



# PISD UPDATE

JANUARY 13, 2022



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## CALENDAR

Basketball games against Los Alamos and Pecos have been postponed. Updated schedules due to any changes in the future will be posted on the PISD website.

**Monday, January 17**

MLK Jr. Day: No School

**Tuesday, January 18, 6:00**

Regular Board Meeting

**Friday, January 21**

HS B-Ball @ Mora

**Tuesday, January 25, 6:30**

Community Schools Meeting

## COVID AND REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE

Due to the influx of COVID cases in our district, PISD will be shifting ALL STUDENTS to remote learning from Thursday, Jan. 13 to Thursday, Jan. 20, which will be 4 days of remote learning and 11 days off campus to allow for settling of transmissions. Teachers will continue to provide instruction according to the schedules followed the first week in January. Please ensure your children are logging into their sessions during this time. Staff will remain on campus to support you and your children with technology and other needs that may arise. Athletic activity will be determinant on continued transmission.

Please visit our website for COVID updates and information regarding schedules, upcoming vaccination clinics, and support during this time.

Thank you for your patience and support in these efforts. Our goal is to keep your children and community as safe as possible during this time.



### COVID TESTING UPDATES

#### **Sagebrush Inn**

Net Medical will be offering 'same-day, free rapid antigen testing at the Sagebrush Inn Convention Center (Pinon Room) starting on Wednesday, January 12.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SAGEBRUSH INN FOR QUESTIONS ON TESTING HOURS OR RESULTS FOR TESTING.

The testing site will be open from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Clients can register for a test here: <https://nmxs.com/ev4>

Net Medical will also be offering next-day Rapid PCR testing at the same location, M-F, 10 to 4, starting Monday, January 17th.

Net Medical will keep its information about testing sites in Taos updated at <https://www.taoscovidtaskforce.com/testing-locations>

#### **Holy Cross Hospital**

Pop Up Testing & Vaccination Event

Juan I Gonzales Agriculture at 202 Chamisa Rd.

Saturday Jan. 15th 10 AM to 3 PM

All 12 years and older are eligible for booster if 5 months after the second vaccine. Pfizer and Moderna Available

Register on DOH site if possible at <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>

Free community drive-through rapid testing while supplies last.  
No ID or insurance questions. Walk-ins welcomed.

#### **PISD**

Drive-Up Vaccination Event

January 21, 2022 - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Jicarita Gym

More information will be posted on the PISD website



### COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MEETING: PLEASE ATTEND!

Everyone is invited to our next PISD Community Schools meeting. Feel free to share this link with anyone interested.

Tuesday, January 25, 6:30 p.m. (held remotely)

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/mxd-juov-jyk>

Or dial: (US) +1 513-760-5083 PIN: 869 187 091#

We will discuss the following:

- **Federal Community Schools Grant worth up to \$2.5 million.**
- **Near-peer mentoring/tutoring program** (paying high school students to mentor and tutor MS and elementary students)
- **Paid summer internship program** (what work opportunities would you like students to have?)
- **Speaker/presenter series** (taking recommendations for speakers and presenters; anyone you think has experience, knowledge, skill, talent that they would like to share with our students)
- **Update on community history project(s)**
- **Update on gardening project**
- **Opportunities to ask questions**, share concerns, and talk with district administration and coordinators

## HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE



### PAID OPPORTUNITY FOR HS STUDENTS TO WORK AS TUTORS/MENTORS

PISD has received \$100,000 in funding from the state to create near-peer mentoring and tutoring. The program will pay up to 30 high school students to work with middle and elementary students during the school day and afterschool. Interested students should complete an application and submit a resume and cover letter. All interested students will also be interviewed.

Students can find the application here:

<https://forms.gle/SXrWamtr25ZFi7g8>



### THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF!

Our maintenance, custodial, cafeteria, secretarial, and district office staff deserve tremendous credit for the work they did to get the schools up and running after the power outage. They cleaned up water and ice, problem-solved to fix heaters, shoveled snow, and made it possible for our students and staff to return next week.

Thank you, too, to our nurse, Yvette Pacheco, and all of our El Centro School Clinic staff, who have been working tirelessly to help the district, our students, staff, and families stay on top of the COVID situation and keep us safe.

If you see any of these staff, please thank them for their hard work!

### RESOURCES FOR PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN —SCHOOL ENROLLMENT NOT REQUIRED

Area children, regardless of whether they are enrolled at PISD, are eligible for two great programs:

**Waterford Kindergarten Prep:** 4-year-olds can get access to this computer-based educational program for *free*. This program has demonstrated excellence in preparing students for kindergarten. For more information, contact Elementary Principal Michelle Gonzales: (575) 587-2502 ext. 2101 or [mgonzales2@penascoisd.com](mailto:mgonzales2@penascoisd.com).

**Dolly Parton Imagination Library:** All children under the age of 5 are eligible to receive a *free* monthly book in the mail. Children who are enrolled at birth will receive 60 books by their fifth birthday! To enroll in the program, click here: <https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/?#selectedCountry=US>

Or, contact Community Schools Coordinator Michael Noll with your child's name and birthdate, a guardian's name, a physical and mailing address, and an email address. Mr. Noll: 575-779-1466, [mnoll@penascoisd.com](mailto:mnoll@penascoisd.com).





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS!

The boys and girls basketball teams both competed in the Northern Rio Grande Tournament. The boys placed second, and the girls placed third! Congratulations to all of our basketball athletes, managers, and coaches!







## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS B-BALL FEATURED IN VIDEO

The Lady Panthers were featured in an NMAA Game Time video! Check it out to see interviews with coaches and players and action highlights!

Find the video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1\\_LavyAW5aQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_LavyAW5aQ)

## EMPLOYMENT UPDATES



### PISD IS HIRING!

Job Opportunities:

- Secondary Spanish Teacher
- Secondary Vocational Teacher
- Educational Assistant
- Security Guard
- Substitute Bus Driver
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Cooks
- Substitute Custodians
- Robotics/3D Printing Activity Leader: Elementary
- Community Historian: Spanish Language
- Community Historian: Tiwa Language
- Afterschool Counselor: secondary
- Gardening Activity Leaders

For more information, visit <https://www.penascoisd.com/page/employment-opportunities>

## AFTERSCHOOL UPDATE

The middle and high school program will start next week, running on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4:19-5:45. Activities will include debate, chess, guitar, violin, art, student council, and homework help. To register your students, fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/SgYxZJN2tHt3UBi29>

The elementary program will restart next week. Any students who would like to join the program may register here: <https://forms.gle/roJyw2Mtr6ycDsob9>

Paper forms for the programs can be picked up in the school offices.

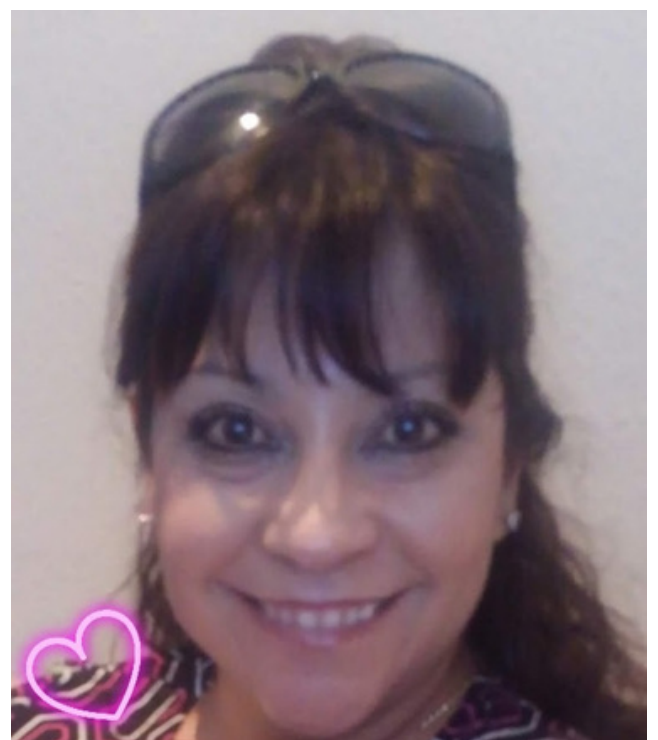
## CHANGES AT THE NURTURING CENTER

In December, our longtime Nurturing Center coordinator Enselma Vasquez retired. Many of you know Enselma and all of the amazing work she has done in the community for her entire life. We are so appreciative of all that she has done. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her joy and relaxation in her retirement!

Taos Behavioral Health has hired two new staff members to staff the Nurturing Center. Please welcome Nikki Cruz and Doris Sandoval, both local to the Peñasco area. They will be helping students and adults with social emotional needs, providing afterschool activities, and helping families with service navigation.



**Nikki Cruz**



**Doris Sandoval**



# Celebrating School Boards



## School Board Recognition Month

AMANDA BISSELL

DORTHY LOPEZ-SHERMAN

DR. CARLOS ABEYTA

GWEN SIMBOLO

PATRICIA MARTINEZ

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

#### **PISD Superintendent**

Melissa Sandoval  
(575) 587-2502  
msandoval@penascoisd.com

#### **MS/HS Principal**

Nicaea Chavez  
(575) 587-2502 ext. 2010  
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

#### **Elementary Secretary**

Shannon Cordova  
575-587-2502  
scordova@penascoisd.com

#### **MS/HS Secretary**

Elberta Rodriguez  
575-587-2502  
ejrodriguez@penascoisd.com