



PISD UPDATE

FEBRUARY 1, 2022



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WHAT'S INSIDE

[School Year 22/23 Calendar Survey](#)

[Thank you to our teachers!](#)

[Seeking tutors](#)

[Afterschool Update](#)

[Elementary School Entrance](#)

[Paid Opportunity for HS Students](#)

[Community School Meeting Notes](#)

[Basketball Updates](#)

[Cross Country Honors](#)

[Adult Education Classes](#)

[HS Journalism Articles on COVID](#)

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 2, 4:00

HS B-Ball @ Mora

Thursday, February 3, 4:00

HS B-Ball Home vs. Questa

Friday, February 4

Extended Learning Day

Saturday, February 5, 4:00

HS B-Ball Home vs. Mora

Tuesday, February 8, 3:00

HS B-Ball @ Mesa Vista

Thursday, February 10, 3:00

HS B-Ball @ McCurdy

Saturday, February 12, 1:00

HS B-Ball @ Escalante

SCHOOL YEAR 2022/23 CALENDAR SURVEY

PISD is requesting feedback from families, students, and staff about the proposed 2022-23 calendar, to help us determine whether a 4-day or 5-day week is the best fit for our district. Please take a moment to fill out this short survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Ku1td7isL7Ny7TKOpv70M5tQaR9e5lVVO7f3baM6hJQ/edit?ts=61d8bdd8>

You can see the two proposed calendars here:

- **4-day week:** https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1791108/Proposed_Student_4_Day_Week_2022-2023_SY.pdf
- **5-day week:** https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1791109/Proposed_Student_5_Day_Week_2022-2023_SY.pdf



THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS!

As we return to in-person schooling (hooray!), let's give thanks to our teachers, who have rolled with all of the changes to school created by COVID-19.



They have shifted from in-person to remote and back several times, developed online teaching strategies, juggled working with in-person and remote students at the same time, communicated with students and families, and kept students engaged regardless of the format. PISD is fortunate to have a wonderful, dedicated teaching staff, and they have done excellent work in two years of unprecedented challenges.

When you get a chance, tell your teachers thank you!

SEEKING TUTORS

PISD is seeking adults interested in tutoring students in all grades. The district is partnering with the Embudo Valley Tutoring Association, which will help run the tutoring program and train tutors. These are *paid positions*!

For more information, contact Community Schools Coordinator Michael Noll: mnoll@penascoisd.com, 575-779-1466.

AFTERSCHOOL UPDATE

The middle and high school program will start this week, running on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:19-5:45. Activities will include debate, chess, guitar, violin, art, student council, and homework help. Schedule:

- Tuesday: Guitar, Debate
- Wednesday, Chess, Violin (violin starts in a week or two)
- Thursday: Media Arts (photography, videography) and Student Council

To register your students, fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/SgYxZJN2tHt3UBi29>

The elementary program has restarted this week. Any students who would like to join the program may register here:

<https://forms.gle/roJyw2Mtr6ycDsob9>



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE

The main entrance to the elementary school will be inaccessible. We will temporarily be using the entrance on the North side of the elementary school building (kindergarten wing). Ms. Shannon will also have an office setup there. Please follow the signs. Thank you!

PAID OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL 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. Find the application here:

<https://forms.gle/SXrWamtrz25ZFi7g8>

Examples of a resume and cover letter:

- **Resume:** <https://www.mass.edu/gearup/documents/WritingaResume.pdf>
- **Cover Letter:** <https://resumecompanion.com/cover-letter-examples/high-school-student-cover-letter-sample/>

COMMUNITY INFO



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MEETING: NOTES

At least week's Community Schools meeting, we discussed the following:

- **Federal Community Schools Grant worth up to \$2.5 million.**
- **Near-peer mentoring/tutoring program**
- **Paid summer internship program (**
- **Speaker/presenter series**

You can find the list of ideas generated for each of these topics here:

- January 25 Community Schools Meeting Notes: <https://5il.co/14tdt>
- Speaker Series Ideas: <https://5il.co/14tdu>
- Summer Internship Program Ideas: <https://5il.co/14tdx>
- Umbrella Community Schools Funding at PISD: <https://5il.co/14tdw>
- Federal Community Schools Grant: Needs and Goals: <https://5il.co/14tdv>

GIFT CARDS FOR FAMILIES

All PISD families are receiving a \$25 gift card to a local business. Your children will be receiving an email from Taylor Harrison (the after-school coordinator) letting you know how to get and use your gift card!

Thank you to the Keeler Foundation in Taos for the funds that created this opportunity to support our families and local businesses!

ATHLETICS UPDATES



UPDATED BASKETBALL SCHEDULE AND SPECTATOR UPDATE

Peñasco Athletics will be allowing 3 fans per athlete for these games:

- vs.. Questa Thursday, February 3
- vs. Mora Saturday, February 5

Only 3 tickets per athlete will be sold. We ask for your cooperation at this time. Both games can also be viewed on the NFHS network.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Wed. 2/2	Mora	Away	4:00/5:30/7:00
Thurs. 2/3	Questa	Home	4:00/5:30/7:00
Sat. 2/5	Mora	Home	4:00/5:30/7:00
Tues. 2/8	Mesa Vista	Away	3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
Thurs. 2/10	McCurdy	Away	3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
Sat. 2/12	Escalante	Away	1:00/2:30/4:00/5:30
Mon 2/14	McCurdy (Girls)	Home	5:00
Tues. 2/15	Pecos	Home	4:00/5:30/7:00
Thurs. 2/17	Mesa Vista	Home	4:00/5:30/7:00
Sat. 2/19	Questa	Away	1:00/2:30/4:00/5:30
Feb 21-26	District Tournament	TBA	TBA
Mar. 4-12	State Tournament	TBA	TBA

CROSS COUNTRY HONORS

Congrats to Coach Ben Sanchez on Coach of the Year and to Gilly Valdez and Maricela MacAuley for making the All Harrier Team!



COMMUNITY INFO



IN-PERSON CLASSES ON DIGITAL LITERACY AND PRIVACY

The Student and Family Engagement Center will be offering classes on digital literacy and privacy, open to the all parents, guardians, and family members.

Feb. 16, 4:30-5:30, Supper will be served. Students can participate in the afterschool program while adults take the classes.

For more information, contact Dr. Quinto MacCallum
575-587-2502 Ext. 2305
bmaccallum@penascoisd.com

FREE ONLINE TECH/COMPUTER CLASSES

The state is offering free classes to help learn technology skills. Parents and caregivers can find classes developed just for them here:

https://opencoursesstore.d2l.com/product?catalog=TLSS_Parents_Caegivers1fKjMN8Qzi3kqea6fsMz5gvpcwTek4odnJBR



COVID TESTING UPDATE

Everyone can now order free at-home COVID tests through the post office. Order here: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>. Each household can order 4 tests. They arrive in about one week.

PISD IS HIRING!

Job Opportunities:

- Secondary Spanish Teacher
- Secondary Vocational Teacher
- Educational Assistant
- Substitute Bus Driver
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Cooks
- Substitute Custodians
- Community Historian: Spanish Language
- Afterschool Counselor: secondary
- Gardening Activity Leaders

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

WAIVED LICENSURE FEES FOR EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS

The Professional Licensure Bureau is waiving all application and background fees for the months of February and March. This includes all initial and renewal applications, and submissions of dossiers and OPALs. We encourage you to share this with all your educators as this means a savings between \$35 and \$320 for them.

Waiving of the payment happens automatically in the system. To have the background fee waived they should enter this information below for payment when they register:

Payment type:

- Select: AGENCY
- Agency Billing ID (ABID): NMNSP0000
- Agency Password: A138EB4827



Did PISD Do the Right Thing?

Written by: Sierra Atencio

Edited by Zach Montoya, Anthony Naranjo, Analise MacCauley,
and Sylvia Brown

After being on winter break for the holidays, it seems like many were getting sick with Covid or maybe even other colds and viruses. I am assuming since we were on break for the holidays people took advantage to gather with friends and families and maybe weren't thinking about Covid precautions leading to the school to go remote learning. Going remote has a lot of pros and cons. Pros are that we are being cautious and keeping staff and students more safe. Some cons are that students and teachers don't get that face to face interactions, students tend to get distracted at home and it is harder for the teacher to teach when they don't have all the tools and strategies needed. I believe PISD did the right thing by going remote because the Covid cases at our school were very high and we all needed to stay cautious. Doing remote learning isn't the best but this time it was just for a couple of weeks to stay safe.

So far I'm going strong without getting Covid at all, but I do know a lot of my close friends and family members are getting it. I've seen others get it worse than others and some get no symptoms, but I still believe it is no joke and is important to stay safe and be cautious. Going back to remote learning for a while helps decrease the number of cases at our school by trying to take Covid precautions and keeping everyone away until Covid cases in our community settle down. Staying safe and following the Covid guidelines can prevent a child from taking covid home to an elder,

someone with a chronic health disease, or rather just anyone.

I interviewed Maricela MacAuley who is a senior at PISD. Maricela actually had gotten Covid when the cases at our school were sky high. Maricela felt many emotions, some of them being annoyed with family members because of being trapped with them for too long, and sad because she wanted to leave her house and see people she missed.

Maricela said, "I personally hate being online but I do think PISD did the right thing by going remote because at the time everyone was getting sick."

Next, I interviewed Kaileb Atencio who is an eighth grader at PISD. Kaileb hasn't had Covid but believes everyone should stay safe and follow the rules. Kaileb also personally hates being online because he misses the interaction with people and gets bored and distracted easily while at home which makes it harder to stay focused and learn. Kaileb said, "I do believe that PISD did the right thing by going remote because everyone was testing positive for Covid and now that we are home it seems like the cases at our school have decreased."

In conclusion, Covid is not something to joke about and it is important to stay safe and follow the rules. Me and the people interviewed (Maricela MacAuley and Kaileb Atencio) agree that PISD did the right thing by going remote because of how many cases the school was getting at that time and it was important to stay safe. And of course have their own opinion on this topic. Stay safe.



Does Remote Learning Float Your Boat?

Written by: Maricela MacAuley

Edited by Jared Lujan, Jeremiah N. Martinez, Alicia Abeyta,
and Romeo Lopez

On January 11, Peñasco High School made the decision to convert from in person learning to remote learning as a result of the surge in positive covid cases. Some students have been able to thrive with online learning, but as a student, I find it is difficult to navigate. In order to do well with remote learning, you have to manage your time and have discipline. A lot of students have struggled because of this. At home, there are many distractions, especially for kids with many siblings who are also doing online learning. For teachers, preparing online lessons can be hard, but what is even harder is getting students to participate. Even though online school is not the preferred method of learning, I believe that Peñasco Independent Schools did the right thing by going remote since there had been so many covid cases.

On January 9, I tested positive for covid. I know that many of my friends tested positive that day or would later test positive during the week. At one point, it seemed like everyone that I knew had covid! My family from all different communities were sick as well. I had mild symptoms that did not really interfere with my schoolwork, but I still found it hard to get assignments done.

As we were online the first couple of weeks, I ran into some technology problems. When things were figured out, I struggled with focusing on school. It is hard to stay on task on a computer when there are so many other distractions at home. I also missed interacting with my classmates

and talking to my friends. I think that working with your peers and having real interactions with teachers is very important to mental health.

Even though remote learning has been stressful and difficult, if we had not switched from in person learning, the health of the students and their families is at risk. Trying to learn in the midst of a pandemic is something that has not happened before, so the decisions that are made are prone to backlash. Keeping everyone safe is important. We have to be flexible and open to change. I hope that we do not have to go online again.

Alessandra Ogren, an art teacher at Peñasco Middle, High School, and elementary, says that going to remote learning was the only option. She explained that because of the percent of students that tested positive, PED requires us to be online. If that was not a requirement, Ms. Ogren still thinks that PISD did the right thing. As a teacher, she has found it difficult to get students' full attention and participation.

Analise MacAuley, a sophomore at Peñasco High School, hates online learning. For three weeks, she was not able to access some of her classes because they were set up with an incorrect email. For Analise, it is hard to stay focused and she misses interaction with her friends at school. Analise says, "Online learning is helpful to stop the spread of covid, but it really sucks." Analise looks forward to returning to school in person.

Going remote was the right decision to keep ----Continued on next page

COVID-continued---- everyone healthy and give covid positive students time to recover. Remote learning has been tough on the staff and students, but being able to adjust is a necessity when living in a pandemic. I look forward to returning to in person school, and I really hope that we can remain in person the rest of the year.

HELP FOR QUARANTINED STUDENTS

ENGAGE New Mexico has launched a Quarantine Response Hotline to provide on-demand technical support and homework help to students who are quarantined. The hotline is available beginning Feb. 1 to any quarantined student from districts and charters participating in ENGAGE New Mexico, regardless of whether the quarantined student has been referred for ongoing support. There is no cost to students or districts and charters for this service.

Participating districts and charters will receive a digital handout to provide to families of quarantined students with details about how to access the hotline. Support is available for students in grades K-12 and includes both English and Spanish language capabilities. If your district or charter is not currently participating in ENGAGE New Mexico but would like to, contact Nate Villegas.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

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Indian Education Coordinator

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Student & Family Engagement Coordinator

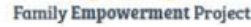
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A photograph of a multi-generational family group outdoors. On the left is an older man with a grey beard and hair, wearing a light-colored polo shirt. Next to him is a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white patterned shirt. In the center is a young girl with dark hair, also smiling. To her right is a young boy with dark hair, wearing a red shirt. Next to him is a man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt. On the far right is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows trees and a bright sky.

Location: In your local Taos community/Penasco Theater, NM and ZOOM option. Please call Roxy for more information

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