



# Muscofee County School District

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Wynnton Arts Academy**

### **First Fine Arts Elementary Charter School in Georgia**

**(Columbus, GA)**- Wynnton Arts Academy (WAA), the first fine arts charter elementary school in Georgia, will receive recognition at the Muscofee County Board of Education meeting on Monday, September 15, 2008. The K-5 conversion charter was approved this summer for a ten-year period, July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2018.

Principal Nancy Johnson says, "One hundred percent of the school's faculty and 94-percent of our parents who attended a called meeting voted in favor of the charter petition to convert in August 2008. The mission of Wynnton Arts Academy is to continue the tradition of excellence in education through the positive interaction of students, staff, parents, and community to prepare for successful living by igniting the desire for lifelong learning through immersion in the Arts."

Fine Arts instructors collaborate with classroom teachers to integrate arts into the curriculum. These educators include a full-time drama teacher, art, music and dance teachers, a part-time arts coordinator, and arts clerk. The school day is extended by two hours for specialty instruction in the four Fine Arts areas. Students participate in a fine arts class Monday-Thursday. Thirty-minute specialty classes are offered on Friday to small groups to help perfect an art skill.

Conversion to a charter school allows the educators to maximize the effectiveness of this model through flexibility and greater parent/community participation. The Title I school-wide program went through six years in Needs Improvement (NI) status.

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A redesign plan, implemented under No Child Left Behind, focused on improving achievement by implementing an arts integration model.

Wynnton became a fine arts magnet school in spring 2005 with a three-year phase in of the arts programs. This plan has resulted in overall improvement in student achievement. The school has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past three years.

Wynnton Arts Academy is the oldest school in continuous use as a school facility in the State of Georgia. Since, 1972, the building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been renovated. It houses a theater, converted in the year 2002, with community support from the Wynnton Arts Foundation. Approximately 400 students are enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the old Bradley Library conference room located at 1120 Bradley Drive.

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