Pioneering the future of Florida’s education system.

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School at the University of Florida
Reflections on 2013-14

At P.K. Yonge we share a vision—that every student, no matter who they are or where they come from will graduate from our school prepared to lead and succeed in a rapidly changing world. We are preparing students for a new world in which leaders and innovators value creativity and empathy and where knowledge and skills, while essential, are not enough. We believe that every student can learn, and are determined that every student will succeed. We embrace our mission to collaborate to meet their needs, testing innovations designed to support student success.

P.K. Yonge, as one of Florida’s four developmental research schools affiliated with a research university, is a unique asset to the state of Florida. As required by the Sid Martin Bill, our students are selected by lottery to be representative of Florida’s K-12 student population, ethnically, socio-economically, and academically. With a relatively low mobility rate and diverse student population, the developmental research schools are positioned to generate research that can inform solutions to persistent educational challenges faced by Florida’s schools. Our purpose is to design and test innovations for improving K-12 education on our campuses and in Florida. As developmental research schools we serve as incubators for new approaches as well as demonstration and training sites for Florida’s aspiring and practicing educators.

Leading the Way

Our 2013-2014 accomplishments reflect state and national priorities for strengthening our economy and supporting future generations. We maintain our focus on educating the whole child as we add technology across campus, increase opportunities in engineering and robotics, implement curriculum that weaves together academic, ethical, social and behavioral learning goals, integrates inquiry; and offers challenging and enriching activities including speech and debate, international exchanges, and award-winning performing arts and athletic programs.

We continue to work with the other developmental research schools to provide proof of concept for educational innovations for public schools in the State of Florida and around the nation. We work for better futures for the students on our campuses and beyond.
Fast Facts: P.K. Yonge DRS 2013-14

On the 2014 End-of-Course assessments, 96% of P.K. Yonge students passed Algebra 1, 95% passed 9th grade Biology, and 94% passed Geometry—resulting in P.K. Yonge being positioned as a top district performer on these rigorous exams.

P.K. Yonge now offers 27 high school courses in a format blending online and face-to-face instruction. These courses have resulted from the school’s Waves of Innovation initiative funded by endowments and gifts by generous Blue Wave alumni.

More than 43 P.K. Yonge faculty gave presentations at state and national professional conferences and symposiums during 2013-14.

Collaborating faculty researchers from UF’s College of Education and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and P.K. Yonge were awarded a $5M National Science Foundation grant for the UFUTURES project to prepare 36 science teacher-leaders to transform 6th-8th grade science instruction in 10 partnering school districts.

The UFUTURES middle school transformation project features an NSF-funded science curriculum, IQWST, in 6th-8th grade classes. P.K. Yonge science achievement performance has increased by 10% since implementing IQWST (as compared to the state increase of 2%).

P.K. Yonge’s 2014 graduates were accepted to:

1. American University
2. Boston University
3. Brigham Young University
4. College of Wooster
5. Colorado College
6. Cornell University
7. Eastern Wyoming College
8. Edward Waters College
9. FAMU
10. Flagler College
11. Florida Atlantic University
12. Florida International University
13. Florida State University
14. Full Sail University
15. Georgia Institute of Technology
16. Haverford College
17. Jacksonville University
18. Lindsey Wilson University
19. Mars Hill College
20. Marshall University
21. Michigan State University
22. Minot State University
23. New College of FL
24. New College of FL
25. New York University
26. Polk State College
27. Rice University
28. Rochester Institute of Technology
29. Rollins College
30. Santa Fe College
31. Smith College
32. Stetson University
33. University of California, San Diego
34. University of Central Florida
35. University of Florida*
36. University of Illinois
37. University of South Alabama
38. University of Washington
39. University of West Florida
40. University of Texas, Austin
41. Wake Forest University

Honoring Our Past

During the 2014-15 school year we are honoring P.K. Yonge’s 50 years of integration. We will be hosting a series of events inviting our African American graduates to return to P.K. Yonge and share their stories, life lessons, and strategies for success with today’s Blue Wave students. Together we are proud of our history and the continuing success of ALL of our students who represent many ethnicities, races, and incomes.

P.K. Yonge is a special place: a unique school for bringing all kinds of students together to learn and grow and to appreciate their collective diversity. In fact, diversity is what we hear our students most often talk about—how important it is, and how powerful it is in their learning experience.

The 50 Years of Diversity celebrations honor our past students who paved the way for students today to enjoy the diversity that the P.K. Yonge school community offers.

P.K. Yonge’s Past Supports Our Future

Our alumni are generous supporters of P.K. Yonge both in fund and deed. Numerous activities throughout the 2013:14 were supported by the generosity of P.K. Yonge alumni.

A sampling of activities supported by alumni during the 2013-14 school year:

- Creek School
- International Exchanges
- College Scholarships
- Waves of Innovation - mini grants for teachers
- Project Lead the Way teacher training and materials
- Visual Arts Training
- Performing Arts Equipment
- Faculty travel to professional conferences and workshops
- Athletics and State Championship travel

Our Graduates

One of the most important reflections of our success are the many ways in which our 110 graduating seniors are recognized. Our 2014 seniors were awarded multiple college scholarships, including 31 Bright Futures scholarships, 18 academic scholarships, eight athletic scholarships, and two performing arts scholarships. That’s a total of 59 college scholarships for our 110 graduates!

*21 students were accepted to the University of Florida!
By the Numbers

We continue to take a holistic approach to improving students’ academic outcomes while also focusing on success on statewide tests.

2013-14 marked the last administration of FCAT. Our 2014 schoolwide (K-12) scores in reading, math, and science exceed state averages. In mathematics, 79% of students scored 3 and above (meets grade level expectations) as compared with 61% statewide. In reading, 72% scored 3 and above with a state passing rate of 58%. Science scores were also impressive with 75% scoring 3 and above, while the state passing rate was 53%.

Course Enrollments in STEM

Science, technology, engineering, and math are major areas of focus. Over the past three years, the school has focused on developing a “STEM Pipeline” to increase enrollment in rigorous STEM courses.

Over 3 years, enrollment of 8th grade students in Algebra I has increased by 150%, total high school enrollment in rigorous mathematics courses has increased by 30%, and science has shown an enrollment increase of 22%. In AP courses, enrollment has increased by 36% and students are now able to take AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, AP Microeconomics, AP Microeconomics, and AP Statistics.

New course offerings like Engineering, AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, and AP Statistics provide more opportunities for rigor and meet the needs of graduates in the 21st century.

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State High School End-of-Course Exams

PK Yonge students continue to perform well on state End-of-Course exams. PK Yonge student took exams for high school Algebra I, Biology, Geometry, U.S. History, and Civics.

On the Algebra I exam, 100% of our 8th graders passed, 83% of our 9th graders and 96% of all the students who took the exam passed, out-performing the state by 30%.

Biology, taken by all 9th grade students, saw 95% of the students pass - a significant difference from the state average of 68%.

Geometry performances were also excellent. 99% of the 9th graders who took the end of course exam passed, as did 86% of the 10th graders. 94% of all students who took the exam passed as compared with the state average of 64%.

This year was the second administration of US History End-of-Course exam and PK Yonge students did well. 80% of our students passed, significantly superior to the state average of 65%.

On the first administration of the Civics exam our students scored well again. Scores were reported in thirds, 58% of our 7th graders scored in the top third exceeding the state average of 37%.

Student Enrollments in Stem Courses

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<th>School Year</th>
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<th>Science</th>
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<td>2013-2014</td>
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</tr>
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Advanced Placement Results

Enrollment in AP courses is increasing and students are performing well. Our AP offerings expanded during the 2013-14 school year and 43% of our graduating seniors scored 3+ on at least one AP exam prior to graduation.

Scores

- Total number of AP students: 156, 182, 202, 217
- Number of students with passing scores: 81, 102, 128, 133
- Percentage of students with passing scores: 52%, 56%, 64%, 63%
Clubs, Awards, Internships, and Exchanges!

The P.K. Yonge Roaring Riptide FIRST Robotics Team #4118 continued the tradition of competitive excellence as they made it all the way to the semi-finals in TWO state regional competitions with a robot that could pick up, aim, and throw a large exercise ball.

7 students traveled to Chicago for a National Speech & Debate Contest, with two seniors breaking through to finals in one of the most competitive events, Duo Interpretation, for the first time in the history of our local league!

For the second time, a high school Odyssey of the Mind team from P.K. Yonge competed at the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition in Iowa. The team placed 13th out of 52 highly competitive teams from across the country and around the world.

For the 6th year in a row, P.K. Yonge’s K-12 Literary Art Magazine, Creeks and Currents was nominated for the highest award from the National Council for Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines.

World language students from P.K. Yonge attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2014 National Spanish Examinations - the largest of their kind in the United States with over 156,000 students participating in 2014. Participating students from P.K. Yonge received 8 Gold, 15 Silver, and 12 Bronze medals. All together, P.K. Yonge students of Spanish received a total of 35 medals and 34 honorable mentions.

17 seniors completed executive internships in fall 2013-14. This opportunity, unique to P.K. Yonge, provides students with hands-on, real world experiences with a wide range of career options. Community partners included: UF Health, Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, Newberry Veterinary Hospital, Veterans Administration Hospital, Humane Society, Florida Wildlife Care, Inc., The Hippodrome State Theatre, Alachua County Health Department, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, The Reichert House, Men’s Wearhouse, and Shadow Health.

International exchange activities continued in 2013 with a return visit from our partner school, Nanjing Experimental International School (NJEIS) in China. 15 NJEIS students, 2 NJEIS administrators, and one NJEIS faculty member spent 5 days at P.K. Yonge gaining deeper understanding of our school community and American culture. The group visited St. Augustine, attended a P.K. Yonge football game, took classes on campus, and spent time with P.K. Yonge families. In March of 2014, 18 P.K. Yonge high school students visited NJEIS, spending two weeks in China and two weekends with their partner students and their families. Students, families, faculty, and the two school communities are growing from this unique experience.

A Year in Review 2013-2014

Athletics

We continue to offer a wide range of athletic opportunities for students and the 2013-2014 school year has been successful for P.K. Yonge athletics. We are proud of our teams and coaches, and grateful for parents and supporters who help make these teams possible.

P.K. Yonge 2013-14 athletic accomplishments included:
- District Runner-Up: Girls’ Softball, Girls’ Track & Field
- District Championships: Boys’ & Girls’ Cross Country, Boys’ & Girls’ Swimming & Diving, Volleyball, Girls’ Basketball, Boys’ Track and Field, & Girls’ Tennis
- Regional Semi-Finalists: Boys’ Cross Country, Girls’ Track & Field, Boys’ & Girls’ Swimming & Diving
- Regional Runner-Up: Girls’ Volleyball, Girls’ Basketball, Boys’ Track
- Regional Championships: Girls’ Softball & Girls’ Tennis

P.K. Yonge girls’ softball team was state runner-up!

Performing and Fine Arts

We offer high quality performing arts and fine arts programs at P.K. Yonge and enjoy the benefits of highly qualified creative faculty and talented and motivated students.

P.K. Yonge performing arts and fine arts accomplishments:
- Our marching band entertained us with their Willy Wonka Extravaganza and ended the competitive season 7th in the state.
- Our drama students were recognized at the State Thespian Competition with 5 Superiors and 11 Excellents.
- Our musical theater students entertained us with their singing and tap dancing during the spring musical, Anything Goes.
- Our senior artists displayed their work in a breathtaking portfolio exhibit in the UF WarpHaus.
- 2 high school students, 1 middle school student, and 1 elementary student were selected for the All State Chorus.

The P.K. Yonge girls’ athletic program ended the 2013-14 school year as the number one Class 4A Public Girls’ Athletic Program, placing P.K. Yonge in third place overall (boys and girls). This marks 12 years in a row that the P.K. Yonge girls’ athletic program is ranked number one in the state!

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A Year in Review 2013-2014

Research, Outreach, and Partnerships

A key element of P.K. Yonge’s mission as a developmental research school is research and outreach. Research and outreach activities take the form of on-campus research activities, workshops and professional learning activities for teachers around the state and nation, customized programs for international guests, or partnerships with non-profit organizations and researchers from the University of Florida.

Inquiries, Investigations and Innovations

Each year, teachers at P.K. Yonge are encouraged to participate in Teacher Inquiry. Inquiry projects are small-scale research projects carried out by classroom teachers to investigate questions of interest that impact the experience and success of students in their classrooms.

The 2013-14 Annual Inquiries, Investigations, and Innovations Showcase included 26 presentations by P.K. Yonge faculty on their research projects carried out during the 2013-14 school year. Topics included mentoring, blended learning, school counseling, iPad implementation, using new spaces in our 21st century state-of-the-art building, de-tracking high school classes, gifted, and more.

The Teacher Inquiry process, brought to P.K. Yonge by UF College of Education’s Nancy Dana and expertly facilitated by high school faculty member, Mickey MacDonald, takes 6-7 months and culminates in the writing of an inquiry brief and presentation at the annual showcase. All P.K. Yonge faculty attend and learn about research projects with a view to incorporating findings and best practices into their own classrooms.

www.inquireinvestigateinnovate.pkyonge.ufl.edu

Outreach Activities

Outreach events for educators are hosted by P.K. Yonge throughout the year and include workshops, lesson studies, customized programs, and informational tours (www.outreach.pkyonge.ufl.edu). P.K. Yonge’s highly successful, well-attended professional learning events illustrate one way in which Florida’s developmental research schools provide leadership, guidance, and support to Florida’s schools as they educate the youth in our state.

In 2014, professional learning activities at P.K. Yonge served more than 500 educators, from 22 school districts. Workshops and activities focused on professional learning communities, innovative structures for professional learning, implementing literacy curricula, teacher collaboration, student-centered instruction, student collaboration, personalized learning, students understanding their own learning needs, and writing and student engagement. Professional learning activities attract local, national, and international participants. In January, PK Yonge elementary faculty hosted a 2-hour session on Skype with approximately 25 educators in Canada. In August, almost 300 teachers from around Florida participated in our first Developmental Research Schools Best Practices Drive-In Conference with more than 30 sessions and 22 presentations led by PK Yonge faculty members. During the 2013-2014 school year, the school hosted educators from South Carolina, Abu Dhabi, Belize, Canada, China, Paraguay, and Venezuela.

In addition to hosting outreach activities on our own campus, P.K. Yonge faculty members present at state, national, and international conferences. In 2013-14, P.K. Yonge faculty members presented at 43 state, one national, and three international conferences on literacy, teaching and learning in 21st century learning spaces, reading and writing, professional learning, science education, and transforming mathematics.

Providing such learning opportunities for educators from Florida, across the nation, and around the world is distinct to our mission as a developmental research school and distinguishes P.K. Yonge from other public schools of choice.

Partnerships

Our partnerships with University of Florida researchers address critical issues in math and science education, the influence of architecture and interior design, academic digital intervention programs in early childhood education, assisting struggling male students in high school, improving math education and student achievement, one-on-one reading tutoring, and the integration of technology in the classroom.

The P.K. Yonge partnership with Developmental Studies Center (DSC – a non-profit educational publisher dedicated to children’s academic, ethical, and social development) resulted from selecting a new literacy curriculum for our elementary school and has spawned new district partners. The PKY-DSC partnership continues to bring visitors and professional learning participants from around the United States interested in witnessing implementation of a challenging, high-quality curriculum aligned with best practices and core values of our school.

Partnerships with nonprofit and innovative curriculum providers, combined with UF partnerships, also focus on science and mathematics education. The IQWST (Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology) middle school science curriculum implemented with the support of Dr. Rose Pringle (UF science education professor) continues to show how inquiry-based approaches are essential to deep understanding of science. Investigations, newly adopted in the elementary grades, and CMP3, in grades 6-8, are two of the most challenging math curriculum choices in the nation. Our partnership with Dr. Tim Jacobbe (UF math education professor) continues with a focus on implementation of the new curriculum and new ways of learning math.

Special projects like the UFUTures grant (National Science Foundation MSP #1050166) partners PK Yonge and the University of Florida College of Education with 10 school districts in Florida to transform 6th-8th grade science education in the state of Florida.

Planning is underway to design and test innovations intended to prepare our students for the future and multiple grant proposals submitted with UF partners in engineering, computer science education, and public health provide unique opportunities for students and faculty at PK Yonge. Such partnership projects are unique to developmental research schools and are intended to inform improvement efforts on our own campuses and in other schools and districts throughout the state and the nation.
Renovations and Replacements

During the summer of 2014, areas of the school were undergoing facelifts and renovations. The elementary art and music wing has a brand new look, making it more conducive to the kinds of teaching and learning taking place in those spaces - studio art, movement in music, and playing instruments.

The P.K. Yonge cafeteria also had a facelift in the summer of 2014! The addition of new design elements, a coat of paint, and new furniture resulted in a more comfortable (a little less noisy) and attractive space in which to share a meal with friends, or collaborate with classmates on projects.

P.K. Yonge is now “shovel ready” for the next phase in the campus renovation project - the new secondary building for grades 6-12. With help from University of Florida government relations and the College of Education’s development office, funds are being sought to support the construction of the new P.K. Yonge 6-12 experience. A capital campaign task force has been organized by a small group of distinguished alums to raise private funds to supplement hoped-for state funds needed for the estimated $20M construction project.

Our efforts to renovate and modernize our campus were recognized during the 2013-14 school year. The P.K. Yonge elementary building features prominently on the cover of school designer Prakash Nair’s new book “Blueprint for Tomorrow - Redesigning Schools for Student-centered Learning.” The proposed P.K. Yonge secondary building received a 2014 Outstanding Project Award for design from Learning by Design magazine, known for being the “Premier Source for Education Design and Excellence.”

P.K. Yonge in the National and International Spotlight

The school’s recent work has brought increased national and international attention. As the result of a poster presentation given by high school faculty members Mickey MacDonald and Kristen Weller, a video crew from Edutopia.org, an arm of the George Lucas Foundation, spent a week on campus filming “What makes P.K. Yonge work?” P.K. Yonge’s work in technology-supported learning (a.k.a. blended learning) and our K-12 multi-tiered system of supports are now featured on their international website.

www.edutopia.org/school/pk-yonge-developmental-research-school

The P.K. Yonge elementary building has also been the focus of national and international attention. A film crew from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education also produced a series of videos profiling P.K. Yonge’s learning community model and its new, beyond-state-of-the-art elementary wing. The videos were included in a “Leaders of Learning” course enrolling 66,000+ participants from around the world interested in the future of learning and best practices of educational design. Videos included in this project can be viewed on the Educational Innovation page on our website.

www.educationalinnovation.pkyonge.ufl.edu
New Courses

2013-14 saw the expansion of our AP course offerings with the addition of AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, and AP Statistics. We began with one class per course and are excited about the opportunities these courses provide for students. We continue to investigate the addition of AP courses and their supporting “feeder” courses as we push for greater rigor in math and science at the high school level.

In 2013-14, Engineering was added to the 6th grade STEAM exploratory wheel and continued in 7th and 8th grade (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) wheel. With the introduction of engineering in middle school, at least 85% of all 6th graders will be exposed to engineering and will have opportunities to continue taking engineering as an elective through middle and high school.

Faculty Accolades

Our faculty members are hardworking, committed teachers who are recognized for their achievements by the school and by other national entities. We congratulate Ann Marie Heller (Chemistry) on being named as our district teacher of the year! Additional recognition goes to Mickey MacDonald (Biology) and Kristin Weller (Geometry, Statistics) on their promotions to Associate Professor, and to Paige Allison (Algebra II), Melanie Harris (Performing Arts) and Grisell Santiago (Spanish) on being promoted to Assistant Professor. In addition to her promotion, Señora Santiago was named Vice President of the FAATSP (Florida Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) and, during the summer of 2013, hosted the First Annual Sharing Best Practices for the World Language Classroom (Grades 6-12). Alicia Stephenson (8th Grade Math) received the Governor's Shine Award for educators and administrators in Florida who make significant contributions to the field of education. Kate Yurko (10th Grade Language Arts) received the Dr. Hannelore Wass Endowed Scholarship awarded for her graduate studies and research in sex and gender role socialization in school settings and its effects on students’ career aspirations and choices. Amanda Adimoolah (2-3 Learning Community Instructor) represented P.K. Yonge as the faculty delegate for our P.K. Yonge - Nanjing Experimental International School China exchange. We ended the 2013-14 school year with the retirement of Dr. Dianne Skye (High School Art). Dr. Skye left a lasting imprint on our school and our Fine Arts department.

The 2013-14 school year was filled with many accomplishments, new endeavors, and inevitably, some challenges. We supported new faculty members as they acclimated to P.K. Yonge, encouraged our teachers who took risks with their curriculums, and challenged our students to take courses and explore new activities. We are grateful for the support and engagement of the Blue Wave nation and look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming concerts, games, shows, competitions, and events.

Staff

The business of running a school is challenging and full of people with roles and responsibilities who are not in classrooms and are rarely in the spotlight. We take this opportunity to proclaim our gratitude for the P.K. Yonge staff who work in our business, counseling, and admissions offices, who staff the front desk and work with our data, who manage our facilities and maintain a clean and well-functioning campus, who keep our computers running and support our school communications. Without them we would be lost. Each member of the P.K. Yonge team, both faculty and staff, is integral to the functioning of our school and the success of our students.
Supporting All Students

At P.K. Yonge we strive to meet every student’s individual needs as a learner. Within the core curriculum, students may be progressing at an expected pace, need extra support, or need additional challenge. This can vary across grade levels, subject areas, or within various units of study. We rely on a Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework to guide us in our decision-making, and instructional processes.

Our tiered instruction model is based on the following:

**Tier 1** – Core instruction, based on state standards and benchmarks, is provided to all students.

**Tier 2** – Students who demonstrate a need for support or challenge in addition to core, receive supplemental instruction coordinated by the core teacher and the learning community leader. This may include, but is not limited to, small-group instruction, differentiated assignments, and/or varied opportunities for learning within the regular classroom.

**Tier 3** – Students who demonstrate a need for support or challenge in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2 will receive individualized instruction that is more intensive and frequent. The learning community leader, in collaboration with the core teacher and other instructional support personnel, provides this differentiated instruction. This may include, but is not limited to, one-on-one instruction, differentiated assignments, and/or varied opportunities for student-led inquiry.

At P.K. Yonge, we are dedicated to knowing each learner as an individual. Our goal is to provide differentiated instruction in every course, realizing that students’ areas of strength and need may vary. As a developmental research school, whose motto is “Collaborating to meet the needs of each child,” we aspire to work together to examine our instructional practices and continually work to improve our students’ educational experiences.

Staff

- Lynda Fender Hayes Ph.D
  *Director*

- Cathy Atria Ph.D.
  *Principal*

- Russ Froman Ed.D.
  *Assistant Principal Student Life and Behavioral Support*

- Stella Arduser Ed.S.
  *Assistant Principal Academic Advisement and School Counseling*

- Carrie Geiger Ed.D.
  *Supervisor of Instructional Practice*

- Willie Powers
  *Dean of Students*

- Kent Johnson, M.Ed.
  *Dean of Students and Activities Director*