Palos Verdes Peninsula High School
Profile 2012-2013
27118 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
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www.pvphs.com CEEB Code 052-683

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY
The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District serves the communities of Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rancho Palos Verdes, 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 11,835 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. Peninsula High School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In June 2012, Peninsula High School received a six-year clear WASC accreditation through 2018.

According to US News and World Report, Newsweek Magazine, and The Washington Post, Peninsula High School has been acknowledged as the number one public comprehensive high school in Southern California. Peninsula High School's additional local, state and national rankings include:

- #101 out of the top 1000 high schools in the country (Newsweek Magazine)
- #218 on Washington Post’s list of best public & private high schools in the country
- #13 high school in the state of California (Newsweek Magazine)
- #24 on Washington Post’s list of best public & private high schools in California
- #78 on US News & World Report’s list of best high schools in the nation for math and science
- Voted Readers Choice in the Los Angeles Times for Best in South Bay 2012

In both 2011 and 2012, Palos Verdes Peninsula High school students were recipients of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Award, the highest honor for graduating high school seniors in the nation.

Enrollment of 2526 includes 575 seniors, 630 juniors, 690 sophomores, and 631 freshmen with a certificated staff of 114 (98 teachers, 6 counselors, 3 administrators, 1 dean, 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 graduation class of 2012, 92.8% of the students completed more than the minimum requirements. 81% of the class of 2012 met the A-G subject requirements for admission to the University of California.

Traditionally, 98% of our graduates continue their education. 87% of the class of 2012 received acceptances from four-year colleges, 84% of the class of 2012 matriculated to a four-year college/university and 14% matriculated to community colleges.

The cultural diversity on campus (47 languages spoken) enables all students to experience the “small” world in which we live. Coursework, extracurricular activities, and athletics provide valuable resources for learning about the world and its people.
**TESTING PROFILE 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Reasoning and Subject Scores</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT Critical Reading</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Mathematics</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Writing</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Achievement (Level 1)</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Achievement (Level 2)</td>
<td>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology E</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology M</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2013**

(September 2012 results)

- 22 National Merit Semifinalists
- 2 National Achievement Semifinalists
- 5 National Hispanic Scholars
- 42 National Merit Commended Scholars
- 1 National Achievement Outstanding Participant

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT 2012**

In May of 2012 a total of 1008 PVPHS students took 2358 Advanced Placement examinations in 29 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 2012) scored 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Score</th>
<th>#Students Receiving</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 4AP Language, English 4AP 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
- **Chinese**
  - Chinese 3 Honors, Chinese Language AP, French 3 Honors, French 4 AP, Japanese 3 Honors, Japanese 4 AP, Latin 3 Honors, Latin 4 AP, Spanish 3 Honors, Spanish 4AP, Spanish Language AP, Spanish Literature AP
- **Mathematics**
- **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 2013**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Requirement</th>
<th>Semesters</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTE/VPA/Foreign Language</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 un-weighted GPA. The GPA is averaged three ways: total GPA for all classes (including PE/athletics) grades 9-12; academic TGPA (no PE/athletics) 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 un-weighted 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

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Recognized as an athletic powerhouse since the school’s inception in 1991, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School teams have won 191 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, 2011 and 2012 Sportsmanship Awards from the CIF Southern Section are the recognition most appreciated, as they speak to the quality and character of our student athletes.

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

2012 API = 907

WEIGHTED ACADEMIC GPA CLASS OF 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th># STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.00-4.75</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.74-4.50</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.49-4.25</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.24-4.00</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.99-3.75</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.74-3.50</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.40-3.25</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.24-3.00</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.99-2.75</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.74-2.50</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.49-2.25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.24-2.00</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.99-1.75</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.74-1.50</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.49-1.25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS OF 2012

Average Weighted GPA : 3.73
Average Un-weighted GPA: 3.34
26 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
+- weighted grade
**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**Advanced Projects**
Allow students to augment the curricular experience through completion of a comprehensive project at an accelerated pace.

**School Clubs & Student Organizations**
There are more than 120 academic, cultural, and special interest clubs and student organizations at Peninsula High School. Some of the clubs and student organizations include: National Honor Society (NHS), California Scholarship Federation (CSF), Model United Nations (MUN), Mock Trial, Teen Court, Key Club, Black Student Union, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Junior Statesmen of America, Latin Club, Spanish National Honors Society, Science National Honors Society, Science Olympiad, Girls’ Service Club, Science Bowl, 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 have won more awards than any other HS at the LA County Science Fair. Past awards include first place in the California State Science Fair, best project in Los Angeles County Science Fair (six of the last nine years), and first place Best in World Stockhol Junior Water Prize. Every year, two finalists qualify for the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair.

**Arts Education**
Arts Education is an essential component of the school curriculum. Palos Verdes Peninsula High school was awarded the prestigious National School 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 2012 yearbook was honored by the National Scholastic Press Association’s (NSPA) First Class award and was nominated for the Columbia Scholastic Press Association’s Crown award (results pending). The school newspaper, “The Pen” has been honored with the NSPA First Class rank with one mark of distinction as well as the NSPA’s Best of Show award.

**Mock Trial**
Students prepare for and argue legal cases in front of a panel of judges and attorneys in local and regional competitions.

**Peer Mentor Program**
The Peer Mentor Program naturally integrates students with cognitive disabilities into elective classes by partnering them with general education peers.

**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**
Over 190 Palos Verdes Peninsula High School students participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. The mission of AVID is to ensure that all students, especially those in the middle, succeed in a rigorous college preparation program. The 2012 AVID class had a 94% four-year college acceptance rate.

**Cyber Patriot**
The premier national high school cyber defense competition was 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. In ’11-’12, the Peninsula Cyber Patriot team placed third in the nation out of 1000 high schools.

**Latin**
Students in the Latin program have the opportunity to participate in annual State Latin Competitions. The team has placed first in 16 of the last 21 state Latin conventions.

**Literary Magazine**
The Peninsula High School literary magazine, “Beard Full of Butterflies,” provides students the opportunity to submit original writings and artwork for publication. The magazine was awarded 1st place by the American Scholastic Press Association and the 2012 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Program Award to recognize excellence in Student Literary Magazines. In 2012, three Peninsula High School students received NCTE achievement awards in writing.

**Model United Nations (MUN)**
This international program provides students with the opportunity to debate global issues at local, state and national competitions. Peninsula High School students participated in 16 MUN Conferences in ’11-’12 including: UCLA, UC Berkeley, UCSD, UCI and Georgetown. Students received awards at each of the conferences attended. MUN earned over 100 awards, including 22 research awards, 34 commendations, 22 best delegates and 12 gavels.

**Speech and Debate**
Speech and Debate focuses on developing student skills in public speaking and argumentation in a competition format. During the ’11-’12 school year the team won the Harvard National Invitational and the USC Trojan Championships, among others. Locally, the team is ranked #1 in the West Bay Forensic League and sent 18 debaters to the State Championships.

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

**SMERT (Science, Math, Engineering, Robotics, Technology)**
The SMERT program allows students to take college level curriculum through Project Lead the Way and participate in a number of extracurricular activities related to SMERT. Classes and programs include: Intro to Engineering Design, Digital Electronics, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Engineering Design and Development, Aerospace Engineering, and Computer Science AP. Peninsula SMERT students also compete on Robotics, Science Olympiad, Cyber Patriot and Solar Boat teams.

**Student Leadership**
Approximately 200 Peninsula High School students are involved in various leadership programs, including ASB, Link Crew and PALS PLUS.

**ASB**
The ASB Leadership class organizes the student activities at Peninsula High School. The 35 elected and appointed ASB 9th through 12th grade student officers implement the activities on campus with the ultimate purpose of creating a welcoming, involved and spirited high school environment. Together with the Activities Director, ASB oversees 5 dances, lunchtime and after school spirit events, school-wide community service projects, fundraising events, grade-level games and competitions, and the end of the year special activities for Seniors.

**Link Crew**
Link Crew is a high school transition program that warmly welcomes all freshmen and transfers to Peninsula High School. The program is designed to assist new students experiences throughout their first year of high school. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, 100 Juniors and Seniors have been selected as Link Crew Leaders, taking on leadership roles as year-long mentors to the freshmen class and transfer students.

**PALS PLUS (Peer Leaders Uniting Students)**
PALS PLUS is a peer-to-peer student leadership program that empowers students to identify and address critical issues that impact positive youth development and the conditions for student learning. It is our belief that students have valuable insights for developing safe schools and communities.

**Academic Decathlon**
Academic Decathlon is a national competition in 10 academic areas. In spring 2012, a Peninsula High School student was the top scorer in LA County and the team competed at the State competition.