
Notes...

PUMA NATION

FRESHMAN HANDBOOK



Class Of 2026

PRIDE • PROGRESS • PURPOSE



Mission Statement

Perry High School is committed to providing an enriched environment where our students can develop Pride in themselves, their school, and their community—where they can demonstrate Progress in their ability to think critically in a technologically advanced society—and where they can realize their Purpose as responsible citizens.



Welcome to the Puma Nation Class of 2026!

Tips for Success

- **Get Organized:** Obtain school supplies and create an organizational plan that works for you. Not sure where to begin? Ask for help. Note: a daily planner will be offered to all freshman. Visit teachers' websites to look for required supplies, syllabi, etc. Once teachers hand out their course syllabi, keep a hard copy to reference throughout the year.
- **Stay Informed:**
 - Parents: attend Open House on Thursday, August 4th. Meet your student's teachers.
 - Visit the Perry HS website and individual teacher websites regularly.
 - Check our Freshman page on the website often (from the Perry High home page, click on "information" then "Freshman Resources").
 - Sign up for E-Blast and receive notification when websites are updated. <http://www.myhandlerschools.org/register>
 - Check Infinite Campus regularly. Sign up for updates to be sent to your phone. *<https://www.cusd80.com/parentportal>
 - Contact classroom teachers with questions regarding academic progress. Keep a copy of your student's schedule to use to create a group email, and check in periodically. All emails are set up in the following manner: lastname.firstname@cusd80.com
 - Paw Print— Watch for a weekly e-mail that includes a link to our newsletter, The Paw Print. This weekly communication includes many resources and valuable information.
 - Follow us on Twitter:
[@PerryPumas07](https://twitter.com/PerryPumas07)
- **Be Involved:**
 - Parents/Students—become involved at Perry. Attend activities and athletic events. Become a Puma Nation Fan. We have so much to offer. Be proud of you school!
 - Parents—talk to your student daily. Ask about school, friends and life.
 - Students— Be proactive. Ask for help. Talk to your teachers. Attend tutoring. Sometimes success takes extra effort, and there is no shame in needing assistance. Being successful is not about being perfect and having all the answers, but more in how you overcome obstacles, and seek answers.
- **Tutoring:**
 - Our tutoring schedule will be available in August on our website and in the Paw Print. Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday after school. There is a late bus available for students that attend tutoring.

Together We Achieve More

Welcome to Puma Nation!

We are excited to welcome you to Perry High School. Pride, Progress, and Purpose are not just the words in our motto, but principles that we have operated on since opening our doors in 2007. You have chosen a school whose staff and students are committed to excellence in every arena. Perry is distinguished as an excelling school and has been named an A+ School of Excellence by the Arizona Education Foundation. Our students strive for success in academics, sports, fine arts, and in the "real world."

The next year will be a journey for both you and your student. While the first few steps on campus may be slow to start, they will gain momentum quickly and before you know it, you will be sending your child out into the world. Partnering with teachers and counselors will help to lay a supportive foundation for your student. I invite you to take a vested interest in your child's education and encourage him or her to do the same.

On behalf of all the faculty and staff at Perry, I welcome you and look forward to the next four years.

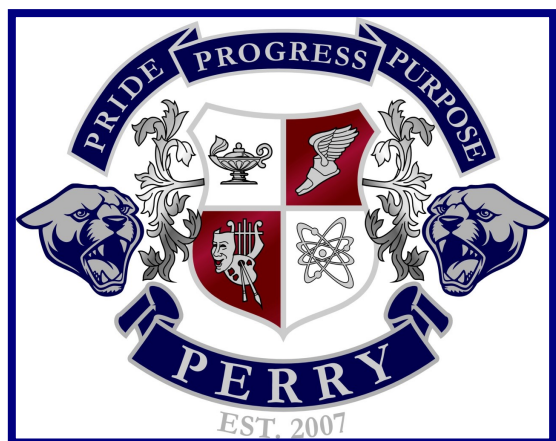
Sincerely,

Heather Patterson

Heather Patterson, Principal

Table of Contents

Important Numbers	5
Counseling	6-7
Academics & Graduation Requirements	8-9
Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment	10
STEM Program, Testing & Resources	11
Clubs and Activities	12
Athletics	13
Tips for Success	14



Athletics

Mrs. Jennifer Burks - Athletic Director

At Perry High School, the coaches and administration stress the importance of educational athletics. This means that student-athletes learn skills which are an extension of what they are learning in the classroom. They are expected to do more than win games; they are to be strong academic students, good citizens and contributors to our community. Our coaches teach the school motto of pride, purpose and progress. This is why we encourage everyone to participate in athletics year round. We also believe that educational athletics keeps students mentally focused and physically fit. All athletes have the opportunity to work daily with a conditioning coach who will train them in strength, endurance and proper nutrition. Our well rounded student-athletes have received numerous academic and athletic scholarships to varied universities, colleges and military institutions including Harvard, Stanford, Embry Riddle, West Point, and all of our in-state schools.

The other important facet to our athletics program is our fans. Whether it's a swim and dive meet, a softball game, a homecoming football game or any of our hundreds of athletic events, we invite all students, parents, families, and community members to come out and support the Pumas!

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Badminton (girls)	Basketball (boys/girls)	Baseball
Cross Country (boys/girls)	Soccer (boys/girls)	Flag Football
Football	Wrestling	Softball
Golf (boys/girls)	Unified Soccer	Tennis (Varsity boys/girls)
Pom & Cheer (year round)		Track (boys/girls)
Swim & Dive (boys/girls)		Volleyball (boys)
Tennis (Freshman)		Sand V-Ball (girls)
Volleyball (girls)		Unified Basketball
Unified Flag Football		Unified Track

All student athletes must have a current physical, birth certificate, and insurance information for a clearance card. Clearance packet should be completed online at <https://www.registermysathlete.com>.

Clubs & Activities

Mr. Kevin Ames

The next four years may seem like a long time, but it will go by incredibly fast. One key point to really enjoying high school and all that it has to offer is to get involved. It's a great way to meet people and get connected with the Puma Nation. When it comes to activities, Perry has something for everyone. We currently have more than 70 active clubs on campus with more being formed. Within the first three weeks of school, we will have Rush Week, which allows you to see all that the clubs on campus have to offer and see which might be of interest for you. During the school year, the clubs have many projects that provide opportunities for you to volunteer and help make a difference in our community.

Just to list a few:

African American Cultural Club	Meditation
Anime	Model United Nations
Art Club	Mountain Bike
ASL and Deaf Culture	National Honor Society*
Asian Culture	Operation Smiles
ASL	Periwinkles Improve Club
Astronomy Club	Photography Club
Black Girl Empowerment Club	Pickle Ball Club
Bowling	Pumas 4 Pumas
Bring Change 2 Mind	Rho Kappa
Chess	Song Writing
Computer Programmers United	Spanish National Honor Society
Esports/Gaming	Sparrow
FCA	Students Unified for Modern Movement
Financial Literacy	Student Government*
French	Theatre
German	Tri-Musical Honor Society
Guitar	Whitecoat Club (Pre-med)
Key Club	Women in STEM
Knitting	Youth Alive
LINK*	
Math	

*Notes a club that has an application process

Do you have an idea?

See Mr. Ames in the Activity Office for steps to forming your own club.

Important Numbers

Principal—Heather Patterson.....480.224.2808
patterson.heather@cusd80.com

Assistant Principal, Curriculum—Clint Beauer.....480.224.2833
beauer.clint@cusd80.com

Assistant Principal—Kevin Ames.....480.224.2829
ames.kevin@cusd80.com

Assistant Principal, Athletics—Jennifer Burks.....480.224.2822
burks.jennifer@cusd80.com

Dean of Students—Jennifer De La Torre.....480.224.2809
delatorre.jennfer@cusd80.com

Attendance Office.....480.224.2803

*** All student absences/tardies must be called in within 24 hours in order to be excused. Perry High School is a closed campus. Any student who needs to leave campus during the day MUST be signed out in the attendance office by a parent/legal guardian. Listed emergency contacts are for emergencies only & ARE NOT considered a student pick up list. If parent requires someone else to pick up their student, parent must send in a signed, hand written note with their student at the start of the day.**

*** Per district policy, after 10 consecutive absences, a student will be dropped from his/her classes. Since regular attendance is key to student success, students should be in class on a daily basis. By law students must attend 90% of class sessions to receive credit for the course. If students are absent more than 15 class sessions (excused or unexcused), they may be required to make up the hours or they may not earn credit for the course.**

Bookstore.....480.224.2862

Health Office.....480.224.2802

Counseling.....480.224.2814

Cafeteria.....480.224.2804

Front Desk.....480.224.2800

Registrar—Cindy Zepeda.....480.224.2824
Zepeda.cynthia@cusd80.com

Special Education Department Chair—Shara Billings.....480.224.2941
billings.shara@cusd80.com

Perry High School
1919 E. Queen Creek Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85297
Phone: 480.224.2800
Fax: 480.224.2820 or 480.224.9197
www.cusd80.com/PHS

Counseling

Welcome Class of 2026

We are so excited to have you join Puma Nation and are here to help you navigate the next chapter in your life. The transition to high school can be intimidating for freshman. There are more people, bigger buildings, new expectations, numerous choices, graduation requirements—oh, and don't forget, memories to make. While it can be overwhelming, it is important to take a breath and take the first steps toward success. As you walk through the next four years, know that you are not alone in your journey. Besides the wonderful teachers you will encounter, you have a great resource in your counselors. We are here to guide you toward success by providing support and assistance from the minute you walk on campus to the tossing of your graduation cap in May of 2026! Don't blink, it will be here before you know it!

This handbook is to serve as a reference for you and your parents in your first year as a Puma. There are so many tools available to you if you choose to use them. In your first year, we will be here to help you learn the ropes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Gregg, Counseling Department Chair

Jennifer De La Torre, 9th Grade Administrator/Dean of Students

STEM Program, Testing, Resources

STEM

Students enrolled in the PHS STEM Diploma and STEM Scholar Diploma Program will participate in a unique academic program that includes additional math, science and technology courses as well as summer institutes.

Perry's STEM Program is directed towards promoting the importance of high school achievement and the value of rigorous course work. The ultimate goal of the program is to prepare students for college readiness in science, medicine, engineering and math majors. Students who complete the program and earn a STEM Diploma or STEM Scholar Diploma, will receive several academic endorsements and special recognition at graduation.

Any student who is interested in the Engineering, or Computer Science fields is encouraged to apply. Please contact Mr. Fred Mann for more information.

Testing

The PSAT is a pre-cursor to the SAT College Entrance Exam. While mostly taken by sophomores and juniors, it is open to any student and is offered annually in the fall. Test dates for each year can be found on the following website: <http://www.cusd80.com/domain/3292>. While the ACT and SAT can be taken at any time by any student, most wait until their junior year to test. We do, however, encourage all grade levels to participate.

Tutoring

Perry offers an extensive tutoring schedule for every curricular area. This schedule will be available on line and is subject to change. Students may find that they will have to put more effort and time into their high school coursework, and our exceptional staff is here to provide them support. Please, encourage your student to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Infinite Campus

In high school, students are expected to begin managing their own education. Students are encouraged to check their grades on a regular basis. This can be done easily with Infinite Campus. Students will receive a school password and directions for access. Parents are also provided their own login information which also gives access to student grades. Instructions on how to create your Parent Portal will be distributed at the start of the year.

CUSD Counseling and Social Services

Educating our youth is a group effort that goes beyond the classroom. Our district counseling and social services department has developed a program designed to support parents in navigating the challenges and opportunities of their student's high school career. Please visit our district website, cusd80.com, and click on the Counseling and Social Services department to learn about the many resources and supports that are available. Counseling Secretary— Catherine Hendon— 480-224-2814

Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment

Honors Courses

Perry High School offers a number of honors courses. These classes are assigned weighted grades due to the academic rigor and higher expectation in the work required. The grade-point value for these classes are: A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=1.0, F=0. Weighted courses are listed with Honors and AP (Advanced Placement) designations in their titles. Grade point average (GPA) for transferring students is recomputed in order to align the transferring classes with the courses offered at Chandler Unified School District high schools. Transfer students will receive weighted grades only for those classes that align to Perry's AP and Honors classes.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement courses prepare students to take the national Advanced placement examination given in late spring of each school year. Students may be granted Advanced Placement status and/or college credit on the basis of how well they perform on these tests. Students are not required to take an advanced placement course to be eligible to take an advanced placement examination; however, students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take the AP exam. AP/Honors classes are not available to homebound students.

College credits can be reviewed at <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement>.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment classes are Maricopa Community College academic and occupational classes offered on the high school campus and taught by high school instructors who meet community college guidelines. Students enrolled in dual enrollment courses and who pay the registration and class fees are eligible to receive college credit while still in high school. It is highly recommend that students research potential colleges and universities in order to understand how these credits will transfer. Additional information can be found at the following website: <https://www.cusd80.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=76539>

A look into the future...

While graduation is a "long" four years away, it will be here before you know it. The freshman grade point average sets the foundation for future achievements.

Cum Laude Recognition

Effective with the Class of 2020, all CUSD high schools will be using the Cum Laude recognition program. This will replace the concept of designating a valedictorian and salutatorian at graduation. This recognition program will be used to acknowledge the most academic successful students at graduation. More of our outstanding seniors will be recognized than the valedictorian/salutatorian concept allowed. The categories for distinction under the Cum Laude recognition program are as follows:

- Summa Cum Laude - meaning "with the highest praise". To qualify a student must achieve a 4.5 - 5.0 GPA
- Magna Cum Laude - meaning "with great praise". To qualify a student must achieve a 4.25 - 4.49 GPA
- Cum Laude - meaning "with praise". To qualify a student must achieve a 3.75 - 4.24 GPA.

Alpha Split	Counselor	Phone Number
A-Chav	Holli Cagle <i>cagle.holli@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2812
Chaw-Ger	Kimberly Leas <i>leas.kimberly@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2815
Ges-Kat	Courtney Conroy <i>conroy.courtney@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2813
Kau-Mon	Kirstin Gregg <i>gregg.kirstin@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2811
Moo-Riv	Geraldine Jaramillo-Mack <i>jaramillomack.geraldine@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2818
Riw-Vau	Mark Nold <i>nold.mark@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2836
STEM & Vav-Z	Fred Mann <i>mann.fred@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2947
Counseling Assistant	Catherine Hendon <i>hendon.catherine@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2814
Career Center	Jocelyn Whiteneck <i>whiteneck.jocelyn@cusd80.com</i>	480.224.2993

APPOINTMENTS

Counselors are available before and after school and at lunch without an appointment. To schedule an appointment, email or call Mrs. Catherine Hendon.



CAREER CENTER

How do freshmen prepare for scholarships? Getting involved in outside activities will make your scholarship application stand out. Whether it is joining a club or helping out in the community, involvement shows that you can handle more than just academics. Colleges and universities are interested in someone who is unique and who will contribute to their school. Whichever activity you choose, stick with it, maybe even work towards a leadership position within that club, sport or organization. Being able to commit to high school activities shows that you will likely commit to those in college and leadership skills will behoove you in any post secondary road you choose.

Academics

Mr. Clint Beauer

“If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop habit in the little manners. Excellence is not an exception, it is the prevailing attitude.”

- Collin Powell

Graduation Requirements

	CUSD	Arizona Universities
English	4 credits	4 credits
Math	4 credits	4 credits
Lab Science	3 credits Must complete one year in same class to earn credit: Investigative Science, Biology, Chemistry and/or Human Biology	3 credits One credit in each of the three different lab sciences: Chemistry, Physics, Biology. A integrated lab science (Human Biology, Biotechnology, or Investigative Science) may be used to substitute one required course.
Social Studies	3 credits	2 credits
Career & Tech Ed. Fine Arts	1 credit	1 fine arts credit
Foreign Language	0 credits	2 credits—two years of the same language
Physical Education	1 credit	0 credits
Comprehensive Health	1/2 credit—usually taken Sophomore year	0 credits
Required Courses	16 1/2 credits	16 credits
Elective Courses	5 1/2 credits	0 credits
Total Required Credits	22 Credits	16 Credits

Education & Career Action Plan

On February 25, 2008 the Arizona State Board of Education approved Education and Career Action Plans (ECAP for all Arizona students grades 9-12 (R7-2-302.05). Effective for the graduation class of 2013, schools shall complete for every student in grades 9-12 an Arizona Education and Career Action Plan. An ECAP reflects a student's current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop the student's individual academic and career goals. All Freshman will complete an ECAP in the first semester with their counselor. This plan will be updated annually.

Below is the suggested coursework for students. Please reference the on-line course catalogue under the Registration tab on our website. Note that students may take zero hour and/or online courses.

Freshman

English 9 or Honors English 9
Algebra 1 or Honors Geometry,
Honors Algebra 2 (STEM)
Investigative Science or Honors Biology
World History or Honors World History
Introduction to Physical Education
World Language/Fine Art/CTE/Other Elective (1)

Sophomore

English 10 or Honors Eng. 10
Geometry, Honors Geometry/Honors Algebra 2(block)
or Honors Algebra 2
Honors Brief Calculus (STEM)
Biology, Honors Biology or Honors Chemistry,
Honors Physics
AP Human Geography
*(does not count for 1 of the 3 credits needed)
Comprehensive Health (1 semester)
Electives (2.5)

Junior

English 11 or AP English 11
Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus,
Honors Brief Calculus,
AP Calculus AB/BC (STEM)
Chemistry, Physics, Human Biology or
AP Biology, AP Chemistry,
AP Physics, AP Environmental Sci.
American/Arizona History or
AP American/Arizona History
Electives (2)

Seniors

English 12 or AP English 12
Math Year 4, Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB,
AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics,
Honors Brief Calculus,
Multivariable Calc (STEM)
Linear Algebra (STEM)
Chemistry, Physics, Human Biology or
AP Biology, AP Chemistry,
AP Physics, AP Environmental Sci.
US/AZ Government, Economics or
AP US/AZ Government,
Honors We the People,
AP Economics
Electives
*Seniors must be enrolled in at least four credit bearing classes.