

November-December 2004

Volume 2, Issue 3

# cityscape

the 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

Suzanne Dhruv

Mary Jo Ghory

Anne-Marie Hall

Nancy Linnon

Ann Modica

Leslie Cho Newman

Diana Olivares

Ted Ranney

## **Give Less to the State and More to Schools – Arizona School Tax Credit a Win-Win Contribution**

Arizona residents have the opportunity again this year to financially support a local school of their choice and receive a tax credit for their donation. City High School is eager for tax credit funds to enhance arts and fitness classes, after-school activities, and City Works.

### **Tax Credit Basics**

Arizona law allows taxpayers to contribute to schools (\$200 for an individual and \$250 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 \$300 in taxes to the Arizona Department of Revenue and they make a \$250 tax credit contribution to City High School before December 31, the family's tax bill decreases to \$50.

All Arizona taxpayers are able to take advantage of the school tax credit, whether or not they have children in schools. They can also claim the donation as a deduction on their federal income taxes.

### **Funding Extracurricular Activities**

As a public charter school, City High School can use tax credit funds to support extracurricular activities. The state defines extracurricular as any educational or recreational activities that supplement the educational program of the school and require a fee to participate.

At City High School, visual and performing art classes such as glassblowing, photography, and guitar will benefit from tax credit contributions. The funds will also go toward physical education classes

such as bike riding, fitness at the YMCA, and martial arts.

Tax credit donations will also support the after-school program. Current offerings for students include a band, a modern dance class, and a basketball team – all initiated by student interest. Additional offerings will include activities such as a chess team, additional sports teams, and a technology class.

### **Supporting Character Education**

Tax credit funds can also be used for character education programs. City High School's innovative City Works program builds character and fosters civic engagement. The state of Arizona defines character education as instruction that incorporates traits such as responsibility, diligence, respect, trustworthiness, and virtue; City Works aligns with this definition.

With tax credit donations, students and teachers will be able to do more field work, invite more guest speakers, and publish more widely the results of their work. Additional funds for City Works will increase students' opportunities for learning outside the school walls and ensure that their projects have a greater impact on the community.

### **Choosing City High School**

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.

~ Carrie Brennan

## City High Students – A Reflection of Tucson’s Community

When people ask us to describe “the City High School student,” we find it hard to give one answer.

Students commute to our downtown school each day from a variety of Tucson’s neighborhoods. Almost all of the city’s zip codes are represented at our 85701 location. A handful of students] have just moved here from other parts of the country and are new to the desert; others have families who have lived in Tucson for generations.

The City High School student population reflects the diversity of Tucson. The racial and ethnic

composition of the student body is approximately 45% Anglo, 40% Latino, 5% African American, 5% Native American, and 5% Asian American.

Students graduated from middle schools from a variety of districts before coming to City High School, including Sunnyside, Tucson Unified, Catalina Foothills, and Marana. Others come from charter middle schools around town. Our diverse mix of students is one of the many aspects of our school that make it an interesting place to be.

~Carrie Brennan, Principal

**Damiana Rogers-Naughton, a graduate of Khalsa Montessori School and a City High School ninth grader, conducted the interviews that prompted the following student profiles and took the accompanying photographs.**

### Rachelle Barr

I live in the Midvale Neighborhood, and I went to Pistor Middle School. I live with my mom, stepdad, my stepbrother Stephen, sister Brittany, and brother Zachary.

At first I did not really have a choice about where I wanted to go to school, but now I’m glad I came here to City high. If I were to go to my neighborhood high school I think I would be failing right now instead of getting good grades and feeling like I am a part of my school community. It really means a lot to me when I walk in and the teachers all know my name, and Lynn [Lynn Schneucker, the Office Coordinator] is there to welcome me in the morning. I am truly content with this school and the community we have built around each other. City High School rocks!



### Danielle John

August in Brooklyn: It’s summertime, everybody outside, little kids running around, girls playing jump-rope, older dudes playing basketball, and my friends and I are chilling on my steps. I came to Tucson thinking that it was going to be better, but I’m not so sure. I don’t see anyone hanging out on the corner, I don’t hear loud music at night, the buildings are small, and my neighborhood is quiet. I don’t think it will ever be like Brooklyn, but I am just going to have to face it – this is my new home.

One thing I do like is my school. City High School isn’t anything like my old school. It’s smaller and easier to concentrate here. The teachers are nice and they really try to help me. My favorite class is my creative writing class. It helps me express myself more.

**Kate Young**

My name is Kate. I live in Civano on the far east side with my mom, stepdad, and younger brother and sister. I just moved to Tucson from North Carolina. My school there had more than 2000 kids in it. At City High School I know all of the teachers. I really like the respect that the teachers give us and how I can share what I feel with them.

My favorite elective is yoga. I have always had an interest in yoga but never pursued it. I'm so excited to be able to take it at school. I am getting a dance program off the ground. We now have dance classes after school once a week. In dance we can express ourselves and choreograph a performance. I can't wait to show the school what we put together.



**André Valenzuela**

One of my goals in school and in life is that when I get distracted by things like friends or how my day has been, is to try and stay focused. I'm trying to think before I act or say anything, because it's not worth getting in trouble and getting sent out of class. When you learn something and you know you know it, it's a very good feeling. I don't feel that way all the time, but I do feel it nonetheless and this year I'm trying hard to experience that more. I'm a ninth grader at City High School and I want to succeed in school.



**Skott Eichling**

My name is Skott Eichling, and I went to Orange Grove Middle School. I am really enjoying City High. My favorite part about this school is that so many of the people are kind and likeable. I like that we are almost a small community or family.

I am in the Fox Theatre City Works class. It's interesting because we are actually helping the city by being a part of the effort to restore the Fox. I am amazed by a lot of the stuff we are learning, especially how important the Fox was to Tucson in the past.



**ARIZONA SCHOOL TAX CREDIT FOR CITY HIGH SCHOOL**

Enclosed is a tax credit contribution for the following amount (please circle one):    • \$250    • other amount:

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ program where funds are most needed | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ City Works program      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ arts and fitness electives          | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ after-school activities |

Please fill out this form and submit with your donation. Checks need to be made out to **TSSP/City High School** or **Tucson Small School Project**, the nonprofit corporation that oversees City High School. Tax credit donations can be dropped off at the school's front office or mailed to City High School, 48 E. Pennington St. Tucson, AZ 85701. For more information about the School Tax Credit or to get tax form 322 visit the AZ Department of Revenue website [www.azdor.gov](http://www.azdor.gov) or call 800-352-4090.

# CITY HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.  
creating. connecting.

48 E. Pennington St.  
Tucson, AZ 85701

PHONE:  
520.623.7223

FAX:  
520.547.0680

WEBSITE:  
[www.cityhighschool.org](http://www.cityhighschool.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 11/4 Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting
- 11/5 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- 11/11-12 Veterans Day & Teacher Inservice - school closed
- 11/11-12 Coalition of Essential Schools' Fall Forum – teachers travel to national conference
- 11/15 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report Cards issued
- 11/25-26 Thanksgiving Break – school closed

### DECEMBER

- 12/2 Tucson Small School Project Board Meeting
- 12/10 Holiday Party/Dance
- 12/11 Downtown Holiday Parade (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue)
- 12/18 Winter Break begins

---

This issue and past issues of *cityscape* are available on the website. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to OR if you currently receive the newsletter and would prefer not to, email Carrie Brennan at [carrie@cityhighschool.org](mailto:carrie@cityhighschool.org) to have the mailing list updated.

A Weekly Bulletin for City High School families goes home with students every Monday afternoon. Intended to encourage regular communication between the school and parents, the Weekly Bulletin highlights recent or upcoming activities, events, and issues related to student learning and the school program. Weekly Bulletins are also posted on the school website.

# CITY HIGH SCHOOL



learning. working.  
creating. connecting.

TUCSON SMALL SCHOOL PROJECT  
- CITY HIGH SCHOOL -  
48 E. Pennington St.  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Tucson, AZ  
Permit No. 541