



Palos Verdes Peninsula High School

Profile 2011-2012

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SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District serves the communities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates. The area is 21 miles southwest of metropolitan Los Angeles and draws predominantly middle to high-income business and professional residents. The school district's reputation for having a superior educational system attracts many families to this suburban area and its schools. Two early childhood centers, ten elementary schools, three intermediate schools, one continuation high school, and two comprehensive high schools accommodate the district's enrollment of 11,803 students.

THE SCHOOL

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School was formed in July 1991, through the merger of three long-established institutions: Miraleste, Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills High Schools. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Designated a California Distinguished School for five consecutive terms, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has been recognized as both a National Blue Ribbon School and a New American High School. Peninsula High School's local and national rankings include:

- #60 out of the top 500 high schools in the country by Newsweek Magazine,
- #5 high school in the state of California
- #1 high school in Los Angeles County
- #78 on US News & World Report's list of best high schools in the nation for math and science
- #193 on Washington Post's list of best high schools in the country

In 2011, a Palos Verdes Peninsula High School student was a recipient of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Award, the highest honor for graduating high school seniors in the nation.

Enrollment of 2,543 includes 641 seniors, 579 juniors, 635 sophomores, and 688 freshmen with a certificated staff of 113 (98 teachers, 6 counselors, 3 administrators, 1 athletic director, 1 activities director, 1 safe school counselor, 1 psychologist, 1 librarian, and 1 nurse) to service the multi-ethnic student body.

The school follows a traditional semester schedule, with seven, 56-minute periods in the school day. Freshmen and sophomores are required to take 6 classes each semester; juniors are required to take 5 classes; seniors are required to take 4 classes. However, the district allows students to take as many classes as they wish above the minimum. Among the graduating class of 2011, 92.8% of the students completed more than the minimum requirements. 81% of the class of 2011 met the A-G subject requirements for admission to the University of California.

Traditionally, 99% of each graduating class continues their education. 85% of the class of 2011 received acceptances from four-year colleges, 78% of the class of 2011 matriculated to a four-year college/university and 21% matriculated to community colleges.

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School's record of sustained excellence has received national, state, and local recognition competing in the areas of mathematics, science, career technical arts, visual arts, dance, drama, student publications, Academic Decathlon, Model United Nations, Speech and Debate, and Mock Trial. The school's director of science research was recently named California Science Teacher of the Year. In addition, 16 of the last 19 years, the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Latin Program has taken 1st place in the State Latin competition. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has been awarded the National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education.

The ubiquitous cultural diversity on campus (40 languages spoken) enables all students to experience the "small" world in which we live. Coursework, extra curricular activities, and athletics provide valuable resources for learning about the world and its people.



The Washington Post



TESTING PROFILE 2011

SAT Reasoning and Subject Scores	Mean
SAT Critical Reading	575
SAT Mathematics	630
SAT Writing	596
SAT Literature	574
Math Achievement (Level 1)	588
Math Achievement (Level 2)	688
US History	609
World History	572
Chinese	757
French	616
Japanese	772
Korean	760
Spanish	628
Biology E	654
Biology M	706
Chemistry	692
Physics	662

ACT Test Results	PVPHS	STATE	NAT'L
Composite	26.8	22.1	21.0
English	26.9	21.6	20.5
Mathematics	28.5	22.7	21.0
Reading	26.1	22.0	21.3
Science	25.1	21.4	20.9

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2012

(September 2011 results)

- 22 National Merit Semifinalists
- 1 National Achievement Semifinalists
- 6 National Hispanic Scholars
- 57 Commended Students
- 2 National Achievement Outstanding Participants

ADVANCED PLACEMENT 2011

In May of 2011 a total of 919 PVPHS students took 2098 Advanced Placement examinations in 33 different subjects. 81% of the scores were 3 or above; 3 is typically the score necessary to receive college credit; 71% of graduating seniors (Class of 2011) scored 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school.

AP Score	# Students Receiving this score	% of Total
5	659	31%
4	545	26%
3	498	24%
2	260	12%
1	136	07%

API = 898

HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

The following courses receive a weighted grade on the transcript in recognition of the advanced nature of the coursework:

- English:** English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, English 3 Honors, English 4 AP Language, English 4 AP Literature
- CTE/VPA:** Advanced Orchestra, Drama 3 Advanced, Drama 4 Advanced, Jazz Band 2, Music Theory AP, Studio Art AP 2D, Studio Art AP 3D, Studio Art AP Drawing, Art History AP
- Foreign Language:** Chinese 3 Honors, Chinese Language AP, French 3 Honors, French 4 AP, French 5 AP Literature, Japanese 3 Honors, Japanese 4AP, Latin 3 Honors, Latin 4 AP, Spanish 3 Honors, Spanish 4AP Spanish Language AP, Spanish Literature AP
- Mathematics:** Geometry Honors, Algebra 2 Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, Calculus BC/AP, Calculus AB/AP, Statistical Analysis AP, Advanced Calculus, Computer Science A AP, Computer Science2 AP
- Science:** Biology 1 Honors, Biology 2 AP, Chemistry 1 Honors, Chemistry 2 AP, Environmental Science AP, Marine Biology Honors, Physics B AP, Physics C AP
- Social Studies:** World History Honors, World History AP, European History AP, US History AP, American Government AP, Economics AP, Macro Economics AP, Psychology AP

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS CLASS OF 2012

Unit requirement: 220 credits required for graduation with 5 credits earned for each semester course.

Subject Requirement:

English	8 Semesters	(40 Credits)
World History	2 Semesters	(10 Credits)
US History	2 Semesters	(10 Credits)
Government	1 Semester	(05 Credits)
Economics	1 Semester	(05 Credits)
Mathematics	4 Semesters	(20 Credits)
Biological Science	2 Semesters	(10 Credits)
Physical Science	2 Semesters	(10 Credits)
Health	1 Semester	(05 Credits)
Physical Education	4 Semesters	(20 Credits)
CTE/VPA/Foreign Language	4 Semesters	(20 Credits)
Electives	13 Semesters	(65 Credits)

CLASS RANK AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE

- Student Class Rank is not computed.
- All credit courses taken in grades 9-12, including classes taken during the summer through community college or at high schools outside the district, are included in determining the cumulative GPA. The course numbering system on the transcript indicates where each course was completed.
 - 10000 (1st semester) – 20000 (2nd semester) Palos Verdes Peninsula High School courses
 - 90000 College courses
 - 40000 High school level summer school courses
 - 50000 Other off-campus courses
- The first semester of a year-long course is designated with an “A” and second semester with a “B.”
- Grades of A, B, C, D, P, CR-Credit are passing. Grades of F-Failure, NC-No credit, AU-Audit and I-Incomplete are also available.
- The transcript lists both the weighted and unweighted GPA. The GPA is averaged three ways: total GPA for all classes (including PE/athletics) grades 9-12; academic GPA (no PE/athletics) grades 9-12 and academic GPA (no PE/athletics) grades 10-12. Advanced Placement and Honors classes qualify for weighted grades and are designated “+” on the transcript.

A cumulative weighted GPA is determined by calculating the unweighted GPA then adding 0.2 points for each weighted course. In any one semester, the maximum number of weighted points available is 1.0, (5 courses). Highest possible GPA is 5.0.

WEIGHTED ACADEMIC GPA CLASS OF 2012

GPA	# of Students
5 - 4.75	56
4.74 - 4.5	72
4.49 - 4.25	63
4.24 - 4.0	66
3.99 - 3.75	81
3.74 - 3.50	78
3.49 - 3.25	63
3.24 - 3	44
2.99 - 2.75	38
2.74 - 2.5	27
2.49 - 2.25	26
2.24 - 2.0	7
1.99 - 1.75	3

CLASS OF 2011:

Average Weighted GPA: 3.70

Average Unweighted GPA: 3.36

30 Valedictorians (4.0 GPA)

PVPHS does not change grades based on standardized test performance. Grades are based on year-long performance in the classroom.

DESIGNATIONS FOUND ON THE TRANSCRIPT:

H - Honors courses

AP - Advanced Placement

MCR - Meets College Requirements

ELD - English Language Development

So Cal ROC - Southern California Regional Occupational Center

r - Repeated Course

***** - Non-Academic

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Recognized as an athletic powerhouse since the schools inception in 1991, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has won 185 league championships, 39 CIF Titles, 7 State Titles and 4 National Titles. The Song, Drill Dance, and Cheer Squad compete regularly in local, state, and national competitions, including the USA Nationals. While all of these accolades are exciting, the 2008 and 2011 Sportsmanship Awards from the CIF Southern Section are the recognition most appreciated, as they speak to the quality and character of our student athletes.

Color Guard	Girls' Golf	Girls' Volleyball
Varsity Dance	Boys' Cross Country	Surfing
Cheer Squad	Girls' Cross Country	Equestrian
Song Squad	Boys' Tennis	Baseball
Boys' Lacrosse	Girls' Tennis	Softball
Girls' Lacrosse	Boys' Basketball	Wrestling
Boys' Water Polo	Girls' Basketball	Track
Girls' Water Polo	Boys' Soccer	Swimming
Football	Girls' Soccer	Choreo Dance
Boys' Golf	Boys' Volleyball	



STUDENT ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Advanced Projects

Allows students to augment the curricular experience through completion of a comprehensive project at an accelerated pace.

Partnerships

-Los Angeles Harbor College: After school college courses

-El Camino College: Robotics, Solar Boat, Project Lead the Way

-So Cal ROC: Digital Animation, Photography, Video Production, Culinary Arts, Graphic Design, Web Design, Computer Science AP

School Clubs and Activities

There are more than 100 extracurricular clubs and activities at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School including: National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation, Model United Nations, Mock Trial, Teen Court, Key Club, Black Student Union, Future Business Leaders of America, Junior Statesmen of America, Latin Club, Spanish Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Girls' Service Club, Science Bowl, Academic Decathlon, and Best Buddies.

Science Research

This nationally and internationally recognized program led by a CA Science Teacher of the Year allows students to work with experts in a wide variety of science disciplines and compete in local, state, and international competitions. Over the past ten years, PVPHS students won more awards than any other HS at the LA County Science Fair. 2010-11 awards include 1st place in the California State Science Fair, five finalists in the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair, a finalist in the INTEL SCIENCE Talent Search, and CA state winner of the Stockholm Jr. Water Prize. A PVPHS student recently won the 1st place world award in the prestigious Stockholm Jr. Water Prize.

Arts Education

Arts Education is an essential component of the school curriculum. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School was awarded the prestigious National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education and the Music Center Bravo Award. Students have the opportunity to pursue personal interests in the following areas: Ceramics, Sculpture, Glassblowing, Photography, Video Production, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Jazz Choir, Women's Choir, Drawing and Painting, Dance, Concert Band, Music Appreciation, Guitar, Music Theory AP, Studio Art AP, Digital Animation, and Graphic Design.

School Publications

The school yearbook, "La Pantera", is renowned throughout the country as a winner of state and national awards. The 2011 Yearbook was honored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association with a Gold Medal.

The school newspaper, "The Pen," has been honored with first place recognition through the Southwest Journalism Education Association and was a Pacemaker finalist. The Pen was also awarded a First Class Honor by the National Scholastic Press Association for 2010-11.

Work Experience/Internships

General Work Experience Education and Exploratory Career Internships are offered to help students explore future careers.

Peer Mentor Program

The Peer Mentor Program naturally integrates students with cognitive disabilities into elective classes by partnering them with general education peers. The program was expanded in 2011 to provide support to all new students at Peninsula HS in an effort to support the transition to high school.

Teen Court

Supervising judges from the Superior Court of L.A. County work closely with students enrolled in Teen Court. Students participate as the jury in actual cases, exposing them to the realities of the legal system.

AVID

196 Palos Verdes Peninsula High School students participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program. The mission of AVID is to ensure that all students, especially those in the middle, succeed in a rigorous college preparation program. The 2011 AVID Class had a 100% four-year college acceptance rate.

Cyber Patriot

The premiere national high school cyber defense competition created to inspire high school students toward careers in cyber security or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. Last year, the Panther-Cyber team placed 6th in the nation for Cyber Patriot out of 500 high schools.

Academic Decathlon

Academic Decathlon is a national competition in 10 academic areas. The spring 2011 team placed 18th out of 50 teams in the Los Angeles County competition. Individually, students earned medals in the following events: Economics: silver, Essay: bronze, Interview: 3 gold 1 bronze, Math: 1 silver, 1 bronze, Speech: 2 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze. The Peninsula HS top scoring decathlete earned the 7th highest score out of the 450 students that competed this year.

Beard Full of Butterflies

The Peninsula High literary magazine provides students the opportunity to submit original writings and art work for publication. The magazine was awarded the 2010 National Council of Teachers of English Program Award to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. A total of 413 schools entered the 2011 program. Of the 413 submissions, 19 received recognition.

Science Olympiad

Students prepare and participate in a team competition to solve a variety of science based problems. The team placed 4th out of 37 teams at the 2010-11 LA Regional Competition and received medals in 11 out of 23 events.

Mock Trial

Students prepare for and argue actual legal cases in front of a panel of judges and attorneys in local and regional competitions. The 2010-11 team reached third round of the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) competition, placing 16 out of 66 high schools and received Honorable Mention awards from the CRF.

Model United Nations

This international program provides students with the opportunity to debate global issues at local, state and national competitions. PVPHS participated in 17 Model UN Conferences including: UCLA, UC Berkeley, UCSD, UCI & Georgetown. The 2010-11 team received two "Best Delegation" awards; 11 Gavel Awards (Best overall delegates); 22 Outstanding Delegate Awards; 38 Commendations; and 15 Research Awards.

Speech and Debate

Speech and Debate focuses on developing student skills in public speaking and argumentation in a competition format. The 2010-11 team and team members earned many accolades and awards including: 1st Place CSU Long Beach Invitational, 2nd place at Claremont Invitational, 3rd place at Stanford Invitational, and nine 1st place trophies at the California State Qualifier. The team earned back-to-back championships in 2010 and 2011 in the Lincoln Douglas debates at Pepperdine University.

SMERT

Science, Math, Engineering, Robotics and Technology program allows students to take college level curriculum through Project Lead the Way and participate in a number of extra-curricular activities related to SMERT. Classes and programs offered include: Introduction to Engineering Design, Digital Electronics, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Engineering Design and Development, Computer Science AP, Robotics, Science Olympiad, Cyber Patriot and Solar Boat.

Latin

Students in the Latin program have the opportunity to participate in annual State Latin Competitions. The team has placed 1st in 16 of the last 19 state Latin conventions.

EOP

The Eye on the Panther (EOP) program is a weekly newscast that is written, edited, directed, and filmed entirely by Pen High students.