

Press Release

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NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON MOUNTAIN POINTE ARTS PROGRAMS

PHOENIX, AZ.- The news came to principal Bruce Kipper in a large white envelope from the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.:

Mountain Pointe was chosen as one of four schools in the U.S. to be named as a *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education* honoring their work for the 2010-2011 school year. The award recognizes

schools that have made arts an essential part of their student's education. Each honored school must offer instruction in visual arts, music, dance and theater and they must integrate the arts into other subject areas. The selection panel appreciated that Mountain Pointe High School demonstrated a commitment to teachers' success and recognized the school facilities, parental involvement, applauded the integration of special education students into the arts and commended the development of community connections in their overall comments. The award plaque and a check for two thousand dollars to support arts

education will be presented by the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education, who nominated Mountain Pointe for the national honor after they received the Phoenix Mayor's Award for Excellence in Arts Education in 2009.

The four schools selected for the 2010-2011 school year were Forest Heights Academy of Excellence (Baton Rouge, LA Grades Pre-K-5), Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex (Jackson, MS Grades 4-12), Tacoma School of the Arts (Tacoma, WA Grades 10-12) and Mountain Pointe High School (Phoenix, AZ Grades 9-12). **Mountain Pointe High School becomes the first school in Arizona to be selected a National School of Distinction by the Kennedy Center in the eleven years of recognizing schools for outstanding arts education.**

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