



PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL



Plano Academy High School

Our School



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.

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.



Partner with us in learning.

Panelist



At the conclusion of each multi-disciplinary 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!

Titan Talks



We welcome experts and professionals in our community to enhance learning through small and large group presentations. Topics related to our project for "just-in-time" expertise as well as talking about your career path and work experience are an integral part of the learning cycle. Excite our learners by sharing what you know!

Expert Feedback



Expert Feedback is needed DURING the project process, too. As learners reach benchmarks, they seek input and direction on their progress. They benefit from collaborating with those who have specific knowledge about elements of the project deliverables. You'll be impressed with their out-of-the-box ideas!

Seminars



Provide a seminar during the on our flexible Monday schedule. Spend time with 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.

Volunteers



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 rising 4th year learners. The purpose of our internship experience is to provide access to a professional 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!

Training



In every career, job specific training is provided. You can share your professional learning with our learners in order to teach them these skills early on. You will give them an edge when they apply this new learning to their project or work experiences in the future.

PLANO ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

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