

PDS Spirit

The Magazine of Presbyterian Day School



Teacher Feature
Coach Albertine

WINTER 2018



Greg Thompson
A PDS parent working to help restore history



PDS Spirit

WINTER 2018

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A Letter from the Headmaster

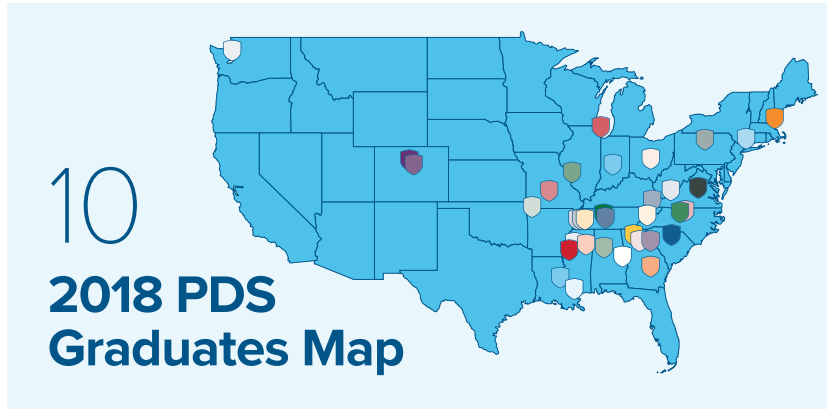


We have had such a great start to this school year. It's hard to believe we are half way through. Our school year began with faculty and staff gathering to focus on community. We spent time together playing and learning. One of our inservice sessions was devoted to social equality and prejudice. Led by two board members, Todd Erickson and Michael Davis, we explored multiculturalism and the potential blind-spots we may have as a faculty. The conversations were powerful and have charted the work we will continue to do this school year and beyond.

As you read this issue of the Spirit magazine, I hope you will look for themes of diversity, social justice, and academic pursuits. At PDS we are not content with resting on our past successes. We are interested in creating a school that glorifies God in all that we do. This ideal takes effort and perseverance. Our boys are the beneficiaries of this commitment, and I thank you for your investment.

Sincerely,

Steve Hancock
Headmaster



New PDS
Faculty

4

New PDS
Board Members

7

12 PDS Fall Breakaway:
Da Vinci Days



Pop Quiz on
Mr. Hancock

24

27 Years of
Technology:
Retiree Cathy Kyle

9



Extracurricular
Activities

25

New Faculty

For the 2018-2019 School Year



What is your favorite outside spot in Memphis?

Shelby Farms

Molly Beard - JK Teacher

Molly Beard returns to PDS after moving away nine years ago. Mrs. Beard has over ten years of experience teaching in Early Childhood education. Molly has an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee and a master's degree in teaching from the University of Memphis. She is glad to be back at PDS!



What is your favorite book from elementary school?

I read so many good books as a child! I loved curling up with a good book, and one of my favorites was *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame.

Diann Belote - Reading Specialist (5th–6th Grades)

Diann Belote joins the PDS faculty after 33 years in elementary and middle school education. She has experience in the areas of language arts, technology, and gifted education. She and her husband, Michael, have always lived and worked in the Memphis area and enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Diann holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education degree in Childhood Literacy from the University of Memphis.



What is your donut order from Gibson's?

Chocolate Glazed

Ann Clark Elmore - Elementary Administrative Assistant

Ann Clark Elmore is a native Memphian. She attended the University of Mississippi where she earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She previously worked at PDS as the Elementary Administrative Assistant and is excited to be returning after staying at home with her three children for a couple of years.



What is your favorite Winter activity?

Rolling down the windows of the car when it's freezing and yelling with the kids "whooh cold!"

Howard Graham - Director of *Building Boys Making Men* & Chaplain

Prior to PDS, Howard served in several executive roles. He also led several startup businesses with his first being an advertising and publishing business while he was still in college at Ole Miss. As a follower of Jesus, he is an active leader, mentor, coach, and volunteer. He has served on the PDS Board as Trustee and Chairman. He currently serves as an Elder at Second Presbyterian Church where he teaches an adult Sunday School class. He is a member of the advisory board for Nathan Street Ministries. He and his wife Kimberley have four children, Elijah (15), Lilly, James (5th), and Parker (PK).



Who is the most famous person you have ever met??

Peyton Manning and Cam Newton

Lauren Riley - Sixth Grade Teacher (English Language Arts)

Lauren Riley, a native of Memphis, has eight years of teaching experience. Prior to joining PDS, Lauren taught sixth and seventh grade English at her alma mater, St. Mary's, for six years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Auburn University and a Master of Education degree from Vanderbilt University. She and her husband Pete have two boys, William (YK) and Andrew. Lauren enjoys reading, running, and spending time with her family.



What is your favorite junk food?

Potato chips. I love the saltiness of them!

Brittany Smith - EDGE Studio

Brittany Smith, a native of Memphis, TN, is excited to be in the PDS family. Brittany has five years teaching experience in Knox and Shelby county schools. Her passion is cultivating an exciting learning environment where boys feel safe to explore and grow. Brittany has a bachelor's degree in Human Growth and Learning from Tusculum College. She is also a loving wife and mother.



What is a fun fact about you?

I taught in another country

Jenna Thornburg - Spanish Teacher

Jenna Thornburg is joining our faculty as the Spanish teacher for grades 3-6. She has lived in Memphis for 24 years and is returning to teaching after time at home with her children. Jenna has six years of experience in the classroom. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish from the University of Memphis and a master's degree in teaching from Christian Brothers University. She also studied the Spanish language at the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca in Spain.



What is one thing people need to know about North Dakota?

I would say that North Dakota's flatlands make for stunning views of the sky, and the landscape of The Badlands is breathtaking.

Danielle Walton - Technology Coordinator

Danielle Walton grew up in North Dakota and graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in 2011. Upon graduating, she relocated to Tennessee to attend Trevecca Nazarene University, where she received a master's degree in 2013. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in education. Danielle has a passion for educational technology and is enjoying working as our Technology Coordinator!



What do you do on the weekends?

Saturday, I usually spend time with my son. On Sundays we go to church, and I sometimes teach Mandarin at a weekend Chinese School.

Yanan (Sunny) Zheng - Mandarin Teacher (Early Childhood)

Sunny Zheng has a Master of Business Administration from The University of Memphis. She spent two years working as a Mandarin teacher in Hong Kong before coming to the United States. Her goals are to teach the Mandarin language, to help boys develop verbal proficiency, and along the way to learn to love and appreciate the Chinese culture.

New Board Members



Ali Chambers

Ali has a deep heart for the Kingdom, the city, and for PDS. He is currently the Lead Pastor at Mosaic Church. His commitment to seeking the welfare of Memphis, primarily through the context of diversity and reconciliation, has led him to also serve on PDS' Young Scholars Task Force. Ali and his wife Anetta have 3 boys. Their youngest two—Samuel (4th) and Benjamin (1st) – attend PDS, and their oldest, Nathaniel, attends Maxine Smith STEAM Academy.



Earl Houston

Earl is married to Lyona, a Memphis native. They have two boys at PDS, Jackson (JK) and Earl (3rd). He is currently a Director with the Memphis Office of Martin Tate specializing in defending transportation and insurance companies. Earl is currently serving on PDS' Young Scholars Task Force. He is committed to helping PDS reflect the city of Memphis and ultimately the Kingdom of God.



Michael Davis

Michael serves as the Teaching Pastor at Downtown Church. He is married to Serena, and they have one son, Michael "MJ" Davis Jr (PK). In 2013, Michael and his family moved from St. Louis to Memphis to serve as the pastoral intern for Second Presbyterian Church, and he has since transitioned into a lead pastoral role at Downtown Church. Michael is urgent about gospel ministry that transforms the hearts and lives of individuals, thus fueling his passion for the *Building Boys Making Men* Program at PDS.



Susan Patterson

Susan is wife to Jared and mother to three PDS boys Will (4th), Clay (4th), and John David (2nd). Susan currently serves on the Teacher's Task Force, one of PDS' Strategic Initiatives. Susan previously served as Annual Fund Chair and is currently the Vice Treasurer of the Parents' Association.

Teacher Feature: Coach Albertine



Coach Palmer Albertine has been at PDS for eight years. During his time here he has served as a PDS coach in physical education, intramural sports, 5th-grade Crusader football and 6th-grade Crusader basketball. He also has invested significant time mentoring 5th- and 6th-grade boys through PDS mentor groups. During the summer he spends his time coaching various PDS sports camps including football camp.

Coach Albertine was born and raised in Memphis and graduated from Rhodes College. He is married to Lauren and has two young sons Palmer (3rd) and Field (PK). He is dearly loved at PDS.

Why do you coach?

During my youth, my dad understood the value of, and utilized, the influence of other adults who had a vested interest in my mental/physical/emotional/spiritual growth. Now, as a father of two boys, I long for the same influences in my sons' lives. The sobering reality of being a parent is realizing that my impact has its limits with my boys. Through coaching, I strive to be a supplemental voice for parents who, like me, also hope to have others help their son fill in the cracks that we as parents might struggle to reach with our boys.

What is great about PDS?

Whether your son enjoys music, theatre, art, math, science, reading, writing, or sports, he will be able to

find community here. The boys at PDS have impressed me over the years, as a coach and parent, by how well they respect and embrace each other's gifts and differences. PDS boys experience a rare combination of having their intellect, heart, and spirit educated by a unique academic curriculum, chapel programs, and the *Building Boys Making Men* program. The result of such an education provides all of our boys with the necessary tools to be respectful, well-rounded young men down the road in life.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not at PDS?

I enjoy spending time with all of my family. That might include the pool, beach, lake, golf, trails, Shelby Farms, movies, and watching LSU or the Grizz.

How does PDS' *Building Boys Making Men* program impact boys?

I'm not sure you can measure the impact of boys meeting together to freely discuss tough, real-life questions and situations. There are a lot of seeds being scattered during these discussions. In addition to the years of love and life lessons given to the boys by their parents, the PDS mentors can only hope that we play an extra role in the cultivation of the boys who are entrusted to us. When they move on from PDS, we hand them the baton and watch them race ahead. From a distance, we watch them run the race God has set before them, and when they fall, not only do we pray they get up, but more importantly, we hope to see another old PDS friend there to help him get back on track.

What is one thing you want all boys to know?

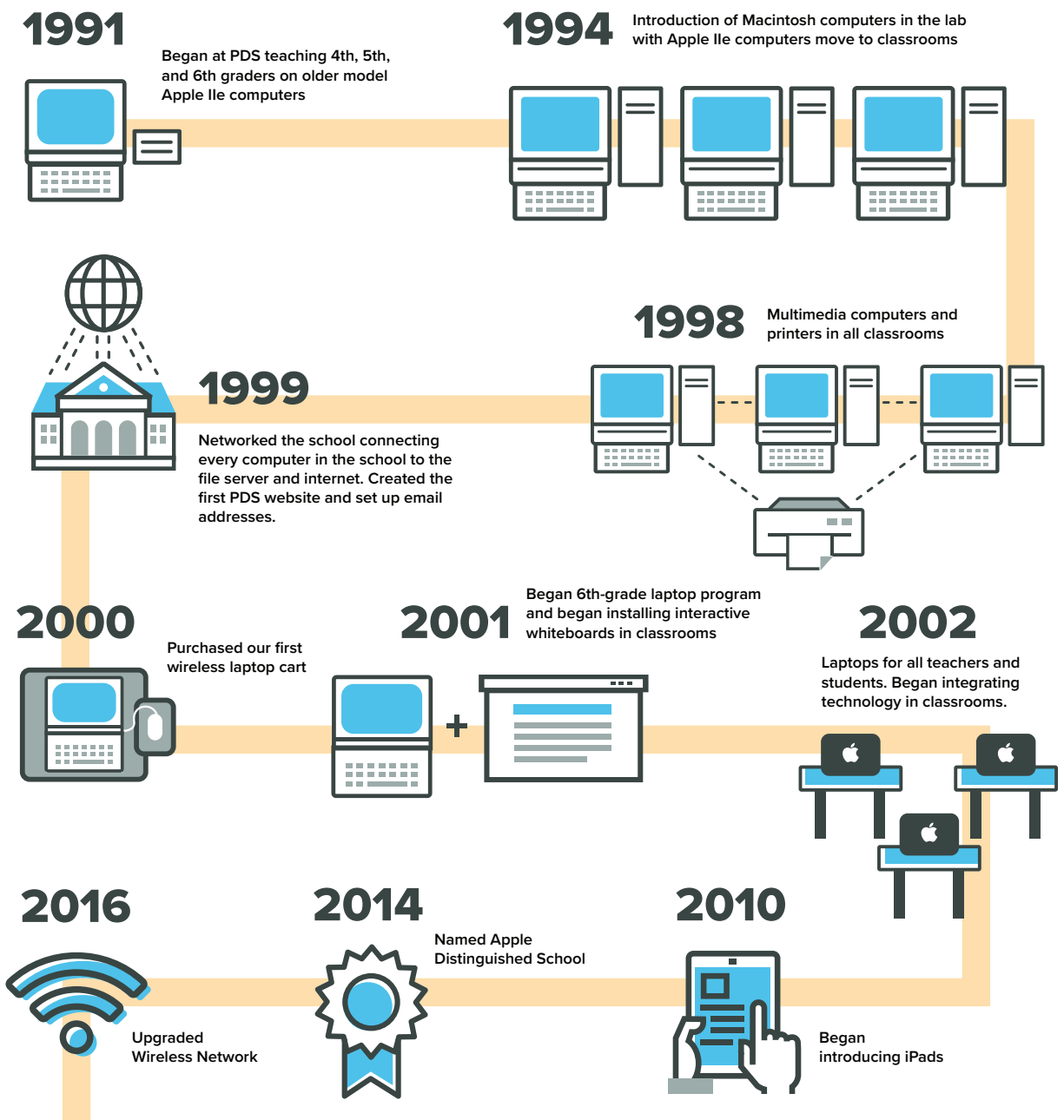
"Being serious is not that important; what counts is knowing what to be serious about."

This is an anonymous quote I stumbled upon in high school while looking for my senior quote. It has become a motto I try to coach, parent, and live by. 🍓

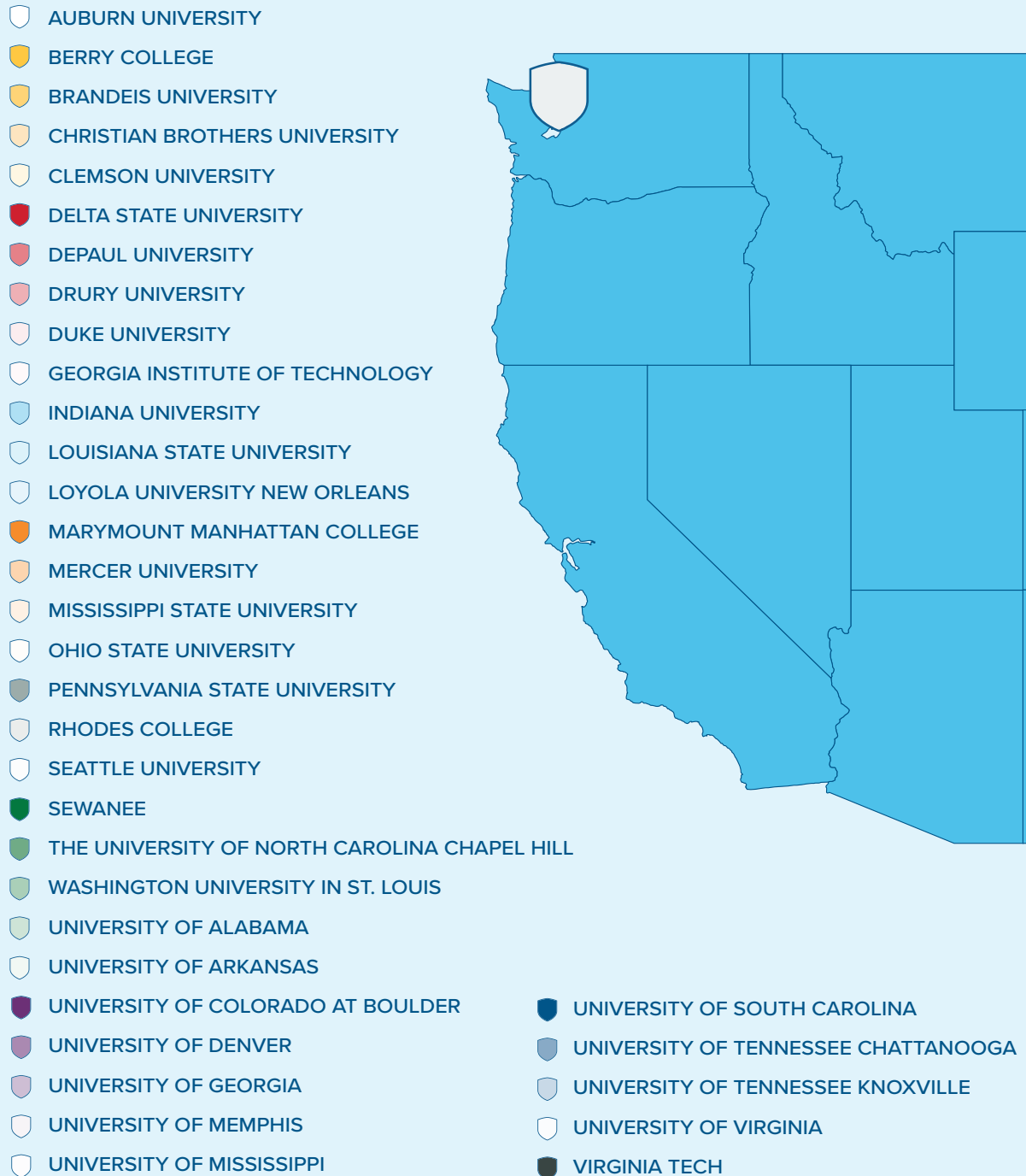
Cathy Kyle: 27 Years of Technology

Longtime teacher and administrator retires after leaving a legacy at PDS

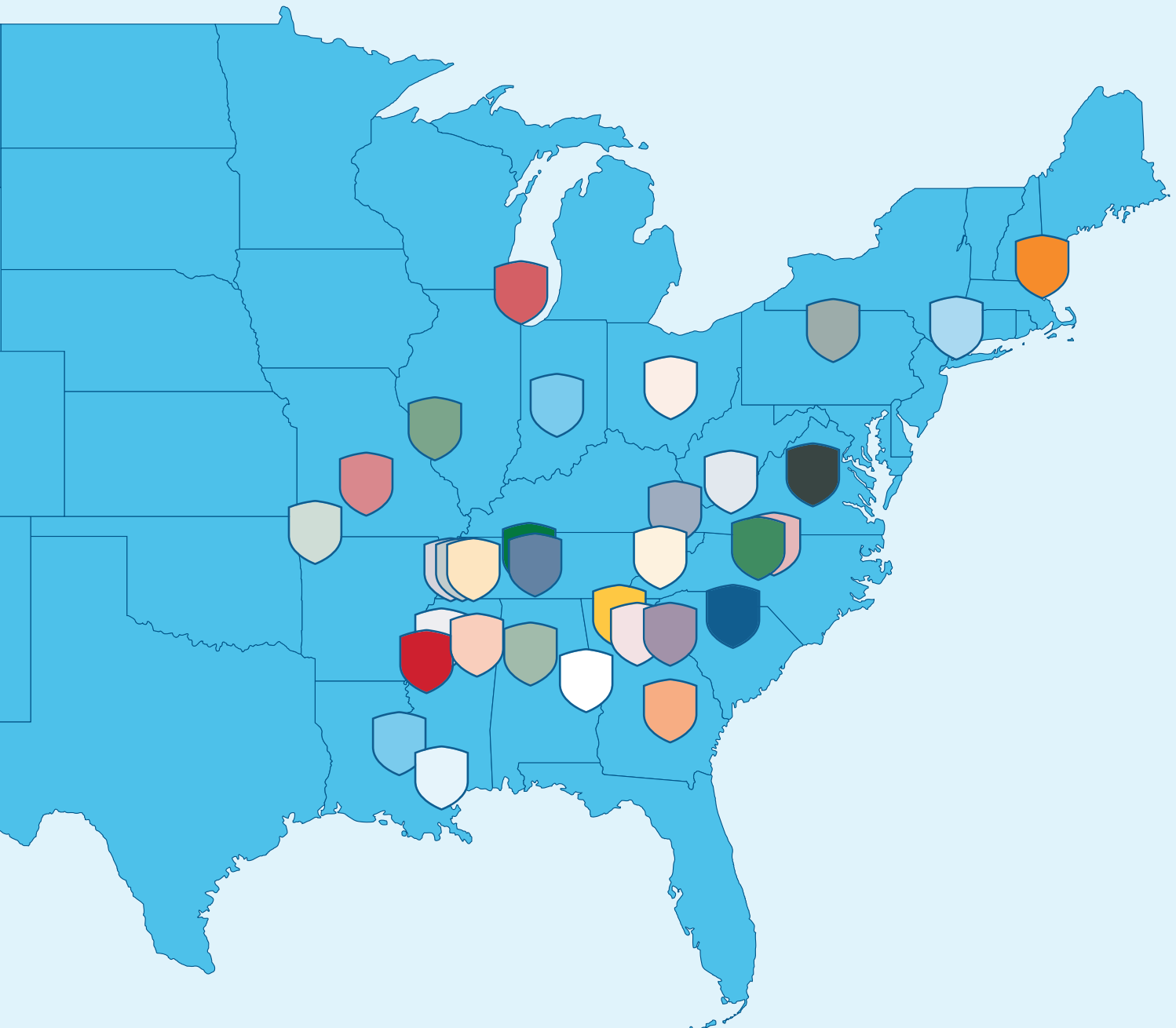
Cathy Kyle began her notable career at PDS in 1991. After her arrival the utilization of technology within the school skyrocketed. PDS would not be where it is today if not for Mrs. Kyle. Although she is no doubt enjoying a well deserved retirement, she is deeply missed by everyone at PDS. 🍎



2018 High School Graduates



This past year, 2018, 68 PDS alumni graduated from high school and scattered to over 35 universities across the country. Collectively they were accepted into more than 60 different schools and received over 2 million dollars in scholarship money. We are so proud of where our boys are today. ▀



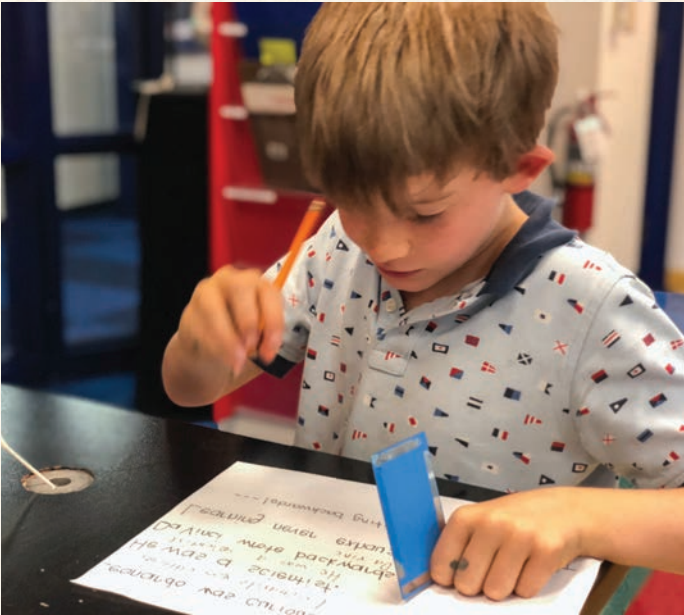
da Vinci days

PDS FALL BREAKAWAY 2018

It's two days before fall break in an all-boys school. Imagine the energy. Our solution to keeping boys engaged in the learning process two days before fall break is to step away from the regular routine and embrace two days of STEAM-infused learning called Fall Breakaway.

This year's Fall Breakaway was inspired by the work of Leonardo da Vinci, a man with extraordinary talents and interests. To kick off our da Vinci Days, PDS boys were invited into da Vinci's workshop and given a challenge: Learn as much as you can about Leonardo da Vinci and become his valued apprentices. Over the course of the two days, PDS boys explored da Vinci's work through the lenses of a scientist, artist, mathematician, musician, engineer, and dreamer.





Leonardo the Scientist

Did you know that da Vinci's notebooks reveal his fascination with water and buoyancy and reveal primitive designs for life jackets and scuba gear? First through third graders took time to study these journal entries and explore materials that sink or float before designing and testing life-saving flotation devices for action figures. Fourth through sixth graders investigated Leonardo's parachute design and considered air resistance as they launched their own egg-carrying parachutes from a second-floor gym track.



Leonardo the Artist

Da Vinci's Mona Lisa might be the most well-known painting in the world, but a little research proves he was more than just a painter. Leonardo was also known to sketch and sculpt as well as explore art with new materials. From painting *The Last Supper* on plaster to sculpting da Vinci's horse to creating Mona Lisa parodies, PDS boys loved tapping into da Vinci's creative mindset as they embraced his love of art.

Leonardo the Mathematician

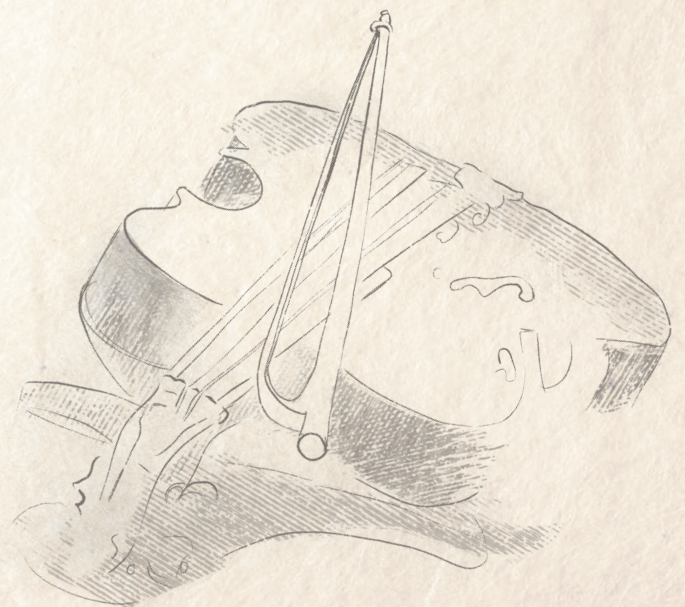
Are PDS boys true Vitruvian Men? Fifth and sixth graders worked together to see if their own body measurements were in line with Leonardo's display of ideal human proportions. As the boys worked through Vitruvius' detailed measurements, it became clear that they still have some growing to do! First through fourth graders explored the mathematical principles of geometry and symmetry while studying Leonardo's notebooks filled with sketches of nature, architecture, and cartography.





Leonardo the Musician

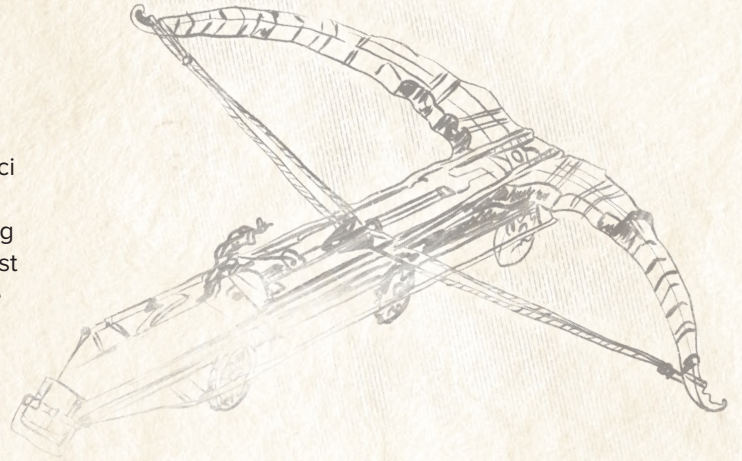
While many quickly identify da Vinci as an artist or scientist, others rarely know of his musical talents. PDS boys were surprised to find out that he was a gifted musician and even spent time sketching plans for a new musical instrument, the Viola Organista. This session called for the boys to design their own musical instruments. Of course, we had access to a bit more technology than Leonardo ever had. From cardboard guitars to banana pianos, this session was LOUD!





Leonardo the Engineer

Catapults, bridges, giant crossbows, and more! Da Vinci was proud of his engineering skills and filled page after page in his notebooks with ideas for improving on existing ideas. He designed at such a quick pace that he didn't test out many of his ideas. That's OK because PDS boys were happy to give several of da Vinci's designs a try!



Leonardo the Dreamer

More than anything da Vinci dreamed of designing machines that would enable humans to fly. He was mesmerized by the flight of birds and produced over 500 designs covering the topic of flight. PDS boys dream, too. They dream of studying the principles of flight while competing in paper airplane contests! Fourth through sixth-grade boys designed airplanes and competed in contests for speed, longest flight, and most rotations while flying. First through third grade also dreamed of flying while exploring Leonardo's designs of the ornithopter (human flying machine) and helical air screw (precursor to the helicopter).

Many great moments took place during this year's Fall Breakaway. The greatest moment, however, was PDS boys discovering that da Vinci's success was not due to his genius but instead his relentless curiosity, willingness to collaborate with others, and his determination to persevere even when his plans didn't work out quite as he had hoped. After two days of serving as Leonardo da Vinci's apprentices, the boys celebrated the close of this year's da Vinci Days with a special treat, Mama D's Italian Ice! They are already dreaming about next year's Fall Breakaway. After all, they have learned to dream like da Vinci. 🍷



CHRIST OUR REDEEMER

“We’re creating a place where activists, writers, planners, educators, all people can come together to create new solutions to social challenges.”



Father and Son Find Heroes in Memphis

By Glenda Henderson

“I’ve been reaching toward this type of career for years,” says Greg Thompson about his new position as Director of Strategy and Research at Clayborn Temple in downtown Memphis. On a family vacation to Lookout Mountain some years back, he bought and read a book about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and realized he’d found his hero. He went on to write his dissertation on Dr. King and the American democratic imagination while getting his PhD in Religion and Ethics at the University of Virginia.

Now he’s working to bring back to life the historic temple that played a pivotal role in Civil Rights Movement as well as in Dr. King’s life and death. The 1968 sanitation workers march to City Hall figuratively and literally started here.

Clayborn Reborn

Greg explains the goal for “Clayborn Reborn” is threefold:

- **Restore the historic space that has been designated as a National Treasure (so far, only 82 in the USA.)**

Already the non-profit has raised \$4 million for the exterior shell. Before that construction begins, they hope to get another \$1.5 million from grants and donations for sanctuary restoration.

- **Re-ignite the social mission.**

“We’re creating a place where activists, writers, planners, educators, all people can come together to create new solutions to social challenges.” The Temple is already home to an active community choir and recently staged an original show written by Greg, *Union: A Musical*. The show is now preparing to hit the road and take the story of Dr. King and the sanitation strike to other communities.

- **Renew the neighborhood and community around the temple.**

The neighborhood surrounding Clayborn Temple was the hub of African-American community in Memphis. “It was a lovely, vibrant Black community. Robert Church, Sr., the first African-American millionaire in the South lived here.”



Greg was senior pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, VA for more than a decade and an Academic Fellow at University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Studies and Culture for almost as long. He is the CEO of Thriving Cities Group, a social impact consulting firm that aligns impact investors and entrepreneurs around shared data and a shared vision for human thriving in their cities. He also serves as Executive Director of New City Commons, an education and consulting firm that equips institutional leaders to nurture thriving communities.

Social Repair

A native of South Carolina, Greg's grandfather was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. "My family was part of the problem. That's one reason I'm working for social repair. We have to go beyond remediation. We have to repair the damage done by slavery and racism."

Greg finds Memphis is complex and interesting. "I like that it's an honest city. Both the problems and the beauty are on full display. Nothing hidden. In Charlottesville, we were supposed to feel lucky to be there because it had a cache of desirability. Here people almost thank us for coming. And they're sincere."

Greg says he's learning a great deal by working with and following local leaders of the Afro-American community. "Memphis is blessed with some very strong leadership."

The move to Memphis is also advantageous to wife Courtney's career. Their new life will allow her more time to focus on her writing. She is currently working on a series of Young Adult novels explaining the Civil Rights Movement to kids.

"My family was part of the problem. That's one reason I'm working for social repair. We have to go beyond remediation. We have to repair the damage done by slavery and racism."



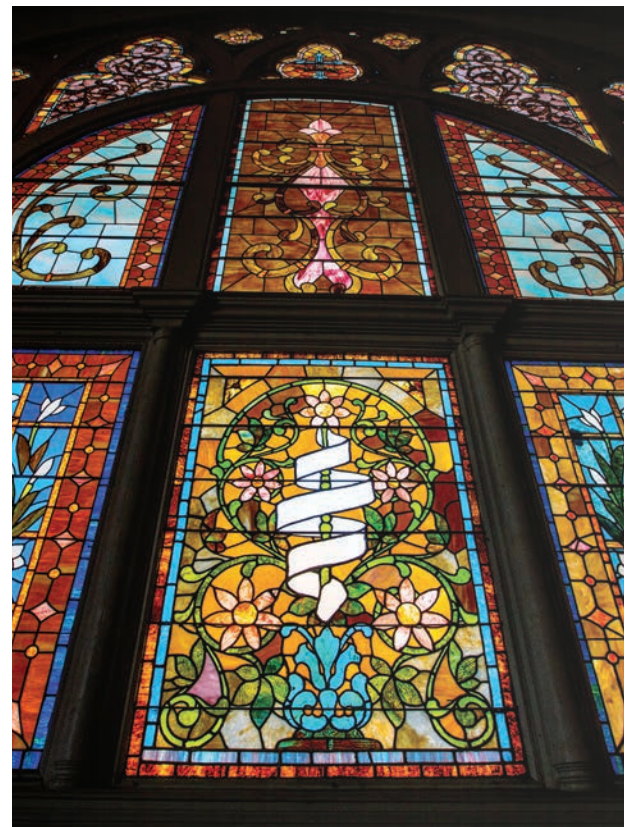


Boy Exposure

Along with Greg and Courtney came 8-year-old Hal who is in the second grade at PDS. They chose our school for boy exposure. “Hal has three older sisters who attend St. Mary’s. We wanted him to be around boys and also the adult men who mentor here,” says Greg. They also like that the curriculum is faith-based. In his old public school, we had to supplement this part of his education but here it’s integrated into his total education.” So far Greg and Courtney are more than a little impressed with PDS academics.

At a recent family supper, Hal explained the accomplishments of Leonardo da Vinci in detail as well as the problems of warring city-states in Renaissance Italy before announcing, “da Vinci really inspires me.” Like his father, Hal may be connecting with a personal hero. 🍷

🔍 *If you would like more information about the Clayborn Temple project, you can contact Greg at greg@claybornreborn.org*





2018-2019 Academic Focus: **How Boys Learn Best**

By Steve Hancock

PDS has some of the strongest Early Childhood and Elementary School teachers around, and they are constantly asking the question “What is best for boys?” as we create our academic program. As experts in the development of young boys, we have decided to focus on three specific areas this year: customization, critical and creative thinking, and experiential learning.

Customization

Our curriculum is robust and constantly changing. PDS' Curriculum Guide can be found at pdsmemphis.org/academics/curriculum, yet this is only part of the story. We believe in evolving the curriculum to meet the needs of the boys at PDS. Our boy-centric approach to teaching makes certain we are looking for methods that tap into the uniqueness of each boy.

Our math program is an excellent example of customization. Each unit of study is broken into eight day segments. During these segments the curriculum is customized to help boys who are excelling and need to go deeper, as well as, the student who might need some extra help and support. With several layers and levels of challenges, there are opportunities to meet the needs of every boy.

Critical and Creative Thinking

PDS has long partnered with Harvard's Project Zero initiative. As one of the only school's in the nation to host a Project Zero workshop outside of Harvard, we have been committed to the principles and ideals of the program for over 15 years. One of the principles of this program is to make thinking visible. Utilizing several different thinking routines, our faculty has been trained in this approach to teaching.

We believe helping our students to think both critically and creatively will set them up for success later in life. A common question is "How can we teach thinking skills?" We want to create in our boys the habits of observing, analyzing, and questioning. Parents may hear their sons talking about thinking routines that happen in the classroom. Routines, such as, "connect, extend and challenge" or "see, think and wonder" are ways in which our faculty help boys develop as thinkers and problem solvers. Through this process, and many others, the PDS boys learn to make the complex more accessible.

Experiential Learning

We understand that boys are experiential in their learning. They want to get in the middle of a problem and get their hands dirty in the process of finding a solution. Our recent focus on STEAM education has

provided many opportunities for the boys of PDS to become very involved in their learning. From our Early Childhood STEAM Days to the very successful Makers Faire, our boys are learning to be creators, problem solvers, and collaborators.

Experiential learning goes beyond STEAM, and we are actively looking for ways to be more interdisciplinary in our teaching. We still realize there is a canon of information that all boys must know which develops from curiosity and exposure. Learning math facts and spelling will never disappear from the curriculum. However, helping boys see the connections between subjects and forming a more interdisciplinary approach to learning is a continued goal for PDS. We are constantly striving for our students to become both "hands-on and minds-on" in their learning.

Our academic program is known throughout the country. The focus and attention we bring to the curriculum through the collaboration of faculty is a model for many. Our goal is to create inquisitive boys who love learning and can transfer this curiosity to all areas of life. We strive to develop our boys in wisdom, stature and in favor for all things academic at PDS. 🍀



🔍 To learn more, check out our online Curriculum Guide: pdsmemphis.org/academics/curriculum



Pop Quiz on Mr. Hancock

How well do you think you know the Headmaster? We asked his mentor group some trivia questions, and now we are asking YOU! Take your best guess and then check your answers at the bottom of the page. Good Luck!

How many instruments does Mr. Hancock play?

- (A) 8 (B) 15 (C) 2 (D) 5

Charlie Gerhart: 2
Tucker Davis: 5

Who is Mr. Hancock's favorite composer?

- (A) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(B) J.S. Bach
(C) Mrs. Hancock
(D) Ludwig van Beethoven

Parker Mednikow: Bach
Tucker Davis: Mrs. Hancock

What is Mr. Hancock's favorite book?

- (A) *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
(B) *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
(C) *A Christmas Carol*
(D) *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Kushal Patel: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

What sport did Mr. Hancock play in college?

- (A) Football (B) Tennis (C) Soccer (D) Pingpong

Cooper Solburg: tennis

ANSWERS:

(A) 8 Stringed Instruments (B) J.S. Bach (D) *To Kill a Mockingbird* (B) Tennis

After School Spotlight

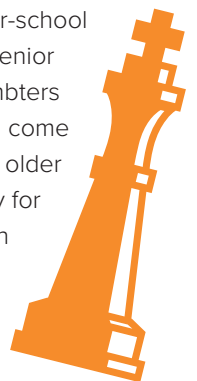
There are many activities going on at PDS after school. We sat down with 3 of them to give you a glimpse of what happens after the final bell. Different opportunities are offered year round. Intramural football, chess club, and band are 3 of the activities that have been in full swing this Fall. Along with skill, these activities teach confidence, hard work, cooperation, humility in both winning and losing as well as opening up the door for a sincere bond to form between the boy and the teacher/coach pouring into him. There are so many options throughout the year that each boy is sure to find his place and develop a skill that will follow him the rest of his life. ●



Chess



Chess club is offered as an after-school adventure starting as early as Senior Kindergarten. High School members of the White Station chess team come to teach twice a week, once for older boys and then again specifically for SK. Each PDS boy comes in with different skill levels. The high school helps teach beginners as well as help experienced chess players hone their skill.





Band



PDS is home to a stellar band program. Boys can join the band in 5th grade and choose from a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. There are 2 bands offered every year. The 5th graders are members of the Beginning Band, and the 6th graders are in the Crusader Band. In both bands the boys learn a variety of concert band music as well as pep songs to be played at the student vs. faculty basketball game. There are over 50 boys involved currently, and according to band director Stephanie Hancock they are “full of talent.”





Football

We know boys. Boys love to compete. 4th, 5th and 6th grade boys who choose to play, are all divided into several teams per grade. They have practices during the week, and then once a week each team will have a game against another PDS team. The boys receive support from their teachers, parents and other boys in the crowd!

The PDS coaches are heavily invested in these intramural teams. More importantly, they are invested in each boy that plays. They strive for excellence through an encouraging environment that pushes the boys to develop skill and do their best.





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PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL
STRIVES TO GLORIFY GOD BY
DEVELOPING BOYS IN WISDOM
AND STATURE AND IN FAVOR
WITH GOD AND MAN

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 & LUKE 2:52