



OUR Student VOICES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



Makayla Castulo- It is OK to be Yourself

PHS Senior, Makayla Castulo opens a window into her life as ASB President, a Miss Patterson court member, and a Student Trustee Representative on the PJUSD School Board. Learn how Makayla balanced her time in sports, pageantry, and clubs, all while being a student, and the impacts that being a Board Member have made on her.



Hi everyone! My name is Makayla Castulo and I am a senior at Patterson High School. You may have heard about me as I am very involved in our community. I am currently serving as the ASB President, former athlete of the Varsity Cheer Team, a member of the 2023 Miss Patterson Court, and a PJUSD Board of Trustees Student Board Member.

Being involved in my school and community has helped me evolve into who I am today. It has given me the opportunity to meet new people, build relationships, and learn more about skills that can be beneficial to my future success.

Within ASB I have grown into the leader that I never thought I could be. Before ASB, I was a very shy person when it came to meeting new people, but, through this club, I have built the courage to be a leader and lead groups to achieve what I have achieved during my time at PHS.



I'm sure athletes know that time management is a quality that you need to have or at least work on throughout high school. Being a Varsity cheerleader in high school, I have had to balance my time with school, homework, practices, games, friends, family, etc. Although it can get overwhelming at times, time managing when and what you need to do will help lower the stress that comes with being involved with so many different activities.

Being on the 2023 Miss Patterson Court I have been introduced to the community and the businesses that are opening their stores. Through this, I've connected with many people across our community and have built many relationships with local businesses.

More importantly, being a Student Board Member has opened my eyes by putting myself in other people's situations and seeing if there are changes I can make to help those in need - especially for those who are shy to do so. Being able to put out a voice for students who want change but are afraid to speak up about it means a lot.

Like I stated before, I was a shy kid and never wanted to speak up about anything. Now that I have grown to be a leader, I can be the person to speak up for them when they feel like they can't.

I have also been given the opportunity to work with our Superintendent, Dr. Gauna. He has been supportive from the beginning and guided me through this learning experience. There has been no judgment on how lost I would get throughout the School Board meetings. It's always been a learning experience and part of growing into my position, and I have yet to encounter any negatives in this position.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to be able to be updated on our school district. I've been able to keep up with events happening at other schools, things that are in progress - such as new buildings or plans, and many more. Overall, I would like to say to never let anyone, anything, or even your mentality, keep you from succeeding in your life. Choose what you want in your life and motivate yourself to reach your goals. It's okay to step out of your comfort zone and try new things. It is okay to be yourself.

by Makayla Castulo



(Left to Right) Makayla Castulo, Superintendent, Dr. Reyes Gauna, School Board President, Amanda Lozano, and School Board Trustee, Carlos Fierros.