

PYC Panther Press

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



What's UP at PYC Arts & Technology High School?

by John Peterson, Director of Education

Warm winter greetings from PYC. We are half way through the school year and have a lot to celebrate – and even more to look forward to in the coming months.

We have 25 students who are currently eligible to graduate from PYC this spring. That means 25 young people are closer to achieving their lifelong goal of graduation, of going to college, or making the next steps toward their chosen career.

Early congratulations are in order for these hard-working students who have the strong will and determination to get the job done.



To assist these 25 students and every other student at this great school, we have been awarded a prestigious grant from the Phillips Family Foundation. While we offer our students many ways to earn college credit, get certified or pursue careers, this grant allows us to increase the effectiveness of our current school-to-career programs and to pursue new opportunities that will benefit all of our students along the road to graduation and after. PYC has contracted with former Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson to help coordinate this effort.

We want you, our PYC students, parents and guardians, to participate in this process as well. Parents, are you wondering how your child can earn college credit while still in high school? Students, do you want to know how to study for and be confident when you interview for a job you really want? All questions are welcome – and we hope you'll say "yes!" when you get the invitation from PYC to participate in a focus group. If you have questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

The next time you hear a student say, "I'm going to PYC and I'm on my way UP," you know that we mean business and are clearly focused on a successful future for all of our students.

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

Mark Your Calendars

Friday, 2/16	Panther Day/Student Conferences 8am - 12pm or by appointment
Monday, 2/19	No school – President's Day
Friday, 2/23	Black History Showcase 1-3pm
Thursday, Friday, 3/22 and 3/23	Capri After School Theater Performances, 7pm
Thursday, 3/29	Last day of Third Quarter
Friday, 3/30	No School – Teacher Record-Keeping Day
April 2 – 6	No School – Spring Break
Monday, 4/9	Fourth Quarter Begins



PYC Arts & Technology High School

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, mkofczynski@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

A Winter Wilderness Experience

by Michael Reynolds, Dean of Students

A group of PYC students had another opportunity this winter to get away from the city and enjoy the weekend at Wilderness Canoe Base at the end of the Gunflint Trail. Some of the students have made several trips up to camp, while others experienced the Boundary Waters for the first time.



We had beautiful weather for the middle of January and all of the students were able to try different activities. Two students even made the four mile cross-country ski trip to the local Palisades – a 150-foot-high rock formation in the middle of Seagull Lake.

Continued in right column

Wilderness, continued from left column

Not only do our kids have a good time up North, but research tells us that exposure to wilderness settings helps build grit and resilience among youth - specifically at-risk youth. PYC hopes to continue to build this program so more of our students receive the valuable opportunities and life lessons that wilderness settings provide.

Independent Study at PYC

by Christina Ashford, Independent Study Coordinator

The classroom of the 21st century reflects a society that has come a long way since the one room school house. With the advancements of modern technology, education has evolved into virtual experiences for our students. Online high schools, service learning experiences, and career readiness high schools are just some of the ways students are preparing to become global citizens.



Despite these educational advancements, the demands of life impact the success of many students. Independent study is another alternative solution, however, it is not an alternative curriculum.

Students work independently, according to a written agreement and under the general supervision of a credentialed teacher. While independent study students follow the district-adopted curriculum and meet the district graduation requirements, independent study offers flexibility to meet individual student needs, interests, and styles of learning. Independent study can be a highly personalized form of instruction because students in independent study work closely with their teachers, in one-on-one meetings or in small groups. Independent study also offers a high degree of flexibility and individualization, so it can serve a wide range of students including:

- Gifted students who are not challenged in their regular classrooms and wish to accelerate their studies.
- Students who, for a variety of reasons, have fallen behind in their studies and need targeted instruction to fill in gaps in their learning or make up credits.
- Students who want an individualized approach that allows them to delve more deeply into areas of special interest.
- Students with over 14 credits who meet at least one of the following conditions and have parent or guardian permission:
 - Enrolled in PSEO (Post-secondary Education Options) at an eligible post-secondary institution.
 - Pregnancy, childbirth and/or full time custody of a school age child.
 - Documented full time employment.
 - Documented extended illness or family emergency.

Meet Cynthia Bryant, PYC's Lead Behavior Specialist

by Michael Reynolds, Dean of Students



Cynthia Bryant has been serving PCYC students for 15 years and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her work. She has an uncanny ability to deescalate situations and to show care and compassion to students. She's also able to show the tough love that our students deeply need.

Cynthia's many talents aren't only on display here at PYC. This spring she'll be lining up on the gridiron for an unprecedented 20th year with the Minnesota Vixon, Minneapolis' full-tackle women's football team. She's made regular appearances on the Vixon's All-Star Team, and has been a team captain for 8 years. Tom Brady take a seat! This woman plays defensive line – not the protected quarterback position!

Cynthia is also a loving mother to her son Talon and a faithful partner to Nadine. PYC is grateful and thankful to have her on our team. We hope she will be walking the PYC hallways for many years to come.

Testing Season Has Begun

by David Tarleton, Testing Coordinator

Here are the tests that our students will be taking this winter and spring. Please mark these important test dates on your calendars.

ACCESS Test – This test is for students identified as English Language Learners. The test assesses a student's ability in English within the school setting. The test looks at student skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The window for this test is January 29 through March 23.

ACT – This is the test that many 4-year colleges use for admissions. This test is available for all 11th grade students and will be offered on February 27 here at PYC. Traditionally this test costs \$53 but the state of Minnesota covers this cost for our students. This test is comprised of five sections including reading, language usage, math, science and writing, and takes about five hours. We will be meeting with the students ahead of time to complete the pre-test paperwork.

MCA Tests – Math (11th grade), Reading (10th grade) and Science (for all students who should have completed the life science module). These tests are required by the state for all students. This testing will begin March 5 and must be completed by May 4. Each test takes approximately 2-3 hours to complete.

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

