



PAUL YUZYK ACADEMY OF TORONTO

**POLICY
BOOK**
2022-2023

Updated :
June 10, 2022



Message from the Administration

On behalf of the school administration, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the PYAT family! We are very excited to begin this new chapter of Ukrainian Schooling in Toronto.

The Paul Yuzyk Academy of Toronto continues the legacy of two Ukrainian schools, Tsiopa Palijiw Ukrainian School and UNF Toronto West Ukrainian School. The administrations of these two schools were committed to making Ukrainian heritage education accessible and enjoyable for students. They understood that the methodologies used in Ukrainian schooling needed to shift so that students retained their identity and their language beyond the classroom. We are proud to welcome you to a renewed Ukrainian school experience which has made student centered learning a priority.

We have prepared the following document for you so that the policies of our Ukrainian are accessible and understood by every parent and student. Please ensure you read it carefully—it will help answer many questions. It is my pleasure to ensure you are informed about our school. Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions.

We look forward to working with your child and welcoming you to Ukrainian School!

Sincerely,



Anastasia Baczynskyj
2022-2023

Welcome to Ukrainian School!

1. Motto

As I sow, I shall reap

PYAT is the first Ukrainian Saturday school in Toronto to focus exclusively on student centered methodologies while teaching children about their history, culture and language. The motto, “As I Sow, I Shall Reap” speaks to the agency that children must be given in their learning process. We wish to inspire children to ask questions, to be curious and to be creative. They will learn not only how to be Ukrainian, but how to think critically and to take ownership of their results.

2. Mission Statement

“To inspire our Ukrainian Canadian youth to honour their heritage, learn their language and engage actively in their community by providing them with an excellent academic program and an engaging learning environment.”

3. What is Student Centric Learning ?

Student centered learning is based on 4 key concepts:

1. Learning is personal - Teachers understand the student’s learning needs and see them as individuals not a class unit. They develop a foundation of trust where learning new things is safe.
2. Learning is about depth- Teachers personalize lessons based on the strengths and interests of the student so that the student can delve deeper into the material.
3. Learning never stops - Students have interesting activities as homework so that they may discover new things while away from the classroom.
4. Learning is Student Driven - Students are actively asked for their ideas in the learning process. Lesson plans are constructed to give students the agency to choose where to explore next.

Most modern schooling systems have moved to a student centered learning approach as it develops key skills such as critical thinking, curiosity and confidence. These skills are now important for success in the world and in the workplace. However, a student centered approach is, at its foundation, a more enjoyable learning process. Enjoyment is critically important to success in children’s education.

Children’s brains have evolved to understand emotions from birth. Children are more emotive than adults because their brains are immediately geared towards emotional understanding, while

logic develops over time. This means that children do not learn because they understand that the information provided will be “good for them” in the future. They learn information for two reasons: a) because they wish to avoid negative emotions (eg. an upset parent, self-depreciation for a bad mark), or b) because they enjoyed the process.

At , we believe it is logical and more effective for children to enjoy their educational experience and so we firmly stand behind our student centered learning philosophy. If a child loves the experience of being exposed to their culture and language, they are more likely to internalize the knowledge, apply it in their lives, and pass it on to the next generation.

4. Academic Program

Paul Yuzyk Academy of Toronto serves students from JK to Ukrainian Matura (Gr.11). Students will be working towards three Ontario Ministry of Education High School Heritage Language Credits, also known as “Kursy.” Subjects include Language, History, Culture, Literature and Geography. Religion as a subject is not taught weekly, but Christian concepts and daily prayers are a part of our program. Students may need to purchase textbooks/school supplies for their classes. These are not included in the academic fees. The academic program content follows all recommendations set by “Shkilna Rada” (Ukrainian School Council - Ukrainian Canadian Congress).

a) Linguistic Expectations

JK and SK welcome all levels of speakers. After Gr. 1, however, all students must have a workable knowledge of Ukrainian (speaking and/or comprehension) to continue in our academic program. If your child does not meet language expectations, teachers will recommend supplementary learning supports before recommending more intensive solutions (ie tutoring.)

We value accessibility to heritage and to facilitate transition into the academic program, our Culture and Conversation Clubs and Tutoring Classes welcome speakers of all levels.

For all school dates, please refer to our calendar at www.pyat.ca

5. Conversation Club and Culture Club

Conversation Club and Culture Club run every week when classes are held. We recommend sending children in comfortable “play clothes” as the activities may involve active play and crafts that involve paint. Your child will engage in lively and potentially messy activities. Students enrolled in the academic program may join the Clubs portion of the program as a separate part of their education. Language of instruction is bilingual - Ukrainian and English. Children enrolled in our Clubs program are part of the PYAT family and will participate in school activities such as concerts, school-wide projects and wider community initiatives. For children aged 8-15.

For all club dates, please refer to our calendar at www.pyat.ca

6. Golden Horizons Program

The Golden Horizons Program (Zolota Nyva) is for teen students who are seeking a way to give back to the community. Students can earn High School volunteer credits by signing up to help at our Conversation or Culture clubs, helping teachers with their lesson preparations or creating their own initiatives. All initiatives are screened by the school administration and reference letters will be provided for service and participation.

7. Staffing

Our staff is carefully selected for their strengths in student centered methodologies and their knowledge of Ukrainian language and culture. Our staff engage in continual learning and develop their lesson plans with subject experts during the summer months. We stand behind the professionalism of our staff, all of whom embody PYAT's ideals, values and mission.

8. Parent Engagement

PYAT loves and respects its parent community. They provide support to the school by providing physical help, advising on progress and process, fundraising, and providing a network of support for our students. They also share their special talents with the school which are critical to the school's success. The PYAT Parent Committee meets once a month with the administration via Zoom to discuss the month ahead. We encourage parents to come to the meetings and get involved with their children's education. To join the calls, contact the Director at director@pyat.ca. Meetings will be bilingual (English Ukrainian) for everyone's access.

9. Communication Policies

PYAT has a robust website that contains all of our events and class information. We urge parents to check on the progress of their student's class through our classroom portal and check weekly announcements. A school newsletter is emailed out once a month in both English and Ukrainian. Our office administrator updates our website and social media channels weekly. Our office email is office@pyat.ca. All communication to the school can be made in Ukrainian or in English. Our school does not use the Russian language.

10. School Concert Tickets

To attend our beautiful concerts, please RSVP through the event page on the PYAT website so we can arrange a chair for you.

11. Payment and Academic Fees 2022-2023

Early Bird Period	Rate Until July 1, 2022
Academic Program 9:00am-1:00pm	\$400/per student flat rate

Clubs	Per Student per annum
Conversation Club 1:30-3:30 pm	300\$
Culture Club 1:30-3:30 pm	350\$

Registration (After July 1,2022)	One Student	Two Students	Three Students	Four Students
Academic Program 9:00am-1:00pm	\$445/ per student	\$430/per student	\$415/per student	\$400/per student

12. Registration and Payment Policies

a) Returning Families

All returning families will receive a private window of registration before general registration begins. Place in the program is not guaranteed after the private window closes on July 1, 2022. However, for 2022-2023, returning families will receive the early bird price of \$400/student regardless of registration date. See “Registration Confirmation after Payment” below for details of registration confirmation.

b) New Registrants

New registrations can be submitted but will be confirmed after the private registration period closes. See “Payment” below for details of registration confirmation.

c) Registration Confirmation after Payment

Because of high demand, registration applications will be reviewed for completion of all mandatory information. If all information is complete, you will be sent an invoice to pay for school. All payments are to be made through e-transfer to registration@pyat.ca. **The invoice must be paid in full within 2 weeks.** Once paid, you will receive a receipt. **Your payment receipt is confirmation of registration.**

All students marked as “PAID” will receive a “Welcome to School” email. If you did not receive this email you are not marked as registered.

If the invoice is not paid within the two week window, it will be considered “Missing Payment”

and your application will be declined. You will receive an email marked “Missing Payment-Registration Declined.” Your application will have to be resubmitted entirely and will be processed in sequence with new applications.

PYAT is currently operated as a joint venture between Tsiopa Palijiw and UNF Ridna Shkola. Parents enrolling their children in PYAT and otherwise meeting the membership requirements (in respect of payment of student fees) will automatically become members of the non-profit corporation Tsiopa Palijiw Ukrainian School Inc. The joint venture process is expected to become more formalized at a later date.

d) Cancellation & Withdrawal

There is no refund of fees for cancellation or withdrawal of a child from school after December 1, 2022. Before that time, should you choose to cancel your child's participation, the refund will be 50% of the registration fee regardless of month of withdrawal. Materials purchased for program participation will not be refunded. PYAT reserves the right to send a student home under certain circumstances. There is no refund of any deposits or fees for the day. Please see below under “**Reasons for Sending A Student Home.**”

13. Reasons for Sending a Student Home

Unfortunately there may be times when students must be sent home. Issues of sickness, injury, behaviour and bullying are documented and shared with parents as they occur. Refunds for missed days due to sickness, injury or behavioural issues will not be applied. If issues of behaviour and bullying cannot be resolved, the student will be asked to leave the program. The parents input will be considered; however, student safety and program continuation will be heavily weighed. PYAT retains the right to send students home for the reasons described below.

a) Sickness

If your child is too sick to participate in the program, parents will be contacted to pick the student up within 30 minutes of the phone call. PYAT will not administer over the counter medication. Please see “Medications” below.

b) Injury

In the case of an injury, students will receive first aid attention as is required. Parents will immediately be contacted if the injury is to the head or warrants professional medical attention.

c) Behaviour

It is the policy of PYAT to set limits for children which will ensure a safe and secure environment while demonstrating respect for the individual needs of children. At PYAT, students are expected to show respect for themselves and others.

A 3- step resolution model will be used in dealing with behavioural issues. This model is intended to assess, monitor and manage issues of behaviour. As required, parents will be consulted on behaviour issues on an escalated basis.

On the first case of physically violent behaviour, offensive or hurtful language, willful damage or theft of property, students will immediately be placed into a mediation process by the Director. On the second case, parents will be notified in writing. On the third instance, we will consider the removal of the student from programming.

d) Special Note on Bullying

PYAT does not tolerate bullying in any form. We encourage monitoring and support for conflict resolution versus top down solutions. Students are given skills to deal with conflicts/disagreements in a safe and appropriate way should they arise. PYAT also defines what bullying is. Bullying is when “one person applies and or enforces direct or indirect control over another person, using any method available.” This can be verbal, physical, cyber based and/or emotional. If bullying does occur, it is taken seriously. On the first offense, the student is placed into a mediation process with the Director. On the second offense, parents will be informed and a plan will be developed cooperatively. On the third offense, the student will be excused from further participation in the program.

Issues of sickness, injury, behaviour and bullying are documented and shared with parents as they occur. If issues of behaviour and bullying cannot be resolved, the student will be asked to leave the program. The parents input will be considered; however, student safety and program continuation will be heavily weighed.

14. Other Policies

a) Policy on Lateness

Make sure you give yourself enough time to arrive on time for pick up. If you do not check out your student by 1:10 (Academic Program) /3:40 (Clubs Programs), you will be surcharged a flat fee of 20\$ /hour for supervision.

b) Medications Policy

Staff will not administer any medication unless a written request is received at director@pyat.ca. If your child requires an epi-pen, you will be required to provide an emergency action plan with a doctor’s signature. Please place your child’s medication in a Ziplock bag, write clear and detailed instructions and place in the bag, and label the bag with your child’s full name. Pharmacy labels are required for all prescriptions.

c) Electronic Devices and Cell Phones Policy During Classroom Hours

It is important to be aware of PYAT’s strict “No Cell Phones” policy. Cell phones are disruptive to teachers who are there to engage students in the joys of cooperative learning. Cell phones will not be needed during class time and will be therefore be left in bags during class time. iPads and laptops may be used for lessons under special circumstances, however parents will be informed if personal devices are being requested for presentations or learning opportunities. If you should wish to reach your child, PYAT has an emergency cell phone line that can be used when an emergency arises. The number is 647 824-1222. ***Parents are requested to restrict use of this line and use it in times of emergency only.***

d) Lunch

The academic program runs from 9:00-1:00. Please send your child with a packed lunch for lunch break.

e) Allergies Policy

PYAT has a strict “No Nuts or Seeds” policy. We ask that you do not send your child with snacks containing nuts or seeds. The list of allergens may grow depending on your child’s classroom. Please keep our children safe by being aware of their friends.

f) Photo and Video Use

PYAT will periodically take photos and videos of school activities to inform parents about our classes and their progress. A media consent form will be part of the registration process.

g) COVID Policy

PYAT is a permit holder with the Toronto Catholic District School Board and therefore must follow TCDSB policies. As of March 21, 2022, COVID-19 vaccinations were not required for permit holders or their participants. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS POLICY MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME AND THAT PYAT HAS NO CONTROL OVER TCDSB POLICIES.** If there is a new outbreak, PYAT reserves the right to pivot into the most effective and law abiding solution for the safety of our staff and students. Staff, parents and students will be informed about our updated safety measures concerning COVID as they are developed by the TCDSB for the new 2022-2023 school year. All COVID policies as required by the TCDSB will be followed by our school.

h) Pick Up and Drop Off

Please refer back to this page in August to confirm the pick up and drop off plan for students. ***Please note that parents may not enter the building unless they register with the office upon entrance.***

i) Lost and Found

We have a lost and found box PYAT, however encourage parents to **label absolutely everything**. Many students arrive with identical items. This also helps your student identify their belongings in a lost and found box. Label your child’s full name with a fine permanent marker or purchase wash proof labels.

Things left at school will be brought out during concerts for parents’ inspection. Items not claimed by the last day of school will be donated to charity.

15. What to leave at home

- Electronic games or personal listening devices
- Expensive items/precious items that will devastate student/parent if lost or broken
- Cell phones
- Nut Snacks/Gum

- Perfume/Scented Products
- Aggressive/Gun toys

16. What to Bring to Class

- Appropriate clothing (sweater/play clothes)
- Comfortable running shoes
- Backpack
- School supplies as per class lists
- Apron for messy crafts

17. The PYAT Rules

1. We are a Canadian Ukrainian School and honour our heritage and ancestors by speaking Ukrainian
2. We believe that all staff and students deserve to be respected – Bullying, Name Calling, Violence, Sense of Entitlement/Snobbery, Theft or Destruction of Property is not tolerated.
3. We ask deep questions that bring us deep understanding
4. We have a growth mindset and can learn anything that we set our hearts to
5. We participate in our learning with enthusiasm, because we are part of the process!