

**PALO VERDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Home of the Panthers!**  
**7502 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85051**

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**  
Front Office/Student Center: 602-347-2500  
Attendance: 602-347-2525  
Health Office: 602-347-2510  
Principal: 602-347-2500  
Assistant Principal: 602-347-2500

School Hours:  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Early Release Wednesdays  
Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

As the principal of Palo Verde Middle School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the coming school year. We continue to embark upon a "journey to excellence" as we work to provide the most effective teaching and learning environment to support your students and community.

Your support of our students and staff is very valuable for us as we continue to build our "**PALO VERDE PANTHER PRIDE.**" Please plan on attending at least one school function throughout the year in order to be a part of our positive focus of "**Great Students, Great Staff, Great School.**"

All rules and expectations are put into place to ensure a safe and inviting environment in which all students will learn. It is our desire that all students feel safe at school and feel empowered to achieve academic excellence. We ask that you support our efforts to provide the best educational experience for all students at Palo Verde Middle School.

**We are a CHARACTER COUNTS! School, and we follow the Six Pillars of Character:**

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Trustworthiness | Respect     |
| Responsibility  | Fairness    |
| Caring          | Citizenship |

We are a RACHEL'S CHALLENGE School and follow the five challenges of being a good person:

- Look for the best in others
- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Choose positive influences
- Speak words of kindness
- Forgive yourself and others

Please visit our Web site at <http://paloverde.wesdschools.org>. Here you can learn more about our great school.

#### **School Mission**

The mission of Palo Verde is to promote a partnership with parents and community, to empower all students to develop responsibility, and to acquire knowledge by promoting academic excellence by the use of technology in a positive climate with dignity and respect for diversity.

We would like to summarize our Mission Statement as:

**Technology;**  
**Excellence;**  
**Achievement;**  
**Membership for all; and**  
**Safety**

Palo Verde has a rich cultural heritage. We invite you to become a part of our mission. You are a part of the **TEAM**. Join us: students,

staff, and parents – together we **CAN** make a difference!

#### **BELIEFS**

We, the staff of Palo Verde Middle School, are committed to the following ideals:

The highest level of professional integrity in holding ourselves accountable to self, staff, students and community for consistency in educational goals, discipline, communication and professional growth.

A safe, positive environment where open communication facilitates integrity, mutual pride, and respect.

Guiding every student to reach his or her highest level of involvement and achievement.

An open partnership with the community, parents and school, based on communication and shared responsibility.

#### **Parent/Student/Teacher Title I Compact** **Palo Verde Middle School**

*This compact pledges our school community to increase student reading and math skills.*

*By signing off on the school handbook, this signifies that you have read and understand the Parent/Student/Teacher Title I Compact.*

**Parent/Guardian Pledge: I want to see my child succeed, to encourage him or her, I will:**

- *Help my son/daughter create a system to organize materials by class, to track assignments and collect forms/information needing my attention.*
- *Urge my son/daughter to ask for help from the teacher if he or she is having difficulty understanding instruction or assignments.*
- *Require that my son/daughter completes projects and daily work.*
- *Urge my son/daughter to read uninterrupted for 30 minutes a day, any type of material (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.).*
- *Commit to attending at least one or more activities at the school, per semester.*
- *Access my student's grades and academic progress two times per month through teacher contact, online grade access, etc.*
- *Help my student connect his or her learning to high school, college and career readiness.*

**Student Pledge: It is important to work to the best of my ability, so I will:**

- *Be responsible for organizing materials by class, keeping track of assignments and giving my parent information sent home by the school.*
- *Let my teacher and family know if I need help.*
- *Read on my own every day for at least 30 minutes.*
- *Work on projects and daily assignments in class when time is given, and at home.*
- *Set goals for high school, college and career readiness and monitor my own progress.*

**Teacher's Pledge: Student achievement is our priority, so I will:**

- *Create a partnership with every family in my class.*
- *Monitor student progress regularly and communicate concerns with students and parents.*
- *Make sure all students get help as soon as needed.*
- *Use effective teaching strategies to support all learners.*
- *Make sure students understand the assignment and what they'll learn from it, grade it promptly and reteach as needed.*

- Support academic preparation for high school, college and career readiness for all students.

### **MANDATORY SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**

Palo Verde is a uniform-only school, as adopted by the Palo Verde Middle School Site Council and consistent with Washington Elementary School District Governing Board policies and regulations. (See District Section-P. 11) The purpose of the policy is to enhance a positive, productive and safe school environment that contributes to increased student achievement. Additionally, the uniform and dress policy standards program has been determined to be in the best interest of our students.

**Description of Uniform Requirements.** The uniform, for all Palo Verde students, shall consist of the following:

The red, Palo Verde T-shirt must be worn everyday by every student. These T-shirts may be purchased at M & J Trophies (10802 N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave.) or Collette's Uniforms (5212 W. Camelback Rd.). Only a solid white undershirt (short sleeve or long sleeve) may be worn under the uniform shirt and tucked in. **Uniform shirts must be visible at all times.**

Jackets/outer coverings must provide warmth and may not contain inappropriate symbols, pictures or language. This may only be worn outside, if temperatures are 80 degrees and below.

Navy-blue or black bottoms, uniform-style pants (pants, shorts, skirts or skorts [not of jeans/denim, sweatpant athletic material]) without embellishments are to be worn and may be purchased at any store. Boys' shorts may not extend past the kneecap. Girls' skirts, skorts and shorts must reach at least mid-thigh length/ 2" above kneecap. "Sagging" is not permitted.

Belts of appropriate length must be solid black or navy with a solid/plain buckle. Belts may not be more than one size larger than the waist. All belts must be worn through the belt loops, and the ends may not dangle in front of the pants.

Shoes must be worn at all times. If the footwear has laces, they must be tied for safety purposes. Shoes must be closed toed and closed heel. No sandals allowed. Socks may be knee-high, calf-length or ankle socks, of any color, but must match. Students are expected to wear properly tied athletic shoes for physical education.

Jewelry/accessories must be appropriate in content.

The wearing of any clothing or symbols or possession of paraphernalia that is associated with gangs or gang-like activity are prohibited (See District gang policy). Gang-related items tend to change throughout the school year. The Police Department advises school administrators when such changes take place; subsequently, administrators notify students of changes in the dress code.

**Spirit/Free Dress Days:** Administration may allow a "free dress day" or "spirit day."

The District dress code will be followed on free dress days or spirit days. Administration may approve team attire for athletes, club members, performers, etc. on campus during their specific activity ONLY on the day given permission.

**Uniform Opt-out Policy:** We believe that the uniform policy is what is best for all students. If you do not agree with the Palo Verde Uniform policy, you may take advantage of the Arizona Open Enrollment Policy and enroll your child in a nonuniform school in the Washington Elementary School District.

Note: *The administrators and faculty reserve the right to evaluate any clothing for health and safety concerns and may determine on a case-by-case basis that particular clothing presents a potential safety hazard or educational disruption. Those students who are dressed inappropriately must change to*

*more appropriate attire and will receive proper disciplinary consequences. The dress code is in effect at all school events at Palo Verde regardless of the time of day. With written administrative approval only, changes may be made to the designated uniform during the school year. Apparel and accessories deemed inappropriate by the administration will not be allowed.*

As with dress, hairstyles should not distract from the learning environment or other school activities. An example may include extreme hair colors such as pink, blue, green or purple.

**ID Cards: All Palo Verde students are required to wear IDs while on the Palo Verde campus and on buses. Students will be provided a picture ID at the beginning of the school year at no cost. Students will be checked for compliance during first period and throughout the school day. If a student does not comply with the school dress code in wearing his or her ID card, the student will be disciplined accordingly. Students may not be allowed on the bus if an ID is not present.**

IDs are required at athletic events, getting on the bus, and entering campus from the buses. If students deface, destroy, render their ID unreadable or lose their ID, they will be required to purchase a replacement ID for \$5.00.

### **ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY**

When a student reaches five unexcused/unverified truanancies, 10 total absences or 10 unexcused tardies, the school will send a letter home to parents/guardians (see District guidelines). In order to avoid this eventuality, there are several precautions to take: (1) reinforce being on time and good attendance, (2) call the school each time a student will be late or absent, (3) present any medical documentation to the nurse and/or attendance clerk if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.

Parent cooperation is of the utmost importance in assuring student success.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain assignments that have been missed due to absence and complete them within the guidelines set by the teacher. In the case of extended absence, a member of the student's team will make special arrangements for the student to make up work.

Students who are tardy to school must check in at the Student Center. Tardies to class will be handled by teams per the Palo Verde Guidelines

### **LEAVING CAMPUS**

**Palo Verde is a Closed Campus.** Students may not leave campus. Students may leave campus only if a legally authorized parent or guardian, as listed on the school records, has signed the student out. The parent or guardian must go to the Student Center to sign out the student. Students must be signed out prior to their departure. The student may leave campus only if accompanied by the parent or guardian.

### **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE**

No one has the right to interfere with the learning or safety of others.

Palo Verde has established the guidelines for behavior to be consistent with the rights and responsibilities of all concerned.

When students disrupt the educational process, in the classroom, staff members will use the following sequence of procedures:

**1st Offense:** Warning.

**2nd Offense:** Isolation within the classroom.

**3rd Offense:** Isolation in another classroom. (Out-of-class Isolation) Call to parent/guardian.

**4th Offense:** Removal from isolation classroom; referral to student center (parent notified).

**Severe Behavior:** Immediate referral to student center; parent notified; and/or severe consequences administered; referral to police, if necessary.

#### **OUT-OF-CLASS ISOLATIONS**

Each time a student is isolated out of class, a parent/guardian will be notified.

1<sup>st</sup> Out-of-class Isolation: Parent notified by teacher isolating the student out of class. Conference with the student.

2<sup>nd</sup> Out-of-class Isolation: Parent notified by teacher isolating the student out of class; Conference with the student.

3<sup>rd</sup> Out-of-class Isolation: Parent/Teacher Conference scheduled. Student put on a behavior contract.

4<sup>th</sup> Out-of-class Isolation: Parent notified by teacher isolating the student out of class; one after-school detention assigned by team.

5<sup>th</sup> Out-of-class Isolation: Parent notified by teacher isolating the student out of class; referral to the Office; advance One (1) Step on the Step Plan.

Any further out-of-class isolations will result in an office referral.

The number of Out-of-class Isolations reverts to zero (0) at the end of each semester, unless a contract has been entered.

#### **DETENTION**

**Lunch** detentions will be served on the student's regular lunch period in a designated location, supervised by a staff member.

**After-school** detentions will be served in a designated detention room, or may consist of community service. Students should report to the designated room, or area, by 4:05 p.m.

Individual teams may run their own lunch and after school detentions. Those detentions are run according to team policy.

Students who are assigned detentions must complete all detentions assigned to them. Failure to complete detention(s) or being removed for failure to follow directions will result in an additional detention being assigned. Failure to serve assigned detention(s) will result in doubling the number of detentions, and/or an Office Referral. In addition, a Step may result with "Refusal to Comply" as the consideration for administrative action. Advancement on the Step Plan may result in either In-school or Out-of-school Suspension.

**In-school Suspension (ISS)** is designed to provide structured supervision to those students who by their behavior have indicated a lack of self-discipline and/or have been a disruption to the orderly conduct of the classroom or school. If a student misbehaves during In-school Suspension, he or she will then be Home Suspended during the remainder of the time and an additional day may be added. Repeated removals from In-school Suspension will result in automatic Home Suspension regardless of the student's discipline step.

All school work will be available in the In-school Suspension room for the student to complete.

All school work assigned during the Home Suspension time will be collected and in the front office for parent to pick up, if necessary.

#### **PALO VERDE STEP PLAN**

Upon referral to the student center, below are *minimum/maximum* consequences for each Step. Greater consequences may be given based on the seriousness of the infraction. Refer to the District section of this Handbook for more details.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Step 1  | 1 day In-school Suspension                         |
| Step 2  | 2 days In-school Suspension                        |
| Step 3  | 3 days In-school Suspension                        |
| Step 4  | 1 day Home Suspension, TAP process will begin.     |
| Step 5  | 1 day Home Suspension, 1 day In-school Suspension. |
| Step 6  | 2 days Home Suspension, 1 day In-school Suspension |
| Step 7  | 3 days Home Suspension, 1 day In-school Suspension |
| Step 8  | 4 days Home Suspension, 1 day In-school Suspension |
| Step 9  | 5 days Home Suspension, 1 day In-school Suspension |
| Step 10 | 6 days Home Suspension, 1 day In-school Suspension |

Serious infractions of any school rules may result in detention, suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense. When appropriate, the police will be notified. Parents will be notified of any referral to the Student Center. In the event of a student suspension, due process will be provided to the student in accordance with Washington Elementary School District Governing Board policy and regulations.

#### **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

The following items are not to be in the possession of students at bus stops, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored activities. These items will be confiscated and returned only after parent notification. The items will be returned to parents, discarded or turned over to the police, if appropriate.

**Hats (except during cold weather, or on "Hat Day"),** caps, visors, bandannas, or bandanna-style accessories, beanies, headbands and hairnets.

**Safety pins** may not be worn on the body or to accessorize your uniform.

**Spike-type ear gauges, excessive/disruptive piercings.**

**Chains of any kind. Fashions or fads** that become a health hazard or safety hazard.

**Backpacks, backpack purses and book bags.** If sports bags or backpacks are needed for athletics, they are to be kept in a designated area.

**Laser pens and any type of toy.**

**Matches, lighters, cigarette papers and other paraphernalia.**

**Skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, scooters, heelys, etc.**

**Prescriptions or nonprescription medication.** (These must be dispensed by the nurse per District Policy).

**Stink bombs, smoke bombs, poppers, fireworks of any kind,** etc.

**Water balloons.**

**Gum.**

**Coffee, soda, energy drinks** – If we are not allowed to sell it on campus, you are not allowed to have it during school hours.

**Sunglasses may not be worn in the cafeteria or classroom.**

**Makeup, hair products, combs and brushes** are not to be used in the classrooms or the cafeteria.

**Aerosol sprays**

**Sharpies/Permanent Markers**

Any other item(s) deemed inappropriate by the administration.

**Electronic Devices**

Palo Verde does not recommend bringing electronic devices to school and is not responsible for any lost or stolen electronic devices on campus (including cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, cameras, etc.). Students are not allowed to use these items on campus at any time; therefore, they will be confiscated if seen on campus.

All confiscated items will be returned to parents only (after 4:00

p.m. in front office), discarded or turned over to the police, if appropriate.

**Please note that Palo Verde does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen items. They are not to be brought to school.**

### **Public Display of Affection (PDA)**

PDA is considered a disruption to the educational environment. Students violating this policy will receive consequences in line with the District policy for disorderly conduct.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **PROMOTION CEREMONY**

The promotion ceremony at Palo Verde is a privilege that 8<sup>th</sup> grade students earn through academic performance, attendance and responsible behaviors. Eighth grade students will receive information regarding promotion at the beginning of the year and throughout the school year.

### **After-school Activities**

The Parent/Student Handbook rules and procedures apply to all after-school activities. The following guidelines outline our procedures for determining student eligibility for any extra-curricular activities:

#### **Sports Participation:**

Eligibility for competition will be determined by quarter report cards and midterm reports. An academic grade of "F" or conduct grade of "U" in any subject on a District report card or a District midterm report will make a student ineligible for competition until the next reporting period.

A student may regain eligibility status:

1. At the next reporting period (a District report card or District midterm report). This is defined as no "Fs" in any academic subject or "Us" in conduct or effort.

Or

2. After a minimum of two weeks from the onset of the ineligibility, the athlete can prove that his or her deficiency has been corrected and all other grades and conduct marks are still in good standing.

The athlete must present proof to the coach and athletic director. The "two week petition" may only be used to make an athlete eligible.

#### **Other After-school Activities:**

Students receiving a grade of an "F" or a "U" in behavior may be determined ineligible at the end of each nine-week grading period.

Ineligibility applies to all activities that occur outside the realm of a normal school day and have no grade or credit attached to student participation.

1. Ineligible students may, at the discretion of the sponsor, practice with teams or organizations that require it. These students may not represent the school by dressing in uniform or actual participation in the event or contest.
2. Activities affected by these standards include clubs, performances, athletics and school dances.
3. Coaches and sponsors are responsible for checking each member of their activity for eligibility to participate and subsequently informing them of their status.
4. A student must be in attendance for at least half of the school day to be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored activity or event.

### **Student Recognition**

Student of the Month: Teachers recommend students for outstanding academics in the classroom.

Citizen of the Month: Teachers recommend students for outstanding character.

Perfect Attendance

Principal's List: Students earning a 4.0 GPA all four quarters.

Honor Roll: Students earning a 3.5-4.0 on their report card are placed on the Honor Roll (Bronze-3.5-3.74, Silver- 3.75-3.99, or Gold-4.0). Students receiving a grade of "F" or "U" in behavior or effort will not be eligible for these awards.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

### **PTO**

We welcome participation in our **PTO**. Yearly dues are \$5.00 per family. We hold monthly meetings, generally the first Monday of the month. We are building an e-mail network to support communication between families and the school. Brochures with our mission and goals are available in the school office. Take Panther Pride in knowing that you are a crucial part of helping to improve your child's school.

### **Site Council**

We encourage you to attend the **Site Council** meetings, which are held monthly. Please contact the office for meeting dates. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes are posted on our Web site.

### **NUTRITION SERVICES**

Funds may be put into your child's account through [www.mylunchmoney.com](http://www.mylunchmoney.com). Account balances may also be checked there. On occasion, the District provides a meal to a student whose account has insufficient funds. Parents are responsible for reimbursing the school for any unpaid amounts.

|                          | <b>Lunch</b>  | <b>Breakfast</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Full-paid Student</b> | <b>\$1.60</b> | <b>Free</b>      |
| <b>Adult</b>             | <b>\$3.00</b> | <b>\$2.00</b>    |

**Breakfast is offered free of charge to all students.**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Riding on a District bus is not a right but a **privilege**. Students must maintain safe and appropriate behavior on the way to school/home, at the bus stop and on the bus. Students must have their ID on them at all times.

Bus reports will be issued for violations of bus rules. Parents will be notified of all bus reports. Infractions of bus rules will result in loss of privilege to ride a WESD bus. Please refer to the District handbook for bus rules.

Students requesting to ride a bus they do not regularly ride must take a written request, signed and dated by a parent, to the office for authorization prior to 9:00 a.m. The request must also include the route number of the bus to be ridden.

**PALO VERDE IS A TOBACCO, WEAPON AND DRUG FREE SCHOOL ZONE!**