

Prospective Polytechnic Student - Frequently Asked Questions

What is “project-based learning?”

Project-based learning (PBL) is a teaching and learning strategy or structure, where students work on a project that engages them in (1) an interest/passion, (2) a real-world problem, and/or (3) answering a complex question. PBL can be guided by the instructor or led by the individual student. Students demonstrate the knowledge and developed skills by creating a public product or presentation. PBL is so much more than “doing a project” as the project is not simply an end product but rather the process of learning. PBL puts much of the responsibility and control of education on the individual student with intense support from the advisor(s). Advisors are also challenged to create projects (or classes) that are authentic and engage students in their learning.

We believe that if a student has a spark of passion or desire to learn more and question our surroundings then we can turn that spark into a roaring fire.

What types of projects have been done?

Here are some examples of 6th-12th grade personal project titles from Fall 2020:

- Dress Making
- Adrenal Fatigue
- Planning a Small Business - Bakery
- A Study of Dreams
- Starting a Robotics Club
- A Solar Powered Chair
- Candle Making
- Coding a Website
- Animal Testing
- 3rd Parties in the United States Electoral
- Game Graphics and Design
- Beekeeping

Is Polytechnic a school for gifted students or at-risk students?

We are open to any student and family looking for a different way of learning. Our students come to us for a variety of reasons.

We do believe that each and every one of our students is gifted. Each student has their own potential and genius. Our job is to find that and let the student explore that area.

When does school start?

For the 2022-2023 school year, the school day begins at 9:00am and ends at 3:00pm.

Where is the school building?

La Crosse Polytechnic is located at 228 5th Avenue South, La Crosse, WI. The building is in downtown La Crosse across from Cameron Park and near the Children's Museum and the People's Food Co-op.

What do students eat for lunch?

Students have the option of bringing a lunch from home or selecting a school provided lunch. High school students, in good standing, do have the option of going off campus for lunch provided they are following the student handbook.

Is there recess or outside time?

Middle school students go across the street to Cameron Park with a supervisor after every lunch. High school students, in good standing, are able to choose "open campus" during their lunch period, where they can leave school grounds to eat.

What do you do for PE?

High school students go to the YMCA for guided group activities or individually created health plans. Middle school PE happens at the Mathy Center. The level of choice in activities is dependent on grade level.

Are music classes available? What music do we offer?

Currently, we have a symphonic band class (including lessons) with a half time teacher from Central High School. We do not currently have a choir class. Students are able to do co-curricular or extracurricular activities with their boundary school.

Do students receive a diploma?

Yes. Students graduating receive a La Crosse Polytechnic diploma, which has the same standing as students at other high schools in the School District of La Crosse.

Do students go to college after Polytechnic?

Yes! We have had students attend universities like Western Technical, UW-La Crosse, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison, Minnesota-Twin Cities, Ripon College, UW-Stout, and UW-Stevens Point.

How much does it cost to attend?

Polytechnic is a free and public charter school within the School District of La Crosse. Attending school with us is the same as attending any other school in the district, except you fill out [an application](#) before attending school here. There are no requirements to attend school with us after that application.

Is there transportation to the building?

The bus system for the School District of La Crosse serves Polytechnic students as well. We have a number of bus pickup points at buildings and then busses come to us downtown. If you need transportation, contact GoRiteway ([lacrosse@goriteway.com](mailto:Lacrosse@goriteway.com) or 608-881-6370).

Can students participate in sports?

Students do participate in sports. If students want to participate in a team sport, they participate through their boundary school. If a student lives in the boundary area of Central, for example, they would play team sports on Central’s teams..

What does the schedule look like?

2022-2023 Daily Schedule

	Monday - Thursday	Friday
9:00 - 9:40	Advisory	Design Challenge, Personal Project, Field Trips Activities Rotate Each Week
9:45 - 10:40	Advisor Guided Project	
10:45 - 11:45	Personal Project	
11:45 - 12:25	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 1:40	Block 1	Math
1:45 - 3:00	Block 2	Groups

What is the grading scale?

We are a standards-based grading school, where students are assessed based on their competency towards Wisconsin state standards. We use Advanced, Proficient, Emerging, and Not Yet.