



WHO WE ARE

**SHARI
HONIG**

For over a century, Professional Children's School (PCS) has provided a way for students to pursue their dreams without sacrificing their education. No one knows this better than our current Director of Admissions, Shari Honig. As an alumna, former PCS teacher, academic advisor, and member of our administrative team, Shari is able to see PCS from multiple perspectives.

Q: WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO PCS?

A: Like many of our students, I came to New York to dance the summer before my 10th grade year, and I was invited to participate in a year-round program. I knew I would need to continue my education and had heard about PCS through some of the other dancers. Years later, after becoming an educator, I reached out to Carol Kleban (former Associate Head of School and Alumni Liaison). In 2002, I started at PCS as a maternity leave substitute and ended up staying for eleven years as the ESL teacher and International Student Advisor. I moved to my current position when former Admissions Director Sherrie Hinkle retired. I was interested in helping to shape the culture and future of our school. It's funny, PCS was never a part of my "plan," but I've been here for over 15 years now!

Q: WHAT MAKES PCS UNIQUE FROM OTHER INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS?

A: I think our school is defined by who our students are and the passions they are pursuing outside of school. Our students come to us from all around the world, public schools, independent schools, and a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. In addition to our challenging and engaging academics, we offer our students flexibility in scheduling and course selection, as well as a supportive community. Our students, faculty, staff and administrators all share a common passion for what they do and support the mission of the school.

Q: WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU AT PCS?

A: There isn't really a typical day at PCS, which is what makes this job so much fun! The nature of our school is such that we have to be ready for what each new day

will bring. Generally speaking, my days are filled with meeting new families, guiding school tours, discussing our academic program and reaching out to arts and athletic institutions around the city whose students may benefit from a school like ours. I'm also an academic advisor, so there's a little bit of everything.

Q: HOW HAS BEING AN ALUMNA HELPED YOU IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION AT PCS?

A: I think I'm able to offer an insider's perspective from my life as a student and teacher at PCS as well as from my personal experience with the admissions process. I'm able to honestly discuss the ways in which PCS has evolved over the years, and to reassure families that their children will be viewed as individuals here.

Q: WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT WORKING AT PCS?

A: What is interesting to me is the variety of students applying to our school now. We started off with actors, dancers, musicians, and now we have students who are rock climbers, DJ/ producers, tech entrepreneurs, and many more! I've also noticed that our dancers are coming to us from so many different programs around the city. We have more than ten different dance institutions represented by our PCS students.

Q: WHAT DO YOU WISH OTHER PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT PCS?

A: I try to clarify for people what "professional" means. We have a range of students here—pre-professional, professional, and students who are arts-affiliated. I've also come to realize that PCS students may seem different because they have an intense focus on their craft; however, they are facing many of the same

challenges that all young people face. I'm proud to say, we allow students to pursue their dreams while not being defined by them.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY OF PCS?

A: Each year I'm lucky enough to have two events that stand out in my mind. In the fall, we welcome our entire student body and their families to attend a boat cruise around the city; I love seeing the new families who aren't from New York City pass by the Statue of Liberty for the first time. Then at the end of the year, the admissions office hosts a reception for the next group of incoming families, and I think that event bookends the year nicely. I can't forget to mention that some of my favorite teachers from my time as a student here are still teaching at PCS (Shellie Sclan, Mark Savage), so every day for me is a walk down memory lane.