



Pana Junior High School

Lisa Mayhall, Principal

Report to Board of Education

September 2026

Enrollment as of 9/17/2026.

Grade	Registered
6th	66
7th	72
8th	82

Highlights

- [Pana Community](#) - Thank you for the support shown during the difficult time of Sheldon's passing. The students are adjusting well and finding comfort in the daily routine of school and the ability to leave him notes in his locker.
- [Digital Safety Presentation](#) - We had an Internet Safety/Prevention Specialist from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General come out and present safe online choices. We are hoping to have her back again in the middle of the year to revisit these topics.
- [MAP Testing](#) -
 - Reading - Increased 6 points from last fall - 49th - 55th
 - Math - Increased 4 points from last fall - 45th to 49th
 - Science - Increased 6 points from last fall - 53rd to 59th
- [9/11 Remembrance](#) - The Panther Den put together another great ceremony remembering the attacks on 9/11. Students shared the timeline of events, the choir sang, and two students played Taps.
- [There's A Book for That](#) - Mrs. Cothorn and Mrs. Sowarsh teamed up to create a new section in our library for students. The purpose of this section is to help students face challenges in life through stories about how other people have faced similar challenges. Topics include anxiety, depression, grief, complex families, homelessness, identity, disability, behaviors, bullying, intrusive thoughts, survival, and social media. Bookmarks, journals, reflection sheets, and the opportunity to talk to a support adult are available to students as well.



Vision

PJHS will be a safe and supportive community for students to be productive and responsible in an engaging learning environment.

- **Celebrations** - In honor of 1st quarter midterms, students who were passing all of their classes enjoyed popsicles at lunch.

LET'S CONNECT WITH A BOOK

We all face challenges in life, but sometimes when it happens, we can feel alone.

But don't worry, there's a book for that!

You aren't alone. These stories will show you how other people have faced challenges, and leave you with some ideas for how you can work through your own challenge.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



Counselor: Mrs. Sowarsh

Librarian: Mrs. Scherzer

Teacher/District Librarian: Mrs. Cothern

Pana Junior High School

"THERE'S A BOOK FOR THAT!"



BOOKS OPEN DOORS TO:

understanding we aren't alone in our challenges.

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Grief
- Complex families
- Homelessness
- Identity
- Disability
- Behaviors
- Bullying
- Intrusive thoughts
- Survival
- Social Media



THIS TYPE OF READING IS DIFFERENT:

You won't be tested over the book and there's no essay to write after you read.

Read for you. Look for ways you can relate to the character and can learn from the character.

Write for you. Write your questions, or ideas, or even turn them into a picture.

This opportunity is about you.

LET'S GET STARTED!

See a support adult to help you choose a book. Maybe you need help with one topic, or many, we've got you covered!

Grab a bookmark, journal, and make sure your book has a reflection sheet! You can use these tools to help you while you read. Make notes, draw pictures, whatever you need - just make sure it's in the journal, not the actual book. While you read, take some time to talk about how you feel with your parents, caregiver, or other trusted adult.

When you are done reading, return the book to Mrs. Scherzer and let us know if you want to talk more about your book and your thoughts and feelings!



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