Pathways High
2022-23 Report

Personalized, Real-World Pathways to Success
With the completion of the 2022 - 23 academic year, it’s wonderful to reflect on the many shining moments Pathways High (PH) experienced throughout the year. We hope that sharing our collective accomplishments will provide inspiration and joy to others. PH’s mission to unleash all learners’ potential now is reaping great rewards for our young people and broader community.

1. SHINING MOMENT: 2023 GRADUATES

The students tell PH’s story best. The following are excerpts from their graduation speeches.

"Through my years at Pathways, I was given the resources to discover who I am. Pathways created classes that let me explore different topics, and took me on IMPACT experiences where I could see what people in the community are already doing. I also got after-school opportunities like Lead2Change, which inevitably made me decide to pursue my dream of being a marine biologist.” –Caitlyn N.

"Over our last four years we have been exposed to an array of opportunities and through those opportunities we were allowed to become the people we are today. I think we all knew by the end of culture week freshman year Pathways was a school that birthed people who were meant to make an IMPACT. We are all entering the real world today more resilient, professional, authentic, and more passionate about our future than we were in 2019.” –Kyla C-H.

2. SHINING MOMENT: EXPANDING DUAL ENROLLMENT

While Pathways High has always offered its seniors and IMPACT/5th Year students the opportunity to take dual enrollment courses at local colleges, 2022-23 was the first year that MATC’s ENG-195 Written Communication course was taught on PH’s campus. The MATC professor taught students three times a week at Pathways High and PH partner teacher Julia Mach supported students throughout the course.

Experiencing the rigors of a college-level course while still in high school fosters confidence and skills for postsecondary success. Furthermore, twenty three of the twenty four students who attended ENG-195 passed the course and earned college credit!

- 35 unique students took dual enrollment courses in 2022-23
- 33 earned college credit
- 257 college credit hours earned

3. PATHWAYS HIGH 2022 - 2023 YEAR-END UPDATE

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

- 139 Students, Grades 9 - 13
- 24 Graduating Seniors
- 15 Pursuing IMPACT/5th Year
- 9 Pursuing Postsecondary Credentials and/or Employment
- 33 earned college credit
- 257 college credit hours earned
- 35 unique students took dual enrollment courses in 2022-23
- 35 unique students took dual enrollment courses in 2022-23
- 257 college credit hours earned

8 SHINING MOMENTS

1. 2023 Graduates
2. Expanding Dual Enrollment
3. Student Advocacy Achieves Legislation for Drivers Ed Grant
4. Recognition for Youth Mental Health Leadership
5. Junior Defense
6. Rube Goldberg Award
7. Rowing Success
8. Pathways to Manufacturing Careers
SHINING MOMENT: RECOGNITION FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Furthering the development of agency over their wellbeing, PH students joined peers from WI Lutheran High School and Beloit Memorial High School for a Youth Mental Health Summit hosted by the Brewers Community Foundation at American Family Field. The students collaborated in ideation and solution development workshops, culminating in a “shark tank” style pitch to a panel of judges consisting of area mental health experts and foundation leaders. The best solution from each high school received a $1000 award to assist with implementation of the solution at their school.

Pathways High’s Youth Mental Health Framework, MyWellness, was selected from over 35 submissions as the winning design by a panel of community and mental health experts for the MKE Impact Lab, an initiative of the Greater Milwaukee Committee. The judges loved our solution because it “tackled multi-dimensional wellness in a very smart, reflective, and goal-oriented way that meets young people right where they are.” MyWellness seminars – Creative Coping and Mental Health Literacy – are an upstream solution, engaging teens in building their own capacity to navigate and mitigate mental health challenges.

The result of PH students’ relentless advocacy was the inclusion of $6M annually in the state budget to provide the complete drivers education program for $35 for every student statewide who qualifies for free and reduced lunch!

SHINING MOMENT: DRIVERS EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Several Pathways High students worked alongside the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance and Common Ground to advocate for statewide drivers education grants for high school students who cannot afford the $600+ fees for drivers education classes. As part of their campaign to raise awareness for the critical need facing them and their peers, these students made presentations to community leaders and were featured in four different TV news stories.

This past year, 56 unique mastery defenses were presented and 64% of PH seniors earned mastery credit through this highly rigorous process.

SHINING MOMENT: JUNIOR DEFENSE OF ADVANCED MASTERY STANDARDS

2022-23 marked the second year of the Pathways High Junior Defense process, akin to a masters thesis defense, to earn advanced mastery credits. Candidates publicly defend their work to a student audience and evaluation panel consisting of:

- Two PH students
- A PH teacher, certified in the content area of the standard, and
- One or two community members

Expanding Students’ Networks

Junior Defense guest evaluators are network connections that can open doors to limitless opportunities for our students as they pursue new projects, internships/apprenticeships, and the optional IMPACT/5th year at Pathways High. Guest evaluators represented the following organizations:

- Association of Equipment Manufacturers
- Marquette University Law School
- Crescent Grove Advisors
- The Urban League of Milwaukee
- Neighborhood House
- The Brand Lab
- Reinhart
- City on a Hill
SHINING MOMENT: RUBE GOLDBERG AWARD

Six PH students in Mr. Koehler’s Instruments of Change physics seminar joined forces to form a Rube Goldberg extracurricular team and competed in the local Engineering Machine Design Contest held at Discovery World in March 2023. During the competition, the WI Southeast Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers evaluated the machine designs based on specific criteria. The PH student team won “Most Creative Use of Materials” for the second year in a row!

SHINING MOMENT: ROWING SUCCESS

Offering sports, let alone being competitive, is challenging for small schools. However, Pathways High has proven once again that despite our smaller size, we can pull above our weight in sports like rowing. In 2023 PH Senior Campbell P. and sophomore Petra K. won regional awards for rowing. In late May at a competition in Ohio, Petra received third place in both the Women’s Novice First 8+ and the Women’s First Novice 4+. At the Nationals competition, Campbell received first place in the Men’s 2nd Varsity 8+.

SHINING MOMENT: PATHWAYS TO MANUFACTURING CAREERS

What happens when you combine English Language Arts (ELA), philosophy, and a hands-on motorcycle engine conversion in one high school class? Student engagement and learning soar! That’s exactly the outcome for students in Pathways High’s “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance,” a seminar inspired by Robert Pirsig’s 1974 best-selling book by the same name.

PH IMPACT Partner and General Manager of Harley-Davidson Powertrain Operations Tim Evers said, “To get students engaged with hands-on work at this age will be priceless for them no matter what secondary education, skilled trades, or careers they pursue. When I am recruiting to hire an entry-level engineer, I always look for candidates with practical experience who can also clearly communicate their actions. This class will set them up for success.”

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

As a regional public charter school, PH is intentionally bringing together people from wide-ranging communities, providing the diversity of thought necessary to tackle the complex challenges facing us today and in the future.

RACE

- AFRICAN AMERICAN, 50%
- CAUCASIAN, 30%
- HISPANIC, 7%
- NATIVE AMERICAN, 5%
- BI-RACIAL, 8%

BASIS ON 140 STUDENTS FOR 2022-2023

GENDER

- FEMALE, 52%
- MALE, 48%

SOCIOECONOMICS

- NON FREE & REDUCED, 33%
- FREE & REDUCED, 67%