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**Mission Statement** PVHS places a very high emphasis on the academic success and emotional well-being of all students. Various programs, for all levels of students, challenge each PVHS student to reach his or her maximum potential. PVHS ensures students are well-equipped with the academic skills which allow them to follow their own unique academic pursuits and extracurricular endeavors in high school and beyond.

**District and Community** The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) maintains the reputation for having a tier-one, exceptional educational system that attracts many families to its suburbs. Just 20 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles, the PVPUSD draws predominantly middle to high income business and professional residents to its communities of Palos Verdes Estates, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and Rolling Hills. Two early childhood centers, ten elementary schools, three intermediate schools, one continuation/alternative high school and two comprehensive high schools accommodate the learning needs for 10, 374 students in the PVPUSD.

**Palos Verdes High School** is located in Palos Verdes Estates (PVE); the city known for its breathtaking scenery, ocean vistas from its plateau, and what some consider safe and beautiful residential neighborhoods. With an annual college matriculation rate of over 95%, Palos Verdes High School is nationally recognized for academic excellence. PVHS regularly receives six-year accreditation by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) and is currently fully accredited through 2026.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Recognizing the challenges of school closure during spring semester of the 2019–2020 school year, PVPUSD utilized "no harm grading" for second semester only, ensuring that no student's final grade would be lower than their third quarter grade. Students also had the option of choosing "alternate grading" from the traditionally issued letter grades. Upon parent/guardian or adult student request, grades of A, B, or C are issued a Pass (P) grade. The alternate grade for a D is Credit (CR). Any student who earned an F received a No Credit (NC) grade.

In accordance with California Assembly Bill 104, students in grades 9–12 during the 2020–2021 school year had the opportunity to request letter grade/s earned from any course in that school year as currently reflected on their transcript be changed to a Pass or No Pass grade. Students had the option for a grade of Pass (P) in classes where they earned grades of A, B, C or D or a grade of No Pass (NP) in classes where they earned a grade of F. This grade change option was available to students for a 15-day period in accordance with AB 104 and all requested grade changes are reflected on students' transcripts.

PVPUSD has not been a test site for SAT and ACT exams since February 2020. Students did not have access to taking exams throughout the Los Angeles county area\*.

### Scholar Athletes

The Class of 2021 had 80 individual athletes that were awarded Scholar Athlete Awards for maintaining a 3.75 unweighted GPA throughout high school. Of those 80 athletes, 11 participated in more than one sport.

### Academic Program

PVHS is unique in PVPUSD due to its celebrated college preparatory BLOCK SCHEDULE which routinely draws intellectually curious, artistic, athletic and STEM focused students from within the district to its campus. PVHS follows a traditional two-semester calendar with the block schedule offering three block periods of 113 minutes in each period each day. Students are offered an optional Zero Period class that meets daily for 55 minutes.

The PVPUSD allows students to take as many classes as they wish above the minimum six classes for freshmen/sophomores, five classes for juniors and four for seniors. PVHS students follow an A–G curriculum with 95% of the Class of 2021 meeting the full requirements which qualified them for admission to University of California campuses. Palos Verdes High school is proud to boast a 100% graduation rate since over a decade.

#### Student Enrollment: 1420

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> 324	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> 370
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> 373	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> 353

#### CLASS OF 2022 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

National Merit Semifinalists	2
National Merit Commended Scholars	23
National Recognition Programs	2

### Athletic Programs

The athletic program at PVHS has earned numerous League Titles and CIF Championships. Ten of 12 sports teams went to CIF Playoffs before the COVID–19 Pandemic closure of spring sports. While winning and accolades are a source of pride, PVHS athletics seeks to build student character, work ethic, and integrity. The athletic program includes the following sports:

Baseball	Football	Softball	Track
Basketball (B&G)	Golf (B&G)	Song	Volleyball (B&G)
Cheer	Lacrosse (B&G)	Surf (B&G)	Water Polo (B&G)
Cross Country (B&G)	Soccer (B&G)	Swimming (B&G)	Tennis (B&G)

## Grading System and Class Ranking Policy

All credit courses taken in grades 9–12, including courses taken during the summer through community college or at high schools taken outside of PVPUSD, are included in determining the cumulative GPA.

Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F are counted in computing the grade point average with the exception of courses earning: P = Pass, CR = Credit, NC = No Credit, AU = Audit, W = Withdraw, and I = Incomplete.

Transcripts list both the UNWEIGHTED and WEIGHTED GPA. The WEIGHTED GPA is determined by calculating the unweighted GPA then adding 0.2 grade points for each weighted course in a semester. Per board policy, courses taken outside of PVPUSD do not receive weighted credit on the PVHS transcript.

THE GPA IS AVERAGED IN THREE WAYS	
<b>CUMULATIVE GPA for all classes</b> (including PE/Athletics)	Grades 9–12
<b>ACADEMIC GPA</b> (no PE/Athletics)	Grades 9–12
<b>ACADEMIC GPA</b> (no PE/Athletics)	Grades 10–12

**353 students in the Class of 2022. Palos Verdes High School does not rank its students per district policy.**

CLASS OF 2022 GRADE DISTRIBUTION	
GPA range (Weighted)	Number of students
4.5–5.0	71
4.0–4.49	84
3.5–3.99	87
3.0–3.49	53
2.51–2.99	35
2.5 and below	25
New – no GPA yet	1

### Foreign Language in Middle School

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District intermediate school students have the opportunity to enroll in high school foreign language courses through the secondary level. This coursework does NOT appear on the high school transcript.

**Palos Verdes High School does not release student disciplinary records per district policy.**

## 2021 Testing Profile

*Limited testing available to PVHS students since February 2020 due to COVID-19 shutdown\**

### ACT Test Results

50<sup>th</sup> percentile data

English	28
Mathematics	26
Reading	31
Science	26.5
Writing	7
Composite	27.5

### SAT Test Results

50<sup>th</sup> percentile data

Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	680
Mathematics	730
Total	1410

### Advanced Placement (AP) Tests

581 students took 1150 tests in 34 subjects  
66% scored 3 or higher  
14% scored a grade of 5

### AP Scholars Roster

	No. of Scholars	Avg. Score
AP Scholar	61	3.26
AP Scholar with Honor	37	3.64
AP Scholar with Distinction	90	4.06
AP Capstone Diploma	3	3.29

## Graduation Requirements

**220 credits required for graduation**

5 credits for each semester completed

SUBJECT	# OF SEMESTERS	# OF CREDITS
English	8	40
World History	2	10
United States History	2	10
Government	1	5
Economics	1	5
Mathematics	4	20
Biological Science	2	10
Physical Science	2	10
Physical Education	4	20
Visual/Performing Arts or Foreign Language	4	20
Electives	14	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>220</b>

## Transcript Designations

### COURSE TITLES

<b>AP</b>	Advanced Placement course
<b>H</b>	Honors course
<b>MCR</b>	Meets College Requirements
<b>ELD</b>	English Language Development

### CODES

<b>+</b>	AP/H course earning weighted credit
<b>r</b>	Repeated course

### GRADE DEFINITIONS

**A, B, C, D, P** = Pass    **F** = Failure

<b>CR</b>	Credit/Passing Mark
<b>NM</b>	No Mark
<b>W</b>	Withdraw
<b>I</b>	Incomplete

## Honors & AP Classes 2021–2022 School Year

### HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE

AP World History  
AP European History  
AP U.S. History  
AP American Government  
AP Economics  
AP Comparative Government  
AP Human Geography  
AP Psychology

### ENGLISH

English 1, 2, & 3 Honors  
AP English Language  
AP English Literature

### MATHEMATICS

Geometry Honors  
Algebra 2 Honors  
Pre-Calculus Honors  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Statistics  
Advanced Calculus  
AP Computer Science Principles  
AP Computer Science

### SCIENCE

Biology 1 Honors  
AP Biology 2  
Chemistry 1 Honors  
AP Chemistry 2  
Marine Biology Honors  
Physiology/Anatomy Honors  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics 1, 2, & C

### WORLD LANGUAGE

Chinese 3 Honors  
AP Chinese Language  
French 3 Honors  
AP French Language  
Spanish 3 Honors  
AP Spanish Language  
Korean 3 & 4 Honors

### VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS

Advanced Orchestra  
Drama 3 Advanced  
Drama 4 Advanced  
Jazz Band 2  
AP Music Theory  
AP Studio Art 2D, 3D, & Drawing

### AP CAPSTONE

AP Research  
AP Seminar

**TOTAL AP COURSES: 30**

**TOTAL HONORS COURSES: 20**

A full list of course descriptions is available at [www.pvhs.pvpusd.net](http://www.pvhs.pvpusd.net)

## Class of 2021 College Admissions

Palos Verdes High School Class of 2021 students were admitted to over 300 colleges including all California State Universities and all University of California campuses. Students were also admitted to 8 Ivy League schools.

Schools in **bold** are where you will find our students in the Fall of 2021.

Aberystwyth University	<b>Franklin W Olin College of Engineering</b>	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	<b>University of Denver</b>
<b>American University</b>	George Mason University	Rice University	University of Florida
<b>Amherst College</b>	George Washington University	Rider University	<b>University of Georgia</b>
<b>Arizona State University</b>	<b>Georgetown University</b>	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Greenwich
Auburn University	Georgia Institute of Technology	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Azusa Pacific University	Gonzaga University	Rutgers University–New Brunswick	<b>University of Hawaii at Manoa</b>
<b>Baylor University</b>	Harvard University	Rutgers University–Newark	University of Houston
<b>Belmont University</b>	Harvey Mudd College	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Idaho
Bentley University	Hawaii Pacific University	Salve Regina University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
<b>Berklee College of Music</b>	High Point University	Sam Houston State University	<b>University of Iowa</b>
<b>Boise State University</b>	Hofstra University	<b>San Diego State University</b>	University of Kansas
Boston College	<b>Humboldt State University</b>	<b>San Francisco State University</b>	University of Kentucky
Boston University	Idaho State University	<b>San Jose State University</b>	University of Maryland–College Park
<b>Brown University</b>	<b>Illinois Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Santa Barbara City College</b>	University of Massachusetts–Amherst
<b>Bucknell University</b>	<b>Indiana University–Bloomington</b>	<b>Santa Clara University</b>	University of Miami
<b>Butler University</b>	Ithaca College	<b>Santa Monica College</b>	<b>University of Michigan–Ann Arbor</b>
California Baptist University	<b>Jacksonville University</b>	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
California College–San Marcos	James Madison University	Seattle University	University of Mississippi
California Institute of Technology	<b>John Cabot University</b>	Seton Hall University	<b>University of Missouri–Columbia</b>
<b>California Lutheran University</b>	Johns Hopkins University	<b>Shasta College</b>	University of Nebraska–Lincoln
<b>California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo</b>	Lafayette College	<b>Sonoma State University</b>	<b>University of Nevada–Las Vegas</b>
<b>California State Polytechnic University–Pomona</b>	<b>Lehigh University</b>	<b>Southern Methodist University</b>	University of New Hampshire–Main Campus
<b>California State University Maritime Academy</b>	<b>Lewis &amp; Clark College</b>	Southern Oregon University	<b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>
California State University–Channel Islands	<b>Liberty University</b>	<b>Southern Virginia University</b>	University of North Texas
<b>California State University–Chico</b>	<b>Long Beach City College</b>	Spelman College	University of Northern Colorado
California State University–Dominguez Hills	<b>Los Angeles College of Music</b>	St John's University–New York	<b>University of Notre Dame</b>
<b>California State University East Bay</b>	<b>Los Angeles Harbor College</b>	<b>Stanford University</b>	University of Oklahoma–Norman Campus
California State University Fullerton	<b>Louisiana State University</b>	Stony Brook University	<b>University of Oregon</b>
<b>California State University Long Beach</b>	<b>Loyola Marymount University</b>	Suffolk University	University of Pennsylvania
<b>California State University Los Angeles</b>	Loyola University Chicago	SUNY College at Potsdam	University of Portland
<b>California State University Northridge</b>	<b>Marist College</b>	<b>Syracuse University</b>	University of Redlands
California State University Sacramento	Marquette University	Temple University	University of Rhode Island
<b>California State University San Marcos</b>	<b>Marymount California University</b>	Texas A&M University–College Station	University of Richmond
<b>Carnegie Mellon University</b>	Marymount Manhattan College	Texas A&M International University	<b>University of San Diego</b>
Carroll College	<b>Marymount University</b>	<b>Texas Christian University</b>	<b>University of San Francisco</b>
Carthage College	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	<b>Texas Tech University</b>	University of South Carolina–Columbia
Case Western Reserve University	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b>	The Evergreen State College	<b>University of Southern California</b>
<b>Chaminade University of Honolulu</b>	<b>Merrimack College</b>	The Glasgow School of Art	University of the Pacific
Champlain College	<b>Miami University–Oxford</b>	<b>The University of Alabama</b>	University of Toronto
<b>Chapman University</b>	<b>Michigan State University</b>	<b>The University of Arizona</b>	<b>University of Utah</b>
<b>Clemson University</b>	<b>Middlebury College</b>	<b>The University of Montana</b>	University of Virginia–Main Campus
Colgate University	Molloy College	The University of Tennessee–Knoxville	<b>University of Washington–Seattle Campus</b>
College of Charleston	Montclair State University	<b>The University of Texas at Austin</b>	<b>University of Wisconsin–Madison</b>
<b>College of the Holy Cross</b>	<b>Mount Saint Mary's University</b>	The University of Texas at Dallas	University of Wyoming
Colorado School of Mines	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Tiffin University	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>
<b>Colorado State University–Fort Collins</b>	New Mexico State University–Main Campus	Trinity University	Villanova University
Concordia University–Irvine	<b>New York University</b>	<b>Tufts University</b>	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
<b>Cornell University</b>	<b>Northeastern University</b>	<b>Tulane University of Louisiana</b>	Washington State University
CUNY Macaulay Honors College	<b>Northern Arizona University</b>	<b>United States Air Force Academy</b>	<b>Washington University in St Louis</b>
<b>Dartmouth College</b>	<b>Northwestern Preparatory School (California)</b>	<b>United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School</b>	Wentworth Institute of Technology
DePaul University	Northwestern University	<b>United States Merchant Marine Academy</b>	<b>West Coast Baptist College</b>
<b>Dickinson College</b>	Norwich University	<b>Universidad CEU San Pablo</b>	Western Michigan University
Duke University	<b>Occidental College</b>	<b>Universitat Ramon Llull–La Salle</b>	<b>Western Washington University</b>
Eastern Kentucky University	Ohio State University–Main Campus	University College Dublin	Westmont College
Eastern Washington University	<b>Orange Coast College</b>	University of Abertay Dundee	Whitman College
<b>El Camino Community College District</b>	Oregon Institute of Technology	<b>University of California Berkeley</b>	Whitworth University
Elon University	Oregon State University	<b>University of California Davis</b>	Willamette University
<b>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–Prescott</b>	Pace University	<b>University of California Irvine</b>	Wittenberg University
<b>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–Worldwide</b>	<b>Pacific Lutheran University</b>	<b>University of California Los Angeles</b>	<b>Worcester Polytechnic Institute</b>
<b>Emerson College</b>	Pacific University	<b>University of California Merced</b>	<b>Xavier University</b>
<b>Emory University</b>	Pennsylvania State University–Main Campus	<b>University of California Riverside</b>	<b>Yale University</b>
<b>Endicott College</b>	<b>Pepperdine University</b>	<b>University of California San Diego</b>	<b>Yeshiva University</b>
<b>Erskine College</b>	Point Loma Nazarene University	<b>University of California Santa Barbara</b>	Youngstown State University
Florida State University	Portland State University	<b>University of California Santa Cruz</b>	
<b>Fordham University</b>	<b>Princeton University</b>	University of Central Florida	
<b>Franklin University Switzerland</b>	Purdue University–Main Campus	<b>University of Chicago</b>	
	<b>Quinnipiac University</b>	University of Cincinnati–Main Campus	
	Reed College	<b>University of Colorado Boulder</b>	
		University of Colorado Denver	
		University of Connecticut	

Exit survey data was collected from 100% of our graduating Class of 2021. Of all 428 graduates, **71%** matriculated to a four-year college, **22%** matriculated to a two-year college, and **7%** pursued other plans (e.g., Gap Year, Military, Vocation, etc.).



# PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE

## Advancement via Individual Determination – AVID

AVID seeks to ensure that students in the academic middle are equipped with the skills necessary to be successful in college. The success of the program is evidenced by the fact that 100% of the AVID Class of 2021 were accepted to a four-year university.

## Associated Student Body

The ASB Leadership class implements and oversees all student activities at PVHS, including pep rallies, dances, awareness weeks, and school-wide community services programs. ASB strives to engage students and create a welcoming, spirited, enriched, and involved school community. The ASB Student Council oversees over 100 student-run organizations on campus in areas of academics, politics, culture, religion, athletics, special interest, and philanthropy.

## Be the Change

The BTC Leadership class is a function of the ASB. Student leaders focus on enhancing the school culture for all Sea Kings. Their emphasis is creating an open atmosphere where diversity, acceptance, communication, collaboration, and tolerance are paramount. Activities generated by BTC impact the entire school campus through community service, awareness, events, and education.

## Link Crew

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen to feel comfortable throughout their first year of high school. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, Link Crew trains members of the Junior and Senior class to be Link Leaders. As positive role models, Link Leaders are motivators, leaders, and teachers who guide freshmen to discover successful ways of transitioning to high school.

## Literary Magazine – Tradewinds

Members of Tradewinds interview each spring for a position of leader or staff member. Tradewinds staff study poetry, write poetry and gather submissions from the greater student body for publication. Members also recite poetry at open mic night at local coffee houses. Tradewinds' annual publication is housed inside the Triton Yearbook. The Tradewinds staff is responsible for the design and production of the magazine along with the judging of the annual poetry, art, and photography contest.

## Live From 205 – Student Media Services

An award-winning broadcast journalism program. The 205 News Team produces a newscast including sports, commercials, and news stories.

Live from 205 has succeeded at the Student Television Network national competition, winning over 70 individual Student Awards, three Team Awards, and five Excellence Awards, making 205 the number one high school weekly news show in the country. ([www.livefrom205.com](http://www.livefrom205.com))

## Model United Nations

MUN is an international program allowing high school and college students to compete and engage in debate about global issues in mock UN committees at conferences throughout the state and country. PVHS participates in conferences at UCLA, UC Berkeley, USC, and various high school run conferences among others. In the last several years, the MUN program received multiple recognition and awards, including research, commendations, and outstanding awards.

## Newspaper – The Point

More than 30 students work together to create The Point student newspaper seven times per year. This highly collaborative publication requires student to report, investigate, interview, write, and photograph in order to publish a professional newspaper. Students write news, features, opinions, arts and entertainment, and sports articles that are published in the newspaper and on the website. The Point is regarded as one of the top high school news publications in the South Bay area, and the program give students the opportunity to develop important skills involving communication, writing, editing, leadership, and teamwork. ([www.pvhspoint.org](http://www.pvhspoint.org))

## Open Orchard Productions

Students at Palos Verdes High School employ their creative, writing, journalistic, editing, and technological skills to develop their own radio production organization. Open Orchard Productions is an accredited elective class (Broadcast Journalism I and II). Students' podcasts have aired over 30 times on national radio stations; four of our students were named "Best Teen Radio Producers" of the year by PRX; OOP won a grant from Transom (Atlantic Public Radio); two students have made podcasts for our contact at NPR West/Youth Radio; and students have been hired three times to create content for local professionals. Students have toured Los Angeles production studios including Paramount, Sony, Technicolor, Disney, KCRW, KPCC, and NPR West. ([openorchardproductions.com](http://openorchardproductions.com))

## Palos Verdes Institute of Technology – PVIT

PVIT is featured as one of the first high school robotics programs in the nation, competing as the only high school against top universities in the 2005 DARPA "Grand Challenge." PVIT utilizes the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum which offers a flexible sequence of courses that builds students' engineering and technological skills. In

addition, through PVIT's Engineering Advanced Project class, teams building underwater robots, rockets, high altitude balloons, autonomous robots, an electric car, and more, have competed and placed regionally, nationally, and internationally in high-end engineering competitions. PVHS has linked math/science classes with OLTW courses which are recognized by UC and CSU and meet the "G" subject requirement. PVIT courses are as follows: Introduction to Engineering, Physics, Engineering Advanced Projects 1–4, Digital Electronics, Engineering Design and Development, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Aerospace Engineering, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science, and AP Physics. ([www.pvit.org](http://www.pvit.org))

## Science Research

Science Research is a one to four year sequential course designed for highly motivated students to advance an understanding of research. Students can undertake their independent research in life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, computer or social sciences. Student commitment to long-term focused research, demonstrating initiative, perseverance, and creativity is fostered. There are over 100 researchers in the PVHS Science Research program. Students compete first at the district PVPSEF Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The top 13 projects advance to the Los Angeles County Fair to compete for awards and prizes with the opportunity to advance to the California State Fair and International ISEF Science Fairs. PVHS researchers compete at a high level and have won numerous awards including cash prizes, Earthwatch expedition trips, and trips to the California State Science Fair.

## Yearbook – The Triton

The Triton has over 75 student participants and has garnered several national awards for design in journalism. The publication has received three Gold Medalist awards from Columbia Scholastic Press Association, four All-American awards from the National Scholastic Press Association and four First Place with Distinction awards from American Scholastic Press Association. This summer, the staff received first place for design – this win marked the 8<sup>th</sup> first place win in a row – at the National Yearbook Camp held at the University of San Diego. The team also won the People's Choice Award. In September, a group of Triton leaders attended an invitation-only Creative Design Weekend with the top seven high schools in the nation. The Triton publication is a student-run program which provides leadership opportunities, builds marketable computer and design skills and develops school-to-career job skills.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Carter Paysinger**  
Interim Principal

**Gayle Carpenter**  
Associate Principal

**Keely Hafer**  
Associate Principal



## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

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