

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



P.K. YONGE

DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH SCHOOL

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Over the past year, P.K. Yonge has continued to show that our strength lies not only in academic outcomes, but in the culture that surrounds and supports our students each day. As we rally around our theme—*One Wave. One Family.*—we have seen meaningful momentum across campus. The groundbreaking of our new gym represents an exciting investment in student health, athletics, and community, while our reimagined approach to leadership has energized both students and staff. We saw the largest interest in K-12 Student Government in our history, alongside a renewed teacher leadership structure and ongoing staff development focused on empowering every adult to shape our school culture.

As we celebrate 91 years as a Developmental Research School, we remain committed to designing, testing, and sharing practices that strengthen public education. Through partnerships with the UF College of Education and others, our classrooms continue to serve as living laboratories—developing student-centered approaches that meet the needs of all learners and extend our impact beyond campus.

At the same time, the traditions that define the Blue Wave Family remain strong. Events like the Elementary Family Picnic, Crossing the Creek, the annual Digital Art Show, and the R-Evolution festival continue to bring our community together. In a time of declining enrollment across the state, P.K. Yonge remains a place where families choose to belong. Our athletics programs thrived, including expanded elementary opportunities, and alumni engagement grew through events like the Performing Arts Reunion. The generosity of our community was also on full display, as support for our 4th and 5th grade Washington, D.C. trip tripled its original goal. Our Pre-K program completed its second successful year.

Together, these moments reflect who we are: a school where students are known, supported, and inspired to find their paths. Through our PK “Y” framework—college and career readiness, mastery of standards, and personalized learning plans—students are taking greater ownership of their learning and preparing for meaningful futures. With more students than ever earning Bright Futures eligibility, we are reminded that the Blue Wave is more than a school—it is a family committed to helping every student discover who they are and who they can become.

Dr. Carrie Geiger
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School Director



A+ BEGINNINGS

CELEBRATING P.K. YONGE'S FIRST VPK GRADUATES

The 2024-2025 school year marked an exciting milestone for P.K. Yonge with the launch of its first Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program. In its inaugural year, PK PreK quickly demonstrated excellence, earning an "A" rating from the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County - a testament to the strength of its instruction, curriculum, and student outcomes.

The program proudly celebrated **20 VPK graduates**, each completing the year with strong foundational skills in early literacy, numeracy, and social development. Beyond academic readiness, students cultivated curiosity, confidence, and a genuine love of learning.

A key factor in the program's success is its leadership under a master's-level certified teacher. Through intentional planning, hands-on learning experiences, and individualized support, PreK teacher Michaela Allbritton nurtures students academically and socially in a structured, caring environment.

CLASS OF 2038

FROM CLASSROOM TO DISCOVERY

TEACHERS ADVANCE RESEARCH

More than **100 educators and partners** attended the Inquiry and Investigations Symposium held in January 2026. Teachers presented findings from their research, sharing innovative practices and evidence-based strategies to improve teaching and learning.

The symposium welcomed attendees from other developmental research schools and was supported through a partnership with the **UF Lastinger Center for Learning**.



RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES PROJECTS

A sampling of projects presented at the 2026 Inquiries and Investigations Symposium:

- **Shark AI: Flexible Classroom Approaches Using Fossil Shark Teeth Classification.**
Rachel Still and Gabe Lee
- **Using Music and Video to Strengthen Listening, Vocabulary, and Engagement in Spanish Classes**
Grisell Santiago
- **Antimicrobial Resistance and One Health in the High School Biology Curriculum**
Sanil Nadar
- **When ELA and Civics Intertwine: A Cross-Curricular Collaboration in Middle School Holocaust Studies.**
Megan Miller and Jillian Miley
- **The Early Advantage: How Pre-Kindergarten Shapes Tomorrow's Learners.**
Michaela Allbritton and Jill Ozog
- **Creating a Culture of Leadership Through Student Driven Government.**
Megan Koppitch
- **Enhancing Historical Argumentation: Utilizing Peer Feedback to Improve AP World History Long Essays**
Greg Linne

BREAKING GROUND, BUILDING THE FUTURE

P.K. YONGE'S NEW GYMNASIUM

P.K. Yonge officially celebrated the groundbreaking of its new gymnasium on February 10, 2026, marking an exciting milestone for students, staff, families, and the broader community.

The new gymnasium will provide a modern, state-of-the-art space designed to support athletic programs, physical education, school events, and research initiatives that benefit both P.K. Yonge students and the wider field of education.

"It is a **promise to our students** — a promise of resources, opportunity, and a space to grow, to learn and dream big," said Kelly Barrett, P.K. Yonge athletic director. "A place that will empower the next generation to reach their full potential athletically and academically."

The groundbreaking serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together to invest in the future of its students.



“We are building something tangible today, but even more importantly, we are building opportunities for our students, for our state, and for the future of education.”

DR. CARRIE GEIGER



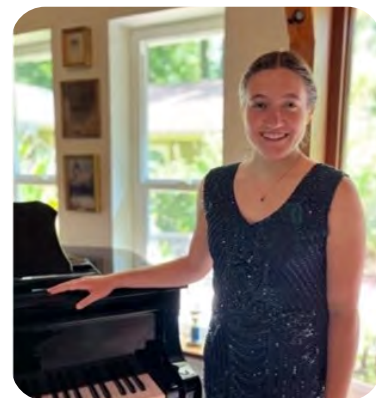
LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Abigail Pruden Named UF Lombardi Scholar

The Class of 2025 celebrates **Abigail Pruden**, named a prestigious **Lombardi Scholar at the University of Florida**. This UF Preeminent Scholar Program honors leadership, service, and academic excellence—qualities Abigail embodies fully.

Passionate about the environment, she competed nationally in events like the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, National Ocean Sciences Bowl, and North American Envirothon, while leading sustainability efforts at P.K. Yonge through a Green Schools Campaign and youth advocacy.

As a member of the University of Florida Class of 2029 and a biology major, Abigail carries with her a legacy of scholarship, leadership, and purpose. As a proud Blue Wave, she made a lasting impact on her school and community.

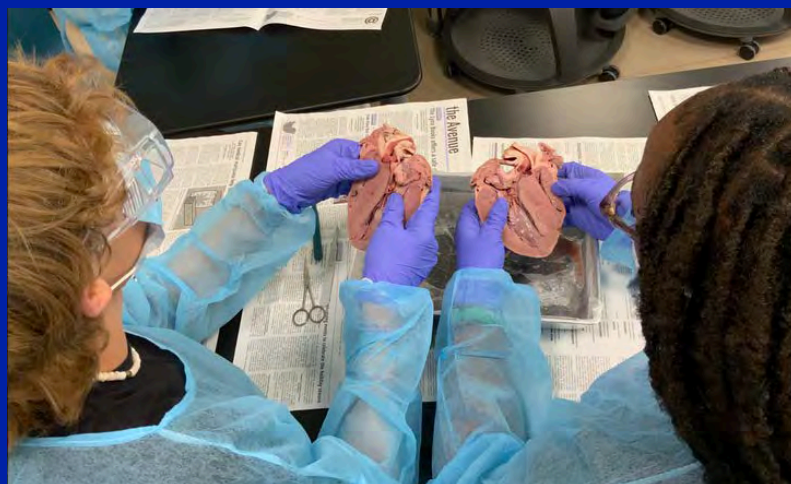


LIVE HEALTHY

BUILDING TOMORROW'S HEALTH WORKFORCE



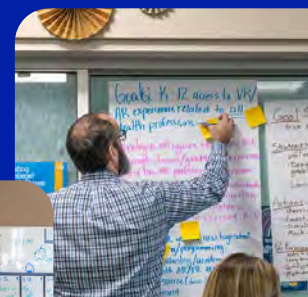
This year, **P.K. Yonge's Live Healthy** initiative continued to expand opportunities for students through targeted legislative funding supporting Florida's developmental research schools. Designed to strengthen the future health workforce, the initiative focuses on preparing students for high-demand health careers through immersive, real-world learning experiences.



With Gainesville home to a thriving healthcare community—including partnerships with organizations such as UF Health, Santa Fe College Nursing Program, and the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center—P.K. Yonge students benefit from direct exposure to professionals and pathways in nursing, physical therapy, medical technology, health informatics, and other health fields.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

A major milestone this year was hosting the inaugural **Live Healthy Convening**, bringing together UF collegiate partners, healthcare partners, educators, and community stakeholders to envision the next five years of the program. Through collaborative planning and shared insight, participants identified priority workforce needs, expanded partnership opportunities, and outlined innovative strategies to deepen student engagement and industry alignment.



24

ADVANCED
PLACEMENT
(AP) COURSES

100% of seniors took at least
1 AP course

83% earned a score of
3 or higher

39% took 5 or more
AP exams



MEASURING PROGRESS. CELEBRATING SUCCESS.

This year's data reflects the dedication of our students, educators, and families. Together, we continued to make meaningful progress in academic achievement, growth, and student success across all grade levels.

- **2-D Art & Design: 90.9%** (global 83%)
- **Calculus AB: 87.1%** (global 64.2%)
- **Calculus BC: 100%** (global 78.6%)
- **Chemistry: 84.8%** (global 70.4%)
- **Computer Science Principles: 51.5%** (global 61.9%)
- **English Language: 58.3%** (global 74.3%)
- **English Literature: 57.3%** (global 74.2%)
- **Human Geography: 35.5%** (global 64.7%)
- **Microeconomics: 68.5%** (global 68.2%)
- **Pre-Calculus: 93.3%** (global 80.8%)
- **Seminar: 96%** (global 83.4%)
- **Spanish Language & Culture: 100%** (global 85%)
- **Statistics: 66.7%** (global 60.3%)
- **US Government & Politics: 83.3%** (global 71.7%)
- **US History: 88.2%** (global 73.7%)
- **World History Modern: 57.5%** (global 64.3%)

AP® PLATINUM HONOR ROLL

2025 AP Platinum Honor Roll
Requirements:

- **College Culture:** At least **80%** of the graduating class took at least one AP Exam during their high school career.
- **College Credit:** At least **50%** of the graduating class scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school.
- **College Optimization:** At least **15%** of the graduating class took five or more AP Exams throughout high school, with at least one of those exams taken in 9th or 10th grade.



Global pass rate refers to the percentage of students worldwide who score a 3 or higher on a specific AP exam.

P.K. Yonge students also took AP courses in Biology, Computer Science A, Environmental Science, Macroeconomics, Music Theory, Physics 1, Psychology, and Research through our partnership with Florida Virtual School.



62%

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

CLASS OF 2025

STATE TESTING RESULTS SHOW STRONG GROWTH

State FAST and End-of-Course (EOC) assessment for 3rd to 10th grade students reflect steady progress and a continued commitment to academic growth across grade levels.

MATHEMATICS

- **3rd Grade: 93%** (state avg. 63%)
- **4th Grade: 80%** (state avg. 62%)
- **5th Grade: 81%** (state avg. 57%)
- **6th Grade: 97%** (state avg. 60%)
- **7th Grade: 91%** (state avg. 50%)
- **Algebra 1 (all 8th Grade Students): 84%** (state avg. 83%)
- **Geometry: 77%** (state avg. 75%)

SCIENCE

- **5th Grade: 56%** (state avg. 55%)
- **8th Grade: 78%** (state avg. 53%)
- **Biology 1: 90%** (state avg. 83%)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- **3rd Grade: 92%** (state avg. 57%)
- **4th Grade: 82%** (state avg. 56%)
- **5th Grade: 76%** (state avg. 56%)
- **6th Grade: 89%** (state avg. 60%)
- **7th Grade: 83%** (state avg. 57%)
- **8th Grade: 78%** (state avg. 55%)
- **9th Grade: 79%** (state avg. 56%)
- **10th Grade: 71%** (state avg. 58%)

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **7th Grade Civics: 94%** (state avg. 72%)
- **US History: 96%** (state avg. 72%)

ONE WAVE, ONE FAMILY, ONE UNFORGETTABLE TRIP!

This year, our 5th-grade Washington, D.C. trip will again be a powerful milestone for our students—many experiencing their first flight, first time away from home, and first opportunity to see history come alive in our nation's capital.

Donated funds helped ensure that all students who wanted to attend could participate, removing financial barriers and allowing for the chance to explore national landmarks, deepen classroom learning, and grow in confidence and leadership.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, we raised \$25,500 to support this experience.

This collective effort reflects the strength of our One Wave, One Family spirit. Together, we made an unforgettable journey possible—one that will leave a lasting impact on our students for years to come.

\$25,500
raised for DC



GROWING LEADERS AT EVERY LEVEL

Leadership took center stage this year as Student Government Association (SGA) expanded across elementary, middle, and high school—creating a cohesive structure that empowers students at every stage of their academic journey.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SGA

In elementary, opportunities are intentionally designed to be developmentally appropriate and empowering. Students are appointed as 5th grade representatives, giving even the youngest learners the chance to practice leadership skills and an understanding that their voices matter.

15 Class Representatives
appointed by 5th grade class

MIDDLE SCHOOL SGA

Building on that strong foundation, middle school students stepped into formal leadership roles of their own. The middle school SGA now includes a Governor and grade-level representatives who work together to plan events, promote school spirit, and lead service efforts.

4 Middle School Officers
Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
Secretary, Treasurer
34 Representatives
appointed by grade

HIGH SCHOOL SGA

High school SGA continues to thrive with a comprehensive model that includes elected student body officers, elected senators, and appointed representatives. These leaders organize major campus initiatives, elevate student voice, and serve as a bridge between students and administration.

4 Student Body Officers
President, Vice President, Secretary,
Treasurer
8 Senators
elected by grade
10 Representatives
appointed by grade

BLUE WAVE STUDENTS EXPLORE CONSERVATION IN THE GALÁPAGOS



In summer 2024, a group of students from P.K. Yonge embarked on an unforgettable environmental and conservation learning experience in the Galápagos Islands

The trip, made possible through the generous support of P.K. Yonge alumni, allowed students to see environmental science come to life beyond the classroom.

Guided by local naturalists and educators, students observed iconic species such as giant tortoises, marine iguanas, and blue-footed boobies while learning how the islands' strict environmental protections preserve these populations. Field experiences included snorkeling in protected marine areas, hiking through lava fields, and visiting conservation centers focused on habitat restoration and species protection.

Beyond the scientific learning, the experience challenged students to think critically about global environmental issues and their own role as future stewards of the planet. Discussions on sustainability, climate change, and responsible tourism helped students connect what they observed in the Galápagos to environmental challenges closer to home.

Because of the success of the experience and the continued generosity of alumni supporters, the environmental expedition will return in summer 2026, providing another group of Blue Wave students the chance to learn firsthand from the unique ecosystems of the Galápagos.

PARTNERING WITH UF LASTINGER CENTER FOR LEARNING

This year, P.K. Yonge strengthened its partnership with the **UF Lastinger Center for Learning** to support improved literacy and mathematics instruction. Teachers collaborated with literacy specialist Jon Mundorf and mathematics specialist Jan Merritt to explore research-based strategies that strengthen reading and math learning in the classroom. Mundorf and Merritt also serve as affiliate faculty for the Lastinger Center.

As part of the partnership, teachers participated in classroom video capture that highlights effective instructional practices. These videos provide meaningful professional learning opportunities. Through this collaboration, P.K. Yonge continues to connect research, teaching, and innovation to support student success across the state of Florida and beyond.

54 INSTRUCTIONAL
VIDEOS
produced in 2025-2026

featuring
P.K. YONGE
FACULTY **18**

CELEBRATING WIN WEDNESDAYS

This year, P.K. Yonge **6th and 7th grade students** embraced WIN Wednesdays. Our weekly “What I Need” sessions are designed to give middle school students time to focus on their individual growth. From tutoring and project support to enrichment activities, WIN Wednesdays have become a cornerstone of personalized learning at our school.



What are WIN Wednesdays

- **Personalized Learning:** Targeted support in reading, math, and core subjects tailored to individual needs
- **Enrichment Opportunities:** Creative workshops, STEM challenges, and art projects
- **Peer Collaboration:** Group projects and peer mentoring
- **Academic Support:** Tutoring, test prep, and guided practice
- **Social-Emotional Growth:** Check-ins and wellness activities to promote mindfulness, resilience, and self-reflection
- **Progress Tracking:** Students develop and monitor learning goals
- **Community Connection:** Guest speakers and community projects connected students with real-world experiences

FACULTY ADVANCEMENT

This year, we proudly recognize faculty members who earned promotions in acknowledgment of excellence in teaching, research, and service. These advancements reflect not only individual professional achievement, but also a shared commitment to innovation and lifelong learning.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
PROFESSOR



DR. ASHLEY
PENNYPACKER HILL

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



DR. TREDINA SHEPPARD

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



LEIGH ANNE BREWSTER

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



LINDSEY FRANKLIN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



JENNIFER BENNETT

PROVEN RESULTS

High School

48

out of 1,087
Florida public high schools

#1

in north central Florida high schools

Middle School

166

out of 1,864 Florida
public middle schools

Elementary School

1,118

out of 2,674
Florida public elementary schools

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT *rankings*

Our district continues to earn recognition at both the K-8 and high school levels, reflecting a comprehensive commitment to student success from early learning through graduation. The latest U.S. News & World Report rankings highlight the strength of our academic programs and the measurable impact of our instruction across all grade bands.

High School Rankings

At the high school level, U.S. News & World Report evaluates nearly 24,000 schools using a weighted formula that includes college readiness, state assessment proficiency and performance, underserved student outcomes, and graduation rates. The rankings place a strong emphasis on Advanced Placement participation and success as indicators of college and career preparation. P.K. Yonge earned a ranking of #48 out of 1,087 Florida high schools, demonstrating excellence in preparing students for postsecondary success.

K-8 Rankings

Our district's performance at the elementary and middle school levels is reflected in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings, which evaluate more than 70,000 public K-8 schools using Department of Education data. Rankings are based on a 50/50 weighting of state-level math and reading proficiency and overall performance, with a strong focus on how well schools serve all student demographics.

2025

BLUE WAVE ACHIEVEMENT REFLECTED IN STATE SCORES

Our students' strong performance on state assessments reflects both academic achievement and continued growth across all grade levels. Our results highlight a commitment to high-quality instruction and measurable outcomes, demonstrating how our students are performing and progressing in comparison to peers statewide.

#1

3rd Grade FAST ELA

#1

US History EOC

out of 75

Florida School Districts



#2

4th Grade & 6th Grade
FAST ELA

#2

3rd Grade & 6th Grade
FAST Math

#2

Civics EOC

#2

8th Grade Science

PK by the Numbers

1,435 Total Students

- 585 High School
- 450 Middle School
- 380 Elementary School
- 20 Pre-Kindergarten

95 Faculty

91 Years of Excellence

P.K. Yonge

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at the University of Florida

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