

PCHS Course Descriptions (DRAFT)

Bible as Literature Offered: spring 5 credits On campus and online course

This online and on-campus course is designed to explore the Old Testament of the Bible as a work of literature, viewing various pieces as different genres of writing, such as historical narrative, poetry, and wisdom literature. Extra-Biblical literature, such as poetry, short stories, and novels from other eras, will be analyzed in light of their content-based and stylistic allusions to Biblical material.

Biology Offered: fall 10 credits On campus labs required *Prerequisite = completion of a PCHS science course*

In this course, the student will examine the basic principles and concepts of living things. Major areas covered include: the structure of cells, cell processes and reproduction, genetics and heredity, evolution, ecology, ecosystems and resources, the human body, and immunity. After completing the course students will be able to: 1) Relate the fundamental life processes of plants and animals to the chemical reactions that occur in specialized areas of the cell. 2) Apply principles of genetics in describing how characteristics are inherited and passed from one generation to the next. 3) Outline the structure of DNA, RNA and describe their function in cell division and protein synthesis. 4) Describe the competing factors which determine the stability of an ecosystem. 5) Relate how environmental and genetic factors determine the extent of evolution of living organisms. 6) Outline the structure and function of the major systems of the body.

Brain Science Elective Offered: fall/spring 2.5 credits On campus course

The brain is the organ of loving, learning, thinking and behaving. When our brain works right, we tend to be effective, thoughtful, creative and energetic. When the brain is troubled, we may have problems with depression, anxiety, school performance, impulsivity, anger, inflexibility, memory, and our relationships. With the right plan, we can reverse damage and optimize our own brain and subsequently improve our lives. With the right education, our brains can be even better than they are. This class will cover: how your brain relates to everyday life, the brain systems that run your life, what can we learn from brain imaging, what helps and hurts brain development, brain struggles, the brain can change, and brain boosting skills.

Comparative Literature Offered: fall/spring Qtr class 5 credits *Seniors Only* On campus course

This course will offer an introduction to the works of leading writers and provide the student with training and practice in the basics of discussion, composition, grammar, and mechanics. Selected titles will be compared, contrasted, and evaluated. The study of vocabulary, literature, composition, and comparisons is an essential part of this course. Class participation is required and attendance is required. This course is a PCHS graduation requirement.

Computer Skills Essentials Offered: fall/spring Qtr class 5 credits

This is a skills development course with an emphasis on using standard software and techniques essential for high school and college computer literacy. Students will explore areas that include computer components, word processing techniques, Internet safety and research techniques, and the creation of slide show presentations. Additionally it will include Internet skills, file management skills, Distance Learning skills for online courses and general use of email.

Consumer Math offered: fall/spring 5 credits

In this course the student will gain a basic understanding of mathematic concepts and operations. Emphasis is placed on mastering basic concepts that are necessary for life rather than on the terminology and theory of modern math. Major areas covered include adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, writing ratios and proportions, and understanding and applying percents. These are experienced in practical applications of earning money, buying and working with food, shopping for clothes, managing a household, and buying and maintaining a car, budgeting their money and planning a vacation.

Creative Writing offered: spring 5 units On campus and online

This class will help students to improve their skills in creative writing. Students will fine tune their skills in developing their style by setting a focus, developing ideas, checking necessary structure and enhancing their writing with the use of powerful vocabulary. Students will be required to write on a regular basis and will read their own peer writing in class and on the discussion board. Students will organize their writing into a creative writing portfolio. All assignments are

expected to reflect grade level with vocabulary, writing style, and presentation. Students will be required to write short stories, develop vocabulary, and write poetry on assigned topics. All assignments must be typed and follow the MLA format assigned. Parents are required to support and preview all student work as well as sign and comment on each assignment.

Driver's Ed offered: fall/spring Qtr class 5 credits On campus meetings req'd

This class stresses the specific knowledge necessary for the safe driver, including traffic laws and regulations governing the safe operation of motor vehicles. Equally important, the course emphasizes attitudes, habits, sound emotional reactions, and responsibilities. Mechanical operations of the vehicle, automobile insurance issues, and the negative influence of drugs and alcohol on a driver will be studied. The student will be expected to research information in the community, Internet, and to interview professionals. There are 8 hours of class meetings, required by law.

Drama offered: fall/spring 5 credits On campus course

In this course the students will gain a basic understanding of the history of drama, technical language used in drama, and practically using that language as well as developing skills through performances. Major areas of focus will include: processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the language and skills unique to theatre, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, connections, relationships, and applications. Students will create their own one-act plays, perform in front of peers and write a paper about an aspect of theater in history.

Earth Science offered: fall 5 credits

In this course students will gain a basic understanding of the Earth's place in the universe, the dynamic Earth processes, the energy in the Earth system, biogeochemical cycles, structure and composition of the atmosphere, and the California geology of natural resources and natural hazards through study of astronomy, geology, plate tectonics and meteorology. Students will complete projects that address California state standards.

Economics offered: fall/spring 5 credits *Seniors Only*

This is a basic economics course which covers the concepts of scarcity, choices, opportunity costs, the American enterprise system, world economy, supply and demand, the roles of business, labor, the consumer and government. It also covers the role of money and the banking system, economic growth and performance, monetary and fiscal policy and how nations trade.

English 1 offered: fall 10 credits

The emphasis of this course is on components of a standard paragraph, written essays, evaluation of required and selected readings, and a variety of vocabulary and mechanics exercises. Students will be required to write several types of paragraphs, journal writings, and essays on assigned topics. A computer for word processing and internet assignments is necessary.

English 2 offered: fall 10 credits

The emphasis of this course is on creative, expository, and persuasive writing, literature evaluation on required and selected readings, and a variety of vocabulary and mechanics exercises. Students will be required to write short stories, journal writings, a research paper, and essays on assigned topics. A computer for word processing and internet assignments is necessary.

English 3 offered: fall 10 credits

The emphasis of this course is essay writing, research paper, literature evaluation on required and selected readings of American literature, as well as a variety of vocabulary and writing mechanic exercises and career search activities on an Internet website entitled careercruising.com. Students will be required to write journal writings, essays, and research papers on assigned topics. All assignments will reflect grade level quality with respect to vocabulary, writing style, and presentation. A computer for word processing and Internet assignments is necessary.

English 4 offered: fall 10 credits

The emphasis of this course is English Literature, Writing and Vocabulary. The student will read one or two novels from the selection list with additional readings, focusing on word analysis, fluency, vocabulary, literary response, analysis and reading comprehension. The students will be responsible for an analytical research paper, argumentative or persuasive research paper, expository essays, journal entries and writing mechanics. Students will also develop their listening and speaking strategies and applications in a polished presentation. A computer for word processing and internet assignments is necessary.

Fine Arts Survey offered: fall/spring 5 credits

In this course, the student will attend live or virtual concerts, films, dance, and theater productions of their choosing. The student will listen to radio dramas and to a variety of music genres. In addition, the student will research, seek out, and visit an art museum and a building of architectural significance. The student will prepare a critique, answer questions, complete sketches or write a report based on the experience. The student will also explore and research a particular artist and create an art or music project using the artist's style.

Government offered: fall/spring 5 credits *Senior Only*

This course covers the principles of government. The student will examine the main legal documents that define American government; the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; the branches of government, their functions, processes and powers; the court system, both national and state, as well as local government roles are examined. Through the use of current events, contemporary issues in the world today are also analyzed.

Guitar offered: fall/spring Qtr class 2.5 credits On campus course

Guitar 1 – This course is developed for the beginning guitar student with little or no professional guitar instruction. It is an introduction to guitar techniques including open chords, barre chords, power chords, and music theory.

Guitar 2 – This course is a continuation of the Guitar 1 course with study in music theory including chord theory and chord progressions.

Guitar 3 – This course is a continuation of Guitar 1 and 2. It is the introduction to the electric guitar. This course includes the study of chords, scales, improvisation, theory, and playing techniques as they relate to this revolutionary instrument.

Daily practice is necessary for satisfactory progress. Student must provide his/her own acoustic guitar for Guitar 1 & 2 and his/her own electric guitar for Guitar 3.

Health offered: fall/spring 5 credits

In this course the student will survey issues in health, with a focus on good health practices and decision-making skills. The major units of study are nutrition, medicines and drugs, diseases and disorders (including sexually transmitted diseases), community and environmental health, consumer health, safety and emergency care, and includes the student's completion of First Aid and CPR certification. This course is a PCHS graduation requirement.

Music Appreciation offered: fall/spring 5 credits

This course provides the student with a basic examination of a variety of music in several historical eras. Students focus on music from the Middle Ages through the 20th century. With an emphasis on listening, the student is directed toward classical and popular music, as well as given opportunities to experience, explore, and examine music makers, past and present. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to identify music from several historical eras of music, have knowledge of prominent musicians and their musical accomplishments, and will be able to generate written commentary about various musical pieces. The end product of this course will be a portfolio highlighting the semester's work.

Note Taking offered: fall/spring Qtr class 2.5 credits On Campus Course *Prerequisite = Speed Reading*

In this course the student will learn and practice note-taking techniques to be used with textbooks and lectures. Students will also learn about several popular frameworks designed to increase understanding of their own unique learning patterns. This course is a PCHS graduation requirement.

Physical Education offered: fall/spring 10 credits

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in a variety of physical activity preferences including individual, dual or team sports, games, dance, aquatics, outdoor education, and self-defense. The emphasis is on participation, improvement on skill level, setting personal goals for improving health, fitness, attitude, and quality use of leisure time. Each week the student will submit a calendar with activities listed and the time spent. Students should plan on spending one hour a day on a physical activity. House/yard work, shopping or walking the dog are not acceptable.

PE 1 –

PE 2 – Also includes a fit lifestyle interview, a personal action plan and attendance or observation (television viewing is not acceptable) of a collegiate activity.

Senior Project offered: fall (*Jan graduates only*)/spring (*seniors only*) 5 credits

This course is intended to provide students with meaningful, relevant opportunities to learn about their community through service. The student will give 30 hours of service to a community organization where not only the student gives but receives from the experience. It may not be something the student already participates in through church or an organization, nor may it be proselytizing for a religious group. The student will provide a power point presentation of their experience to their peers at the end of the course. In addition, students will investigate characteristics of the "Totally Responsible Person" by completing eight modules. This course is a PCHS graduation requirement.

Spanish 1 offered: fall (A)/Spring (B) 5 credits On campus course

This course provides students with communicative experience in Spanish necessary to gain and give information for personal and social purposes in various contextual settings. The course offers students the opportunity to study the basic principles for learning how to speak, read, and write the Spanish language. The student will also become familiar with the cultural attitudes, geography, and customs of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish 2 offered : fall (A)/Spring (B) 5 credits On campus course *Prerequisite = Spanish 1 with "C" or better*

This course is a continuation of Spanish 1, advancing in the ability of speaking, reading and writing the Spanish language.

Speed Reading Offered: fall/spring Qtr class 2.5 credits On campus course

In this course the student will master three techniques designed to increase their reading rate and comprehension. This course is a PCHS graduation requirement.

Web Design offered: fall/spring 5 credits On campus course

This course introduces students to the concepts, techniques and processes used to create and publish Web pages. Areas include how the Internet functions,; web design terminology; creation of web pages; basic HTML code; adding digital assets and managing web page formats and functions.

Vocational Exploration offered: fall/spring 5 or 10 credits

This course is designed to give students credit for learning about the world of work while on the job. In addition, student will utilize academic materials related to the world of work to improve upon their vocational skills. The student must hold a job which provides them with a paycheck stub and obtain a work permit. A student must complete 75 hours of work in the semester and then complete the packet which pertains to the specific skills, decisions and ethics of work. Students must be passing all current courses to participate in vocational exploration.

Yearbook offered: fall 5 credits On campus course

The yearbook staff participates in all the decisions made for the yearbook each year. They work as a large group to determine layout, themes, and the cover of the yearbook. Individuals are assigned to work on specific pages, make phone calls, take photos, and conduct interviews.