



METRO  
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## Metro Schools Welcomes New Visual and Performing Arts Administrator

**NASHVILLE, Tennessee – (September 27, 2018)** – Metro Schools announced today that long-time arts educator and administrator Jeff Smith will assume the position of director for Visual and Performing Arts effective Sept. 28. In this role, he will oversee all programs, curriculum, grants and other projects, including Music Makes Us, within the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Smith succeeds Dr. Nola Jones who retired earlier this year.

“Jeff brings an extraordinary amount of passion and enthusiasm for the arts and arts education,” said David Williams, executive officer of Curriculum and Instruction. “He understands how increasing programmatic access to the arts strengthens the educational experience for all children and possesses the leadership skills to execute. We are excited to have Jeff join our team in Nashville and build on the many successes of our arts programs.”

Smith comes to MNPS from Duval County Public Schools in Jacksonville, Florida, where he has been director of arts since May 2015. While there, he was responsible for implementing K-12 arts instruction for more than 130,000 students and managed a more than \$1 million arts department budget.

“I am extremely excited about working with the incredible team at Metro Nashville Public Schools as well as community partners to ensure that every child in our district has access to a world class education in visual and performing arts,” Smith said. “Metro Schools is fortunate to have outstanding educators and dedicated partners who are committed to providing rigorous instruction in music, visual arts, theatre, dance and media arts.”

In addition to his work with Duval County Public Schools, Smith has served as a consultant to nonprofit and creative start-up organizations, an artistic director for a performing arts company, and an administrator in various arts organizations and school districts. He has been an active member of the Jacksonville arts and non-profit community and has presented to a number of professional groups and conferences. He began his career as a music teacher in New York and holds a bachelor’s in fine arts in music education from Long Island University Post in Brookville, New York, a Master of Science in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut, and a professional diploma in school district leadership from the College of New Rochelle in New York.

Community partnerships have created unprecedented opportunities for visual and performing arts education in Nashville. Music Makes Us® is a unique public/private partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools, the Mayor’s Office, and the Nashville music community providing meaningful support for music in schools adding a contemporary curriculum that embraces new technologies and reflects the district’s diverse student population. Founding and major donors include Bridgestone, the Country Music Association, Big Machine Label Group, Broadcast Music, Inc., Curb Records, and Gibson Guitars, Inc. For a complete list of partners, visit <http://musicmakesus.org/key-players>.

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## **METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Metro Nashville Public Schools is one of the nation's top 50 largest school districts, preparing 85,000 students for higher education, work and life. With the goal of being the first choice for Nashville families, Metro Schools is committed to #ExceedingGreatExpectations with the mission of delivering a great public education to every student, every day. The district is earning a national reputation for urban school reform, social and emotional learning and rising academic achievement. The governing body for Metro Schools is the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education, a nine-member elected body. For more information, visit [MNPS.org](http://MNPS.org), or follow us on Twitter @MetroSchools or Facebook/MetroSchools.