



PERSHING

Middle School



a Neighborhood Vanguard
and Fine Arts Magnet School



Pershing

John J. Pershing Middle School, nestled within some of Houston's most desired neighborhoods, offers a wide range of academic programs, as well as a Fine Arts Magnet program, to its highly diverse student body.

According to a recent news report, "Getting into HISD's top magnet schools is often harder than getting into Harvard," and noted Pershing in the Top 10 of HISD's most selective schools. In the new State of Texas Accountability system, Pershing distinguished itself in three areas: Top 25% Student Progress, Academic Achievement in Reading/English Language Arts, and Academic Achievement in Mathematics. And Pershing was one of 11 exemplary middle-grades schools in Texas re-designated as "Schools to Watch" as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

Pershing is a 2-story,
195,000 square foot,
state-of-the-art facility.

Pershing was chosen based on academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels.

The school offers high school credit courses to meet fresh academic challenges, and at the same time, 30 or so daily enrichment classes covering less traditional areas including problem-solving, spelling bee, debate, music production, robotics and more. These courses are offered to complement and extend each student's own interests and personal strengths.



"My kids could not be happier!"
--Liz Goldenberg, parent

Pershing Students

Pershing is home to approximately 1,600 6th, 7th and 8th graders primarily from Condit, Horn, Longfellow, Twain, Roberts, Shearn, and West University Elementary schools. Pershing is also a Fine Arts magnet school, with about 25-30 percent of students matriculated into the magnet program. All students are part of a large, diverse population and are offered many choices and opportunities during their middle school experience.



Small School Feel

Utilizing a cluster system, Pershing allows students to rotate to classes with a core group of approximately 25 students in their Math, Science, History, English and Reading classes. Additionally, each grade level has designated hallways, morning meeting areas and cafeteria space. This system allows the students to feel like they are in a small community within a large school.



Pershing students were honored as the top middle school investors in the Houston region of the "Stock Market Game," out of a field of 80 teams. This is the first and largest educational investment simulation program in the U.S.



Principal Kim Heckman has over 20 years of experience as a teacher and Principal. She has been honored with the Region IV Principal of the Year Award and the Asian Pacific American Educator of the Year Award.

Academics

Pershing has been recognized both locally and nationally for its academic proficiency. Pershing's teachers are also top in their fields, with most teachers having over 11 years experience and many having over 20 years experience. One-third of Pershing's teachers have at least a Master's degree, and all teachers are certified to teach all levels of the curriculum offered at the school. With four different levels of academics - grade level, Pre-AP, AP/GT, and accelerated - Pershing offers a curriculum that is both challenging and supportive for all students.



Four Curriculum Levels

Since classes are taught in four levels at Pershing, students are encouraged to take classes that will personally challenge them and help them grow. Students are segmented into academic levels based upon standardized test results and the HISD Vanguard Matrix. Additionally, a test is offered over the summer to allow students to qualify for an accelerated math and/or science program.

Grade Level

Students in each grade level are taught using the HISD curriculum. Math and ELA for grade level students are double blocked (ie, the students have these classes every day) to ensure that all students have the necessary skills needed to be successful at the next grade level.

Pre-AP

This level of academics is taught using the HISD clear curriculum utilizing Pre-AP methodologies that include higher level questioning and problem solving skills. To qualify for this level, students must score between 60%-84% on Math and Reading Stanford and earn a satisfactory score for that level on STAAR.

Vanguard/GT

The GT program is a rigorous program with dedicated students who are asked to research and write using both primary and secondary sources that require independent thinking, analysis and interpretation. To qualify for this level, students must score above 85% on Math and Reading Stanford and earn an Advanced level score on STAAR.

Accelerated Vanguard/GT

Advanced Pre-Algebra math and science classes are offered for 6th grade students who have scored above 95% on Math and Reading Stanford and have earned a satisfactory score on the accelerated math/science placement test. These students will complete 6th through 8th grade math curriculums and move to Algebra in 7th grade and Geometry in 8th grade. The students will also complete 6th and 7th grade science in 6th grade, then move to 8th grade science in 7th grade, and to Biology in 8th grade.



A number of Pershing students placed in the Gulf Coast Chapter/Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering, Math and Science competition.

High School Credit

Pershing offers several courses that allow students to earn high school credit by the time they graduate from Middle School. High school credit courses offered at Pershing include: Art, Geometry, Algebra, Biology, Speech, Theater Arts, French, Spanish, Chinese, Information Technology, and Journalism.

Sample 6th Grade Schedule

	On Grade Level	
	A Day	B Day
8:25 - 8:50	Home Room	Home Room
8:55 - 10:05	Elective	Social Studies
10:10 - 11:25	Math	Math
30 Minutes Lunch Between		
11:25 - 1:25	Lunch	Lunch
11:25 - 1:25	Science	Science
1:30 - 2:40	PE	Elective
2:35 - 3:50	English	Reading

	Pre AP or GT/AP	
	A Day	B Day
8:25 - 8:50	Home Room	Home Room
8:55 - 10:05	Math	Elective
10:10 - 11:25	English	PE
30 Minutes Lunch Between		
11:25 - 1:25	Elective	Lunch
11:25 - 1:25	Lunch	Elective
1:30 - 2:40	Elective	Reading
2:35 - 3:50	Social Studies	Science

	Accelerated Math/Science	
	A Day	B Day
8:25 - 8:50	Home Room	Home Room
8:55 - 10:05	Math	Math
10:10 - 11:25	PE	Lunch
30 Minutes Lunch Between		
11:25 - 1:25	Lunch	Elective
11:25 - 1:25	Science	Science
1:30 - 2:40	English	Social Studies
2:35 - 3:50	Elective	Reading

School Tours are offered every Tuesday at 9am and Thursday at 1:30pm leaving from the front office.



Pershing Band students received a 1st division "Superior" rating from judges in UIL competition.



"The PTO is very active at Pershing, and I love being a part of such a great group of parents," Stormy Hayes-Knipe, former PTO President and parent.

Curriculum Enrichment

With more than 50 clubs, electives and enrichment programs, there is something for everyone at Pershing. Many of these programs are unique to this school, including:

Garden Initiative: Students grow over 14 varieties of vegetables each year. They are taught how to grow, harvest, and cook a variety of healthy vegetables, and each Saturday the vegetables are sold at Pershing's own Farmer's Market.

Native Spanish Speakers: Pershing offers a program for students who are already fluent in Spanish and want to continue their pursuit of the language.

Concepts in Engineering: This class provides an introduction of the various fields of engineering. Students create products and develop critical thinking skills through the design cycle.

Ropes Course: This course is the combination of Low and High Ropes Courses. It challenges participants to grow at both the team and individual levels through properly sequenced games, initiatives, activities and elements. The Low Ropes course, which is either on or only a few feet above the ground, focuses on collaboration, trust, communication, problem solving, decision making and on building self-confidence. The challenges of the High Ropes course, which is constructed in trees or made of utility poles requires a belay (a safety rope) and allows participants to extend their comfort zones and personal development.



SECME / Robotics: This class is designed for 6th and 7th grade students interested in engineering, math, science and robotics. It includes programing and building robots, bridges and water rockets.

Music Production: Using software used by professional music producers and DJs, students create their own music. It incorporates electronic sounds, recorded sounds, picture, and video. It's the only course of its kind in a middle school in Texas, and possibly, the country.

Other Electives include: Art, Band, Biology, Choir, Computing, Creative Writing, Dance, Debate, Drama, Guitar, Fan Fiction, Gymnastics, Hip Hop, Health, Information Technology, Journalism, Languages (Chinese, French, Spanish), Musical Theater, Orchestra, Percussion, Piano, Speech, Thinking Skills, Yearbook, and more.



A 460-seat theater has a full stage, lighting and sound system for professional quality productions. There are also two black box theaters.



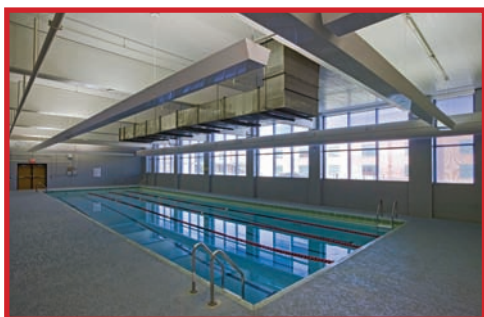
The Underwater Robotics team participated in the SeaPerch challenge, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research at Pearland Recreational Natatorium.



Athletics

Interscholastic athletics are voluntary at Pershing and are offered at little or no additional cost to parents. Pershing's athletic facilities are second to none through a field-sharing arrangement with West University Tri-Sports Association. Pershing has fields dedicated to each sport, and many fields are lighted for safety at night. Students are encouraged to pursue athletics to build confidence, camaraderie, leadership, and dedication.

"I love how Pershing lets me take athletics, art and academics. And all my classes are great!"
– Grant Johnson, student.



Pershing has two gyms, a full gymnastics facility, a sand volleyball court, separate softball and baseball fields, an indoor swimming pool, a football field, and more.

The Pershing softball team, made up of girls from 6th, 7th and 8th grades, plays in the HISD league as well as the West University Softball Association. The girls took home WUSA's Junior Division championship.



Fall Sports

Boys Football
Girls Volleyball
Boys Cross Country
Girls Cross Country
Cheerleading

Spring Sports

Baseball
Softball
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Cheerleading

Winter Sports

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Girls Lacrosse
Boys Lacrosse
Girls Swimming
Boys Swimming
Cheerleading

Club Sports

Ultimate Frisbee
Sand Volleyball
Golf

Pershing Athletics was recognized with the Tom Shaw Sportsmanship Award, which is awarded annually to one middle school and one high school in HISD and based on the sportsmanship displayed by the players, coaches, student body and spectators at each game during football season.



Uniforms

Pershing students have uniform choices. Uniform bottoms must be khaki in color, can be shorts, skirts, or pants, and may be purchased at the retail location of your choice. Uniform shirts (in three different styles) and sweatshirts (in two different styles) can be purchased from the PTO school store through the year. Each grade wears a different color, making it easy for teachers and administrators to tell the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders apart.

6th Grade: White

7th Grade: Red

8th Grade: Black



Pershing students took home recognition in the UIL Middle School Competition for Math, Debate and Spelling.



Pershing was fortunate to be named an NFL Play 60 Super School by the NFL, just one of 32 schools in the U.S. selected to receive a \$10,000 grant towards physical education initiatives.

Mark Wurtzel has been named quarterfinalist for the Music Educator Award™ presented by The Recording Academy® and The Grammy Foundation®!



Pershing Art students won Gold Key and Silver Key awards at the Scholastic Art Contest, were chosen for recognition at the 2014 State Youth Art Month Exhibit in Austin, and were winners at the Texas Art Education Association State-Wide Capitol Show Art Contest.



"We are so lucky that Pershing is our zoned school! The education my kids get is fantastic, and the many elective and extra-curricular opportunities available are unmatched,"
– Bilal Aquil, parent.



Principal: Kim Heckman

Magnet Coordinator: Rachel Burgan

Assistant Principals: Irma Galloway, Hope Richardson

Counselors: Yvonne Epps-Stubbins (A-L),

Mayra Martinez-Suarez (M-Z)

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