

Our school performance score from the last school year has been released, and I am so proud and ecstatic to announce that we have moved from a “D” to a “C” school! We still have a lot of work to do in order to become the school that we know we can be, but we are certainly moving in the right direction! I want to thank everyone that worked so hard last school year to make this possible! Thank you to our teachers and students for believing in the goals we set and for coming to school every day and giving their absolute best. Thank you to our parents, community members, and school board employees for supporting us and giving us everything we need to be successful. Many of you may recall an email from me last year when our school performance score was released, and we had moved from a 75.2 C to a 68.8 D. One of the things that was highlighted in that email was that our 2014 School Performance Score of 75.2 C was given when our school was still 8th through 12th grade. A middle school score and a high school score were averaged to create that score. Our 2015 School Performance Score of 68.8 reflected our school’s current setup of only being a traditional 9th through 12th grade school. When you compare only the 2014 high school score to the 2015 high school score, we actually grew as a high school. So, our score released today means that we have grown 3 years in a row!!! I am extremely proud and thankful for that! Here are some points that highlight all of the wonderful achievements of the last year!

- Our daily student attendance rate was 92.65%! This is the highest attendance rate at PAHS in the last 15 years!!! I think this is the accomplishment of which we are most proud. Our high attendance rate means that students want to be here and that they feel safe, welcomed, educated, and loved. Thank you to our parents for sending your most precious gifts to us every day and for trusting us to educate them to the best of our ability. It does not matter how many wonderful things we have at our school if our young adults are not here to benefit from them. Our kids showed up and showed out last year!
- The percentage of our students who scored Good or Excellent on End of Course (EOC) tests increased from 55% to 60%! We fell short of our goal of 70% last year, but we still improved 5 percentage points! Our EOC rate has improved 3 years in a row from 47% to 55% to 60%!!!
- We have increased our Advanced Placement (AP) offerings for the third year in a row. We were also recently awarded a National Math and Science Initiative grant for the next 3 years that will provide our AP English, Math, and Science teachers and students with top notch training and incentives. This will help us to perform better on the Advanced Placement tests that accompany the AP courses we offer.
- The percentage of our students who graduate having scored an 18 on the ACT or an equivalent score on the ACT WorkKeys test increased from 47% to 68.5%! This is a more than 20 point increase! This shows that our students are leaving us more college and career-ready than ever before, and they are competitive with students across the nation in receiving grants and scholarships!

- Our graduation rate increased from 59.2% to 69%! This is still lower than we want it to be, but we are certainly moving in the right direction!
- Our cohort graduation rate increased from 69.1% to 88%! This score is a reflection of how many students graduate in 4 years. We made an almost 20-point increase in this area, and we are so proud!
- Our strength of diploma score increased from 68.6% to 78.9%! This score is a reflection of how many students graduate with a certification, AP, or dual enrollment credit in addition to the courses required to graduate.
- There are 4 things that go into a high school's performance score: EOC scores, ACT scores, strength of diploma, and graduation rate. We improved on all 4!!!

As we approach Thanksgiving and the rest of the holiday season, we realize that we have so many things to be thankful for. We are doing a great job, but we can always do better. We are going to take a moment to stop, smell the roses, and pat ourselves on the back before we continue the hard work that we are putting in this school year as we push to become a B (and eventually an A) school!!!