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**NEWS**

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September 6, 2018**Madeira Students Engage in Project Based Learning
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Now in its ninth year, Madeira High School's (MHS) partnership with MSA Architects gives students a unique opportunity to engage with professionals and learn important skills outside a traditional classroom setting.

Each year, 16-18 seniors spend a minimum of an hour a day participating in the partnership, in addition to their regular schoolwork. They do it to gain a real world experience by working with professionals in the field. Students are divided into four teams and must create their own design firm that includes a mission and vision. Working as the design firm they've created, students assume roles as Project Manager, Architect, Marketing Director, or Graphic/Interior Designer.

After taking the participants to see MSA and other offices in downtown, groups spend 6-8 weeks researching and learning about brands, trends, design options, teamwork and presentation skills. MSA Project Managers, Interior Designers and Graphic Designers provide guidance, share ideas, and help the student designers with solutions to the assigned project. Students are also given instruction and advice from their MHS mentors and advisors. After working together for 12 weeks to design every aspect of their vision from layout to fabric choices, the groups present their research and final designs to a panel of Madeira administrators, MSA designers and parents who decide on the most innovative and workable design.

"Over the years, we have found that the students really enjoy having to think creatively and be pushed outside their comfort zones. We try to expose them to different experiences and ways of thinking to help them gain perspective and insight," stated Chris Patek, AIA LEED AP with MSA. "In some instances students have expressed interest in pursuing a career path that they might not have considered prior to participating in the program." Several Madeira students who participated in the partnership have gone on to pursue careers in architecture, marketing and business after they graduate.

In the past, the student design firms have worked on designing a classroom, a mobile concession unit, two modern day office lounges, Metro Bus station, retail kiosk for the Reds stadium, cafeteria redesign and modern office collaboration space. MHS partnership advisors are Jennifer Jordan and Stephanie Stenger.

Chris Patek of MSA Architects
and MHS advisor Stephanie
Stenger explain this year's
design partnership to seniors.

