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cityscape

the monthly newsletter for City High School & Tucson Small School Project

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 in order to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to founding City High School and to fostering smaller, more equitable learning communities for all students. An Arizona corporation since 2002, TSSP received 501(c)3 status in March 2004.

TSSP Board of Directors

Eric Dhruv

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Staff and Students Gear Up for First Year

Teacher Planning

City High School teachers met July 19-July 23 for an intensive week of planning. The staff worked together on curriculum and school development. In addition to their own collaborative planning, teachers participated in workshops on Tucson history, special education, and writing across the curriculum, led by local experts in these topics.

Student Registration

Students and parents are attending one of four registration days in August in preparation for the start of school. Registration is an opportunity for students to select arts

and fitness electives and City Works classes. It's a time to review students' files and submit all official paperwork. Information is also available on SunTran routes, school lunches, and parent volunteering.

Twenty-four students came to the first registration day, August 12. The remaining three days are August 16, 26, and 30. (See calendar for specific times.)

~ Carrie Brennan

Teachers Eric Freund, Lisa Lieber, and Brett Goble collaborate in July (left). Students and parents talk with teachers to learn about electives and carpool coordination at registration (below).



Whole School Retreat Planned for September 2-3

City High School will be opening with two days of community building and exploration. The retreat days will follow a regular school day of 8:30am to 3:30 pm, but rather than being 'on campus' at 48 East Pennington, our campus will be the Tucson Botanical Gardens on Thursday and the Tucson Museum of Art on Friday.

The idea for these days follows straight from the mission of the school: the natural and urban environments are part of our 'place' – and school should be a part of them,

not separated from them. Both days will consist of all-school opening and closing activities, with smaller group activities filling out both the mornings and afternoons.

The retreat will be a great opportunity to get to know one another and to begin our studies for the school year.

~ Elliott Lax

Parents and Students:

Look for retreat details in the next parent mailing (August 20).

**MONDAY/FRIDAY
ELECTIVES**

*Fusion Fitness
Creative Writing
Yearbook & Graphics
Yoga
Guitar*

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY
ELECTIVES**

*Photojournalism
Martial Arts
Bike Riding
Glass Blowing
Drama
Drawing & Painting*

Arts and Fitness Classes Offer Exciting Options

In anticipation of the rapidly approaching first day of classes at City High School, the Arts and Fitness instructors met on August 10 to plan for the semester, to learn about the six “habits of heart and mind” as the backbone of the school’s curriculum, and, of course, to get to know each other! The meeting was very productive and is one of many steps to welcome these talented teachers into the school community.

A cadre of community artists and fitness experts will lead the electives. Some classes are co-sponsored with

partner organizations, such as BICAS (bike riding), Art in Reality (martial arts), and Sonoran Arts Foundation (glass blowing).

Throughout the month of August, students will be signing up for their first semester electives. Classes will meet twice a week, and students will have two electives choices each semester. Over the course of the year, each student is required to take a minimum of one Art class and one Fitness class.

The exciting array of choices is sure to offer something for everyone!

~ Camellia Cosgray

Technology Designed with Teachers and Students in Mind

Technology planning at City High School has kicked into high gear over the summer months. In April and May the Technology Advisory Committee convened to begin developing a conceptual framework for the technology resources we want to make available for students and faculty. In June and July, Information Technology Coordinator Jon Knutson and Director of Operations Brett Goble worked hard to update, refine and implement the plans.

Instructional technology at City High School will move away from the traditional paradigm of computer use only taking place in a “computer lab.” Instead, mobile labs – traveling carts with sets of portable computers – will facilitate the incorporation of technology across all disciplines. All incoming students

will receive a City High School email address and will use this as a tool to communicate with teachers and peer groups. Furthermore, students will become acclimated with the latest versions of cross-platform productivity and design software used in nearly all business settings.

The technical infrastructure of City High School is designed with expansion in mind. While construction is in progress at City High School, staff have worked closely with the architects to ensure the integration of technical resources. This has included the complete rewiring of the facility, design of a high-tech network closet, and future plans for an extensive wireless network.

~ Jon Knutson

Starting a new school is an enormous undertaking that requires the help of many hands. This month we owe a special THANK YOU to ...

HACIENDA DEL SOL RESORT for offering us **affordable accommodations** in a beautiful desert setting for our annual board retreat.

LYNN HENDRELL, BRUCE HERMES, MIKE MANN, SHARON MILLER, and BETH PROSNITZ for their **generous book donations** from their personal collections; and, **ALEX KIMMELMAN and DON HAUSRATH** for coordinating a large donation of **books from Gavilan College** in California. We are excited about the big boost to our fledgling library.

MEL OLANDER of Olander Glass & Mirror Co. (and a City High School parent) for supplying new **windows at a discounted rate**, helping to reduce the cost of classroom renovations.

The MANY CITY HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTERS who have made **donations** during our summer fundraising drive. (We will be sending out individual donation confirmations and thank-yous.)

Board Takes Time to Reflect on Progress and Plan Ahead Annual Retreat Has a Student-Centered Focus

Blanketed with cottony cumulous clouds and nestled by the magnificent Catalina Mountains, rests a desert landscape seasoned with fruiting prickly pear and saguaro cacti, chatting cactus wrens, and darting whiptail lizards. This Sonoran Desert ambiance ignited enthusiasm and inspired ideas for the Tucson Small School Project board at their second annual retreat in July.

A generous discount offered by Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch, once an all-girls boarding school, made possible a two-day meeting that reenergized our efforts to launch City High School. Knowing that in less than two months 48 East Pennington will come alive with 90 new students, the board members had lots to accomplish.

The main issues the group tackled included school governance and management, the employee policy handbook, fundraising opportunities, school facilities, and the design of the educational program. Central to the conversation was a collective commitment to stay true to the needs,

interests, and leadership of students. This student focus is at the heart of the mission of City High School.

Another key component of the retreat was to reflect on the planning efforts of the past year. The six goals of City High School provided the framework for assessing the organization's progress. Board members felt positive about the strides made thus far to create a learning place where students can reach their full potential while contributing to the needs and interests of our community, but also made note of areas in need of more concerted efforts.

Come September 2 City High School will be fully planted in Tucson, supporting young people as they shape their own success stories. The board plays a key role in furthering the school's mission and advancing City High School as a model institute for education and community stewardship. For more information about the TSSP board or the nominating process, please contact Carrie Brennan at the school office.

~ Suzanne Dhruv

The Goals of City High School

Student Leadership

•
*Challenging
Academic
Curriculum*

•
Personalization

•
*Community
Connections*

•
Diversity

•
*Institutional
Sustainability*

City High School Wish List

Graphing calculators (TI82, TI83, and TI84 models) for math classes

Fiction and nonfiction **books and bookshelves** for our library

Folding tables and chairs for large-group gatherings

Two **refrigerators** and two **microwave ovens** for the lunch area

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP), the nonprofit organization that founded City High School, received 501(c)3 status from the IRS in March 2004. Cash donations and in-kind donations, such as the items listed above, made to the school are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information or to coordinate a drop-off, please contact Brett Goble at bgoble@cityhighschool.org or 623-7223.

CITY HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.
creating. connecting.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 8/12 3:00-7:00 p.m. Student Registration Day #1
- 8/16 3:00-7:00 p.m. Student Registration Day #2
- 8/17 2:00-4:00 p.m. Student Steering Committee Meeting
- 8/23-9/1 Teacher planning days
- 8/26 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Student Registration Day #3
- 8/30 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Student Registration Day #4

SEPTEMBER

- 9/2 School year begins for City High School students
- 9/2 Whole School Retreat Day 1 @ Tucson Botanical Gardens
- 9/3 Whole School Retreat Day 2 @ Tucson Museum of Art
- 9/6 Labor Day – school closed for national holiday
- 9/7 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Regular classes begin

*Please note: This issue and all **past issues** of CITYSCAPE are available on our **website**, www.cityhighschool.org.*

If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to OR if you currently receive the newsletter and would prefer not to, please email Carrie Brennan at carrie@cityhighschool.org to have the mailing list updated.

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