

PUTNAM VALLEY

School District News



PVMS Celebrates 50 Years!

In September 1972, Putnam Valley Middle School opened its doors to students in grades 6 through 9. The year prior, Kindergarten classes were housed at St. Luke's Church and the Putnam Valley Grange Hall. With a K-9 enrollment of 1086, grades were on split sessions and some classes were held in portable classrooms behind the original building. It was an interesting time for the community, especially because the Commissioner of the NYS Education Department had started the process to dissolve our district and have it annexed into the Lakeland School District. Today, the building holds approximately 500 students, and the recent renovations to the cafeteria, upgrades to bathrooms and the addition of learning spaces where the open courtyard once was are appreciated enhancements.



Laramie Project a Success!

PVHS TheatreWorks presented its 2022 Fall Drama production of The Laramie Project to audiences the weekend of November 4. The play offered enactments of wide-ranging perspectives surrounding the events leading to and following the gruesome loss of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Laramie, WY, in 1998. Student actors were tasked with playing multiple roles (4-8 characters per actor), an atypical challenge for performers accustomed to portraying just one character per production. The production stage crew worked seamlessly behind the scenes to create a smooth performance featuring many audio/visual demands. The cast and crew mounted a show that was meaningful and impactful, providing an honorable testament to Matthew Shepard and the numerous, ongoing causes spawned by his story. Bravo to our incredible performers and stage crew and thank you for another moving performance!



WINTER 2023

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Putnam Valley Community,

The resiliency, perseverance, determination and talents of our students are on display in our classrooms, on our stages, and through athletic competition and I continue to be impressed each and every day. I encourage our community members to come see a show, a game, or a concert whenever you can. You too will be impressed.

Additionally inspiring is the work ethic of our staff. Professional staff members have been immersed in several district initiatives. The Elementary School continues its professional learning and implementation of their new reading program. Putnam Valley Middle School has begun the extensive process toward becoming an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program school. Putnam Valley High School continues to find innovative ways to offer students more rigorous and meaningful instruction. It is important to note that our dedicated staff find ways to simultaneously balance the implementation of instructional programs with the many ways they support the social-emotional well-being of our students, serving as



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A New ELA Program for PVES

Our new PVES Scholastic Literacy Program is in full swing in our K-4 classes! This reading and writing program focuses on the art of guided reading, shared read alouds, deep comprehension, and writing skills. Our elementary teachers are working closely with our Scholastic consultants to implement this literature-based program in all classrooms. Our teachers are working on strong collegial teams to develop their skills with this literacy instruction. The Scholastic Book Room is filled with wonderful sets of books at all levels, and our children are learning to use the technology programs that support the instruction. We are so proud of the work being done, and we look forward to continuing to develop great readers and writers in our school!



Our Classrooms are Busy, Engaging Places, Inside and Out!

With our continued focus on creating student opportunity, our classrooms have been filled with energetic teachers and learners. Our learning spaces are clean, organized, and well-decorated and classrooms are learning communities, where children grow and thrive throughout the year. Both the PVES and PVMS are utilizing their Maker Space. Maker Spaces present great opportunities for students to develop engineering skills and innovate. Our students have the freedom to build and create by following online instructions or using their own imaginations!



Letter from the Superintendent

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role models and mentors, and instilling skills that will best prepare them for their future endeavors.

Thanks to the hard work of our buildings and grounds staff, our facilities are in fantastic shape. Our technology department has updated equipment and has increased access to learning. Administrators and office staff support student opportunity and success. Our transportation department, our school monitors, and clinical staff members ensure our students feel safe and supported from the moment they step on the bus until the time they arrive back home. We have an incredible team and I am grateful.

Adding to our PVpride, the Garrison Union Free School District has decided to offer Putnam Valley as an option for their students as they transition into high school. Garrison serves students in Grades K-8 and students choose between O'Neil High School and Haldane High School. We've just been notified that 6 students, approximately 1/4 of the current 8th grade class, have decided to attend high school in Putnam Valley. Garrison will pay a per student tuition fee to PVCSD and will be responsible for providing transportation. We can welcome these students into our classrooms and programs without any addition to staff or expenses.

One member of the Garrison Board of Education shared, "If I were writing a story about high schools for *The NY Times Magazine*, I'd do a story about Putnam Valley. It is an extraordinary place, and they are doing things there that I don't think are being done in most high schools..." These words are wonderful to hear and are a testament to the hard work of our teachers, staff, and administration; with the support of our board of education and community. Putnam Valley has become a school district that others are watching and are taking note of.

We are looking forward to a 2023 that brings us together as we continue to celebrate student success. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeremy Luft
Superintendent of Schools

Putnam Valley Hall of Fame

It is with great pride and honor that we announce the founding of the Putnam Valley Athletic Hall of Fame. The Athletic Hall of Fame will serve as a way of celebrating and maintaining the heritage and tradition of the successful athletes, coaches, contributors, and athletic programs at Putnam Valley High School. Induction into the Putnam Valley Athletic Hall of Fame emphasizes the success and impact that graduates, coaches, teams, and contributors have had on the Putnam Valley School District and community through athletics. Inductees to this prestigious honor will serve as role models for the current student body.

As part of the Putnam Valley Central School District's focus on continuous growth for all, the Putnam Valley Athletic Hall of Fame Committee invites all members of the Putnam Valley community to nominate eligible candidates for consideration for this prestigious honor. This award honors those whose on-field performance, leadership, contributions, and character exemplify outstanding achievement in their sport and/or service to the athletic program. An honoree's spirit and leadership are worthy of recognition and have inspired praise and gratitude among his or her peers. The nomination deadline is April 1st.

The inaugural Putnam Valley Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on June 12, 2023, alongside our first annual Varsity Athletics Award Ceremony.

Thank you for your continued support and celebration of our Putnam Valley student-athletes and athletic programs.



NHS Holiday Toy Drive

On Saturday, December 17, National Honor Society (NHS) Holiday Toy Drive Student Co-Chairs Faith Carravone and Ava McGinty delivered 30 boxes of toys from the Putnam Valley School community. This collection was the best one in the Toy Drive's history, and donations were collected from PVHS, PVMS, and PVES. The NHS held bake sales throughout the month of November to raise money to purchase toys for the children at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

New Interim Middle School Assistant Principal

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Jaime Zecca to our Middle School as the Interim Middle School Assistant Principal.

Ms. Zecca comes to us with 17 years of experience teaching middle school for the New York City Department of Education. She is a passionate educator with expertise in literacy, data, and academic intervention, and she is laser-focused on successful outcomes for all students! In these first few weeks of school, Ms. Zecca has been focused on learning about the community, getting to know the students, faculty, and families. We welcome Ms. Zecca and look forward to watching her lead beside Mr. McCarty this year!



Thank you to our entire operations department for the work that has been done this year to update and enhance our beautiful outdoor learning spaces! From the outdoor learning spaces, new picnic tables, hiking paths, and our beautiful pond area at PVES, our students are very lucky to have so many natural settings for learning activities!



PUTNAM VALLEY
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Building Community with PVHS

In late September, the Young Historian Society went to help Putnam County Veterans and Parks Department set up the Traveling Vietnam Wall Memorial at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in Carmel. This 80% replica of the actual wall in Washington, DC still has the ability to evoke much emotion and gratitude. The PVHS students also took part in the day by kicking off the reading of names. It was impressive and meaningful to witness our students navigate through every part of the day. There is no doubt that the connections they made will last a lifetime.



Many school clubs and activities support the Putnam Valley Food Pantry throughout the year. In late November, our PVMS Student Council collected more than 1,000 items for the Putnam Valley Food Pantry.

PV Education Foundation News

SAVE THE DATE
Auction and Apps Event this March!
The PVEF is gearing up for an exciting spring full of events designed to raise funds that will support our students. In March, the PVEF will be hosting its annual Auction & Apps event, with the official date to be announced soon.
The Annual Casino Night will be Saturday, June 10, at the Putnam County Golf Course. To volunteer or donate, please email pvefny@gmail.com.

STAY CONNECTED TO PVCSD



Visit our website at pvcsd.org

- watch Board of Ed meetings live or recorded
- check out our Monthly Calendar for events
- sign up for electronic newsletters
- find school budget info



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OUR MISSION

The PVCSD, in partnership with our families and community, will ensure that all students are engaged in a challenging, student-focused educational program, understand and assume their responsibility for life-long learning, work to achieve their personal best and become productive citizens in a diverse global society.