



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting November 17, 2020

I. Mental Health and Academic Support during eLearning

Schoolwide Goal: PCHS will improve consistency in instructional curriculum, policies, and practices to increase student-centered learning.

Schoolwide Goal: PCHS will commit to equitable policies and practices to ensure PCHS's diverse student population has access to academic opportunities.

PCHS Mental Health Team:

As a comprehensive educational community, PCHS strives to build a network of support services to ensure students have the resources needed to be healthy and successful in an academic environment. In addition, PCHS recognizes the unique challenges eLearning presents for everyone in the school community. Our school is fortunate to have a highly qualified team of experts working with our student body and providing resources for staff.

The PCHS Mental Health Team members are:

- Ruth Horwitz, LCSW- Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW)
- Ariel Schoolsky, LMFT- School Therapist
- Guadalupe (Lupita) Gutierrez, MA, EdS- School Psychologist
- Lynn Lim, ACSW- Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW)

The goal of the PCHS Mental Health Team is to improve the academic success of our students by supporting their social emotional health that can impact school functioning. The team is available to provide mental health support to students, which may include short-term individual and group counseling/support, referral and linkages, and parent support/psychoeducation. The team also offers teacher consultation/support and addresses crisis situations. Referrals can be made by parents, students or staff. When referrals are received they are reviewed by our COST team. The academic counselor will check-in with the student, and the team will then follow-up with what supports/interventions are needed. If you feel it is an emergency, please contact a counselor, administrator, school nurse, school psychologist, one of the deans, or a mental health support personnel.

Please check out our new [Pali Mental Health website](#). There are resources for faculty, students, and parents.



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Student Support Updates:

Multiple support programs for students are now in full operation:

1. **Ready, Set, Go!** in the Virtual Library on T. Th. 7:45 AM - 8:30 AM
2. **Tutoring Program** in the Virtual Library M-F 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
3. **Math Lab.** In the Math Lab Course M-F 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
4. **Social Hours** for 9th and 10th graders sponsored by our Mental Health Counselors 11/12 at 2:30pm
5. **Saturday Success School!** Math, English, Gov/Econ, and ELD departments are running Saturday sessions to help students who are earning NC in classes remediate skills and support students in turning in missing assignments.

Information regarding requests for accommodations on **ACT or College Board tests** can be found on the Student Support Services page of Pali's website:

https://www.palihigh.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=411465&type=d

Parent Support Updates:

SMART Goal 1: Two **parent information nights** for continuing/current students per year (one each semester); one parent information night for parents of incoming students videotaped, posted on website, and communicated out to the school community.

PCHS Mental Health Team member, Ariel Schoolsky, MFT, presented "Empowering Your Teen During During eLearning/Executive Functioning: A Pathway to Success" on 11/12/2020. To review the slides from the meeting and view the recorded presentation, follow this link:

<https://sites.google.com/palihigh.org/palihighmentalhealth/library-of-trainings?authuser=0>

There will be another training presented on anxiety in early December. Watch for more details to be posted in the weekly newsletter and on Schoology.

Teacher Mental Health Support:

The Mental Health Team is hosting events to give the hardworking faculty some relief and socialization during the eLearning period, which can be isolating and stressful. **Lunch Bunch** is held on the first Monday of each month from 12-12:30pm and is a space for teachers to eat lunch, connect, and relax before their next zooms. The first meeting was held on Monday, November 3, 2020.

Afternoon Tea for Teachers will be held on the third Thursday of each month from 3:30pm-4:30pm and will be a place for teachers to connect, meet each other, hang out, and play some games. The first one will be on Thursday, November 19, 2020.



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2. Campus Unification Program Updates: *Helping Students Thrive Through Empathy Provided by Gio Stewart, Campus Unification Director*

SMART Goal 2: Increase student information meetings to ensure all students have access to academic resources, advanced level courses, and support systems.

Affinity Group Leadership

Affinity group leadership is a social justice group made up of the leadership of a school's social and cultural clubs. The purpose of the group is to help hold a campus accountable for equity and inclusion by raising awareness concerning the cultural and social issues of its affinity groups.

Implemented at PCHS through "Justice League" now "The Collective Student Union"

- Asian Student Union (ASU)
- Associated Student Body (ASB)
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Gender Equality Alliance (GEA)
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)
- Latinx Student Union (LSU)
- Middle-Eastern Student Union (MESU)
- Mixed-race Student Union (MRSU)
- Muslim Student Union (MSU)
- Trans Awareness Club (TAC)

The group meets once a week online Tuesday's 4:30 PM - 5: 15 PM.

Affinity Group three week online training with Dr. Joaquin Noguera

Dr. Joaquin Noguera is a former social worker, K-12 teacher, school leader, and director of an international youth leadership institute dedicated to serving Black and Latinx youth through community activism and international travel. He is also a consultant and coach to schools, districts, educators and other learning organizations throughout the country. As a consultant and coach, he works in a variety of capacities to support the development and improvement of learning systems, structures, practices and processes – through strategic planning, vision and mission development and alignment, leadership coaching, in-class engagement support, evaluation and organizational review, curriculum design, workshops and trainings, and as a thinking partner - typically with a focus on equity, social justice and healing.

We will be discussing:

- Social and Cultural Norms and Critiques within Society
- Understanding Implications for Education (Opportunity/Achievement Gap)
- How our groups will engage in that work (creating new vision & mission statements)



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(Continued)

Social Justice Allied Culture Building

Social Justice Allies are members of dominant social groups (men, whites, heterosexuals) who are working to end the system of oppression that gives them greater privilege and power based on their social group membership.

Allies engage in social justice efforts to reform or dismantle systems of oppression and strive toward a vision of society in which the distribution of resources is equitable and all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure.

Ethnic Studies Book Club (Wednesday's 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

Purpose: To educate, value, and build cultural awareness and empathy

Why Ethnic studies Book Club / Group?

BIPOC students demand it, educational experiences that are relevant and meaningful, that affirm their identities and selfhoods, and that work toward human liberation.

Students (both BIPOC and white) who participate and or complete intercultural communication study that directly focuses on cultural awareness and intercultural communication competence make significant gains in empathy.

Excerpts from: The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies, (Sleeter 2011)

Link Crew is an upperclassmen mentorship program for transitioning 9th-grade students.

Link Crew is a program that helps freshman class students transition into high school. The Freshman students are placed in a small group, mentored, and supervised by two upperclassmen. They are also taken through a list of activities to help them learn the valuable lessons of taking on challenges, and the importance of participation. The upperclassman follow-up throughout the year through LC group text follow-up, events and activities, and now tutoring.

In order to add more support for 9th graders this year, we implemented Link Crew tutoring. This service is not meant to replace the supports the school already has in place or to be the first option for students.

But, if after a teacher's office hours or math lab still finds a student without understanding, then we suggest trying a Link Crew tutor.

Link Crew

- 100 members
- One of the largest single student groups at Pali
- 23 tutors that can collectively provide help in all subjects.

Learn more about the PCHS Campus Unification Program [HERE](#).



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3. Potential School Re-opening Information

PCHS continues to closely monitor health conditions related to potential school re-opening. While LA County is still weeks away from considering potential reopening scenarios, our school is working to develop plans for the time when a safe re-opening is possible. The PCHS re-opening plan will be linked to LAUSD requirements due to the district's landlord status over the PCHS school site. Two recent presentations provide a comprehensive update on LAUSD plans. While there will certainly be differences with the PCHS program, these presentations provide some context for areas PCHS is working to address.

PCHS will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.

- November 9, 2020 Board District 4 Town Hall with LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin and LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner:
<https://www.facebook.com/nick.melvoin/posts/2711898412392890>
- LAUSD Superintendent's Return to Campus Plan delivered at at the November 10, 2020 LAUSD Board meeting: <http://laschoolboard.org/sites/default/files/11-10-20RegBdReturntoCampusPlan.pdf>