



# PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL



**Plano Academy High School**

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# Our School

A photograph showing a group of students in a workshop or classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair is focused on a small wooden prototype with a yellow ball on top. To her left, a young man in a blue shirt is also working on a similar project. Other students are visible in the background, some wearing blue shirts with a logo. The setting appears to be a well-lit, modern educational environment.

Plano Academy High School (PAHS) is the home of the Titans! PAHS is an innovative, project-based learning community for 9th-12th grade students (learners). Learners at PAHS work in teams to solve challenges based on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).

Academically challenging courses at PAHS are integrated in authentic, ever-changing ways, based on each new phase of the project. These demanding PBL experiences are anchored in real-world issues that connect learners to professionals in our community and beyond.

Teams of learners generate solutions by making prototypes in the Southwest Airlines Fabrication Lab, researching and creating presentations on digital devices, and refining project work in the Maker's Space. These creative solutions are presented to outside audiences who provide feedback.

Plano Academy High School strives to inspire creativity and empower students to thrive and compete in a rapidly changing world.

...has created the illusion of a dragon using the  
light and shadow, and the eye's ability to recognize  
...there, teaching us her love of dragons and the mind.  
...of the sculpture does not look like anything in  
...hours carefully attaching the pieces one by one to  
...angle, the shadow takes the form of a



**Innovative ~ Interdisciplinary ~ Inspirational**

# About Our Learners

PAHS learners exhibit the following traits:

## Sense of Self

*The Academy learner is ready to take on challenges and problems with enthusiasm and integrity.*

## Flexibility

*Adaptable to change and prepared to work with other students, facilitators, businesses, colleges, and community.*

## Self-Directed

*Willing to care for personal learning and growth and interested in taking ownership of the school.*

## Learner

*The Academy learner has the ability to work independently on challenging tasks.*

## Project-Oriented

*Willing to research, use resources to find creative solutions, and apply critical thinking to multiple projects.*

## Resilience

*Appreciates a trial and error approach to learning and willing to be a risk taker.*

## Collaborator

*The Academy learner is willing to actively assist, partner, lead, debate, and defend ideas.*

## Respectful

*Treats others with tolerance, conveys genuine concern for well-being, and displays responsibility in an unstructured environment.*

## Open-Minded

*Willing to listen to all points of view and enjoys diversity with a broad range of viewpoints and experiences.*

## Connected

*The Academy learner desires to be a part of a community.*

## Communicator

*Willing to develop communication skills and use technology daily.*

## The Future

*Embraces opportunities to work in the "real world," demonstrates interest in the world around them, enjoys serving the community.*

# The Four Pillars That

## STEAM

STEAM is an educational approach which focuses on creative problem-solving and innovation through the integration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Elements of various types of STEAM are integrated strategically in all projects.

Research shows students will have a deeper understanding of course material if the concepts are addressed in a variety of curriculum content areas.



## PBL

PBL (Project Based Learning) is the heart of our instructional approach. Learning is contextual, creative, and shared, students collaborate on projects that require critical thinking and communication. By making learning relevant to them in this way, student engagement reaches new levels. This higher level of engagement is associated with better educational outcomes.

It starts with a driving question that initiates and focuses inquiry; it creates interest and a feeling of challenge for students; it ultimately helps students answer, “why are we learning this?” Then students develop a need to know list – what are the content issues they will need to know to solve the problem.

By allowing students to make choices and use their voice in projects, projects become more meaningful to them. Students learn to work independently and take responsibility when they are asked to make choices. The opportunity to make choices and to express their learning in their own voice also helps to increase students’ educational engagement.



# Define and Guide Us

## INTERDISCIPLINARY

INTERDISCIPLINARY is purposeful interweaving of content areas provides authentic learning experiences in our interdisciplinary setting. We provide intentional and relevant connections across all content areas while at the same time, we honor the unique characteristics of each field.

Our curriculum emphasizes the connections between content areas rather than limiting learning to one content area at a time and eliminates fragmentation and learning of isolated skills. Students access particular themes or make connections from different entry points as they work with a range of sources of information and perspectives.



## CULTURE

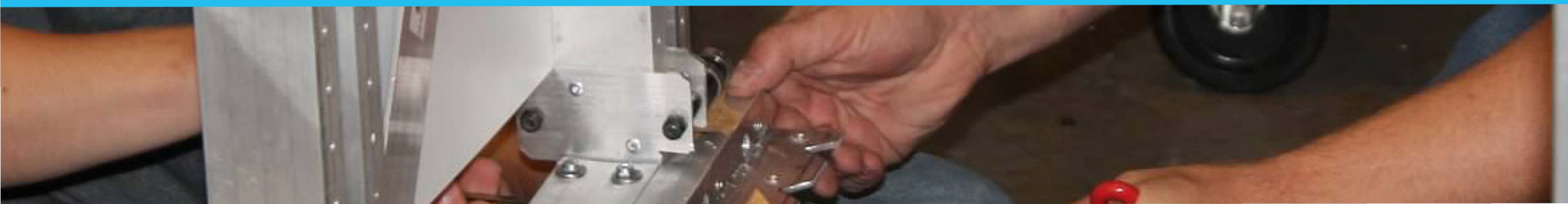
The CULTURE at PAHS fosters a collaborative environment with individual accountability. While we empower students to be collaborators, we also want to help them develop individually and promote work habits that they can carry into a professional work environment.

We promote trust, respect, and responsibility; the culture among staff and students is to have exceptional ownership of the learning experience and their school environment.





**Your Partnership is a Game-Changer**





# Partnership Pathways

## Titan Talks



We welcome industry experts in STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) to present on Friday mornings for 45 minutes to 1 hour to share their stories. Possible topics are attributes of successful people in the field, craft knowledge, and the behind the scenes of the company

## Mentoring



We love to have professionals work with our learners and facilitators on project design, development, implementation, and presentation. Mentoring at our school enhances the authenticity and relevance of the learning, and adds immeasurable value to our project experiences. Open young minds to the potential they possess and be a part of their success!

## Cultivating Learning



Inspire curiosity and enhance understanding of your career by providing real experiences through internships, job shadowing, field trips, career fairs and more. Broaden our learners' career lens by giving access to the inner-workings of STEAM environments. Tap into talent early by introducing our learners to your profession!

## Networking



Help enrich learning and experiences by connecting other professionals to our school! Share our story and connect us to others who are interested in supporting learners in their educational journey. The interconnectedness of our learning reaches far beyond our walls, and we depend on you to tie us to those opportunities in our community and beyond.

# Titan Talks

*School Wide, Per Grade Level or Project Specific - Inspirational- STEAM-y*



# Mentoring



## *Facilitators*

You can assist our facilitators with project design, development, and refinement. We seek to provide project experiences that engage and ignite a passion for learning. By working directly with our facilitators, our learners benefit from your expertise and real world challenges.



## *Learners*

Work with learners individually or in small groups in an academic support or tutorial setting. Learners often need guidance with organization, time management, or prioritization.



## *Competitive Teams and Clubs*

Assist a club with preparation for competitions. Our Solar Car Team and Robotics Team are just two examples of clubs that rely heavily on community financial support.



## *Project Teams*

Join a project team of learners to guide and provide feedback on their exploration, research, problem-solving designs and solutions specific to a project. Gather learners together for development in leadership, collaboration, project management and more.

# Cultivating Learning

## Panelist



At the conclusion of each interdisciplinary project, our teams present their projects in a formal manner to panelists from the field who provide authentic feedback on their work. These exciting events showcase what our learners can accomplish in this exciting environment!

## Clubs



Plano Academy High School is a place that honors our learners' passions and interest beyond our projects through club activities. Excite our learners with your hobbies and interests by enriching their club experiences. Journalism, Jazz Band, and RC Cars are just a few of many examples!

## Challenges



Provide a school-wide or group specific STEAM-y challenge. Engineering design challenges are an exciting way for our learners to connect with you and your career field. From family nights to celebration events, we treasure your enthusiasm and excitement for providing our learners with fun, interactive, engaging challenges.

## Seminars



Provide a seminar during the school day or after school to learners who share an interest in your topic. Learners register for these optional events and connect with you more personally in smaller groups. Our interactive and curious learners will delight you with their questions and thirst for knowledge.

## Career Fairs



Each year we hold a career fair and invite companies to participate with a table and a few company representatives to provide our learners with an authentic job search experience. From feedback on first impressions and resumes that our learners present to using the fair as an avenue for internship interviews, we need you!

## Internships



We are seeking internships during the summer or school year for our 4th year learners. The purpose of our internship experience is to provide access to a corporate environment, an opportunity to connect to their capstone projects, and experience in a field of future study. Our learners will inspire ideation and creativity with your teams.

## Field Trips



Our learners are excited by experiences outside of our school where they may observe STEAM professionals in action. Learners should have an opportunity to be in the space as well as to interact with company team members. When a hands-on experience is added, our learners really take away a memory for a lifetime!

## Shadowing



Our third year learners complete 15 hours of job shadowing during their junior year. Tagging along with you for a day or two opens a window of opportunity in career exploration and a preliminary understanding of what a day looks like in a corporate environment.

# Networking

Networking is an essential component to the legitimacy of the problem cycle. The network of contacts and experts you have established is a tremendous resource for our learners. The collective expertise and skillsets among your group serve as a launchpad for our learners to expand their educational experiences. Because our learners drive their learning through problem-solving, each project team is unique in its approach and outcomes. The people in your professional circle may be just the ones we need to propel a team of learners even deeper into inquiry and discovery! A networking partnership with you provides opportunities for additional partnerships which grows learner efficacy. At Plano Academy High School, we are committed to connecting our learners and facilitators to real world expertise in many fields. Tell a colleague about your experiences with our learners. Share how our learners enhance your company's ideation, creation, and production. Tap into our learners to tackle a problem your team is working on now!



# Learn More About Us

*Plano Academy High School Website*

<http://academyhs.pisd.edu/>



*Alliance*

<http://planoacademyhs.com/>



*Titan Facebook Page*

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/AcademyTitans>



*Youtube*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hbrc-EFHlxw&feature=youtu.be&list=PLVcNW-DvhSHX64qUL4meOnpqtY4PTpwxH>



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