



PHANTOM
KNIGHT

school of opportunity

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST DE PERE



OUR MISSION:

Empowering at-risk students to be self-directed learners.

OUR VISION:

The Phantom Knight School of Opportunity will provide a safe learning environment that cultivates creative thinking and problem solving for all students to become college and career ready lifelong learners.

WE ARE:

A small public charter school for 7th through 12th grade students

A school for students who would benefit from a self-directed learning style

A school with high expectations. Students must be accepted to college or the military to graduate

A place for students to explore their interests through Project Based Learning

A safe and friendly learning space

Proud to be a model innovative school recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Supported by relationships with West De Pere Schools, St. Norbert College, UW-Green Bay, NWTC and Festival Foods

JOB EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Phantom Knight students benefit from increased flexibility and variety during their school day. Reflecting this, students spend time in a large, open area containing student workstations, personalized storage areas and “soft” areas for relaxed, independent study. Students learn independent work habits in this space. The technology-rich environment supports instruction with a range of learning opportunities, including self-directed, independent or team project-based activities and one-on-one mentoring—all within a continuous space. Workstations distributed throughout the space allow advisors to assist in individual and team research efforts. By structuring their own work day, students are better equipped with the skills and resourcefulness to succeed in college and beyond.



ADVISORY STRUCTURE

The advisory structure is at the core of Phantom Knight. Each student is part of a small advisory of no more than fifteen students with one advisor who works with the students throughout their entire PKS career. Our goal is that a student’s advisory feels like a “home” and “second family.”

Every morning each advisor meets with her/his students for a variety of purposes. Some meetings are devoted to academic skill improvement (e.g. working on the Six Traits of Writing, developing speaking skills, employing various time management/goal-setting tools). Other meetings include “check-in,” discussion of personal issues, selection/analysis of a positive “virtue,” sharing of needs, etc.

The advisor is a coach, mentor, teacher, and manager. Advisors guide students in learning how to manage their time, plan their work, and complete projects. Advisors coach students to seek and build authentic learning experiences inside and outside of the school building.



“I wish we knew about PKS a year or two sooner.”



PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Students earn their elective credits through Project Based Learning (PBL). Project Based learning is a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real problems and challenges they are interested in. With this type of active and engaged learning, students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are studying. Research indicates that students are more likely to retain the knowledge gained through this approach far more readily than through traditional textbook-centered learning. In addition, students develop confidence and self-direction as they move through both team-based and independent work. In the process of completing their projects, students also hone their organizational and research skills, develop better communication with their peers and adults, and often work within their community while seeing the positive effect of their work.

Because students are evaluated on the basis of their projects, rather than on the comparatively narrow rubrics defined by exams, essays, and written reports, assessment of project-based work is often more meaningful to them. They quickly see how academic work can connect to real-life issues – and may even be inspired to pursue a career or engage in activism that relates to the project they developed.

ELEMENTS OF PROJECT BASED LEARNING

RIGOROUS AND IN-DEPTH PROJECT BASED LEARNING:

- is organized around open-ended Essential Questions. These focus students' work and deepen their learning by centering on significant issues, debates, questions and/or problems.
- creates a need to know essential content and skills. Typical projects (and most instruction) begin by presenting students with knowledge and concepts and then, once learned, give them the opportunity to apply them. PBL begins with the vision of an end product or presentation which requires learning specific knowledge and concepts, thus creating a context and reason to learn and understand the information and concepts.
- requires critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and various forms of communication. Students need to do much more than remember information—they need to use higher-order thinking skills.
- allows some degree of student voice and choice. Students learn to work independently and take responsibility when they are asked to make choices. The opportunity to make choices, and to express their learning in their own voice, also helps to increase students' educational engagement.
- incorporates feedback and revision. Students use peer and advisor critique to improve their work to create higher quality products.
- results in a publicly presented product or performance. What you know is demonstrated by what you do, and what you do must be open to public scrutiny and critique.

PROJECT TOPIC EXAMPLES

- How do I become a published author?
- Why do wars start?
- How do I design and sew a dress?
- Does free speech mean you can say anything?
- How do I learn to dance?
- What is the cultural significance of The Beatles?
- Are aliens real?
- How do I become famous on the Internet?
- How do I learn sign language?
- Why is Greek and Roman Mythology important today?
- Who spends more: Democrats or Republicans?
- How do I design and build a kitchen?
- How can somebody cope with anxiety?
- What goes on at a farm?

“My children look forward to school, they are more comfortable and confident.”



THE SENIOR PROJECT

As a culmination of their Phantom Knight careers, Seniors complete and defend an extensive project, resembling a thesis. They must:

- Earn a minimum of three to five credits. (300-500 hours of work)
- Demonstrate detailed completion and documentation of all steps of the Phantom Knight project process (proposal, research, planning, production, evaluation, and analysis).
- Have a strong focus on research. A wide variety of sources must be used; primary resource and firsthand experiences are mandatory.
- Have multiple products, including one or more that is written.
- Include a professional oral presentation of the project to the De Pere community.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

We believe that effective reading and writing are at the core of student achievement. Therefore, English Language Arts is emphasized at Phantom Knight. Students must satisfy five components of our Language Arts requirement each year: Empower3000, Reading, Writing, Daily Journaling, and Daily Advisory.

EMPOWER3000

Empower3000 is a web-based program that is at the heart of the Language Arts curriculum. Each day, every student is sent a current events article. Every student in the school gets the same basic article, but the content is customized to match each child's own reading level. The article comes with a variety of activities to improve students' comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. As a student's reading level improves, Empower will increase the level of difficulty so he/she remains challenged and interested.

MATH AND ONLINE COURSES

Phantom Knight students complete their math and other courses they choose using OdysseyWare, a web-based curriculum used in more than 2,500 school districts nationwide. All curriculum materials are correlated to state standards and are based on proven strategies to easily explain concepts, provide practical applications, and evaluate student performance. Although advisors and tutors are readily available to assist and reteach concepts, the use of OdysseyWare allows students to take charge of their education by providing the freedom to be self-paced and accessible anytime, anywhere.

LIFELONG LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Eight documented lifelong learning experiences (LLEs) are required of each student, each year. LLEs focus on service learning and making a positive impact in the community. The goal is to create an entire school culture where students feel and understand the need to help other, take part in public efforts, and develop leadership skills. Some LLE opportunities will be provided during the school day, while individual students are responsible for completing the remainder of the credit on their own.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Intensifying competition in the global economy requires that today's students—the emerging workforce—be adept in many skills. Key among these skills is the ability to speak a second language. Phantom Knight offers world language instruction using Rosetta Stone software. Because our students are required to be accepted into a college or the military, we highly recommend they take at least two years of a foreign language.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education (Phy Ed) takes place every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Broadview YMCA. There is no fee required and busing is provided. Students are welcome and encouraged to use all of the facility's features.

The YMCA staff is very helpful in teaching students the importance of physical activity and how to engage in appropriate exercise programs. Phy Ed provides more than just exercise for students. Students learn how and why to engage in a healthy, active lifestyle. They also learn the characteristics of leadership, teamwork, and good sportsmanship.

OTHER ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

Thanks to our partnerships with our fellow School District of West De Pere schools and convenient location, Phantom Knight students have a unique opportunity to learn beyond our school's walls. Our students are eligible to enroll in one course per trimester at West De Pere Middle School or West De Pere High School. allows for enrollment in art, music, technical education, Advanced Placement courses, or any other area of interest.

COLLEGE COURSES

Through Wisconsin's Youth Options program, eligible Phantom Knight juniors and seniors may enroll in college courses at St. Norbert College, NWTC, or UW-Green Bay. If the school board determines the course qualifies for high school credit and is not comparable to a course already offered within the school district, the student does not have to pay for the course and can receive both high school and college credit upon successful completion of the course. The Youth Options program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for motivated students considering a technical career or wishing to begin college early.

"I have never seen a child so excited to go to school."



PARENT/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent/guardian engagement in a child's learning is essential to student success. We do not only enroll students, we enroll families and involve them in student learning.

Parents and families are essential to the success of the students and the school. We are intentional about engaging families in their children's education by asking them to regularly participate in progress meetings and attend exhibitions. Families serve as resources, providing information about their child's strengths, weaknesses, and lives outside of school. They also serve as resources to the school community by connecting the school with potential community consultants and mentors; sometimes, parents and family members serve as mentors themselves.

Families play an active role in the school community including support of the school through the Parent-Advisor Organization, participation in monthly Parent Nights, and planning of various special events. They are also viewed as life-long learners who need support to learn how to play a proactive role in the school lives of their children through middle school, high school, and on to college.

ASSESSMENT

We view learning as a process of growth and change that is measured by the completion of quality work. Therefore, assessment is based on mastery and work completion. Phantom Knight School evaluates students using a credit system. Each project credit equals 100 hours of documented work. Since the Phantom Knight School philosophy centers on individual student improvement, grades and class rank are not employed. When required, GPA equivalencies can be determined based on the project rubrics. Students participate in standardized testing including state tests, MAP, ACT, and Accuplacer.

Assessments include project presentations, weekly check-in meetings with advisors, student e-portfolios, and transcripts (which translate the school design in a way that colleges can understand).

COLLEGE PREP

We believe that all students should attend an institution of higher education or enter the military. By developing rigorous learning plans, educating families about the college application and financial aid processes, and building relationships with local colleges, PKS strives to cultivate our students' readiness for the challenges of post-high school study. All PKS students are required to take college entrance exams and be accepted into college or the military.

WAYS WE HELP PREPARE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FOR COLLEGE:

- A college preparatory workload for all students (300-500 hours of work)
- Opportunities for students to enroll in college classes before their high school graduation
- All students develop portfolios, including resumes & essays
- All students take a college/military entrance exam (ACT, Accuplacer, and/or ASVAB)
- All students are accepted into college in order to graduate
- The development of detailed transcripts to translate student work at PKS for colleges
- Building relationships with local colleges (St. Norbert College, UW-Green Bay, and Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College)
- All students visit colleges several times throughout their grade 7-12 career
- Juniors and Seniors attend a college fair



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT AREA CREDITS

PROJECT WORK 12-14

Students complete research projects that arise from their interests and passions. Projects are aligned to the Wisconsin state standards and Common Core.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Students complete an individualized internet-based program that emphasizes reading and writing. They are also required to complete additional writing components, reading comprehension and analysis skills, and communication and collaboration skills through daily journaling and advisories.

MATH 6

Students earn Math credit in Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II through an individualized internet-based program.

SCIENCE 4.5

Students earn Science credit in Physical Science, Biology, and an elective through an individualized, internet based program and/or Project Based Learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES 4.5

Students earn Social Studies credit in US History, Global History, and an elective through an individualized internet-based program and/or Project Based Learning.

LIFELONG LEARNING EXPERIENCES 4

Students complete eight documented experiences each year that focus on service learning and making a positive impact in the community. The goal is to create an entire school culture where students feel and understand the need to help other, take part in public efforts, and develop leadership skill.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3

Students learn communication skills and how to work together as a team. They learn the characteristics of being a leader and how and why it is important to engage in a healthy, active lifestyle.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY 1.5

Students learn to make thoughtful and effective financial decisions throughout their lives. They assess financial information, explore career options from a monetary perspective, create a budget, and plan for the future. This course offers practical advice and skills for living in today's world.

CAREER PORTFOLIO 0.75

Students research potential careers and create a detailed portfolio outlining the requirements, career options, and skills related to those careers. Students are required to add their research and detailed portfolio to their individual cumulative ePortfolio.

HEALTH 0.75

Students learn key health concepts with multimedia-infused lessons, including discussions on growth and the human body, nutrition and healthy eating, healthy social and emotional choices, safety, disease, substance abuse, and environmental health.

TOTAL 43-45

1 Phantom Knight School credit = 100 hours of work

Students must be accepted to a post-secondary educational institution or the military in order to graduate.



ENROLL AT PHANTOM KNIGHT

Phantom Knight is a public school within the School District of West De Pere open to interested students in grades 7-12 provided there is a seat available. Students residing outside of the district will need to apply for open enrollment.

THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Once you express interest in enrolling, we will schedule an appointment for you and your parents to meet with our advisors. You will get a tour and learn more about the school, and answer any questions you have. We will also schedule a day for you to come and shadow one of our veteran students. During your shadow you will see what a typical day is like, meet the students and staff, and propose your first project. At the end of the day, you will meet with the advisors and your parents to discuss your experience and if the school is the right fit for you. If it is agreed upon that you are likely to be successful at Phantom Knight and there is a seat available, then you can enroll. If the school is full, you may be placed on a waiting list and/or entered into a lottery.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Phantom Knight is for students who learn in a different way than the traditional schools teach. It is self-paced and self-directed, so success at Phantom Knight requires motivation, organization, and effective time management. You do not need to be an expert at these skills to succeed, but you do need a desire to develop them.

The maximum enrollment is 30 students, creating a "family" atmosphere.

Our schedule is more flexible than most other schools. There are no bells. Some students like that fact, but others are more comfortable with a traditional school schedule.

All students work together closely regardless of their grade level.

There are two teachers, known as advisors, each responsible for an advisory, which consists of half of the student body.

To graduate, you must be accepted into a 2-year or 4-year college or the military.

FAQs

Q: Can I participate in sports and activities?

A: Yes! Because Phantom Knight is a school within the West De Pere School District, our students are allowed to participate in sports and activities at the high school and middle school.

Q: Will I receive a regular diploma?

A: Yes! You will receive a regular high school diploma issued by Phantom Knight School.

Q: What is a Community Consultant?

A: A Community Consultant is a local expert who works with a student to help him/her understand all aspect of the project topic.

Q: Why are the graduation requirements different from the high school?

A: To meet the ultimate goal of college acceptance, it is necessary that students challenge themselves beyond minimum high school credit requirements.

Q: Can I still take classes at the high school or middle school?

A: Yes. Students are allowed to take one course per trimester.

Q: What about busing and hot lunch?

A: Both bus transportation and hot lunch are available just like other schools within the district.



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school of opportunity

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