Purdue Polytechnic High School

How is PPHS reinventing high school?

Purdue Polytechnic High School was founded in partnership with Purdue University. Although PPHS is a non-profit organization run by an independent governing Board, PPHS has a close relationship with Purdue University. Purdue and PPHS work hand-in-hand to ensure the overall success of the high school and PPHS students. Purdue provides PPHS students with direct admission to 9 out of the 10 colleges at Purdue University if students meet minimum admissions requirements.

We are proud to offer hands-on, STEM-focused education in partnership with world-class educators who provide individualized instruction to meet each student's specific needs. We also partner with local industries to work on real-world challenges to make sure students get the kind of education that will prepare them well for life after high school, whether that is at Purdue or in a rewarding career.

At PPHS, students have access to...

- Project-based, hands-on learning
- Voice and choice in planning their projects
- Low student to teacher ratio
- Learn-at-your-own-pace curriculum
- Personalized schedule that fits their individual learning goals
- Internships
- Dual-Credit courses
- Technical certifications
- Job shadowing
- Professional mentorships
- Leadership opportunities
- Sports, clubs, and extra-curricular activities
- Field trips to industry partners
- & more

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Polytechnic High School

At PPHS, We Believe In...

COMPETENCY EDUCATION

Students learn more than just content knowledge at PPHS. We focus on the competency skills that employers and colleges identify as the most important skills to be successful in the real-world.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Students are given control over which projects they participate in. Industry Projects give students the opportunity to come up with creative solutions. Student voice and choice are an important part of EVERYTHING we do.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Students will be prepared for college or careers after PPHS. If they meet requirements, they have a direct admit to Purdue's Polytechnic Institute. Students get internships, certifications, & more!

AUTHENTIC LEARNING

Students work on authentic projects with local industry partners to solve REAL problems using the design thinking process. They create their own prototypes and pitch their ideas to industry experts.

Mission

Through STEM-focused and real-world experiences, we empower students to create the world they envision by developing the minds of creative problem-solvers and skilled achievers

Vision

We aspire to create a world of equity where every student has the opportunity and access to achieve their goals and to realize their power to solve problems they encounter.

Values

Build a culture of communication, collaboration, and innovation that creates a positive and supportive environment conducive to high academic achievement.

Meet the Team

Purdue Polytechnic High School Leadership

Scott Bess

PPHS Executive Director

Scott Bess is the founding Executive Director of the PPHS Network. He is a proud graduate of Purdue University and has served on several boards including Ivy Tech, Danville Community School District and EmployIndy. Scott has extensive experience as both a classroom teacher, administrator, and founder of the Excel Center. Scott is passionate about reinventing education to better prepare students from underserved communities for the work of the future.

Keeanna Warren

PPHS Associate Executive Director

Keeanna Warren is a proud Boilermaker and previously served as the founding Principal of the Purdue Polytechnic High School North campus. She is a seasoned classroom teacher, administrator and leader. In her role as Associate Executive Director, she provides leadership and guidance to the PPHS Network team, including curriculum, student services, and new initiatives.

Shatoya Ward

Chief of Operations

As the founding Principal of Purdue Polytechnic High School, Shatoya Ward helped design and implement the school's STEM curriculum and hands-on learning experience. She earned her bachelor's degree in physical education and biology and her master's degree in leadership administration from Marian University. Shatoya is a The Mind Trust Fellow and has experience teaching and leading schools in both IPS schools and the Excel Center.

Questions?   ewalsh@pphs.purd.edu   317--476-0181   pphs.purdue.edu

Meet the Team

PPHS Campus Principals

Richard Benberry
PPHS Indianapolis North Principal

Principal Benberry brings a wealth of experience to PPHS, including his most recent role as Vice Principal of Cardinal Ritter High School. He has over 15 years of experience in education including teaching ELA, Science, and Math, as well as 5 years of leadership experience at the high school level. He is passionate about building relationships with students and staff, as well as supporting project-based learning.

Jacob Pactor
PPHS Englewood Principal

Jacob Pactor became Principal the winter of 2022. Principal Pactor spent four years as assistant principal of Shortridge High School and more than a decade as a classroom teacher in the Indianapolis area. Jacob earned his Bachelor's degree from Wabash College and holds an MBA in Education Leadership from the University of Indianapolis, a master's degree in English from Butler University, and a certificate in nonprofit management from Indiana University.

Justin Zobrosky
PPHS South Bend Principal

Justin Zobrosky joined the PPHS team in early 2022 as Principal of the South Bend Campus. Justin was previously a school leader at the South Bend Excel Center and is a Clay High School and Indiana University graduate. He has worked as a teacher, lead teacher, and school director, all of which have well-prepared him to take on the amazing role of leading the PPHS South Bend team.

Questions?   ewalsh@pphs.purdue.edu   317-476-0181   pphs.purdue.edu

Purdue Polytechnic High School®

2021-2022 at A Glance

Over **750** students served

86 students earned college credit while at PPHS

39 PPHS 21-22 seniors accepted to Purdue University

113 PPHS graduates networkwide

105 staff members

3 campuses across Indiana

Our Student Population

Race & Ethnicity
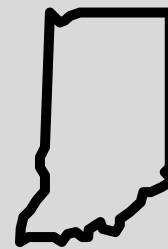
34% Black or African American
36% White
23% Hispanic or Latino
6% Two or More Races
1% Other

PPHS students were offered...

204 & **104**

Passion Projects   Industry Projects

58% of PPHS students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch

19.5% of PPHS students receive ELL/ENL support

21% of PPHS students have an IEP or 504 Plan

PPHS PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

At PPHS, students learn by doing. Projects are our primary mode of instruction and allow students to exercise voice and choice in their learning. Students develop content area knowledge, master PPHS Competencies, and demonstrate the core values of Communication, Collaboration, and Innovation.

Immersion Projects

Using problem-solving and solution-building, coaches guide students in exploring and practicing the important content knowledge associated with core academic courses like English 12 or Algebra 1. Grades are based on mastery of course outcomes which are aligned to state standards. In Immersions, students demonstrate their ability to apply skills to real-world challenges.

Passion Projects

Each cycle, students have the opportunity to do deep dives into a variety of topics and experiences ranging from electronic music, to creative writing, to robotics! Passion Projects are open to all PPHS students. What makes Passion Projects special is the shared interest by all participating, allowing for both learning and relationships to grow. Passion Project grades are based upon PPHS Competencies.

Design Team Projects

Students engage in problem-solving with local industries. Students work in teams with their coaches to solve problems, prototype fixes, and pitch solutions to representatives from the business community. Students master core skills related to Design Thinking and pre-engineering, and receive high school credits. Grades are based upon the mastery of 20 PPHS Competencies.

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PPHS IS REINVENTING HIGH SCHOOL

Personal Learning Time

Personal Learning Time or PLT provides students an opportunity to continue independent learning, whether this is reading related to an Immersion Project, collaboration on an experiment, preparing presentation slides, or even participating in an online college course offered via one of our partner universities.

Personal Learning Community

Personal Learning Community, referred to as PLC or Advisory, is designed to provide students with a home base where personal wellness, social and emotional learning, and career readiness content is infused into the classroom culture. Students also receive daily academic support and advising during this time.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports are issued at the end of each cycle and reflect students' current progress toward graduation. Grades are also available at any time by checking Alma, our Student Information System. Your child's PLC or Advisory Coach is the best contact if you have questions about progress reports.

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PPHS Passion Projects

From hydrology and ecology, to musicology, Passion Projects give PPHS students a chance to explore their interests and develop real-world knowledge

Here are just a few examples...

Fiber Arts	Photoshop
Dungeons & Dragons	Space Exploration
E-gaming	World Building 101
Cows & the Enviroment	Coding Challenge
FRC Robotics	90's Music Project
Entrepreneurship	Wood Shop
Building Your Brand	Mock Trial
Cultural Connection	Special Effects &
Ethnomusicology	Creative FX
Go Karts	Job Skills 101
Geurilla Art	Intro to Cycling
Indiana Jazz	American Sign Language
Medical Pathways	Media Makerspace
Project Terraform	Learning for Justice
VEX Robotics	Event Planning
Virology	Student-run Business
Urban Agriculture &	Photography
Design	Children's Literacy
Mythical Mythology	Medical Myths
Hydroponics	Graphic Design

Students can gain up to 4 competencies per project

Students participate in at least 1 passion project of their choice per cycle

Coaches pitch their passion projects to all students at the beginning of a cycle

Project grades account for 50% of a student's GPA

PPHS COMPETENCIES

AT PPHS, STUDENTS DEVELOP AND APPLY THESE 20 REAL-WORLD SKILLS THAT WILL MAKE THEM SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPERIENCES, AND PERSONAL ENDEAVORS

- *Develop and use models*
- *Analyze and interpret data*
- *Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them*
- *Reason abstractly and quantitatively*
- *Use appropriate tools strategically*
- *Attend to precision*
- *Historical thinking*
- *Understand diverse perspectives*
- *Engage in personal or collaborative action*
- *Key ideas & textual support*

- *Key ideas & textual support*
- *Analyze, integrate and evaluate sources*
- *Structural elements & organization*
- *Synthesis and connection of ideas*
- *The iterative process*
- *The research process*
- *Language conventions*
- *Speaking and listening*
- *Growth mindset*
- *Responsibility*
- *Self-regulation*

Did You Know?

Student progress on competencies is housed in Alma. You can log in to Alma to view these at any time. Each competency will have up to 5 pieces of evidence to support their grade. An average of the competency scores will make up students' competency grades. Students can always improve their competency grade by providing new evidence throughout their projects. When a sixth piece of evidence for a competency is collected it will replace their lowest scoring piece of evidence.

Competency Assessment Scale

No Evidence | Approaching | Proficient | Advanced

Industry Partner Challenges

What are Industry Partner Challenges?

Industry projects are designed by coaches in collaboration with industry partners. These projects reflect real-world challenges that Indiana companies face in the areas of healthcare, energy, transportation, and philanthropy. Through Industry Projects, freshmen and sophomores learn teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills.

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Polytechnic High School

Partner with..

Lilly

to extend the healthy human lifespan worldwide.

Take an on-site tour of Eli Lilly facilities and learn from the best and brightest scientists in their field. Create prototypes to improve the lives and health of those in your community or abroad. Interested in becoming a chemist, biologist or geneticist? Get ready to partner with and learn from the real deal!

Visit the zoo and learn from the experts about the challenges facing our environment. Students brainstorm ideas, conduct interviews and test their solutions before prototyping and pitching their ideas back to the ones who know the field best - zookeepers, veterinarians and scientists.

Partner with..

POTAWATOMI ZOO

to help sustain and conserve the natural environment.

Other PPHS Industry Partners include...

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

United Way
United Way of Central Indiana

REPUBLIC AIRLINE

Keystone GROUP

SUBARU

BELSTRA

CORTEVA agriscience™

citizens energy group®

INDYCAR

ESKENAZI HEALTH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do you call teachers "coaches"?
Coach is our way of saying teacher. We believe in educational coaching at PPHS. Students take an active role in their learning and coaches provide encouragement, opportunities and support!

Does PPHS offer arts programs or foreign language classes?
PPHS students are accountable for completing the Indiana diploma requirements for their selected diploma pathway (for example, Core 40 or Academic Honors). PPHS offers a wide variety of courses and experiences that allow for this. In addition, there are several extracurricular clubs like show choir, art, chess, debate, and language and culture club, that allow students to robustly pursue their interests.

What is "design thinking" and when is it used at PPHS?
The design thinking process is at the heart of everything we do. It is an approach and mindset to creative problem-solving, learning, and collaboration with others. Students use design thinking during Industry partner challenges, passion projects, and design team challenges.

Does PPHS serve students with an IEP or 504 Plan?
PPHS serves all students who would like a high-quality, personalized, STEM-focused education that prepares them for real-world success. We have Special Education Teachers and a Director of Student Services at the network to provide supports for these students. We have a social worker, licensed nurse, and Special Education teachers on staff at every location.

What is a "cycle"?
Project cycles take place every eight weeks. Immersions, passion projects, and industry partner challenges each last an entire cycle. Progress reports are sent out at the conclusion of a cycle.

Where can I check my child's grades?
Parents and guardians can check their children's grade in Alma, our online Student Information System. Progress reports will also be sent out at the end of each cycle. Your child's PLC or Advisory Coach is also a great resource!

What is the dress code?
Students are asked to wear a Purdue branded hoodie, t-shirt, or sweater with school-appropriate bottoms (jeans, khakis, sweats., etc.).

When does my child sign up for classes?
At PPHS we believe in our students having autonomy in the scheduling process. All students will work with their advisory coach to create a schedule that can vary from week to week depending on their individual educational needs. Students will not select their classes before the first day of school.

What are school hours?
The school day starts at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. If students are eating breakfast they need to arrive by 8:15 a.m. Students have early dismissal at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

What's Next?
Become a PPHS Student

PPHS operates on a lottery system for all locations. PPHS Indianapolis locations utilize the common enrollment system, Enroll Indy, which can be accessed at enrollindy.org. PPHS South Bend uses an application on our website at pphs.info/SB. From there you will receive detailed instructions on how to finish enrollment. We hope to see you next year!

1
Enroll Indy

Apply Online

Apply during the first round of matching to have the best chance at getting your first pick. Make sure to select the correct PPHS location!

2
Get Your Match

Celebrate on Match Day

When the enrollment window ends PPHS releases your match and will reach out with next steps! Make sure to let us know you plan to attend. If you apply during the late enrollment window, you will hear from our team right away!

3
Finish Registration

Fill out your official registration

After your match, we'll need some information! You will receive a detailed email with next steps. Fill out your paperwork and get ready to join us at PPHS! We will be excited to see you in August!

Questions about enrollment or registration?

Email: rmclain@pphs.purdue.edu