



THE MONTGOMERY ACADEMY

November 17, 2010

To whom it may concern:

On October 5, 2010, the Montgomery Academy experienced a school day unlike any other in recent memory. Our students and faculty were treated to a series of outstanding assemblies that were filled with amazing displays of talent as well as a powerful message that left our students and staff inspired. The source of this remarkable experience was Soul Pop University led by Glenton Davis. I would strongly recommend that all schools consider finding time in their schedules for Soul Pop U.; as the organization's name suggests, it is guaranteed to leave the collective soul of your school community "popping" long after the presentation is over.

Like many schools across the nation, the Montgomery Academy has a strong, but somewhat small, performing arts community within our student body. We were looking for something that would help encourage our students who are in the arts to stick with their passion and recognize that they can find ways to coordinate their artistic goals and their academic goals. Furthermore, we were hoping that we could find a program that would inspire students who hadn't considered the arts to explore opportunities in that area. With a unique program that combines performance and inspirational speaking, Soul Pop University provided that spark within our community.

Our experience of working with Soul Pop U. was incredibly smooth from the very start. Glenton Davis, founder and executive director of the organization, is very organized and worked closely with me, our divisional directors, and our associate headmaster to design a schedule that worked for our students. Glenton, along with Soul Pop artist and board member Wendy Starland, conducted four assemblies over the course of one school day. In each assembly, both Wendy and Glenton shared their amazing musical talents with our students, but they also discussed the ways in which they had combined their academic and artistic pursuits to forge unique careers. Our students are often not particularly receptive to outside speakers, but by the end of Soul Pop U.'s presentation, most all of the students were on their feet, and even the most surly of teenagers had to admit that the assembly was "really cool." Students lingered in our theater as long as they could to ask both Glenton and Wendy more questions about their experiences in the music industry.

In the end, our school community got what we expected and so much more out of this opportunity to work with Soul Pop University. I knew that our performing arts students would enjoy the presentation, but it turns out that it had a positive effect on our entire student body. Soul Pop's message about empowerment and entrepreneurship is valuable for all students to hear, and I hope that all schools will consider adding Soul Pop U. to their assembly schedules. If you are considering contacting Glenton Davis as you read this letter, go ahead and do it. I promise that you won't be disappointed. In fact, both you and your school community will be pleased, entertained, and inspired.

Sincerely yours,

John McWilliams
Performing Arts Chair