

## The World Café Awaits You!

by John Peterson, Director of Education

**“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” — John Dewey**



So often I hear students tell me or other staff members that school is boring and that it doesn't engage them. While this isn't a new sentiment that is unique to PYC, we are listening carefully and taking this idea to heart. We've been working hard at exploring ideas and changes that will make our school better and our students' experiences more interesting and relevant. We've been thinking about new internships, apprenticeships and college classes as well as schedule changes and personalized instruction (which we call "flexible" instruction).

Much of this work is made possible through a generous grant from the Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota. With these extra resources we're able to focus significant efforts on how PYC delivers curriculum and the overall experience our students have here. We were also able to contract with Portage Partners to strategically move us toward our goal of providing every PYC student with a meaningful and viable career option after graduation.

Another step in this exciting thinking/action process involves YOU! We need your ideas and input about PYC Arts & Technology High School. Please join us at our World Café! There are two options to attend, either Thursday, April 12 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at UROC, 2001 Plymouth Avenue North, 55411 or Friday, April 13 from 9:30 – 11 a.m. at North Market, 4414 Humboldt Avenue North, 55412.

You can register for the World Café events online at [pcc-mpls.org/WorldCafe](http://pcc-mpls.org/WorldCafe) or by contacting me, John Peterson, at [jpeterson@pcc-mpls.org](mailto:jpeterson@pcc-mpls.org) or 612-643-2025. I hope to see many of you – because your presence matters!

Finally, on a more personal note, as winter draws its last breath and weather conditions turn for the better outdoors, I experience a sense of rebirth and invigoration that only springtime can bring. Part of my optimism is also based in my work with such wonderful and passionate PYC staff members who are so dedicated to delivering the best possible outcomes for each and every one of our PYC Arts & Technology High School students. It's an honor to be a part of this amazing team.

As always, I wish you well as the winter warms into springtime!

John Peterson  
[jpeterson@pcc-mpls.org](mailto:jpeterson@pcc-mpls.org), 612-643-2025



## WorldCafé

We need **YOUR** ideas and input about PYC Arts & Technology High School. Please join PYC students, teachers, alumni, parents, community partners, district administrators and elected officials for a 90-minute community conversation about creating a brighter future for PYC, together!

**> JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

### REFRESHMENTS INVOLVED!

#### Dinner Session:

Thursday, April 12  
6:00-7:30 p.m.  
@ UROC  
2001 Plymouth Ave. N.

#### Breakfast Session:

Friday, April 13  
9:30-11:00 a.m.  
@ North Market  
4414 Humboldt Ave. N.

### SIGN UP TODAY

[pcc-mpls.org/WorldCafe](http://pcc-mpls.org/WorldCafe)  
or contact John Peterson  
[jpeterson@pcc-mpls.org](mailto:jpeterson@pcc-mpls.org)  
612-643-2025

# PYC Students to Hear Bestselling Author, Jason Reynolds

by Asha Belk, School Social Worker



Jason Reynolds

New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds will be speaking to our PYC scholars at the Capri Theater on April 19.

Reynolds is the recipient of many awards and honors including the Kirkus Award, an NAACP Image Award and multiple Coretta Scott King honors. He is also a National Book Award Honoree, a Newbery Award Honoree and a Printz Award Honoree.

Jason Reynolds has written nine books including his newest one, *Long Way Down*, which our students have been reading here at PYC. In an interview with *The Washington Post* he said, “All I want kids to know is that I see them for who they are and not who everyone thinks they are.” He is committed, he says, to getting their stories right — “and putting that on the page with integrity and balance, to acknowledge the glory and the brokenness. That’s all I want to do. It’s a lot, but so are they.”

Reynolds says he hopes that his books can serve as both a mirror of a life and a window into another. We are excited to have him here at PYC to speak to our students!

## Happy Spring from the College & Career Team!

by Crystal Ruiz, College/Career Manager



With Spring in the air we begin to feel the breeze of graduation coming our way. This year PYC’s graduation will be held at 6pm on Friday, June 8 at the historic Capri Theatre. We’re looking forward to honoring our graduates who have been working hard to achieve and earn their diplomas while raising children or working, taking care of siblings and other family members, and volunteering their time in our community. Some of our scholars have even

started their college journey by attending Minneapolis Community and Technical College through our *Diploma to Degree* program.

At PYC we work with our graduates to have a solid plan after high school. We provide assistance with college searches, college applications, FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), resumes and job searching. If you would like more information on your scholar’s graduation status or college/career planning please do not hesitate to contact me.

Crystal Ruiz, [cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org), 612-643-2045



## PYC Arts & Technology High School

### Enrollment:

Lisa Carton, School Office Manager  
612-643-2018, [lcarton@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:lcarton@pcyc-mpls.org)

### Volunteer/Tutor Opportunities:

Scott Ottmar, Tutor Coordinator  
612-643-2010, [sottmar@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:sottmar@pcyc-mpls.org)

### Northside Teen Clinic at PYC/ Social Services Information:

Melissa Knofczynski, Manager of Social Work Services, 612-643-2034  
[mkofczynski@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:mkofczynski@pcyc-mpls.org)

### College and Career Information:

Crystal Ruiz, College/Career Manager  
612-643-2045, [cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org)

### General Information:

John Peterson, Director of Education  
612-643-2025, [jpeterson@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:jpeterson@pcyc-mpls.org)

## Mid-Testing-Season Update

by David Tarleton, Testing Coordinator

The **ACCESS** Test, for students identified as English Language Learners, has been completed. The results will be used to help determine the needs of our English Language Learners and what, if any, additional programming is needed.

The **ACT** is now done as well, with results expected in April. Once we have results I'll sit down with students individually to share their results and what they mean. Students will also receive a copy of the results in the mail.

**MCA Tests** – Math (11th grade), Reading (10th grade) and Science (all students who should have completed the life science module). These tests are required by the state for all students, and must be completed by May 4. Each test takes approximately 2-3 hours to complete. Parents may request that their son or daughter opt out of this test. If you're interested in this option please let me know so that I can get you the paperwork to do so.

Finally, we will be testing all students in May. 9th and 10th grade students are required to take the **NWEA MAP Test** and 11th and 12th grade students take the **ACCUPLACER Test**.

As always, any questions regarding testing here at PYC can be addressed to me, David Tarleton, at (612) 643-2097.



### Mark Your Calendars

April 2 – 6	No School – Spring Break
Monday, 4/9	Fourth Quarter Begins
Tuesday, 4/10	Field Trip/Career Resource Fair
Thursday, 4/12	World Café, UROC, 6pm
Friday, 4/13	World Café, North Market, 9:30am
Monday, 4/16	Field Trip/Minnesota State University, Mankato
Monday, 5/28	No School - Memorial Day
Friday, 6/8	Graduation, 6pm, Capri Theater