

CICELY L. TYSON COMMUNITY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL OF PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS

Grades 6 – 12

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The Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts is in its 21st year of operation under the unique theme inherent in the school's name above. The school gives its students quality education through state of the art resources, to providing academic rigor, community and cultural relevance, and a deeper development of their craft as artists. The school encourages students daily to live out the motto, "We Aim High, We Soar High," to attain their success. Such is exhibited in the embarkation of the Advanced Placement (AP) programs, designed to offer students, with proven academic ability, exposure to a highly rigorous college level curriculum. In addition to the Advanced Placement programs, the school offers courses in Sociology, Economics, Urban Studies and Foreign Languages, with the intent to promote college and career readiness, and the skills needed to compete in the global community.

Tyson Middle/High School has demonstrated excellence in both the academics and the arts. Named NJ Model School of the Arts in 2013, featured in the September 2014 edition of Inside Jersey for Best High Schools for Academics and the Arts, awarded bronze status in 2015 and 2016 by US News, recipient of at least eight Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, as well as being granted a lifetime Theater Development Fund (TDF) scholarship, the school lives up to its motto, "We Aim High We Soar High." In addition to this, during the 2015-2016 school year the senior class received over 4.5 million in scholarships.

Paired with the evolving standards-driven educational program, the school's performing arts and extra curricular activities supports students in cultivating character while developing their career goals. Students are also exposed to clubs and activities that develop their critical thinking (Debate Team), character building, (Male Mentoring Program and Delta Gems) and social action (Community Service Club and Diversity Club) skills. The "Open House Series", as well as other theatrical and musical production regularly, provide students with a live performance observatory through which their own talents and creative abilities may be enhanced.

The School Leadership Council, the decision making body of the school, charts the course and monitors the operations and activities aimed at completing short and long range objectives. The council responsibilities include developing and implementing strategies for the completion of educational improvement objectives, long range plans and new designs for the future. Through the collaborative efforts of staff and proportionate representatives from the larger community, the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Executive Committee members serve as representatives on the School Leadership Council. This district support group is directly involved in the planning, decision-making and the monitoring of every aspect of the school program – curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular.

Congruent with the academic aspect of the school's purpose is the core program initiative for improving student academic achievement and student performance on standardized tests. The core links are operative in grades 6 through 12. Five basic components drive the implementation of this concept: assessment; instruction; documentation; monitoring; and testing. The program provides for additional "time on task" and organized concentration in both concepts and skills in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, World Languages, and computer skills. Ninety minutes of instruction in reading/writing and mathematics accommodates this more intense study in the middle grades and in Advanced Placement courses in the high school.

The Cicely Tyson School completed its emergence into a 6-12 Specialty Academic Arts High School through the development of a curriculum that embraces academic preparation and artistic training. The focus of this initiative is for students who are serious about the arts and academic pursuits to have the opportunity to receive a qualitative course of study and training to fit them competitively at the post-secondary level as well as offer exposure to professional opportunities. The "Specialty" school adheres to all state mandates and district policies regarding course requirements, high school credits and graduation requirements, and advanced academic studies. It also serves as a fermenting ground for the creatively gifted student to express individual talent.

The Cicely L. Tyson Community School for Performing and Fine Arts continues to develop, encourage, and sharpen student leadership skills, scholastic abilities, and team directed behaviors through a strong and workable student council, a creative and encompassing program of extra-curricular activities, and a distinguished honors program inclusive of Advanced Placement courses for recognition of outstanding academic achievement.