



PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL *of the* ARTS

Thank you for joining today's Virtual Information Session!
We'll get started shortly.

PSOTA





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PSOTA





PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL *of the* ARTS

THE TEAM

Our Team



TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Angelica Jackson,
Cofounder and *CEO*

Jasmine Bateman,
Principal

Bryan Hill,
Assistant Principal



Virtual Information Session

- ★ Welcome Remarks
- ★ PISOTA Overview
- ★ Program of Study:
Academics, Arts, SEL, and Culture
- ★ Day-in-the-Life
- ★ Enrollment Information
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Food Services
- ★ School Building
- ★ PISOTA is Distinctly Different
- ★ Q & A
- ★ Closing Remarks



Story of PISOTA

mission

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) inspires and prepares the next generation of global artists, innovators, leaders, and scholars to use their intrinsic gifts to make the world a better place. PISOTA provides a supportive learning community that promotes creative exploration, global competence and bilingualism, holistic wellness, learning enriched by real-world experiences, and access to experts - all combined with arts-integrated teaching practices, inquiry-based international curriculum, and the latest in technology and innovation.



The first-approved public charter school in Charles County, MD - April 2021



Opening school year 2023-2024



School designed with the community through several pilots and design sessions



PISOTA



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What is a Public Charter School?

- ❑ Public school-of-choice, no tuition (no admissions tests to enroll)
- ❑ Lottery-based enrollment due to the smaller school size
- ❑ Mission-specific
- ❑ Accountable to the Maryland State Department of Education, Charles County Board of Education, and the Charles County community
- ❑ Teachers are part of the local teachers union



Charter Schools in Maryland

- Maryland charter schools are public schools operated by independent nonprofit organizations.
- The charter is awarded by the local board of education and grants the school more operational autonomy than non-charter (traditional) public schools.
- Public charter schools are tuition-free and open to all students.
- LEAs manage the application, renewal, and revocation/closure processes in a similar manner to traditional nonpublic schools, while honoring the autonomy in the respective charter agreements.



District Oversight

Family & Comm Support

Partnerships with community and families

Business & Management

Financial resources and sound business decision-making

School Climate

Inclusive of staff, families, and students

Governance & Mngmt

Board composition and competency

Student Services

S/E learning, extra-curricular, health services, etc.

Instructional Programs

Educational options and programs



Operational Compliance

Compliance of charter agreement and application



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SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Our School



Meet Our SCHOLARS AND STAFF

Our Impact

BY THE NUMBERS

In just two years open, our community consists of

659

Students
served

75

Alumni

35

Team members
and new jobs created

25+

Community
partnerships
supporting local small
businesses and peer
nonprofit organizations

STUDENT, STAFF, AND CAREGIVER PERSPECTIVES

Click the names below to access their videos.



MICHAELA, FOUNDING SCHOLAR



MS. P, WORLD LANGUAGE



CULLEN, FOUNDING SCHOLAR



DONOVAN, FOUNDING SCHOLAR

KEY DESIGN PILLARS



- Excellence in A3: Academics, Arts Instruction + Arts Integration



- Global Competence, Leadership and Bilingualism



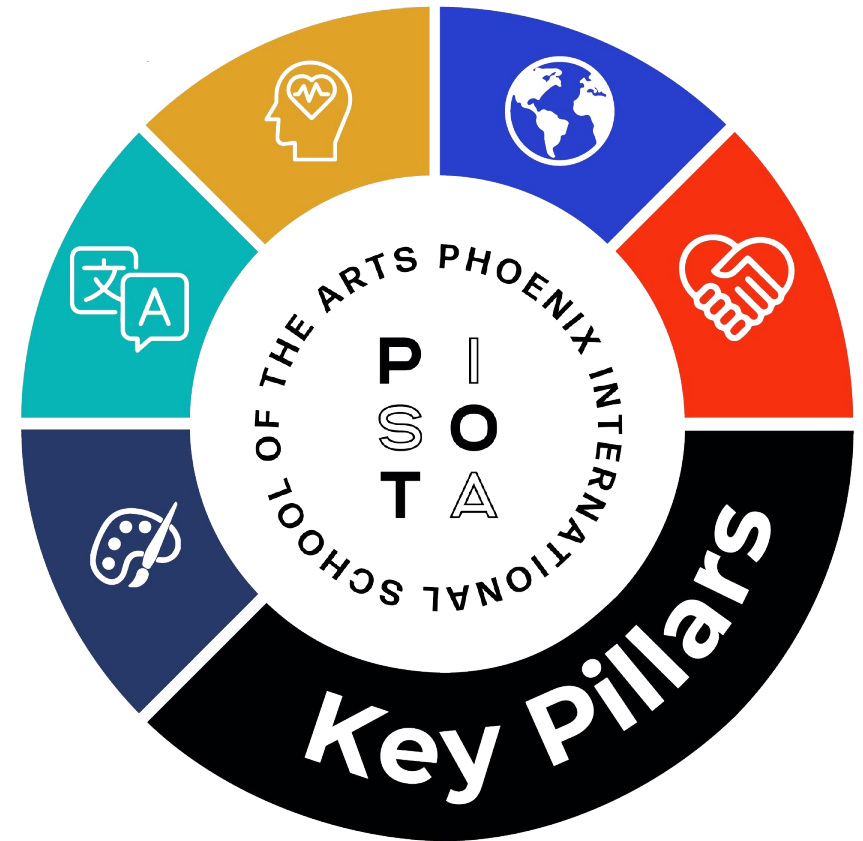
- Mental Health and Holistic Wellness



- Real-World Experience and Access to Experts



- Community Uplift



OVERVIEW: MISSION + VISION

MISSION

Inspire and prepare the next generation of global artists, scholars, innovators, and changemakers to use their intrinsic gifts to make the world a better place. For 6th - 12th grade students in Charles County, MD. PISOTA will provide a supportive learning community that promotes creative exploration, global competence and bilingualism, holistic wellness, learning enriched by real-world experiences, and access to experts - all combined with arts integrated teaching practices, an inquiry-based international curriculum, and the latest in technology and innovation.

VISION

We envision a generation of informed and highly capable youth taking equal stake in the global economy and community no matter their background. We believe in youth rising above their circumstances and soaring to their greatest potential.

WE RISE.

Scholar Perspectives

Makayla Garcia, Founding Scholar and PISOTA Alum



Scan to Apply to PISOTA - apply.avela.org/pisota





Academics & Arts

Middle School Courses

Academics at PISOTA



Academic Offerings

Math

Science

English Language Arts (ELA)

Social Studies

Technology

Health

Global Perspectives

Physical Education

Modern World Language

PISOTA CURRICULUM

Our core subject curriculum is Cambridge International Curriculum.

Key Curricular Components

Project-based

Active collaboration

Inquiry-driven

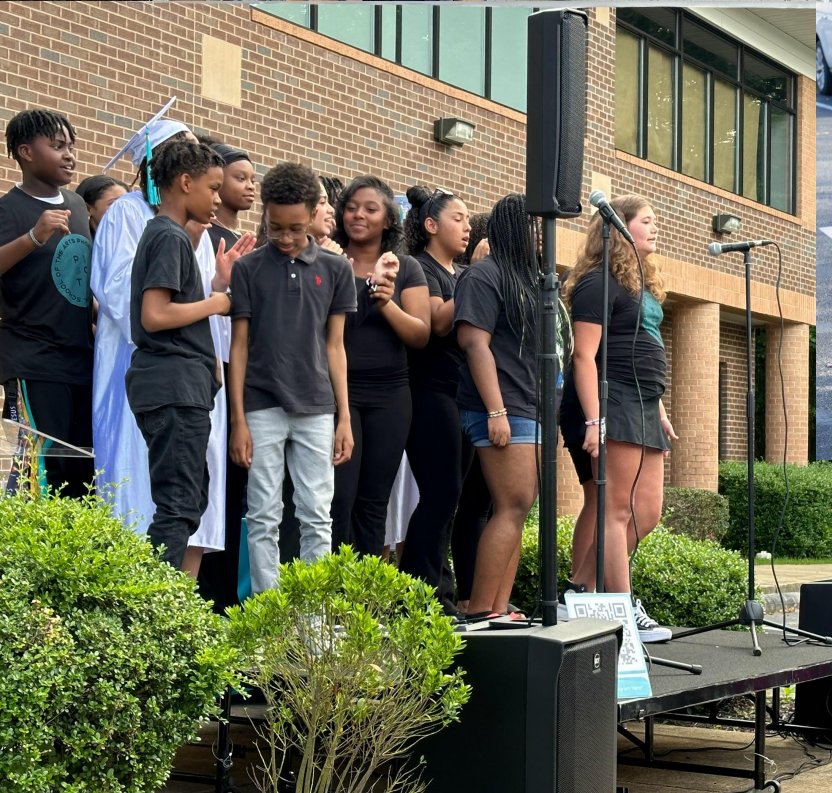
Focus on Habits of Character

Cambridge International School

- ❑ Differentiation to support all learners
- ❑ Prepares students for high school and meets Charles County Public Schools' curriculum requirements
- ❑ Support for multilingual learners

Twice Exceptional & Neurodivergent Learners

Special Education services are offered through Charles County Public Schools. PISOTA's vision for inclusion of all student groups is that **every student**, no matter their learning needs, background, and prior academic attainment, have the full range of services and support that they need to achieve academic excellence and thrive as a person, professional, and beneficent community member.



Arts at PISOTA

PISOTA approaches school through a critical arts lens at a significant transition point in youth development - pre-adolescence - by leveraging artistic expression as a transformative tool for learning, healing, and social change. Key aspects include:

Pedagogical Framework:

- Arts integration across core subjects enhances cognitive development and critical thinking

Healing and Wellbeing:

- Creative expression builds resilience and positive self-concept
- Collective art experiences foster belonging and peer support

Academic Impact:

- Higher engagement and attendance in arts-integrated programs
- Improved performance across subjects, particularly reading and math
- Enhanced executive function and memory through multimodal learning

Social Justice Applications:

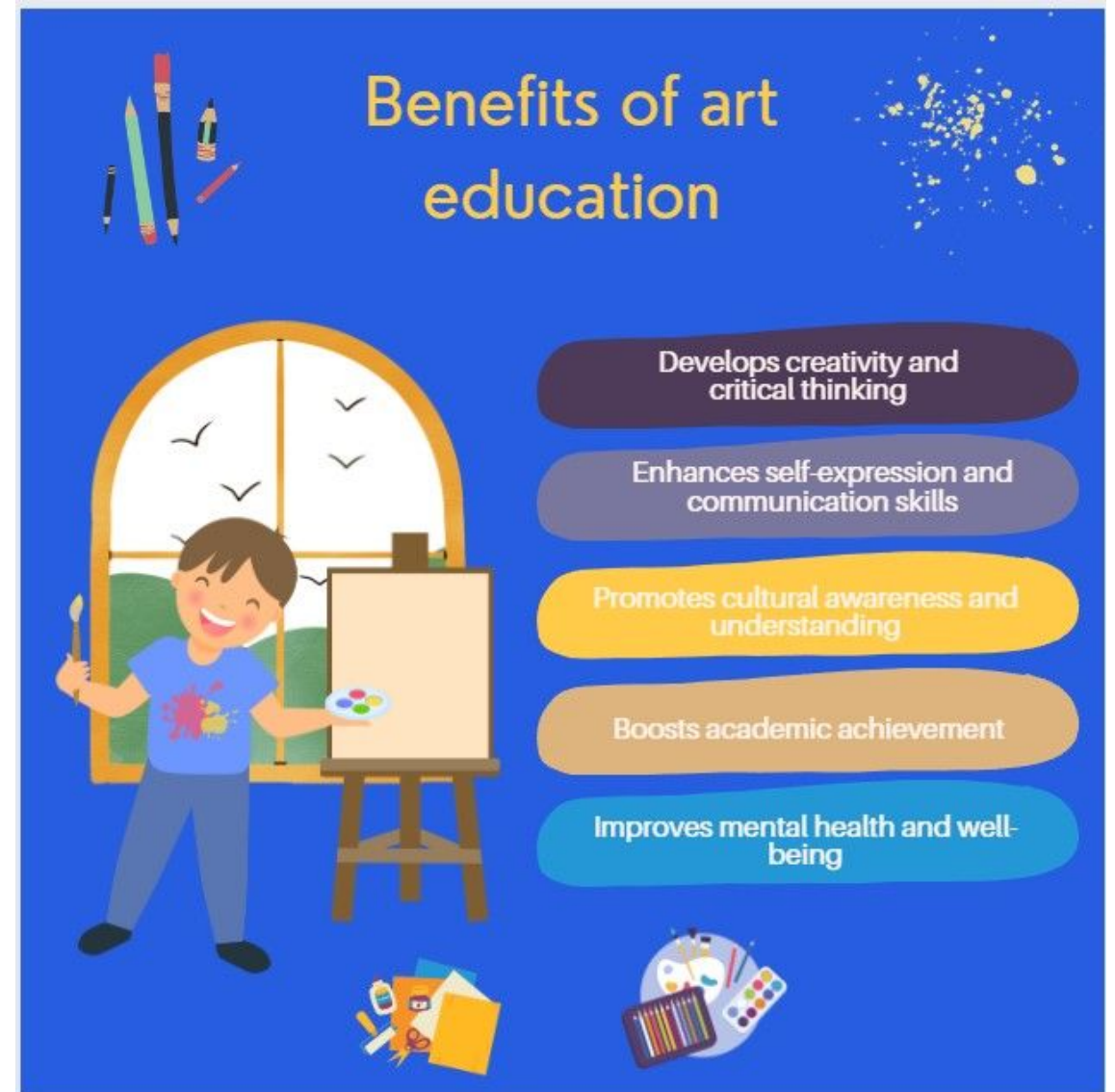
- Art as tool for examining power structures and inequities
- Student-led creative activism addressing community challenges

This approach frames arts not just as subjects to study, but as essential practices for personal growth, academic achievement, and social transformation.

Arts Pathways at PISOTA

1. Visual Art (focus on drawing, art history, and digital art)
2. Dance (all genres)
3. Theatre (intro to theatre, acting, stage production)
4. Instrumental Music - band and orchestra (band, music theory, keyboarding)

*subject to change



Benefits of art education

Develops creativity and critical thinking

Enhances self-expression and communication skills

Promotes cultural awareness and understanding

Boosts academic achievement

Improves mental health and well-being



GLOBAL ARTISTS,
INNOVATORS, AND
CHANGEMAKERS.



Secure Base of Support

Family/Kin

Loved Ones

PISOTA Secure Base of Support

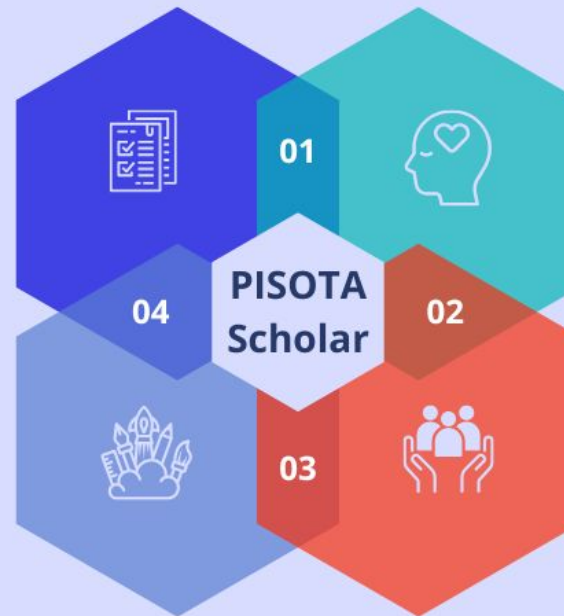
Academic Support

- Teachers & Instructors
- Crew Leader
- School Counselor
- Special Education Team
- Digital Supports (IXL, Thinkverse, Muzology)

Creative

Development

- Arts Instructors
- Performance Groups
- Creative Workshops
- Industry Experts



Mental Health Support

- School Counselor
- PM Kidz Partnership
- School Psychologist
- Crew Leader

Community Support

- PTSO + Parent Cafe
- Community Partners
- Mentorship Programs (Stella's Girls)
- Cultural Organizations

Crew as 2nd
Family Unit

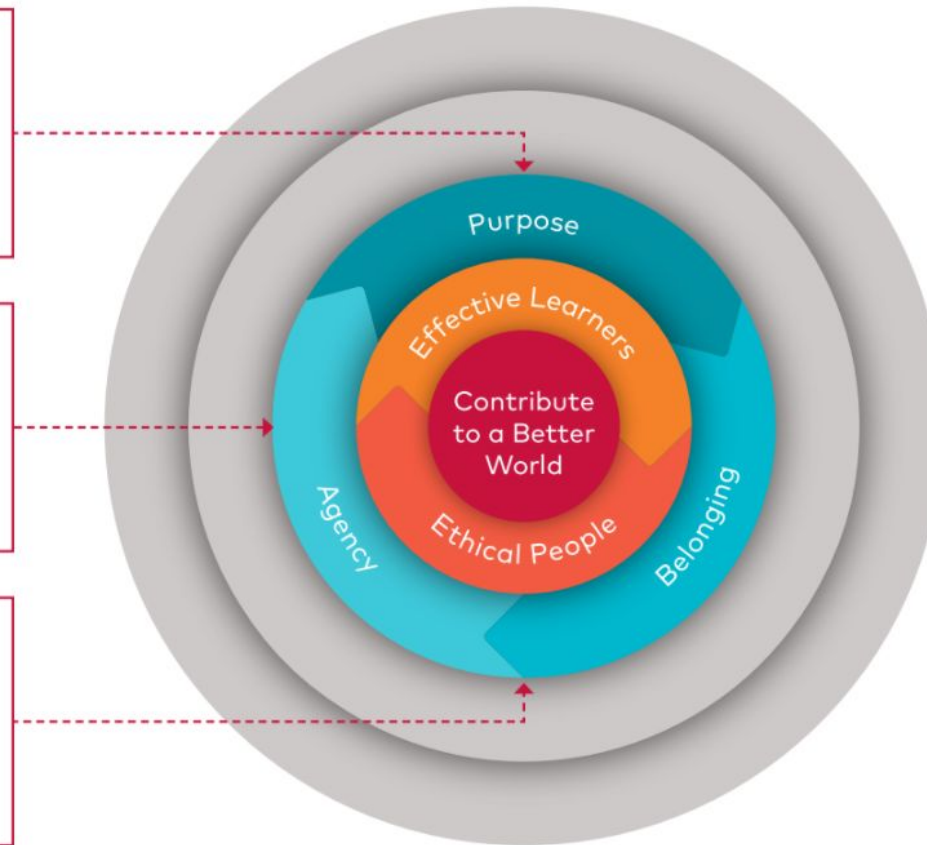
Mentors

FOUNDATION OF SEL: CREW

Students develop a larger sense of **PURPOSE** through engagement in challenging, meaningful learning experiences. They take on work that matters to their community: "getting smart to do good."

Students have **AGENCY**; they are empowered to take responsibility for their own growth and act as leaders with their peers. Students are active citizens, advocating for equity in their school, community, and society.

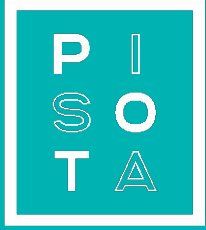
Students—all students—have a **SENSE OF BELONGING** as a valued part of an inclusive learning community. Students can bring their full identities to school.



[EL Education](#)

PISOTA Family Engagement: Charge to Parents





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PISOTA Family Engagement

Investment of time, care, and nurture **in and out of school**

PISOTA Family Engagement



- ❑ PTSO
- ❑ Family Representatives on organization Board of Trustees
- ❑ Family Advisory Board
- ❑ Arts-specific family events
- ❑ Parent University and Parent Cafe'
- ❑ Regular Communications
- ❑ Arts-specific parent/guardian Crews

Extracurriculars

Based on student interest

Middle School Tournament Sports

Student Government

Phoenix Elite Drill Team (Majorette/Step)

MESA

Chess

National Junior Honor Society

Yearbook Club

Identity-based Affinity Groups

Performance Ensembles (dance, band)

All-County Performance Ensembles

Sample of PISOTA Community Partners

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



Candace Dillard Bassett



CAMELBACK
ventures

The PISOTA Difference

- Keen focus on multilingual proficiency starting in 6th grade
- Intentional social-emotional learning (SEL) and character development
- Mentoring, empowerment, and identity celebration through the arts
- Close-knit school environment
- Globe is the classroom
- Arts education, every day



Day-in-the-Life

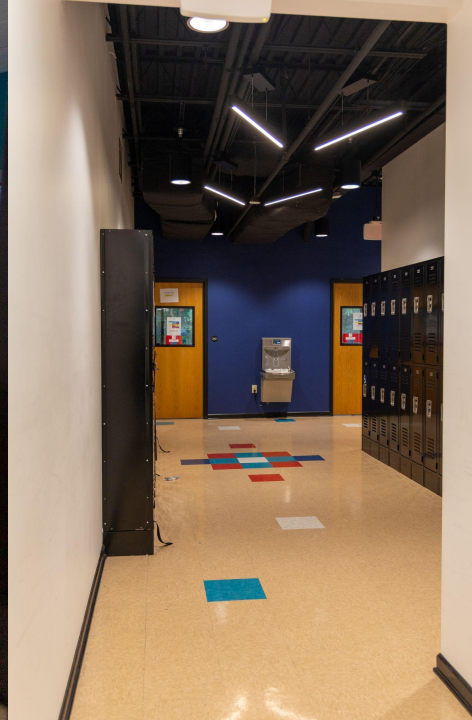
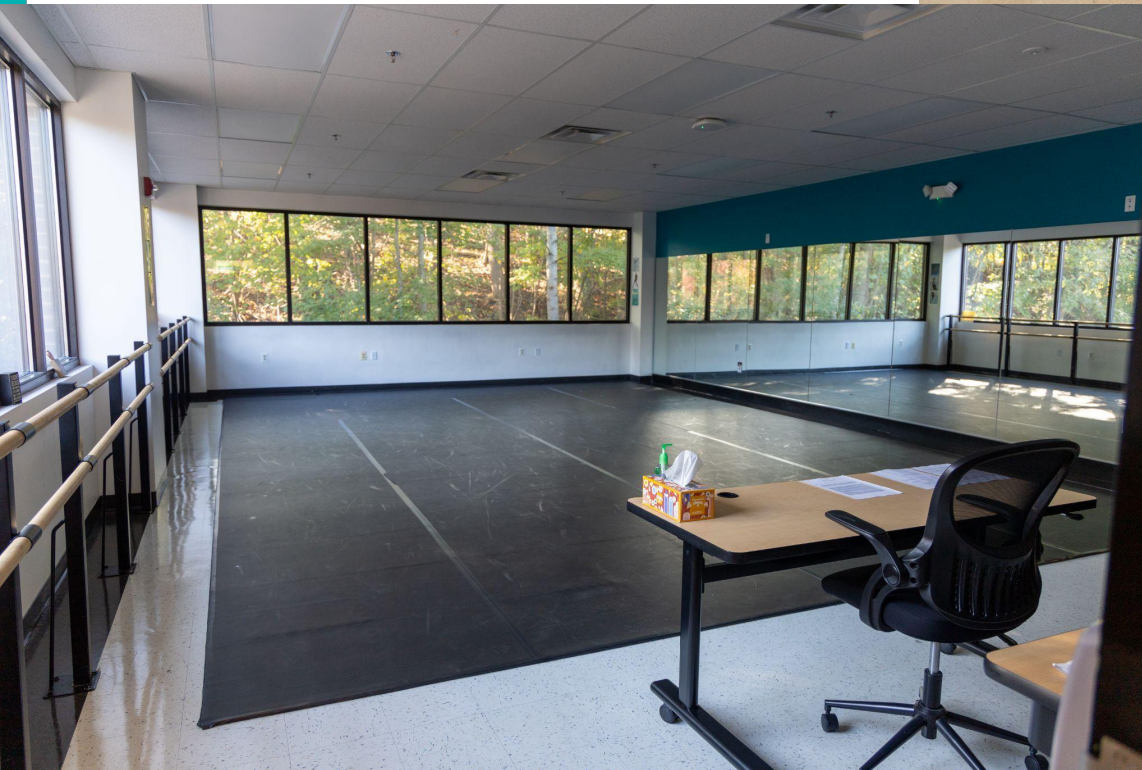
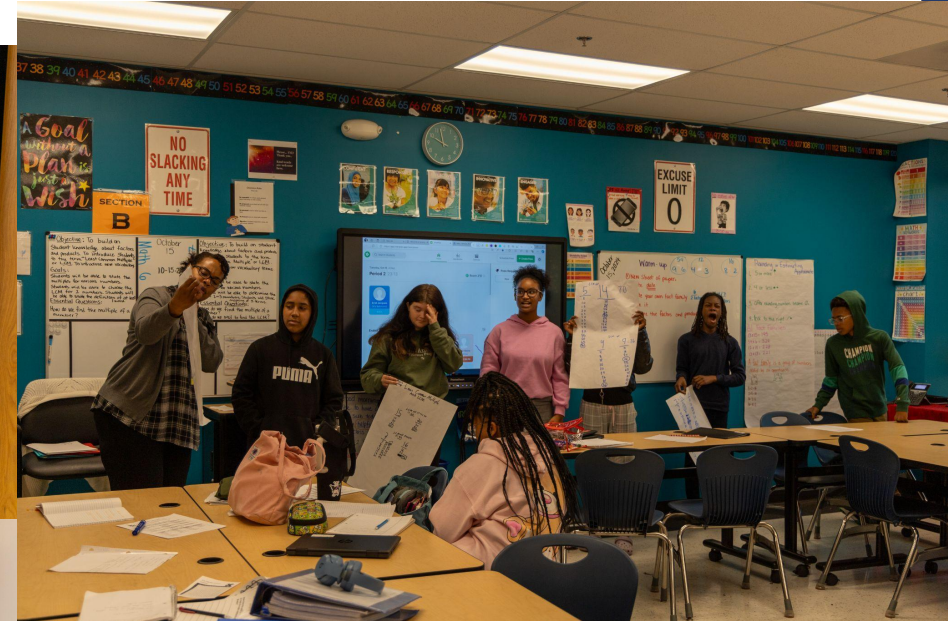
BY THE NUMBERS

- **180 school days**
- **English/Language Arts (not including Arts Conservatory literature):** approximately 270 minutes (4.5 hours) per week
- **Mathematics:** approximately 290 minutes (4.8 hours) per week
- **Science:** approximately 290 minutes (4.8 hours) per week
- **World Languages:** approximately 300 minutes (5 hours) per week
- **History (not including Global Perspectives):** approximately 180 minutes (3 hours) per week
- **Global Perspectives:** approximately 120 minutes (2 hours) per week
- **Arts Discipline (not including arts-integration in core subjects):** approximately 300 minutes (5 hours) per week

Facility in La Plata



Transportation is currently offered through CCPS Bus System, but could be subject to change.





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ENROLLMENT

Enrollment Information



Enrollment: Important Dates

Enrollment at Phoenix International School of the Arts is based on a fair and equitable system that provides for an Open Enrollment period; a lottery, if necessary; and a waiting list.

SY 2026 - 2027

- **Open Enrollment Period** - Oct. 21, 2025 at Noon - Nov. 24, 2025 at Noon

The Open Enrollment period is a designated period prior to the start of each school year when parents/guardians can complete an enrollment application for each new scholar desiring to attend PISOTA.

- **Waiting List Opens** - Nov. 24, 2025 at 12:01 PM EST

Applicants who are not randomly selected for enrollment through the lottery process will be placed on a grade-specific waitlist based on the lottery results.

- **Lottery (if needed)** - Dec. 11, 2025

The lottery is an electronic system that randomly identifies students for enrollment.

- **Lottery Offers Close** - Dec. 29, 2025

Families selected through the digital lottery, must accept their spot by February 9, 2025 prior to 11:59 PM. After this date, the lottery offers will close and the families on the waiting list will begin receiving offers on a first come, first served basis.

Enrollment: Placement Auditions + Portfolio Review

To aid in the class schedule creation process and to ensure scholars are placed in the correct level for their arts pathway courses, we are implementing placement evaluations and portfolio reviews.

- Who is this for? Scholars selected in the lottery
- When? Appointments will be scheduled beginning Jan. 25 - Feb. 22
- Instrumental, Vocal, Acting, and Dance will complete a performance evaluation
- Visual Art will complete a written survey and portfolio review
- Additional details about what to prepare will be emailed to all applicants

Scan to Apply to PISOTA



The background is decorated with various geometric shapes in red, teal, and dark blue. These include circles, squares, triangles, a plus sign, a minus sign, and a multiplication sign, scattered across the page.

Question and Answer



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GET INVOLVED



enrollment@pisota.org



pisota.org



@pisota_ccps



@pisotaccps



@pisotaccps





Please Complete A Brief Survey

tinyurl.com/pisota4



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Thank You

