



Camden teachers Jamal Dickerson, Nasir Dickerson and Hassan Sabree were the subject of a documentary that won a Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award on Saturday PHOTO PROVIDED

Teachers in the spotlight

A trio of Camden teachers had harmonized their musical programs into one competitive powerhouse.

On Saturday, their program added perhaps its biggest accomplishment to their resume: an Emmy Award.

Jamal Dickerson of the Creative & Performing Arts High School, his brother Nasir Dickerson at Morgan Village Middle School and their best friend Hassan Sabree at Forest Hill Elementary left the 29th Annual Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards in Philadelphia with an Emmy for their role in the public television piece "Classroom Close-up, NJ: Musical Thread."

"Technically, we don't have the trophy on our mantels but the (documentary) about our program won," says Jamal Dickerson, band director and musical teacher at Creative & Performing Arts High School.

Produced by Richard Renner and Wanda Swanson, "Musical Thread" is a 5 minute, 43 second episode that focuses on how the trio collaborates their lesson plans to better prepare students for the next scholarly step, from elementary through high school and beyond.

Along with a supportive school administration, Jamal

credits a peer-mentoring relationship set up across the three school levels, allowing elementary students to learn from middle school students and middle school students to learn from high school students.

"That's a big secret to this," Jamal says. "We utilize the kids because they can teach on a student's level better than we can. They can say something to them that just clicks that would take us a year just to figure out what they're talking about."

— Steve Wood

ON THE WEB

For more information about 'Classroom Close-up, NJ' or to watch episodes online, go to www.classroomcloseup.org.