

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Employee Newsletter

Martin Brewer, Superintendent



STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.

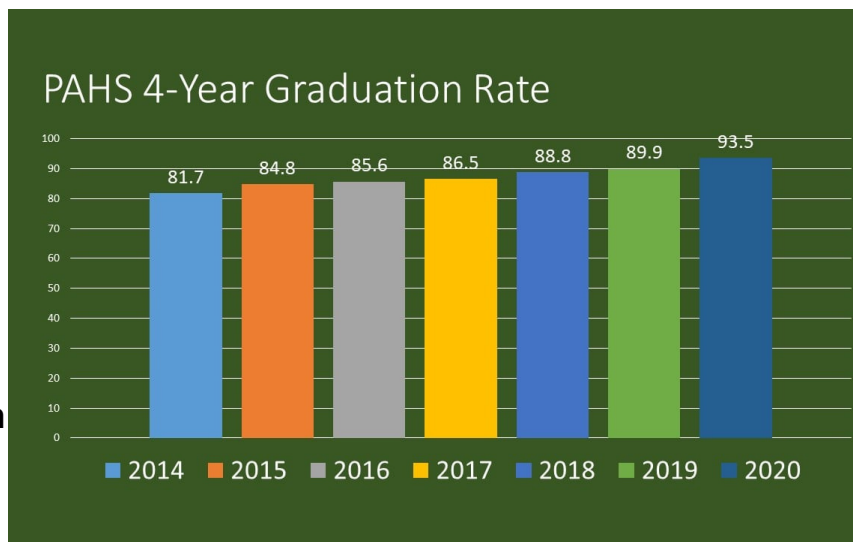
Our Mission: PASD creates learning communities that prepare each student to live, work and learn successfully in a changing world.

MARTY'S MINUTE

Here we are on the very last school day in February. Time is flying by, and each day we have the opportunity to make significant impacts in our student's lives. I hope all of you can take a moment and reflect on how far we have come and the hard work we have done to get here. Before we know it, the school year will be over. Think about what you want to accomplish for the rest of the year, and let's make it happen! Thank you for your dedication.

Port Angeles High School Grad Rates are on the Rise!

The Port Angeles School District has another reason to celebrate student success. For the seventh year in a row, graduation rates have increased at Port Angeles High School (PAHS). The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) releases graduation rates each January, and the PAHS class of 2020 had a 93.5% graduation rate among 262 students. These graduation rates have steadily climbed since 2014, and this last year they leaped



into the 90th percentile. Graduation rates for students from low-income households and students with disabilities are also on the rise. In 2020, 90.7% of students from low-income households graduated from PAHS compared to the Washington States rate of 75.1%. Last year, PAHS saw an incredible jump to 84.2% for graduation rates of students with disabilities, compared to 2019's graduation rate of 62.5%. Gains for PAHS students with disabilities continue to outpace the state's overall percentage rate of 64.5%.

Congratulations to the students, families, staff, and our community who have played had a part in achieving our highest graduation rate in recent history!



Please say hello to Betsy Wharton!

Betsy is a teacher up at PAHS. Before joining the PASD Team, Besty worked as a registered nurse in various settings such as hospice, home health, and community health, including international work. Betsy also worked at First Step Family Support Center in Maternity Support Services, which offers preventive health and education services to help women have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. You may know Betsy outside of PASD as she is our Former Deputy Mayor for the City of Port Angeles and used to run a small business, The Clallam Canning Company, making pickles and sauerkraut. Now she cooks for fun. Yum!

Betsy started teaching career tech education and health sciences in the fall of 2019 at PAHS. She heard about the job in September and found herself in a classroom a week later. The program she teaches caters to students who are interested in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, early childhood education and other health-related fields. Betsy teaches three courses: emergency response, a survey of healthcare careers, and medical terminology. She also facilitates a club called the Medical Careers Club that is working on building an on-campus offshoot of our county's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) called the Teen CERT. This program will develop a support team of resilient and competent students to help with natural disasters. Currently, students are helping out at the vaccine clinic on the weekends up at the high school. Betsy shared that this gives the kids real-life experience to interact with the public and do real-life activities. The students aren't allowed inside the gym during the vaccination clinic. Still, they donate their time by helping route cars in the parking lot, assisting people in wheelchairs, and reading consent forms for those who need help. Thank you, Betsy and students, for your time and assistance!

Betsy grew up in Delaware and now has two grown kids who went through PA schools. She has an Australian shepherd dog, a cat, and seven chickens. Betsy loves to white river kayak, garden, and anything else that gets her out in nature.

Betsy made sure to note that she is so grateful and excited to spend time with students again in person during the hybrid model. Betsy, we are lucky to have you to teach our students and keep our community safe and healthy! Thank you!

Pictured right: Betsy performs a handstand along the San Juan River in Southern Utah

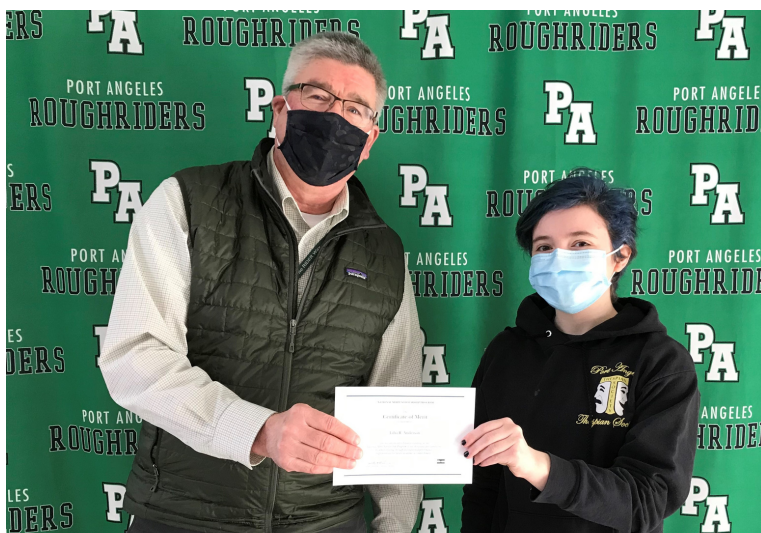


Celebrating Student Success!

Please join us in congratulating Port Angeles High School's newest National Merit Scholar Finalist, Talia Anderson. The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships.

Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year but only 15,000 advance to Finalist standing. PAHS has not had a National Merit Finalist since Leah Marsh in 2015. Talia shared that she has always been very passionate about school and wanting to do well. She's found her classes to be interesting and is grateful for the support and encouragement she's received from people around her.

Congratulations, Talia! We are PROUD of you!! Pictured above: PAHS Senior Talia Anderson receives her National Merit Scholar Finalist certificate from Principal Jeff Clark 2/23/21.



Lincoln High School's newest graduate is Josh Houts!
Josh earned his high school diploma on
February 19, 2021. Great job, Josh!!



Joshua Houts
2021 Lincoln Graduate



Congratulations to John Ruddell of Dry Creek Elementary, for winning the 2021 North Olympic Discovery Marathon Kids Medal Design Contest! Shout out to runners-up Abby Schildknecht, Dry Creek Elementary, and Skylar Lockhart, Jefferson Elementary.

All contest winners receive an entry into the Kids Marathon event, a special certificate, and a goody bag. We are so proud of our artists!

The 18th Annual Kids Marathon will be held at 3pm on June 5th at City Pier. Registration details for all events can be found at www.nodm.com. Email the marathon at nodm@nodm.com with any questions.

SUPPORT OUR PAHS ATHLETES

The following games are set up to stream to the high school YouTube channel. Cheer on and enjoy from the comfort of your own home!

2/27 - Football: PA vs Port Townsend @ 3PM (Stevens) <https://youtu.be/kxjDZGzgXvA>

3/6 - Volleyball: PA vs Sequim @ 2:30 (PAHS Gym) <https://youtu.be/hcWzrFLRloQ>

3/8 - Girls Soccer: PA vs Kingston @ 6:00 (Peninsula College) <https://youtu.be/bDhgnlak6VI>

3/13 - Football: PA vs Kingston @ 3PM (Stevens Middle School) https://youtu.be/g_82hS9FvqI

Do you know a great educator?

An inspiring leader?

Nominate today for an education award!

Teacher of the Year/Classified School

Employee of the Year: <http://bit.ly/EdAwardNom>

Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST):

www.paemst.org

History Teacher of the Year:

[https://www.gilderlehrman.org/national-history-teacher-year-nomination?](https://www.gilderlehrman.org/national-history-teacher-year-nomination?fbclid=IwAR2PmKH60e6Q18XY1UIKwN_-ONeB32lyVEHN9qJEL_HkbE8C1_rq0_oxOg0)

[fbclid=IwAR2PmKH60e6Q18XY1UIKwN_-ONeB32lyVEHN9qJEL_HkbE8C1_rq0_oxOg0](https://www.gilderlehrman.org/national-history-teacher-year-nomination?fbclid=IwAR2PmKH60e6Q18XY1UIKwN_-ONeB32lyVEHN9qJEL_HkbE8C1_rq0_oxOg0)

Vietnam Memorial Push-Up Challenge Update

A note from Senior Chief Justin Beck:

This week we completed 4,810 push-ups bringing our total to 39,025 so far. We are 67% closer to our goal! Special thanks this week for your support go to the football team, soccer team, and cheerleaders!

Send your weekly push-up totals and photos to Senior Chief Justin Beck, jbeck@portangelesschools.org by Monday of each week.

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENT:

SCHOOL SUPPLY

SHRED EVENT

Community shred event to raise funds for the Port Angeles Back to School Fair! Donated funds will help provide backpacks and school supplies for students in need.

Suggested \$10 donation for 3 grocery bags of paper, additional donation encouraged for larger amounts.

Saturday, April 17th,
10am - 1pm or until the truck is full!

State Farm Insurance
611 E Front St, Port Angeles, WA 98362
(Please enter through alley off of Albert St.)

THANK YOU SPONSORS:



State Farm



SOUND
COMMUNITY BANK
Simply better here.



Kiwanis

News and Notes, our PASD staff newsletter, is emailed out each week on Friday during the school year to all staff and is archived on the District's website under Departments, then Communications. Do you have a news item for the staff newsletter? Send an e-mail to Carmen Geyer, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator, at cgeyer@portangelesschools.org by the Wednesday before.

Port Angeles School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinators, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinators: Scott Harker, 905 W 9th St. Port Angeles, WA 98363, (360) 457-8575, sharker@portangelesschools.org, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Pam Sanford, 905 W 9th St. Port Angeles, WA 98363, (360) 457-8575, psanford@portangelesschools.org.

