

# PYC Panther Press

PCY Arts and Tech High School, 2210 Oliver Avenue North,  
Minneapolis, MN 55411 [www.pycyc-mpls.org](http://www.pycyc-mpls.org) 612-643-2000

## Happy 2nd Semester!

By John Peterson, Director of Education

As I write this article, the sting of the cold temperatures and the Vikings loss still hangs heavily in the air. Luckily for PYC Arts & Tech High School, we are much warmer and comfortable here!



The first semester of school has come and gone, and with that, our new staff members are no longer so new to their surroundings. For me, this has been a wonderful start to a year, meeting scholars eager to learn, engaging with parents and guardians, and learning from veteran staff. As a professional, I can tell you that I have not had a dull moment at PYC and I hope that I never stop learning what makes our school so wonderful.

As I look forward to the upcoming year, my hope is that all students will view PYC as a place to come and lay down the stress that is with them, and find their dreams. I know that this is easier said than done, which is why we have a trained and talented staff who can meet with your scholar to navigate any issue at hand. As always, I am open to discuss anything on your mind as it relates to your son or daughter in their education. And I will continue working for peace on the Northside.

John Peterson, 612-643-2025

**CAST (Capri After School Theater) students performed *An Evening with August*, featuring scenes from seven plays by August Wilson, in December.**



Thanks to all the family members, PYC and Capri staff, friends and neighbors who filled the house with love and support for our students on 12/16. It was truly an evening of beauty, talent, gratitude and strength - in abundance!

To register or for more information about CAST or the PYC Arts & Tech 7th hour Theater Class contact Artistic Director Kevin D. West, 612-643-2039 or [kwest@pccyc-mpls.org](mailto:kwest@pccyc-mpls.org).



**Arts & Technology  
High School**

## 3RD QUARTER CALENDAR

Thursday, 1/28	School Conference
Monday, 2/8	Day National African American Parent Involvement Day
Friday, 2/19	No school - Staff development day
Thursday, 3/24	End of Quarter 3
3/25 to 4/1	Spring Break (No School)
Monday, 4/4	Start of Quarter 4

## Breakfast with John at Sammy's!



Join PYC's Director of Education, John Peterson, for breakfast and good conversation.

Wednesday, February 3  
8 – 10 a.m.  
Free!  
Sammy's Avenue Eatery  
1101 W. Broadway, 55411



## Apply Now for Financial Aid, Summer Jobs

2016 FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid) applications are now available. All students planning to access higher education (2 year and 4 year colleges, trade schools, job readiness programs) will need to complete this form. Money is distributed on a first come, first served basis – so we encourage students to apply early!



STEP-UP applications for summer jobs are available online at [www.achievempls.org](http://www.achievempls.org) through February 5. STEP-UP places 800 Minneapolis youth (ages 16-21) each year in paid internships with 160 top Twin Cities companies, nonprofits and public agencies, providing work readiness training, on-the-job experience, professional mentors, advanced career opportunities and ongoing support.

For more information please contact:  
Kiana Batteau ([kbatteau@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:kbatteau@pcyc-mpls.org)/612-643-2061)  
Crystal Ruiz ([cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org)/612-643-2045)

## Did You Know?

### PCY has an R.t.I. Process

What in the heck is a Response to Intervention (R.t.I.) Process? It's a process used by our teachers to help scholars succeed in the classroom. It's something we have in place for every single scholar at PYC, and here's how it works:



- A PYC scholar may be identified as having trouble in classes, for example he/she has attendance issues, behavior issues, or a general lack of success in class.
- The scholar is placed on a plan, or an intervention, that could include a regular check-in with one of our staff members, a call home, purchasing an alarm clock, or something similar. We check in and review the plan with the student frequently.
- If the student is doing well, we'll either stop or maintain the intervention.
- If the student is not doing well, we'll intervene at a more intense level. For instance, we'll have a meeting with the student and the Dean of Instruction or Dean of Students, or a family meeting, and then check back on the student in a few weeks.
- If we see an improvement, we'll dial down our intervention.
- If we do not see an improvement, we'll try an even more intense intervention which could include academic probation, a meeting with the Leadership Team, etc.
- If we do not see an improvement after this round, we'll recommend the scholar for Special Education, or we'll look at other options for educating the student.

If you have questions or need more information on PYC's R.t.I. Process, contact John Peterson, 612-643-2025.



Please join us!

## School Conferences

Thursday, January 28 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

PYC North Building

Questions? 612-643-2025

### Testing Update by David Tarleton

We only have two tests in January and February. The first test is the Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP, test. All students are scheduled to take this test, which includes a reading and math section. Each section usually takes about 45 minutes to complete.

The MAP test allows us to set student growth goals and monitor those goals. It also provides teachers with valuable information, both at a class level and at the individual level. Results of the MAP test will be mailed home once the testing window closes at the end of January.

The second test is for students identified as English Language Learners (students for whom English is not their first language). These students will begin taking the ACCESS tests in February. This is a series of four state-mandated tests to ensure that students are progressing with their English acquisition.

Finally, please remember that at the beginning of March, 10th and 11th grade students will begin taking their MCAs (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments). And on March 15th, 11th graders have the opportunity to take the ACT test (a college entrance exam).

More information about these tests will be posted to our website and included in future updates.

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