



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting August 22, 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 – Academic Growth and Achievement/Professional Development/Communication/Student Socioemotional Well-being/Diversity & Equity

**LAUSD Charter School Facility Upgrade Project scheduled for vote
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 LAUSD Board of Education meeting starting at 1:00 PM**

Agenda Item:

Palisades Charter High School – Project to Provide Wrought Iron Fencing and Secure Entry System at the Front of the School

Board District 4 – Nick Melvoin

Project Background and Scope – This project is to provide new wrought iron fencing at the front of the school of approximately 600 linear feet long and eight feet high and replace approximately 2,000 linear feet of deteriorated chain-link fencing around the campus perimeter. The scope of work also includes providing a secure entry system at the main entrance on Bowdoin Street and an accessible path of travel to the main office.

Project Budget – \$ 1,219,763

Project Schedule – Construction is anticipated to begin in Q1 2025 and conclude in Q3 2025.

PCHS SUMMER PROGRAMS AND TRAINING-

Dolphin Leadership Academy (DLA)

DLA Mission Statement:

The Dolphin Leadership Academy is designed to help prepare incoming freshmen to be successful and establish roles as leaders in the high school setting. The students will attend sessions that will help prepare them for freshman pod classes. In addition to learning about academic and behavioral expectations, students will have the opportunity to learn about graduation requirements, school spirit, sports teams, and clubs. The mission of the Palisades Charter High School's Dolphin Leadership Academy is to teach students techniques in decision-making and team building that will promote a successful freshman orientation and freshman year.



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DLA Program Information

The three-week program focused on leadership skills, while emphasizing social-emotional learning to build a sense of belonging and connectedness to the PCHS community, and with one another. Students engaged in lessons in leadership skills, basic soft skills, study skills, PCHS campus information and personnel, art, speaking, acting, summer reading assignments, digital citizenship, and PCHS technology tools. The program hosted Friday Fun Days where students hiked up Temescal, played on the baseball field, and socialized by the pool. The program took place on July 17 and ended August 4. The school day started at 9 am and ended at 2 pm. Daily nutrition and lunch was provided at no cost.

This year, 122 students participated and successfully completed the DLA summer bridge program and received certificates.

Students who were able to finish all three weeks and earned a grade and five credits of Study Skills elective credit.

Number of Students	Grade Earned
72	A
16	B
3	C

- 31 students received certificates of completion.
- 4-5 Dolphin Leadership/Link Crew members participated in the program, providing peer mentorship.
- 3 teachers and one classified staff member supported students in class rotations.
- 1 coordinator administrated the program.

PCHS Summer School

- June 20-July 20, 2023
- Acellus Online Platform with teachers supplementing some courses
- Enrollees - 650
- Enrollees with 2 classes - 540
- Courses Passed - 1120 out of 1190 with a one-week extension
- Courses Offered:
 - Algebra 1A and 1B
 - Algebra 2A and 2B
 - Geometry A and B



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Global Science A and B with additional labs
Chemistry A and B with additional labs
Biology A and B with additional labs
US History A and B
World History A and B
Government
Economics
Spanish 1A and B with spoken assignments
Spanish 2A and B with Spoken assignments
English 9A and 9B
English 10A and 10B
English 11A and 11B
English 12A and 12B
Music Appreciation VPA credit A and B
Psychology A and B
College and Career Tech Elective A and B
Information Management Computer Elective A and B

Summer Training and Projects

In addition to Dolphin Leadership Academy and Summer School, PCHS teachers and leadership participated in a variety of training and support opportunities during the break including:

- FEMA safety training, technology training, AP workshops, and curriculum development;
- Interview panels;
- Academic Achievement Team members and Human Resources supporting Pali's new teachers and staff;
- UTLA Bargaining Team members met throughout the summer with the PCHS Management Team, and
- Math department members participating in Culturally Responsive Pedagogy articulation and training with Paul Revere Middle School math teachers.

Parent Virtual Orientation - August 9, 2023

Presentation recording, slides, and materials are posted on ParentSquare.

9th grade/New Student Orientation – On campus August 10, 2023

PCHS welcomed rising 9th graders and students new to the school. Specially trained student Link Crew Leaders were on hand to lead activities and tours. Students learned about school provided services and procedures. School photos for the yearbook and ID cards were also taken.

Back to School Professional Development August 14 and August 15, 2023

The PCHS focus for the opening of the new school year is **Resetting Campus Culture with an Emphasis on Accountability**. Making positive change will require a campus-wide effort and active engagement.



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Presenters:

Dr. Terrence Roberts with MOT facilitators and Dr. Diana Winston

Terrence James Roberts is one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who, in 1957, were the first black students ever to attend classes at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1999, he and the other people of the Little Rock Nine were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President Bill Clinton.

Roberts published his memoir Lessons from Little Rock in 2009. A second book, Simple, Not Easy, was published in 2010. He consults on equitable practices in education, industry and business.

Dr. Diana Winston, UCLA professor – Mindfulness

For twenty years Dr. Winston has been teaching, writing, speaking, and consulting on mindfulness for personal development and building healthy and thriving institutions. Through her teaching at UCLA, she has supported thousands of individuals in reducing stress, regulating emotions, cultivating attention, and accessing profound well-being through the practice of mindfulness. She also actively advises organizations from diverse sectors, from healthcare to education to the workplace and more, as they integrate mindfulness.

Points of Pride!

- 98%+ Graduation Rate
- 99% Testing Participation
- Expanded CTE pathways bring increased CTE funds
- Close to 100% staff participation in spring Museum of Tolerance experience

2023-2024 Focal Points

- 1:1 laptop implementation
- Pod Power of Two expansion
- WASC Accreditation
- Increased schoolwide accountability
- Schoolwide equitable grading practices

New Technology Implementation

-1:1 Laptops

PCHS has launched the **1:1 laptop program** with all students receiving a school issued laptop during the first two weeks of the new semester. Laptops and textbooks are distributed through English classes. The same laptop will remain with each student throughout their enrollment at PCHS. The laptop program supports our culture reset initiative by providing all students access to instructional materials and tools, improving tech security, curbing cheating through better monitoring tools, and reducing testing time thus increasing instructional time.

Information about the laptop program is sent to parents via ParentSquare as students are issued devices.



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Additional important information about the 1:1 laptop program:

- PCHS already owns devices for half the students.
- The school is using restricted one-time Covid relief funds to purchase devices for the other 50% of devices at a cost of approximately \$1 million.
- An additional \$300k has been set aside in the 2023-24 budget to be allocated towards the replacement of 25% of total devices in the 2025-26 school year.
- Multiple products and vendors were considered and ultimately, the school went with the Lenovo devices because they offered the most functionality and features for school use. The selected lowest-priced provider is also a vendor that Pali has successfully worked with in the past.
- There is also over \$1 million in the 2023-24 budget for wireless network upgrades to improve wireless access and help support the new program.
- The Technology Department and administration have been advocating for 1:1 student devices for several years, and we are now in the financial position to responsibly fund the program.
- Students (particularly those who have not worked in Windows) will receive training at the start of the school year and teachers will be aware that it may take a few weeks to get everyone on the same page. Students will still be able to access Schoology and Infinite Campus and to do their work on their personally owned devices at home, but the plan is to have everyone on uniform school-issued devices in the classroom.
- Students may use their other devices before and after school as well as during nutrition and lunch. Each teacher will determine which out of classroom assignments require completion on a school issued device.

-GoGuardian

The PCHS **laptop program** incorporates a variety of other digital tools selected to increase classroom focus on instruction and minimize loss of instructional time due to inconsistent tech tools, outside distractions, and increasing mandatory assessments. The laptops are equipped with **GoGuardian**, a tool that allows teachers to manage digital resources by class or individual. GoGuardian helps teachers create engaging, personalized learning environments with guardrails for digital exploration. Students and parents will receive more information about GoGuardian and other digital tools throughout the laptop distribution process.

-eHallpass replaces paper slips and clipboards. PCHS made this change to increase campus safety and disruptions to the learning environment. **Physical student ID cards** are required this year, so please check-in with your child about always having this year's ID card with them on campus in addition to their fully charged school issued laptop.

-ParentSquare is the new official platform for school communication with parents and school staff. The system streamlines communication from the school, which has been a frequent request from members of the school community. PCHS has scheduled a staggered roll out of new



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features over the next two months with attendance office verification and communication launching after Labor Day.

Go to the PCHS Website (www.palihigh.org) to read more about [New Technology Hardware and Tools at Palisades Charter High](#)

[ParentSquare Introduction](#)

[Laptop Program: Rationale](#)

Upcoming Events:

Pali Period Lesson Wednesday, August 23

- Introduction to Pali culture and behavior expectations
- Purpose of the Pali Period
- School Pillars (Positivity, Aspiration, Learning, Integrity)
- Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
- Three C's – How to report a concern
- Anti-Hate Pledge
- School Expectations – Student Handbook
Attendance, Dress Code, School Laptops, Academic Integrity, eHallpass

New Parent Welcome Breakfast Saturday, August 26

- 9:30–11:00am in the outside cafeteria.
- New parents will have an opportunity to meet the Pali Admin team and ask any questions they may have after the first week of school.
- RSVP on ParentSquare