

PAL® PEER ASSISTANCE LEADERSHIP

Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL)

Pershing Middle School

What is PAL?

The Peer Assistance Leadership (P.A.L.) program at Pershing is available to 8th Grade students. The mission of the PAL Peer Assistance and Leadership program is to utilize the potential of young people to make a difference in their schools and communities. Founded in Austin in the 1980's, the program addresses the underlying causes of violence, tobacco, alcohol, and drug use by youth. Students in PAL have the opportunity to work as peer helpers on their own campus and at Mark Twain Elementary. The Pals are involved in creating and participating in service projects at Pershing. These carefully chosen peer helpers must complete an extensive training program before mentoring other students or performing service-learning projects.

Our Goals!

Help other students have a more positive and productive school experience. Some of the goals we hope to achieve are:

- Provide both individual and group peer support
- Help students make more informed and responsible decisions
- Promote school involvement and spirit
- Encourage improvement in academic performance
- Foster positive attitudes

Strategies:

Ways we assist in student success are:

- **Pershing Student Assignment:** Peer helpers are available for assignment to designated teachers to serve in a mentor/tutor capacity.
- **Life Skills Class Activities:** The PAL students get the opportunity to visit the life skills class students every other week to do fun activities with holiday celebrations.
- **Mark Twain Student assignment:** Peer helpers will be assigned a student from Mark Twain who would benefit from a peer helper and positive role model in their lives. In this situation, the PAL students meet with their "starfish" to assist with homework, work on site words or other tasks.
- **Special programs:**
 - Work to promote anti-drugs, violence, and bullying campaigns such as Red Ribbon Week.
 - Create fun student involvement activities like softball/baseball game, organize honor roll celebrations, and end of year awards ceremony for 8th graders.
 - Maintain bulletin boards throughout the building.
 - Morning and afternoon announcements in English and Spanish