by their side to support them 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.

The higher the students get in the Upper School, the more academic choices are provided and the more varying levels of classes are offered in order 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, and 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.

St. Andrew's was also the first school in the state of Mississippi to have a Peer Leadership mentoring program. Senior high school students who represent a cross-section of the school community are selected in order to serve as mentors. As such, they meet with a group of freshmen once a week.

Those who are interested in an innovative [private high school](#) in Ridgeland, Mississippi, can visit the St. Andrew's Episcopal School's website or contact them on the phone or through email.

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