



# PALISADES

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

### **EDP Report Board of Trustees Meeting September 22, 2020**

#### **Academic-Coordination of Services Team (A-COST):**

The Academic-Coordination of Services Team (A-COST) is designing outreach and intervention plans for each student/family on their caseload to include verification of current contact information for each enrolled pupil, daily notification to parents/guardians of absences, and a plan for outreach from the school to determine pupil needs including connection with health and social services as necessary and when feasible, transitioning the pupil to full time in-person instruction. Targeted, tiered re-engagement strategies will include the PCHS Distance Learning Pyramid of Interventions. At this time, there are fewer than 90 students who have been referred to the team. We have the right people in the room with a focus on family and student support. Math paraprofessionals, *Fuerza Unida*, Link Crew, and TVN are all partnering with A-COST.

A-COST also includes attendance tracking. Per CA Department of Education guidelines for distance learning PCHS is required to track attendance for ALL students and provide an intervention for students who have missed three school days. In order to meet this requirement, as well as identify and address our student needs, there is an attendance component in A-COST. The A-COST Team receives referrals from teachers and pulls attendance reports from Infinite Campus that flag students who have missed three or more school days. Follow up calls and emails made to families about their students' absences and issues are logged and monitored.

#### **Campus Unification Department:**

PCHS is focused on ensuring our school community is a safe environment where all are valued and treated with respect. PCHS Campus Unification Director Gio Stewart plays a significant part in supporting students and providing opportunities for community members to learn more about each other in a positive environment. The latest developments in the Unification Department include:

- [Communitydays.org](https://communitydays.org) “enough is enough” Anti-Racism resources page for the PALI community
- Link Crew Training for specially selected upperclassmen working with 9<sup>th</sup> graders
- Link Crew Orientation for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
- NEW Link Crew Tutoring for 9<sup>th</sup> graders (team of 26 student tutors for 9<sup>th</sup> graders)
- NEW Pali's new student grievance system [The Three C's](#)
- Justice League thriving in its 4<sup>th</sup> year with new student initiatives and group name change to “The Collective Student Union”
- NEW Link Crew & Collective Student Union Collaboration “understanding the importance of A-G's for BIPOC 9<sup>th</sup> graders”
- NEW [Social Justice Allies initiative](#)
- Two Friday morning assemblies



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- NEW Ethnic Studies Book Club open to all PCHS stakeholders designed to value and build cultural awareness and empathy.

### **Academic and Administrative Department Highlights:**

Assistant Principals for the Academic Departments provided the following highlights and updates from the beginning of the school year.

#### **Tami Christopher - Attendance and Admissions Office/English, Tech Ed, Virtual Academy**

- **Virtual Attendance in Infinite Campus (IC)** – IC has created a [virtual attendance](#) component which is then transferred into actual IC attendance every night. Virtual attendance is first taken by students (similar to the attendance quizzes in Schoology). Attendance is then verified by teachers. Teachers can access and verify the attendance after each period ends OR at the end of the last period based upon daily attendance reports sent by the attendance office.
- The **lottery application** (for 2021-22) will be open from 10/12/2020 – 3/1/2021.
- **English 9 PLC** –The PCHS 9<sup>th</sup> grade PLC is piloting the novel *All American Boys* with their classes this fall. This is a switch from *A Raisin in the Sun*. All literary skills that have been previously taught continue to be covered with our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Teachers selected this novel in light of the current nationwide protests to social injustices and lack of equity believing this contemporary novel is relevant for all students. We are proud of our teachers for working to bring this piece of literature to PCHS.
- **Featured Teacher: Tech Ed – Jamie Agius and PCHSmakers** – Ms. Aguis is helping PCHS students create though Distance Learning!! She is doing this using paper and ZOOM. To quote Ms. Aguis, “Give them an inch to invent and they take a mile to innovate!” Distance learning is challenging for ALL of us. Thank you, Ms. Aguis for being one of many Pali teachers making distance learning an amazing experience for our students. Follow pchsmakers on Instagram.

#### **Monica Iannessa - Academic Achievement Team/Math and VAPA Departments**

- **Academic Achievement Team** - With a focus on intervention, the Intervention Coordinator, PLC Coordinator, and SLC Coordinator have teamed to put together plans for support with PLCs and 9<sup>th</sup> grade pods. These three coordinators have been working seamlessly together since the summer to provide a focused plan for the year. They have been holding meetings with the faculty, analyzing data, offering the Study Skills teachers support, as well as supporting important curricular initiatives to diversify the curriculum. Kudos go to Myrna Cervantes, Lisa Saxon, and Sarah Rosenthal.



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- See the **Friday Faculty Schedule for September 18** in the meeting materials to see the exciting opportunities for teachers and students.
- **Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA)**

How can you have fun while distanced during band camp this summer? Click the link!  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CFI8-WCFwruIZT7orhgOoNYmCGXaEj94/view>

PCHS Film Production and Film 2 courses are underway. Malia Jakus and Nancy Fracchiolla have been working hard to create a strong CTE pathway. Students are already producing short films.

- **Math Department Highlights**
  - Algebra I: Commended for use of CFUs using Pali Ed Tech Tools!
  - Algebra II: Scope and Sequence with UCLA Curtis Center Training
  - Geometry: Parallel City Project, PLC Kahoots
  - Math Analysis: PLC collaboration!
  - **Math Lab:** The PCHS math paraprofessionals have been participating in intervention meetings, breakout rooms, and are open for business! Kudos to Sara Hattanbach, Andres Merlos, and Kevin Oliva. They are a great team!

### Chris Lee – Counseling/World Language and Science Departments

- **Counseling Office Scheduling**

Counselors worked throughout the summer to create schedules for students. The Counseling Office implemented an online course request process for incoming students. All students were able to access their schedules before school started on August 10 in order to make schedule requests before classes began. Counselors worked diligently to respond to the over 1,400 requests in order to have schedules solidified by the September 8 permanent schedule date. Currently the counselors are beginning to plan on programming for the Spring Semester as well as preparing Senior Letters. These will be emailed out to parents in the upcoming weeks.

- **Senate Bill 98**

Due to the new California State regulations as written in Senate Bill 98 (SB 98), all students must meet the requirement for a minimum instructional day of 240 minutes. Thus, all PCHS students must have at least three classes a day in order to meet the required 240 minutes of daily instruction. To ensure that all students have the required 240 minutes of daily instruction, students who have a free home period or fewer than three periods a day will now be enrolled in a Study Seminar class. This class will give enrolled students a chance to set academic goals, have teacher check-ins, study time, and reflection while earning high school credit. Students will be required to sign in for attendance, attend the live Video check-ins, and complete their personal study goals.



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- **Community College Courses**

PCHS is continuing its partnership with local community colleges, SMC and WLACC in order to provide dual enrollment opportunities for students. Students can earn both PCHS and college credits through this partnership. Courses include Cloud Computing, Psychology, and American Sign Language. PCHS is looking to also include a Real Estate course, which will require securing funding for textbooks.

- **LGBTQ+ Support**

The PCHS COST team is looking to explore a partnership with We Exist- a program funded by LA County Department of Mental Health dedicated to expanding access and improving services for LGBTQI2S+ young folks and the people who care for them. For no cost to PCHS they would offer additional support groups for LGBTQI2-S Transition Age Youth and their families/ caregivers, referrals to LGBTQ+ affirming services (therapy, STI testing, legal services like name change, etc.), and community presentations and trainings on a number of topics that impact LGBTQI2-S Youth.

- **Science Department Updates**

The Chemistry PLC welcomes a new addition to the Science Department, Jane Curren. Dr. Curren brings many years of teaching experience, as well as experience in the field of ecology and environmental science. Together the Chemistry PLC has created a resource page on Schoology, as well as using a variety of online labs. Many Science Department PLCs met over the summer to plan for the upcoming eLearning semester. The Biology PLC took time to address the socioemotional needs of the students during eLearning, as well.

- **World Language Department Updates**

This cohesive department welcomes two new and experienced teachers. Aurora Martinez infuses her Spanish language curriculum with rich cultural studies. Andrea Giannone created the Italian language program at his prior school. He brings his creativity, insight, and enthusiasm to PCHS. All World Language teachers met during the summer to collaborate and plan for the upcoming eLearning semester. Collectively, the department is focusing on Performance, Practice, and Participation as its pedagogical approach.

### **Mary Bush - Student Support Services/Special Education Department**

- **Special Education Department Updates**

The department welcomed two new teachers, Michelle Goldstein & James Buckman, this year. Both are doing a tremendous job and are communicating well with faculty and parents.

PCHS has approximately 70 new students in special education this school year and special education teachers are in the process of holding IEPs to adjust services as needed – a requirement under state and federal law. We have a total of 255 students in Special Education.



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Our new school psychologist, Guadalupe ‘Lupita’ Gutierrez is a welcome addition to PCHS and has begun assessing students for whom we have signed assessment plans. PCHS utilizes an acknowledgement form, requiring parent signature, to inform parent of the safety precautions being used during assessment. These include a plexiglass shield, masks, gloves and distancing (when appropriate). Parents are also required to affirm that the student does not have COVID symptoms and has not been exposed in the last 14 days.

Special education assessment timelines were tolled under SB 117. It is anticipated that the state legislature will end the timeline waivers so we will begin sending out assessment plans next week as there is quite a backlog of students who have been referred for assessment.

Los Angeles Public Health Dept. recently announced that Student in Special Education and English Learners could attend school; however, LAUSD is not allowing students back on campus yet and we are currently working on a MOU with our teachers to bring students back on campus when we’re able.

- **504**

Section 504 plans have been developed to support students with a disability who and who may have been referred for Special Education assessment since March 15, 2020.

Our Section 504 Program Manager, Grant Smith, is monitoring progress and Acellus courses for 250 students.

- **Health Office**

School Nurse, Stephanie Boyd, has been working on a COVID policy for students and staff at PCHS. A draft of guidelines and requirements for reopening schools is currently being reviewed by Pali Administration. Nurse Boyd is also conducting record reviews for Triennial IEP team meetings and conducting initial Health assessments.

- **Mental Health Services**

The PCHS Mental Health Team is now fully staffed. We welcomed Lynn Lim to our team this year. Lynn is replacing Joe Ringlehan who retired last year. Counseling caseloads have been developed and the team is responding to referrals are providing support to students and families. A memorial post for Shane Thomas on Schoology allows students to post memories and say farewell to Shane. The post also includes Grief Resources.



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### **Russ Howard – Activities, Athletics, Discipline/Social Studies and PE Departments**

- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade sociology teachers are collectively working with students to delve into topics of racial and social justice throughout the semester. The upcoming units for the semester include social identity and power, social inequality and oppression, and systemic racism.
- Athletics do not officially start until mid-December.
- There is solid collaboration within the PE and Social Studies departments which is extremely vital during this eLearning environment.