



# SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-24

## PALISADES HIGH SCHOOL

35 Church Hill Road, Kintnersville, PA 18930  
 Telephone: 610.847.5131, ext. 2000; Fax: 610-847-2562  
 CEEB 392045 [www.palisd.org](http://www.palisd.org)

### Superintendent

Dr. Bridget O'Connell

### Principal and Assistant to Superintendent

Mr. Richard Heffernan

### Assistant Principal

Mrs. Amber Schlosser

### Guidance Counselors:

Mrs. Lori Tirjan,  
 ext. 2006

[ltirjan@palisd.org](mailto:ltirjan@palisd.org)  
 Grades 9 –12 A–K

Ms. Brianna Waldmann,  
 ext. 2007

[bwaldmann@palisd.org](mailto:bwaldmann@palisd.org)  
 Grade 9 –12 L–Z

- Recognized for:
  - U.S. News & World Best High Schools Award: 2015, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
  - Outstanding Visual Arts Community Award: 2020, 2021
  - Best Communities for Music Education in State in 2020, 2021
  - Newsweek Top STEM High Schools: 2020
  - District of Distinction Award in 2018
  - AP District Honor Roll in 2018
  - Newsweek's America's Best High Schools in 2013
- Approximately 70% of the Class of 2023 plan to continue education beyond high school (124 graduates):
  - 60% in a 4 year program
  - 10% in a 2 year program
- SAT Scores Avg - 2023      2023      2023  
 PHS avg - State avg - Total avg  
 Math                      583      —      540      —      521  
 ERW (Evidence based Reading, Writing) 585      —      551      —      529
- 77% students taking AP exams scored 3 or higher
- 5 students recognized with Distinction, 3 with Honors and 8 as AP Scholars in Spring 2023
- Enrollment for 2023-2024 is 478 students

## COMMUNITY:

The Palisades School District is located in Upper Bucks County and is comprised of the following municipalities: Bridgeton, Durham, Nockamixon, Riegelsville, Springfield and Tinicum Townships. We are situated approximately 30 miles north of Philadelphia and 20 miles south of the Allentown/Bethlehem area. Our school district encompasses about 100 square miles of rural, farm and non-farm homesteads and small villages scattered throughout the five townships. The area is a growing bedroom community, offering a picturesque countryside, small town environment to those seeking to escape from more urban/suburban environments.

## CURRICULUM:

High School students choose from a College Preparatory or Vocational Technical course of study.

In 2011-12 school year, Palisades School District implemented the Palisades Cyber Academy to offer our students more flexibility in scheduling. These courses are online and are specified as such. They also offer the same course weight as the traditional brick and mortar course.

Palisades also offers several Career Pathways Programs: Business & Technology, Engineering & Design, Education, Global Studies and Medical Career Pathways. The intent of this program is to provide students with a prescribed course plan and relevant field experience in order to better prepare them for a career in a specific area.

## CLASS RANK:

Class rank is computed through the addition of weighted course points earned for all courses attempted in grades 9 through 12. Weighted course points are determined by multiplying the numerical value of the final grade, times the course credit, times the weighted course multiplier. In each grade, the student accumulating the highest number of weighted points shall be ranked number one. Weighted points are cumulative from year to year.

## PHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

College Prep	24.5 credits	Upper Bucks County Technical School	24.5 credits
English	4.0 credits	English	4.0 credits
Math	4.0 credits	Math	3.0 credits
Science	4.0 credits	Science	3.0 credits
		Math or Science	1.0 credit
Social Studies	4.0 credits	Social Studies	4.0 credits
Wellness/ Fitness & Health	2.0 credits	Wellness/Fitness & Health	1.0 credits
Electives including World Language.	6.5 credits	Electives including Tech.	8.5 credits

## GRADE POINT AVERAGE:

Beginning in 2019-20, grade point averages are calculated on a four-point system using the Carnegie unit value of each grade earned. (A+ / A = 4, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C- = 1.7, NC/F = 0) Total points divided by credits taken equals GPA. Grades earned in prior years are calculated using the old methodology of assigning Carnegie unit values: A=4, B=3, C=2, NC/F = 0, no differentiation between +/- grades. Grades of D+, D, D- are not assigned at Palisades High School but transferred in from other secondary institutions.

## PLACEMENT LEVELS:

English and Social Studies are offered according to levels of relative difficulty. The level may be indicated by one of the following numbers which follows the course title: Levels 1,2 (Level 1 being the most challenging). Roman numerals (I, II, etc.) indicate sequential courses. We offer honors level (H) in math; a gifted program (Gifted Seminar/Independent Study Gifted) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered in English Lit. & Comp., English Lang. & Comp., Calculus, Statistics, French, German, Spanish, U.S. History, European History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, Computer Science Principles, Computer Science A and Studio Art.

## SCHEDULE:

Palisades High School utilizes an intensive (block) scheduling model. Under this system, students take half of their schedule in the first semester and the other half in the second semester. There are four, ninety minute periods each day.

## COURSE WEIGHTS:

	Weight 8	Weight 7	Weight 6	Weight 5
<b>Art &amp; Engineering Design</b>	AP Studio Art		Robotics I, II; Architectural Design I, II; Engineering Design – Electrical	Art History; Computer Animation; Drawing & Painting I, II; Graphic Comm's; Studio Art; 3-D Design&Sculpture I, II, III; Intro to Engineering; Engineering Design - Mechanical
<b>Business Technology</b>	AP Computer Science Principles		Accounting II; Business Seminar; Entrepreneurship; TV/Video Production II & III	Accounting I; Business Concepts; Financial Literacy; Fin. Lit. online; Personal Finance; Marketing; Multimedia Comm's; Business Seminar; MOOC; TV/Video Production I
<b>English</b>	AP Language & Composition (11) AP Literature & Composition (12)		English 9-1,10-1,11-1,12-1; English 9-1,10-1,11-1, 12-1 online; English 10 (Blended);	Advanced Reading Seminar; Creative Writing; Education Pathway Seminar; Effective Communications; English 9-2,10-2,11-2,12-2; Eng. 11-2; 12-2 online; SAT Rdg/Wrtg Prep and SAT Rdg/Wrtg Prep online; Journalism I, II
<b>World Language</b>	AP French, AP German, AP Spanish		French III, IV; German III, IV; Spanish III, IV; Global Issues Seminar; Less Commonly Taught Languages	French I, II; German I, II; Spanish I, II;
<b>Math</b>	AP Calculus; AP Statistics; AP Computer Science A	Advanced Algebra/Trig. (H); Algebra II (H),	Advanced Algebra/Trig. (Level 1); AAT online; Algebra I, II (Level 1); Algebra I -1 online; Calculus; Pre-Calculus; Computer Science I; Geometry 1 (Level 1); Geometry 1 online	Algebra I,II, III (Level 2); Geometry (Level 2); Pre-Algebra (Level 2); Algebra I-A; Alg. I-A online; Algebra I-B; Algebra 11-2 online; Algebra III; Intro to Statistics; Intro to Statistics online; SAT Math Prep
<b>Music</b>	None		None	Concert Band; Concert Choir; Digital Music; Freshman Chorus; Jazz Band; Madrigals; PACT (Piano Appreciation Composition Theory); Musical Theatre; Strings; Guitar I & II
<b>Wellness &amp; Fitness</b>	None		None	Driver Education; Dr. Ed. online; Health; Health online; Group Fitness; Lifetime Fitness; PE I; PE II; PE online; Personal Conditioning; Team Sports
<b>Special Education</b>	None		Gifted Independent Study; Gifted Seminar I, II, & III	English 9-12; Math 9-12; Reading 9-12; Science 9-12; Soc. St. 9-12; Study Skills
<b>Science</b>	AP Biology; AP Chemistry; AP Physics 1 Algebra based		Anatomy/Physiology I, II; Biology (Level 1); Chemistry I, II; Physics I, II	Applied Chemistry; Applied Chemistry online; Applied Physics (Sports or Transportation); Applied Physics online; Biology (Level 2); Earth and Space Science; Natural&Environmental Science; Nat.&Env.Sci. online, Med Careers Seminar (Blended)
<b>Social Studies</b>	AP US History; AP European History		Cultural Diversity; Cult. Div. online; Government & Development Of Public Policy; Gov't & Dev. Of Pub.Policy online; Modern World History (Level 1); Mod. World Hist.-1 online; Non-Western Histories & Cultures; Racism & Genocide; US & World II & III (Level 1); US & World II & III online (Level 1)	Cultural Diversity (Level 2); Economics; Economics online; Modern World History (Level 2); Sports in American Society; US & World II & III (Level 2); US & World III online (Level 2)
<b>College/Online</b>	NOTE: Approved concurrent & Dual Enrollment courses; online course weights determined by administration.			

## GRADING SYSTEM:

A+ 97-100	NC* 55-69
A 93-96	F Below 55
A- 90-92	CD Credit Denial
B+ 87-89	S Satisfactory
B 83-86	U Unsatisfactory
B- 80-82	WP Withdrew Passing
C+ 77-79	WF Withdrew Failing
C 73-76	M Medical
C- 70-72	I Incomplete

\* A grade of "NC" indicates "No Credit." With a grade of NC, students are eligible to attend Summer School. If students successfully complete Summer School, a grade of C- will be given for the course taken. A notation of "SS" will precede the course name on the transcript and the applicable credit earned will be indicated. The original grade of "NC" remains on the transcript and is calculated in the student's GPA.