

Model Programs Description

The PG Way model program at Pleasant Grove High School is a systematic plan for building lasting relationships for all stakeholders. Founded on three key pillars, the goal of this program is to create a sense of belonging for all students, staff, parents, and community members. The results of this program are shown in our exceptional student performance for the past thirteen school years.

PGHS was purposefully built with the core value of relationships in mind due to our unique attendance area. The eight other high schools in the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) only draw from four or five elementary schools whereas the attendance area for PGHS is over 200 square miles and pulls from eight feeder elementary schools. PGHS has to rely on twenty-eight school buses to transport all of these students to campus daily. This creates a large and diverse student population from both suburban and rural areas, all interacting at one high school. PGHS recognized early on it would need an organized plan to foster a feeling of community and family on campus so everyone in the campus community would feel welcomed and that they belonged.

The PG Way is PGHS's answer to continually building relationships with almost 2,600 students, almost 200 staff members, and countless parents and community members. Built on three key pillars, The PG Way is an overarching model program that promotes various campus groups, events, and opportunities so that relationships are built with everyone in the campus community, no matter their individual needs or interests. Pillar one focuses on building relationships with students. This includes both relationships between students and staff as well as between students. Pillar two centers on staff relationships, both among the school staff as well as staff to school. Finally, pillar three concentrates on building relationships between the school and both parents and community members.

The PG Way model program is constantly growing and adjusting as the needs of the PGHS community evolve. Constant feedback and monitoring have helped to evaluate and strengthen this program throughout the years and is an essential reason behind the school's success.

Implementation

The PG Way understands that relationships are vital to provide a foundation for student success. By building strong relationships with staff, students, and the community, PGHS is able to help students achieve at the highest levels and maintain a strong school connection. These PG Way relationships are fostered through a variety of programs and activities at PGHS.

Pillar 1: Student Relationships

The first pillar of The PG Way is to promote relationships between students and staff so each student feels a strong link to school. As the school has grown through the years, staff and students have continued to develop a plethora of approaches to help ensure all students are connected to PGHS in one or more ways.

Implementation of a school wide **Advocacy** program places students in a home room setting with the same PG teacher for four years. This allows for open and honest communication without the pressure

of academic rigor. Students meet in Advocacy for thirty minutes each week and cover topics related to specific themes such as digital citizenship, mental wellness, stress management, community building, cultural awareness, and social justice. Teachers act as coaches and mentors to guide students through their high school careers. The culmination of this student-teacher relationship is for the Advocacy teacher to read each student's name at graduation.

Our **Link Crew** program pairs upperclassman with incoming freshmen to introduce them to The PG Way and help them acclimate to the high school campus. Link Crew leaders facilitate a freshman orientation each year the week before school begins. Additionally, Link Crew leaders visit freshmen Advocacy classes and teach lessons related to the school theme of each month. Freshman benefit from having an older classmate connection as part of the PG family as soon as they step on campus.

Three times each year our Leadership students host a **Unity Day** to help students connect with each other and realize that other students have similar experiences and struggles. Over 500 students participate in Unity Days throughout the year. These all-day events have a transformative effect on students in their understanding of PGHS's diverse student body.

Relationships are established and nurtured through the **small-learning communities** of our **Academies** and **AVID** programs. Over 1,000 students participate in one or more of PGHS's three CTE academies, Agriculture pathway, or AVID. Students in these four year programs share classes, teachers, and post-secondary goals. These specialized programs provide students with opportunities to connect through campus events such as competitions, work-based learning opportunities, and traditions. Designated coordinators and counselors support the academic and social emotional needs of students enrolled in these programs. Additional small-learning communities include band, ASB, and athletics.

Pleasant Grove High School strives to promote positive student to student relationships through a variety of campus wide activities and events. Students gain an awareness and appreciation for cultural diversity through **multicultural exhibitions, celebrations, and events**. Each month our on-campus cultural clubs help students understand and celebrate a variety of cultures through lunch time activities, food, music and decorative posters. Each January, PGHS celebrates **Multicultural Week** through activities in the classroom and on-campus and a schoolwide assembly featuring performances from a assorted student cultural clubs.

Student relationships are also strengthened through a culture of kindness. Each year, before winter break, PGHS Leadership students dedicate an entire week to kindness. ASB students collect and grant 'wishes' to students in need during **Kindness Week**. These wishes range from a simple request for some school supplies or clothing to granting the wish of donating 'free miles' to a student ensuring his brother could spend the holidays with the family instead of on the military base where he was stationed. This year, our ASB students organized a campaign to raise funds and collect dress donations so that Paradise High School students could celebrate their prom after the devastating Camp fire.

The PG Way builds positive relationships through a culture of inclusion. Inclusion has always been a top priority for the students enrolled in our special education (Connections) program. The PG Way ensures students with special needs are included, to the fullest extent possible, at Pleasant Grove High School. Each year, a group of PGHS Leadership students host a **Red Carpet Dance** for students in our Independent Living Skills classes as well as ILS classes throughout the district. This event pairs special needs students with PGHS athletes and student leaders who escort them to a very special prom. Throughout the year, student leaders collect donations from community members and plan the event to create a memorable night for all. Our differently-abled students have additional opportunities to connect and bond with ASB leadership students. Each week, these student leaders visit the ILS classroom to play games, eat lunch and mentor their **ILS buddies**. Twice a year, a group of PGHS athletes volunteer to coach and play alongside ILS students in **Unified Sports** events. In the fall, teams comprised of special education and general education students compete in a basketball tournament followed by a softball tournament in the spring. Special education students in PGHS athletic uniforms and a cheering gymnasium full of students, staff, and parents epitomizes The PG Way.

Pillar 2: Staff Relationships

The second pillar of The PG Way is to foster staff relationships with the school community. All staff members are trained in **Professional Learning Communities** to create trust and norms for grade level and subject level teams. Additional staff professional development on **Community Circles**, equity and unity have extended those PG Way relationships outside of siloed departments to the school as a whole. New teachers to PG need particular attention to get them up to date on The PG Way of establishing relationships. A **new teacher orientation** is offered during pre-service and a number of new teacher luncheons are hosted throughout the year. This is an opportunity for new teachers to ask questions and get clarification on school policies and practices. Finally a **Sunshine Committee** was established to celebrate staff milestones (birthdays, weddings, births). The Sunshine Committee also hosts monthly “Brown Bag Lunches” and an end of the year luncheon in order to get teachers out of their classrooms and build camaraderie among staff. PG **Shout Outs** are also given out at every monthly staff meetings. They are a way for staff members to acknowledge each other for following The PG Way. The goal is for every staff member to feel valued and connected to the PG community.

Pillar 3: Parent/Community Relationships

The third pillar of The PG Way model program extends PGHS relationship building to parents and the larger community. Our CTE programs have established **advisory boards** including parents and local industry members to help offer advice and direction for those programs. A **Parent Teacher Student Organization** (PTSO) supports PGHS with a mission to “create a positive and energetic environment for parents, teachers, and students to come together to support, engage, and empower our families and community.” PGHS also invites parents to campus various times throughout the year with a student shadow day (“**Take Your Parents to School Day**”) and a student lunch day (“**Take Your Student Lunch Day**”). Both of these events welcome parents to come on campus and interact with

students and staff, to see what PG is all about. Finally, PGHS also offers a “**Coffee with the Principal**” event for parents to come to campus on specific days to engage in a conversation with the principal about campus news and events. This year PGHS added two parent evening workshops center student anxiety and social media.

For parents and community members who cannot come to campus, PGHS has increased communication efforts. The principal sends out a **multimedia newsletter** once a month with news on upcoming events and resources to help parents support students at home. PG also has an up-to-date comprehensive **website** and a dedicated administrator to communicate PG news across all **social media** platforms.

Monitoring

Pleasant Grove High School involves all stakeholders in the process of implementing and monitoring the impact of The PG Way on student performance and behavioral outcomes. Throughout the year, stakeholders examine data related to the goals outlined in PGHS’s WASC action plan. Administration collects, disaggregates, and disseminates data for staff and community review. Academic data includes grade reports, A-G completion rates, test scores, and graduation rates for the school as a whole as well as targeted subgroups. In addition, data is collected on student behavior and social emotional well-being in a variety of ways. At the end of the year, the staff completes a PBIS Tiered Fidelity Inventory to assess the impact of behavioral supports during the year. Social emotional well-being and school connectedness are assessed by staff, students, and parents through surveys such as the California Healthy Kids Survey and a district-created Social Emotional Learning and Culture Survey. Both of these surveys are administered and reviewed yearly.

Staff members analyze student performance and behavioral data in professional learning communities. The data is also shared with parents and students through the school site council, at Coffee with the Principal, and published on the school website in monthly newsletters.

Numerous student groups also provide vital feedback to school staff on The PG Way’s effectiveness. PG Voice, Unity Group, ASB, Eagles Seeking Peace, Peer Conflict Mediation, and others all provide invaluable student insight on campus life. These clubs and student committees submit their observations and suggestions to school staff in order to help develop and shape future campus relationships.

Local Control and Accountability Plan

The PG Way is supported by the district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan in numerous places.

EGUSD LCAP Goal 1: Curriculum calls for all students to have access to standards aligned curriculum and receive high quality instruction to promote college, career, and life readiness and eliminate the achievement gap. The PG Way provides PGHS students with a supportive and caring environment so all students will experience academic success that promotes college, career and life readiness.

EGUSD LCAP Goal 3: Wellness states that all students will have an equitable opportunity to learn in a culturally responsive, physically, and emotionally healthy and safe environment. The PG Way seeks to meet this goal by creating an environment that supports the academic and social emotional well-being of all students.

EGUSD LCAP Goal 4: Family & Community Engagement outlines that all students will benefit from programs and services designed to inform and involve family and community partners. In The PG Way, relationships between the school, the family, and the community are critical to student success.

Results and Outcomes

The PG Way has a profound impact on student performance and outcomes. Students have maintained high achievement on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) with 60.6% of students scoring above standard on the ELA assessment and 38.3% of students above standard in math. Last year ELA scores increased by 7.5 points and math scores increased by 11.8 points. All students, except for students with disabilities, performed above standard in English. In math, all students showed improvement. With a 96.7% graduation rate, 70.8% of PGHS graduates are identified as college/career ready. Students taking Advanced Placement classes have also demonstrated great success. 43% of PGHS students enroll in one or more AP classes. 81% of these students passed their AP exam(s) with a score of 3 or better. This is the highest AP pass rate in the district and significantly higher than the national average.

Analysis of student attendance and discipline also illustrates the effectiveness of The PG Way. During the 2017-18 school year, PGHS had a 5% chronic absenteeism rate less than half the statewide average of 11.1%. The PG Way has made great strides in reducing the number of suspensions and expulsions. Through the implementation of PBIS and Restorative Practices, suspension rates have been cut in half from a rate of 8.9% in 2017 to 4.5% in 2018.

The PG Way is fundamental to PGHS's outstanding student success and will continue to evolve and support the ever-changing needs of the school's diverse community.