



Professional Performing Arts School

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CEEB CODE: 333847

SCHOOL PROFILE – updated October 2019

HISTORY

Located in the heart of the theater district in Manhattan, Professional Performing Arts School (PPAS) was created in 1990 to meet the needs of two groups of students – those demonstrating a strong talent and passion for the performing arts and those who were pursuing professional work in the arts. We serve grades 6-12 with 581 students total.

MISSION

It is the special mission of this small, personalized public school to develop, refine, and showcase students in dance, drama, musical theater, vocal and instrumental music while providing them with a comprehensive and rigorous academic curriculum. Admission requires a performance-based audition designed and judged by the individual performing arts departments.

CURRENT STUDENT INFORMATION

PPAS admits students from all five boroughs of New York City. Some students commute two hours to reach our building. The student body is culturally diverse with a population that is 44% *Caucasian*, 19% *African American*, 21% *Hispanic/Latino*, 6.8% *Asian/Pacific Islander*, .86% *American Indian/Alaskan*, 6.4% *multi-racial*, and 3% *not reported/other*. 27% of students receive free or reduced lunch, but 64% have not yet reported a status – Last year 44% received free/reduced lunch. 19% of students possess an Individualized Education Plan.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Providing support services for our students with IEPs, a population which has grown over the past few years, is imperative and we have established a team of Instructional Support to meet student needs. This team includes 7 full time members and 3 part time members. The student/faculty ratio for core classes is approximately 32:1
Faculty = 23 full time academic instructors + over 40 Teaching Artists in the Performing Arts Programs
Director of College Counseling is Sara Pourghasemi: ppascollege@gmail.com, 212-247-8652 x.4000

PARTNERSHIPS

Guided by values of engagement, empathy and equity, PPAS offers students a unique opportunity to pursue a rigorous academic curriculum as they study the arts in a professional environment. A wide range of performing arts courses are taught by professional artists who offer training to meet the needs of the beginning student and the professional actor, singer, musician or dancer.

Cultural/Art Organizations

The Ailey School, The National Chorale, Ballet Tech, School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theater, Manhattan Youth Ballet, Waterwell Theatre, Rosie's Theater Kids, and Juilliard

Higher Education Institutions

Eligible students have the opportunity to take college-level coursework during their junior and senior year at through the College Now program at John Jay College – credits and grades are submitted separately.

CURRICULUM AND COURSES

Acknowledging the needs for students to prepare for wider opportunities than any single profession may offer, PPAS offers an academically challenging, college preparatory course of study centered upon an interdisciplinary, multicultural, inquiry-based approach to learning. Predicting the statewide trend towards a

Regents curriculum, all students at PPAS have always been required to take a full load of challenging Regents level courses. In order to graduate, they must pass 5 NY State Regents exam requirements, earning a 65 or above on a Math, Science, ELA, US History, and Global Studies exam. Graduation standards for students with IEPs are modified. PPAS offers AP Literature, AP Language, AP Calculus, AP US History, AP Biology, and AP Chemistry. The GPA is weighted for AP courses only – the number grade is multiplied by a factor of 1.1 and calculated as that in the overall GPA. PLEASE BE AWARE that because of our limited staffing, most students can only fit 2 Advanced Placement courses in their schedule per year. We offer multiple sections of Spanish year 2 and Spanish year 3 and some students receive high school Foreign Language credit through a proficiency exam taken in 8th grade. Students with high GPA standing are approached to join the National Honor Society either junior or senior year.

A longer school day provides students with academic classes in the morning and performing arts classes in the afternoon. Collaboration with On Location Education, a PPAS teacher coordinator and an on-site tutor, allows students who are in performance to maintain a consistent academic program.

TRANSCRIPT NUMERICAL VALUES: GRADING STANDARDS AND DISTRIBUTION

Although the PPAS transcript is presented in a traditional NYC public school format, it represents performance and portfolio assessment as well as test results. ALL performing arts classes count for 2-3 credits per semester which translates into the GPA being greatly affected by the grade earned in those classes. PPAS is a small school that stresses community and cooperation. Students are required to complete community service projects by the end of each year in order to receive credit with a “CR” score once evidence has been reviewed; often their 1st semester transcript does not reflect the completion of this credit. Please note that students are not ranked except for senior year college application purposes when we use a 100 point scale and a decile ranking system. Performing Arts teachers are **not** using the same grade scale across the disciplines and we have found that Alvin Ailey instructors use a more stringent evaluation system. For the 2016 school terms, students who majored in Musical Theater were miscoded to receive additional credit, given more than the other four majors – (credits should not exceed 3) – a change is in progress; it does not negatively affect the musical theater students. In order to earn a place on Principal’s Honor Roll a student must achieve a 95 GPA or higher for the given semester. High Honor Roll is a GPA of 90 or higher. P is a passing grade without a numerical value.

ND found on a transcript is (for example next to a course titled Movement) is for courses that did not commence. Grades are related on the transcript as follows:

100-90=A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-65=D Below 65 is a failing grade and no credit is earned

College Readiness Statistics:

- Mean total SAT score from March 2019 through September 2019 = 1144 with 568 average on ELA & 561 average on Math
- Mean ACT composite score January 2019 through September 2019 = 24.65
- June 2019 graduation rate: 94.8%
- Students who reported furthering education after PPAS:

Four-Year Schools: 73.2%	Professional Work: 2%	Armed Forces: 2%
Two-Year Schools: 5.1%	Dance Company Placement: 2%	

2019 Graduates of PPAS went to a wide variety of conservatories, colleges and universities including:

American University of Paris, Arizona State, Baruch, Brooklyn College (CUNY), BMCC, City College (CUNY), George Mason, Georgetown, Hunter College (CUNY), Ithaca, Kingsborough (CUNY), Le Moyne, Manhattan School of Music, Marymount Manhattan, Morgan State, The New School, NYU, Oberlin, Pace, Penn State, Princeton, Purdue, Rider, Sarah Lawrence, St. Johns, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Fredonia, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Purchase, SUNY Stony Brook, Syracuse, Temple, Towson, University of the Arts, University of Arizona, University of Colorado, University of Delaware, University of Florida, University of Hawaii, University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin, Western Connecticut State University, Yale