

A. PEN's "Pasadena Unified at a Glance"

ALL Pasadena Unified elementary schools follow the same basic curriculum, based on California's Common Core State Standards and a project-based learning and workshop model approach to instruction. PUSD serves a diverse population across 14 elementary schools (including one K-8), 3 stand-alone middle schools (6th-8th), 2 secondary (6th-12th), and 2 stand-alone high schools (9th-12th). The District is committed to ensuring equity and access for all students.

Educational Philosophy & District Support

PUSD is highly intentional about responding to the needs, abilities and interests of each child. Learning is scaffolded using the **workshop model** for balanced literacy and an **inquiry-based learning cycle** approach to math and science. Teachers have the tools to assess and fine tune each student's learning plan, and classroom instruction is supported by a research-based "coaching model" for professional development. District coaches work with site-level coaches, who themselves receive regular professional development. Coaches work with teachers on content, classroom management, and meta-cognitive ("learning to learn") strategies for students. This is reflected in PUSD classrooms, where teachers and students embrace "growth mindset" as the basis of lifelong learning.

While each campus may have its own look, "culture" and in some cases specialized programs (see below), all schools K-12 are supported by an Instructional Leadership Team at the district level. For example, the District Arts Coordinator, with the support of the Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) and community partners, ensures that all students access high-quality standards-based instruction in the visual and performing arts. All schools have 1:1 Chromebooks; teachers and students make use of technology as an integral tool for innovation and creativity in learning. PUSD uses a multi-tiered system of supports, a district-wide social-emotional learning curriculum, and trains educators and other staff in the use of meditation practices and trauma-informed care.

Specialized ("Signature") Programs

Dual Language Immersion Programs: *Spanish* at San Rafael, Jackson STEM Magnet & Longfellow Elementary schools, Washington STEAM Multilingual Academy (6-8) and Blair IB Secondary (6-12); *Mandarin* at Field Elementary, Sierra Madre Middle and Pasadena High School; *French* at Altadena Arts Magnet Elementary.

Magnet Schools: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) and STEAM (add Art) magnet schools at Washington Elementary and Middle School; Arts Magnets at Altadena Elementary and Eliot Middle school nurture academic development through the integration of music, dance, theatre and visual arts across the curriculum.

International Baccalaureate Program: Primary years program at Willard Elementary; middle and diploma programs at Blair Secondary.

Math Academy: a radically accelerated math program available to mathematically gifted students beginning in 6th grade. Students complete BC Calculus by the end of 8th grade and learn college-level pure & applied mathematics in high school.

High School College and Career Pathways: Eight optional programs that facilitate hands-on exploration of career interest areas while completing graduation and A-G requirements. Early College Magnet at Muir HS allows students to earn up to two years of transferable college credit while in high school.

B. PEN's PUSD Elementary Enrichment Guide: "Basics" & "Extras"

Enrichment "Basics": What EVERY SCHOOL offers

The following are part of **every** PUSD student's learning, **along with** core instruction in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and History/Social Sciences – no matter which school they attend.

A
R
T
S

- **My Masterpieces** program (K-6), an award-winning district-wide collaboration with 10 community arts partners provides curriculum and connected field trips to local museums. Continues at middle school with **Open Stage**, including residencies with theatre artists & curriculum that integrates history, English, and theatre content, including a field trip to a world-class theatrical performance.
- Dedicated District Arts Coordinator ensures quality and equity of arts instruction and enrichment opportunities. 57% of secondary students enrolled in an arts course at any given time, compared to 37% on average for LA County and 40-44% for surrounding districts.
- All 3rd graders receive **instrumental instruction**, with band and orchestra options in 4th & 5th
- All TK-1st graders participate in a 6-week theatre or dance program designed to support literacy, language development, and social emotional learning through the arts

P
H
Y
S
I
C
A
L

- 100 minutes/week of structured PE instruction (elementary)
- All 3rd graders participate in a 3-week swim program at the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center
- All TK and Kinder teachers and lead teachers at each of grades 1-5 trained to introduce **yoga and meditation practice**
- Social emotional learning curriculum (2nd Step used K-5 district-wide); individual schools have also adopted programs such as the "7 Habits of Happy Kids"
- Teachers and administrators trained in trauma-informed care
- Flexible seating in many classrooms reflects "voice and choice" approach to learning











S
O
C
I
A
L
-
E
M
O
T
I
O
N
A
L

T
E
C
H

- Elementary students receive instruction in the use of technology and access Chromebooks (1:1) for research, presentations, and individualized instruction as part of their school day
- All middle schools offer a robotics elective and opportunity to work with a 3D printer
- All 5th graders assessed for potential to pursue accelerated math instruction in secondary

Enrichment "Extras"

Many schools offer programs or areas of emphasis that *exceed* the offerings you can expect at every PUSD elementary school. Unless noted, these extras are part of the school day. **See PEN school fact sheets* for details and inquire when you tour, as extras can change from year to year.**

-  Music (instrumental, choral or general)  Visual Art  Dance
-  Drama/theatrical production  Librarian or library coordinator
-  STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) – STEM coach or resource teacher, specialized instruction offered regularly to all students or all students in certain grades;
-  Laptop symbol indicates a specific emphasis on use of computer technology and related skills
-  Athletics – specialized program beyond basic PE requirements
-  Garden or other hands-on outdoor classroom feature used regularly; "Farm-to-School" program
-  Foreign language instruction offered during regular school day