



PROVIDENT
CHARTER SCHOOL

January 2025

PCS FAMILY FLYER



Important Info:

- 2024-2025 School Calendar
- Friday, January 31st is a half day.
- Friday, February 14th is a half day.
- No school on Monday, February 17th.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Open Enrollment

Did you know.....Enrollment for the 25-26 school year opens February 1, 2025! While you may think that most people hear about us by seeing the PCS billboards around the city, or by talking with their child's pediatrician or counselor.....*the most common way* others learn about our school is by talking to *you* - family members of already enrolled students! PCS West continues to enroll students this year in grades 1-5 and will accept applications for students in grades 1-6 for next year. PCS Central will be enrolling new students in all grades to fill any open seats we have available. When you talk about us, please keep our mission in mind; we exist to serve students with dyslexia, or other language based learning challenges.

If any of you feel like you visit places where you could post our flyers or display our rack cards, please let me know and we will get you these items to share. (These include, community centers, sports complexes, any professional service provider's office, any community bulletin board, etc.)

I would also ask that you continue to share posts via social media. This is a huge way you can support us and our mission.

National School Choice Week - January 26-31

Ten years ago there were not many options for families who obtained a diagnosis of dyslexia for their child. Services in western PA simply did not exist and trained private practitioners were few and far between. The fact that you have the option to send your child to a school like PCS is truly a gift. Visit <https://schoolchoiceweek.com/about/> to learn more about this celebratory week.

Our students will participate in a drawing/writing activity to express what they love about their school, and you may notice a yellow school choice scarf coming home.

Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee Parent Members Wanted

Every three years the PA Department of Education requires schools to engage in comprehensive planning; parents/family members and community members are desired members of the planning team. Read more about the process [here](#).

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Mehndyi Gbadyu at mgbadyu@providentcharterschool.org

Basically, the PDE Comprehensive Plan is a school's "roadmap for success." It's a detailed plan that outlines how the school or district will improve student learning over the next few years. This plan is created with input from teachers, parents, and community members, and it focuses on things like:

- Identifying student needs: What are the biggest challenges facing our students?
- Setting goals: What do we want our students to achieve?
- Creating action plans: How will we help our students reach those goals?
- Tracking progress: Are we making a difference?

The graphic below represents a simplified, at a glance view of what the last planning committee identified as goals for PCS to focus on. Our professional learning sessions for teachers and all staff over the past three years have been guided by these high level desired outcomes, and there have been specific goals and action steps related to each of the descriptors.

Beginning in February and continuing through April there will be several Comprehensive Planning meetings scheduled immediately afterschool 4:00-5:30 pm. Dates are listed below.

Family members can participate virtually, although attending in person would be preferred, as groups will engage in various breakout sessions. I will host at least one virtual, parent/family only session in the middle of

the process, so even if you cannot attend all of the other afterschool meetings, you can at least attend/listen in to the virtual session. **At a minimum, all family members will be asked to complete a survey that will be an important part of the needs assessment.**



Steering Committee Comprehensive Planning Meeting dates:

February 20th, February 27th, and March 20th
4:00-5:30 pm @ PCS Central - (in person or virtual)

General Parent/Family Virtual Meeting (intended for ANY PCS family member to provide input regarding the comprehensive planning process)

Wednesday, March 12th 7- 8 pm

-Mrs. Maria Paluselli, CEO

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Winter has arrived! Thank you for your understanding as we utilize Flexible Instructional Days to ensure continued learning. Remember to return completed FID packets to your child's teacher within 7 days for attendance credit if your child was unable to join virtually.

Please keep in mind that regular school attendance is crucial for student success. Consistent presence in the classroom allows students to fully engage in learning, build strong relationships with teachers and peers, and develop essential academic, social, and emotional skills.



Here's why regular school attendance is crucial:

- **Missed Instruction:** Every class covers important concepts and skills. Absences can lead to gaps in learning that can be difficult to catch up on.
- **Disruption to Learning:** Missing school can disrupt a student's learning momentum and make it harder to stay engaged in class.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** School provides opportunities for social interaction and emotional growth. Absences can limit these crucial experiences.

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable due to illness. However, please prioritize your child's education whenever possible.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff members who recently joined us at PCS.

- Ms. Mary Schmitt, Grade 3 Teacher
- Mr. Ethan Putt, Grade 6 Math Teacher
- Mrs. Jamie Druga, Grade 5 ELA/Social Studies Teacher
- Ms. Sara Hilty, (our Building Substitute) will be in for Mrs. Neurohr, an Interventionist, while she is on maternity leave.

These educators bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our school. Please join me in welcoming our new colleagues to PCS. We are excited to have them as part of our school family!

Students have been showing perseverance working in the Makerspace by creating projects that tie in with the curriculum such as:

- Second graders are delving deeper into their Science lessons by creating plaster casts of fossils.
- Sixth graders are reviewing circuits and gearing up for a creative project where they'll sew Punnett Square monsters.
- Fourth graders are developing essential skills like using drills while embarking on a project showcasing animal adaptations through shadow boxes.
- Third graders are about to embark on an exciting project: crafting Aztec-inspired floating gardens.

Even with winter weather interruptions, we still have many wonderful activities happening! Stay warm!

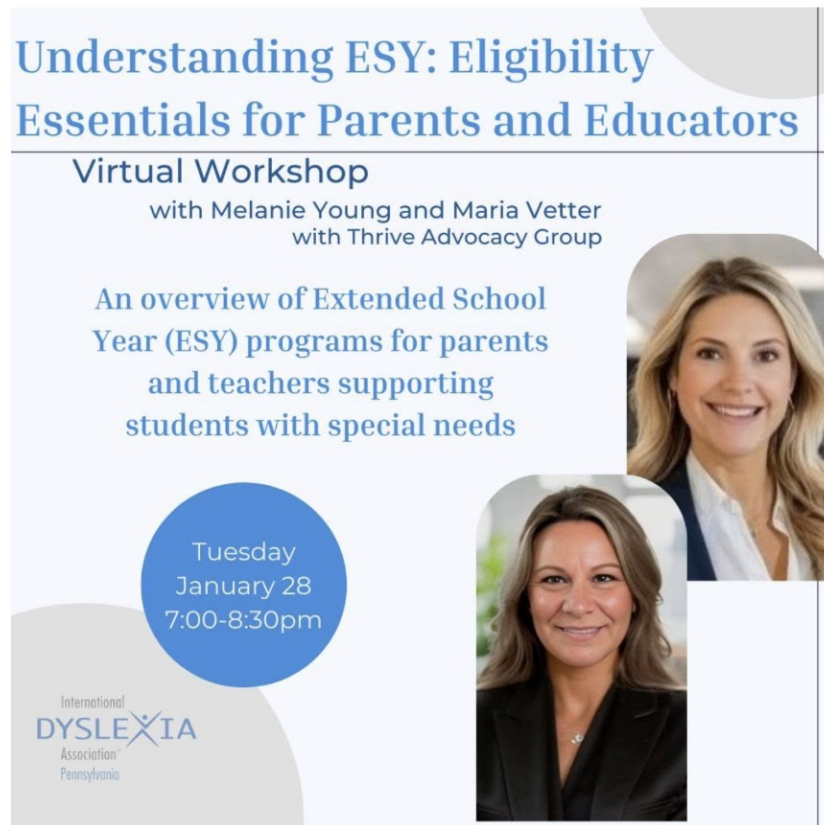
UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 28th - PBIDA is hosting a virtual workshop titled:
Understanding ESY: Eligibility Essentials for Parents and Educators**

Virtual from 7:00-8:30pm

For more information visit PBIDA's website -

<https://pa.dyslexiaida.org/event/understanding-esy/>



**January 29th - FREE Family Movie Night featuring "The Wild Robot"
@ PCS West**

Time: 6:30pm

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/iXbP4pLoYB9weaLv8>



February 20th - Messiah University's 2025 Humanities Symposium will host a virtual keynote address featuring reading expert Dr. Maryanne Wolf

Virtual at 7:00pm

For more information visit -

https://messiah.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMgk440bR3grc34

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Maryanne Wolf

**“Deep Reading’s Contributions
to Humanity in a Digital Culture”**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025
7 p.m.**

Maryanne Wolf is a scholar, teacher and advocate for children and literacy around the world. She is currently the director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners and Social Justice at UCLA in the School of Education and Information Studies. She has written more than 170 scientific publications, including “Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital Culture” (12 translations; HarperCollins, 2018). Wolf is also the creator of the RAVE-O Intervention Program for all struggling readers and has received multiple awards for her contributions to the neuroscience of reading. Most recently, she was elected a permanent member of the Pontifical Academy of Science.

to register visit
messiah.edu/cphysymposium



For more information, please contact:
Peter Powers, director
ppowers@messiah.edu

Denise Brown,
administrative assistant
dlbrown@messiah.edu
717-766-2511, ext. 2025

This is a virtual event.
No tickets will be issued.
Register here



February 23rd - Legally Blonde, Jr. *The Musical*

Times: Performances at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Location: Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Ticket Link: <https://cur8.com/26048/project/128372>

PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL PRESENTS:

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

JR.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 2025
AT 2:00 PM AND 6:00 PM
\$10 PER TICKET



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