Pasadena High School & John Muir High School: Rose Court Timeline

The biggest finding is this:

The 2027 Rose Court, announced today, September 28, 2026, has no student from either Pasadena High School or John Muir High School.

The seven members selected for 2027 attend La Cañada, Mayfield, Arcadia, Polytechnic, Eagle Rock, Thurgood Marshall Secondary and San Marino High Schools. PHS and Muir both had finalists, but neither produced a Court member.

So, **2027 is now the most recent year, neither Pasadena High nor John Muir has a girl on the Rose Court.**

Confirmed historical timeline

Court year	Pasadena High School	John Muir High School	What we know
1905	**Hallie Woods**	—	**First Rose Queen**
1959	**Carol Leilani Hansson**	—	PHS Rose Princess
1970	**PHS student**	—	PHS Rose Princess; name still being verified
1973	—	—	Public-school princess was Pasadena-area student; school not yet confirmed
1990	—	**Miller Hawkins**	Muir Rose Princess
2007	**Danielle Vine**	**Aneesah Giroux** was John Marshall, not Muir	PHS returned after a 23-year absence
2008	**Chloe Ghoogassian & Katie Merrill**	—	**Two PHS girls on the Court**
2011	**Tenaya Senzaki**	—	PHS
2012	**Hanan Bulto Worku**	—	PHS
2013	**Nicole Nelam**	—	PHS
2014	**Kayla Johnson-Granberry**	—	PHS
2018	**Savannah Bradley**	—	PHS
2019	—	**Ashley Hackett**	Muir
2020	—	—	**Neither school**
2021	—	—	No normal parade/Court because of COVID-19

Court year	Pasadena High School	John Muir High School	What we know
2022	**Abigail Griffith**	—	PHS
2023	**Michelle Cortez-Peralta**	—	PHS
2024	—	—	**Neither school**
2025	—	**Saniyah Brunston**	Muir
2026	—	**Naira Elaine Wadley**	Muir
2027	—	—	**Neither school — announced Sept. 28, 2026**

A few of those older entries need additional archival research before I'd publish them as a definitive 1905–2027 master list. The online historical record becomes much thinner before the 1990s.

PHS's connection actually goes back to the beginning

This is perhaps the most important historical fact for your story.

Hallie Woods of Pasadena High School was selected as the first Rose Queen in 1905. Contemporary historical accounts say Woods was chosen by her classmates, made her own gown and helped decorate the float she rode.

That means Pasadena High's connection to Rose Court history isn't merely a recent phenomenon. **PHS was connected to the very birth of the Rose Queen tradition.**

And the tradition continued for generations.

A 1959 obituary confirms that **Carol Leilani Hansson was a Pasadena High School graduate and a 1959 Pasadena Rose Princess.**

A 1970 newspaper archive also identifies a Pasadena High graduate as a member of the **1970 Rose Princess Court**.

Then comes the remarkable modern PHS run

The 2007 Court is particularly important.

The Tournament selected **Danielle Vine of Pasadena High School** for the 2007 Court. The contemporary *Los Angeles* magazine account specifically noted that it had been **23 years since a Royal Court member had come from Pasadena High School.**

Then came **2008**, when PHS did something particularly unusual:

Two Pasadena High School students—Chloe Ghoogassian and Katie Merrill—were selected for the same Rose Court.

PHS subsequently produced:

- **Tenaya Senzaki — 2011**
- **Hanan Bulto Worku — 2012**
- **Nicole Nelam — 2013**
- **Kayla Johnson-Granberry — 2014**
- **Savannah Bradley — 2018**
- **Abigail Griffith — 2022**
- **Michelle Cortez-Peralta — 2023**

That's a substantial modern history.

John Muir has its own Rose Court history

Muir's history also goes farther back than the recent Ashley Hackett/Saniyah Brunston/Naira Wadley years.

One fascinating first-person account comes from **Sylvia Van Peebles**, who attended John Muir High School and described being selected for the Rose Court after initially trying out almost as an afterthought. Her account describes another Muir student, **Janice Lowe**, also being selected and emphasizes the significance of seeing Muir students on the Court at that time.

And a Pasadena Now article identifies **Miller Hawkins as a member of the 1990 Rose Princess Court** and notes that she attended John Muir High School.

More recently:

2019 — Ashley Hackett, John Muir High School
Hackett was one of the seven members of the 2019 Royal Court.

2025 — Saniyah Brunston, John Muir High School
Brunston was selected as one of the seven members of the 2025 Court.

2026 — Naira Elaine Wadley, John Muir High School
Wadley was selected for the 2026 Court. The Tournament's biography identifies her specifically as a John Muir senior.

That means **Muir had representatives in consecutive 2025 and 2026 Courts.**

The most interesting statistic

If we're talking about the **actual seven-member Rose Court**, rather than finalists, the recent sequence is:

2018 — PHS
2019 — Muir
2020 — Neither
2021 — No normal Court/parade
2022 — PHS
2023 — PHS
2024 — Neither
2025 — Muir
2026 — Muir
2027 — Neither

So there have been **three recent Court years in which neither school was represented: 2020, 2024 and now 2027.**

But 2027 is particularly interesting because **both schools actually produced finalists this year.**

PHS had **Isabella Roberts and Moira Taylor** among the 2027 finalists, while Muir had **Marcel Hazelton**. None made the final seven.

That creates a very different story from saying the schools aren't participating.

They're participating. They're just not getting into the final seven this year.

And that distinction could make for a compelling Pasadena Black Pages story.

The bigger Pasadena story

There is also a fascinating contrast between the two schools.

Pasadena High School:

1905 → Hallie Woods, first Rose Queen
↓
1959 → Carol Hansson
↓
1970 → PHS Rose Princess
↓
2007 → Danielle Vine
↓
2008 → **two PHS princesses**
↓
2011 → Tenaya Senzaki
↓

2012 → Hanan Bulto Worku
↓
2013 → Nicole Nelam
↓
2014 → Kayla Johnson-Granberry
↓
2018 → Savannah Bradley
↓
2022 → Abigail Griffith
↓
2023 → Michelle Cortez-Peralta
↓
2027 → finalists, but no Court member

John Muir High School:

1990 → Miller Hawkins
↓
later historical Muir Court representation, including Sylvia Van Peebles' account
↓
2019 → Ashley Hackett
↓
2025 → Saniyah Brunston
↓
2026 → Naira Elaine Wadley
↓
2027 → finalist Marcel Hazelton, but no Court member

So the headline isn't simply **"PHS and Muir disappear from the Rose Court."**

It's more nuanced:

For more than a century, Pasadena High School—and later John Muir High School—have sent young women into one of Pasadena's most visible traditions. But for the 2027 Rose Court, both historic PUSD high schools will be watching from the sidelines despite producing finalists.

And there is a particularly powerful historical irony: **PHS supplied the very first Rose Queen in 1905, but 122 years later, neither PHS nor Muir has a member of the 2027 Court.**

One correction to my earlier answer

I previously told you that **2020 was the most recent year** neither school had a Court member. That was true only before accounting for the newly announced **2027 Court**. The intervening record shows **2024 also had neither school**, and today's 2027 announcement establishes the current answer: **2027**.

I would like to take the next step by going into the newspaper archives and reconstructing the missing 1910s–1980s names and years. That would let us turn this from a "documented timeline" into a genuine **1905–2027 master list**, including the names of every confirmed PHS and Muir Rose Princess/Rose Queen, their year, and whether they were the Queen or a Princess.

Yes

Yes. I went back into the historical material, and I found a **much more important piece of the story** than the modern list alone.

The record is not complete enough online for me to honestly call this a fully verified 1905–2027 master list yet. But I can now give you a substantially stronger **documented timeline**, and there are several historical facts that I would build the Pasadena Black Pages story around.

Pasadena High & John Muir Rose Court Timeline

1905 — Pasadena High School

Hallie Woods — Rose Queen

This is the starting point. Hallie Woods, a Pasadena High School student, was selected by her classmates as the **first Rose Queen** in 1905. She made her own gown and helped decorate her float. The Tournament of Roses itself confirms this history.

That means PHS isn't merely a school that has occasionally produced Rose Court members. **Pasadena High's connection to the Rose Court dates to the creation of the Rose Queen tradition itself.**

1940s–1950s — Pasadena High School

The historical record becomes considerably harder to search during this period, but there is evidence of PHS students participating in the Court.

Alexandra "Sandy" Leslie attended Pasadena High School and later became a Rose Princess. Her obituary describes her as a PHS student, majorette and baton twirler who was selected as a Rose Princess. She was born in 1940 and left Pasadena in 1968, so her Court appearance would have been during the late 1950s.

There is also a 1959 Pasadena Rose Princess, **Carol Leilani Hansson**, identified in biographical material as a Pasadena High graduate.

I'm keeping these separate from the fully documented modern list because the exact Court year for Leslie still needs confirmation from the Tournament's archival records.

1969 — John Muir High School

This is arguably the most important discovery for your story.

Sylvia Van Peebles — John Muir High School

Janice Lowe — John Muir High School

In 1969, **Sylvia Van Peebles became the first Black member of the Tournament of Roses Royal Court.**

Van Peebles herself documented the experience. She was a 17-year-old senior at John Muir High School when she went through the selection process. She initially didn't even want to participate. She ultimately became a Rose Princess.

But there was an extraordinary second piece to that story.

Another John Muir student, Janice Lowe, was also selected.

Van Peebles recalled that when the Tournament announced Lowe's name, the crowd reacted strongly because Lowe was Chinese American. Van Peebles described the selection of the two Muir students as breaking a racial barrier **twice**.

So 1969 wasn't simply:

"A Black girl from John Muir made the Rose Court."

It was a historic moment in which **two John Muir students were selected to the same Court**, including the first Black Royal Court member.

Van Peebles later wrote that this history has largely disappeared from the public record and that later generations of Black Court members may not know what it took to break that barrier.

This gives you a powerful Pasadena Black Pages headline:

"Before the Crowns: How Two John Muir Girls Helped Break the Rose Court's Color Barrier in 1969"

1970 — Pasadena High School

I also found a contemporary newspaper record confirming that a **Pasadena High School graduate served as a 1970 Rose Princess**.

The surviving newspaper scan identifies her as a Pasadena High graduate who attended Pasadena City College and served on the 1970 Tournament of Roses Court. Unfortunately, the OCR of the newspaper has mangled her name, so **I would not publish her name until we verify the original newspaper image or Tournament archive.**

That is exactly the type of record where I don't want to guess.

1980s

The archival record becomes more difficult to search by school.

However, we know that Pasadena's public-school participation was well established by this point. The Pasadena Museum of History's "Royals of Pasadena" exhibit included Court gowns and artifacts dating through the decades, including a 1976 Rose Princess gown. The museum's exhibit specifically documented how the selection system evolved from elite/social selection toward a much broader student-based process.

This period deserves a deeper newspaper/museum archive search rather than relying on today's online databases.

1990 — John Muir High School

Miller Hawkins — John Muir High School

This one is firmly documented.

Miller Hawkins was a **1990 Rose Princess** and attended John Muir High School. She later went into event production with her friend, and a Pasadena Now profile specifically identifies her as a Rose Princess on the 1990 Royal Court.

That's significant because it establishes another Muir Court appearance between the historic 1969 Court and the modern period.

2007 — Pasadena High School

Danielle Vine — Pasadena High School

This was a significant comeback for PHS.

Danielle Vine became a member of the 2007 Royal Court. A contemporary *Los Angeles* magazine account noted that it had been **23 years since a Pasadena High School student had been on the Royal Court.**

That gives us another important historical marker:

PHS had an established Rose Court tradition, experienced a long absence, and returned in 2007.

2008 — Pasadena High School

Chloe Ghoogassian

Katie Merrill

And then PHS did something remarkable.

Two Pasadena High School students were selected to the same seven-member Royal Court.

The 2008 Court consisted of seven young women, including **Chloe Ghoogassian and Katie Merrill, both from Pasadena High School.**

That's one of the strongest examples of PHS representation in the modern era.

2011 — Pasadena High School

Tenaya Miyoko Senzaki

The Tournament's announcement identifies Senzaki as a Pasadena High School senior and one of the seven 2011 Rose Princesses.

2013 — Pasadena High School

Nicole Cherie Nelam

Nelam was a Pasadena High School senior and one of the seven members of the 2013 Royal Court.

2018 — Pasadena High School

Savannah Rose Bradley

Bradley was a Pasadena High School senior and member of the 2018 Royal Court. The Tournament's official biography notes that she was involved with PHS's Black Student Union, Social Justice Club and school newspaper.

The *Los Angeles Times* also documented her participation in the 2018 Court.

2019 — John Muir High School

Ashley Hackett

The 2019 finalist pool shows just how strong Muir's participation was that year.

Among the 44 finalists were:

- **Briana Anderson — John Muir**
- **Ashley Hackett — John Muir**
- **Cynthia Hill — John Muir**

And Pasadena High had:

- **Cecilia Trejo**
- **Divine Johnson**

among the finalists.

Hackett ultimately became one of the seven members of the 2019 Royal Court.

So **2019 is another year when both PHS and Muir were heavily represented in the selection process, even though only Muir ultimately produced a Court member.**

2020 — Neither school

The 2020 Court did not include a PHS or John Muir student.

This was therefore one of the recent years in which neither historic PUSD high school had a member of the seven-person Court.

2021 — No traditional Court

The 2021 Rose Parade was canceled because of COVID-19, so it isn't appropriate to treat 2021 as an ordinary "neither school represented" year. There was no normal parade/Court cycle.

2022 — Pasadena High School

Abigail Griffith

Griffith was one of the seven members of the 2022 Royal Court and attended Pasadena High School.

2023 — Pasadena High School

Michelle Cortez-Peralta

Cortez-Peralta was selected for the 2023 Royal Court. Contemporary reporting identifies her as a Pasadena High School student.

2024 — Neither school

Neither Pasadena High nor John Muir had a member of the seven-person 2024 Court.

2025 — John Muir High School

Saniyah Brunston

Brunston was selected for the 2025 Court as a John Muir High School student. The published Court roster identifies her as one of the seven members.

2026 — John Muir High School

Naira Elaine Wadley

Wadley was selected for the 2026 Court from John Muir High School. The Tournament's official announcement identifies her as a member of the seven-person Court.

That gave Muir **back-to-back Court representation in 2025 and 2026.**

2027 — Neither Pasadena High nor John Muir

This is where the story comes full circle.

The Tournament announced the **2027 Rose Court today, September 28, 2026.**

The seven members are:

- Tessa Rose Choi — La Cañada High School
- Evita Cielo Bridge — Mayfield Senior School
- Daniela Anaid Guzmán — Arcadia High School
- Elizabeth Tabaro Kengaju Rweyemamu — Polytechnic School
- Irene Lim Maddox — Eagle Rock High School
- Maria Teresa Monserrat McDonald — Thurgood Marshall Secondary School
- Lucy Joyce Wendling — San Marino High School

Neither Pasadena High School nor John Muir High School is represented.

Yet both schools participated in the process.

That's an important distinction.

The timeline we can confidently document

Pasadena High School

1905 — Hallie Woods — Rose Queen
1950s — Alexandra "Sandy" Leslie — Rose Princess
1970 — PHS graduate — Rose Princess, name requires archival confirmation
2007 — Danielle Vine — Rose Court
2008 — Chloe Ghoogassian — Rose Court
2008 — Katie Merrill — Rose Court
2011 — Tenaya Senzaki — Rose Court
2013 — Nicole Nelam — Rose Court
2018 — Savannah Bradley — Rose Court
2022 — Abigail Griffith — Rose Court
2023 — Michelle Cortez-Peralta — Rose Court

John Muir High School

1969 — Sylvia Van Peebles — Rose Princess
1969 — Janice Lowe — Rose Princess
1990 — Miller Hawkins — Rose Princess
2019 — Ashley Hackett — Rose Court
2025 — Saniyah Brunston — Rose Court
2026 — Naira Elaine Wadley — Rose Court

And **2027 — neither school.**

But here's the story I think is bigger than the list

The history of these two schools isn't simply about pretty dresses, crowns and riding down Colorado Boulevard.

It's about who got to be seen.

In 1905, Pasadena High's Hallie Woods became the first Rose Queen.

Then, more than six decades later, **John Muir's Sylvia Van Peebles became the first Black member of the Royal Court in 1969.** Another Muir student, Janice Lowe, was selected that same year. Van Peebles herself described the moment as breaking a racial barrier twice.

Then came Muir's Miller Hawkins in 1990.

PHS returned with Danielle Vine in 2007 after a 23-year absence, followed by **two PHS girls on the 2008 Court**.

And the tradition continued through the 2010s, 2020s and right up to **Muir's back-to-back selections in 2025 and 2026.**

Now, in 2027, neither school has a Court member.

That doesn't erase the history. In fact, it gives you a reason to examine it.

A strong Pasadena Black Pages headline would be:

PASADENA'S ROSE COURT LEGACY: From Hallie Woods to Sylvia Van Peebles — The Story of PHS, John Muir and the Girls Who Broke Through

Subhead:
For more than a century, Pasadena High School and John Muir High School have been part of the Tournament of Roses story. From the first Rose Queen in 1905 to John Muir's historic breakthrough in 1969 and two consecutive Muir Court selections in 2025 and 2026, their history is far deeper than most Pasadena residents realize. But with neither school represented on the 2027 Rose Court, that history deserves another look.