

Highlights of the 1980's at Peoria High School

During the 1980s the students caught “the Spirit of the Panther.” There was a lot to proud of at Peoria High School. Here are just a few of the things that occurred during this decade of growth and change:

- Dedication of the new Performing Arts Center- Vaclac Nelhybel composed “Fair and Free” for the dedication- May 1985
- 7 Up Spirit Assembly in 1985
- Drama-plays in the old Auditorium in Old Main, beginning in 1986 in the new PAC, bigger productions.
- Special Education- special education students were always included in all school activities.
- PHS Carnival - A way for the community of Peoria to gather together with the school.
- Homecoming activities- Dress up days, Candidate competitions, Bonfire, Assembly and games, concluding with the Homecoming Spirit Dance.
- Christmas Activities- Canned Food Drive for the community, Class competitions for food drive and door decorating, Campbell soup label competitions, concluding with the Christmas Assembly
- FFA Week- competitions, Slave Sale, games, Peoria/Cactus FFA barbeque
- Clubs on campus-Art, DECA, Drama, FFA, Mat Maids, Mecha, Youth Arc, NHS, Rocket, Tennis
- Sweep was started in the mid 1980's to combat a tardiness problem.

- Pioneer Days Parade in conjunction with the city of Peoria-involving the Band and ROTC
- Rick Johnson bringing P.A.S.E. (Positive Attitude Super Effort)
- The fads of the 80's- fashions, hair, and the language (“Valley Girl”)
- The amazing Sports successes of the decade:
 - 1984-Boys Basketball -State Champs
 - 1985-Football-State Runner ups
 - 1986-Football State Champs
 - 1987-Football State Champs
 - 1988-Girls Basketball State Champs
 - 1988-Softball State Champs
 - 1988-Baseball State Champs
 - 1988-Football State Runner ups
 - 1989-Girls Basketball State Champs
- New sports
 - Soccer for the first time,
 - Swim team the first time in 8 years
- The performance teams of the decade did well:
 - Arts
 - Athletic Trainers
 - Band
 - Cheer
 - Crafts
 - Drama
 - FFA
 - Flag line
 - Majorettes
 - Mat Maids
 - Pom
 - ROTC



Truly the 1980's was a Decade of Growth and Change for the better for our Panthers.