



# PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL

*A Learning Community Dedicated to Student Success  
Pasadena Unified School District*

July 20, 2022

Dear Pasadena High School Bulldog Family:



I am delighted to reach out to you as Pasadena High School's newly appointed principal. For those that I have yet to meet, I am a proud PUSD graduate and began my educational career in 1992 as an instructional assistant at Don Benito Fundamental School. From there, I went on to serve in various capacities as a teacher, inclusion specialist, curriculum coach, support provider for beginning teachers, and assistant principal at PHS from 2013 to 2015. After serving as an assistant principal at PHS, I spent seven years in the Covina-Valley Unified School District as principal of a middle school, continuation high school, special education adult transition school, and was founding principal of an AB130-aligned K-12 independent study school. While in Covina Valley, my teams expanded the Project Lead the Way Engineering Program from a single class to a fully developed pathway, established "Femineers", an all-girl Engineering club, and Girls Who Code to challenge gender stereotypes in computer science. My schools have been the recipient of numerous grants including Mr. Holland's Opus (2017) and an Arizona State University/Verizon Innovative Learning for Virtual Reality (2020) and an IFT Innovation grant (2022).

In addition to my work in public schools, I have served as an adjunct assistant professor at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development and a Master of Arts in Special Education from Azusa Pacific University, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and an Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership in Urban Settings from the University of Southern California.

I am grateful to the Pasadena community and deeply humbled that I have been offered the privilege to serve our exceptional school, where students come first. Our philosophy of students first is exemplified in our dedication to developing the whole scholar, beyond the classroom walls through academic and athletic competition, the arts, and our comprehensive offerings of clubs and student activities. I am energized by the opportunity to extend our vision of putting kids first, academically and holistically, in partnership with our stakeholders, and look forward to an outstanding school year ahead.

Pasadena High School is an exceptional school that continues to be recognized, locally and nationally, as a model of innovative excellence. PHS has been recognized by Newsweek's Top 100 High Schools in America and is home to unique college and career pathways and academies. These include the [App Academy](#), a cutting-edge computer science pathway where students receive four years of project-based learning organized around computer coding. Through the App Academy, students develop computer coding skills to prepare them to excel in the innovation economy. Our Creative Arts Media and Design ([CAMAD](#)) Academy, which offers options for students to specialize in Visual Art and Design ([VADA](#)) or Graphic Communication Arts ([GCA](#)), which guides students in developing fine arts skills in traditional and digital mediums in order to prepare them to pursue

occupations in graphic design, fine arts, fashion, and commercial marketing. Our Law and Public Service Academy ([LPS](#)) prepares students to enter multiple pathways within public service in diverse roles ranging from emergency first responders to careers as attorneys and judges to become the leaders of tomorrow. Finally, PHS's [Math Academy](#) is tailored to the needs of academically gifted students to prepare them with the passion, skills, and insight to excel in honors math and science programs in the most elite universities in the world.

Pasadena High School's faculty and staff are committed to creating a well-rounded and dynamic educational experience for our students. With its diverse student body, PHS is a place where scholars of all backgrounds come together to form lifelong connections, whether inside the classroom or as part of an extra-curricular group. This coming year promises to be full of opportunities to explore all that PHS has to offer. Please take time to explore [our website](#) to learn more about PHS. Parents interested in learning more about PHS are encouraged to contact the counseling office to arrange a campus tour. We are scholars, athletes, artists, innovators, and the Pride of Pasadena. I am honored by the opportunity to serve as the principal of Pasadena High School.

**Go Bulldogs!**

Dr. Mathew Kodama  
Principal  
Pasadena High School