

City High School strives to be a community of learners in which all members use their minds well. We engage with challenging academics and the unique resources of our city and region to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is dedicated to supporting City High School and to promoting professional development and community dialogue that foster smaller and more equitable learning communities for all students in southern Arizona. TSSP is a nonprofit corporation with 501c3 status.

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Division I Students Explore Local Landmarks

Division I students started their second unit of study in humanities: Margins and Mainstreams of Tucson. Their work is taking them to historic buildings and neighborhoods in and around downtown to explore local history and current issues of our urban center.

In October, students went to the Evergreen Cemetery in search of some of Tucson's 19th-century gravesites. Local historian Ken Scoville led the students through the oldest part of the cemetery, pointing out the graves of Sam Hughes, Esteban Ochoa, and the Steinfeld family, to name a few.

On November 7, the 9th graders had the opportunity to tour the inside of El Teatro Carmen, an early 20th-century theater devoted to celebrating Mexican culture and heritage. Owner Don Rollings gave students a peek at the theater, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at some of the oldest buildings in Barrio Viejo. While the theater is currently closed, students left optimistic that the theater could be restored to its original glory.

~ *Eve Rifkin, Humanities Teacher*



Students take notes as local historian Ken Scoville leads them through Evergreen Cemetery (above). Students peer up at the original tin ceiling of Teatro Carmen as they listen to owner Don Rollings (below).



School Library Takes Shape

A small but solid collection of fiction and nonfiction books is being catalogued, labeled, and shelved in preparation for circulation as the City High library readies for regular student use. Local librarian Karen Greene volunteered throughout the summer and fall to spearhead the effort.

The new parent organization, "City High Parents," organized a successful Library Work Day that brought together moms, dads, staff, and a student on a Saturday morning in October to help with book

cataloguing and library preparations.

The library includes a rich collection of used books from generous donors, as well as new books purchased with federal grant money. It also houses 4 new iMac computers. The computers are popular with students who have their own email addresses and personal accounts on the school file server.

The current library space gets lots of use, doubling as a school commons and hosting weekly whole school meetings and other large-group gatherings.

~ *Carrie Brennan, Principal*

City High School Receives Competitive “Learn & Serve” Grant

In October, City High School was awarded a \$10,000 Learn and Serve America grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to bolster its City Works program. City Works is an innovative and academic approach to service learning, in which students collaborate on a weekly basis with community organizations to develop and implement projects that benefit the Tucson community.

This year’s City Works course offerings include a partnership with the Tucson Audubon Society in which students participate in riparian restoration efforts along the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River. In conjunction with VisionMark Foundation, other students are gaining skills in philanthropy and grant making, enabling them to make actual financial awards

by the end of the school year. Also working in partnership with various City Works courses are the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, University of Arizona’s Flandrau Science Center, and Pan Left Productions.

The Learn and Serve grant is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service which provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country. Together with USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

~Jennifer Rosenthal, Grants & Development Coordinator

Students engage in various activities through their City Works classes: working on river restoration (left), presenting to a panel of community leaders on the need for more resources for disabled youth (middle), harvesting for the Community Food Bank (right).



Spanish Classes Explore Día de los Muertos Traditions

To celebrate the Latin American cultural tradition, el Día de los Muertos, the City High School Spanish classes collaborated with Charles Swanson of Puppet Works, a local art and performance organization, to create masks for Tucson’s annual All Souls Procession. Each year, Many Mouths One Stomach, a non-profit collective which includes Puppet Works and Flam Chen, organize this procession—a parade, which joins the celebration of el Día de los Muertos with the Tucson arts community, and community at large.

The Día de los Muertos unit began with a visit to the Puppet Works studios to get an overview of the mask-making process. Next, Spanish teacher Mike Wilson and the students transformed the alley adjacent to City High School into a mask-making studio and Spanish classroom. Students created masks, keeping the procession themes of ancestors, animals, and Mardi Gras in mind. Several students, parents, and teachers donned masks and costumes and joined this year’s 16th annual procession. We hope this is just the first of many years of City High School involvement in Tucson-wide celebrations. *~Kimberly Adilia Helmer*



Student Ian Ure works on the early stages of his mask (above).

Tax Credit Donations A Win-Win Contribution

Arizona law allows taxpayers to contribute to schools – up to \$200 for an individual and \$300 for married couples – and receive a tax credit for the donation. A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of the taxes one owes to the state. If, for example, a family owes \$400 to the Arizona Department of Revenue and they make a \$300 tax credit contribution to City High School before December 31, the family’s state taxes decreases to \$100. All Arizona taxpayers can take advantage of the school tax credit option, whether or not they have children in the school system. They can also claim the donation as a deduction on their federal income taxes.

City High School is looking forward to being the school that many Tucson-area residents decide to contribute their tax credit money to this year. The students have so much to gain, and there’s no cost to the taxpayer. It’s a win-win contribution.



Paints, film, and other supplies for art classes • Bus travel for field trips • Uniforms and Y memberships for the co-ed basketball team • Boards for chess club • Museum entrance fees • Costumes and scenery set pieces for drama class • Professional publications in which students showcase their findings • Bike helmets for cycling students • Soccer balls • High-caliber instructors and coaches for after-school programs • Karate uniforms • Marine biology expedition to CEDO Institute in Mexico •

There are many ways that your tax credit dollars make the world a richer place for City High students.

Enclosed is a tax credit contribution for the following amount (circle one):

- \$200
- \$300
- other amount: _____

I would like the contribution to go toward (please check one or more of the following):

- _____ program where funds are most needed
- _____ arts and fitness electives
- _____ after-school activities
- _____ City Works program

Checks should be made out to **TSSP/City High School** or **Tucson Small School Project**. Tax credit donations can be dropped off at the school’s office or mailed to City High School, 48 E. Pennington St. Tucson, AZ 85701.

CITY
HIGH SCHOOL



**TUCSON SMALL
SCHOOL PROJECT**

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WEBSITE:
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CITY HIGH SCHOOL WISHLIST

If you have any items that are no longer being used in your home or business that are in good condition and could be used by students and staff at City High School, please call Business Manager Kate Goldman, 623-7223 x202 to arrange drop-off or pick-up. Tucson Small School Project is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and donations to the school are tax-deductible.

The following are some of the **items requested for fall semester:**

- **Couches and reading chairs** for student lounge and library
- **Cot** for nurse area
- **Outdoor benches** for alley
- **Graphing calculators (TI-83s and 84s)** for math classes

THANKS to the supporters who donated items requested in the Aug.-Sept. newsletter: Alexis Bachrach, Gerry Brennan, Dan Cuny, Evann Gleeson, Rebecca Hill, Luz Lomba, Karen Mathis, and Jay O'Rear.

THANKS also to the early bird tax credit donors!

Wayne and Barbara Algire, Ruben Betancourt, LaVonne Douville, Suzanne Dovi, Mary Jo Ghory, Tom Groh, Patricia Lebensohn, Ann Modica, Johnny and Karen Mulholland, Ted & Janet Ranney, Linda Thomas & Michael Orr, Elias & Jane Toubassi, and Michelle Thomas.

Tax credit donations are being accepted throughout the fall. Arizona residents can donate up to \$300 to a school of their choice and receive a dollar for dollar credit on their state taxes. Learn more on page 3 of the newsletter.



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