

PYC Panther Press

PYC Arts and Tech High School, 2210 Oliver Avenue North,
Minneapolis, MN 55411 www.pcy-cmpls.org 612-643-2000

Cell Phones, Opportunities, Best Wishes

By John Peterson, Director of Education

Happy Fall! We've had a tremendous first quarter.

The big news at PYC Arts & Technology High School is that we have instigated a new cell phone policy that requires students to give up their cell phones when they enter our school. The feedback from staff has been great: students are doing more good work; are more engaged in classwork; they're having more discussions with one another, and more learning is taking place. A huge thank you to our teachers and staff for the near flawless execution of this new policy.



As we settle into the winter ahead, I also want to draw your attention to some of the opportunities that are available for students at PYC:

- **Concurrent Enrollment:** Through our college class at school through Riverland Community College and our D3 (Destination: Diploma to Degree) program, which is an arrangement with MCTC (a local college), we have the opportunity to give students college credit as well as high school credit at no cost. Please see Kiana Batteau for more information (612-643-2061, kbatteau@pcyc-mpls.org).
- **Wrap Around Services:** PYC has many extra services available to students, including mental health services, an on-site health clinic, college and career services and social work services. Please see Melissa Knofczynski for information (612-643-2034, mknofczynski@pcyc-mpls.org).
- **Independent Study:** If students have a job, are close to graduation (with at least 16 credits), and can handle the independent classwork, our independent study program may be just the right fit. Please see Christina Ashford for information (612-643-2087, cashford@pcyc-mpls.org).

As always, thank you for choosing PYC Arts & Technology High School - and here's to all of our students, families and staff for a continued good year. I wish you well.

John Peterson
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CAST: Be Inspired.



Capri After School Theater (CAST) presents *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*, by Lorraine Hansberry and adapted by Robert Nemiroff, at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, November 9 and 10 at the Capri Theater. The performances are free and open to the public.

To Be Young, Gifted and Black is the story of playwright, author and activist Lorraine Hansberry. Hansberry was one of the great writers of American theater, best known for *A Raisin in the Sun*, which was the first play produced on Broadway by an African American woman. Hansberry was also the first Black playwright and the youngest American, at age 29, to win a *New York Critics' Circle* award.

Director Kevin D. West is working with 10 students who have committed to the program for the full school year. "I invite everyone to come see and support the work of our PYC students – and to enjoy this timely, thought-provoking play," said West. The Capri Theater is located at 2027 West Broadway, 55411.



Mark Your Calendars

Monday, 11/6	Start of Quarter 2
7 p.m. 11/9, 10	Capri After School Theater (CAST) presents <i>To Be Young, Gifted and Black</i> @ the Capri Theater
Tuesday, 11/21	Come one, come all! Panther Day Potluck Lunch and Artist Showcase
11/22, 23, 24	No school – Thanksgiving Break
9 a.m.- 1 p.m. 12/9	PCYC Children's Holiday Gift Sale
12/25/17 – 1/5/18	No school – Winter Break
Monday, 1/8/18	Panther Day/Student Conferences
Monday, 1/15/18	No school – MLK Holiday
1/25 and 1/26/18	No school – End of Quarter
1/29/18	Start of Quarter 3



PYC Arts & Technology High School Contact Information

Enrollment:

Lisa Carton, School Office Manager
612-643-2018, lcarton@pcyc-mpls.org

Volunteer/Tutor Opportunities:

Scott Ottmar, Tutor Coordinator
612-643-2010, sottmar@pcyc-mpls.org

Northside Teen Clinic at PYC/ Social Services Information:

Melissa Knofczynski, Manager of Social Work Services
612-643-2034, mknofczynski@pcyc-mpls.org

College and Career Information:

Crystal Ruiz, College/Career Manager
612-643-2045, cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org

General information:

John Peterson, Director of Education
612-643-2025, jpeterson@pcyc-mpls.org

Greetings from the College and Career Team!

By Crystal Ruiz

Two PYC scholars, Anthony Hollmon and Salma Nur, were honored at the Jordan Area Community Council's Annual Meeting on October 19. They were two of four recipients of the neighborhood's *Doing Good in the Hood* youth scholarships. Students were asked to write about how they are involved in their neighborhood and what a safe, healthy community means to them. (Excerpts below. Full essays at www.pyc-mpls.org.) Congratulations Anthony and Salma!

Excerpts from *Doing Good in the Hood*



"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." This quote is by Anthony J. D'Angelo and it's telling us if we don't take care of our community then there won't be a community. ... If I was to help my neighborhood stay safe and healthy I'd have community activities every day for the youth so they could stay out of gangs.
— Salma Nur



... I feel I have been a huge help to my community by spreading the word through poetry and spoken word. Every first Monday of the month we get together and people from PYC and FAIR School downtown all come and sing, dance and perform poetry in *Freedom of Xpression*. It always brings people together as we share different kinds of art. I feel that it helps bring the people of the Northside together.
— Anthony Hollmon



PYC students and staff attended Manufacturing Day 2017 at Graco, Inc. in Northeast Minneapolis. The company awarded PYC a grant to attend this event as well as a second college/career trip that will take place later in the year at a different location selected by PYC staff. Thank you, Graco!

PYC Family Night

by Melissa Knofczynski



PYC's first quarterly Family Night was held on October 17. Approximately 40 students, parents and guardians came out to share a meal, discuss midterm grades and students' overall progress, and play Bingo. One of our very own students called out the Bingo letters, with families winning fantastic prizes!

Family members and students had the opportunity to meet with teachers, advisors, social workers, college and career staff, North Point Clinic staff and the student engagement team.

PYC has always provided a holistic approach to our students' educations and we want to continue to inform our families about all of the services and resources that are available to them. Not only do our teachers and staff members help our students meet the requirements to receive a Minneapolis Public Schools diploma – we also help address mental, chemical and physical health issues and behaviors that are a challenge for some.

What better time than our special Family Nights for parents and guardians to interact with all of our teachers and programming staff members. We look forward to seeing you at our next Family Night event!

Testing Update

By David Tarleton

Students at PYC are required to take all state-mandated tests, including:

MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments)

- Reading - 10th grade
- Mathematics - 11th grade
- Science - upon completion of the Life Science Curriculum

ACCESS Test – for all students identified as English Language Learners

Minneapolis Public Schools requires that the contract alternative schools like PYC administer the following tests in addition to those tests required by the state of Minnesota:

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

- All 9th and 10th graders are required to take the MAP Reading and Math tests 3 times a year – fall, winter and spring.

ACCUPLACER

- All 11th and 12th grade students are required to take the ACCUPLACER tests in Arithmetic, Algebra and Reading each fall and spring. These tests are part of a series of tests used to determine course placement for students enrolling at one of Minnesota's public community colleges.

11th grade students also have the opportunity to take the ACT Test in the Spring. This is not a required test.

We have completed the fall MAP testing and are currently in the process of administering the ACCUPLACER to the 11th and 12th grade students.

As always, if you have any questions about testing please feel free to contact me, David Tarleton, at 612-643-2097 or dtarleton@pyc-mpls.org.

