

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Port Aransas ISD

Superintendent: Sharon McKinney

Region: 2



Location: Port Aransas is located on Mustang Island in the area of the Texas coast known as the Coastal Bend. We are about 20 miles from Corpus Christi in Nueces County.

Student Enrollment: Our enrollment hovers just over 500 students.

School Campus Configuration: H.G. Olsen Elementary serves students in preK-5th grades, Brundrett Middle School serves students in grades 6-8, and Port Aransas High School serves students in grades 9-12. Although they are each their own distinct campus, all three schools are located on the same block.

What are your district's points of pride?

- Our dedicated school board provides effective oversight and enthusiastic support for our school district.
- Our motto "Marlin Pride Runs Deep" is displayed through our support of and success in athletics, UIL academics, UIL One Act Play, band, and all extracurricular activities, as well as over \$300,000 awarded in scholarships to the Class of 2019 by local businesses and organizations.
- The Port Aransas Education Foundation awards over \$100,000 in teacher grants annually to promote innovation.
- The Marlin Innovation Lab houses our physics and engineering classes while giving students in other content areas hands-on experiences to enhance their learning.
- UT OnRamps dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses allow students to earn over 20 college credits while still in high school.
- Marlins In Action, coordinated by community volunteers, supports and encourages our high school students in performing community service.

- Mentoring Marlins (high school students mentor middle school students) and a partnership where local Coast Guard members mentor elementary students provides support to students.
- A sensory classroom indoors and a sensory garden outdoors gives all students a comfortable environment for learning and growing.
- All buses in our transportation fleet have seatbelts.
- Our facilities are well-maintained and instructional technology is effectively used daily in classrooms.

What makes your school district/community unique?

- We are located a block from the beach, which provides fun and unique educational opportunities.
- Our partnership with University of Texas Marine Science Institute gives our students opportunities to work with local scientists to participate in water analysis and erosion long-term experiments.
- Our city provides a School Resource Officer who is assigned full-time to our school district.
- Our community support, evidenced not only by financial resources and materials donated but also by the volunteers on campus daily, is phenomenal.

What challenges does your district face?

- Enrollment is a concern due to high cost of living.
- Hurricane Harvey caused massive damage to our school district and our entire community and continues to impact enrollment, facilities, and finances.
- Even after passage of HB 3 reduced it, PAISD still pays 69% of M&O tax collections to the State of Texas.