



# PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*Empowering Educational Excellence.*

## **Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting January 23, 2024**

*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 addressed in this month's report:** **Academic Achievement, Communication, Diversity, Student Socioemotional Well-being, and Health**

**Communication** - Expanding coverage of student events and broadening outreach to the student body is an objective identified during the annual Board of Trustees retreat. To meet this year's goal ASB provides a Weekly Wednesday update that is included in the weekly parent newsletter and posted on ASB social media accounts. The Leadership Show, a recorded video production, is shared schoolwide and posted on social media and in the newsletter. A Student Square companion to the Parent Square Newsletter featuring student news and photos is in development.

A hyperlink to the parent board representatives will be added the Parent section of the school website ([www.palihigh.org](http://www.palihigh.org)).

### **Highlights of the Second Semester 2024 kickoff:**

**January 8 – The Faculty and Staff Professional Development Day** focused on student assessments and identifying student learner needs. Academic departments examined data and developed recommendations and strategies to address learning gaps. Preparation for mandated state assessments is underway.

**January 9 - The All Periods Meet schedule** provided students with time to acclimate to any changes to individual academic programming and a moment to readjust to being back in an academic setting following time away.

**Spring Reset - Refresh campus expectations** - During the first week of the semester, teachers reviewed protocols for being responsible, successful students to set a productive tone for the new semester, especially encouraging students always be present, punctual and prepared for classes with fully charged, school-provided technology and turning off personal devices that create distractions during instructional time.

**January 10 - Pali Period/Student Survey** - PCHS cares about an equitable and safe climate for our students. Therefore, our school conducted an important schoolwide survey to collect and study student opinions about our school. Surveys for parents and staff will be distributed later in the semester. The student survey asked student opinions on questions ranging from student engagement to bullying. There were also some questions about the conditions of the school's buildings and facilities.

Responses will be taken seriously and used to improve the school experience for all students.

**January 15 and ongoing - Student Forums** - PCHS is committed to hearing student voices, building positive relationships, and addressing student needs. In addition to the anonymous feedback gathered through the Schoolwide Student Survey, **Campus Unification Director Gio Stewart and I along with other administrators and adult sponsors** will hold **weekly listening sessions** beginning with each of the student organizations currently comprising our school's Justice League (Asian Student Union, Black Student Union, *Fuerza Unida* LatinX Student Union, Human Rights Watch Student Task Force, Jewish Student Coalition, Queer Student Union, and Transgender Alliance). The purpose of the listening sessions is to provide a safe space for students to speak their truths about their campus experiences. Goals for these sessions include establishing meaningful connections, repairing broken relationships, and developing trust leading to an **action plan** that defines areas for growth and steps for implementation.

### **Ethnic Studies Program Development Update**

California legislation requires all students to complete a course in Ethnic Studies starting with the graduating class of 2029-2030; schools must begin offering the course in 2025-2026. Assembly Bill 101 requires curriculum that more closely reflects the history, culture, and struggles of California's diverse population. The legislation focuses on four ethnic and racial groups who have traditionally been underrepresented in educational materials: Blacks, Latinx, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. The revised state model curriculum also includes units on Sikh, Jewish, Arab and Armenian Americans. PCHS has formed an Ethnic Studies Team that is reviewing the state model curriculum and visiting school districts with strong Ethnic Studies programs to determine the best model for PCHS students. A goal of the team is to pilot select ethnic studies units in the coming school year.

### **Media Literacy**

CA legislation (AB 873) now requires media literacy lessons for K-12 students. At a time when online misinformation is pervasive, experts say these lessons are essential. PCHS will map media literacy lessons in **four core subject areas: math, science, history, and English language arts**. Currently, PCHS uses Common Sense Media and resources from the PCHS library to teach students about media literacy and digital citizenship. Rather than the law requiring a standalone media literacy course, students are taught media literacy concepts throughout these other courses.

**Requirements of AB 873** - Of the nine curriculum frameworks adopted by the SBE, the bill calls for considerations of revisions for the **English, mathematics, science, and history-social science** frameworks whenever they are revised, which is in effect after Jan. 1, 2024. (There is no set schedule for revisions or the development of new frameworks, except for the CTE framework.)

### **Curriculum Council/Department Chair Meeting - January 18, 2024**

#### **Department Highlights**

- **Professional Learning Community (PLC) Notebooks** – PLC coordinator Evelyn Rivera shared highlights of the first semester notebooks submitted by each PLC. The

notebooks track grading policies, PLC meeting minutes, student achievement, intervention, highlights, and concerns.

- **Counseling and Guidance** – The department noted a significant reduction in second semester schedule changes (approximately 1200 last year down to less than 500 this year) due to adjusted policies and procedures. The January 17th Pali Period will address scheduling for 2024-2025.
- **English Language Arts** – A day of professional development addressing strategies for culturally competent instruction at the Museum of Tolerance is upcoming. All English teachers will participate.
- **Math** – The department is continuing work with Dr. Sandra Orosco to develop culturally relevant curriculum and teaching strategies. Dr. Orosco and her team will be leading PLC pullout discussions focusing on strategies to increase engagement and improve student progress. PCHS and PRMS have coordinated common training and have developed open lines of communication for better planning and articulation. The department-wide professional development is scheduled during February.
- **Physical Education** – Students are completing monthly self-assessment surveys that help them be more aware of nutrition as well as physical and emotional well-being.
- **Science** – The department is working with the testing coordinator to administer the state science pretest in preparation for spring assessments.
- **Social Science** – The department is preparing new courses to be offered in 2024-2025 including AP African American History and an elective religions course.
- **Special Education** – The department is working to streamline meetings to minimize disruptions to teachers' schedules. Feedback forms have been refined to solicit more meaningful and focused teacher input.
- **Tech Ed** – Several teachers have met CTE teaching credential qualifications which opens opportunities for additional CTE courses.
- **VAPA** – The department is preparing for Showcase Night to be held Tuesday, April 16.
- **Pali Academy** – A record number of PA students have applied to four-year programs and are successfully completing UC requirements! Students are enjoying the financial literacy class and Money Mondays.
- **World Language** teachers are enthusiastic about a post-pandemic reset. The department has been engaged in reflection and self-evaluation to identify the training that will be most impactful for the department.
- **New Teacher Support** – Teachers who are new to PCHS participate in monthly meetings designed to provide support in all areas of the school program as well as instructional guidance. In addition to administrator and department chair informal coaching observations, each new teacher will be assigned an instructional coach during second semester.

### **Attendance and Admissions Office Updates**

PCHS welcomed 17 new students to campus for the Spring 2024 semester. We have over 1300 applications for the Fall 2024 semester, including our late applications and waitlisted students.

<b>2024-25 Applications</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1011
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	63
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	56
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	19
Late Applications	194
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1343</b>

**Updates from the Attendance Office**

- Updated attendance contracts will soon be available and sent out to students in need.
- Working with the Intervention Team and Admin to develop a SART-like system at PCHS to target chronic absenteeism.
- Updating the Student-Parent Handbook for 2024-25 and in the process of collecting feedback for revisions
- We have finished revising the current attendance policy and will be sending it to the Admin Team and Curriculum Council for feedback before sending it to the board for approval. We are hoping this will be approved and in place for the 2024-25 school year.

**Considerations for the 2024-25 School Calendar**

To keep things simple for our students and families, PCHS has traditionally aligned our school calendar as much as possible with LAUSD. For the 2024-25 school year, LAUSD has shorted its fall semester by one week following the Thanksgiving break. Below is how Pali’s school calendar will look compared to LAUSD if we keep with our traditional 3 weeks after the Thanksgiving break. Additionally, other calendar changes could be considered that would affect the spring semester such as altering the length of Winter Break.

- Option 1 – Traditional Pali Calendar w/ 3 weeks for Winter Break
- Option 2 – 2 Instructional weeks post-Thanksgiving w/ 3 weeks for Winter Break
- Option 3 – 3 Instructional weeks post-Thanksgiving w/ 2 weeks for Winter Break
- Option 4 – 2 Instructional weeks post-Thanksgiving w/ 4 weeks for Winter Break

	LAUSD	Pali - Option 1	Pali - Option 2	Pali - Option 3	Pali - Option 4
First Day of Fall Instruction	August 12	August 14	August 14	August 14	August 14
Last Day of Fall Instruction	December 13	December 19	December 12	December 19	December 12
First Day of Spring Instruction	January 6	January 14	January 7	January 7	January 14
Last Day of Spring Instruction	June 10	June 4	June 4	May 29	June 11
Graduation Day		June 5	June 5	May 30	June 12