



Glossary

8th Grade Portfolio A "best of" culmination of student's middle school work presented to a teacher/parent panel in order to proceed into high school

8th Grade Trip The field trip taken at the end of the 8th grade. It is held the last day of school, the same day as Day on the Green. The students, teacher rep, and parent rep determine where the class would like to go, get appropriate approvals and enjoy one last field trip! This typically costs students between \$50 and \$75 to attend.

Afternoon Study Hall Supervised period that begins after middle school dismissal. Students not picked up from school within 10 minutes of dismissal must report to afternoon study hall. Check with the office for locations.

American Artist Project This is a cross curricular project assigned during your student's junior year focusing on research and writing. Students are asked to select an artist who has influenced their specific art form. In addition to research and writing, each student is also required to perform a piece highlighting artist's impact.

Amphitheater The outdoor, covered area just outside the multi purpose room. Used by students for lunch and often performances.

Back to School Night An event held in September. Parents visit their students classrooms and teachers provide information about what the class holds for the year.

Blackbox Theater The smaller of the two theaters located on the Natomas Charter School campus. The Blackbox is located on the south-east end of the campus across from the dance studios. Build Building a set and putting it up in the theater.

Bunco Night Annual fundraiser, usually held in October, to encourage parents gathering together to get to know each other and win prizes. Bunco is a dice game typically played with three dice and four people at a table. -- Easy to learn and fun to play!

Chalk Walk This is an annual event that is held each year during the Open House, typically in April, for NCS PFAA. Students purchase squares of the walk way to decorate as they wish. Sponsors are always welcome and the students work is displayed for a minimum of one week.

Counseling Center Where the counselors are located inside the Media Center

Crab Feed Annual fundraiser. Usually held in February or March this is an adults only fundraiser. The Crab Feed usually includes a silent auction, raffles and musical entertainment

Dance Celebration Usually held twice a year (December and May) this is a performance of the various classes of the dance department of the Performing and Fine Arts Academy. Usually held in the Benvenuti Performing Arts Center, tickets are sold for this event.

Day on the Green Held the last day of school this is a fun event for the students of the PFAA. Held on the green space by the gymnasium this includes games, bounce houses, races and various activities for the students. A fee is charged for this event and only students who are current with their parent hours may participate.

Demerit A mark or way of tracking misconduct. One demerit equals one afternoon of detention.

Detention Spending an amount of time at school under supervision. Required for certain violations as defined in the student handbook. Check with the office for days and times that detention may be served.

Family Visitation Day An morning event in February for families who are considering enrolling their students in NCS. Presentations are made by PFAA admin and P4A Exec Board. P4A provides a continental breakfast. After the presentation, PFAA Students take families on a tour of the campus.

Finals Week This is the last week of each semester. The class periods are extended and the bell schedule is changed. Typically, the days are 1/2 days ending at 12:15 with lunch at 11:40. Check the bell schedule for specific details.

Grade Level Parent Meetings Meeting held bi-monthly or as necessary in order to discuss activities for the class.

ILP Independent Learning Program is the specialized learning program for students wishing to pursue education in a more individualized fashion.

Instrumental Music Parent Support Parents of the students involved in the Instrumental Music Program. This group supports the teachers and students of the instrumental music program. Please contact Stacy Clapsaddle for more information. Stacey's e-mail address is stacey@cooperis.net

Landscape Beautification Day The first Saturday of every month provides an opportunity for parents to earn parent hours while helping to care for the school grounds.

Late Day On Wednesdays classes begin later as the first hour is dedicated to staff and faculty meetings. Please refer to the bell schedule for exact information.

Leading Edge The middle school program consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with emphasis on science and math that is also located on the Natomas Charter School Campus.

Media Center / Library The Media Center/Library is located on the west side of the quad. Computers, the library and the counseling center are located together in the Media Center.

Minimum Day These are days when students are typically released from school at 12:15 with an 11:40 lunch period. Please refer to the bell schedule for exact information.

Morning Study Hall Morning Study Hall is an additional opportunity for NCS PFAA students to arrive on campus before 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday. All students on campus prior to 9:00 am must report to Morning Study Hall, typically held in the multipurpose room.

Multi / Multi Purpose Room The Multi Purpose Room is the large room used for student lunches, P4A meetings and a multitude of other functions. The student art gallery is located inside the Multi-Purpose Room.

Music Celebration Usually held twice a year (January and May) this is a performance of the various classes of the instrumental music department of the Performing and Fine Arts Academy. Usually held in the Benvenuti Performing Arts Center, tickets are sold for this event.

NCS / Natomas Charter School Natomas Charter School - The "umbrella school" for the four programs located on the campus. The largest is the Performing and Fine Arts Academy but also includes the "Leading Edge Program", "ILP - Independent Learning Program" and "PACT - Pursuing Academic Choices Together."

New Parent Orientation An event held a week before the start of a new school year. PFAA Admin/Teachers and P4A Exec. Board

Open House Usually held in late spring of the year this is an event when the classrooms are open to families to see examples of student work, see the classrooms and speak with teachers. This is not intended as a substitute to a conference with your student's teacher. For those make arrangements with the teacher.

P4A - Parents for the Arts Parents for the Arts or P4A is the parent support group for the Performing and Fine Arts Academy of Natomas Charter School. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Multipurpose Room. Parent hours are earned for attending the monthly meetings.

PACT Pursuing Academic Choices Together is an educational support program for home study students that is also part of the Natomas Charter School.

Parent / Teacher Conferences The parent / teacher conferences held at NCS PFAA are held in the multipurpose room. Each teacher is positioned around the room and parents are encouraged to come and meet the teacher and discuss any concerns they might have regarding their student. Parents may drop by anytime between 12:30 and 2:30 during the conference days.

Parent Hours The requirement and opportunity for parents and guardians to become involved in their child's school. Families are required to perform 30 parent hours a year or the equivalent in donations. There are a variety of parent hour opportunities available throughout the school year.

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Picture Day The day photographers are on campus to take student pictures. Usually in August or early September.

Prep Week The week before the last week of the semester. Usually a special schedule is made to allow students and teachers to prepare for final exams the last week of the semester.

Senior Breakfast A tradition where the Junior Class provides breakfast for Seniors. Usually toward the end of the school year.

Senior Portfolio Half of a class designed as the Senior Project.

The Senior Portfolio is a presentation of the work accomplished by the student during high school. The project includes examples and reflection papers.

Senior Project A student project, performed during half of the senior year, that embodies the student's art while giving back to the community. Students develop a presentation that is shown to a panel of teachers, parents and peers. Past projects have included art and photography shows, student written and directed works, teaching music lessons.

Senior Prom A formal dance for Seniors that is usually held in the spring of the year.

Senior Sunrise A tradition at the beginning of the school year for the class to meet as a whole to watch the sunrise.

Staff Development Day A day set aside for teachers and staff to participate in continuing education activities. Usually one a quarter after the beginning of the school year.

Star Newsletter The monthly newsletter put out the first of each month by the Parents for the Arts. This newsletter provides valuable information on upcoming events as well as general information for parents and students of the PFAA.

You can also access this information electronically via PFAA's website at <http://www.natomascharter.org/pfaa/newsletter.html>.

STAR Testing STAR is an acronym for Standardized Testing and Reporting. Standardized tests given to students usually in early spring.

Strike Taking down the set of a play after the play is completed or returning equipment and clearing the stage after any performance.

Student Class Meetings Class meetings are held quarterly students from each grade come together in a class room with their class teacher advisors and parent representative to discuss upcoming events, fundraising, and school functions. These meetings are held on a Wednesday, from 10:30 until 12.

Student Rush Afternoon performances geared to the students of PFAA - tickets are offered at a discount. This is often a preview show.

Student Gallery The space inside the Multi-purpose room that is dedicated to the showcasing of student art.

Talent Showcase & Family BBQ Held on campus, usually in September or October this is a talent showcase of students of the PFAA and a barbeque. Auditions are held for the student talent and tickets are sold for the barbeque and showcase. Tickets are usually limited. Watch announcements for auditions and parent hour opportunities.

Teacher Appreciation Events Luncheons may be hosted for teachers at the discretion of each Class. Any Class electing to host a lunch will work with PFAA Admin to coordinate date. Teacher Appreciation Week is held in May and Classes collaborate to provide tokens of thanks.

Teacher Welcome Back Lunch A luncheon held a week prior to the start of a new school year, hosted by P4A Exec. Board welcoming teachers back to school and advising them of P4A's budget and other policies. Teacher speakers are also gathered for monthly P4A meetings. Gift cards, school supplies are solicited from parents for parent hours and provided to teachers.

Tech / Tech Week The preparation time for a production. This is a time when the performers work with the stage crew to set the timing, lighting and sound (for example) of a production. Usually the week before the production opens.

Vocal Music Celebration Performance of the various classes of the vocal music department of the Performing and Fine Arts Academy. Usually held in the Benvenuto Performing Arts Center, tickets are sold for this event.

Winter Formal A formal dance for the students at PFAA. Held in the winter.

Wish List Every day items like water and tissue, and not so every day, digital camera, requested by teachers and staff and a way for parents to earn parent hours by purchasing **said items**.