



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting February 9, 2021

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

School Reopening Updates

PCHS Roadmap for Re-opening and Students Return to Campus

PCHS understands that students need to come back to some form of on-campus learning as soon as possible. We want this as well. State Superintendent of Education Tony Thurmond wrote optimistically, in the CDE Weekly COVID-19 Update from February 5, 2021:

This has been an eventful week full of many promising updates regarding our state's progress in rolling out vaccines and COVID-19 cases declining. These developments give us much-needed hope at a time when many Californians are tired, anxious, and uncertain about what's ahead. There are no easy choices presented as we navigate a global public health crisis, but my team remains committed to working with all partners toward a safe return to in-person learning and supporting students and educators with their immediate health, safety, and learning needs.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/>

In light of this cautiously hopeful news, PCHS is refining the proposed **Roadmap for Reopening** to be presented to the Board of Trustees in March. The ability for students to return to campus to attend school and participate in extra-curricular activities needs to be a process and evolution where we take one step at a time. As we gain success with each step, we will look to take another step through the Roadmap. The environment we are living in currently is too dynamic to have a specific timeline. Many regulatory bodies are involved in what public schools in LA County and LAUSD are allowed to do and when they are allowed to move forward (CDE, LACOE, LAUSD, CDPH, LACDPH, etc.). PCHS will begin working with collective bargaining units to develop an agreement for staff returning to campus when it is safe to do so.

The Roadmap for Reopening includes the proposed stages PCHS will follow as conditions improve and restrictions are lifted.

- **Step 1 (1v1s):** Rolling back to when 1v1's, 1v1 Assessments, J110, and 1v1 Tutoring is allowed on campus again. At this time it is Strongly Recommended by LACDPH, and prevented by LAUSD, but seems to be a first logical step to re-introducing some student activity back on campus.
- **Step 2 (Highest Needs):** When schools are allowed to have Small Cohorts come to campus to serve the Highest Needs population, beyond just the Step 1 (1v1) level, PCHS identifies/invites the highest need students to come to campus.



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- **Step 3 (High Needs):** When allowed to have Small Cohorts come to campus, and after successfully executing Step 2, PCHS expands to serve all High Needs students (up to 25% of Student Enrollment overall is maximum allowed on campus simultaneously).
- **Step 4 (Hybrid-1):** Some form of larger volume of students (possibly 25%) are back on campus in Hybrid Mode v1.
- **Step 5 (Hybrid-2):** Likely some larger volume of students as Hybrid Mode v2 where maybe 33% - 50% of willing students come at a time.
- **Step 6 (Hybrid-3):** All willing students are back on campus, which still may have 20-25% of overall student body wanting to still learn remotely regularly/part-time or full-time, yet some restrictions like mask wearing and social distancing may still be in place. Call this Hybrid-3 b/c not everyone is required to be back on campus. PCHS will allow parents to choose partial or 100% remote learning.
- **Step 7 (Hybrid-4 or Hybrid-All):** All students are back on campus, with no COVID related restrictions in place. Some students may still be allowed to attend part-time or full-time 100% remote, but there is a clearly defined transition period for return to campus full-time.
- **Step 8: Back to Pre-COVID School Functioning**

For potential re-opening information from LAUSD, Pali's charter authorizer, watch the LAUSD Board District 4 Town Hall:

<https://www.facebook.com/nick.melvoin/videos/1230500800677384/>

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.

Professional Development

Teacher-led Technology Workshops

The Pali teachers with the coordination of the AA Team continue to provide timely, relevant PD for faculty each Friday. Most recent teacher-led training include State Testing Preparation for Math and English Departments with Joel Jimenez, Zoom Games for Student Interaction with Malia Jakus, Google Doc/Schoology Interaction with John Vieira, Grading in Schoology with Alice Kim and Tyler Farrell, Albert.io with Julie Benke, Schoology Assessments for Beginners with Steve Burr, and Using Schoology Assessments to Guide Instruction and Review Content with Celest Fraley.



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Grading for Equity Training provided by Joe Feldman - The PCHS schoolwide focus on grading practices and policies during eLearning has brought to light the need for a deeper analysis of our school philosophy and approach to grading. PCHS has initiated a study of effective grading practices including those implemented in similar schools and districts. Following the **February 8** faculty presentation addressing equitable grading practices provided by noted educator, researcher and author [Joe Feldman](#), a [Grading for Equity](#) Study Group will convene to develop short and long term recommendations for schoolwide grading. In preparation for the workshop, Joe encouraged participants to read “Taking the Stress Out of Grading” *Educational Leadership* September 2020 and Chapter 1 of *Grading for Equity*.

Campus Culture and Cultural Competency

PCHS continues to focus on developing schoolwide **cultural competency** as driven by our school mission and vision. We have convened an **Equity Team** comprised of coordinators and adult sponsors of student groups.

Thank you to the following leaders for their dedication and inspirational contributions!

Adam Licea: Black Men's Group/PE Department

Alice Kim: MESA/Tech Ed/Science Department

Chris Lee: Counseling and Intervention

Crystal Adams: The Village Nation/Pali Academy/English Department

David Pickard: GSA/Social Studies

Erika Najjar: *Fuerza Unida*/FACTOR/World Languages Department

Evelyn Rivera: Chicano Literature/English Department

Gio Stewart: Campus Unification/Justice Union/Link Crew/Black Men's Group

Karen Ellis: The Village Nation/*Fuerza Unida*/AP Start/College Center

Kevin Oliva: Latino Student Union/Math Lab/Math Department

Grant Smith: TransAwareness Club/Special Education

Kim Theard: Pali Cares/The Village Nation/Pali Academy

Kinema Ivra: Black Student Union/The Village Nation/Special Education Department

Laura Bachrach: *Fuerza Unida*/World Languages Department

Monica Iannessa: Academic Achievement and Accountability

Myrna Cervantes: Human Rights Watch/ACOST/Intervention Coordinator/World Languages Department

Nicole Newble: The Village Nation/COST&ACOST/Counseling

- Campus Unification initiatives have been aligned to plans that celebrate our school's rich diversity. Recent events include the launch of the Community Ethnic Studies Book Club highlighting important authors like Ta-Nehisi Coates and the Kwanzaa Social.
- Myrna Cervantes sponsored a well attended assembly with Rita Moreno where she spoke about her journey as a Puerto Rican artist.



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- **Black History and Culture** is being celebrated throughout the month of February. The following student group sponsors coordinated an exciting series of educational events.
Black Student Union - Kinema Ivra
Black Men's Group - Adam Licea, Ian Miller, and Gio Stewart
Justice Union - Gio Stewart
The Village Nation - Dr. Crystal Adams and Kinema Ivra
Leadership/ASB - Rob King
VAPA- Nancy Fracchiolla

The sponsors suggested that our faculty participate in the commemoration by replacing personal Schoology pictures for the month of February with the photo and bio of an inspirational African American individual in history or from current times as a way of celebrating the legacy of the many Black lives who have come before us and who are inspiring us today. This has been an excellent community building activity as we learn more about each other's inspirations and role models.

Each **academic department** is posting a video highlighting contributions of Black Americans to their discipline. Videos are posted on the PCHS website and social media.

School community events for Black History Month include:

February (Weekly)	PCHS Department Schoology Profiles in History
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24	Ethnic Studies Book Club
Feb. 5, 12, 19	BSU Podcast Launch
Feb. 25	TVN/BSU Performance Zoom Assembly
Feb. 25	BSU Black History Performance

Friday Schedule

PCHS continues to work with stakeholders (faculty, students, and parents) to gather feedback and recommendations to refine the Friday Schedule. This topic has been discussed in multiple committee venues including Long Term Strategic Planning and Academic Accountability. The input has been enlightening and helpful. Changes to the Friday Schedule for Second Semester 2020-21 were not approved in a recent faculty vote primarily due to the timing of proposals.

While the evolving COVID-19 conditions have made it difficult to predict reopening circumstances, the feedback and proposals will help our school be better prepared for Summer and Fall 2021. We look forward to a return to normal school routines; however, conditions are likely to require adapted schedules into the coming school year.

Our goal is to have a schedule that is responsive to stakeholder input and approved by labor partners by the end of the current school year.



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Schoolwide Goal: PCHS will utilize communication systems currently in place to convey PCHS's strengths, needs, data, and opportunities for participation so that all stakeholders are well-informed and understood.

Postcards and Robocalls - PCHS has expanded the use of automated calls to reach parents who may not frequently access email. In addition, postcards via the postal service are also sent when there is critical information. We are taking steps to ensure that every household is reached in a timely manner to serve the needs of all Pali students.

Parent Q&A – PCHS will provide regularly scheduled taped and live Parent Q&A sessions. Parents should contact the parent board members with any questions they would like to see addressed. The first Parent Q&A will launch in February. Watch for more detailed information about the date and time.