

# Palos Verdes High School

*A California Distinguished School*



**Profile Data  
2009-10**



<http://www.pvhigh.com>

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CEEB Code 052358

## Counseling Staff

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## School District and Community

Palos Verdes High School is located 21 miles southwest of metropolitan Los Angeles and draws predominantly middle to high-income business and professional residents. Palos Verdes High School was originally opened in 1961 but was closed in June 1991 due to declining enrollment in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. After 11 years, the school reopened in September 2002. The district does not have boundaries for the two high schools; therefore, students have a choice as to which high school they would like to attend. Palos Verdes High School is accredited through 2012 by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); it was named a California Distinguished School in 2005.

The school is on a traditional semester schedule. There are three block periods each day, with an optional zero period class that is a traditional (non-block) class. Courses taught during zero period are 55 minutes in length and meet each day. Block scheduled courses are 113 minutes in length and meet every other day on a rotating A and B schedule. Periods 1, 2, and 3 meet on "A" days, and periods 4, 5 and 6 meet on "B" days. Freshmen and sophomores are required to take six classes each semester. Juniors are required to take five classes and seniors are required to take four classes each semester.

Palos Verdes High School has received national, state, and local recognition for its *Live From 205* student broadcasting show, drama programs, *PVIT/Project Lead the Way* robotics and engineering programs, Scientific Research program, Chinese program, and Science Bowl program.

## College Attendance Rates Class of 2009

4-year colleges: 81%  
2-year colleges: 18%  
Public in-state: 47%  
Private in-state: 18%  
Public out-of-state: 19%  
Private out-of-state: 16%

## Student Enrollment 2009-10

Total Student Body: 1836  
12th grade- 447  
11th grade- 505  
10th grade- 408  
9th grade- 476

## A Selection of Colleges and Universities that have offered admission to PVHS students from 2005 – 2009:

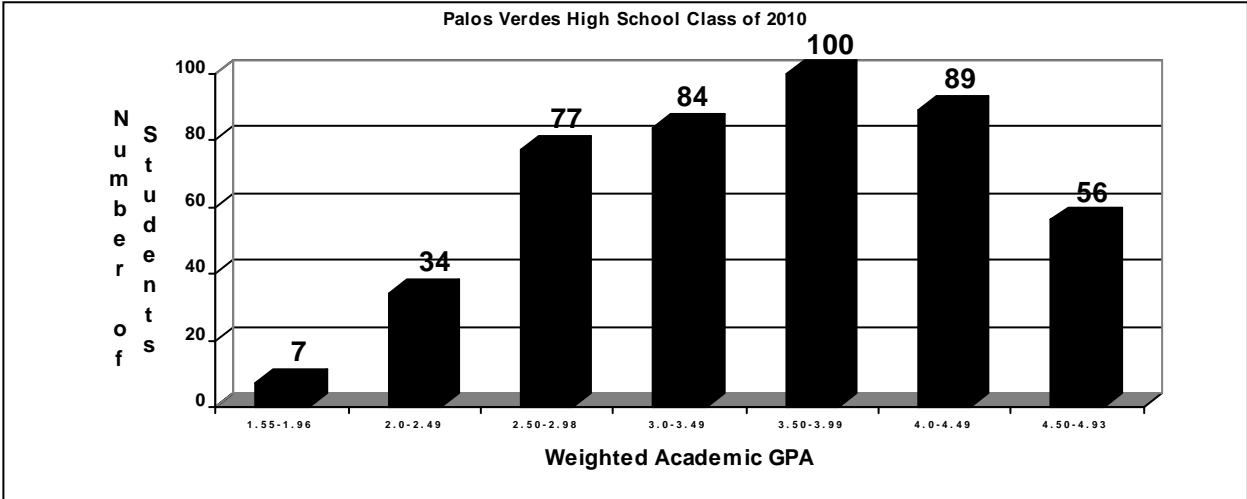
Amherst College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
University of CA  
(all campuses)  
Cal State University  
(all campuses)  
Carleton College  
Carnegie Mellon  
University  
Chapman University  
University of Chicago  
Colgate University  
University of Colorado at  
Boulder  
Columbia University

Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Duke University  
Emory University  
University of Florida  
George Washington University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Harvey Mudd College  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lewis and Clark College  
Loyola Marymount University  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
New York University  
University of North Carolina  
Northwestern University  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
Pomona College  
Princeton University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rice University  
University of Southern CA  
Stanford University  
Syracuse University  
Tufts University  
Tulane University

United States Air Force  
Academy  
United States Coast Guard  
Academy  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
University of Virginia  
Wake Forest University  
Washington University in St.  
Louis  
University of Washington  
Wellesley College  
Williams College  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison  
Yale University

**Palos Verdes High School  
Grade Distribution Chart**



**SAT Reasoning Test Results**

(Middle 50% of Scores)

SAT Reading	480-630
SAT Writing	510-660
SAT Mathematics	490-640

**SAT Subject Test Results**

(Mean Scores)

Biology E	641
Biology M	710
Chemistry	631
Math (Level I)	526
Math (Level II)	633
Physics	630

**ACT Results**

(Benchmark Scores)

English Average-	18
Mathematics Average-	22
Reading Average-	21
Science Average-	24

**Advanced Placement Results**

**2009**

In May 2009 a total of 640 PVHS students took 1330 Advanced Placement examinations in 28 different subjects. 70% of the scores were a 3 or above and the average score was 3.17. 46% of the student body (grades 10-12) was enrolled in at least (1) Advanced Placement course.

AP Score	# Students receiving this score	% of total
5	200	15%
4	346	26%
3	385	29%
2	266	20%
1	133	10%

**National Merit Scholarship Program (Class of 2010)**

(7) National Merit Semifinalists

## Honors and Advanced Placement Course Offerings

- **English**  
English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, English 3 Honors, English AP Language, English AP Literature
- **Fine/Practical Arts**  
Advanced Orchestra, Drama 3 Advanced, Drama 4 Advanced, Jazz Band 2, Studio Art AP (3D, 2D or Drawing), Art History AP, Music Theory AP
- **Foreign Language**  
Chinese 3 Honors, Chinese AP Language, French 3 Honors, French AP Language, Spanish 3 Honors, Spanish AP Language, Spanish AP Literature
- **Mathematics**  
Geometry Honors, Algebra 2 Honors, Pre- Calculus Honors, Calculus AB AP, Calculus BC AP, Computer Science AAP, Statistics AP
- **Science**  
Biology 1 Honors, Chemistry 1 Honors, Biology 2 AP, Chemistry 2 AP, Physics B AP, Physics C AP, Environmental Science AP
- **Social Studies**  
World History Honors, World History AP, European History AP, United States History AP, U.S. Government AP, Comparative Government AP, Economics AP, Psychology AP, Human Geography AP

\*\*Total AP Offerings: 28

\*\*Total Honors Offerings: 12

## Transcript Designations

- **H** - Honors courses
- **AP** - Advanced Placement
- **Work Exp** - Work Experience (10 hours a week minimum)
- **Internship**- Internship (5 hours a week minimum)
- **MCR** - Meets College requirements i.e. Geometry MCR, Algebra 2 MCR, Spanish 2 MCR
- **College Course**- College-level courses taken outside of the traditional school day
- **SCROC** - Southern California Regional Occupational Center (provides training in employment skills such as engineering, advanced video production, and photography)
- **PVIT**- Palos Verdes Institute of Technology course, aligned with *Project Lead the Way* engineering curriculum and coursework.
- **Scientific Research** - an advanced science course where students work on original research projects, participate in local and state Science Fairs and/or engineering/robotics competitions.
- **N**- non-academic course

## Graduation Requirements Class of 2010

Unit requirement: 220 credits required for graduation;  
(5) credits earned for each semester course.

<b>Subject Requirement</b>	<b># of Semesters</b>	<b># of Credits</b>
English	8 semesters	40 credits
World History, Culture, and Geography	2 semesters	10 credits
United States History	2 semesters	10 credits
Government	1 semester	5 credits
Economics	1 semester	5 credits
Mathematics	4 semesters	20 credits
Biological Science	2 semesters	10 credits
Physical Science	2 semesters	10 credits
Physical Education	4 semesters	20 credits
Fine/Practical Arts/ Foreign Language	4 semesters	20 credits
Electives	14 semesters	70 credits

## Class Rank and Grade Point Average

- **Student class rank is not computed per district policy.**
- 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 the determination of the cumulative grade point average. The course numbering system on the transcript indicates where each course was completed.
- The first semester of a year-long course is designated with an "A" and the second semester with a "B".
- Grades of A, B, C, D and P are passing. Grades of F-Failure, NC-No credit, AU-Audit, I-Incomplete, and CR-Credit are also available.
- The transcript lists both weighted and unweighted GPA. The GPA is averaged three ways: 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 courses qualify for weighted grades and are designated with a "+" on the transcript.

\*A weighted GPA is determined by calculating the unweighted GPA then adding 0.2 grade points for each weighted course in a semester.

\*\*PVHS does not release student disciplinary records per school policy.

## Junior and Senior Research Project

Palos Verdes High School has a strong cross-curricular research focus in grades 9-12, which emphasizes the use of research and the scientific method throughout all areas of the curriculum. Students have participated in numerous research activities through relationships with UCLA, USC, El Camino College Engineering/Robotics and International Business programs, Honda, Palos Verdes Land Conservancy, and other local organizations.

All seniors at Palos Verdes High School are required to complete The Senior Project in order to graduate. Beginning in the junior year, all students declare their two-year research thesis and write a 5-7 page research paper. During the senior year, students continue to research their topics and write a 8-10 page research paper, demonstrating information literacy, and also complete a related physical project (15 hours) with a mentor. At the end of the senior year, students present their papers and their physical projects to a panel of community members, teachers, staff and District representatives.

The Senior Project demonstrates the responsibility and rigor expected of students at Palos Verdes High School. All seniors are expected to maintain a strong work ethic during the entire year, especially after AP tests in May, and to successfully complete their two-year research project in June.

## School Administration

Chris Bowles  
Principal  
x200

Nick Stephany  
Assistant Principal  
**A-Ke**  
x252

Brett Egan  
Associate Principal  
**Kf-Z**  
x205

Mike Boyd  
Athletic Director  
x204

## School Clubs, Activities, and Publications

(55) extracurricular clubs exist at Palos Verdes High School including:

Science Olympiad, Math Club, Chinese Club, PVIT Club, Habitat for Humanity, Kiwins, Tutor Club, Model United Nations, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation, International Thespian Society, Spanish Honor Society, French Honor Society, Green Club, and Interact.

PVHS students design and publish the school yearbook *The Triton* as well as the school newspaper *The Point* and literary magazine *Trade Winds*. In addition, students in *Live From 205* write, produce, and direct the live broadcast show.

## PVIT Program (Palos Verdes Institute of Technology)

Created in 2005, this program houses (4) nationally recognized Project Lead the Way engineering/robotics courses: Introduction to Engineering Design, Digital Electronics, Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Engineering Design and Development. These courses are linked with physics as well as the scientific research course and the PVIT Club activities: Robotics Vex Team, Solar Car/BP Project, Robo Magellan/MIT-Lemelson Grant, Underwater ROV Team, and Bio-Fuels Project.

## Athletic Program

Football  
Boys' Basketball/Girls' Basketball  
Song Squad  
Crew (Co-ed)  
Boys' Lacrosse/Girls' Lacrosse  
Cheer Squad  
Boys' Water Polo/Girls' Water Polo  
Boys' Golf/Girls' Golf  
Boys' Tennis/Girls' Tennis  
Cross Country (Co-ed)  
Surfing (Co-ed)  
Equestrian (Co-ed)  
Boys' Soccer/Girls' Soccer  
Track (Co-ed)  
Softball  
Baseball  
Swimming (Co-ed)  
Boys' Volleyball/Girls' Volleyball  
Choreo Dance  
Dance Team

PVHS fields varsity level teams in all these sports.  
PVHS athletes compete in the Bay League.

## PVID Program

### (Palos Verdes International Diploma Program)

Created in 2007 and based on the Advanced Placement International Diploma (APID) certification/program requirements, the PVID program requires that students complete courses in: AP Human Geography, AP Comparative Government, the 9th-11th grade Humanities blocked courses in AP social studies and English, the year-long AP Econ/AP U.S. Government course (GEMM), and a college-level International Business course, along with participation in MUN(or other elective classes) and a senior Project in International Studies.