



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Educational Excellence.

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting August 20, 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: Academic Achievement, Communication, Diversity, Student Socioemotional Well-being, and Health

2024-2025 Back to School Preparation

Summer at PCHS summer was filled with opportunities for students to complete course work for enrichment as well as clear credits through summer school, participate in enrichment programs such as Dolphin Leadership Academy, and prepare for the fall through camps and clinics.

The new school year opened with a variety of informational meetings for families, students, faculty and staff:

[Back to School Webinar](#) with [Q&A](#) August 6

New Student Orientations hosted by Link Crew August 7, 8

Back to School Professional Development Days August 12, 13

New Parent Breakfast August 17

PTSA “Meet the Administration” August 22

Professional Development Sessions for faculty and staff covered a range of topics:

Implicit Bias Awareness

Office of Civil Rights Regulations related to Section 504 and Special Education
presented by Lisa A. Corr from YM&C

Infinite Campus Setup

Performance Matters – Assessments and achievement data

Handbook & Policies/Intro to Infinite Campus Hall Pass

First Day Instructions for Attendance, Sign In & Facilities

Technology Tips & Tricks - ParentSquare, Schoology, Infinite Campus

In addition to schoolwide training, many departments held specialized, PLC-specific training and workshops. Highlights include the **English Department’s Culturally Responsive Pedagogy training** and the **Special Education Department’s Crisis Prevention & Intervention workshops** that included the deans, security team, and administrators.

Looking Ahead:

Back to School Night – Thursday, September 12

Friday, September 13 follows a Minimum Day Schedule

2024-2025 Important Attendance and Admissions Dates

- **Prospective Family Tours – Register on GoFan site**
September 16, 27
October 8, 15, 24
November 1, 8, 14
December 2
- **Admissions dates and deadlines**
September 30 Lotterease applications open 8:00am
December 2 Lotterease applications close 4:00pm
December 3 Late applications open 8:00am
January 13 Lottery runs/Notification of acceptance and waitlist
January 17 Returning student online registration (OLR) opens
January 27 Deadline to accept a seat 4:00pm
February 10 Deadline to complete OLR
March 7 Deadline to complete returning student OLR
August 6 New Student Orientation Day 1
August 7 New Student Orientation Day 2
August 13 First Day of the 2025-2026 School Year

2024-2025 Enrollment as of 8.16.2024

Grade 9	749
Grade 10	727
Grade 11	729
<u>Grade 12</u>	<u>760</u>
Total	2965

Special Education Study with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) – Updated from June 2024

PCHS has received the final report from FCMAT (Executive Summary provided June 2024). Dr. Carolynne Benot from the FCMAT team will present the highlights of the report to the Board of Trustees at the August 20, 2024, meeting. The report will be posted on the FCMAT site on August 21, 2024. PCHS will use the recommendations in the report to inform our work moving forward. PCHS has already incorporated recommendations from the study by adding an additional School Psychologist to address the expanding needs at PCHS. The department is also applying recommendations to determine cost savings in the department while ensuring compliance and appropriate service for students.

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) is a state agency that was established in 1992 as a service to assist California's local K-14 educational agencies in complying with fiscal accountability standards. FCMAT provides both management assistance and fiscal crisis prevention. At the school's request, PCHS entered into a management assistance agreement with FCMAT to review the Special Education program in the following areas:

- The implementation of student success teams, response to intervention and multitiered system of supports.
- The organizational structure and staffing of the special education program for our school.
- The staffing for paraeducators, special education teachers and related service providers.
- The identification rate for special education compared to the county and statewide averages.
- The school's continuum of special education and related services for students.
- The school's professional development/training program as it relates to special education.
- The costs of due process, mediations, and settlements for the past three years.
- The school's general fund contribution to special education.

FCMAT reviewed documents and data. Special education teachers, related service providers, and other school staff were selected for interviews. From the interviews, and school data and documents, FCMAT has developed findings and recommendations.

New screen and projector in Mercer Hall - Thank you to our Booster Club!

Director of Technology Jeff Roepel shared the following photos taken during New Student Orientation, the very first event to occur in Mercer Hall which used the wonderful new screen and projector that the Pali Boosters generously paid for. These photos were taken on Thursday, August 8th, the day after the installation completed. The event is Freshman Orientation, and the activity is the Culture Chat, led by Assistant Principal Adam Licea, with support from Faculty member and Dean, Perisha Bellinger.

Beyond the classroom, the system will be used during staff functions, special events, and as a visual aid when we showcase the campus during prospective family tours.



