



# Memphis Delta Preparatory CHARTER SCHOOL

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## Welcome to 2016!!

January has been an exciting month for Memphis Delta Prep as we are now just over six months from the first day of school at Memphis Delta Prep. We received keys to our new home and have been busy with interviews, fundraising, curriculum, and lots of fun!



## Thank you donors!

The end of 2015 and the start of 2016 has brought out the incredible generosity of supporters of Memphis Delta Prep. We are incredibly grateful for the kindness of so many wonderful people and organizations that are helping us get one step closer to opening Memphis Delta Prep.

### Thank you to all of our wonderful donors!!!

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# PRACTICE SMILE GROW

## Upcoming Events

### February 5-7

Recruiting at TFA 25th Anniversary Summit, Washington D.C.

### February 9

MDP Open House

### February 10

Monthly Jounce Partners Teacher and Leader Training

### February 24

MDP Board Meeting

### March 2

CBU Charter School Expo

### March 2

Monthly Jounce Partners Teacher and Leader Training at CBU



## Open House

We held our first Memphis Delta Prep Open House on January 19 at our new home, 1566 S. Orleans St. We hosted close to thirty guests including students and families, teaching applicants, and community partners. Visitors enjoyed seeing the school, meeting our team, enrolling students, eating snacks, and reading books. Join us for our next Open House on Tuesday, February 9th, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM!



## A note from the School Leader:

When I returned back to Memphis after 3 weeks in the northeast visiting family for the holiday I was struck by the overwhelming feeling that 2016 is here. MDP2016 has been a rallying cry over the last 18 months and now 2016 is finally here. This is the year that our school opens and we embark on the journey about which I have been thinking for the better part of 10 years. I recently came across an email I sent on July 8, 2009, after my second year of teaching at Soulsville. I sent it to a group of five with whom I had talked about opening a school. Many who are still working with me now! Here are some excerpts from that email:

- *I have talked with you all individually about this and am more excited each day about the possibilities of this group venture. The goal is to open a school and make it the most effective school possible.*
- *I know this seems like I am being overly serious and maybe I am, but I truly am excited about this venture and I want to make sure we do it right. Early preparation is key.*
- *Our ultimate goal should always be to have fun while creating a wonderful learning environment for students.*

It is incredible to think about how much has changed since I started dreaming up what a school would be, but also how much of that vision stayed the same. The goal has not changed. We are set to open the “most effective school possible” where we “should always be having fun while creating a wonderful learning environment for students”. It made me laugh to read “early preparation is key” as a 24-year-old who had no idea what it really took to run a school, but this couldn’t be more relevant as we are just a short six months away from opening.

I am glad that 24-year-old Mike is not getting ready to open a school. As excited as I was then, I was not ready for the challenges that lie ahead. I am an older and wiser version of the guy that sent those emails and dreamed up a great school where learning and teaching were fun always. I am also still very much the same in my endless optimism about the work.

Earlier this month my grandmother, Patricia Kind, passed and I was able to join my family to celebrate her brilliant and joyous life. I think about her as she showed me each and every day how to enjoy all of the moments of the journey. The next six months will be some of the most challenging in this journey. I am excited to enjoy the journey and smile through the challenges. This is a picture we took five days before she passed. She brought joy and smiles to everything she did. I am excited to make her proud.



Happiness and Education,

Mike

## Memphis Delta Prep Supporters

Check out our awesome donors in the Memphis Delta Prep Gear!



## Reconnecting!



Mike’s former students continue to make him feel old and out of shape and they don’t hesitate to tell him!