



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting March 21, 2023

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.

Schoolwide Goals - Professional Development/Communication/Student Socioemotional Well-being

School Safety

PCHS conducts schoolwide monthly safety training during the Pali Period schedule. Most recently PCHS practiced the HOLD Drill (3/15) and Active Assailant Drill (2/15/23). Safety Coordinator Brooke King holds staff meetings prior to each drill to answer questions and provide an overview. Information about safety procedures and drills is shared with parents through the weekly PCHS Newsletter.

An essential component of school safety is communication and having streamlined systems in place that quickly reach all Pali households. Parent feedback has emphasized the need for faster communication in multiple formats (email, phone recordings, text). This month PCHS is launching a pilot of ParentSquare, a system that consolidates school communication into one platform. Feedback from the pilot program will guide the decision-making process to determine if PCHS will adopt ParentSquare for the 2023-24 school year.

March 16 - Instagram Live Non-credible Threat – Community Information

A non-credible threat was made on Instagram Live among a group of minors during non-school hours on Wednesday, March 15. PCHS received an anonymous tip about a potential school threat the following morning. We now know non-PCHS students and a PCHS student engaged in an online verbal altercation. Threatening comments made among the students were repeated and misinterpreted in another online chat group that spread throughout the school community.

The Dean's Office, LA School Police and LAPD worked together to identify and locate the students who made the threatening remarks to each other. No threats were directed to the school at large. We also want to reassure the community that no guns or other weapons were found on campus, and no arrests were made related to this incident. PCHS appreciates all who shared information that helped identify the students who were involved.

PCHS understands the apprehension and fear many experienced regarding this situation. We take all reports seriously and carefully investigate each one. Because of our independent charter status, PCHS is fortunate to have an LA School Police Officer on site. This is no longer an option at District schools. PCHS is also supported by LAPD/West LA Area and Patrol Division.

PCHS has a detailed safety plan. Campus wide lockdowns and hold-in-place scenarios are part of our school emergency plan and are practiced regularly. Lockdowns are called when we need students and staff to shelter quietly in place, while holds are initiated when we want to limit



movement around campus while regular classroom activities may continue. We would not hesitate to utilize these tools if we felt that they were warranted. Emergency checkout procedures were implemented to expedite the departure of students who opted to leave school yesterday. Although there were delays due to the number of student departures, our dedicated school staff strove to assist each student and parent with consideration. Many campus departments played an important role in supporting students and parents including our counselors, mental health team, health office/nurses, office support staff, operations & facilities, campus aides & security, teachers and administrators.

PCHS also recognizes that there are many challenges regarding communication and the systems that are in place. While we work diligently to provide timely information, we also constantly evaluate how to do this better. The school is initiating a pilot of ParentSquare, a system that consolidates all communication modes through one application rather than the multiple systems that are currently in use. PCHS is considering this system because it will allow us to quickly reach households through multiple methods (text, voice, email, and posts).

PCHS is committed to providing a safe, secure environment for everyone who comes to campus. These are complicated times and social media has greatly increased the disruptive issues all schools must confront daily. Parent partnership in monitoring children's social media activity is more critical than ever. Together we can provide students with the tools they need to make positive, productive choices while keeping everyone safe.

LAUSD Strike – No Impact on PCHS

LAUSD's labor partner, SEIU Local 99, has announced its intent to hold a three-day strike beginning Tuesday, March 21. If this strike occurs, District-operated schools will likely need to close.

If LAUSD closes schools, this will not impact PCHS operations. While authorized by LAUSD, PCHS is an independent charter school and not involved in these negotiations. PCHS will remain open to provide a safe and secure, positive learning environment for our students.

Schoolwide Goal – Diversity/Professional Development

Museum of Tolerance Experience for all school staff

As a part of honing the equity lens in our community and as an extension of the January 9 Professional Development Day discussion, PCHS is following through with our commitment to send our entire staff to the Museum of Tolerance for a full day experience between now and the end of the semester. Weekly trips the Museum of Tolerance began March 14, 2023. The Museum of Tolerance is able to provide this opportunity through grant funding. Key areas of focus for this unique training opportunity include identity work, equity tools in classrooms, and combatting all forms of hate on campus.



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CA Charter School Association Conference – Sacramento March 13-16, 2023

Several PCHS administrators attended this year's CCSA conference. The annual event provided important opportunities to network with other charter schools, vendors, government leaders, and leading experts in the field of education. In addition, Chris Lee, Monica Iannessa, Amy Onyendu and I presented on the path to school leadership. This was a wonderful opportunity to represent Pali in a statewide forum focused on operational integrity, strategic leadership, and student success. *The presentation is included in meeting materials.*

AALRR Leadership Series for Administrators – All PCHS Administrators are participating in monthly leadership training provided by the AALRR law firm. The topic for March was “From Supervisor to Leader: Responsibilities, Repairing Relationships, and Infusing the Practice of Civility.”

March Faculty meeting and professional development

This month's meeting provided time for PLCs to collaborate and collect data for the school's accreditation report and visit scheduled for 2024. Teachers and staff completed the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Staff Climate Survey. In addition, faculty and staff completed online training pertaining to Email and Message Safety.

Current Enrollment as of March 17, 2023

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 09 | 691 |
| 10 | 739 |
| 11 | 746 |
| 12 | 752 |
| Total | 2928 |

Lottery and Enrollment

The lottery for the 2023-2024 School Year ran on Friday, March 3, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

| 2023-2024 PCHS School Lottery | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Grade | Current Enrollment | Slots Offered | 2023-2024 SY Total |
| 9th | 0 | 780 | 780 |
| 10th | 691 | 98 | 789 |
| 11th | 740 | 33 | 773 |
| 12th | 720 | 38 | 758 |
| | | | Total: 3100 |



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2023-2024 Lottery Applications

| Grade | Applicants |
|-------|------------|
| 9th | 1156 |
| 10th | 142 |
| 11th | 120 |
| 12th | 52 |

Admissions and Attendance Office staff have begun processing applications with the goal of completing applications by the first week of May, 2023.

Schoolwide Goals - Academic Achievement/Student Socioemotional Well-Being

Guidance and Counseling Updates from Dr. Chris Lee, AP/Director of Guidance and Counseling

1. The Fall Counseling Retreat was used to create a new programming plan, which included a course planning website (go.palihigh.org/courseplanning) that was used successfully, with 92% of students submitting their requests. Counselors are following up with the students who have not requested courses. Most are Virtual Academy and IEP students. Having courses uploaded to Infinite Campus earlier this year will help create a better master schedule and get the department grid out quicker and more accurately reflect the student choices.

2. The Spring Counseling Retreat's focus was how to increase the time with the students. During the Pandemic, counselors shifted to many virtual processes, which were effective, but are developing plans to additionally meeting with the students each semester, such as outreach to 9th grade students during their English class. Already they met with students that did not initially submit their requests for the 2023-2024 School Year during a Pali Period.

3. The Academic Counselors are meeting with our 718 Juniors right now to finalize Fall course requests, examine grades and plan for summer school. Junior Summary letters will be e-mailed to parents 4/14/23.

4. Sophomore letters are scheduled to post in Infinite Campus on 4/21/23.

5. Freshmen letters are scheduled to post in Infinite Campus on 4/28/23.

6. Counselors and Dr. Lee are updating the process to request schedule requests and will present to the Board upon completion. Students requested their classes with the understanding that any submissions to request schedule changes **MUST** be done so before



June 1, 2023. Tentatively, students will only be able to request a change of level of class (ex. A change from AP to Honors) in their schedule or if they completed a course during Summer for the 2023-2024 school year once the school year begins.

7. The Counselors made a plan for summer school. Information will be available at go.palihigh.org/summerschool starting 4/21/23.

8. Dual Enrollment - PCHS is continuing its partnership with West LA College to offer college level courses for our 10th-12th grade students. Dr. Lee worked with WLACC to expand the course offerings. These courses are asynchronous so students can learn on their own schedule and earn 10 credits per class. Fall 2023 offerings include: American Sign Language, Psychology, Cinema: Intro to Film Genres, Business Law, Intro to Computers and their Uses, Communications Public Speaking, Real Estate Principles. Students will need to begin the registration process beginning after Spring Break. Space is limited to 40 students per class, so interested students should make sure that they apply ASAP.

9. A WLACC Rep is meeting weekly through coordinated visits in the Counseling Office and Pali Academy. She is assisting any 12th grade students interested in attending WLACC next year. She has also met with Study Skills teachers and Fuerza Unida.

10. Tyler Farrell, our CTE Coordinator is scheduled to present CTE Information to Study Skills classes prior to the Career Fair, March 21, 2023.

11. PCHS Intervention Coordinator Jill Barker is:

- Analyzing Progress report grades to coordinate an intervention planning & follow up
- Sending out Progress 1 fail notification letters to parents/guardians of students with 3 or more fails.
- Acting as a liaison between Special Education Dept. and counselors to communicate about student course needs/planning and working with Student Support Services on child find and the process for assessment referrals.
- Acting as a liaison between the counselors and the 504 department in Grant Smith's absence.
- Support classes-working with counselors, teachers, and departments to place students in support classes, scheduling informational visits to General Education Study Skills classes such as course planning, WLACC Representative.
- Helping our Credit Recovery coordinator, Dave Suarez with data and student follow for credit recovery courses.
- Working with the counselors to identify students to refer to Pali Academy.
- Working with Campus Unification Director Gio Stewart on the Linked Up peer mentoring program.