

SCHOOL PROFILE/DEMOGRAPHICS

Brief History and Background of the School

Port Charlotte High School, an “A” school (2007-2008 & 2008-2009), is a four-year, public high school located in southwest Florida. The school opened in 1982. Its mascot is a Pirate, its school colors are red, black, and white, and its school motto is “Yes, I am a Pirate!” as well as “Standing Tall with Pirate Pride.” With a fluctuating enrollment population from approximately 1950-2050 students in grades 9 through 12, Port Charlotte High School registers more students than any other public school in Charlotte County. There are currently 102 classroom teachers and 198 total staff members. Among staff, they have 53 Master’s Degrees, 2 Specialist’s Degrees, and 5 Doctorate Degrees. The school increases its number of Nationally Certified Teachers each year with such certification resting in English, math, social studies, science, fine arts, and the administrative team. Port Charlotte High School offers a relevant and rigorous curriculum of Advanced Placement courses to include Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Physics, Statistics, Studio Art 2D, Studio Art Drawing, U.S. Government and Politics, and World History. Dual Enrollment courses exist in English, American History, College Algebra, Environmental Biology, Music Appreciation, and Humanities. The school also offers students a strong articulation agreement with Edison State College, Florida Gulf Coast University, Charlotte Technical Center, and Embry-Riddle University. Port Charlotte High School presents a diverse curriculum of World Languages studies (French, Spanish, Latin, and Chinese) as well as offering opportunities in vocational programs such as aeronautics, culinary arts, drafting, business computer programming, health science, construction, automotive, teacher preparation programs, and broadcast/print journalism. Port Charlotte High School continues to provide a curriculum of such rigor that supports the increasing # of National Merit Semi-Finalists and Finalists. Port Charlotte High School meets the needs of its struggling readers via the initiation of the district’s first “Reading Department” at the high school level in 2005-2006. Students at Port Charlotte High School have earned prestigious college placement at Cal-Tech, Cornell, Duke, Embry-Riddle, George Washington, Georgetown, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Oxford, Swarthmore, Stanford, University of Chicago, Vanderbilt, and Yale. Port Charlotte High School also offers many extracurricular activities and organizations such as Academic Team Challenge (A-Team), Beta Club, Book Club, Creative Writing Club, DECA, Environmental Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), French Club, History Fair, Interact Club, Key Club, Mock Trial Team, Model United Nations (national and international achievement including the title of “World Champions” at the Harvard MUN Conference in 2008), Mu Alpha Theta, National Art Honor

Society, National Honor Society, Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (NJROTC-- awarded the "Distinguished Unit Award" seven consecutive academic years - 2001-2007), Pirate Crew, Pride of Port Charlotte Marching Band (ranked among the top bands in the state of Florida for several years, the "Pride" of Port Charlotte has participated at many famous events such as the Fiesta Bowl, Macy's Day Parade, the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the New Years Day Parade in London, England, and the Cotton Bowl Parade in Dallas, Texas. The Pride Concert and Jazz Bands are also extremely successful consistently receiving superior ratings from the Florida Bandmasters Association), Recruitment & Educational Assistance for Careers In Health (REACH), Scholars Club, Science Fair, Silver Cord (volunteerism), Spanish Club, Step Club, Student Government Association, Thespian Society, Wordmasters, Yearbook, and the International Market (a functioning retail outlet operated and managed by students of which profits are sent back to the indigenous communities where the artists reside to fund clinics, schools, and women's shelters). In addition, the school's athletic programs include football, basketball, baseball, cross-country, golf, tennis, softball, track, cheerleading, wrestling, soccer, volleyball, bowling, swimming, lacrosse, and weightlifting.

Unique School Strengths

Port Charlotte High School is experiencing a transition as a "good to great" school. For the 2007 school year, PCHS earned 487 FCAT accountability points, receiving a grade of "C." In 2008, Port Charlotte High school earned a school and district (high school) record of 549 points and demonstrated significant increases in each of the 9 FCAT accountability areas resulting in a school grade of "A." In 2009, Port Charlotte High School maintained its high achievement status by earning 537 points thus earning another school grade standing of "A." For 2010, Port Charlotte High School maintained a high level of FCAT achievement with 513 points earned and also excelled in the High School Component areas of School Grade (Graduation Rate, At-Risk Graduation Rate, AP/Dual Credit Participation & Performance, and College Readiness in reading and math by earning more points than any high school in the district at 619. Combined, PCHS earned a 2010 school grade point value of 1,132 (1,050 and higher equates to an "A" school) – higher than any high school in the district ranking us in the top 20 of Florida high schools within similar demographics. It is important to note that this achievement continues as the school's percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch increased from 41% (06-07), to 46% (07-08), to 48% (08-09) and then to 56% (09-10). The school's minority rate also increased from 28% (06-07) to 29% (07-08 & 08-09) to 31% (09-10). In addition to its improved FCAT scores, PCHS has improved its graduation rate from 78.1% to 88% in 2009 and from 88% to 90% in 2010. In terms of college-readiness, of the total # of graduates who enrolled in Florida public community colleges or universities between May 2007 and April 2008, and took college

placement tests which then resulted in entering a degree program, 79.9% passed the reading placement tests (exceeding both district and state averages), 81.0% passed the writing placement tests (exceeding the district average), and 67.4 % passed the math placement tests (falling just below the district and state averages by 1.2%). The graduating class of 2010 shows 82% as College Ready in reading and 62% as College Ready in math. In ACT alone, Port Charlotte High School's 2010 data exceeded the state's overall achievement in all tested areas (English, Reading, Mathematics, Science). Port Charlotte High School is also a model school in PBS (Positive Behavior Support).

The school's principal and assistant principals have been trained and use with fidelity the Classroom Walk-Through process for the purpose of data analysis of both curricular and high-yield instructional strategies rooted in the study of Marzano. The school's administrative team has also been pro-active in its leadership professional development by participating in such programs as "4 Roles of Leadership," "Speed of Trust," "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," "Clinical Education," and the "Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement" (SACS CASI). Each member of the school's administrative team has completed the FOR-PD process which includes the school's Assistant Principal for Curriculum earning the full Reading Endorsement.

Port Charlotte High School also considers its unique school strengths to be that of a diverse student population which is embraced by the faculty and students as well as a high level of trust that exists between staff and administration. Instructional leaders at this school increases in capacity as Program Planners (department chairs) take on with more rigor the responsibilities of coaching and mentoring within the realm of school-wide progress monitoring and differentiated instruction based on on-going data analysis. Furthermore, a deep-sense of school pride is fostered across the school's culture as Port Charlotte High School alumni return as employees and parents of students. Finally, the faculty has a desire to search for better ways to connect with students and assist them in building relationships. This is evident through Saturday mock-testing scenarios, students assisting their peers through the "Pirate Peer" mentor program and "Peer Mediation."

Port Charlotte High School students, faculty, and staff work and excel

within the principles of **PIRATE**
PRIDE:

P: Preparation

R: Respect

I: Integrity

D: Determination

E: Excellence