

Non-Profit Spotlight



Tell me about Pace School

Pace School in Churchill is a placement option for school districts in Allegheny and surrounding counties that currently serves kids, kindergarten-11 grade with emotional challenges or Autism. Each year students from more than 40 school districts from Allegheny and surrounding counties.

When was Pace School started?

In June of 1967, a small group of dedicated parents and professionals planted the seeds of a new school. Frustrated by the educational opportunities available to their children and clients, they opened Pace with just 26 students in rented space in a McKeesport church. The school provided a caring environment with individualized instruction where children could learn at their own "pace". From those seeds, Pace School has grown into a state licensed Approved Private School and Partial Hospital program serving more than 140 children each year from school districts throughout Allegheny and surrounding counties.

What do you wish people knew about Pace School?

For far too long, students in special education have been left out socially and left behind academically. There have been many times in our students lives when they have heard that they "can't". At Pace, we believe KIDS CAN. We believe that we can change minds, lives and futures by providing the best opportunities, individualized learning, and providing the encouragement kids need to believe in themselves.

Do you have any upcoming events?

Pace has two very exciting upcoming events. On March 12th from 5:00-8:00 Pace is hosting a "Bantam Night" ay Wigle Whiskey in the strip district. There is no cost for admission and Pace will receive 12% of the proceeds from the night. Revival Chili food truck will also be on-site to top off a delicious evening.

Pace's main fundraiser, the Taste for Pace, will be held on Thursday, April 12th at the Smallman Galley in the strip district. This private event will feature the 4 chefs of one of Pittsburgh's best restaurants as they create a special tasting menu for the evening. Tickets go on-sale March 1st at www.tasteforpace.org and all proceeds benefit Pace programs.

We are offering a special MACC discount to members who are interested in sponsorship opportunities for these events.

For more information, please contact Tricia Norris at tnorris@paceschool.org



What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating?

Any gift to Pace School, whether it is a cash donation, in-kind gift, sponsorship or event ticket, goes directly to providing services and programming for the students. The costs associated with going above and beyond for our students with things like field trips, special assemblies, family activities or arts and creative spaces are often not covered by the funding structure of an approved private school. Pace relies on generous donors and friends to be able to provide these types of experiences that are so crucial for the student's education.

How can someone get involved?

Donate, sponsor, come to an event! Also, follow along on Facebook as we celebrate student accomplishments. Let us show you that "Kids Can!"

What do you think will change about the organization over the next five years?

In 2016, Pace began a strategic planning process that led to a decision to begin to serve high school students up to the age of 21. The school had historically served only elementary and middle school aged students. Pace is currently working with the University of Pittsburgh to evaluate the effectiveness of current programming in an effort to assure the best possible outcomes for the students. Also, CMU Create Lab is working to incorporate more technology and makerspace concepts at Pace School. All of these efforts will lead to a career based high school option for students up to the age of 21 by the year 2021.

