

AN AWARD-WINNING THEME

Why do I need to know this?

It's a question students ask every day. Many children see little connection between their school work and the outside world. And for many students, good grades just don't offer sufficient incentive. In the *MicroSociety*® program, rewards are immediate and tangible. *MicroSociety* is an innovative K-8 educational design that puts meaningful work into the experience of childhood. In a magnet *MicroSociety* program, children create a school-wide microcosm of the real world. Each child has an important role in running that world. Mastery of basic skills becomes necessary to excel as a business owner, banker, lawyer, legislator, or manager. Social and financial rewards transform students from passive learners to active participants in their own development. Self-esteem improves with a new sense of accomplishment from a job well done.



“It’s not an add-on program. It brings the real world right into the fabric of the school.”

~ Rich Cansdale,
Chief School Innovation and Choice Officer
San Diego Unified School District
**Magnet Schools Assistance Program Award Recipient,
2007**

Micro
SOCIETY

A Magnet Theme

HOW WE CAN HELP

In the past 10 years, MICRO SOCIETY has helped over 30 school districts of all sizes and demographics to create unique, award-winning magnet and theme-based schools. We can help your district to:

- Create **exciting school options** for parents
- Offer a theme that brings **more diverse groups of children together**
- Substantially **strengthen students' knowledge of 21st century skills**
- Get parents involved, using shared values and guiding principles that **keep the entire school community working together**
- **Align theme with district and state standards**
- Offer a **highly innovative research-based program** so that all children have **access to a high-quality education**
- Improve district capacity to **obtain federal funding and sustain the program** after federal funding ends
- **Increase student achievement**

By connecting curriculum to real-life, *MicroSociety* programs re-engage students who are disinterested in school. Self confidence and academic performance rise and discipline problems virtually disappear as students learn to become productive, contributing citizens in a community of their own design.

MICRO SOCIETY® is a non-profit organization that specializes in building motivating learning environments in grades K-8 by bringing real life to learning.

Micro
SOCIETY

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BRINGING **real life** TO LEARNING

A Comprehensive Approach

The six major components of the *MicroSociety* program are:

- Technology
- Economy
- Academy
- Citizenship
- Humanities and the Arts
- HEART (service and ethics)

At the core of the program are the “essential elements”: an internal currency, retail and labor markets, government agencies, non-profits, businesses, and private and public property, along with enhanced parent and business community involvement, a hallmark of all *MicroSociety* programs.



Financial Literacy in Action at a *MicroSociety* Magnet School Bank

Reading and Writing to Succeed as Entrepreneurs

Modern economy depends on a literate work force, as well as literate consumers. *MicroSociety* provides a context that makes reading functional and fun. When applying for jobs, students write resumes and cover letters. When running for office, students write and deliver speeches. When starting a business, students write business plans, job descriptions, company policies, ad campaigns, etc. In the courtroom, marketplace and newsroom, reading, writing, and communication skills spell the difference between success and failure.

Math, Economics and Financial Literacy as Survival Skills

Young citizens, consumers, bankers and entrepreneurs perform hundreds of transactions each day, elevating math to an everyday skill. Students of all ages begin to recognize that financial literacy and basic math skills are essential in order to buy and sell, create budgets, maintain checking accounts and calculate taxes. They apply geometry when measuring floor plans or making jewelry and algebra when developing spreadsheets, financial reports and profit and loss statements, and when managing taxes and payroll.

Visual and Performing Arts with a Purpose

Too often creative talents can't make it once they graduate from High School. Singers, song writers, painter and dancers put their skills to business when they view their talents in terms of dollars and cents. By learning to write business and marketing plans or grant proposals themselves or by hiring a peer for the job, artists gain deserved recognition from their peers and community while learning the skills needed to survive in the world outside of school. Everyone benefits when they do.

Living Social Studies and Civic Engagement

Social studies becomes a living lesson in citizenship and government when students weigh individual wants against social needs. Students for example, forge a social contract during a Constitutional Convention, debate social issues in town meetings and hold elected officials accountable through impeachment proceedings. Coached by teachers, children even learn to resolve conflicts, negotiate, persuade, and defend their actions to avoid or succeed in court.

Government, Citizenship and Global Awareness

Whether a manager, politician, judge or citizen; students learn the value of effective leadership and the significance of being a caring citizen. Students discover why voting and demanding ethical decisions of their elected officials is not only their right, but their responsibility. They learn empathy and respect for others while honing valuable conflict resolution skills in order to enforce the rules they create. Whether in town meetings or in corporate settings, students learn to respectfully dispute or voice their concern when standing up for their rights as citizens or employees. Self-esteem issues dissolve as students work together to make their community the best it can be.

Science and Technology in Action

Science lessons come to life when student architects and engineers design new storefronts, when technology is applied and useful to invent or manufacture products for the marketplace or when "Micro" government researchers apply environmental science principles through recycling campaigns, public green spaces, health and wellness ventures and science museums.

“Children want to come to school. Parents love it. The community loves it. Having the *MicroSociety* theme in our school is a win-win situation.”

-Dr. Rusty Clark, Principal
Jonesboro Public Schools, Arkansas
Magnet Schools Assistance Program Award Recipient, 2007



Students exercising their citizenship rights by voting at a *MicroSociety* Magnet School

Chocachatti Performing Arts/ *MicroSociety* Magnet School, Brooksville, FL

A full range of high-quality, comprehensive materials and professional services: year round on-site training, coaching and classroom observation and feedback a library of curriculum, and ongoing off-site technical assistance and email journaling and phone support:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Engaging and motivating on-site workshops for school staff
- Tailored to fit your needs and work within your schedule
- Efficient use of planning time to accelerate implementation
- Expert MICROSOCIETY® Certified Trainers
- Personalized small group sessions, for thematic integration at all grade levels

CURRICULUM

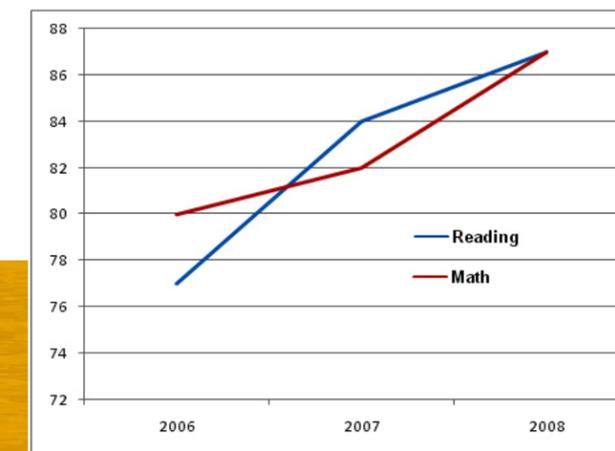
- Comprehensive set of 36 guidebooks with dozens of ready-to-use student forms, over 100 adaptable lessons, reflective student journals, and performance rubrics - all easily integrated and aligned with state standards and curriculum.

ASSESSMENT

- Assessment and evaluation in *MicroSociety* programs aim to be comprehensive and multi-faceted, growing from a holistic view of children and childhood. We use both traditional and real-world measures to provide a more complete picture of both the individual child and a program as a whole.

START-UP & SUSTAINABILITY

- Assistance with grant-writing and partnership building
- Numerous school leadership development opportunities using alignment team structure.
- Networking at our Regional Forums and National Annual Conference



Florida Assessment Scores (% of children meeting state standards)

Chocachatti Performing Arts/*MicroSociety* Magnet School is among the few public schools in Florida to receive a distinguished GreatSchools Rating of 9 out of 10.

This school has an average Parent Rating of 5 out of 5 stars, based on the reviews from 25 parents.

“Your organization was so helpful as we prepared to submit the grant.”

Sharon Hart, Magnet Director
Fresno Public Schools
Magnet Schools Assistance Program Award Recipient, 2007