



**PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

2017-18 School Year Calendar – Surveys

PCHS is in the process of surveying parents, students, and faculty to determine preferences for the start date of the 2017-18 school year. The options included in the surveys are based on the straw poll from the October faculty meeting on what factors were most important to the majority of teachers. Surveys include three options: August 7, August 14, and August 21 (aligns with LAUSD feeder schools). The results of the surveys will be presented at the January Board of Trustees meeting.

PCHS Professional Learning Community (PLC) training (See attached *PLC Progress Newsletter*)

The Academic Achievement Team held trainings with each PCHS PLC for an entire academic day to explore common formative assessments, set annual goals, take parts of the Common Core ELA test, examine PCHS state assessment results, and renew team norms. In addition, each PLC had time to work on a specific project to improve alignment of content, assessment, and pacing within the team. For example, most Pods developed a common DBQ (Document-Based Question) Essay to supplement their already common *Humanitas* Essay. Other teams worked on pacing and planning of new units (Algebra 2, Environmental Engineering, English 10, Geometry, and Advanced Math Concepts). World Languages developed vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment. English 9 and English 11 created common formative assessments. PE implemented vertical articulation with Paul Revere and English 12 with CSU/UCs and SMC. Each team did something valuable to increase student achievement. PLCs were proud of the work they did; and each team was grateful for the time dedicated to common goals. The Survey Monkey results assessing our trainings provided very good feedback. The trainings were rated good-excellent, and the comments given were overwhelmingly positive:

“This time was fantastic. We were able to spend serious time without distractions creating reliable and valid assessment tools that will give us valuable information and guide our teaching.”

“It's always a magnificent present to be able to have allocated time to meet with my PLC. When will the next PLC pullout be?”

“The most useful time of the pull out was spent working on our formative assessments and common assessment related materials. In a relatively small amount of the day we were able to smoothly and efficiently accomplish so much.”

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(Note: Information prepared by PLC Coordinator Sarah Crompton)

Our Mission:

PCHS will empower our diverse population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure educational excellence, civic responsibility, and personal growth



Culture and Climate Updates (*Goal 4- PCHS will foster a positive school climate by continuing to build trust among students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and Board members by educating all stakeholders about the needs and concerns of other stakeholder groups, demonstrating respect for all types of diversity, and increasing cohesion, connectedness, and compassion at all levels.*)

Current steps:

- Hosting on-going “How are We Doing?” brown bag lunch time meetings twice monthly with an administrator and Faculty Senate representatives
- Following up with culture and climate facilitators regarding two-year plan in January 2017
- Implemented activity day schedule to involve and inform students – Topics: 1. School-wide Climate Survey 2. State of the School Address/Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities 3. Diversity Understanding lesson 4. Unity Day
- Researching school climate survey analysis to guide PCHS in defining values and reaching goals
- Involving stakeholders in decision making processes such as the 2017-18 school year calendar
- Increasing focus on healthy coping strategies and wellness (stress reduction during finals, yoga for students and teachers, mindfulness training and meditation for staff and students, expanded mental health counseling options for students)
- Participating in increased number of high school recruitment fairs to expand diversity of the student body and teaching staff.

EDP Professional Development

1. Annual Career Technical Education Conference Rancho Mirage November 16-18

This year’s conference theme “Transforming Career Technical Education” focused on the goal that CTE is continually evolving to improve and innovate. CTE contributions to student educational success, as well as the state and local work force were highlighted throughout the program. Sessions that I attended addressed the following topics:

- CTE 101/overview
- CTE Initiatives
- The Who, What, Why and How of CTE and A-G
- Perkins and CTE Incentive Grants
- Political and Policy Issues facing CTE
- Accessible Equity

2. Charter School Development Center Conference San Diego December 8- 9

Highlights of the annual conference for charter school affiliates include keynote presentations from Dr. Howard Gardner speaking on “From Multiple Intelligences to Moral Intelligence” and Dr. Kathy Perez on “Creating a Classroom Culture of Caring, Confidence, and Collaboration”

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I attended the following presentations related to the PCHS 2016-17 School-wide Goals:

- *CSDC's 2016 Leadership Update*
Key information needed to stay current on charter policy, finance, accountability and practice matters. The presentation covered vital topics, including:
 - fiscal and budget updates,
 - assessment and accountability updates,
 - charter authorizing and renewal updates,
 - legislative and regulatory updates,
 - teacher supply updates,
 - independent study and nonclassroom-based instruction updates,
 - federal policy updates.
- *Out-of-the-Box Nonclassroom-Based Schools Update*

An update on key challenges and opportunities for independent study schools.

1. The latest information on the Anderson v. Shasta lawsuit, including the status of legal appeals, responses by school districts, and how charter schools can evaluate their individual circumstances to respond appropriately;
 2. How the larger political and union relations picture is affecting “out-of-the-box” schools;
 3. Updates on key legal, audit and regulatory matters specific to “out-of-the-box” schools.
- *Improving School Climate for Better Achievement: Examining the Guiding Vision and Values at Your School (The Core of a Sound and Healthy School Climate: A Psychology of Success)*

This session presented a research-based approach to school improvement through the Alliance for the Study of School Climate's School Effectiveness and Improvement “Roadmap,” which predicts schools' effectiveness based on guiding vision and values.

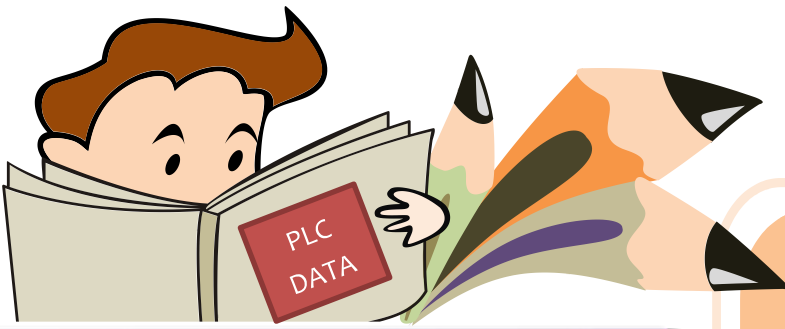
- *Leadership for Intentional, Targeted Teaching*

Analysis of transformative instructional practices that include:

1. Planning with Purpose
2. Cultivating a Learning Climate
3. Instruction with Intention
4. Assessing with a System
5. Impacting Student Learning

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PCHS PLC PROGRESS

EXTRA, EXTRA! MORE PLC HEADLINES...

MORE TLC FOR YOUR PLC WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you for the team work....

Pali's PLCs learned more about common formative assessments, set goals, examined PCHS state assessment results, and renewed their norms.

Algebra 2- Designed new units of study. Created a PLC Google Doc for best practices.

Advanced Math Concepts- Designed a student survey and a common summative exam.

Environmental Engineering- Planned curriculum for 2nd semester.

Gov/Econ- Normed grading of Government DBQ with a common rubric.

Art Pod- Developed common DBQ prompt and collected source articles.

English 9, 11- Created common formative assessments to support common summative assessment.

Chemistry- Created common formative Schoology quiz to go with listening to a YouTube video on Size of an Atom.

Urban Ecology Pod- Developed common-DBQ prompt and collected source articles.

Biology- Organized Biology Curriculum and developed materials in Google and Schoology to share resources. Rick Woodward designed a formative assignment modeled after a Smarter Balanced assessment.

Beginning Languages- Set norms and Vertical Curriculum Alignment. Spanish 1 created a common Mastery Manager assessment.

Advanced Languages- Vertical Curriculum Alignment

Drama Pod- Document Based Query, Student Intervention

Resource Teachers- will establish a common way to run classrooms, a graphic organizer for IEP accommodations, monthly meetings, and will send representatives to core PLCs.

US History- analyzed data from common assessment, designed a DBQ, aligned curriculum pacing to new history and common core standards, and AP work group graded AP common assessment

Music Pod- Found their common theme for semester 1 (propaganda, Stalin, and the Russian revolution) and worked on new theme for semester 2 (love and relationships).

STEAM Pod- mapped themes and gathered resources for Semester 1 ELA writing prompts on: Representation, Environmental Justice, Drones, and Tech Addiction. Scaffolded a non-English class reading of Ender's Game to expand ELA beyond the English classroom. Planned Semester 2 cross-curricular project.

Tech Ed- Will teach digital citizenship (Common Sense Media) for the first two weeks of Semester 2. Reviewed rubric for common writing project; Compared tech standards at the school, state, and national level.

Virtual Academy and Temescal Academy- Developed mission statement: "Online core courses must have assessments aligned with traditional classroom courses;" clarified the roles of Temescal, Virtual, and POP; created "promo" for Temescal Academy.

English 10- Created entire unit on **Night**.

Visual Arts- Designed a third written common summative to be used the week of Showcase.

Physical Education- Revised norms; set goals; planned 2 school visitations, reinstated stand-up department meetings.

Algebra 1- Teachers took the Interim Block Assessments The teacher comments overheard were, "Wow, these are really challenging!", "We really need to make sure our students can think about it this way". In response, teachers designed a collection of 18 practice questions to be used as common formative assessments throughout the year.

English 12- Created a common assessment that is aligned to the English Placement Tests for CSU, UC, and SMC.

Geometry- Developed norms, designed a common warm up/formative, and planned a congruent triangles unit.

Keep celebrating the good work
we are doing together!

PLCs are moving forward!

WHAT'S NEXT?

REMAINING PULLOUTS:

ENGLISH 9, P7, 11/14

SPECIAL DAY TEACHERS, P7, 11/15

VAPA-PERFORMANCE, 11/16

SOCIAL JUSTICE, TBD

7TH PERIOD WORKSHOPS:

1. ACADEMIC CONVERSATIONS (2 SESSIONS)
2. DIFFERENTIATION
3. LESSON PLANNING
4. TECHNOLOGY TOOLS
5. SCHOOLGY/INFINITE CAMPUS
6. HUMAN RIGHTS CURRICULUM
7. SETTING A POSITIVE CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

WATCH FOR SIGN UPS ON A GOOGLE FORM COMING SOON!

THANKS TO THE AA TEAM FOR SUPPORTING OUR PLCs!

REMINDERS:

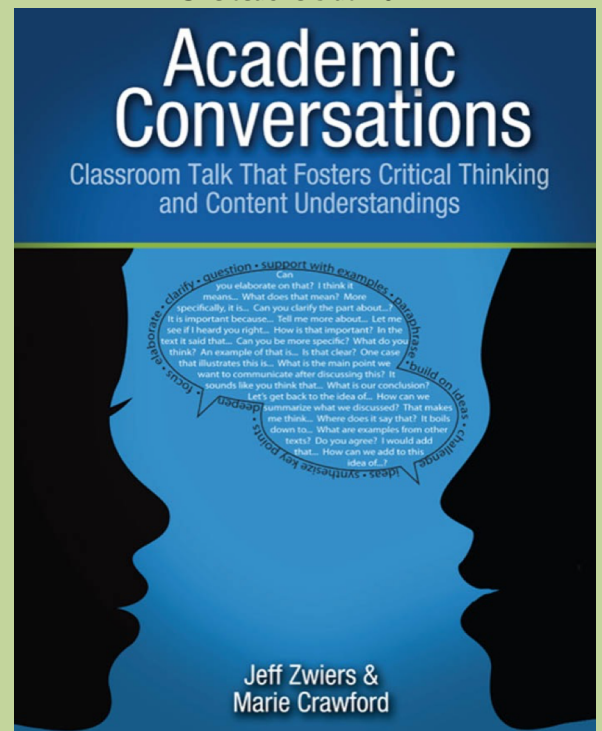
PLEASE LET SARAH CROMPTON KNOW WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE YOUR PLC SPRING SESSION. WE BUDGETED FOR ONE PERIOD FOR EACH PLC. HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT MORE TIME, LET US KNOW!

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS GRANT \$\$\$\$\$

NEED MORE TIME? WANT MORE PD?
SEE MONICA IANNESSA IN THE AA ROOM.
THIS YEAR, WE HAVE STATE MONEY TO SUPPORT TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.



SLC teachers at work!



Interested in this? I would like to schedule a series of two 7th period workshops in January.

There are 7 spaces.

Email Monica if you are interested.

