



PROVIDENT
CHARTER SCHOOL

PCS FAMILY FLYER

from our school to your home

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



A Special Holiday Greeting from the Team at PCS!

I want to wish you all a **Healthy & Happy Holiday Season**! Here at PCS we are eager and excited for the New Year because with that comes the prospect of a new school - PCS West. We have submitted a charter application to the Ambridge School District so that we can replicate what we have here in Troy Hill. PCS West will be located in Baden at the former Quigley High School. The **Ambridge School Board** will have a public hearing on the matter on January 12, 2022 in the Ambridge High School cafeteria. It is no secret that school districts do not welcome charters, so please consider helping us in two ways:

1. Please write a **letter of support** for this school and send it to Rachel

Owens: rowens@providentcharterschool.org as soon as possible. You may use this [template](#) or feel free to write your own letter. We have 331 students enrolled and we only have 64 letters of support at this time.

2. Please consider attending this **public hearing on January 12 at Ambridge High School** as a show of support for PCS. More information will be forthcoming about how to sign up to provide a public comment if you so choose.

Health & Safety Update

We will be updating our Health and Safety Plan in the next few weeks. Please complete the following **Health and Safety Survey** at your earliest convenience.

[Health and Safety Survey](#)

Thank you!! Best wishes to you and your families as we move into 2022!!

- Ms. Maria Paluselli, CEO



Reading is a Gift

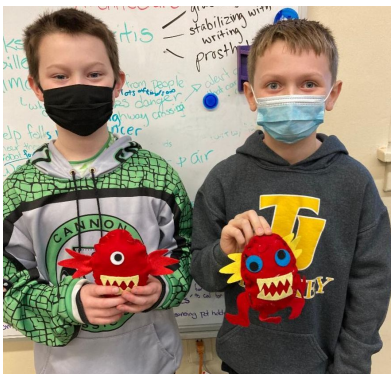
One of the most thoughtful gifts we can give is a book. This holiday season, please consider reviewing our **PCS Book Wish List** for the Media Center and making a contribution to our student library. Thank you!

[PCS Book Wish List](#)

Parent Reminders



- **Happy Holidays** from your PCS Principals!
Ms. Connie Joseph & Ms. Leah Haile
- **Upcoming Dates:**
 - Winter Break - No School for Students - Thursday, 12/23 to Monday, 1/3
 - Students Return from Winter Break on Tuesday, 1/4
 - Half-Day for Students - Friday, 1/14, 11:30 AM dismissal
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School for Students - Monday, 1/17
- [2021-2022 School Calendar](#)
- [PCS School Store](#)



Elementary School (2-5)

Wishing all our PCS families a wonderful Holiday Season! It is hard to believe that we are beginning our second trimester. Thank you for all of your patience and understanding when it has been necessary to quarantine students. We continue to strive to keep our students safe and in school.

I would like to congratulate **Team Storm** on a successful TKD demonstration in early November! And a huge thank you to Master Zang for your leadership - we appreciate all that you do for our students!

Congratulations to **Mae Shoenberger** - our Elementary Student of the Month for November! Way to go, Mae!

Reminder: If your child has an early dismissal, please contact the office in the morning.

Middle School (6-8)

We hope you are enjoying the holidays with your friends and family! We look forward to welcoming Trimester 2 by **setting new goals!** We are excited that the planning of our Spring Musical, **Schoolhouse Rock**, is underway! Ms. Stadelman, Ms. Cunningham & Ms. Campbell have been working hard preparing students for auditions which occurred during the week of November 30th. Ms. Weiss & Ms. Amrit are supporting students with the creation and construction of the set and props. We cannot wait for the show! Show dates are May 20th & 21st.

Congratulations to **Ethan DeFazio** - our Middle School Student of the Month for November!

We enjoyed meeting with those families that joined us for our **December Transition Event!** Attendees heard from young

Enjoy your Holiday Break!

Connie Joseph, ES Principal:

cjoseph@providentcharterschool.org

Amanda Pinto, ES Guidance Counselor:

apinto@providentcharterschool.org

Brittany Hebert, ES Supervisor of Special Education:

bhebert@providentcharterschool.org

- Ms. Connie Joseph

professionals who have dyslexia on their successes and challenges in high school and beyond. Please reach out if you have questions regarding your child's transition to high school.

Leah Haile, MS Principal:

lhaile@providentcharterschool.org

Krista Wible, MS Counselor:

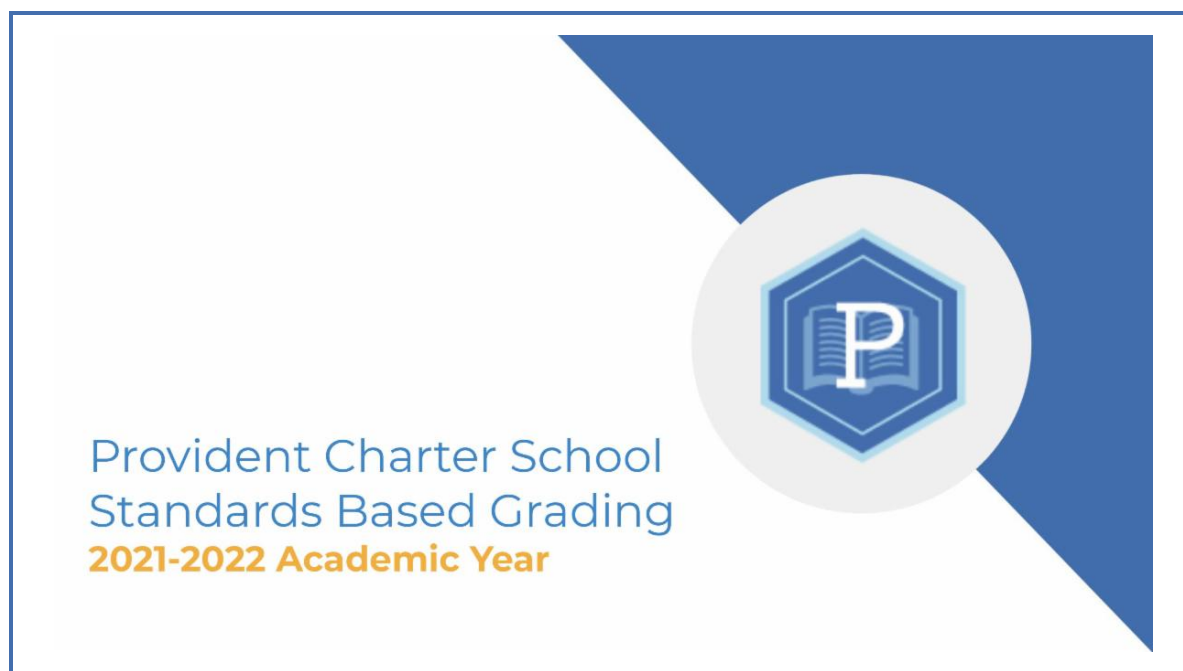
kwible@providentcharterschool.org

Jessica Froszttega, MS Supervisor of Special Education:

jfroszttega@providentcharterschool.org

- Ms. Leah Haile

CURRICULUM CORNER



Standards-Based Grading

November 23rd ended our first trimester of the 2021-2022 school year here at PCS, and with that came the release of report cards. If you are new to our school this year, you may have noticed that we utilize a **Standards-Based Report Card**. One of the biggest differences between a Standards-Based Report Card and a traditional report card is the use of “descriptors” as opposed to letter grades. These are meant to describe your child’s progress toward meeting the standard.

Please watch this [video](#) for more information regarding Standards-Based Grading here at PCS. Additionally, a **copy of the presentation** can be found [here](#).

Standards Based Grading Video



Our English language arts classes are beginning their next learning expeditions for our ELA curriculum, Expeditionary Learning.

In second grade, students are taking on the role of **paleontologists** and exploring how fossils tell of Earth's changes.

Our third grade students are entering the wild world of frogs and will be learning about the **amazing adaptations** of different reptiles and amphibians.

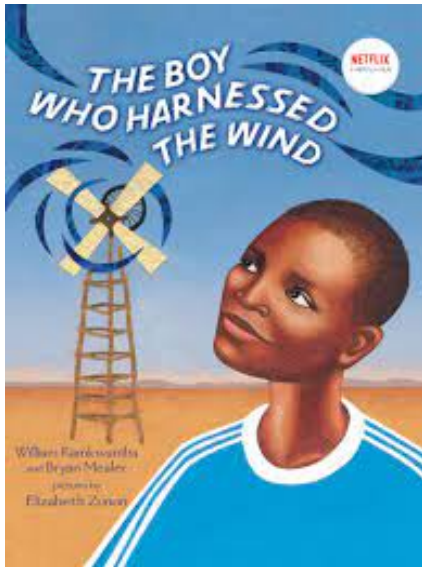
Our fourth grade students will be exploring animal **defense mechanisms** and animal behavior.

The **hidden world of rainforests** will be the learning focus for our fifth grade students as they learn the vast range of biodiversity that can be found in the rainforest biome.

Learning about **perseverance** in the face of adversity and challenges around the world, our sixth graders will dive into a unit focused around the novel, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer.

Seventh grade students will investigate the relevant topic of **epidemics**, while comparing the behavior associated with medical and social epidemics.

Finally, our eighth grade students will be embarking on a **historical expedition** to listen to various voices of the Holocaust. They will tackle the 1960 memoir of Elie Wiesel, *Night*, and the graphic novel, *Maus and I*, by Art Spiegelman.



Science Grades 6-8

Our middle school science classes are continuing on their **investigative journeys** through our new curriculum, Amplify Science.

In sixth grade, students are wrapping up their investigation into the world of spider inheritance and recently created spider offspring that represented the **inherited traits** of the spider parents. Students learned that specific proteins were linked with displayed genetic traits.

The world of **rock formation** and transformation serves as the backdrop for our seventh grade students as they learn about how matter cycling on earth is driven by energy. Students will be

exploring the geologic history of two regions in order to account for the region's similarities.

Our eighth grade students are about to enter their first **engineering internship**, applying what they learned in their force and motion unit. Students will design pods that will be dropped from helicopters to provide aid in disaster regions.



Enjoy the **Holiday Season!**

- Ms. Shannon Iachini

TECH TALKS



How to View Your
Child's Report Card
within Alma



Report Cards

Congratulations to all on a very **successful** first trimester! Families were emailed a digital copy of their child's report card on Friday, 12/3/21. Families also have the ability to view their child's report card in their Alma account under their child's profile. Here is a short [tutorial](#) showing you how to access your child's report card in Alma.

Device Care

Please communicate with your child on the importance of keeping their devices protected and taken care of, especially as devices go back and forth between home and school. Thank you & **Happy Holidays!**

[iPads - Best Practices](#)

[Chromebook - Best Practices](#)

As always, please reach out to it@providentcharterschool.org with any technology needs!

SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kristan Weiss

Kristan has been with PCS since January 2017. Prior to that, she taught Art Education to children in Fort Collins, CO. Her specialty is large-scale abstract acrylic paintings on canvas. Kristan earned her Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree with a focus in Painting at **Carnegie Mellon University**.

During the first trimester in Elementary School, our focus was on **Elements of Art** which includes topics such as colors, shapes, forms, lines, space, and texture.

During the first trimester in Middle School, our focus was on **Principles of Design**, including motion. One of the fun projects the students worked on was creating a Rube Goldberg-inspired sculpture. Students also designed and built ramps, wheels, and tunnels to create a chain reaction with dominoes, marbles, ping pong balls, and tennis balls. It was a whole lot of fun and engaged a number of different skills like engineering, crafting, and working together in a small group!



Autumn Leaves

(L) - Lennox Kreidler
(C) - Alayna Stello
(R) - Annwyl Bockus

Elements of Art

Sophia Collier



Rube Goldberg Project

Moshe Goldberg

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS



Families as Partners with Barbara Wilson

Join us for an evening with Barbara Wilson, author of the Wilson Reading System®. This event has been rescheduled for **Thursday, March 24, 2022, from 6:00-7:00 pm.**

Barbara's presentation will help families better understand how their child is learning to read with this multisensory language program. Barbara will be presenting virtually, but PCS will be hosting this event. You can join us at the school and watch the presentation live or you can watch virtually from home.

Click the button below or scan the QR code to the left to register for this event!

Keep an eye out for more parent events this

spring!



REGISTER HERE

ON THE HORIZON

PCS Expansion

Thank you to everyone who wrote a letter in support of PCS West. Our application for the new school was submitted to the Ambridge Area School District. **A public hearing will be held on January 12 in Ambridge.** We hope to have as many people in attendance as possible and would be very appreciative if you could join us. More information will be forthcoming.

You can also still send a letter of support! Send letters to rowens@providentcharterschool.org.



PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION



PROVIDENT
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- FOUNDATION -

All About the Foundation

Did you know that Provident has a [Foundation](#) and that **you can help**? Making a donation can help our school in the following ways:

- To cover the cost of Wilson Reading Level 1 Certification which costs roughly \$2,000 per teacher
- To purchase materials for our teachers to develop hands-on lessons
- To expand our arts programming which is often the highlight of our students' day
- To purchase taekwondo uniforms, belts, and patches for our students who demonstrate Perseverance, Compassion, and Self-control (PCS)
- To foster a love for reading by putting engaging and relevant books in our students' hands

HOW TO GIVE



Provident Charter School | 1400 Troy Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 412-709-5160

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