

Pendleton High School ASPIRE

District Goal 1 - HIGH QUALITY TEACHING, LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT

Provide high quality instruction for all students in an aligned P-12 system resulting in increased student achievement and successful college and career readiness.



ASPIRE at PHS

The ASPIRE (Access to Student Assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone) program provides resources and individual assistance to students and parents to assist with post-high school education and training as well as military and employment options. ASPIRE is an OSAC (Oregon Student Access Commission) program that PHS has had available to students since 1998. Pendleton was one of the first of four pioneer sites when the program started. Over the past 17 years at PHS, ASPIRE volunteer mentors have assisted thousands of PHS graduates in meeting their educational and career goals beyond high school. Essentially, ASPIRE volunteers assist students with:

- Career exploration
- college search – 2 yr, 4 yr, trade school
- SAT & ACT test registration & preparation
- admission applications
- essays
- scholarships
- and navigating the financial aid processes – FAFSA, financial aid options

As many of you know, the variety of options, confusing processes and tough decisions of life after high school can very overwhelming. ASPIRE not only helps make this process manageable, we enable students and families to make knowledgeable, and well informed decisions so they are more likely to succeed after they leave PHS.

- Last year ASPIRE served 263 students and had an addition 1,455 student contacts
- This year ASPIRE has met with over 150 students (Sept – Nov)
- 28 community volunteers

ASPIRE Budget

In addition to mentoring services, ASPIRE helps students with college associated costs. Last year ASPIRE assisted “unofficially” (financial assistance wasn’t advertised, but any student that came in and asked for help financially was given assistance) with the following student costs: dual credit fees, application fees, test fees, etc.

Funding for these fees and costs was covered through the Safeway eScript fund. Unfortunately, this program will end next spring.

| Expenses 2014/15 | |
|---|---|
| Dual Credits (@\$10/credit)* | \$1,445 (13 students) |
| College applications | \$240 (7 students) |
| SAT/ACT test registration fees** | \$230 (6 students) |
| College Tour | \$1,501.64 (outside of grant funds) (60 students) |
| Scholarships (use whatever \$ is left at the end) | \$3,000 (4 students) |
| Summer Camps | \$200 (2 students) |
| Special Events/Programs | \$379.10 |
| Training | \$115.79 |
| Volunteers | \$197.05 |
| Books/Supplies | \$146.37 |
| TOTAL | \$7,464.95 |
| Income 2014/15 | |
| Safeway eScrip | \$5,519.10 |
| Kiwanis Donation (one time donation) | \$1,000 |
| TOTAL | \$6,519.10 |

*This service is not advertised

**If students are on free/reduced lunch they can use a fee waiver for one test a year.

2015/16 School year thus far: Costs are going up while funding is being eliminated

- Safeway eScrip program has been CANCELLED. We'll receive our last check spring 2016.
- College Tour Cost to ASPIRE: \$2,673.41 after support from Pendleton Education Foundation, Wildhorse and Altrusa (waiting to see if Mr. Greenough can help out with this). Costs are high b/c trip doesn't qualify for bus discount.
- Dual Credits: now \$31/credit for students therefore I'm receiving a lot more requests. I'm anticipating a lot of requests in Jan. when the fees are due. Examples of costs are currently experiencing:
 - o Honors Biology 2, 12 credits @ \$31/credit = \$372
 - o Precalc/Trig, 9 credits @ \$31/credit = \$279
 - o Spanish 3 or 4, 12 credits @ \$31/credit = \$372
 - o Honors English 4, 8 credits @ \$31/credit = \$248

Currently there are no other options for students to receive help with paying for these costs.

~50% of PHS students are one free/reduced lunch

~30% of PHS students take dual credit classes

Although dual credits at PHS are significantly cheaper than credits in college, many families do not have extra money to pay for these college costs in high school.

PROPOSAL: Please consider adding a \$10,000 ASPIRE fund to the district budget.

- Funds would be used for costs like dual credits, admission fees, college tours and special programs/summer camps.
- In addition, the stability from these funds would help ASPIRE promote the college going culture by reducing some of the barriers students face when going through this process.