

Pacific Collegiate School

2017 Annual Report



THE COLLEGE EDITION

Equal Access for All: Equity in College Preparation



One of PCS's essential core values is that *all* students be given the opportunity to be on an Advanced Placement college preparatory track. While for many students this may feel more like a requirement than an opportunity, it is important to note that at many public schools students are placed on a track that may make it difficult or impossible to gain access to advanced courses. The assumption that some students are worthy of Advanced Placement classes and some are not can lead to inequity; typically enrollment in these classes is correlated with race and socio-economic status.

“Most of the decisions and allocation of resources at PCS are guided by the belief that all students, regardless of race, family income, or educational background, should have access to the highest level of college preparatory classes. Our entire school is designed around this vision.”

– **Simon Fletcher, Principal**



At PCS we begin preparing all of our students for advanced courses. All students arrive here with varying levels of academic preparation, and we have designed our system of curriculum and support to meet them where they are, aiming toward Advanced Placement courses. We have years of results showing that with high expectations and aligned curriculum all students can meet this challenge.

To graduate from PCS students must take and pass five AP classes, which serve to prepare them for taking the national Advanced Placement exams. This provides a substantial advantage to students both in admissions as well as placement and credit once enrolled in college. At PCS we believe that all students should have access to this opportunity.

“Attending California State University Bakersfield is going smoother than I expected. The campus is small, which resembles the PCS environment, which I miss dearly. I absolutely loved AP United States History with Kelsey Cervine, as well as Video Production with Ken Alley and Directed Studies with Mrs. Dennis and Dr. Merchant. Right now my favorite courses, for this semester at least, are English and Theatre. To me, going to college means being able to pursue higher education, as well as being able to have an opportunity that my parents didn't have at my age.”

– **Ariana Estrada, 2017**



COLLEGES

2017

GRADUATES

ATTEND

Brandeis

University

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Brigham

Young

University,

Hawaii

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Brown

University

First-to-College Program—Diversity in Action at PCS

In the spring of 2009, to enhance student diversity at PCS, the PCS Board of Directors initiated a new lottery preference as a three-year pilot program to begin with the admission lottery for the 2011–12 school year. For that year, the program gave a preference to six 7th grade applicants who would be the first in their families to attend college. PCS defines a “first generation college-bound” applicant as one whose parents’ or chief guardians’ highest level of education is less than an Associate’s Degree. This First-to-College lottery occurs prior to the main lottery; unselected participants are entered into the main lottery.

“The First-to-College lottery was a creative and positive way to meet the ideals of PCS. The School created a new pathway for a group of diverse and interesting students to attend PCS on a preferential basis, in a way that is fair and consistent with the law. We are proud of the success of the program.”

– Tom Morell, Board President



The program consistently enhanced the socioeconomic and cultural diversity of the pupil population, and in 2014, the PCS Board of Directors permanently adopted the First-to-College Program. At that time, PCS increased the First-to-College preferred admissions from 10% to 15% of the available spots over five years, starting in the 2015–16 school year. During the 2016–17 school year, PCS was excited to welcome Silvia Morales to the long-standing position of Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Morales is charged with further diversifying the PCS student body, including outreach to first-to-college students.

Pictured on the cover are five students who were admitted as 7th graders in the inaugural year of the First-to-College lottery. Congratulations to them and their families! Meet a few of them, below and to the left.



“De Anza College has been great so far... I highly recommend community college to students who want to take classes in a variety of fields to figure out what they find interesting. My favorite classes at PCS were Drama, Choir, and AP Environmental Science. I’m so glad I had great teachers like Cindy Gorski and Jae Pasari to help me figure out what I’m passionate about. I’m grateful to PCS for thoroughly preparing me for college and I’m excited to see where it takes me.”

– Cienna Ajir, 2017

“I like the community the most in college [Cabrillo] because people are friendly and always happy to collaborate... My favorite classes at PCS were AP Stats (because Mr. Koens is the best), Rhetoric (just an all around fun and interesting class), and AP Biology (I learned the most from it). It’s been pretty easy to adjust... going to college is another societally necessary stepping stone towards adulthood that provides an environment to mature.”

– Jason Lai, 2017



Cabrillo

College

•

California

Polytechnic

State

University,

San Luis

Obispo

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California

State

Polytechnic

University,

Pomona

2016–17 Awards for Achievement in College Preparation for All Students

PCS was acknowledged as a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School by the California Department of Education, and named as the #1 ranked public school in California and the #10 ranked public school in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The California Gold Ribbon

PCS received the award for its model practice of equity in college preparation. While many California students are able to meet standard high school graduation requirements, they still may not be eligible to enroll at a four-year university. PCS, however, requires that all graduates complete the coursework to meet the A-G admission requirements of the University of California and California State University systems. Also, within most schools, students that do have access to Advanced Placement



and A-G courses are not representative of the overall school population. The model practice at PCS is to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity, with much targeted support, to access this college preparatory curriculum. This model practice relies on a number of strategies that serve to allow access to students of all subgroups and include: college preparatory program in grades 7–12; small class size; vertical alignment of curriculum across departments; study skills and technology classes; robust student support services; access by all students to Advanced Placement classes; high level of parental engagement; free college test preparation classes for all students, and incorporating visual and performing arts and world languages as core components of a college preparatory education.

U.S. News and World Report Rankings

U.S. News' comprehensive rankings methodology is based on two key principles; a great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college bound, and the school must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show it is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators. Advanced Placement test data is utilized as the benchmark for college readiness success, measuring which schools produced the best college-level achievement for the highest percentage of their students. In 2017, PCS achieved the maximum score for college readiness, one of only 25 schools nation-wide. While every senior in the class of 2015 took and passed at least one AP test before or during senior year (2017 rankings are based on 2015 data), the average number of AP tests taken by 2015 graduates was six. To avoid ties in numerical rankings, *U.S. News* measures the breadth of students who took and passed AP exams across multiple disciplines. Since PCS offers 18 AP classes across six different disciplines, PCS was awarded the #10 national ranking and the #1 California State ranking.

“The ethos of PCS is one in which we truly care about raising compassionate, intellectual, critically thinking human beings. Our teachers design their curriculum with an eye on standards and college admissions, but they really draw kids in by empowering them to use what they have learned to envision how they can have a positive impact for the greater good of humanity.”

— Simon Fletcher, Principal

California

State

University,

Bakersfield

Case

Western

Reserve

University

Colorado

State

University

Columbia

University

College Counseling—A Hallmark of a PCS Education

PCS's full-time college counselor is dedicated to helping PCS students and their families strategize the college application process, expertly navigate the ever-changing and challenging college admissions process, and find the best college fit for all PCS graduates.

“Under the leadership of Dean Partlow, PCS offers the most comprehensive college counseling of any public school in our area. One of the ways we meet our mission of students thriving in college is to deliver a high level of personal care so our students can determine the best path for them as individuals. The college admissions process is complex and potentially overwhelming. Our individualized college counseling has been critical in helping students sort through the many options available to find the place that they can thrive.”

— **Simon Fletcher, Principal**

Meet Dean Partlow, PCS's College Counselor

Tell us about your background.

DP: I was born in San Francisco and raised in Walnut Creek. I got an undergraduate degree at UCSC and a Master's Degree in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling at Santa Clara University. I had a private practice as a family therapist but switched over to school counseling. I've been at PCS since 2014.



How would you characterize PCS's class of 2017?

DP: All classes are different. I get to know all the students pretty well—which classes they have taken, which ones they've struggled with, their passions and personalities and their future career interests. The class of 2017 is a diverse group of learners. They have achieved a tremendous amount of growth while at PCS. They came together as a class with strong bonds, yet each student has maintained their unique individuality.



What impresses you most about PCS?

DP: That as a public charter school all students are welcome and have access to an elite education. I also like the autonomy that PCS's teachers have in the classroom. They are encouraged to innovate and to share their passions and that results in a rich experience for students.

What's the best advice you give to students applying to college?

DP: Be authentic, keep a healthy perspective and keep an open mind. Live your own life, not the one you think colleges want to see.

When you talk to college reps, what stands out for them about PCS graduates?

DP: They recognize that PCS has a challenging curriculum with high standards across all disciplines and that students work hard to succeed and that they learn to face challenges. They know we don't have grade inflation at PCS—our students' test scores and grades align.

De Anza
College

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George
Mason
University

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North
Idaho

College

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Northwestern
University

•
Oregon State
University

More PCS Class of 2017 Updates

Kayla is enjoying Columbia. She likes the diverse group of people from all over the world. She loves being in Manhattan where something is always happening. She has gotten to ask a question to the president of Mauritius about the economic development of Africa; see *Hamilton*; go to a Yankees game, and attend the 91st Annual Feast of San Gennaro in Little Italy. Kayla's favorite PCS classes were Rhetoric, AP Environmental Science, and AP World History because they changed how she perceives the world. Her favorite courses this semester are US-East Asian Relations and Introduction to Human Rights. She is also on the women's rowing team at Columbia.



"PCS prepared me for college and life really, by teaching me how to respond to challenges. PCS isn't easy, that's pretty much a given. However, it teaches you how to respond when things are difficult. It shows you how to work incredibly hard, and if that isn't enough, how to look for alternatives, or ask for help and advocate for yourself. Those skills have been invaluable to me." — Kayla Abrams, 2017

This quarter Christopher is taking Environmental Studies, Computer Science, Art History, and Music Appreciation at UC Santa Barbara. When he first moved into his dorm and met his two roommates he was slightly apprehensive to be living with complete strangers, but this worry quickly diminished and now these once-strangers are some of his closest friends. In fact, he equates the tight-knit living arrangements in his dorm to entering PCS as a 7th grader—both created a small welcoming community. The only thing he appreciates more than the community is the beach! Christopher enjoyed most of his classes at PCS, but there were a few that stood out. AP Computer Science with Mr. McGann introduced him to software development in a fun interactive way, greatly contributing to his decision to pursue Computer Science as his major at UCSB. Introduction to Engineering with Mr. Summerrill furthered his interests in engineering and helped him acquire a general understanding of the different disciplines. He also enjoyed Mr. Hunt's Rhetoric class and Mr. Pasari's AP Biology class.



"Thanks to the AP classes at PCS I entered UCSB with enough credits to be considered a sophomore and additionally they exempted me from numerous general education courses otherwise required. PCS also helped me acquire good study habits and a good work ethic." — Christopher Garsia, 2017

Nilu is taking a gap year after graduating from PCS last spring. She is currently working in New York and will be going to the Bahamas in January for a three-month marine research program focusing on reef surveys and fish identification on Andros Island. She is excited about doing lots and lots of scuba diving! After that, she heads to Europe for another few months to enjoy a blend of work and travel. Nilu wanted an opportunity to see more of the world before college. She aims to enroll in a four-year liberal arts school after her gap year. Her favorite courses at PCS were AP Environmental Science, Nationalism and Global Conflict, and Rhetoric.



"A lot of what made PCS so special for me were the interactions with teachers both in and out of the classroom."

— Nilu Mashian, 2017

2016–17 PCS Leadership Team

Simon Fletcher, Principal
Stanford University,
San Jose State University

Todd Harrison, Assistant Principal
University of Hawaii

David Levy, Faculty Dean; Algebra
UC Davis,
San Jose State University

2016–17 PCS Faculty

Ken Ally, Graphic Design/Video Production
UC Santa Cruz, Tufts University

Jessica Barbata, History
Reed College, UC Santa Cruz

Heather Calame, Music
CSU, Fullerton

Kelsey Cervine, History
UC San Diego

Ningning Chen, Chinese
Guandong University of Foreign Studies
City College of New York

Gabriel Cohn, English
Macalester College

Lindsay Cross, Algebra
UC Santa Cruz

Hillary Daniels, Study Skills & Technology
UC Santa Cruz, National University

Christine Decaporale, English
University of Rhode Island

Aaron Deich, Physics
Reed College

Linda Dennis, Special Education
San Diego State University

Lauren Friend, History
UC Berkeley

Randy Garrett, Math
UC Santa Cruz

Cindy Gorski, Drama
UC Santa Barbara

James Henrick, English
UC Berkeley

Eric Hickok, Science & Physics
San Jose State University

Alice Hughes, Chorus & Drama
University of the Pacific

Jamal Hunt, English
UC Berkeley

Anne Marie Hutchinson, Spanish
UC Irvine, Monterey Institute of International
Studies

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Stanford University, Harvard University

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UC Santa Barbara, University College Dublin

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William Koens, Math & Computer Science
UC Santa Cruz

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Stanford University

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University of Toulouse, UC Santa Cruz

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UC Santa Barbara, Stanford University

Demetra Messolaras, Art
Alfred University, San Jose State University

Lisa Michael, Conceptual Physics
Cornell University, Stanford University

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Boston College

Rafael Nussbaum, Chemistry & Science
University of Freiburg

Jae Pasari, Biology
UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz

Nirshan Perera, English
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Laila Rall, Spanish
UC Berkeley

Andrea Roth, English
University of Utah, Antioch University

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Simpson University

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CSU, Chico

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Belhaven University

Dee Vlasak, Art
CSU, Fullerton

2016–17 PCS Student Support Team

Dean Partlow, Academic & College Counselor
UC Santa Cruz, Santa Clara University

Katie Merchant, Special Education Coordinator,
School Psychologist
Ball State University

Kristen Rivers, Academic Support Specialist
San Jose State University

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State

University

San Jose

State

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School

of the

Art

Institute

of Chicago

Scripps

College

Pacific Collegiate School Annual Fund Drive Donors

July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017

Heartfelt thanks to all the donors who supported Pacific Collegiate School's 2016–17 Annual Fund Drive! Your continued generosity provides a stellar education to motivated students, bridging the gap between state funding allocations and the cost of PCS's exceptional program.

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of

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University

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California,

Santa

Barbara

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University

of

California,

Santa Cruz

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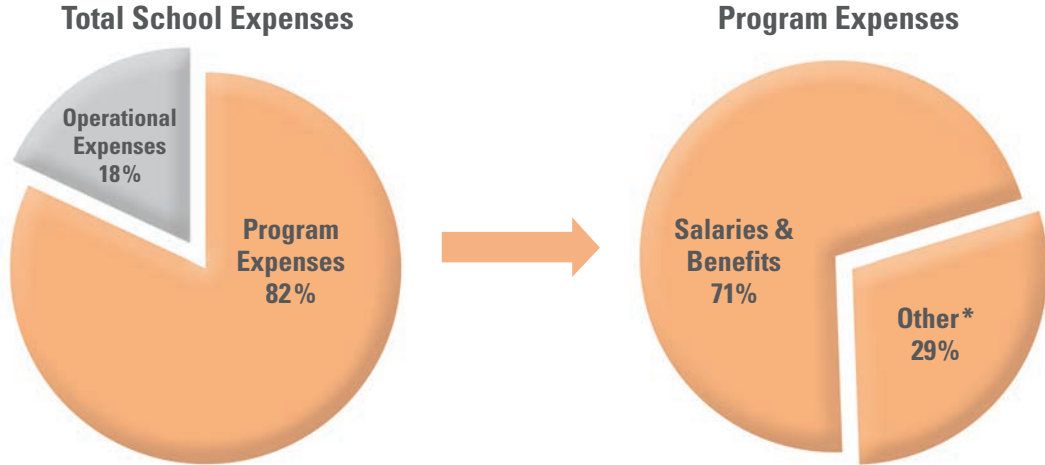
Annual Revenue (\$)

Federal	33,755
State	2,075,556
Local	2,804,926
Annual Fund Drive	813,884
Science Department Grant	3,595
Total	5,731,716

Annual Expenses (\$)

Salaries & Benefits	3,573,963
Books, Supplies, Materials	174,128
Prof Dev, Dues and Insurance	142,689
Operations & Housekeeping	287,251
Rent, Repairs & Maintenance	488,830
Special Ed Expenses	305,736
Contract & Services	277,951
County Office of Education Fees	79,961
Total	5,330,510

Functional Expenses



* Includes Repairs, Rent, Maintenance, Books, Supplies, Professional Development, Dues, Housekeeping and Services

Special thanks to the PCS Parent Volunteer Association for its enthusiastic support! In 2016–17 parents donated 15,000 hours, the equivalent of \$375,000, helping PCS in the following ways: office support, parking lot safety, campus safety, dance chaperones, set builders, lunch sales, student club leaders, and by hosting events including Welcome Back BBQ, Grandparents Day, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunches, the annual auction event BASH, and Parent Education Forums. The PVA also provided \$14,305 for student needs in 2016–17.

Thanks also to the 2016–17 PCS Board of Directors: Connie Smith, Gun Ruder, Deana Tanguay, David Amadia, Trevor Strudley, Jennifer Karno, Todd Livingstone, Gail McNulty, and Jeff Schilling.

How Your Gift to the Annual Fund Drive Supports College Readiness for All Students

The Annual Fund Drive (AFD) raises general operating funds that close the gap between what PCS receives from the state and what it costs to run PCS's acclaimed college preparatory program. About 15% of PCS's income every year comes from donations to the AFD. Here are some of the ways your gifts to the AFD support college readiness for all students at PCS:



All Graduates exceed A-G Requirements necessary to apply to the University of California and California State University systems.

Full-time College Counselor charged with helping students strategize the college application process, expertly navigate the ever-changing and challenging college admissions process, and find the best college fit for PCS graduates.

Advanced Placement (AP) Classes for Every Student means that every student at PCS is on a college preparatory path.

Free Test Preparation for PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams reduces inequities and ensures all students can gain this advantage, as it is widely recognized that taking a prep class can significantly increase test scores.

Variety of Student Support Classes and Services to help students manage their time, acquire skills needed to meet the demands of college level work, and to cope with not just the work but the normal issues of being a teenager.

PCS's Model Practice: Equity in College Education that includes, in addition to the items listed above, visual and performing arts and world languages as part of the core curriculum, small class size, and vertical alignment of curriculum across all disciplines.



University

of

San Diego

•

Washington

State

University

•

Western

Washington

University

•

Westminster

Choir

College



MISSION

Pacific Collegiate School's mission is to provide exemplary, standards-based college preparatory and fine arts education for public middle and high school students. Our vision is to offer any student the same quality of education offered by the most academically distinguished schools in California. Our graduates are prepared to enter and thrive at the world's finest colleges and universities.

VISION

In addition to a core college preparatory curriculum, Pacific Collegiate School emphasizes international, cross-cultural, and technological education in order to prepare graduates for life in the 21st Century. Pacific Collegiate students are introduced to the rich variety of world cultures and become fluent in at least one foreign language. They become proficient in the basic information technologies essential for cultural literacy in the 21st Century. Our program is rooted in the belief that most students, not just a few, are capable of a demanding, rigorous and relevant high school education.

PROFILE

Pacific Collegiate School, founded in 1999 by parents and educators seeking an alternative in public school education, currently serves 537 students at its new campus, 3004 Mission Street, on Santa Cruz's Westside. PCS partners with other schools and organizations for off-site use of athletic and performing arts facilities.

Pacific Collegiate School is an independent public charter school open to any student in 7th through 12th grade seeking a rigorous college preparatory education. PCS has earned high honors for its outstanding program and has consistently ranked among the top public schools in California and the nation.

PCS is a public charter school; California law requires that admission is through a public, random lottery, subject only to legally allowable preferences. The only requirement to enter the PCS admission lottery is to fill out an application and attend a pre-lottery information session; there are no student admission tests, tuition, or fees of any kind required.

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Page 1: (top) Carlie Statsky, (lower) Covello & Covello

Page 2: Covello & Covello

Page 3: Carlie Statsky

Page 4: (top) Covello & Covello, (lower) Carlie Statsky

Page 5: Covello & Covello

Page 10: (top and lower left) Carlie Statsky, (lower right) Chelsea Ching

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