



## Grammy Award winning artist Monica visits MLK

Multi-platinum Grammy award winning artist Monica spoke to 300 Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School students on Oct. 27, during the Fashion in Schools (FIS) finale. Her visit was not only a surprise to the students, but she also became an inspiration for them to

succeed in school.

"I was about your age when I started my singing career," Monica said. "Set your goals and then follow your dreams."

The R&B singer discussed the importance of making good choices at all times during the program. She also held a question and answer session with students.

"Don't feel discouraged if you get a bad grade," she said. "Make a promise to yourself that you will do better in school. If you believe, it can happen."

At the age of 14, Monica hit the R&B scene with her first album, *Miss Thang*. Three years later, the Atlanta native graduated from high school with a 4.0 grade point average. The next year (1998) she dropped her sophomore album, which produced the Grammy-award winning hit *The Boy Is Mine*, a duet with singer

Brandy.

Also during the FIS finale, students talked about recently traveling to Atlanta (Oct. 23-24) to visit the American Intercontinental University. Students toured the campus and learned more about careers in fashion design and marketing. They also stopped by the King Center, the official, living memorial dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to learn more about their schools namesake.

The Fashion in the Schools program has been another opportunity for MLK staff to expose students to experiences beyond their everyday life.

"Being Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, promoting dreams are in our mission and everything we do," Robertson said. "We're trying to expand our students' vision of the future."

FIS was launched by local designer Cary Mitchell to give MLK students an opportunity to learn about the fashion design process while creating a distinct uniform for the school. The students were handpicked by school staff to create a mix of talents and skills. The unveiling of the final uniform designs will happen at a later date.



**Fashion in the Schools'** mission is to enhance school pride and involvement and to motivate individual student achievement by creating an atmosphere for children to pursue their life's dreams and goals. Mitchell is volunteering his time as a way of giving back to the community and helping make a difference in the lives of youth. This program is just one of many programs (others include Urban Restoration, Samaritan's Feet and Citizen Schools) at MLK designed to increase student pride and achievement. Upon securing funding, Mitchell hopes to replicate the program at other CMS schools.