

# PAYSON HIGH

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## Home of the Mighty Lions

Welcome to Payson High School, home of the Mighty Lions! We are grateful for your willingness to serve the extraordinary young people in our school family.



Payson High School



Concerts in the Park



The Lion Gate

## Who We Are

We are located in the beautiful town of Payson, Utah, nestled in the breathtaking Wasatch Mountain Range. PHS is an historic school with a rich tradition that stretches more than 100 years. The school draws from the city of Payson itself, and also the smaller surrounding communities of Santaquin, Goshen, Genola, and Elberta. Together it is a mix of rural and suburban areas with the classic Americana feel of a small town. (We like to brag that Kevin Bacon's *Footloose* was filmed at PHS.) The community culture is friendly, open, and full of patriotism and community pride. We are known for yearly traditions like the Payson Scottish Festival, the Salmon Supper, the Onion Days festival, and high quality performing arts groups like weekly free concerts in the park, the Payson Civic Chorale, and the Payson Community Theater.

PHS educates students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve. Our school culture values academic rigor and high expectations as well as a strong ethic of care and focus on the needs of individual students.

## Our Foundational Ideals

### Mission

Because quality education enriches lives, we are committed to work together to ensure high levels of learning and growth for everyone at Payson High School

### Motto

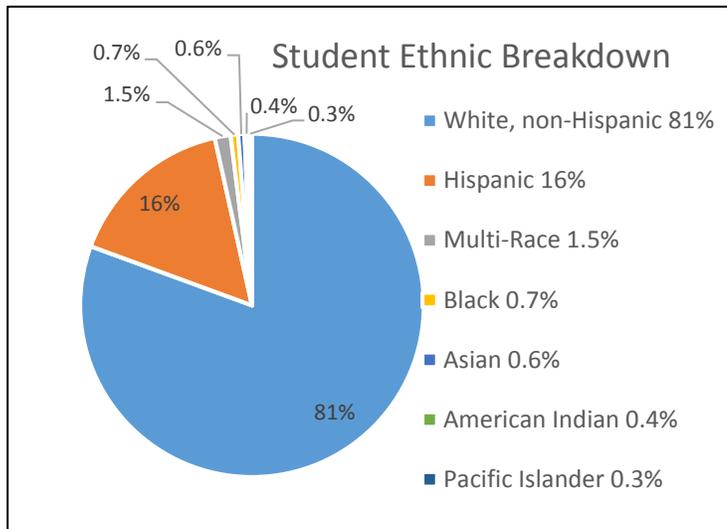
*We Care – We Excel*

### Core Belief

We believe that the three R's of positive relationships, rigor, and relevance enhance learning

# At a Glance

PHS educates approximately 1,500 students. We serve a broad range of socioeconomics with a mix of ethnic and racial backgrounds. For an overview of our student demographics, see the charts below.



## College Readiness

### ACT Exam

- PHS average score 19.2
- Utah statewide average score 19.7

### 5 Year ACT Trend for PHS

- 5% increase in average score
- 22% increase in students scoring proficient or above

### Graduation Rate

- PHS 94.9%
- Utah statewide 87%

### Paying for College

- \$1.5 million worth of college credit earned in advanced classes (2019)
- \$4.1 million in scholarships awarded (2019)

### Principal: Dr. RaShel Shepherd

Email: [RaShel.Shepherd@nebo.edu](mailto:RaShel.Shepherd@nebo.edu)

### Asst. Principal: Mr. Kevin Mecham

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### Asst. Principal: Dr. David Rockwood

Email: [David.Rockwood@nebo.edu](mailto:David.Rockwood@nebo.edu)

### Dean of Students: Mr. Mike Adams

Email: [Mike.Adams@nebo.edu](mailto:Mike.Adams@nebo.edu)

# Our Faculty

We have the best faculty in the state of Utah. Our 80 teachers are professional, compassionate, and enthusiastic. The faculty culture is intensely cooperative and supportive. We offer a wide array of interesting, progressive courses like sport psychology, film history, welding, and many others, even bagpiping! In addition, we have many extra-curricular activities and programs to enrich our students' developmental experience including Hope Squad, Latinos in Action, Especially for Athletes, and a full complement of interscholastic and intramural sports. Our school is also full of exciting educational technology.

As a Payson High family our focus is firmly centered on student learning. Here, we do whatever it takes for kids to learn, which sometimes means thinking outside of the box. Our daily professional behavior is focused on this question: "What can I do to help, push, pull, mentor, guide, scaffold, and encourage each student to achieve success?" Sometimes this means that we are flexible with due dates or task requirements in order to best serve our mission. We don't use grades to punish. The bottom line is this:

*At Payson High we work with kids.*



# The Lion Pride

The lion, the king of beasts, is a symbol of strength and courage individually. In addition, lions are social animals. Their greatest strength comes from their community, their family, which is known as a "lion pride." Like the mighty lion from which we draw inspiration, our greatest power comes from the relationships and cooperation that sustain us.

We are thrilled to have you as part of our team, our pride. Armed with our shared values, focus on student learning, and enthusiasm for learning and for life you will truly make a positive difference for your students that will impact the rest of their lives.

*Welcome to the Pride!*