



PISD UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



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CALENDAR

Thursday, September 2, 4:30:

Volleyball (away) at Pecos

Friday, September 3, 5:00:

Volleyball (home) vs Cimarron

Saturday, September 4, 9 am:

Peñasco Invitational (Middle & High School): Cross Country

Monday, September 6:

Labor Day: No School

BUILDING ACCESS

As a reminder: if you are a visitor to campus, please follow this protocol:

- Stop at the guard shack and let Mr. Rodriguez know where you are going.
- Stop in the office of the appropriate building to sign in:
- MS/HS: Ms. Rodriguez
- Elementary: Ms. Cordova
- District Office: Ms. Sanchez

PARENT AND STUDENT SURVEYS

Help the district understand the needs of its students and families . Please fill out these two short surveys:

- Parent Survey: <https://www.penascoisd.com/article/525386>
- Student Survey: <https://www.penascoisd.com/article/525391>

COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Students have the opportunity to participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing. Please contact the school nurse, Yvette Pacheco, at 575-587-2502 ext. 2109

BUS DRIVERS WANTED: CDL CLASS AVAILABLE

The district is seeking bus drivers. If you are interested in gaining your CDL in order to drive a bus, the district will be offering paid CDL classes. Contact Transportation Secretary Veronica Gonzales for more info.

Veronica Gonzales:
vgonzales@penascoisd.com, 575-587-2502 ext 2208

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS: FALL 2021

PISD will be offering free after-school programs starting Monday, Sept. 20. The programs will run from the end of the school day to 5:45. Plans are in works to offer suppers (free) to all students who participate in the program. We are also working to provide transportation, but we will not have bussing available to start.

Please let us know if your elementary students are interested by filling out this short survey: <https://forms.gle/3DrdLJFaLqy6R3eY7>

For the MS/HS student survey, click here: <https://forms.gle/1fDJy1zW5fyng9Wb6>

Activities will include: Arts, Chess, Circus Arts, Gardening, Guitar, Library/reading activities, Outdoor play/sports, Podcasting, Robotics (3D printing, coding), Tutoring/Homework Help, Violin

Please fill out the survey online (or the paper survey at the end of this newsletter) so that we can plan for how many students to expect.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Updates to NMAA guidelines:

- Mask wearing is required for all indoor sports regardless of vaccination status and recommended for outdoor sports.
- Spectators will be permitted at all sports, no capacity limits. Masks are required.
- Good sportsmanship from all spectators is expected.

ART CLASSES GALLERY

Once again, our art teacher, Ms. Alessandra, will be posting student art online for families and the community to see. Find this year's and last year's art work here: <https://sites.google.com/penascoisd.com/art-gallery/home>. The site will be updated frequently.

DRILL TEAM LEADER?

PISD is considering hosting a drill team. Anyone interested in being the drill team sponsor should contact Michael Noll: 575-779-1466.

LOWRIDER COMES TO SCHOOL

For our August Extended Learning Friday, Stemarts Labs brought a lowrider to campus for students to check out and learn about the science and math behind these cool cars. Students began designing their own lowriders!



NEW WEEKLY FEATURE: HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CLASS



Mrs. Noll's high school journalism class will be writing articles for the newsletter. Be sure to check for them each week!

WHAT'S TRENDING?



The journalism class constructed a survey to find out what's trending in the middle school and high school. The class wanted to learn what is current in music and entertainment among PISD students. We had 85 participants and were surprised to see how broad everyone's music and movie tastes are. Surveys were given to students during study skills so that anyone who was in school that day was able to participate. After we collected the surveys, we put together all the answers to see which ones were most popular.

When answering the question "what were the best two movies you've seen in the past year?" the winners were *The Suicide Squad* and *Fast 9*, followed by *Space Jam 2* and *Godzilla v. Kong*, while *Luca* received an honorable mention. For the question "what two TV shows are you watching right now?," we learned that *All-American* and *Outer Banks* were the most popular with students. The honorable mentions include *Shameless* and *Stranger Things*. We predicted that the two most popular apps would be Snapchat and TikTok, and we were correct! Youtube received an honorable mention from our students.

For the question about which singers, rappers, and bands our students are listening to right now, we were surprised to see how many votes Luke Combs received, but Juice Wrld and Young Boy were the clear winners. PISD students have varied taste in music but Tyler the Creator's album *Call Me if You Get Lost* and Olivia Rodrigo's album *Sour* received the most votes. While we were tallying the surveys, it was very difficult to find a trend for favorite songs. However, "Still Softish" by Josh Richards and Bryce Hall received the most votes, followed by "Nevada" by Young Boy, "Dior" by Pop Smoke, and "You're Mines Still" by Yung Bleu.

It was a cool experience to learn everyone's interests, and maybe we can expose people to new types of music, movies, and other entertainment. In future surveys, we'll give students questions that have more specific choices so that we can analyze their answers more efficiently. If any students have ideas for questions they want to see on a future survey, email Ms. Noll at snoll@penascoisd.com.

PEÑASCO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT JOURNALISTS

Top left to right: Karizma Saenz, Alicia Abeyta, Maricela MacAuley, Dazylyn Gonzales, and Analise MacAuley.



COACH MO: STEPPING UP FOR THE KIDS



Monique Visarraga, also known as Coach Mo, has been coaching for ten years. When she was in high school, she ran track and played volleyball and basketball. Playing in an actual game is what Coach Mo is most excited for this season. Her goal as a coach is to make a lasting and positive impact on her players. Due to Covid-19, Coach Mo doesn't currently have any pre-game rituals or routines. Other things that have changed with volleyball as a result of the pandemic are that students didn't play for nearly two years, and a lot of players couldn't participate because of the lockdown of the Picuris Pueblo.

When asked what inspired her to be a coach, Coach Mo shared that she understands that students can't play if they don't have a coach, so she wanted to step in for the kids. Having to wear masks during a game is something that she isn't looking forward to. However, Coach Mo would love to see younger kids come out to play because it's a good time to get motivated and it helps you to learn teamwork, build confidence, push your limits and can lead to good mental health.

District play for volleyball begins on Thursday, October 7th when the Lady Panthers face Mora. Go Panthers!

AP'S COACHING JOURNEY



Coach Analisia Pena has been coaching at Penasco for three years but has only coached volleyball for two. In high school, Coach AP played volleyball, basketball, and competed in track and field, and she also played basketball at Northern New Mexico College. This season, Coach AP is looking forward to winning and having fun. Her goal as a coach is to teach and motivate her players and to be a mentor, which is something she didn't have as a high school player.

When asked how volleyball has been impacted by the pandemic, Coach AP said that it's different now because players have to wear masks, and last year volleyball wasn't able to have a season. Last spring, athletes had to be in school--not just online--for two weeks before a season could begin, and our school district was still in the planning stages and couldn't make the timeline. Practice has been impacted by the pandemic as well. Last year, players had to practice in pods of five and couldn't share the balls. This made it difficult for players to practice their rotation as they would in a game. There was a time when players weren't able to practice blocking because of social distancing. Now things have mostly returned to normal, except that players are still required to wear masks.

Before Coach AP came to teach and coach at Peñasco, she considered going into the medical field and was working as a scribe at a hospital. But when Coach Mandy Montoya, Coach AP's former coach from Northern, asked her to be her assistant basketball coach, Coach AP agreed, changing her whole career path.

Students can start playing volleyball when they are in sixth grade. Coach AP encourages younger players to join because they will have fun and it will push them out of their comfort zone. According to Coach AP, volleyball provides a player with a different set of skills than other sports.

Support your Lady Panthers and come watch them play Coronado on Thursday, September 16 at the Jicarita Gym. Matches begin at 6PM, and tickets are \$5 at the door.

DEDICATION TO PENASCO'S RUNNING PROGRAM: AN INTERVIEW WITH COACH BEN



Coach Ben Sanchez has been coaching for 27 years. When he was in high school, he played football, basketball, and ran cross country and track. For the 2021 season, Coach Ben is looking forward to being competitive and doing well at the district and state meets. When asked about his coaching philosophy, Coach Ben said, "Nothing in life is free. You have to work hard for everything." As a coach, his goal is to help kids succeed, not only as an athlete but also in life. Before every meet, Coach Ben gives the team the chance to get ready and reflect on what they are doing.

Last spring, cross country runners had to wear masks while they competed, but at this time, things are back to normal; though masks are recommended, they are not required. When asked who inspired Coach Ben to be a coach, he shared that it was his cross country and basketball coach, Coach Edward Abreu, that shaped that decision.

Students in grades 6-12 can go out for cross country. Coach Ben says that younger students should think about the sport because "it's good for your health and will help with other sports. It's something you can enjoy, and you can even compete after you graduate." But, according to Coach Ben, "you have to want to do it."

The Peñasco Invitational will take place this weekend, at home, on Saturday, September 4th. Good luck to all our runners!

COACH TORI'S HOMECOMING



Victoria Vasquez, better known as Coach Tori, graduated from Peñasco High School in 2014 and joined the cross country coaching staff in July 2021. As a student, she ran cross country and track. This season, Coach Tori is looking forward to helping each individual succeed and learn from themselves. Her goals as a coach are to help each teammate learn as much as they can so they can take that knowledge and run with it, even after high school. Before each meet, Coach Tori mentally prepares and likes to be prompt.

Since the pandemic started, Coach Tori says cross country hasn't been the same, and it is taking away from an athlete's overall experience. When asked what inspired her to become a coach, she said, "I love the sport, and I have always wanted to coach." This season, Coach Tori hopes that the program doesn't get shut down again. She would love to see younger students get involved with cross country because it keeps you active and healthy and encourages you to do well. Welcome, Coach Tori, to the Peñasco coaching family!

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

PISD Superintendent

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msandoval@penascoisd.com

MS/HS Principal

Nicaea Chavez
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nchavez@penascoisd.com

Elementary Principal

Michelle Gonzales
(575) 587-2502 ext. 2101
mgonzales2@penascoisd.com

Community Schools Coordinator

Michael Noll
575-779-1466
mnoll@penascoisd.com

Indian Education Coordinator

Julia Geffroy
575-613-3822
jgeffroy@penascoisd.com

Student & Family Engagement Coordinator

Dr. Bonavita Quinto MacCallum
575-587-2502 Ext. 2305
bmaccallum@penascoisd.com

DISTRICT JOB OPENINGS

**PISD Employment Opportunities 2020-2021 School Year:
School Counselor, Spanish Teacher, Kindergarten or Grade Teacher,
Bus Drivers, Custodians, Substitute Teachers, Substitute Bus
Drivers and Substitute Custodians**

For inquiries email agarcia@penascoisd.com.

Licensed staff positions will apply on the NMREAP website

<http://www.nmreap.net/>