



# PISD UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022



@penascoisd

575-587-2502  
[penascoisd.com](https://www.penascoisd.com)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Athletics Updates

P-EBT Funds

Mercella Cordova Wins Award

Culinary Arts Class

Natural Helpers

Near-Peer Tutoring

Virtual Reality Event

Skilled-Trades Day

Jason Reynolds Visit

Creative Writing Opportunity

Students Tour NNMC

Red Ribbon Run

Photos Taken by Students

High School Journalism Articles

Join PISD as a Bus Driver!

## CALENDAR

Saturday, October 1, 9:00

Cross Country: Peñasco Invitational

October 3-6, 12:30-3:00

Elementary Book Fair

Thursday, October 6, 4:00

Volleyball Home vs Mora

Thursday, October 6, 5:30

Elementary Literacy Night

Saturday, October 8, 5:00

Volleyball @ McCurdy

Thursday, October 13, 5:00

Volleyball @ Escalante

Saturday, October 15

Cross Country @ Academy Inv'tl

Saturday, October 15, 5:00

Volleyball Home vs. Mesa Vista

Tuesday, October 18, 6:00

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 5:00

Volleyball @ Questa

## ATHLETICS TICKET PRICES

Starting this fall, PISD is following the lead of districts across the state in raising ticket prices and concession prices due to the rising costs of food and all elements of offering an athletics program. These prices apply to students and staff as well. **All home games can still be streamed on the NFHS network.**

New ticket prices:

Adult: \$7

Children: \$5



NEXT HOME GAMES/MEETS

Saturday, October 1, 8:00 am: Peñasco Cross Country Invitational

- 8:00: Fun Run
- 9:00: Varsity Girls
- 9:45: Varsity Boys
- 10:30: JV Girls
- 11:15: JV Boys
- 12:00: MS Girls
- 12:45: MS Boys

Thursday, October 6, 4:00 pm: Volleyball vs Mora

BASKETBALL SCHEDULES



Peñasco Middle School  
Boys/Girls Basketball 2022-2023



Date	Opponent	Location	Time	departure
Wed. 11/30	Mora	Away	4:00pm	
Mon. 12/5	McCurdy	Home	4:00pm	
Wed. 12/7	Escalante	Home	4:00pm	
Mon. 12/12	Mesa Vista	Away	4:00pm	
Wed. 12/14	Questa	Home	4:00pm	
Mon. 12/19	Mora	Home	4:00pm	
Wed. 12/21	McCurdy	Away	4:00pm	
Mon. 1/2	Escalante	Away	4:00pm	
Wed. 1/4	Mesa Vista	Home	4:00pm	
Mon. 1/9	Questa	Away	4:00pm	
Jan. 12-14	NRG Tournament		TBA	

\*Second game immediately follows the first game.



# Peñasco High School

## Boys/Girls Basketball 2022-2023

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat. 11/26	Cimarron	Away	1:00/2:30/4:00/5:30
12/1-12/3	West Las Vegas Tournament	WLV	TBA
Th. 12/6	Coronado	Away	5:00/6:30
Sat. 12/10	Santa Rosa (Girls)	Away	2:00/3:30
<b>Mon. 12/12</b>	<b>ATC (Boys)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>5:30/7:00</b>
<b>Tues. 12/13</b>	<b>SFIS (Girls)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>5:30/7:00</b>
<b>Wed 12/21</b>	<b>Clayton (Girls)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>4:00/5:30</b>
<b>Th. 12/22</b>	<b>Santa Rosa (Boys)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>4:00/5:30</b>
12/27-12/29	St. Mikes Tournament (Girls)	Away	TBA
12/28-12/30	Tri-City Tournament (Boys)	Away	TBA
1/5-1/7	NRG Tournament	Espanola	TBA
Tues. 1/10	SFIS (Boys)	Away	5:30/7:00
<b>Thurs. 1/12</b>	<b>Los Alamos (Girls)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>4:30/6:00</b>
Sat. 1/14	Pecos	Away	2:00/3:30/5:00/6:30
<b>Th. 1/19</b>	<b>Mora</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>4:00/5:30/7:00</b>
<b>Sat. 1/21</b>	<b>McCurdy (Homecoming)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>2:30/4:00/5:30</b>
<b>Mon. 1/23</b>	<b>Laguna Acoma (Boys)</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>5:00/6:30</b>
Thurs. 1/26	Escalante	Away	4:00/5:30/7:00
<b>Sat. 1/28</b>	<b>Mesa Vista</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>1:00/2:30/4:00</b>
Thurs. 2/2	Questa	Away	3:30/5:00/6:00/7:30
Sat. 2/4	Mora	Away	1:00/2:30/4:00
Thurs. 2/9	McCurdy	Away	4:00/5:00/6:00/7:30
<b>Sat. 2/11</b>	<b>Escalante</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>1:00/2:30/4:00</b>
<b>Wed. 2/15</b>	<b>Questa</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>4:00/5:30/7:00</b>
Thurs. 2/16	Mesa Vista	Away	3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
Feb 20-25	District Tournament	TBA	TBA
Mar. 4-12	State Tournament	TBA	TBA



Roll out the red carpet for



# LITERACY NIGHT!

Lights, Camera, Read!

Join us for a fun night full of movie themed reading and writing activities!

Date: October 6<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30-7:00

Place: Peñasco Elementary Commons



Scholastic Book Fair

at the Library!!





### P-EBT FUNDS

New Mexico students will receive benefits starting on September 18 through September 26 to cover the summer months of June and July 2022. The one-time amount will be \$391 to eligible students. Parents and guardians will be able to check whether their child qualified for the latest P-EBT issuance at the VERIFY P-EBT Information section of the Human Services Department's YESNM portal on September 20, 2022. If your child has a P-EBT card, please keep the card and do not destroy it. If a new address or guardian was reported to the school, a new P-EBT card will be mailed to the new address starting on September 18 through September 26. Mailing can take up to 7-10 business days.

For questions regarding your child's P-EBT card, you can contact NM PEBT Hotline at 1-833-415-0569 or the HSD Customer Consolidated Customer Service Center at 1-800-283-4465. If you have recently changed your phone number, you should provide your new contact information on the YESNM website: [www.yes.state.nm.us](http://www.yes.state.nm.us).

Answers to other frequently asked questions can also be found online at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/lookingforassistance/p-ebt/>

For help from school staff, contact the school secretaries.

### FREE DIGITAL LIBRARY CARDS!

PISD is partnering with the Embudo Valley Library to create digital library cards for PISD students. These cards would allow students to check out up to 10 e-books and audiobooks at a time via the Hoopla app. This app can be downloaded to phones and tablets through the Google, Apple, and Amazon app stores. It can be added as an extension on Chrome on Chromebooks. This app is safe and used by schools and libraries across the country.



The only information required for students to receive a card is the following: first and last name, school e-mail address. The form is very short. Please fill it out separately for each student in your family.

Find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/UpGDnKBNCwnPGtkH9>





## MERCELLA CORDOVA WINS AWARD

Mercella Cordova, science and biology teacher at Peñasco Middle and High Schools, was recently awarded by the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District. She was honored for Dedication and Commitment to Youth Conservation Education. Congratulations Ms. Cordova!



## CULINARY ARTS CLASS KEEPS THE STOVES HOT!

In the past few weeks, the culinary arts students led by Chef Marquez have made carrot cake, breakfast burritos, creme brûlée, sopapillas, and more! In this photo, 7th grade students crowd at the door, drawn by the smell of bacon!







### NATURAL HELPERS RECEIVING TRAINING

On the Friday, Sept. 16 Extended Learning Day, 10 sophomores and juniors met at Sipapu for the Natural Helpers retreat. Natural Helpers is based on the fact that when young people go through hard times, the first person they are likely to tell is another young person. These students were nominated by their peers for being trustworthy. During the retreat, they learned peer-helping, leadership, and suicide-prevention skills. They also expressed a tremendous desire to grow into the best versions of themselves and to support their school and community so that both can do the same.

From top, clock side: Anthony Naranjo, Isaiah Brown, Lyrik Montoya, Elijah Garcia, Romeo Lopez, Jayleni Medina, Esmeralda Valdez. Not pictured (because they had to leave early for a volleyball game): Alyssa Atencio, Haylie Martinez, and Alexuis Romero







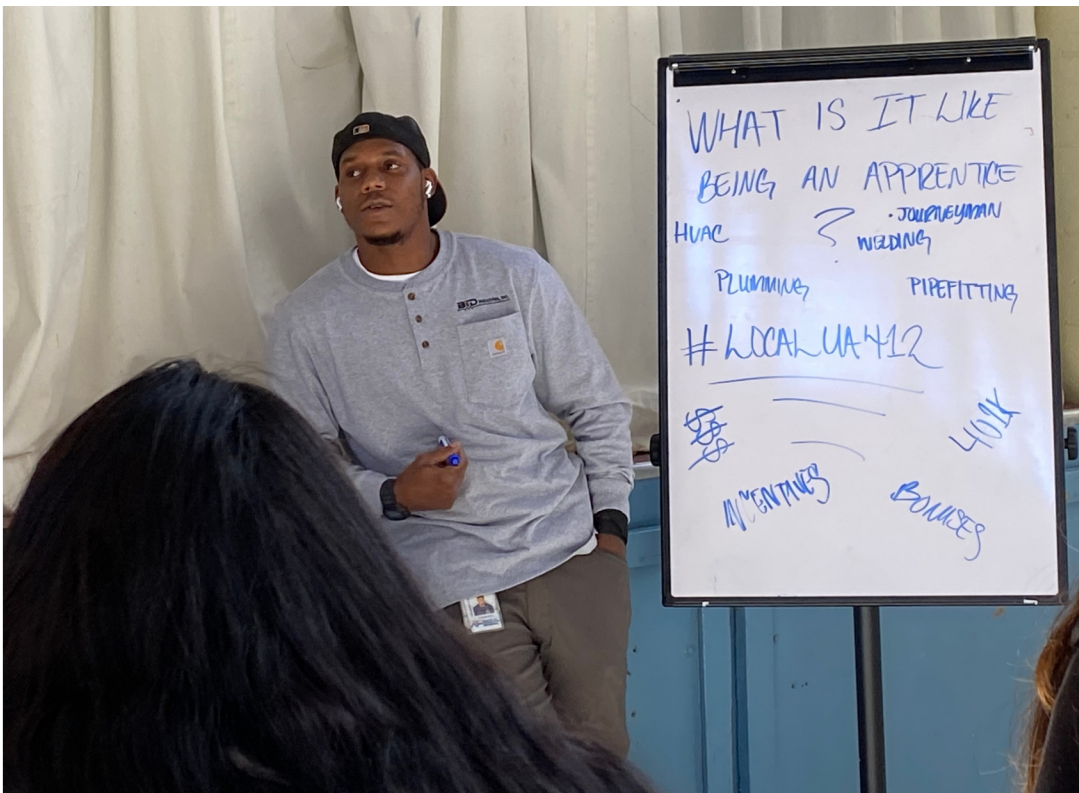
### PISD HOSTS SKILLED-TRADES CAREER DAY

On Thursday, Sept. 15, PISD hosted a large event to educate students about skilled-trade careers. The event included film screenings showing local trades workers and their careers, guests from local and regional businesses and organizations, 9 different presentations, and a fair that was open to both students and the community. Thank you to Dr. Quinto-MacCallum for organizing the event and for Julia Geffroy and Maryam Bordbari for their help in making this event a reality, and to all staff who helped set up and run the event!



From top, clockwise: a student goes sky-high in the PNM lift truck, Christina Martinez and Kyle Sturtz practice making dental molds, and the end results of a fruit carving demonstration.





Top: Jacob Visarraga demonstrates HVAC equipment to students.

Bottom: Shaq Miller took a break from installing heating equipment in the elementary school to talk to students about becoming a union apprentice.





## PISD HOSTS NEW MEXICO'S ONLY VISIT FROM THE NATIONAL AMBASSADOR FOR YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

On Monday, September 12, Peñasco Middle and High School students gathered at the Peñasco Theater to hear from Jason Reynolds, a best-selling author and the Library of Congress' National Ambassador for Young Adult Literature. Mr. Reynolds is only visiting six schools across the nation this fall, and so Peñasco was very fortunate to host him.

Mr. Reynolds was joined on stage by high school ELA teacher Stephanie Noll and student ambassadors Alyssa Atencio and Lyric Montoya. Thank you to Alessandra Ogren and rafa tarin from the Peñasco Theater for partnering with PISD on this event!

All middle and high school students and staff received an autographed copy of Mr. Reynolds' novel *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*.



*Right to left: Jason Reynolds with pottery gifted to him from Picuris Pueblo. Jason Reynolds signs books. Below: Mr. Reynolds posed with students at the Peñasco Theater.*



*Right: Mr. Reynolds with HS Principal Nicaea Chavez, ELA teacher Stephanie Noll, and Superintendent Melissa Sandoval.*



*Below: PISD MS and HS students gathered at the Peñasco Theater.*







### PISD MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE WRITING

To continue the work begun by Jason Reynolds' visit, PISD has received a Story Cube from the Library of Congress, one of only six schools in the country to receive this innovative technology. The cube prints stories by published writers, students at other American schools, and our own students!.



### NEAR-PEER TUTORS RECEIVE TRAINING

This fall, nearly 20 PHS students are working as near-peer tutors at the middle and elementary schools, being paid to support younger students academically and socially-emotionally. This program is funded by a grant from NM PED. On the Friday, Sept. 16 Extended Learning Day, many of these students received a half day training on professionalism, soft work skills, and best practices for working with students.

### ART TEACHER, MS. ALESSANDRA, BRINGS VIRTUAL REALITY EVENT TO STUDENTS

On the Friday, Sept. 16 Extended Learning Day, Ms. Alessandra's middle and high school art students used virtual reality headsets to visit with students from around the world, including in Venezuela, Portugal, and China!





# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE

On September, 21, 25 colleges attended the NMCAC College trade fair. One of those schools happened to be Penasco high school. We looked at the nursing program where they have amazing equipment and realistic robot patients. We also saw their writing program where they help you develop better writing skills and can do Zoom calls to get tutoring. After all that we went to see the tables and different trades and colleges. At the end of the day, we got treated to tacos and churros  
— Italia Aguilar







### PISD ART STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HIGH ROAD ART TOUR

The Elementary, Middle, and High School art classes all participated in the Youth Arts Show, as part of the High Road Art tour the last two weekends. All viewers were able to vote on their favorite art work per age group and prizes will be awarded. All art classes got to visit the art show this past week and cast their ballots.







## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN RED RIBBON RUN

On Thursday, September 7, staff from Picuris Pueblo came to campus for a Red Ribbon Run. The goal was to inspire healthy eating and habits in our students and encourage them to choose paths that lead them away from drugs. All students did relay runs, ate healthy snacks, and added their names and hand prints to a poster. Thank you to Picuris Pueblo for bringing this great event to our students!

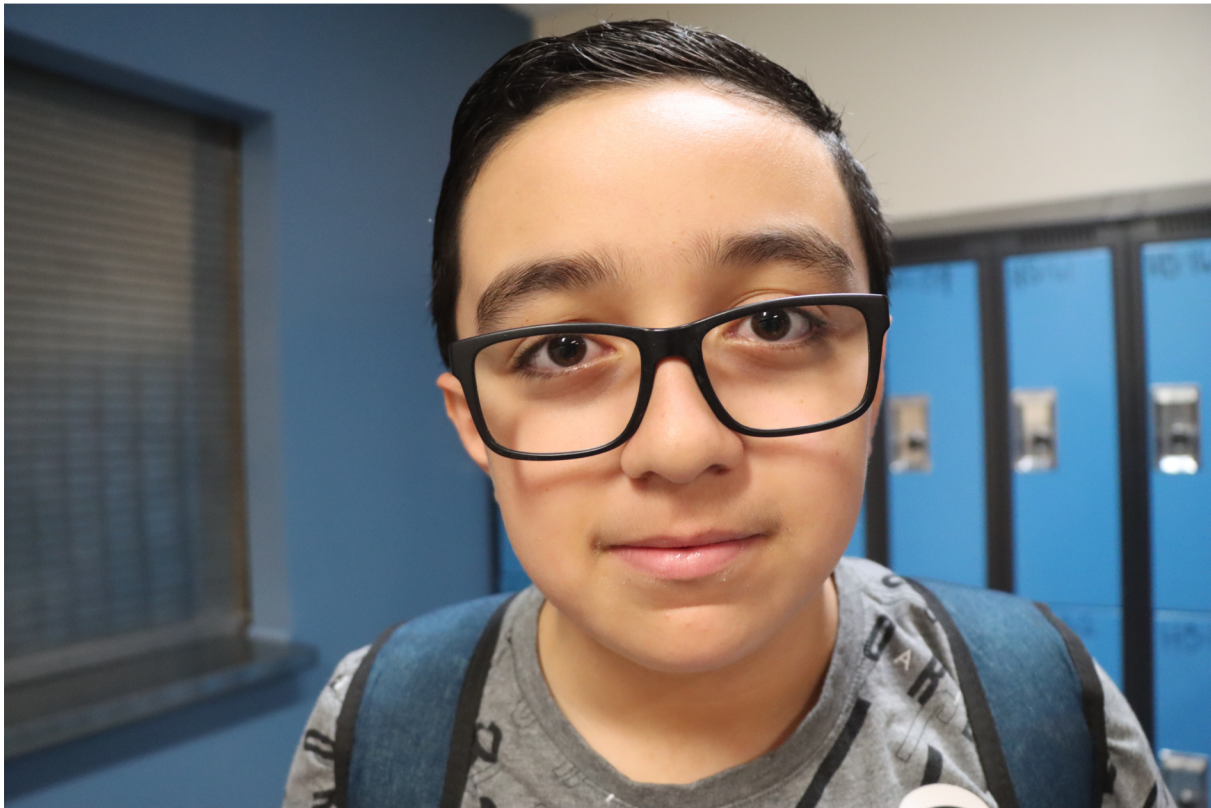






**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

During the after-school program, middle school students have been learning from Michael Casados how to use cameras and take photos, especially portraits. Check out these photos taken by 6th grader Jerome Romero!







**MORE PHOTOS BY JEROME ROMERO**





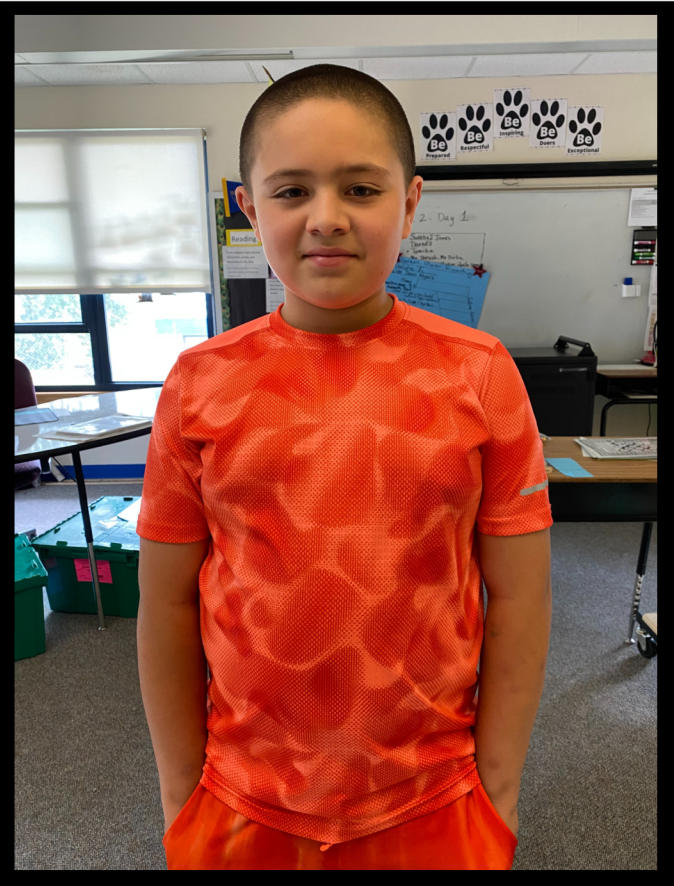
## PISD SHOUT OUTS



### **Elias Noll, 6th Grade**

*"Just want to shout out how awesome Elias is! Always working hard to get that W!"*

**-Coach Max, PE Teacher**



### **Daniel Cano, 5th Grade**

*"Shout out to Daniel for offering to help out a Kinder student with getting her tray and milk."*

**-Mrs. Gonzales, Elementary Principal**

### **Daniel Abeyta, 2022 Graduate**

*"Daniel won first woodworking prize at the 4-H County Fair for his table."*

**-Mr. Daniel Tafoya, Woodworking Teacher**

## PISD SHOUT OUTS



### **Mayson Guinn, 3rd Grade**

*"Mayson did an OUTSTANDING job of presenting how to use a backhoe with his uncle for the skilled-trades career day!"*

*-Mrs. Gonzales, Elementary Principal*



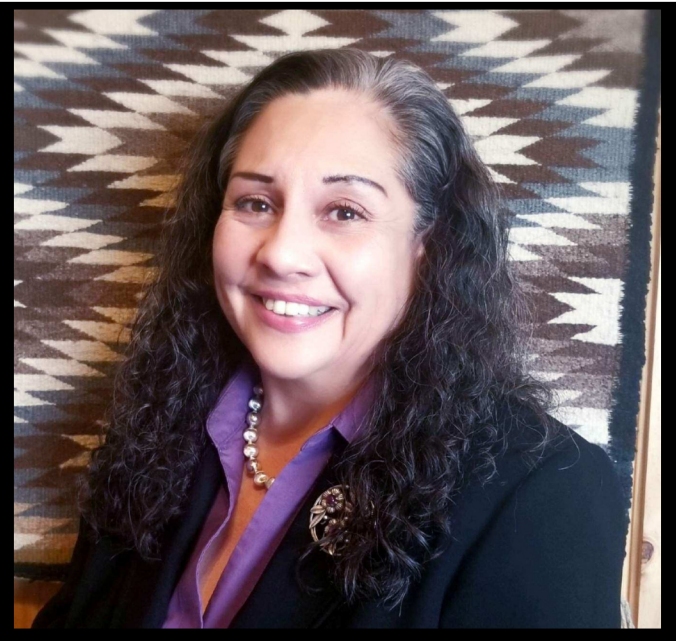
### **Cafeteria Staff**

*"Thank you to Ms. Sheila Rodriguez and her staff for making sure that we are all fed and always greeting us with a smile on their faces!"*

*-Mrs. Gonzales, Elementary Principal*



## PISD SHOUT OUTS



**Dr. Bonavita Quinto-MacCallum,  
Student and Family  
Engagement Coordinator**

*"Thank you to Dr. Q for organizing the Skilled-Trades Career Day. She is a model for the kind of employee a school is lucky to have!"*

*-Mrs. Sandoval, Superintendent*



**Mrs. Inez Ortega and the current  
6th grade students.**

*"Thank you for doing a phenomenal job on the NMSSA and ASR testing!"*

*-Mrs. Gonzales, Elementary  
Principal*



**Mr. Matthew Sandoval**

*"Special thanks to Mr. Sandoval for helping and organizing at the Skills Trade Fair. He's our site's 'go to' organizer and scheduler."*

*-Ms. Chavez, MS/HS Principal*





## National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Visits Peñasco

By Lyrik Montoya

On Monday, September 12th National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jason Reynolds, paid a visit to the Penasco Theater to speak to the middle and high school students of PISD. Mr. Reynolds gave us the extraordinary honor of speaking and answering questions on his life. Look for the first episode of *Tea Time*, PISD's first news broadcast, for more about this event. *Right: Jason Reynolds is standing by English teacher Ms. Noll, She teaches Reynolds' book to all her classes. She and her husband Mr. Noll are big reasons on why he came to the school because they reached out to him and brought him to the school. Without them this wouldn't have happened.*



*Above: Jason Reynolds is standing by student ambassadors Lyrik Montoya and Alyssa Atencio, as well as two students at Penasco Middle and High School, Katalina Atencio and Rochelle Lopez*

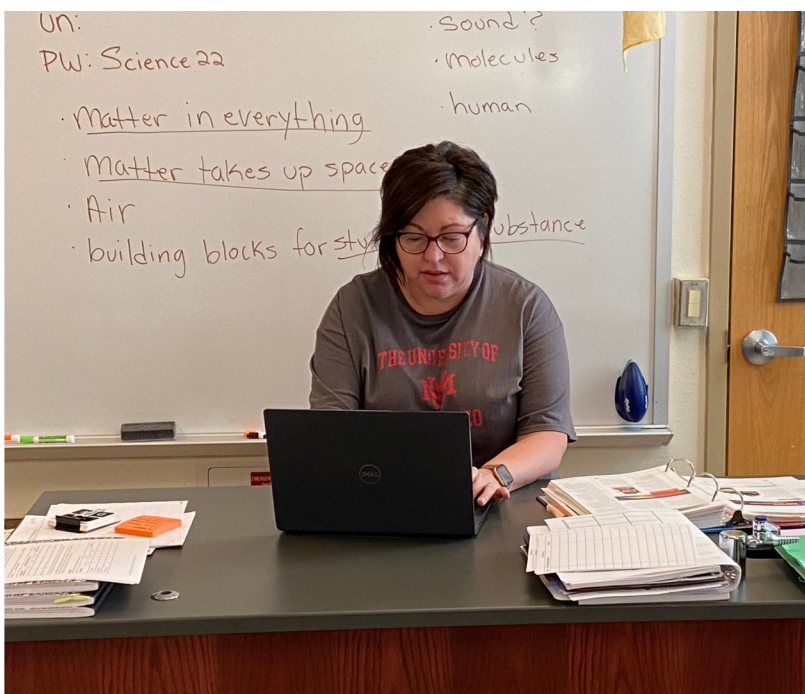


## This Week's Staff Appreciation: Jessica Esquibel

By Daylieen Abeyta, Sierra Atencio, and Rochelle Lopez

For this week's staff appreciation, we will be covering Jessica Esquibel. We chose Ms. Esquibel to be the highlight of this week because she has been working here at PISD the longest (22 years). Speaking with her, we learned that she has done so many things for the MS/HS students. Our staff has also acknowledged her work towards the school.

Before teaching here at Peñasco, Ms. Esquibel taught at the McCurdy schools for about a year. She stated, "I came to teach in Penasco because the drive was closer and it was an easier schedule for me." As I said earlier, she has worked here in Penasco for 22 years, but will her teaching years come to an end? She is planning to retire in 2026 so that she can achieve 25 years of teaching. Even though she plans to retire soon, she stated that she would like to come back in the future to maybe teach again. "If I retired, then I would probably feel relaxed at first but then eventually get bored and want to go out to work again."



Ms. Esquibel is currently teaching science (for the MS) and coding. Her coding students state that they really enjoy that class and they have learned new things throughout this school year. Her dedication to teaching these students is really strong. She enjoys teaching and working with the kids. "It might not always be easy, but teaching these kids is the highlight of my day. When I'm sitting alone in an empty classroom, it's quiet and the environment is totally different." Ms. Esquibel says.

She has truly done so much for our school and we as students and staff members are so grateful for her work. We want to end this article saying thank you, not only to Ms. Esquibel, but to the whole staff as a whole. Without our staff members at the school, us as students wouldn't be able to be here today!



# JOIN PISD AS A BUS SUPER HERO!



## We are Seeking Motivated & Friendly drivers to Transport our students

- To and from their residence
- Activities, Athletic Games, Field Trips

## We Offer

- Competitive Wages
- Benefits
- Retirement

**The Peñasco Independent School District will assist in obtaining your CDL License/Bus Endorsement. Penasco Independent School District will pay for you to acquire the following:**

- Class B (General Knowledge, Passenger, Air Brakes, and School Bus Endorsement)
- First Aid/CPR Certification
- 36 Hour Pre Service Training
- Behind the Wheel Training

**To assist with your Endorsement Peñasco Independent Schools requires a 3-year commitment of Transportation services either with Activity Driving or to/From Routes**

## Contact Information:

Web: [www.penascoisd.com](http://www.penascoisd.com)

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[vgonzales@penascoisd.com](mailto:vgonzales@penascoisd.com)  
(Training Questions)



**BEING A  
SCHOOL BUS DRIVER  
IS NOT JUST A JOB...**



**IT'S AN ADVENTURE!**



## Non-Certified Positions

Apply with links below.

- Bus Driver/Activity Bus Driver/Substitute Bus Driver
- Educator Fellowship Educational Assistants (2 Vacancies)
- Educational Assistant
- SFA Reading Tutors (2 Vacancies)
- Custodian
- After-School Counselor (MS/HS)
- STEM/Robotics Afterschool Activity Leader
- Drill Team Coach
- Elementary Girls Basketball Coach
- Elementary Boys Basketball Coach
- Substitute Cooks
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Custodians

Find the certified position application here:

<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/certified-employment-application>

Find the non-certified position application here:

<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/non-certified-application>

For questions, email Amy Garcia at [agarcia@penascoisd.com](mailto:agarcia@penascoisd.com).