

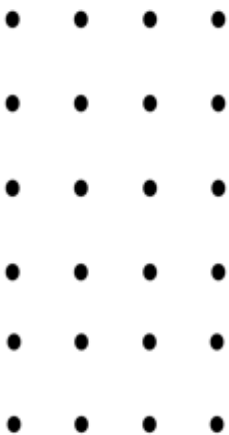
# Península Heritage Connects

Peninsula Heritage School Newsletter



July 2025

Peninsula Heritage School's  
CHARACTER QUALITIES:  
Caring, Attitude, Respect,  
Gratitude, Perseverance, and  
Self-Control. Hint: Remember  
as CAR, GPS!



**BOOK CLUB!** These two words carry a particular meaning for adults, who enjoy gathering with friends and colleagues to discuss an agreed-upon book, author, or genre.

Book Clubs at Peninsula Heritage School are different! Here they offer a reading experience that combines student-led reading groups with a focused study of a particular theme or genre.

The process begins with "Book Tastings" (see photo, above) where students look at a variety of fiction and non fiction books in the teacher-selected themes. They may be Black History Month, World War II, or other curriculum-drive concepts. Here, student choice is paramount. A short list is created of the books that interest the most students, and book clubs are formed among those reading the same book.



"These groupings," shares Third Grade teacher Ms. Denise Resendez, "focus on building fluency by way of 'buddy' oral reading practice (see photo, left). Revisiting texts also builds comprehension and further anchors background knowledge."

"For older grades the focus shifts," explains Middle School language arts teacher Mrs. Kat Bañales. "Clubs are typically 2-4 students who set their own reading goals and respond to their own or teacher-generated discussion questions."

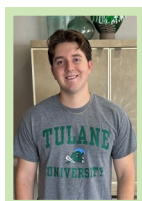
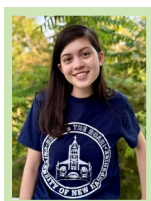
"While reading for fun is promoted," Mrs. Bañales continues, "this experience is a literary investigation, where Middle School students are building their understanding of how genres work and what makes them effective and unique. This, along with core novels, provide excellent preparation for our students' language arts courses in high school and beyond."



# PHS Alumni, College Bound

We extend heartfelt congratulations to our PHS alumni who graduated from secondary school this June (see all photos below). In May, we welcomed many of these students back to campus, where they reconnected with former teachers and staff and reflected on their PHS experiences. This outstanding class of alumni has been accepted at the following colleges & universities:

American University  
Boston College  
Baylor University  
Beacon College  
Chapman University  
Calif. Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo  
Calif. Polytechnic State Univ., Pomona  
Colorado State University  
Drexel University  
Feather River College  
Loyola Marymount University  
New York University  
Oregon State University  
Rice University  
San Diego State University  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University  
Syracuse University  
Texas Christian University  
Tulane University  
University of Alabama  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Denver  
University of Illinois  
University of New Hampshire  
University of Oregon  
University of San Diego  
University of Southern California  
University of Utah  
University of Washington  
Washington University



# What's Happening Next?

Through Friday, August 15—PHS Summer Fun N' Games  
Day Camp, 8:30 AM—3:30 PM. Registration form at :  
<https://www.peninsulaheritage.org/summercamp> and  
in School Office

Thurs., July 31—Annual Registration Packets mailed to parents

Mon., Aug. 11—All Registration Forms due

Thurs., Aug. 15— Parent Assoc. and other info mailed to parents

Tues., Sept. 2—School begins; NOON DISMISSAL and  
Back-to-School Picnic with Families on Main Campus  
grounds.

Thurs., Sept. 4—5:00 PM, New Family Orientation, School Library;  
5:30 PM, Book Buddies and Back to School Night;  
Adults only, please

Thurs., Sept. 4—Kickoff for 100% in 100 Days Parent Participation  
in Annual Giving Fund

Fri., Sept. 26—8:30 AM, All-School Assembly: 7th & 8th Grade,  
Character Quality of Attitude

Tues., Sept. 23—NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah

Sat., Oct. 25—Harvest Fair, 11:00 AM—3:00 PM, Main Campus

Thurs., Oct. 31—NOON DISMISSAL, All-School Assembly: 6th Grade,  
Character Quality of Self-Control; Halloween Parade on  
Main Campus; No Camp on this day

Fri., Nov. 21—Grandparents Day: 10:00 AM, All-School Assembly,  
4th Grade, Character Quality of Gratitude

Mon., Nov. 24 through Fri., Nov. 28—NO SCHOOL; Thanksgiving  
Break!

Mon., Dec. 22—Mon., Jan. 5—Winter Break





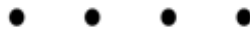
# Congratulations, Graduating 8th Graders!



**The 8th Grade Graduation** on Friday, June 6, 2025, was a memorable celebration! Each of the 16 graduates shared with the audience personal reflections and memories from their PHS journey. The ceremony was enhanced by a choral duet from Harper Ke and Kirra Southers, as well as a classical piano solo by Amy Shultz.

Among the experiences shared by the graduates was the following: "I will always love this school. The people at PHS have taught me so many things that no other school could have taught me. Two of the most important things are perseverance and discipline. Discipline was a strange idea to me a couple of years ago. Actually, it scared

me. For some reason I thought it was just another word for punishment. Thanks to the PHS community, I learned it is much more than just that. Perseverance is also one of the school's six character qualities in CAR GPS. It's a simple yet very true notion. Don't stop doing something you love or believe in, no matter how many obstacles stand in your way. Having Discipline and Perseverance is a dynamic duo and with both, I have the confidence to do what I love."



## Summertime at PHS!



From scooter hockey (photo at far left) to cookie decorating (left) to art and literature classes, water slides, ice cream treats, and so much more, PHS's summer **Fun N' Games Camp** is in full swing! Camp continues through August 15th, with signups available on our school website and at PHS.

Our campus is also buzzing with workers who are painting all classrooms and selected offices. Students and

parents will be pleased to see the new, bright blue running track that now surrounds the playing field, as well as many other campus repairs and upgrades to welcome students on Tuesday, September 2nd for the start of the new 2025-2026 academic year!

## Welcome to Peninsula Heritage School!

We extend a warm PHS welcome to all **new families** joining us for Summer Fun N' Games Camp as well as those beginning the new school year with us on September 2, 2025!

We offer you an inclusive learning community where friendships with fellow students and parents flourish in a loving and caring environment. All parents are automatically members of the PHS Parent Association, which supports the school through many uniquely designed events.

This Newsletter, as well as the subsequent issues that will be coming your way provide school news as well as upcoming calendar items. Please enjoy!



### *Peninsula Heritage Connects July 2025*

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Kindergarten—8th Grade  
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