

CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL

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Home of the Panthers!

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CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL JUNE SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Graduation was well-attended this year! Twenty-one seniors from CHS and 3 from PACE graduated the evening of May 29 in the CHS Gymnasium. I estimated approximately 400 came out to support our graduates. Sixty-seven signed in to our livestream! Thousands of dollars of local scholarships were awarded. Graduation is always a time of reflection in addition to celebration. It is a moment to pause and thank those who have contributed to the lives of the graduates and the school. I continue to be appreciative of our community and of the people with whom I work.

The Wednesday before graduation, CHS seniors sponsored a Rose Ceremony. This took place in the auditorium and each senior selected a staff member with whom they felt a connection and presented them with a rose. They spoke briefly about their selected individual and shared why they were important to them. It was a very meaningful event and appreciated by staff!

CHS sponsored a "Welcome to High School" potluck and dance on May 30. It was a great opportunity for families to meet the HS staff and for our incoming freshmen to feel welcome in their new school. The dance that took place after

The high school staff joined the middle and elementary staff for the final push to move out of the buildings. Between all of the work that had been accomplished earlier in the year and the extra hands, we were done in a hurry!

I have been meeting with PACE staff several times this month for a variety of reasons. Everyone has been very helpful and accommodating. Heather has provided some important logistical training for me. While I am by no means proficient in all things PACE yet, I know the staff is there to lend a hand and keep me pointed in the right direction! I'm looking forward to this challenge and think that we will make a good team.

With the PACE principal responsible for K-12 students, I am now required to hold an administrative literacy endorsement. I enrolled in an intensive summer literacy course and will be completing it Wednesday, June 25. This 46 hour course included 36 hours of online work and 10 hours of zoom meetings.

The CHS Master Schedule for next semester is complete. The HS staff was very involved in the process of making the schedule work and I think we ended up with a remarkable document - given our staffing and student needs.

The CHS Handbook had not been substantially revised since I began with the district. There was a lot of legacy language and policies that were either unclear or conflicting. For 2025-2026 we have completely revised and reformatted the handbook. The pdf version includes active external and internal links. Almost every section includes wording changes and new sections have been added. Of particular note:

Our students will be compassionate, resilient, self-sufficient, engaged members of their community.

- Academic Honesty (new addition)
- Alcohol and Other Controlled Substances: Removed references to tobacco (tobacco has new section)
- Alternative Modes of Transportation (new addition)
- Attendance Plan (new addition)
- Detention (updated significantly)
- Eligibility (significant update to this section)
- PACE Correspondence Homeschool (new section)
- Products Containing Nicotine (new addition)
- Standardized Testing (new addition)
- Student Wireless Telecommunication Devices (new addition)
- Tardies (substantial update)
- UA Scholars (new addition)

The handbook is worth reviewing in its entirety, however, I would ask that particular attention be given to the sections Eligibility, PACE Correspondence Homeschool Students, Products Containing Nicotine, and Student Wireless Telecommunication Devices.

Eligibility: Eligibility is an important component of the school and in the past, eligibility language has sometimes been conflicting and confusing. The new language is an attempt to bring ASAA and CCSD language together and explain how they compliment each other. We have introduced the term, “good standing” as a description of a student’s current academic status. We have attempted to address shortcomings that became apparent last school year.

PACE Correspondence Homeschool Program: References to school of record are now included in this section and clarification of the benefits that come by having CHS be the school of record. Currently, PACE students are not eligible for class ranking consideration (valedictorian or salutatorian) but have been included in CHS commencement ceremonies. It is my request that CHS Graduation be an event only for students with CHS as the school of record. In the past, PACE has held independent graduation ceremonies, and I would recommend we return to that model. While there are PACE students who have been part of the brick and mortar program over the years, we often have students who we don’t know and who have not participated in CHS at any level. It feels disingenuous to be celebrating these students in the same context as our brick and mortar CHS students.

Products Containing Nicotine: This new section is a result of conversations and training with the American Lung Association. It is a move toward recognition of the addictive nature of nicotine and intervention or cessation, and away from punitive responses.

Student Wireless Telecommunication Devices: This new section was written to support language contained in HB27. It is a prohibition of cell phones and other communication devices during the school day.

There are a number of important changes being suggested in this handbook revision. If it is approved, early parent communication will be critical and I will begin that process in July.

Finally, the format of the handbook is such that it lends itself to being easily navigated online. I am working with Jared to make it available in that form by the beginning of next school year.

I was involved with several interview committees this past month and am pleased that we have hired or offered letters of intent to several people including a part time administrative assistant in our Anchorage PACE office, a Special Education teacher, and a District Testing Coordinator with support from our newest PACE contact teacher (who will also be providing some tech support as part of the position).

