



# PULASKI ACADEMY & CENTRAL SCHOOLS

# 2024-25

# ANNUAL

# REPORT



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# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

## DEAR PACS COMMUNITY,

I hope you share my optimism, excitement and gratitude as we navigate another year together at PACS. I am optimistic about our new school improvement plan and the opportunities it brings. I am excited about our curricular and extracurricular programming and the many ways we are engaging students. Most of all, I am grateful for our supportive community, dedicated staff, and incredible students!

This Annual Report highlights our district's progress and key initiatives for 2024-25. Across all our departments, you will see a consistent focus on thoughtful, long-term planning, evaluating the impact and efficacy of our work, and expanding opportunities to engage and support our students.

The District is in the second year of a new school improvement process. This initiative, named the PACS Plan, is intended to help us embrace systematic, sustained improvement, and maintain a strong focus on the essential aspects of effective schooling — what we call the Right Work. It is grounded in research on High Reliability Schools by Robert Marzano, our own experience, and common sense. The Plan focuses on four levels of school effectiveness:

- **Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture**
- **Effective Teaching in Every Classroom**
- **Guaranteed, Viable, and Challenging Curriculum**
- **Personalized Education**

The PACS Plan, along with the process we use to implement it, provides clarity of focus to prioritize our efforts. It systematically uses data and evidence to identify areas for growth and develop targeted improvement strategies. It fosters collaborative decision-making, ensuring that everyone in the PACS community is both invested in and accountable for school improvement. It aligns school practices and policies to create a cohesive system that supports student learning. It engages administrators, faculty, and staff in ongoing self-assessment and reflection to drive continuous progress. Most importantly, the PACS Plan keeps us focused on the Right Work.

For more information about the PACS Plan and updates throughout the year please visit our website [www.pulaskicsd.org](http://www.pulaskicsd.org).

We all share responsibility in educating our children; if you have any questions as you read through this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
**Tom Jennings**, Superintendent



**Tom Jennings**  
*Superintendent*  
315.298.5188



**Sarah Starbird**  
*Business Manager*  
315.298.5188



**Mike Bateson**  
*District Principal*  
315.298.5188



**Jordan Fahnestock**  
*MHS Principal*  
315.298.5103



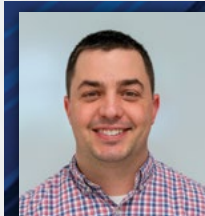
**Steve Komaneky**  
*Asst. Principal/AD*  
315.298.5103



**Vanessa Phillips**  
*Dir. of Spec. Programs*  
315.298.5188



**Joelle Hendry**  
*Elementary Principal*  
315.298.2412



**Ken Isgar**  
*Asst. Principal*  
315.298.2412



**Regan Roach**  
*Safety and Security*  
315.298.2412



**Mike Davis**  
*Technology Director*  
315.298.5103



**Cheryl Maxfield**  
*Dir. of Food Service*  
315.298.5103



**Amy LaDue**  
*College and Career Advising*  
315.298.5103

# COMMUNICATION AT PACS

Our goal at PACS is to establish clear, effective lines of communication between the District and our community. We work hard to: be the first and best source of information about our school and education; encourage dialogue that is informative, factual, thoughtful, and civil; and promote excitement about education, scholarship, and our school.

Our Board of Education meetings provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments during a designated public comment period. Additionally, the superintendent hosts monthly coffee and conversation events, where community members are encouraged to attend and address any District-related questions in a casual environment. All members of our administrative team are also available by phone and email to discuss concerns and answer questions.

## NOTIFICATIONS & REMINDERS

We use a robust notification system to alert parents via phone, text and email in the event

of an emergency school closing, upcoming events or other issues that concern you and your child. Please contact your child's school to update your contact information or with any questions about the alert system. Important notices will also be found on the homepage of the website. You may also register for notifications of specific events on the District's calendar page.

## RETURNING PHONE CALLS & EMAILS


District faculty and staff are expected to return non-emergency phone calls and emails within two school days of receiving a message. Emergency phone calls are returned immediately.

## WHO TO CONTACT

Frequently, parents and other community members request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. Please contact your child's school main office.

## NEWS & EVENTS

 **School Calendar:**  
[pulaskicsd.org/calendar](http://pulaskicsd.org/calendar)

 **News:**  
Past and current school news stories on the homepage of the website

 **Newsletters:**  
District publications including the graduate newsletter, programming guide, annual report, calendar, and budget newsletter:  
[pulaski.org/newsletters](http://pulaski.org/newsletters)

 **Facebook:** [pacsacademy](https://www.facebook.com/pacsacademy)

 **Instagram:** [pacsacademy\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/pacsacademy_official)

 **YouTube:** [PACS\\_Academy](https://www.youtube.com/PACS_Academy)

# LURA SHARP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lura Sharp Elementary School is a warm and vibrant environment where children are encouraged to grow academically, socially and emotionally. The school is dedicated to fostering a community where every student feels supported, valued and empowered to succeed—not just in their studies, but in all aspects of life.

A key element in creating this nurturing atmosphere is the Responsive Classroom approach, which has been reintroduced to promote joyful, inclusive learning spaces. This evidence-based method equips teachers with strategies to cultivate mutual respect, collaboration, and a strong sense of belonging in every classroom. Daily classroom meetings allow students and teachers to build meaningful relationships, practice social-emotional skills, and engage in conversations that encourage empathy, resilience, and active listening. These moments help students develop confidence, navigate their school day successfully, and connect meaningfully with others.

Beyond the classroom, Lura Sharp Elementary offers a diverse range of extracurricular and leadership activities, ensuring that students can

explore their interests and build connections. Programs such as safety patrol, art club, yoga, robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, Battle of the Books, and the elementary musical provide students with creative and engaging opportunities to learn, collaborate, and develop new skills.

Lura Sharp Elementary also emphasizes community engagement, helping students understand the value of giving back. Through activities like decorating the local park for the holidays, organizing food drives, and visiting the fire station and public library, students develop a sense of civic responsibility and recognize their role in strengthening the community.

At Lura Sharp Elementary, learning extends far beyond academics. By fostering connection, leadership, and community involvement, the school ensures that every child feels supported, inspired, and empowered to grow.





# MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

Pulaski Middle-High School continues to expand opportunities and drive innovation, ensuring students are well-prepared for success in both college and the workforce. Through the introduction of new courses, hands-on learning experiences, and a strengthened focus on advanced academics, the school fosters an environment where students can explore their interests, develop valuable skills, and achieve their goals.

This year, several new programs have been launched to engage students in real-world learning. Courses such as Marketing & Advertising, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Transportation provide students with hands-on experience, creative problem-solving, and project-based learning opportunities. The construction of a hand-built canoe in the Transportation class is one of the highlights of the course. These offerings emphasize technical skills, collaboration, and innovation, equipping students with the tools to succeed in an evolving job market.



A standout initiative is “Brewed Awakenings,” a student-operated coffee shop developed through a collaboration between the Union Trades, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Marketing & Advertising classes. This fully functioning business gives students practical

experience in management, marketing, and operations, allowing them to apply classroom concepts in a real-world setting. Students gain valuable skills by interviewing for roles, managing day-to-day operations, and developing marketing strategies—experiences that build confidence and professional readiness.

Pulaski Middle-High School has also expanded its advanced academic offerings, with the introduction of more Advanced Placement (AP) and college courses. This year, the school added AP US History and AP Government in partnership with Jefferson Community College (JCC), bringing the total number of AP courses to 11. Additionally, the creation of a College & Career Advisor program ensures that students receive personalized guidance on college applications, scholarships, and career pathways and planning. Looking ahead, the school plans to introduce AP Pre-Calculus, and AP Statistics. A key focus moving forward is expanding participation in our AP and college programs, ensuring that all students have access to rigorous and rewarding academic experiences.

Through these initiatives, Pulaski Middle-High School is fostering a culture of innovation, engagement, and achievement. By blending hands-on learning with advanced academics, the school is equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to excel in their future endeavors.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Special Programs Department at PACS has made significant strides expanding opportunities for students with diverse needs while enhancing service delivery. With a strong focus on individualized support, the department is committed to ensuring that every student has the resources and guidance they need to thrive.

At the core of this effort is a collaborative, student-centered approach that brings together educators, families, and service providers to develop personalized learning plans. By prioritizing data-driven strategies, staff regularly monitor student progress, adjust Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and tailor interventions to meet each student’s unique needs. Families play a crucial role in this process, engaging in regular meetings, receiving ongoing updates, and accessing resources to support learning at home. This team-based model ensures that every student’s educational experience is meaningful and goal-oriented.

A major innovation in 2024 has been the launch of ACCESS (Academic Career Center for Exceptional Student Success), a program designed to provide a flexible, inclusive learning environment for students who benefit from alternative education pathways. ACCESS offers credit-bearing courses through a blend of in-person and online learning, allowing students to progress at their own pace. To support this initiative, a new classroom was built at the Make Sense Shop building, and a dedicated teacher was hired to lead the program. This initiative marks a significant step forward in expanding educational opportunities for special education students.

Looking ahead, the department remains committed to empowering students and broadening opportunities. With the continued growth of ACCESS, the success of the Make Sense Shop, and the expansion of the Academic Center, PACS is dedicated to ensuring that every student is supported, valued, and prepared for success — both in school and beyond.





# ART & MUSIC

The art and music programs at Pulaski continue to thrive, providing students with dynamic opportunities to explore their creativity and talents. With a commitment to innovation and student engagement, these programs have expanded course offerings, integrated state-of-the-art resources, and celebrated remarkable student achievements.

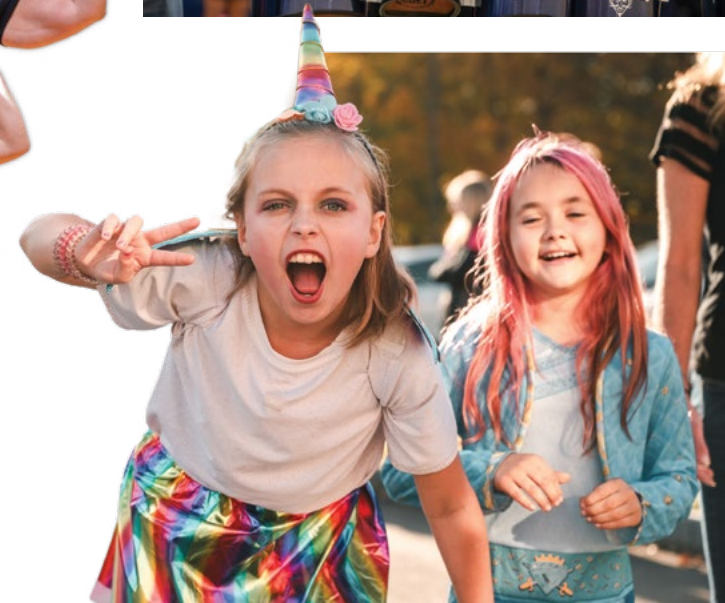
In the visual arts program, students can pursue one of three distinct tracks: Traditional Arts, featuring courses in drawing and painting; 3D Arts, including ceramics and sculpture; and Media Arts, which focuses on digital media and design using industry-standard tools like Adobe Creative Suite. Now in its second year, Media Arts has been strengthened by the addition of a new iMac lab, generating enthusiasm among students eager to explore digital creativity. The success of AP art courses further highlights the strength of the program, ranking among the district's most accomplished AP offerings.

Beyond the classroom, Pulaski art students actively apply their skills in real-world settings, such as contributing to set design for school productions, merging artistic vision with hands-on application. Their talent and dedication were recognized in 2024, when students earned an impressive 46 awards at regional art competitions, a testament to their hard work and the department's dedication to excellence.

The music program is equally vibrant, with a focus on expanding opportunities for student musicians. Plans include enhancing the piano lab, increasing recital opportunities, and launching a percussion ensemble, broadening students' exposure to diverse instruments and performance styles. A milestone for the program was the introduction of new marching band uniforms symbolizing renewed energy and pride in Pulaski's musical tradition.

The performing arts remain a cornerstone of student life, showcasing collaboration, talent, and dedication. In 2024, the high school's production of "Beauty and the Beast" engaged 60 students, with 37 in acting roles and 23 contributing behind the scenes in set design and technical production. Meanwhile, the middle school's staging of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" brought together 54 students, demonstrating the program's broad participation and community impact.

At Pulaski, the arts are more than just classes — they are a vibrant community where students find their voice, express themselves, and contribute to a culture of creativity and collaboration. Whether through visual arts, music, or theater, these programs continue to inspire confidence, foster artistic exploration, and enrich both the school and the broader community.





# COLLEGE AND CAREER ADVISING



At Pulaski Academy & Central School District, we are dedicated to preparing every student for success beyond high school — whether that means pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or exploring technical training opportunities. Our College and Career Advising program provides students with personalized support, innovative tools, and real-world experiences to help them navigate their future with confidence.

This program has already made a significant impact, with a notable increase in students enrolling in college courses and participating in hands-on career exploration. A key initiative is the introduction of SchoolLinks, a cutting-edge college and career readiness platform, which allows our students to explore career interests and develop personalized plans for their futures.

Our college and career advisor who provides individualized guidance to students, meets with every senior to assist with college applications, FAFSA completion, and career planning, ensuring they have the support needed for their next steps. She has also facilitated job shadowing opportunities and internships in diverse fields, including elementary education, emergency medical services, and HVAC technology, allowing students to gain first-hand experience in potential careers.

The College and Career Advising program is a cornerstone of PACS's commitment to engagement, equity, and future planning. By investing in these initiatives, we are empowering students to take charge of their futures, explore their passions, and confidently step into the next chapter of their lives.





# ATHLETICS & CLUBS



32 teams across varsity, JV, and modified levels, students have more opportunities than ever to develop their skills, build resilience, and contribute to a culture of excellence.

Beyond athletics, PACS prioritizes student engagement through a wide range of extracurricular clubs designed to encourage exploration, leadership, and collaboration. At the middle school level, clubs provide a welcoming space for students to develop social and academic skills while discovering new interests. Whether in the arts, STEM, or leadership programs, students gain valuable experiences that prepare them for high school.

Pulaski High School builds on this foundation by offering clubs that challenge students to think critically, work collaboratively, and develop personal passions. Whether through leadership programs, academic competitions, or creative outlets, students have meaningful ways to connect with peers and enhance their high school experience. These activities reinforce PACS's mission of developing well-rounded, engaged learners.

Looking ahead, the district remains committed to increasing student participation in extracurricular activities, with a goal of 80% student involvement in at least one program. To achieve this, PACS is actively promoting existing opportunities while also engaging students to introduce new clubs and activities that reflect their evolving interests. By fostering a dynamic and inclusive extracurricular culture, PACS ensures that every student can find a place to grow, lead, and thrive.

Athletics and extracurricular activities are integral to the PACS student experience, fostering personal growth, leadership, and a strong sense of community. The district takes great pride in providing students with diverse opportunities to excel beyond the classroom, whether in competitive sports or engaging clubs.

A testament to PACS's commitment to athletic and academic excellence is its consecutive recognition as a School of Excellence by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. This prestigious award is given to schools where at least 75% of varsity teams achieve Scholar-Athlete status, meaning the top 75% of each team maintains a 90 or higher GPA. This accomplishment highlights the dedication of PACS student-athletes, who balance rigorous coursework with athletic competition.

The district continues to expand its athletic offerings, reintroducing boys' modified soccer in 2023-24 and reinstating both JV and varsity girls' basketball for the 2024-25 season after a two-year hiatus. PACS teams consistently compete at a high level, with the track and field and cross-country programs standing out in Section III, and the boys' baseball team advancing to the State Final Four in 2024. With





# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



## CURRICULUM

Core Knowledge Language Arts

Eureka Squared Math Program

IXL Personalized Learning

Second Step Social

Emotional Learning Program

Acadience ELA

Acadience Math

UPK Half-Day and Full Day Programs

Mystery Science

Music Grades Pre-K-5

Band Grade 5

Chorus Grades 4 & 5

Art Grades Pre-K-5

Library Grades Pre-K-5

Physical Education Grades Pre-K-5

Media Classes Grades Pre-K-5

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Response to Intervention K-5

Speech and Language

Improvement

Banana Splits

Morning Program

Special Education Services

and Programming

Summer Academic Program

Academic Intervention Services



## COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Backpack Food Program

School-Based Health Center

Stuff-A-Bus

Oswego County Literacy Initiative (OCLI)

Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Halloween Parade

Veterans Day

Family Fun Night

Scholastic Book Fairs

Flag Day

Scoville Olympics

Academic Field Trips

Imagination Library

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Odyssey of the Mind

PARP (Pick a Reading Partner)

Battle of the Books

Elementary Musical

Yoga/Mindfulness Club

Art Club

Stay Sharp Reading Program

One School, One Book

Safety Patrol

Robotics Club



**Joelle Hendry**

Principal

315.298.2412



**Ken Isgar**

Assistant Principal

315.298.2412



*At Lura Sharp Elementary School, we focus on creating a healthy and positive school atmosphere. Our small class sizes allow us to home-in on where students are doing well, supporting students in areas of need, and challenging them to reach their highest potential. We strive to broaden students' choices and opportunities, and to make learning fun. Each day, Lura Sharp students are reminded that they are respectful, responsible, safe, problem-solvers, and that they matter.*



# MIDDLE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



**Jordan Fahnestock**  
Principal  
315.298.5103



**Steve Komaneky**  
Assistant Principal/  
Athletic Director  
315.298.5103



*At Pulaski Middle School, our focus is student-centered. We work to foster growth in academics, character and social-emotional development. Students are provided opportunities to pursue their own interests in academics and extracurricular activities, to begin to develop their sense of self. The skills developed in our middle school programs lay the foundation for success in high school.*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

English Grades 6-8  
Math Grades 6-8 with  
Advanced Options  
Social Studies Grades 6-8  
Science Grades 6-8  
Spanish I Grade 8  
Chorus Grades 6-8 with Group Lessons  
Band Grades 6-8 with Group Lessons  
Marching Band Grades 7&8  
Introduction to Piano Grade 8  
Art Grades 6-8  
Family and Consumer Science  
Grade 7  
Health Grade 7  
Physical Education Grades 6-8  
Computer Application Grades 6&7  
Technology Grades 7&8  
Library Grade 7

## ATHLETICS (GRADES 7 & 8)

Cross Country  
Soccer  
Football  
Swimming  
Basketball  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

Indoor Track  
Baseball  
Softball  
Track & Field

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS

Drama Club  
Student Council  
Art Club  
Book Club  
Science Club  
Battle of the Books  
Seeds of Success  
All County Band & Chorus  
STEM Club  
Trivia Club  
Trap Club

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special Education  
Services & Programming  
Academic Field Trips  
Advisement Period  
Character Education  
Counseling  
School-Based Health Center  
After-School Tutoring  
Academic Intervention Services  
Summer Intervention  
IXL Personalized Learning



**Vanessa Phillips**  
Director of  
Special  
Programs  
315.298.5188



# HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



**Jordan Fahnestock**  
Principal  
315.298.5103



**Steve Komanecy**  
Assistant Principal/  
Athletic Director  
315.298.5103



*At Pulaski High School, we strive to offer individualized programming as unique as each child. We provide multiple opportunities for students to pursue their own interests in rigorous academic programming and extracurricular activities. Our students build a well-rounded knowledge base, develop strong communication skills, become self-directed learners, and demonstrate a high level of respect for themselves and others.*

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English 9

English 10

English 11

AP Literature & Composition/College English 11

English 12

AP Language & Composition/College English 12

## MATH

Algebra I

Intermediate Algebra

Geometry

Algebra II

Consumer Math

Statistics

College Precalculus

AP/College Calculus

## SCIENCE

Living Environment with lab

Earth Science with lab

Chemistry with lab

Physics with lab

AP Environmental Science

Anatomy & Physiology

Integrated Science

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Global History 9

Global History 10

AP World History 10

US History 11

AP US History 11

Participation in Government/

Economics 12

AP US Government & Politics/College

Government 12

College Economics 12

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 2

Spanish 3

Spanish 4/ College Spanish

AP Spanish Language & Culture

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health

Food & Nutrition

Basic Baking

Intermediate Baking

Physical Education Grades 9-12

## ART

Studio Art 1

Studio Art 2: Drawing & Painting

Media Art 1 & 2

3D Art 1 & 2

Photography 1 & 2

Ceramics 1 & 2

AP 2D Art & AP 3D Art

AP Art History

Advanced Art/Independent Study

## MUSIC

Chorus with Group Lessons

Piano

Band with Group Lessons

Marching Band

Drumline

Jazz Band

Music Theory

All County

NYSSMA

## TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS

Personal Professional Planning

Entrepreneurship

Marketing & Advertising

Drawing & Design for Production



# HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



Introduction to Union Trades

Transportation Systems

## CITI PROGRAMS

Advanced Metal Manufacturing

Agricultural Studies

Auto Body Repair

Auto Technology

Computer Coding

Construction Technology

Cosmetology

Culinary Arts

Dental Assisting

Digital Media Technology

Early Childhood Education

Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation

Industrial Electrical Technologies

Nursing Assistant

Public Safety & Justice

Welding Technology

New Vision Allied Health

New Vision Law & Government

New Vision Specialized Careers

P-TECH

Welding Technology

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special Education Services

& Programming

Make Sense Shop

Work-Based Learning Program

College and Career Advising

Counseling

Academic Center

Alternative Education Program

Distance Learning

Online Courses

Advisement Period

Tutoring Program

Academic Field Trips

School-Based Health Center

After-School Tutoring

Academic Intervention Services

Summer Intervention

## HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS

Peer Leaders

National Honor Society

Student Government

Art Club

Varsity Club

Envirothon

Guitar Club

O'JAY League

Mock Trial

Yearbook

Trivia Club

Trap Club

Drama Club

Game Club

## HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Cross Country

Soccer

Football

Swimming

Basketball

Volleyball

Wrestling

Indoor Track

Hockey

Baseball

Softball

Track & Field

Tennis

Golf



# STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our guidance department plays a pivotal role in supporting students' academic, emotional, and social development. By combining proactive initiatives with responsive support services, our staff is dedicated to helping students and their families navigate challenges while preparing for future success.

This year, the department strengthened its role as a resource hub for students and families in crisis. Whether addressing immediate needs through crisis intervention or connecting families to local resources such as OnPoint, Liberty Resources, and Farnham, the team works tirelessly to foster stability and well-being. They provide a wide range of services, including mental health awareness initiatives, conflict resolution, and support groups for students facing challenges such as bullying, grief, or anxiety. These efforts ensure students have a space to express themselves and find solutions to their challenges.

The department has also placed a greater emphasis on proactive initiatives aimed at fostering a healthy school environment including anti-bullying awareness and efforts to engage students and improve attendance.

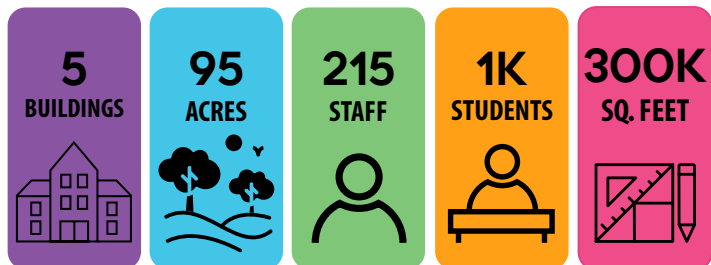
Our guidance program is a cornerstone of the district's commitment to holistic student well-being. By promoting mental health awareness, fostering connections, and planning for the future, the department is helping to shape resilient, prepared, and empowered students.





# FACILITIES

The Facilities Department at Pulaski Academy & Central School District ensures safe, modern, and efficient learning environments across five buildings, covering 300,000 square feet on 95 acres and serving 1,000 students and 215 staff.



In 2023-2024, key projects included replacing the pool's heat exchange and pump systems to improve the efficiency and safety of the pool's infrastructure and to reopen the pool for community use. Lura M. Sharp Elementary's 25-year-old elevator was renovated for improved reliability. The department also advanced energy efficiency by converting fluorescent lights to LEDs, upgraded classroom furniture, repainted classrooms and auditorium stages, and enhanced playground safety with fresh mulch.

Current project work includes Middle-High School technology classroom renovations to expand space and support to accommodate new student programs. Long-term, the department continues strategic planning to align future capital projects with district needs, ensuring all facilities remain safe, efficient, and adaptable to evolving educational goals.

In October, voters approved a \$26 million Capital Project to modernize and preserve school facilities, with construction beginning in spring 2026 and completion by fall 2027. Forward-thinking upgrades at Lura M. Sharp Elementary include replacing the aging steam heating system with an efficient hot water system, restoring brickwork, and improving roofing for energy efficiency and safety. At the Middle-High School, improvements will enhance sustainability, safety, and learning environments, including HVAC upgrades, LED auditorium lighting, new sidewalks, renovated science classrooms for STEM education, and updated flooring. Funded through state aid, a capital reserve, and retiring debt—without tax increases—this project reflects the PACS Board of Education's commitment to innovation, operational efficiency, and preparing facilities for future generations.

# TRANSPORTATION

The Pulaski Academy & Central School District's Transportation Department ensures safe, efficient, and reliable travel for 700 students across 15 daily bus routes, covering 300,000 miles annually. Safety remains a top priority, with students participating in three annual bus drills to reinforce emergency preparedness and responsible ridership, supported by trained drivers who actively promote safe riding behaviors.

To enhance service and meet student needs, the department recently added two larger-capacity buses, improving flexibility for high-population routes and extracurricular travel. Each summer, a comprehensive review of enrollment and rider data optimizes routes for efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Looking ahead, the district is proactively preparing for the state's 2027 zero-emission bus mandate, securing a NYSERDA grant to study fleet electrification. This forward-thinking approach ensures the district is aligning its long-term sustainability goals while meeting state requirements and providing reliable service for students.





# FOOD SERVICE

Pulaski Academy & Central School District is dedicated to providing all students with nutritious, high-quality meals that support their health and academic success. In 2023-24, the district became a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, allowing all students to receive free breakfast and lunch. This initiative, supported by increased state funding, has led to higher meal participation — 58% of students now eat lunch and 29% eat breakfast daily, up from 45% and 19% the previous year.

To enhance the dining experience, the district introduced the “Devil’s Deli Station” at the Middle-High School and a mobile breakfast cart for added convenience. At the elementary level, seasonal fun foods and “I tried it” stickers encourage younger students to explore new flavors. The district is also expanding fresh produce offerings to promote healthy eating habits.

Looking ahead, plans to increase student participation include investing in new kitchen equipment to improve efficiency and continuing to provide diverse, high-quality meal options. These efforts ensure all students have access to nutritious meals in an engaging and welcoming environment.



# SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY



Pulaski Academy & Central School District remains committed to the safety of students, staff and visitors through continuous improvements in security infrastructure, technology and training. Recent advancements include an expanded lockdown and PA system, which provides direct, automatic communication with law enforcement, along with additional emergency strobe lights and speakers for clearer emergency communication.

Upgraded surveillance with strategically placed cameras has significantly enhanced security coverage across all campuses. Additionally, comprehensive safety training for staff, students and parents incorporates trauma-informed practices, ensuring both physical security and emotional preparedness.

Looking ahead, the district plans to further enhance notification systems and explore new security technologies. Through proactive planning, advanced systems and community-wide training, Pulaski continues to foster a safe and supportive learning environment for all.



# BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

Pulaski Academy & Central School District prioritizes fiscal responsibility and strategic planning to maximize resources for students, staff and the community. The district is dedicated to long-term planning, prudent spending, and the strategic management of reserves and fund balance to maintain financial stability and safeguard against budgetary fluctuations. Through the regular review and updating of the long-range financial plan in alignment with the district's educational objectives, the district is well-positioned to identify potential budgetary challenges and opportunities for growth. This thoughtful approach to financial planning ensures that the resources required to support the needs and goals for our students are readily available.

The recent creation of a \$2 million Capital Reserve helped to fund the local share of a \$26 million capital project. Supported by 92% of voters, this project will renovate and preserve district facilities using state aid, retiring debt, and reserves, ensuring long-term financial stability without impacting taxes. Looking ahead, the district is committed to ongoing facility improvements through \$100,000 annual Capital Outlay Projects, which will enable targeted upgrades while allowing the district to recoup New York State aid in the following years. This approach ensures continuous, manageable enhancements to school buildings without placing undue strain on the budget.

The district has made significant investments in student opportunities, including expanding field trips for all students and funding college tuition courses for high school students, enhancing access to enriching experiences. Looking ahead to the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, the district plans to continue expanding opportunities through strategic allocation of state aid funding and a thoughtful spending approach. This long-term planning ensures equitable access to educational experiences, fostering student engagement and growth while measuring efficiency and effectiveness to meet future needs.

With five consecutive years of budgets keeping tax levy increases at 2% or less, Pulaski remains committed to responsible financial planning while expanding opportunities and modernizing learning environments.





Tom Jennings  
*Superintendent of Schools*

### **Board of Education**

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Pulaski Academy & Central School  
2 Hinman Rd.  
Pulaski, NY 13142  
(315)298-5188  
[www.pulaskicsd.org](http://www.pulaskicsd.org)

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# TECHNOLOGY

At Pulaski Academy & Central School District, technology plays a key role in enhancing education, communication and security. This year, the IT Department achieved significant milestones, including upgrading the campus notification system for improved communication during daily operations and emergencies, and rolling out Parent Square to enhance family engagement.

The department also strengthened security by implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA) for key systems and upgrading network switches and Wi-Fi infrastructure for better performance and reliability. Specialized

upgrades, such as new PCs in the Art, CAD, and Music labs, and an upgraded presentation system in the Middle-High School cafeteria, have directly supported student learning.

Looking ahead, the IT Department plans to align technology policies with state guidelines, expand MFA coverage, and continue fostering equity by closing the technology access gap. These efforts will ensure all students have the tools needed for success and that educators receive the technology support required for effective teaching.

