



Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Profile Data 2009 - 2010

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School District and Community

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District serves the communities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates. The area is 21 miles southwest of metropolitan Los Angeles and draws predominantly middle to high-income business and professional residents. The school district's reputation for having a superior educational system attracts many families to this suburban area and its schools. Two early childhood centers, ten elementary schools, three intermediate schools, one continuation high school, and two comprehensive high schools accommodate the district's enrollment of 11,827 students.

The School

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School was formed in July 1991, through the merger of three long-established institutions: Miraleste, Palos Verdes, and Rolling Hills High Schools. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Designated a California Distinguished School for five consecutive terms, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has been recognized as both a National Blue Ribbon School and a New American High School. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has been ranked #89 out of 18,500 schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report, #146 in the Newsweek national rankings, and listed as a top ten high school in Los Angeles Magazine. Two Palos Verdes Peninsula High School students were named to the ALL-USA High School Academics First Team; the first time that two of the twenty First Team members came from the same high school. One Palos Verdes Peninsula High School student made the ALL-USA High School Academic Third Team.

Enrollment of 2,335 includes 595 seniors, 558 juniors, 637 sophomores, and 545 freshmen with a certificated staff of 118 (103 teachers, 6 counselors, 3 administrators, 1 athletic director, 1 activities director, 1 safe school counselor, 1 psychologist, 1 librarian, and 1 nurse) to service the multi-ethnic student body.

The school follows a traditional semester schedule, with seven periods in the school day, each period 56 minutes in length. Freshmen and sophomores are required to take six classes each semester; juniors and seniors are required to take five classes. However, the district allows students to take as many classes as they wish above the minimum. Among the graduating class of 2009, 92.8% of the students completed more than the minimum requirements. 83% of the class of 2009 met the A-G subject requirements for admission to the University of California.

Traditionally, 99% of each graduating class continues their education, 85% of the class of 2009 received acceptances from four-year colleges. 78% of the class of 2009 matriculated to a four-year college/university and 21% matriculated to community colleges. Six non-diploma bound students with cognitive disabilities will continue acquiring vocational skills in our district transition program.

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School's record of sustained excellence has received national, state, and local recognition competing in the areas of mathematics, science, career technical arts, visual arts, dance, drama, student publications, Academic Decathlon, Model United Nations, Speech and Debate, and Mock Trial. The school's director of science research was recently named California Science Teacher of the Year. In addition, 15 of the last 18 years the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Latin Program has taken 1st place in the State Latin competition. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has been awarded the National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education.

The ubiquitous cultural diversity on campus (40 languages spoken) enables all students to experience first hand the "small" world in which we live. Coursework, extra curricular activities, and athletics provide valuable resources for learning about the world and its people.



Testing Profile 2009 SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests

	<u>Mean Scores</u>
SAT Critical Reading	567
SAT Mathematics	622
English Writing	589
English Literature	585
Math Achievement (Level IC)	581
Math Achievement (Level IIC)	677
U. S. History	620
World History	528
Chinese	766
French	561
Japanese	729
Korean	783
Latin	552
Spanish	672
Biology E	649
Biology M	676
Chemistry	690
Physics	651

National Merit Scholarship Program Class of 2010

(September 2009 results)

- 36** National Merit Semifinalists
- 3** National Hispanic Scholars
- 1** National Achievement Semifinalist
- 57** Commended Students

ACT Test Results 2009

	PVPHS	State	Natl
Composite	26.3	22.2	21.1
English	26.4	21.8	20.6
Mathematics	27.8	22.8	21.0
Reading	25.9	22.4	21.4
Science	24.5	21.4	20.9

Advanced Placement 2009

In May of 2009, a total of 870 PVPHS students took 2013 Advanced Placement examinations in 31 different subjects. 79% of the scores were 3 or above. 3 is typically the score necessary to receive college credit.

AP Score	# Students Receiving this Score	% of Total
5	537	27%
4	559	28%
3	490	24%
2	270	13%
1	157	8%

Honors and Advanced Placement Classes

The following courses receive a weighted grade on the transcript in recognition of the advanced nature of the coursework:

English	English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, English 3 Honors, English 4 AP Language, English 4 AP Literature.
Fine/Practical Arts	Advanced Orchestra, Drama 3 Advanced, Drama 4 Advanced, Jazz Band 2, Music Theory AP, Studio Art AP 2D, Studio Art AP 3D, Studio AP Drawing, Art History AP.
Foreign Language	French 3 Honors, French 4 AP, French 5 AP Literature, German 3 Honors, German 4 Honors, German 4 AP, Japanese 3 Honors, Japanese 4AP, Latin 3 Honors, Latin 4 AP, Spanish 3 Honors, Spanish 4 AP, Spanish Language AP, Spanish Literature AP, Chinese 3 Honors, Chinese Language AP.
Mathematics	Geometry Honors, Algebra 2 Honors, Trigonometry Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, Calculus BC/AP, Calculus AB/AP, Statistical Analysis AP, Advanced Calculus, Computer Science A AP, Computer Science AB AP.
Science	Biology 1 Honors, Biology 2 AP, Chemistry 1 Honors, Chemistry 2 AP, Environmental Science AP, Marine Biology Honors, Physics B AP, Physics C AP.
Social Studies	World History Honors, World History AP, European History AP, U.S. History AP, American Government AP, Comparative Government AP, Economics AP, Macro Economics AP, Psychology AP.

API = 886

Graduation Requirements Class of 2010

Unit requirement: 220 credits required for graduation with 5 credits earned for each semester course.

Subject requirement:

English	8 semesters	(40 credits)
World History, Culture & Geography	2 semesters	(10 credits)
U. S. History	2 semesters	(10 credits)
Government	1 semester	(05 credits)
Economics	1 semester	(05 credits)
Mathematics	4 semesters	(20 credits)
Biological Science	2 semesters	(10 credits)
Physical Science	2 semesters	(10 credits)
Health	1 semester	(05 credits)
Physical Education	4 semesters	(20 credits)
Fine/Practical Arts/Foreign Language	4 semesters	(20 credits)
Electives	14 semesters	(65 credits)

Advanced Projects

Advanced Projects is a program that extends across the curriculum and is designed for students who wish to augment experiences and knowledge in a particular subject area. In collaboration with a sponsoring teacher, the student completes a comprehensive project at an accelerated level.

Partnerships

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School offers a wide range of educational partnerships to enhance student learning opportunities. Through Los Angeles Harbor College, after school and evening college courses are offered on our high school campus and are open to all interested students. In addition, Harbor College funds our Project Lead the Way engineering program, which introduces students to the exciting opportunities available in the field of engineering. El Camino College provides the on-site Robotics Academy. The PVPHS Solar Boat competed in the Metropolitan Water District Solar Cup. Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) funds a variety of rigorous University of California approved Career/Technical Education courses available to students on our campus during the school day or at the SCROC campus after school and in the evening.

Class Rank and Grade Point Average

- **Student class rank is not computed.**
- 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 determining the cumulative GPA. The course numbering system on the transcript indicates where each course was completed.
 - ◆ **10000** (1st semester) – **20000** (2nd semester) Palos Verdes Peninsula High School courses.
 - ◆ **99000** College courses.
 - ◆ **40000** High school level summer school courses.
 - ◆ **50000** Other off-campus courses.
 - ◆ **60000** Out of country high schools.
- The first semester of year-long courses is designated with an "A" and second semester with a "B".
- Grades of A, B, C, D, P are passing. Grades of F-Failure, NC- No credit, AU-Audit, I-Incomplete, and CR-Credit are also available.
- The transcript lists both the 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 classes qualify for weighted grades and are designated "+" on the transcript.

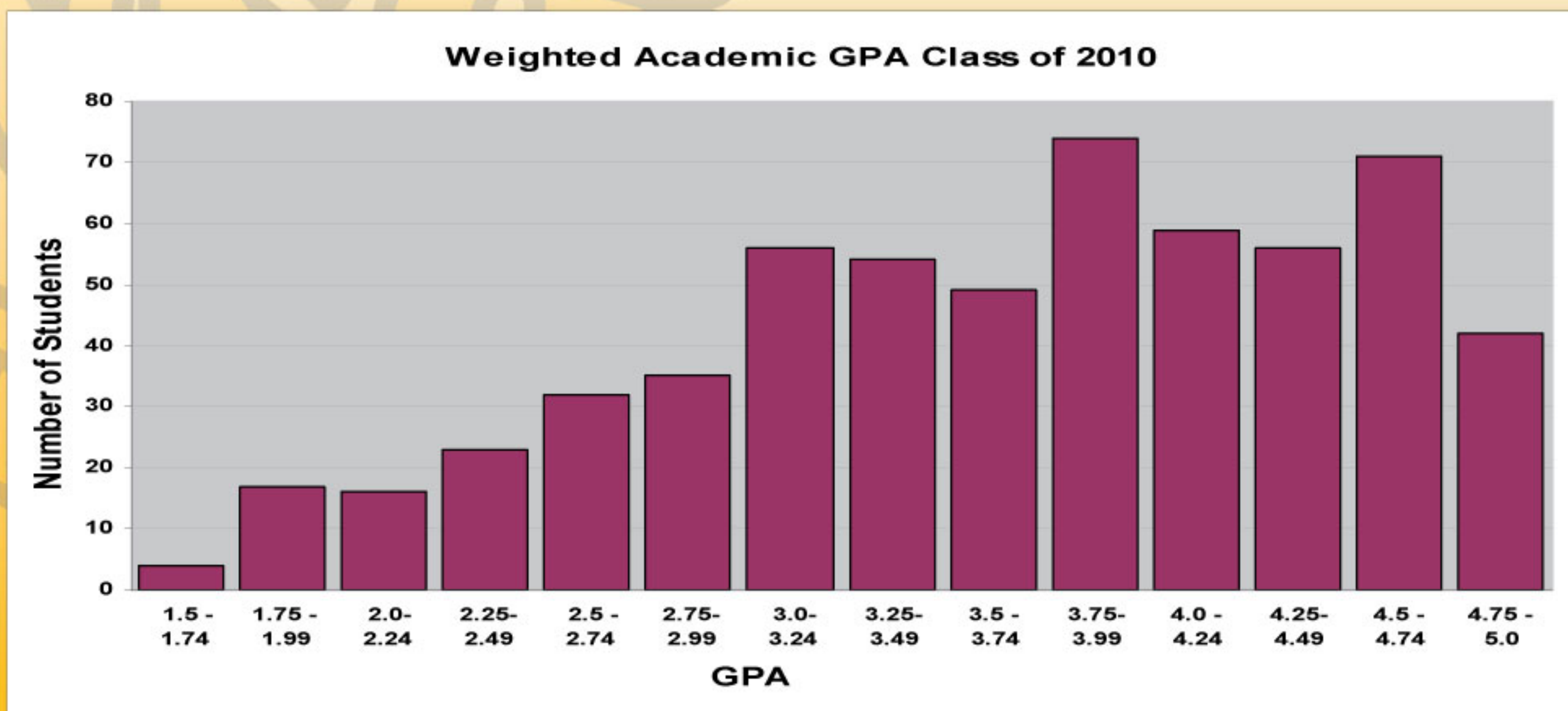
A cumulative weighted GPA is determined by calculating the unweighted GPA then adding 0.2 points for each weighted course. In any one semester, the maximum number of weighted points available is 1.0, (5 courses). Highest possible GPA is 5.0.

The Following Designations are Found on the Transcript

H -	Honors courses
AP -	Advanced Placement
MCR -	Meets College Requirements – Geometry MCR, Algebra 2 MCR, Spanish 2 MCR, Spanish 3 MCR
ELD -	English Language Development – Features sheltered or cooperative learning classes in English language, social studies, and science for limited English proficient students
SCROC -	Southern California Regional Occupational Center provides the funding for these courses.
R -	Repeated course



Los Angeles County Champions





**Kennedy Center
Alliance for Arts
Education Network
(KCAAEN)**



State Champions

School Clubs and Activities

There are more than 100 extracurricular clubs and activities at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School including: National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation, Model United Nations, Mock Trial, Teen Court, Key Club, Black Student Union, Future Business Leaders of America, Junior Statesmen of America, Latin Club, Spanish Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Girls' Service Club, Amnesty International, Interact, Keyettes, Leo Club, Science Bowl, Academic Decathlon, Junior Classical League and Best Buddies.

Science Research

Science Research is an elective course which affords a student the opportunity to study, in-depth, a topic chosen by the student in the field of Science, Engineering, Social Science or Mathematics.

This project-based course may be taken for one year or expanded over four years and requires a student to experimentally determine the answer to a student-generated hypothesis.

Students have the opportunity to work with mentors who are experts in the field. Students compete in local, state, national and international competitions with exceptional results.

Research students from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School consistently succeed in the annual prestigious Los Angeles and California State Science Fairs at a higher rate than any other high school in the state.

Two selected students annually attend the INTEL International Science/Engineering Fair and excel at the highest level. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School research students have obtained finalist status for Siemens-Westinghouse and INTEL Talent Search scholarships. A Peninsula research student in 2008 won the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, the highest level international high school competition for water based projects

Research students develop independent study skills, higher order research techniques, and working relationships with peers, mentors, industry professionals, and college admission officers.

Arts Education

Arts Education is an essential component of the school curriculum. Palos Verdes Peninsula High School was awarded the prestigious National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education. The drama department is recognized as one of the most outstanding programs in the highly competitive Southern California area, consistently sweeping thespian awards at festivals and competitions, including the Bravo Award for the Outstanding Performing Arts Department in Southern California. The 120 students who participate in the chorus program have had opportunities to compete in local and national competitions. Two full orchestras, a marching band, and two jazz bands round out the music program. Upon graduation, 99% of the class of 2010 will have completed at least one full year of a visual or performing art in the following areas: Ceramics, Sculpture (including Glass Blowing), Photography, Video Production, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Chamber Jazz Choir, Women's Choir, Drawing and Painting, Intermediate Dance, Choreo Dance, Concert Band, Music Appreciation, Guitar, Music Theory AP, Studio Art AP, Digital Animation, and Graphic Design.

School Publications

The school yearbook, "La Pantera," is renowned throughout the country as winner of state and national awards and as one of the largest high school publications in the nation with 663 pages, all in full color. The 2009 Yearbook was honored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association with the Gold Medal, receiving 973 out of 1000 possible points. The school newspaper, "The Pen," has been honored with first place recognition through the Southwest Journalism Education Association. In addition "The Pen" won first place with special merit in the American Scholastic Press Association's national competition and is a Pacemaker finalist for the 2008-2009 school year. Webpage students design, publish, and maintain the award winning Palos Verdes Peninsula High School website at www.PVPHS.com.

Work Experience/Internships

General Work Experience Education and Exploratory Career Internships are offered to help students explore future careers.

Peer Mentor Program

The Peer Mentor Program naturally integrates students with cognitive disabilities into elective classes by partnering them with general education peers.

Teen Court

Peninsula students enrolled in Teen Court will benefit from exposure to the legal system by participating in a number of roles in the real cases of their peers. Supervising Judges from the Superior Court of Los Angeles County work closely with Peninsula High School so our students can experience significant, meaningful aspects of our nation's legal process.

Athletic Program

Color Guard	Girls' Golf	Girls' Volleyball
Drill Dance	Boys' Cross Country	Surfing
Cheer Squad	Girls' Cross Country	Equestrian
Song Squad	Boys' Tennis	Baseball
Boys' Lacrosse	Girls' Tennis	Softball
Girls' Lacrosse	Boys' Basketball	Wrestling
Boys' Water Polo	Girls' Basketball	Track
Girls' Water Polo	Boys' Soccer	Swimming
Football	Girls' Soccer	Choreo Dance
Boys' Golf	Boys' Volleyball	

Recognized as an athletic powerhouse since the schools inception in 1991, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School has won 185 league championships, 39 CIF Titles, 8 State Titles and 4 National Titles. The Song, Drill Dance, and Cheer Squad compete regularly in local, state, and national competitions, including the USA Nationals. While all of these accolades are exciting, the 2008 Sportsmanship Award from the CIF Southern Section is the recognition most appreciated, as it speaks to the quality and character of our student athletes.

AVID

179 Palos Verdes Peninsula High School students participate in the **A**dvancement **V**ia **I**ndividual **D**etermination program. The mission of AVID is to ensure that all students, especially those in the middle, succeed in a rigorous college preparation program.

