



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Educational Excellence.

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting November 14, 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.

November/December Areas of Focus at PCHS:

Season of Gratitude, WASC Self-Study, Health & Safety

PCHS encourages our school community to find moments to reflect on the many reasons we have to be grateful. A personal development I especially appreciate is the collaboration with faculty and classified representatives to address areas for growth at PCHS. In recent faculty reports, teachers shared the need to review school procedures and to clarify decision-making processes. Employee board representatives and department chairs have been supportive and instrumental in clarifying specific concerns and providing proposed resolutions. Questions about conference/training approvals and software implementation are being addressed. I look forward to continuing this collegial work focused on school improvement and relationship building.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Self-Study Updates – Assessments and Accountability WASC Visit March 18-20, 2024 (*Goal - Academic Achievement*)

Curriculum Council and Department Chairs are in the process of reviewing assessment and accountability systems and practices that are currently in place for the purpose of providing input on what is working well and addressing areas where growth is needed. Recommendations under discussion include 1) a schoolwide assessment tool adoption, 2) PLC assessment analysis, and 3) changes in lesson planning in response to assessment analysis.

PCHS Assessment Inventory

College Assessments	CA State Test Schoolwide Assessment	Schoolwide Internal Standardized Assessments*
AP Tests ACT PSAT SAT CAASPP	CAASPP - ELA CAASPP - Math CAASPP - Science CAASPP - Spanish PFT - PE ELPAC- English Language Learners	NWEA - Reading NWEA - Language NWEA - Math NWEA - Science *Needed for new CA Charter Law to measure individual student growth.

Spring Testing Week:

Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12 CAASPP, NWEA, Practice SAT

Health Office: Covid procedure updates (*Goal - Student Socioemotional Well-being and Health*)

PCHS welcomes our new school nurse, Nicole Montanez. In her short time at Pali, Ms. Montanez has already made a significant impact by updating the school's COVID policy (below) and coordinating a variety of health-related opportunities for the school community such as arranging for the Westside Family Health Center Mobile Unit to be on site.

PCHS COVID 19 Protocols 2023-24 School Year

Over the past few weeks, many questions have arisen in regard to the most recent processes around how we manage COVID and related symptoms. The purpose of this email is to outline the most recent procedures and protocols.

The below guidelines reflect the latest isolation and contact requirements which Palisades Charter High School adheres to in alignment with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/ OSHA), and Health Officer Order. These guidelines represent a revision of Summer 2023 COVID guidelines issued by LAUSD Office of Health Emergency Response & Support, May 5, 2023.

Please note, these guidelines are subject to change. We will continue our commitment to partnering with you to bring you the most recent information.

Testing Positive Isolation Protocol

- Students:
 - *Isolation:* Students who test positive must stay home and must isolate for 5 days. "Day 0" represents the date that the positive test was taken, or when symptoms began. "Day 1" represents the day after the positive test was taken or symptoms began. Parents are strongly encouraged to submit the testing results to the Health Office. Nmontanez@Palihigh.org
 - *Release From Isolation:* On or after day 6, improved symptoms, and fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, may unmask with 2 sequential negative tests taken at least a day apart. If you left, isolation and experience worsening symptoms, you must retest using a rapid antigen test. If positive, re-start isolation at day 0.
 - *Testing:* Rapid antigen testing is recommended before returning to school since PC (rapid) tests can read positive (even after an individual is no longer infectious).

Close Contact- Asymptomatic

- Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff can remain school/work following exposure as long as they are asymptomatic. It is recommended to wear a highly protective mask indoors for 10 days following the last date of exposure AND test between 3-5 days after exposure.
 - **Close Contact Definition:** A Close Contact is a person who shares the indoor airspace with the infected person during the infectious

period (beginning 48-hours before the person's COVID- 19 positive test result or symptom onset) for 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24-hour period, if indoor air space is under 400,000 cubic feet, regardless of the use of face coverings. In indoor airspace larger than 400,000 cubic feet, persons within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of face coverings, would be considered a close contact.^[1] Persons with an outdoor exposure at school are not considered close contacts.

Symptomatic Without a Confirmed Positive Test:

- Students:
- If students are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, stay at home and do not enter campus. In the event symptoms start during school, immediately ask the student to put on a mask (if readily available) and report to the nursing office. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up their child.
 - Test as soon as possible. Even if a student has recovered from a confirmed case within the past 90 days, but experiencing new onset symptoms, they should test immediately using a rapid antigen test (not a PCR test). If the antigen test is negative, it is recommended to continue to isolate and test again in 2 days. The student may return to school once symptoms improve and fever-free 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.
- *Exposure Management Protocols: Recommended Indoor Masking, but not required for Employees*

We will continue to provide regular updates as we receive updates from the Los Angeles County Public Health Department, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

In the meantime, please reach out to our School Nurse, Nicole Montanez if you have any further questions.

Nicole Montanez, MSN, MBA, BSN, RN
School Nurse

Westside Family Health Center Mobile Unit

Beginning 1/23/2024, the WFHC Mobile Unit will be offering free health services at PCHS.

For an appointment

Text: 310-699-9973

Call: 310-450-2191 x246, 247, 215, or 234

You can also stop by the PCHS Health Office or call Ms. Montanez at 310-230-7219.

Mobile Unit Dates

1/23/2024 8:30AM - 2:00PM

2/27/2024 8:30AM - 2:00PM

3/26/2024 8:30AM - 2:00PM

4/23/2024 8:30AM - 2:00PM

5/28/2024 8:30AM - 2:00PM

This service is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL!

Safety Awareness and Drills (*Goals - Student Socioemotional Well-being and Health; Communication*)

Hold/Shelter in Place activity during Pali Period - Wildfire smoke advisories and power outages mean it is time to get prepared for potential airborne events during school hours. The PCHS Safety Team convened to review protocols and make updates to procedures. Prior to the recent practice activity teachers were asked to also review procedures and locate their classroom kits, which are in all classrooms and offices. Information on sheltering in place during an airborne event is located in the Schoology Safety Course available for all teachers, who are also disaster service workers (CA Government code sections 3100-3109 as well as CA Health and Safety Code Section 131021). Being prepared is key!

Counseling Department Update from Heather Schon, Department Chair (*Goal - Academic Achievement*)

- Counselors have been updating student records and meeting with Seniors and Juniors to review Graduation requirements, A-G requirements and Spring 2024 course selections.
- Counselors will be meeting with Sophomores in the upcoming weeks to review Graduation requirements, A-G requirements and Spring 2024 course selections.
- The Counseling Office welcomes Allison Raynor as the new Intervention Counselor. Allison will work closely with students who are struggling academically to help them stay on track. She will be providing information schoolwide regarding intervention processes and practices.
- Counselors are preparing for the upcoming school wide Pali Period that will focus on course requests for the 2024-25 school year as well as graduation and A-G requirements. The office is also working with department chairs on exciting new additions to the course catalog.
- The Counselors met with *Fuerza Unida* and TVN students during Pali Periods to review Graduation requirements, A-G requirements, and Spring 2024 course selections.

College Center Update from Karen Ellis, Director of College Advising (*Goal - Academic Achievement*)

- In August, we welcomed Chelsea Enos, our newest College Counselor, to the College Center team. Chelsea has been a great asset to the team and instrumental in helping us advocate for our students while supporting them in their post-secondary goals.
- As students returned to campus, we hit the ground running with our senior packet activation. Over 300 students returned to school with documents they had prepared over the summer per our instruction in their junior meetings last spring.

- The College Counselor spent most of August, September, and October with seniors to solidify their college aspirations. Students were further introduced to Naviance, Common App, UC App, and the CSU App. We also worked with students with applications to international schools.
- Early September, the College Center hosted a 9th/10th parent and student meeting was to discuss their high school academics as it relates to their college goals. We shared information on creating your college resume, how to choose rigorous courses, how to manage your academics without overloading yourself and the importance of knowing that all your high school grades matter. Nearly 300 parents/students attended the meeting, it was very interactive, and we stayed until 9pm answering questions.
- In October, we welcomed, Ronnie Cohen, a former Pali AP teacher to our team to assist the seniors with their college essays. Students have been scheduling 30-45 minute appointments and Mr. Cohen is available two days each week for 3-4 hours each day. We have noticed that many students are using this service and there have been many repeat appointments.
- October 11th, we hosted a College Fair with over 70 colleges from across the country and 10 college-prep vendors in attendance. The fair was well received and well attended.
- On Saturday, October 14th, we administer the PSAT to approximately 200 juniors. This was the first year using the digital PSAT and it was a very successful event. With the assistance of proctors, IT and the College Center team, all students were able to submit their answers without difficulty.
- Over 350 letters have been written to meet the November 1st, Early Decision/Early Action Deadline. All letters were written for students who advised us they were applying ED or EA. Currently we are working to complete the letters for students applying Regular Decision.
- On Saturday, November 4th, in collaboration with CSUN, the College Center hosted a hands-on UC/CSU application workshop to assist seniors with their UC/CSU application. It was attended by both parents and students.
- The College Center will be hosting a “Understanding Financial Aid” presentation in Mercer Hall. (Possible date – December 14th) TBD

EDP Professional Development – Attended the annual Charter School Development Conference in Anaheim, CA Thursday, November 9. The Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC) conference provides comprehensive training, resources and analysis of the current, major fiscal, policy, and regulatory trends affecting California charter schools for charter leaders. I attended sessions addressing Risk Management, Actionable Calendaring for Student Achievement, and the 2023 Charter School Leadership and Finance update.