

Welcome to Portales Municipal Schools

Welcome to Portales. The Portales Municipal School District is a great place for your child's education and to work. We at PMSD know that you have several school choices in the area, but I think if you will look through our website and visit our schools, you will see why PMSD will be a great fit for your children and family.

National Accreditation

The Portales Municipal School District and each of our schools are nationally accredited by AdvancEd. AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world. They are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of Pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. AdvancED was created through a 2006 merger of the Pre-K-12 divisions of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)—and expanded through the addition of the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) in 2012. The District and each school within the District completed the rigorous process of accreditation in October 2016 and retained accreditation through 2022.

Our Schools

There are six schools conveniently located throughout the City of Portales. Each of our schools is a grade level school. Until a student reaches high school, there are no more than two grade levels in each of our schools.

Brown Early Childhood Center—Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

R.M. James Elementary School---First and Second Grades

Valencia Elementary School---Third and Fourth Grades

Lindsey-Steiner Elementary School---Fifth and Sixth Grades

Portales Junior High School---Seventh and Eighth Grades

Portales High School---Ninth through Twelfth Grades

Our grade level schools are different from the community schools that you might find in other cities, but there are several advantages that our grade level schools offer. Each of these schools are diverse. Children from across the District attend the same school as their grade level peers. Like a small rural school, students in the Portales District grow up together. They know each other from the time they enter school until they graduate. When students enter junior high or high school, unlike community schools that might feed to a larger junior high or high school, our students all come from the same sixth grade school. They already know each other and this makes the transition much easier. In our grade level schools, teachers have an exceptional opportunity for collaboration and working together to ensure that all students receive comparable instruction and all students have access to the same equipment, libraries, textbooks, etc. At our schools, you can rest assured that no matter where you live, your children have access to the same educational opportunities as every other child in the District.

I invite you to check out the individual school pages by finding “Select a School” in the black margin above the Ram head and click on the school you would like to visit. If you can’t find what you are looking for or simply want to speak to a real person, please go to “How to Contact Us” or to the individual department or school page to find the phone number to call. You may also call Central Office at (575) 356-7000.

All of our schools feature state of the art technology, and we are upgrading and purchasing new equipment every year to help our students and teachers have the tools they need for this technological age and to compete with others in this global economy. Even though we do have great technology in our schools, we still provide traditional instruction and our teachers are here for our students and ready to build strong and lasting relationships to help your children succeed.

We offer after-school tutoring in Reading at all of our schools. We also offer after-school tutoring in mathematics and other subjects at Lindsey-Steiner Elementary, Portales Junior High School, and Portales High School. Portales High School offers credit recovery through our online school with after-school teacher support. The more non-traditional students who prefer to work on their own at their own pace or people who have been out of school for a while and want to return for a diploma may also find the online school a perfect fit. Teacher support is available for everyone enrolled in the online school.

Portales High School offers your child many opportunities that he or she might not have available in a smaller school, or a larger school for that matter. The high school is large enough to offer many different educational opportunities and a great number of extracurricular and co-curricular activities that will help to prepare your child for life after high school. The school is also small enough to help ensure that he or she may not have to choose between different activities in which to become involved. At Portales High School your child can be in band and a member of the volleyball or football team, he or she can participate in a play and still participate in sports or MESA or any of our other extracurricular activities.

I am very proud of this school district and the people who make it a great place to live and educate our children. We have great and caring teachers and staff who will work with you and your children to make their education an enjoyable experience. I fully believe your children will receive a great education that will prepare them for college or the workforce.

If you are thinking about moving to the area, before you make a decision, please visit our schools. Talk to our principals and feel free to visit with our teachers. You and your family are welcome at Portales Municipal Schools and we would like to work with you to help ensure that your children receive the educational opportunities they deserve.

Please continue to the next page to see some of the academic and extracurricular opportunities that are available at Portales Municipal Schools.

Some of the Exciting Programs Offered at Portales High School

- Honors classes in English I, II, & III; Geometry; Algebra II; Biology; Chemistry; United States History; World History; Government; and Economics. *(Students must qualify to enroll.)*
- Dual Credit Classes with Eastern New Mexico University, Clovis Community College, and Mesalands Community College. *(Several dual credit courses are taught at Portales High School, some are taught at ENMU or CCC. Many of our students leave Portales High School with well over 12 hours of college credit and there is no cost to parents or students. Dual credit courses also fulfill high school credit requirements.)*
- Media Arts. *(This program is a series of course that can begin in 9th grade and progress through the senior year. The program also offers dual credit. This program offers state of the art video and computer equipment that allows students to learn how to create video productions through filming/videoing, editing, scripting, etc. Students live stream athletic events, school productions, and other community events. This program can lead to a career in television or advertising and provides a solid background for college television production.)*
- SystemsGo Rocketry *(Started in 2019-2020 school year. This is an engineering class that culminates in the launch of a rocket with the goal of reaching one mile in height carrying a one pound payload. There is an annual rocket launch and competition in near Loving, New Mexico where the rockets are launched.)*
- FFA *(Includes leadership training, public speaking, parliamentary procedure, career development event instruction and contests. Although traditionally thought of as only an agriculture class, the program offers training and skills that can be useful for any profession.)*
- Family Consumer Science *(The kitchen and classroom have been remodeled to include residential kitchens and a commercial type kitchen. Students may join Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). FCCLA is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. The program also offers District, State and National competitions.)*
- MESA *(Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement. This program offers instruction and competition in computer programming, robotics, and other engineering related activities.)*
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Honor Society
- Educators Rising *(An organization for students who want to pursue a career in education.)*
- Business Professionals of America *(Business Professionals of America is the premier CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields.)*

- Welding (*Students learn basic and advanced methods of welding and build projects. This is a good prerequisite to students who wish to enroll in a vocational welding program after high school.*)
- Western Art and Engraving. (*This is a dual-credit course that teaches metal engraving and the art of building quality belt buckles, spurs, bits, and jewelry. Students who complete the program will receive a certificate from Mesalands Community College or can continue to complete an Associate's Degree in Western Art.*)
- Drama Club (*Although we offer several classes in theatre and set design, a student does not need to be in a theatre class to join Drama Club. The Drama Club participates in state competitions and performs at least one major production for the community.*)
- Choir (*Our choir is an award winning choir that performs for the community at least twice each year and at many special events throughout the year. State Champion Choir 2016, 2018, & 2019.*)
- Band (*Offers marching band that performs at football games and in parades. They hold at least two formal community performances and special events throughout the year. Band instruction is offered beginning in 5th grade. The band also completes in State competitions and out of state competitions and is consistently one of the top in our classification.*)
- Basketball (*Boys' and Girls' Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity teams. Our boys were the District Champions in 2017 and the State Class 4A Runner-up. Our girls were the State Champions in 2014 & 2018, and Runners-up in 2015.*)
- Volleyball (*Girls' Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity teams.*)
- Football (*Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity teams. Class 4A State Champions, 2016.*)
- Cheer (*High School cheerleading for football, volleyball, basketball and Cheer competition.*)
- Track and Field (*Boys' and Girls' teams. The boys were New Mexico State Class 4A runners-up in 2017.*)
- Baseball (*Freshman team that also allows for 8th grade participation, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Teams. Class 4A State Champions, 2017.*)
- Softball (*Fast pitch softball. Eighth grade students may participate. Junior Varsity and Varsity.*)
- Soccer (*Boys' and Girls' Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams.*)
- Golf (*Boys' and Girls' Golf Teams. Eighth grade students may participate. Boys' golf team was 2017 State 4A co-champions and State Champions in 2018.*)
- Tennis (*Boys' and Girls' Teams. Eighth grade students may participate.*)
- Cross Country (*Boys and Girls: New sport added Fall of 2018. Eighth grade students may participate.*)

Some of the Great Programs Offered at Portales Junior High School

- Honors classes in 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts; 8th Grade Science; and Algebra I (*Students must qualify to enroll.*)

- MESA (*Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement*) This program offers instruction and competition in computer programming, robotics, and other engineering related activities.)
- Family and Consumer Sciences (*Students may join Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. The program also offers District, State and National competitions.*)
- FFA (*Includes leadership training, public speaking, opening ceremony, CTE instruction and contests. Although traditionally thought of as only an agriculture class, the program offers training and skills that can be useful for any profession.*)
- Woodshop (*Students learn how to use woodworking equipment and build several projects throughout the course including pens and lamps.*)
- Art (*Students learn to be creative with their minds and their hands and create several projects during the course.*)
- Media Arts (*This course teaches students how to use video and computer equipment to tape and edit performances, commercials, athletic events, etc. It is a good preparatory course for the high school Media Arts program.*)
- Yearbook
- Choir
- Band
- Basketball (*Two boys' and girls' teams in both 7th and 8th grades.*)
- Volleyball (*Two boys' and girls' teams in both 7th and 8th grades.*)
- Football (*7th and 8th grade teams when participation accommodates.*)
- Cheer (*7th and 8th grade students.*)
- Tennis (*8th grade students.*)
- Golf (*8th grade students.*)
- Baseball (*8th grade students may participate with the high school.*)
- Softball (*8th grade girls may participate with the high school.*)
- Track and Field (*7th and 8th grade girls and boys.*)
- Cross Country (*8th grade students.*)