

RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Rattlers since 2013
www.ranchomiragehighschool.org



2025-2026
Course
Catalog



Palm Springs Unified School District Board of Education

Sergio Espericueta, Karen Cornett, John Gerardi, Madonna Gerrell, Charlie Ervin Jr.

Superintendent

Tony Signoret, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Simone Kovats, Ed.D.

Director of College and Career Readiness and Secondary Education

Deanna Keuilian, Ed.D.

Cathedral City High School

69250 Dinah Shore Drive
Cathedral City, CA 92234
(760) 770-0100
Principal: Julia Bartsch (Interim)

Desert Learning Academy

2248 E Ramon Road
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 778-0487
Principal: Michael Grainger, Ed.D.

Desert Hot Springs High School

65850 Pierson Blvd.
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
(760) 228-7000
Principal: Omar Tinoco

Ed Wenzlaff Education Center

11625 West Drive
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
(760) 329-3330
Principal: Brad Seiple

Palm Springs High School

2401 E. Baristo Road
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 778-0400
Principal: Michael Ventura

Mt. San Jacinto High School

30800 Landau Blvd.
Cathedral City, CA 92234
(760) 770-8563
Principal: Brad Seiple

Rancho Mirage High School

31001 Rattler Road
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 202-6455
Principal: Brian Hendra



Palm Springs Unified School District has made every reasonable effort to determine that everything stated in this catalog is accurate. Courses and programs offered, together with other matters contained herein, are subject to change without notice by the administration of the district for reasons related to student enrollment, level of financial support, or for any other reason, at the discretion of the district. The district further reserves the right to add, amend, or repeal any of their rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.

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PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Palm Springs Unified School District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education and in employment and does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived ancestry, age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, immigration status, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, parental/marital or family status, primary language, social class, geographical location, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the protected characteristics named above. (PSUSD BP1312.3, AR 1312.3, BP 5145.3, BP 5131.2, BP 5145.7, AR 5145.7)

Title IX Coordinator:

Antonia Hunt, Ed.D.
Director, Title IX & Compliance
760-883-2703 x4805026, ahunt@psusd.us

Equity Compliance Officer:

Antonia Hunt, Ed.D.,
Director, Title IX & Compliance
760-883-2703 x4805026, ahunt@psusd.us

504 Plans:

Lisa Todd
Director, Student Support Services
760-883-2703 x4805502, ltodd@psusd.us

Equal Access

Although there are recommendations for enrollment in Advanced Placement, IB and Honors courses, students who wish to enroll in the classes have the right to appeal the recommendation process. Students/parents should speak to the administration if they wish to appeal. This is in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights.

Standards

Palm Springs Unified School District high school academic curricula are based on the State/District adopted standards and the California State Frameworks. Elective course curricula provide a context for a coordinated effort to enable all students to achieve high levels of proficiency on the State Standards.

Parent Vue

Collaboration and communication between parents and staff are a priority at Palm Springs Unified School District. In an effort to build on this belief, and to ensure academic success for all students the PVue application provides parents secure Internet access to a wide array of their children's school data. PVue can be accessed through the district website or mobile app. Parents will have immediate access to various information such as: district, school, and classroom news, student schedules, attendance activity, class assignments, report cards & progress reports, health & immunizations, and testing results.



PSUSD Belief Statements

LIFELONG
LEARNING
STARTS
HERE



All members of Palm Springs Unified School District are united in our commitment to equity. We create deep, meaningful learning opportunities, build professionalism, and engage parents and community, to ensure success for all students.

All students graduate with the skills, capacities and confidence needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

THE PSUSD BELIEF STATEMENTS

WE FOSTER STUDENT SUCCESS:

- ✓ A growth mindset
- ✓ Emotionally safe and inspiring learning environments
- ✓ An every-student, every-day mentality
- ✓ Highly engaging learning opportunities
- ✓ Instruction that is tailored to student needs
- ✓ Learning that propels students towards meeting their full potential

WE VALUE CULTURE, RELATIONSHIPS, AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH:

- ✓ Discovering and celebrating individual differences as assets
- ✓ A culture that is welcoming and inclusive
- ✓ Learning that enhances social emotional growth
- ✓ Strong interpersonal connections and mutually respectful relationships
- ✓ Removing real or perceived barriers to challenging and enriching academic opportunities

WE BELIEVE IN PROFESSIONALISM, COMMUNICATION, AND COLLABORATION:

- ✓ All staff must be committed to their role in creating a professional culture
- ✓ That all members of the learning community impact student success
- ✓ In high quality authentic collaboration and transparent communication
- ✓ Educators are lifelong learners who continually seek to develop their craft

WE PROMOTE DEEP, MEANINGFUL LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITIES:

- ✓ Critical thinking skills and complex problem-solving
- ✓ Instruction that allows students multiple ways to demonstrate their learning
- ✓ Creativity and innovation
- ✓ Communication through writing, speaking, and the creation of multimedia
- ✓ Creative and strategic student-use of technology
- ✓ Learning that includes self-reflection and the development of perseverance

WE COMMIT TO COMMUNITY AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT:

- ✓ Valuing, trusting, respecting and cultivating all relationships within our diverse communities
- ✓ Community outreach that is ongoing, innovative, active, responsive, and ever-changing



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND TERMINOLOGY IN PSUSD

A-G: The minimum course requirements to be considered for admission to any of the University of California (UC) and California State Universities (CSU). A student must complete 15 ‘a-g’ courses with a grade of C or better, at least 11 of them prior to the senior year. Students may meet them by completing college courses, or earning minimum scores on SAT subject tests, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate exams.

ACADEMY: Students in an Academy are together in a cohort group for a sequence of special-focus classes and for at least one core subject class. Academies transform the traditional high school model to prepare all students for college and careers by linking academic subjects to career themes.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP): The Advanced Placement program offered in PSUSD adheres to the College Board Advanced Placement curriculum. The focus of AP courses and curricula is to provide a rigorous program preparing students for college level coursework. Additionally, coursework is to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exams given in May of each year. There is a cost associated with each exam the student takes, however there are fee reductions for students who qualify. For more information, contact the counseling office. More information about AP courses and curriculum can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID): AVID is a global nonprofit organization that operates with one guiding principle: Hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge. AVID brings research-based curriculum and strategies to students each day that develop critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas. AVID is designed to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in college and beyond.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE): Career Technical Education (CTE) is a program of study that involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers.

DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD) COURSES: Courses which offer students the opportunity to be a college student while in high school. Agreements have been established with PSUSD high schools and College of the Desert (COD). Courses are offered in both academic and occupational areas and are taught by college-approved high school teachers.

DESIGNATED AND INTEGRATED ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT: English learners (ELs) face the unique challenge of learning English as they are also learning grade-level content through English. The California Department of Education (CDE) and the State Board of Education (SBE) recognize that both designated and integrated English Language Development (ELD) are an integral part of a comprehensive program for every EL student to meet the linguistic and academic goals at their grade level. As a comprehensive approach to ELD, the English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework for California Public Schools states that “ELs at all English proficiency levels and at all ages require both integrated ELD and specialized attention to their particular language learning needs, or designated ELD.



ELECTIVES: Credits or courses taken by choice beyond the minimum graduation requirements, regardless of the department in which they are earned.

HONORS COURSES: Courses which are highly rigorous and challenging. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students who have a strong interest in a particular subject area and want to strengthen their preparation for future study.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE: Industry certificates are credentials recognized by business and industry. They are district determined, measure a student's competency in an occupation and they validate a knowledge base and skills that show mastery in a particular industry.

PATHWAY: Pathway students take a sequence of special-focus classes together but are scheduled for their other classes independently. Different pathways designed and supported by community partners are created to introduce students to a variety of college and career options.

PREREQUISITE: A requirement that must be met or a course that must be completed successfully before a more advanced course can be attempted.

REQUIREMENTS: Courses that must be taken, common experiences, or minimum levels of competence expected of all students. Required courses are prescribed by state law or the Board of Education.

SENIOR SEMINAR: A culminating elective class for seniors to display the scholarly knowledge and techniques they have gained throughout their high school program of study. Students will prepare for potential careers, college, and life after high school.



Owning it since 2013!

WELCOME TO RATTLER NATION

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to Rancho Mirage High School, home of the Rattlers! We opened in August 2013 with approximately 900 freshman (9th) and sophomore (10th) students. It is such an exciting time to be part of a team of students, parents, staff, and community that have the opportunity to open this new high school. As a team we will establish the culture and traditions of the RMHS Rattlers!

Students will be expected to succeed within the bounds of their abilities and chosen educational and career goals. Students are welcomed into a school culture that encourages individuality and expects co-curricular participation in order to foster a sense of belonging. By participating in this educational community, students acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will serve them each day and in their future. Find out more: <https://www.rmhs.us/>

POLICIES

PREREQUISITES

The prerequisites listed for specific courses are guidelines and recommendations designed to ensure the appropriate placement level for students to achieve success. Students who do not satisfactorily meet all prerequisites may petition their counselor for enrollment.

CHANGE OF CLASS

- Change of classes may only be made during the registration time that is prior to the start of school.
 - **0-2 weeks:** Change of class based on incorrect course request, class balancing, or other counselor identified purpose. There will not be a penalty for academic/educational purposes.
 - **3-6 weeks:** Change of class because of inappropriate student placement as determined and approved by administration. No penalty if determined to be inappropriate placement, otherwise may also result in a "Withdraw Fail" depending on circumstances.
 - **After 6 weeks:** Change of class results in "Withdraw Fail" (F) or withdraw for no credit, with administrative approval.

GRADING SCALE

All courses must be completed with grades of "A", "B", "C" or "D" to earn credits however, four-year colleges will not accept credit for a "D" grade. An "F" grade receives no credit! If a student repeats a course to earn a higher grade, he/she will receive credit for the higher grade. Additional credit is not received for repeating a course that the student has previously passed. Credit is awarded only for the higher grade earned.

GRADE REPORTING

Progress Reports are issued on the fifth and fourteenth week of each semester and are issued for students who are failing or in danger of failing. Quarter grades are issued for all students at the end of nine weeks of each semester and final grades are issued at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Grades for semester courses will be issued in January and June and recorded on permanent transcript records.



PSUSD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS VS A-G REQUIREMENTS

| PSUSD Graduation Requirements | | | UC/CSU 'A-G' College Requirements | | |
|--|----------|------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Subject | Years | Credits | Category | Years | Credits |
| History/Social Science (SS) | 3 | 30 | A (SS) | 2 <i>3 recommended</i> | 20 <i>30 recommended</i> |
| English Language Arts (ELA) | 4 | 40 | B (ELA) | 4 | 40 |
| Mathematics | 3 | 30 | C (Math) | 3 <i>4 recommended</i> | 30 <i>40 recommended</i> |
| Science – Laboratory <i>1 Biological</i> <i>1 Physical</i> | 2 | 20 | D (SCI) <i>1 Biological</i> <i>1 Physical</i> | 2 <i>3 recommended</i> | 20 <i>30 recommended</i> |
| World Language (WL) <i>or</i> Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA) <i>or</i> Career Technical Education (CTE) | 1 | 10 | E (LOTE) <i>same language</i> | 2 <i>3 recommended</i> | 20 <i>30 recommended</i> |
| Electives | 4 | 75 | F (VAPA) | 1 | 10 |
| Physical Education (PE) | 2 | 20 | G (Elective) | 1 | 10 |
| Total | 4 | 225 | Total | 4 | 150-190 |
| <i>Minimum Cumulative GPA Requirement: 1.51</i> | | | <i>CSU Minimum GPA Requirement: 2.5</i> | | |
| | | | <i>UC Minimum GPA Requirement: 3.0</i> | | |

(Note: Classes taken during middle school, that cover high school content standards, will not reduce the PSUSD high school graduation requirement of 225 credits. Classes taken during these years will allow students to be placed in the next level class if the student is deemed to be ready. Counselors will place students with consideration of, but not limited to, the following factors: teacher recommendation, course grade earned, end of the year test results, student's grade on applicable high school entry course test, and/or standardized test scores.)

RMHS Policies:

- Student placement is made by academic evaluation, graduation requirements, student choice, and teacher input.
- Class period, teacher, or course offerings are not guaranteed, subject to change, and contingent upon adequate enrollment.
- Students must commit to yearlong courses regardless of teacher preference, course preference, or grading marks earned.

Recognition: Local & State

- Academic Achievement – Honor Roll, Principal's Honor Roll, Distinguished Scholar
- A-G College Entrance Status – met the UC/CSU requirements
- [Golden State Seal](#) (GGSSMD) – Merit Diploma for demonstrating mastery of the curriculum
- [State Seal of Civic Engagement](#) (SSCE) – demonstration of civic learning and participation
- [State Seal of Biliteracy](#) (SSB) – demonstration of proficiency in English and at least on other language



9th Grade Outline

a-g

REQUIREMENTS

The path to college begins with high school coursework. For example, to be considered for UC admission, at a minimum you need to complete any 11 UC approved "a-g" courses by the end of junior year (including courses taken in the summer between junior and senior year) each with a grade of "C" or better. In all, you need to complete 15 courses by the end of senior year.

Note: these are minimum requirements; in the fall of 2010, freshmen who were admitted to UC had completed an average of 23 courses.

- a History/ Social Science** 2 YEARS
 - 1 year World History, Geography, or Cultures
 - 1 year of U.S. History or ½ year U.S. History and ½ year American Government
- b English** 4 YEARS
 - 9th English 11th English
 - 10th English 12th English
- c Mathematics** 3 YEARS, 4 RECOMMENDED
 - Algebra I or Integrated Math I Geometry or Integrated Math II
 - Algebra II, Algebra II/Trig, or Integrated Math III
- d Laboratory Science** 2 YEARS, 3 RECOMMENDED
 - 1 year of Biology, Chemistry, or Physics
 - 1 year of other science
- e Language other than English** 2 YEARS, 3 RECOMMENDED
 - Language I Language II
- f Visual and Performing Arts** 1 YEAR
 - Arts of your choice
- g College Prep (AP) Elective** 2 SEMESTERS
 - Elective of your choice Elective of your choice

9th grade

Recommended courses:

- 9th grade English
- Algebra 1 or higher-level
- World History, Geography or Cultures

Minimum requirements:

- 9th grade English
- Algebra I
- One "a-g"

and at least one:

- Language other than English
- Laboratory Science
- Visual and Performing Arts
- AP Elective

Recommended tests:

- ACT EXPLORE exam, if available

Courses for the year:

| | Honors | Grade | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1 st | 2 nd |
| a | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

AP/ACT Explore Exam(s):

Grade

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| _____ | <input type="text"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> |

Activities/Honors:



10th and 11th Grade Outline

| 10 th grade | | | 11 th grade | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Recommended courses: <input type="checkbox"/> 10 th grade English <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry or higher-level <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Science <i>and at least two:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/> Language other than English <input type="checkbox"/> Visual and Performing Arts <input type="checkbox"/> AP Elective(s) Recommended tests: <input type="checkbox"/> PSAT and/or ACT EXPLORE exams, if available | | Minimum accumulative requirements: <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th – 10 th English <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> Four "a–g's" | | Recommended courses: <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th grade English <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra II or higher-level <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Science <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History <input type="checkbox"/> Language other than English Recommended tests: <input type="checkbox"/> PSAT for NMSQT eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> SAT Reasoning and 2 Subjects and/or ACT with writing Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Draft and revise personal statement for college application | | Minimum accumulative requirements: <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th – 11 th English <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I and II <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Science <input type="checkbox"/> Language other than English <input type="checkbox"/> History or Social Science <input type="checkbox"/> Six "a–g's" | |
| Courses for the year: | | | Courses for the year: | | | | |
| | Honors | Grade 1 st 2 nd | | Honors | Grade 1 st 2 nd | | |
| a _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | a _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| b _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | b _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| c _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | c _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| d _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | d _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| e _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | e _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| f _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | f _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| g _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | g _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| AP/PSAT/ACT Explore Exam(s): | | Grade | AP/PSAT/ACT/SAT Exam(s): | | Grade | | |
| _____ | | <input type="text"/> | _____ | | <input type="text"/> | | |
| _____ | | <input type="text"/> | _____ | | <input type="text"/> | | |
| _____ | | <input type="text"/> | _____ | | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Activities/Honors: | | | Activities/Honors: | | | | |
| _____ | | | _____ | | | | |



12th Grade Outline

12th grade

Recommended courses:

- 12th grade English
 - Pre-Calculus or advanced math
 - American Government or Civics
- and at least one:*
- Laboratory Science
 - Language other than English
 - Visual and Performing Arts
 - College Prep (AP) elective

Other:

- Retake SAT/ACT as necessary
- Apply to colleges broadly: include selective and safety schools
- UC application period: Nov. 1-30

Minimum accumulative requirements:

- 9th - 12th English
- Algebra I and II
- Geometry
- 2 Laboratory Sciences
- 2 Language other than English
- 2 History or Social Sciences
- Arts
- Seven "a-g's"

Courses for the year:

| | Honors | Grade | |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1 st | 2 nd |
| a | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

AP/ACT/SAT Exam(s):

Grade

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| _____ | <input type="text"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> |
| _____ | <input type="text"/> |

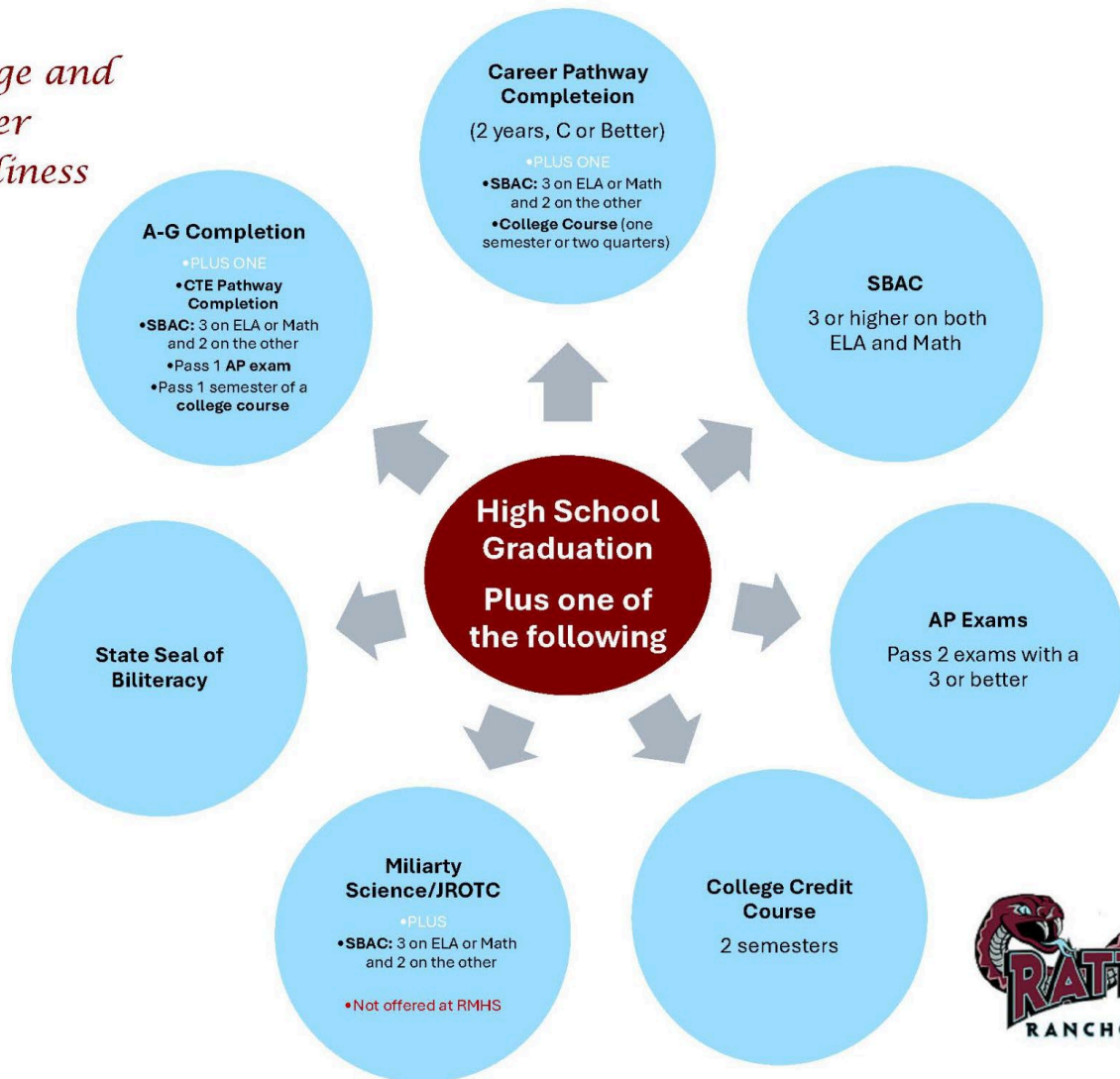
Activities/Honors:

Monitor your progress by making sure that you take at least the minimum courses to be eligible for UC/CSU. Compare your completed coursework and required exams to the benchmarks for each grade level.



College & Career Indicator

College and Career Readiness

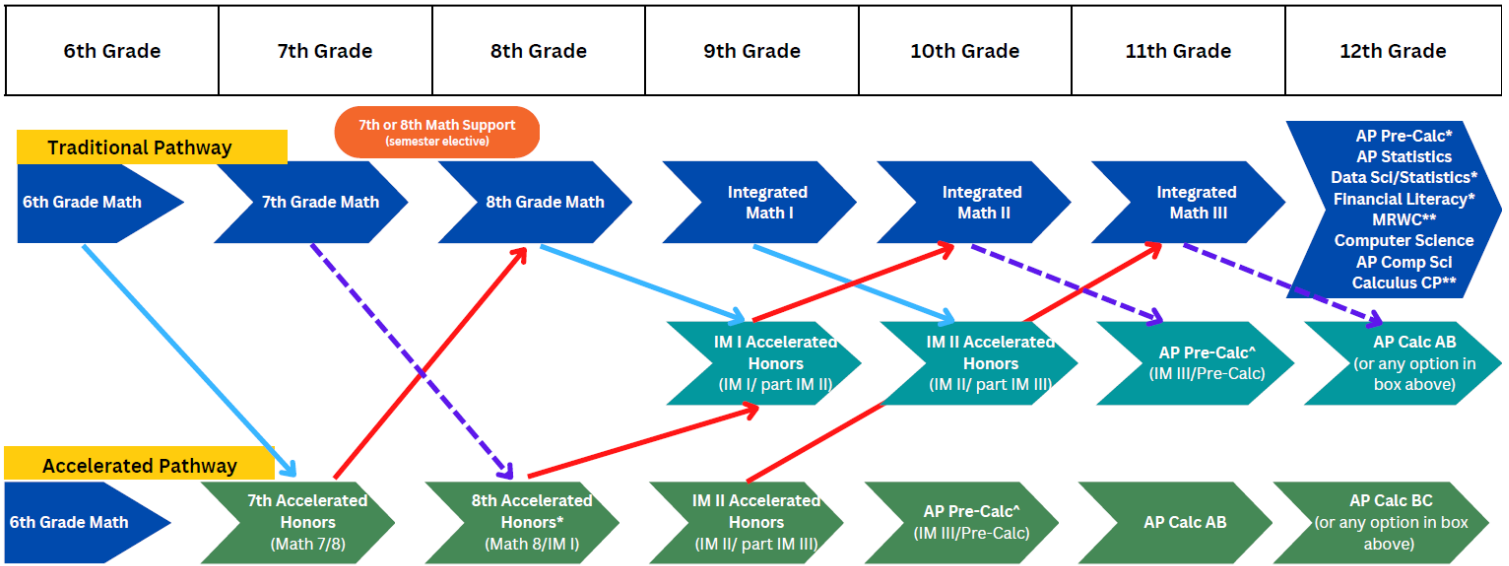




RMHS Math Flowchart



Secondary Math Pathways





Mathematics Course Sequence

| Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Integrated Math I | Integrated Math II | Integrated Math III | AP Statistics Financial Algebra Statistics AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A |
| Integrated Math I Honors | Integrated Math II Honors | Integrated Math III Honors and AP Statistics (if chosen) AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A | AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Statistics Financial Algebra AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A |
| Integrated Math II Honors | Integrated Math III Honors and AP Statistics (if chosen) | AP Statistics AP Calculus AB Statistics AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A | AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Financial Algebra Statistics AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A |

Science Course Sequence

| Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| The Living Earth CP | Chemistry in the Earth System CP Physics in the Universe CP | Chemistry in the Earth System CP Physics in the Universe CP Anatomy CP | Chemistry in the Earth System CP Physics in the Universe CP Anatomy CP AP Environmental Science |
| The Living Earth Honors | Chemistry in the Earth System Honors Physics in the Universe Honors | Chemistry in the Earth System Honors Physics in the Universe Honors AP Biology Anatomy Honors AP Environmental Science | AP Biology Anatomy Honors AP Environmental Science |



World Language Sequence

| | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Native Spanish Speakers | Spanish for Spanish Speakers | Emerging Literacy & Honors | Spanish Literature Honors <i>(Students can take the AP Spanish Language exam)</i> | AP Spanish Literature and Culture <i>(Students can take the AP Spanish Literature exam)</i> |
| Non-Native Spanish Speakers | Spanish I | Spanish II | Spanish III Honors | AP Spanish Language and Culture <i>(Students can take the AP Spanish Language exam)</i> |
| Non-Native French Speakers | French I | French II | French III Honors | AP French IV <i>(Students can take the AP French Language exam)</i> |

Performing Arts and TTECHS: Theater Sequence

[TTECHS: Technical Theater Education & Careers for High School Students](#)

This newer pathway focuses on the variety of technical fields in the performing arts such as stagecraft, lighting, sound, costume design, set design, and business management. These lucrative jobs are in high demand in California, and RMHS is poised to prepare students to successfully enter this job market. Students can take a sequence of CTE courses combined with a rigorous course of study in the core academic areas.

Students can learn about the box office, business management, and marketing. Ticket sales, advertising, and ushering are some key components to running the Helene Galen Performing Arts Center (HGPAAC) where students can gain practical, hands-on knowledge of managing a theater.

| | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Performance Path | Theater I | Theater II | Theater III | Theater III |
| Mixed Path (TTECHS Blend) | Theater I preferred | Intro to Technical Theater | Technical Theater I | Technical Theater II |
| Technical Path (TTECHS Pathway) | Intro to Technical Theater | Technical Theater I | Technical Theater II | Elective |



AVID Program

AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination

This well-known program is available for students who seek support to learn more about college and career options to best prepare for post-secondary education and beyond. This program focuses on WICOR strategies, study habits, time management, organization, and college exploration. Students are able to visit college campuses and explore careers based on various degrees.

| | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Elective | AVID I | AVID II | AVID III | AVID IV |
| English | English I CP or Honors | English II CP or Honors | English III CP or AP English Language | Ethnic Literature or AP English Literature |
| Science | The Living Earth CP or Honors | Chemistry in the Earth System CP or Honors Physics in the Universe Honors | Chemistry in the Earth System CP or Honors Physics in the Universe CP or Honors Anatomy CP or Honors AP Biology AP Environmental Science | Anatomy CP or Honors AP Biology AP Environmental Science |
| Math | Integrated Math I | Integrated Math II | Integrated Math III | AP Statistics Financial Alg Statistics CP |
| Math <i>*Honors path</i> | Integrated Math I Honors | Integrated Math II Honors | Integrated Math III Honors and AP Statistics (if chosen) | AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Financial Alg Statistics CP AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A |
| Social Studies | | World History AP World History | US History AP US | Civics/Economics AP Govt/Honors Econ |
| Elective | French or Spanish PE 9 th Core | French or Spanish | PE elective or VAPA elective or Academic elective | PE elective or VAPA elective or Academic elective |



CAFÉ Academy (CTE)*

CAFÉ Academy Career Technical Education: Culinary Arts Food Education Academy

This academy will initiate students into the art and practical skills of food preparation, as it produces graduates who will readily emerge into the hospitality field or choose to go on to further training as chefs or in restaurant management. The facility features a commercial culinary kitchen and dining classroom. This academy includes a sequence of CTE courses combined with a rigorous course of study in the core academic areas.

| 9 th Grade | 10 th Grade | 11 th Grade | 12 th Grade |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| English I CP or Honors | English II CP or Honors | English III CP or AP English Language | Ethnic Literature or AP English Literature |
| Integrated Math I CP or Honors | Integrated Math II CP or Honors | Integrated Math III CP or Honors | Civics/Economics or AP Govt. |
| The Living Earth CP or Honors | Chemistry in the Earth System CP or Honors | Adv. Biology/Human Anatomy CP or Honors | Culinary III: CART 020 |
| Physical Education | World History CP or AP World History | U. S. History CP or AP U.S. History | Internship/Work Experience |
| French I or Spanish I | Culinary I: CART 060/040 | Culinary II: CART 073/044 | VAPA Elective or Math: Statistics, or Financial Algebra, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles Science: AP Biology, AP Environmental Science Senior Seminar Personal Finance |
| VAPA Elective or Academic Elective | French I or II or Spanish I or II | Physical Education or French II or III or Spanish II or III or Academic Elective | Physical Education or French III or IV AP or Spanish III or IV AP or Academic Elective |

*CAFÉ and RACE academies begin in the 10th grade. Students must complete an application and interview process at the end of 9th grade to be eligible to join the academy.

*CAFÉ culinary courses for 10th-12th are part of the College of the Desert (COD) Dual Enrollment.



RACE Academy* (CTE)

RACE Academy Career Technical Education: Rattler Automotive Careers Education Academy

This academy will initiate students into the practical knowledge and hands-on skills of automotive maintenance and repair, as it produces graduates who will readily emerge into the automotive field or choose to go on further training in the automotive industry. The facility features a full automotive garage and classroom. This academy includes a sequence of CTE courses combined with a rigorous course of study in the core academic areas.

| 9 th Grade | 10 th Grade | 11 th Grade | 12 th Grade |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| English I CP or Honors | English II CP or Honors | English III CP or AP English Language | Ethnic Literature or AP English Literature |
| Integrated Math I CP or Honors | Integrated Math II CP or Honors | Integrated Math III CP or Honors | Civics/Economics or AP Government |
| The Living Earth CP or Honors | Chemistry in the Earth System CP or Honors | Physics CP or Honors | Math: Statistics, or Financial Algebra, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles Science: AP Biology, AP Environmental Science |
| Physical Education | World History CP or AP World History | U. S. History or AP U.S. History | Internship/Work Experience |
| French I or Spanish I | AUTO 10 | Auto 12A or Auto 10* | Auto 13A or Auto 12A* |
| VAPA elective or Academic Elective | French I or II or Spanish I or II | Physical Education or French II or III or Spanish II or III or VAPA/academic elective | Physical Education or French III or IV AP or Spanish III or IV AP or VAPA Elective or Senior Seminar & Personal Finance |


*Juniors who enter RACE will start with AUTO 10 but will not complete the full sequence.

*CAFÉ and RACE academies begin in the 10th grade. Students must complete an application and interview process at the end of 9th grade to be eligible to join the academy.

*RACE automotive courses for 10th-12th are part of the College of the Desert (COD) Dual Enrollment courses, and participation in an additional course AUTO 095 Work Experience class through COD may assist with progress toward a certificate.



PE Offerings



PE OFFERINGS AT RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL

For your freshman year

- **PE Core 9** - In this class, student will participate in a variety of activities including basketball, soccer, volleyball, football, pickleball, tennis, ultimate frisbee, badminton, etc.
- **Dance I** - This class is designed for beginning dancers who want to learn fundamental dance skills. *Dance I students participate in two performance a year - typically one in December and one in May. Performances are held in the evenings (Thursday and Friday nights).*


ADVANCED PE CLASSES FOR FRESHMEN

Do you have previous dance experience and want to skip up to a higher level dance class?

- **Dance III/IV** - If you already took Dance II, you can sign up for Dance III/IV. If you did not take Dance II, you need to audition to be placed in that class. [Click here to access the application.](#) *Dance III/IV can also count as performing art credits. Dance III/IV students participate in three or more performances a year - typically in October, December, and May. Performances are held in the evenings.*

Planning on playing a sport next year?

- **Sign up for PE Sports/Advanced.** We currently have classes specifically for basketball, football, golf, baseball, softball, and volleyball. Coaches will be in contact with you later this spring to determine which PE Sports/Advanced you belong in.



PE OFFERINGS AT RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL

For your sophomore, junior, or senior year

- **Lifetime Sports** - Variety of activities including basketball, soccer, and walking.
- **Low Impact Aerobics** - Daily workouts that include strength training, cardio, yoga, pilates, etc. *Already taken Aerobics? Sign up for Advanced Low Impact Aerobics.*
- **Weight Training** - Daily strength training workout held in the weight room. *Already taken Weight Training? Sign up for Advanced Weight Training.*

DANCE CLASSES

Dance classes are more than just PE. You also will be performing onstage for two or more shows a year!

- **Dance I** - If you have not taken Dance I already and would like to learn dance fundamentals, this is the class for you! This class is designed for beginning dancers.
- **Dance II** - If you already took Dance I, you can sign up for Dance II to continue to develop your skills as a dancer. This class moves faster than Dance I, but still works on developing basic dance technique.
- **Dance III/IV** - If you already took Dance II, you can sign up for Dance III/IV. If you did not take Dance II, you need to audition to be placed in that class. [Click here to access the application.](#)

Dance II and Dance III/IV can also count as performing art credits.

PE FOR ATHLETES

Planning on playing a sport next year? Check out these classes!

- **Basketball/Golf** - Contact [Coach Hanmer](#) to get on the list for his PE Advanced class.
- **Football** - Contact [Coach Matthews](#) to get on the list for his PE Advanced class.
- **Baseball/Softball/Volleyball** - Contact [Coach Shaw](#) to get on the list for his PE Advanced class.
- **Soccer** - Sign up for Lifetime Sports.
- **Other sports** - Sign up for Weight Training or Low Impact Aerobics to get daily conditioning workouts.



RMHS/PSUSD 2025-2026 HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: A

WORLD HISTORY

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

In this course students examine major turning points in the shaping of the modern world, from the late eighteenth century to the present. The year begins with an introduction to current world issues and then continues with a focus on the expansion of the West and the growing interdependence of people and cultures throughout the world.

WORLD HISTORY - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10

Prerequisites: Achievement in English I recommended

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

In this course, students in grade eleven study the major turning points in American History in the twentieth century. Following a review of the nation's beginnings and the impact of the Enlightenment on U.S. democratic ideals, students build upon the tenth-grade study of global industrialization to understand the emergence of impact of new technology and a corporate economy, including the social and cultural effects. Students consider the major social problems of our time and trace their causes in historical events.

**AMERICAN HISTORY - ADVANCED PLACEMENT****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11**Prerequisites:** Achievement in World History or higher**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

AP U.S. History is an introductory college-level U.S. history course. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. history from c. 1491 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structure.

CIVICS**Length of Course:** 1 Semester**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** Concurrent enrollment in Economics**Credits:** 5**Type:** Requirement

This course is the culmination of the civic literacy strand that prepares students to vote, to reflect on the responsibilities of citizenship, and to participate in community activities. The students will recognize the political principles, institutions, and processes that are supported by effective citizens in American Society. They will appreciate and develop a commitment to human dignity, justice, and democratic process. Students will understand that there are major ideas from which American political and legal systems have evolved. They will understand the basic problems of governing: balancing the needs of all members of society with the protection of individual rights.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS - ADVANCED PLACEMENT**Length of Course:** 1 Semester**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** Achievement in English III or higher with concurrent enrollment in Economics Honors**Credits:** 5**Type:** Requirement

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.



HUMAN GEOGRAPHY - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Human Geography is an introductory college-level human geography course. Students cultivate their understanding of human geography through data and geographic analyses as they explore topics like patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with their environment, and spatial processes and societal change.

ADDITIONAL HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCES COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: G

College Prep Elective

ECONOMICS

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Civics

Credits: 5

Type: Requirement

Economics is the study of scarcity and decision-making. Students will understand the principles of economics and our economic system. They will then compare our economic system to those of other countries and make reasoned judgments about economic questions. The students will apply basic Micro and Macroeconomic concepts and use the proper vocabulary to express them. They will explain how unlimited wants and the scarcity of resources affect consumers, producers, and government.

ECONOMICS – HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment or achievement in AP Government and Politics

Credits: 5

Type: Requirement

Economics is the study of scarcity and decision-making. Students will understand the principles of economics and our economic system. They will then compare our economic system to those of other countries and make reasoned judgments about economic questions. The students will explore and apply basic Micro and Macroeconomic concepts and use the proper vocabulary to express them. They will explain how unlimited wants and the scarcity of resources affect consumers, producers, and government. The students will demonstrate a clear understanding of materials presented by writing essays, making presentations, and participating in group discussions and activities.



PSYCHOLOGY I & II

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

Psychology I and II are each a semester long course taken in sequence. A major thesis of the course is to understand others you must first understand yourself. The course will not only focus on the cognitive aspects of psychology but on the elements of Psychology that can foster that change. Dynamics in Psychology II refers to those parts of the discipline that are characterized by energy or effective action. It is the application of these findings that lead to fostering positive human relations. In this course the student will study these ideas in the context of discovering what a healthy personality is, how the discipline of psychology seeks to help individuals to attain a healthy personality, and how you can assess the state of your own personality.

PSYCHOLOGY - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Psychology is an introductory college-level psychology course. Students cultivate their understanding of the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation, and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology.

ETHNIC STUDIES

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course examines how issues of ethnicity, race, class, gender, and identity are constructed and shape life in the United States. Employing historical, inter-sectional, and interdisciplinary approaches, this course introduces key concepts to understand and deconstruct the development of power and inequality across the nation and in the Coachella Valley. Students will examine ways communities have navigated and resisted these systems of power. Furthermore, students will examine the role of civil rights and social justice movements in changing laws and practices in the U.S.



The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

WORLD HISTORY A

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

In this course, students will examine the shaping of important historical events throughout the world. Students will discuss current world events as well as gain knowledge on various cultures and individuals throughout history. World History A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.

U.S. HISTORY A

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

In this course, students will study significant events, individuals, and cultural differences in American history during the twentieth century developing and understanding the birth of the nation from colonial times to present day. Social constructs will be explored through the lens of U.S. historical events. U.S. History A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.

CIVICS A

Length of course: 1 Semester

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 5

In this course, students will learn the basic policies of government, principles, and institutions in order to understand their roles as civic minded citizens. Individuals will gain an awareness of American political and legal systems. Geography will also be addressed, including practical reading of maps and geological features. Civics A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.

ECONOMICS A

Length of course: 1 Semester

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 5

This course introduces the principles of economics and focuses on the money system. Students will study the identification and value of U.S. currency. Skills developed will include purchasing, purchase process, shopping, budgeting, restaurants, etc. Economics A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: B

ENGLISH I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This course surveys the basic literary genres of novels, poetry, short story, nonfiction, and drama. Through various texts, students also begin to explore the rhetorical techniques and language choices authors use to convey and develop ideas. Additionally, the course provides practice with the full writing process which stresses pre-writing, drafting, peer sharing and responding, revising, and editing. The writing genres include argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narratives.

ENGLISH I - HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9

Prerequisites: Achievement in 8th grade English

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This is an accelerated one-year program which is the foundation for the sequentially designed Honors/AP Program. This course is designed for highly motivated freshmen who demonstrate exceptional ability in English and are willing to read and write extensively both in and out of class. The course covers the same content as English I with the addition of in-depth analysis of texts and an emphasis on developing oral communication skills.

ENGLISH II

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10

Prerequisites: English I

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This course will complete the California State Language Arts Standards for grades 9 and 10, integrating essays, short stories, novels, poetry, and drama as well as informational and technical documents. Through thorough textual analysis and evaluation, students continue to develop their understanding of rhetorical techniques and language usage and how they impact meaning and tone. The writing process will continue to be developed as students write full length argumentative, explanatory, and narrative essays with continued emphasis on correct language and grammar usage.

**ENGLISH II - HONORS****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10**Prerequisites:** Achievement in English I**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

This is an accelerated, one-year program that aims to refine students' analysis and interpretation skills using a variety of texts including classic and contemporary novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and non-fiction. Students are expected to share their unique perspectives and talents through creative and analytical writing, answering essential questions, as well as through oral presentations. This course is the second year of a sequentially designed Honors/AP/IB English Program.

ENGLISH III**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11**Prerequisites:** English II**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

This course embodies the study of selected genres from American Literature. It will incorporate participation in an integrated study of readings that will motivate speaking and listening as well as writing tasks which employ the rhetorical modes of narration, exposition, argumentation, and literary criticism.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION - ADVANCED PLACEMENT**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11**Prerequisites:** Achievement in English II**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

This is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics such as rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.

ETHNIC LITERATURE & STUDIES**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** English III**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

Generally, the course will cover the concepts of race and ethnicity, culture, critical race theory, intersectionality, and literary devices. The major focus will be for students to apply the unique aspects of each unit to multiple ethnic literatures to build connections and appreciations for cultures similar and unlike their own.

**ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - ADVANCED PLACEMENT****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** Achievement in English III**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts such as character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works.

ENGLISH I FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** None**Credits:** 10**Type:** ELD Requirement based on placement

This course is designed to help English learner students develop high levels of academic achievement and proficiency across the core content areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course itself is a combination of English Language Development using the curriculum of the English I course at the student's school. English learners are expected to develop their target language while they interact with a variety of text types from which they must form meaning after analysis and interpretation.

ENGLISH II FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** English I for English Learners, or See counselor for placement requirements**Credits:** 10**Type:** ELD Requirement based on placement

This course is designed to help English learner students develop high levels of academic achievement and proficiency across the core content areas in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course is a combination of English Language Development using the curriculum of the English II courses at the student's school. English learners are expected to develop their target language while they interact with a variety of text types. This curriculum is adaptable to the various linguistic needs and levels of the students in the course.



ADDITIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

UC/CSU Category: G College Prep Elective

ENGLISH BASICS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None, may be concurrent with English I for English Learners

Credits: 10

Type: ELD Elective based on placement

English Basics for English Learners is a foundation level comprehensive English course that develops the very basic English skills for students. The course delivers instruction on content that is required for students to develop skills in reading, writing, grammar, speaking, and listening. In doing so, students will have full access to and engage with grade-level academic content aligned to the knowledge, skills, and abilities for achieving college and career readiness described in the California State Standards for English/Language Arts.

ENGLISH BASICS II FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None, may be concurrent with English II for English Learners

Credits: 10

Type: ELD Elective based on placement

The English Basics II (EBII) for English Learners course is an extension of English Basics for English Learners I. In EB II, students will engage in the foundation elements of the English language to further develop the active component of language acquisition, outputting reading, writing, speaking, and listening products. As in EB I, students will develop basic English skills and expand on them through the English Basics II course. Students will be able to differentiate between colloquial or conversational English and Academic English, as well as determine when code-switching is appropriate. Students will focus on syntactical structures leading up to paragraph structure and producing multi-paragraph texts. In addition, students will study and comprehend the function of grammar in context, as well as multiple approaches to essay writing in efforts of reaching college and career readiness as described in the California State Standards for English/Language Arts.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: ELD Elective based on placement

Public Speaking is an elective course designed to help students develop oral communication skills in a variety of planned and spontaneous speaking situations, and to gain research and organizational skills necessary for a variety of types of oral presentations. This overarching goal will be scaffolded with focused work on planning and writing, delivery skills, listening skills, organizational techniques, and critical thinking. Students will learn basic tools and proficiency in research, organization, delivery, and technology.



The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

ENGLISH A

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course develops skills in the areas of: reading, language, writing, speaking, listening, as well as developing the functional academic skills necessary to participate in everyday life, with the goal of gaining maximum independence. English A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in English and Language Arts for high school.

ENGLISH B

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course builds upon skills learned in English A. Students will continue to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through the use of a variety of instructional strategies. Students will enhance basic skills and academic concepts in relation to real life activities encountered in daily living. English B is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in English and Language Arts for high school.

ENGLISH C

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

English C continues to build upon curriculum and skills learned in English B. Students will continue to deepen their understanding of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills by utilizing a variety of instructional strategies. As well as developing functional skills necessary to participate in everyday life, with the goal being maximum independence. Students will enhance basic skills and relate academic concepts to real life activities encountered in daily living. Students will also begin to develop transitional skills such as career awareness and mentoring. English C is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in English and Language Arts for high school.



ENGLISH D

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course builds upon skills learned in English C. This course focuses on functional reading, language, writing, speaking, and listening with an emphasis on transitional skills necessary to participate in everyday life. As students' progress and transition toward community and career goals, English D skills assist students in becoming as independent as possible. Students will enhance basic skills and relate academic concepts to real life activities encountered in daily living. English D is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in English and Language Arts for high school.

MATHEMATICS COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: C

INTEGRATED MATH I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This course is the first of a three-course sequence including Math I, Math II, and Math III. The course is intended for all ninth graders. Math I builds and strengthens students' conceptual knowledge of functions, linear functions, equations, inequalities, sequences, basic exponential functions, systems of linear equations, systems of linear inequalities, one variable descriptive statistics, correlation, and residuals, analyzing categorical data, mathematical modeling, and both coordinate and transformational geometries.

INTEGRATED MATH I - HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Achievement in middle school mathematics

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This course is the first of a three-course sequence including Math I (H), Math II (H), and Math III (H). Students will continue to develop algebra and geometry skills through engaging and real-life applications. Math I (H) builds and strengthens students' conceptual knowledge of functions, linear functions, equations, inequalities, sequences, basic exponential functions, systems of linear equations, systems of linear inequalities, one variable descriptive statistics, correlation, and residuals, analyzing categorical data, mathematical modeling, and both coordinate and transformational geometries. The honors series is designed to help students reach the AP Calculus courses by integrating the standards for Pre-calculus where appropriate.

**INTEGRATED MATH II****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** IM I or achievement in accelerated middle school mathematics**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

This course is the second course of a three-course sequence including Math I, Math II, and Math III. The course builds and strengthens students' conceptual knowledge of functions, with an emphasis on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Math I. Instructional time will also focus on rational exponents, creating and solving equations and inequalities involving linear, exponential and quadratic expressions, probability, mathematical modeling, and establishing criteria for similarity of triangles based on dilations and proportional reasoning to prepare students for an introduction to trigonometry.

INTEGRATED MATH II - HONORS**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Achievement in accelerated middle school math, IM I, or IM I H**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

This course is the second course of a three-course sequence including Math I (H), Math II (H), and Math III (H). The students participate in a more rigorous program with additional standards, so they are prepared for Advanced Placement courses. The course builds and strengthens students' conceptual knowledge of functions, with an emphasis on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from previous math courses. The course will also focus on rational exponents, creating and solving equations and inequalities involving linear, exponential, and quadratic expressions, probability, mathematical modeling, and establishing criteria for similarity of triangles based on dilations and proportional reasoning to prepare for a more comprehensive introduction to trigonometry. The course will include Precalculus topics, where appropriate, to prepare the students for AP Calculus AB.

INTEGRATED MATH III**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10-12**Prerequisites:** IM II**Credits:** 10**Type:** Requirement

The course is the third course of a three-course sequence including Integrated Math I, Integrated Math II, and Integrated Math III. Students will integrate and apply the mathematics they have learned from their earlier courses. Math III includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability with a heavy emphasis on the characteristics of all functions studied previously and including polynomial, radical, and rational functions. Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: apply methods from probability and statistics to draw inferences and conclusions from data; expand understanding of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions; expand right triangle trigonometry; and consolidate functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems.



INTEGRATED MATH III - HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: IM II Honors

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement

This is the third course of a three-course sequence including Integrated Math I (H), Integrated Math II (H), and Integrated Math III (H). Students expand their concept of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions. They also expand their knowledge of right-triangle trigonometry to include general triangles through the Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines. Students will extend the domain of trigonometric functions using the unit circle, model periodic phenomena with trigonometric functions, and prove and apply trigonometric identities. Students will further understand the similarities between the system of polynomials and the system of integers. The course will include Precalculus topics to prepare the students for AP Calculus AB.

PRE-CALCULUS - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: IM III

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Precalculus prepares students for other college-level mathematics and science courses. Through regular practice, students build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. The course framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science.

CALCULUS AB - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: IM III H

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Calculus AB is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions.

CALCULUS BC - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: AP Calculus AB or IM III H and teacher recommendation

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Calculus BC is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions. Calculus BC will include all the important fundamentals from Calculus AB with the additional topics: infinite sequences and series, introduction to vector calculus, and calculus performed on both parametric and polar functions.

**FINANCIAL ALGEBRA****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisites:** IM III**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

Financial Algebra is a 4th year math course which helps students apply algebra to everyday financial situations. Students will use linear, exponential and quadratic expressions and equations to analyze topics such as employment, budgets, credit and running a business. Students will graph and interpret functions as they relate to topics such as savings, investment, stocks, inflation and large purchases. Students will also apply probability as they consider insurance and risk. Students will learn to reason and communicate about the world of finance equipped with algebra to support their claims.

STATISTICS**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisites:** IM III**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

This course is an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics; how to use measures of central tendency and with emphasis on categorical data. Students will determine if there is an association between two categorical variables and summarize quantitative sets of data using a linear regression model. Discrete and continuous probability density distributions are analyzed including but not limited to the binomial, normal, and geometric distributions. Students will determine confidence intervals for populations and use techniques of hypothesis testing for various situations. Additional topics include linear regression and correlation analysis and techniques of hypotheses testing, including the use of calculator and software applications.

STATISTICS - ADVANCED PLACEMENT**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10-12**Prerequisites:** IM II H or concurrent enrollment in IM III or IM III H**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.



INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course is designed to offer an introduction to computer science. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The course emphasizes computational thinking and developing the ability to solve complex problems. The course covers the basic building blocks of programming along with other central elements of computer science. It provides a foundation in and prepares students for more advanced courses, including AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A.

COMPUTER SCIENCE A - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: IM I recommended

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course. Students cultivate their understanding of coding through analyzing, writing, and testing code as they explore concepts like modularity, variables, and control structures.

The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

MATH A

Length of course: 1 Year

Grade: 9

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course introduces basic concepts including: numbers (whole numbers/fractions/decimals), operations (addition/subtraction/multiplication/division), and measurement (time/money/data). These skills will provide a framework for students to understand the nature of numbers and number systems. Math A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in Mathematics for high school.



MATH B

Length of course: 1 Year

Grade: 10

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course builds upon the skills learned in Math A and includes the following concepts: numbers (whole numbers/fractions/decimals), operations (addition/subtraction/multiplication/division), measurement (time/money/data) and geometry (shapes/patterns/data analysis). These skills will provide a framework for students to understand the nature of numbers and number systems. Math B is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in Mathematics for high school.

MATH C

Length of course: 1 Year

Grade: 11

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course builds upon the skills learned in Math B and includes the following concepts: numbers (whole numbers/fractions/decimals), operations (addition/subtraction/multiplication/division), measurement (time/money/data), geometry (shapes/patterns/data analysis), and symbolic expression (equation and operations). Building upon their prior experience with math concepts, students explore ways in which to connect math with real world applications. As students progress and transition towards community, daily living skills and career goals, Math C skills assist students in becoming as independent as possible. Math C is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in Mathematics for high school.

MATH D

Length of course: 1 Year

Grade: 12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course will reinforce the skills learned in Math A, Math B, and Math C. Math D will review and provide extra support with the following concepts: numbers (whole numbers/fractions/decimals), operations (addition/subtraction/multiplication/division), measurement (time/money/data), geometry (shapes/patterns/data analysis), and symbolic expression (equation and operations). Students will build upon their prior experience with math concepts and explore ways to connect math with real world applications. Math D will assist students in building their independent community living and daily living skills, as well as career goals, to become as independent as possible. Math C is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the National Center and State Collaborative Core Content Connectors in Mathematics for high school.



LABORATORY SCIENCE COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: D

THE LIVING EARTH

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-10

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Integrated Math I or higher

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement, Life Science

The Living Earth is the natural science that involves the study of life and living organisms, including their physical and chemical structure, function, development and evolution and their connection with the geochemical nature of the planet. This course ties in foundations of biology and earth science phenomena with applications in engineering.

THE LIVING EARTH - HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-10

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in English I and Integrated Math I or higher

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement, Life Science

The Living Earth is a natural science that involves the study of life and living organisms, including their physical and chemical structure, function, development and evolution and their connection with the geochemical nature of the planet. This course ties in foundations of biology and earth science phenomena with applications in engineering. The honors course is an accelerated course that dives deeper into the science and engineering concepts found within biology and earth science. The honors course also incorporates independent lab investigations and statistical data analysis that prepares students for advanced placement courses.

CHEMISTRY IN THE EARTH SYSTEM

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Integrated Math II or higher

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement, Physical Science

In this course, students will explore matter, its properties, and its interactions with other matter and energy. Students will then deepen their understanding by applying their knowledge in the context of earth and space science, materials science, and environmental science. Earth and space science topics are integrated throughout the course to emphasize patterns and cause and effect relationships, as well as highlight energy exchange and favorable vs. unfavorable interactions to predict outcomes.



CHEMISTRY IN THE EARTH SYSTEM - HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Integrated Math II or higher

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement, Physical Science

In this course, students will explore matter, its properties, and its interactions with other matter and energy. Students will then deepen their understanding by applying their knowledge in the context of earth and space science, materials science, and environmental science. Earth and space science topics are integrated throughout the course to emphasize patterns and cause and effect relationships, as well as highlight energy exchange and favorable vs. unfavorable interactions to predict outcomes. This honors course is intended to prepare students in STEM fields by building on their knowledge of physics, earth, and space sciences, but also on their ability to problem-solve and model complex situations mathematically.

PHYSICS IN THE UNIVERSE- CP/HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Integrated II or Integrated Math III or higher

Credits: 10

Type: Requirement, Physical Science

This is a rigorous, algebra-based course dealing with concepts and relationships involving motion, force, gravity, momentum, energy, rotation, waves, sound, light, and electromagnetism. Emphasis is placed on planning and carrying out investigations, mathematics, and computational thinking, developing, and using models and investigating cause and effect relationships while designing solutions to engineering problems. Students will be required to analyze and interpret data while applying concepts of statistics and probability to scientific and engineering questions and problems.

ADVANCED BIOLOGY – HUMAN ANATOMY

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: The Living Earth or The Living Earth Honors and Chemistry in the Earth System or Chemistry in the Earth System Honors

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Life Science

The course is designed for students who have demonstrated proficiency in mathematics and science. This class will better prepare the student for an advanced study of human health at the university level. Students will study the human body by focusing on the integration, continuity, and comparability of the different systems within the body along with their structures and functions. Selected physiology topics and disease conditions will be incorporated to support the body systems studied.



ADVANCED BIOLOGY – HUMAN ANATOMY HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: The Living Earth or The Living Earth Honors and Chemistry in the Earth System or Chemistry in the Earth System Honors

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Life Science

The course is designed for students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in mathematics and science and have also expressed an interest in a health career. This class will better prepare the student for an advanced study of human health at the university level. Students will study the human body by focusing on the integration, continuity, and comparability of the different systems within the body along with their structures and functions. Selected physiology topics and disease conditions will be incorporated to support the body systems studied.

BIOLOGY - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: The Living Earth or Living Earth Honors and Chemistry in the Earth System or Chemistry in the Earth System Honors

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Life Science

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics like evolution, energetics, information storage and transfer, and system interactions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Completion of The Living Earth, The Living Earth Honors, Chemistry in the Earth Systems, or Chemistry in the Earth System Honors

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Interdisciplinary Science

This is an introductory college-level course where students cultivate their understanding of the interrelationships of the natural world through inquiry-based lab investigations. Students will perform field work as they explore concepts like the four Big Ideas: energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, interactions between different species and the environment, and sustainability.

COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Integrated Math I recommended

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.



The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

LIFE SCIENCE A

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course will provide students with the foundations of biology and earth science as it relates to the life sciences, and the study of life and living organisms on earth's land and oceans. Students will develop an understanding of human anatomy. Life Science A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Core Content Connectors.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE A

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This physical science course will focus on earth, weather, land formations, physics, and astronomy. Foundational theories of matter, energy, and gravity will be explored. This learning will enhance student's everyday life interactions with our planet. This science course reflects the importance of student learning in the fields of Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). Physical Science A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion. All course curriculum and assessments are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Core Content.



LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

UC/CSU CATEGORY: E

FRENCH I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course covers the basic skills of communication in French by developing listening and speaking skills. It is intended to develop conversation at a beginning level, with an emphasis on vocabulary and simple grammatical structures. The geography and culture of Francophone countries will be interwoven throughout the course.

FRENCH II

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: French I

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course is the second in a sequence of classes designed to teach the basic skills of communication in French. Listening comprehension is emphasized. A solid foundation in listening and speaking is provided with the addition of reading and writing skills.

FRENCH III

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: French II with a grade of "C" or better and/ or teacher recommendation

Credits: 10

This course is the third in a sequence of courses designed to teach the skills of communication in French. Competence in a foreign language requires integration and cooperation of the four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that have been mastered in French I and French II classes.

FRENCH III HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: French II with a grade of "C" or better and/or teacher recommendation

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

French 3 Honors is a third year World Language course designed to provide a rigorous and challenging opportunity for students who have earned a C or above in French 2 and/or teacher recommendation. It prepares students who want to enroll in French IV or AP French the following year. This course is conducted primarily in French. The course is designed to develop a greater degree of mastery in reading and writing, and a greater fluidity in speaking and listening comprehension. The three modes of communication as described by the California World Language Standards (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational) will be employed. The study of culture of the French speaking world, its products, practices, and perspectives will be treated in depth.



FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: French III with a grade of “C” or better and/or teacher recommendation

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AP French Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate level college course in French. Students cultivate their understanding of French language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations as they explore concepts related to family and community, personal and public identity, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges.

SPANISH I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Non-Native

This course develops students’ abilities to speak, comprehend, read, and write sentences in the present, past, and future tenses. Emphasis will be placed on proper pronunciation and oral communication. This class is appropriate for students with little or no experience.

SPANISH II

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Non-Native

This course develops students’ abilities to listen, comprehend, and communicate in both written and oral forms. Students will be expected to use target language at all times, except during explanations of grammatical concepts. This class would be appropriate for non-native Spanish speakers.

SPANISH III/SPANISH III HONORS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Spanish II

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Non-Native

This course will continue to develop the ability of the student to understand the spoken language and speak it accurately and fluently. The students will review all Spanish grammar concepts, increase their vocabulary, and progressively increase the amount and variety of reading and writing. The students will communicate in the target language in all situations except during the grammar review.



SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE - ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Spanish III

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Non-Native

AP Spanish Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate level college course in Spanish. Students cultivate their understanding of Spanish language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations as they explore concepts related to family and communities, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Native Spanish speaker

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Native Spanish speaker

This literature-based course is designed for heritage/community speakers who learned Spanish in a home/community environment. Students are expected to have (1) general experience and understanding of Hispanic/Latino cultures, (2) beginning-high/early intermediate proficiency in listening and speaking, and (3) beginning proficiency in reading and writing. Students will develop skills to: (1) listen to/read and comprehend a paragraph without assistance and (2) speak/write in understandable sentences and groups of sentences while using intermediate grammatical structures.

EMERGING LITERACY FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Spanish II R

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, Native Spanish speaker

This literature-based course offers native or native-like speakers an opportunity to strengthen and extend their primary language reading, writing, speaking, and thinking skills. This course assumes an elementary level of reading knowledge and will take the student through their middle grade level difficulty of text. Students will develop reading fluency in a natural, whole language program that emphasizes the use of quality literature as a basis for the development of strong writers.

**LITERATURE FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS HONORS****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisites:** Emerging Literacy for Spanish Speakers**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, Native Spanish speaker

The Spanish Honors Literature Course is conducted completely in Spanish. Students expand their knowledge of Spanish through literary readings, formal/informal writing, and discussion. They also demonstrate competence in analytical thinking and literary analysis through essays, expository writing, and presentations.

SPANISH LITERATURE & CULTURE - ADVANCED PLACEMENT**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisites:** Literature for Spanish Speakers Honors**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, Native Spanish speaker

AP Spanish Literature is equivalent to a college level introductory survey course of literature written in Spanish. Students continue to develop their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in Spanish language as well as critical reading and analytical writing as they explore short stories, novels, plays, essays, and poetry from Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Hispanic authors along with other non-required texts.



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: F

ART I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

In this class the student will be introduced to the basic elements and principles of design. Students will develop artistic perception by processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the language of fine art. The student will be creating, performing, and participating, responding to, analyzing, and making critical assessments about works in a given art form. The student will use various drawing and painting media and develop a vocabulary of art terms.

ART II

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Completion of Art I

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course is the second in the sequence of classes and builds upon the skills and techniques acquired in Art I. The student will develop advanced techniques in drawing, painting, sculpting, and creative expression. Students will develop advanced skills in the human figure, still life, objects, landscapes, and groups of people. The student will present evidence of the ability to solve artistic problems that exhibits mastery. Students will be able to talk and write about artistic materials and styles in a discerning manner.

ART III

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Completion of Art II

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course is the third in the sequence of classes and builds upon the skills and techniques acquired in Art II. Students will create, maintain, and expand their artistic portfolios. The course provides opportunities for further advancement in skills, concepts, and practice. Students will continue to develop advanced techniques in drawing, painting, sculpting, and creative expression.

ART IV

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Completion of Art III

Credits: 10

This course is the fourth in the sequence of classes and builds upon the skills and techniques acquired in Art III. Students will maintain and expand their artistic portfolios. The course provides the opportunity for further advancement in skills, concepts, and practice. Students will continue to develop and refine advanced techniques in drawing, painting, sculpting, and creative expression.

**CHORALE****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** None**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 4 years

Students will be exposed to the four components that make up the performing arts: artistic perception, creative expressions, historical and cultural context, and aesthetic valuing. Students will need to listen carefully, perceive patterns, and understand the use of musical elements in performing and creating music. Students will be exposed to the areas of music appreciation, music history, music theory, and performance practice.

CONCERT CHOIR**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Chorale or previous musical experience**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 4 years

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop their vocal skills and to sing in performances. Students will study basic music skills and basic music theory fundamentals; reading notes, rhythm, and sight-reading skills will be covered. Students participate in local concerts, choir festivals, and other related activities. Attendance at performances is mandatory to receive credit for the class.

CONCERT GLEE or CHAMBER SINGERS**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Previous musical experience and audition required**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 4 years

These courses train the advanced vocal student through experience and the opportunity to sing the finest music and vocal literature. Basic music theory fundamentals: reading notes, rhythm, and sight-reading skills will be covered. An emphasis is placed on developing musicianship and vocal technique, self confidence in solo singing, and a love for music. Students participate in local concerts, community performances, choir festivals, and benefit concerts. Attendance at performances and competitions is required for class credit.

CONCERT BAND**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Previous musical experience preferred, not required**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 4 years

The Concert Band is a performance-oriented ensemble specifically designed for serious, dedicated, and mature students. The primary goal and function of the Concert Band is to introduce students to the band experience at the high school level while also preparing them to delve further into high school band programs. Students spend time working on fundamental exercises such as scales, articulation, and intervallic drills, developing musicianship skills and ear training techniques, as well as rehearsing quality wind literature for local concerts.

**DANCE II****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Dance I or teacher approval**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, satisfies PE or VAPA

This course further develops and expands upon the knowledge and skills learned in Dance I. The students will learn harder variations of basic skills and more complicated routines while continuing to develop their strength, flexibility, and coordination. Students will develop an appreciation of dance by choreographing routines and participating in performances.

DANCE III - PERFORMANCE**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Dance II or teacher approval**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, satisfies PE or VAPA

Dance III provides advanced level training for the serious dancer. Skills and knowledge are further developed and expanded to include student choreography and performances before live audiences to instill a better appreciation of dance as a performing art.

DANCE IV - PERFORMANCE**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Dance III or teacher approval**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 3 years and satisfies PE or VAPA

This class is designed to continue advanced level training in skills, knowledge, and technique; as well as provide experience in choreography, teaching, and solo performance. Students will be able to choreograph dance routines, perform dances with greater knowledge and technique and instruct others in the field of dance.

JAZZ BAND – ENSEMBLE HONORS**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** Audition**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 4 years

The Jazz Band is a performance-level ensemble specifically designed for serious, dedicated, and mature musicians by audition only. The primary goal and function is to introduce students to a wide array of jazz band literature at the highest level while also giving them knowledge to delve further into music. Students will spend rehearsal time learning music of varying styles such as bebop, big band, funk, and swing. Students will also spend time studying improvisation, music theory, and jazz history. Weekend and after-school rehearsals and performances will be required.



MARCHING BAND

Length of Course: Fall Semester (typically afterschool)

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 5

Type: Elective, taken up to 4 years and satisfies PE or VAPA

The Marching Band includes the wind instrumentalists, pit section, and drum line. The primary goal and function of the Marching Band is to perform halftime shows at football games, represent our school at community performances, parades, and competitions. Marching Band meets during 7th period throughout 1st semester.

MUSIC I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course is designed to be a survey of music courses. Students will learn the basic elements that go into making music, as well as learn to identify musical instruments and their sounds. Students will also cover music history from early music through Jazz, The American Musical (Broadway), and Rock & Roll. Some beginning music theory may be taught as well.

PERCUSSION

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, taken up to 4 years

The primary goal and function is to introduce students to literature at the highest level along with a wide array of performance opportunities. Students will spend time preparing literature from varying musical styles and genres while studying music theory and history. Students will perform in concerts which may require evening and weekend rehearsals.

PLAY PRODUCTION - MUSICAL THEATER

Length of Course: 1 Semester (typically afterschool)

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Audition

Credits: 5

Type: Elective, taken up to 4 years

This is the production group for the full-length performances coordinated by the Performing Arts Department. This course develops the students' ability for real life theatrical applications including performing, lighting, set design, costuming, and strives to maintain the highest professional standards in public performance. Most work will be done during class time, however outside rehearsals and performances will be required.

**STAGE BAND**

Length of Course: Spring Semester (typically afterschool)

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 5

Type: Elective, taken up to 4 years

The Stage Band is a performance-oriented ensemble for all new and returning students to the band program. The primary goal and function of the Stage Band is to introduce students to the performance experience. Students work on fundamental exercises such as scales, articulation, and intervallic drills, developing musicianship and ear training techniques, as well as rehearsing quality wind literature. Stage Band meets during 7th period throughout 2nd semester.

SYMPHONIC WINDS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Previous musical experience and audition

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, taken up to 4 years

This is a performance-level ensemble for serious and dedicated musicians. The primary goal and function is to introduce students to literature at the highest level along with a wide array of performance opportunities. Students will spend time preparing literature from varying musical styles and genres while studying music theory and history. Students will perform in concerts which may require evening and weekend rehearsals.

THEATER I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course is designed to introduce the art of theater through acting, production, and performance. Students will begin to understand the history of drama and the dramatic profession. Students will develop and perform improvisations, monologues from well-known contemporary plays, exercises in pantomime, and learn to interpret theater literature. Students will also learn the basics of the behind-the-scenes work needed to produce a show including costumes, lighting, sound, and set design.

THEATER II

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Theater I

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This is a more advanced course, which further develops acting techniques, costuming, makeup, lighting, and performance preparation. Students hone their skills by studying and performing scenes from Shakespeare. Students will develop skills in improvisation, perform scenes and monologues from well-known contemporary plays and learn to interpret the literature of the theater. Students produce a production which is directed by Assistant Director students.

**THEATER III****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisites:** Theater II**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 3 years

Theater III is the public performance group of the Theater Arts Department. Students will develop advanced acting techniques and a deeper understanding of the technical and production aspects of modern theater. Students will have the opportunity to perform at drama festivals and Shakespeare festivals with hundreds of other students from across Southern California. Most work will be done during class time, however, outside rehearsals and performance will be required. This class may be repeated for credit due to the differing dramatic materials used each semester and the individual nature of the class.

The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

INTRODUCTORY ART A**Length of course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** See Counselor**Credits:** 10

Students will be introduced to the foundations of art and design. A variety of art mediums which will include the development of vocabulary art terminology. Master artists and styles will be researched. Skills will include: sketching, painting, crafting, sculpting, etc. Introductory Art A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.



ELECTIVE COURSES

UC/CSU CATEGORY: G

NON-DEPARTMENTAL COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVES

The following courses are G approved, but see their department section for the description:

History/Social Science

ECONOMICS

ECONOMICS HONORS

ETHNIC STUDIES

PSYCHOLOGY I-II

PSYCHOLOGY – ADVANCED PLACEMENT

English Language Arts

ENGLISH BASICS I FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

ENGLISH BASICS II FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mathematics

FINANCIAL ALGEBRA

AVID 9

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9

Prerequisites: Completed and approved AVID application, a 2.0 minimum middle school GPA (no D's or F's), enrollment in advanced and honors courses is highly encouraged. (Previous enrollment in AVID at the middle school level is preferred, but not required.)

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

AVID 9 is the first course in a four-year, grade-level specific sequence of AVID courses that prepares students for college. Students receive instruction using a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum. Students are expected to participate in tutor-facilitated study groups, metacognitive development, analytical reading and writing, developing communication skills, and academic success skills. Students partake in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading to support their academic growth. Students will prepare for and participate in college entrance and placement exams while refining study skills and test-taking, note-taking, and research techniques.

**AVID 10****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10**Prerequisites:** AVID 9 or (if applying as a sophomore): completed and approved AVID application, minimum 2.0 GPA in high school courses (no D's or F's), enrollment in advanced/honors/AP classes is highly encouraged.**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

AVID 10 is the second course in the grade-level high school AVID sequence. In the second year, students will continue to refine their academic learning plans and goals, increasing awareness of their actions and behaviors, as well as develop an increased ability to self-monitor, self-regulate, and manage time. Students will expand their writing portfolio to include analyzing prompts, supporting arguments and claims, character analysis, and detailed reflections. Finally, students will narrow their colleges and careers of interest, based on personal interests and goals.

AVID 11**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11**Prerequisites:** AVID 10**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

AVID 11 is the first part in a junior/senior seminar course that focuses on writing and critical thinking expected of first- and second-year college students. In addition to the academic focus of the AVID seminar, the course includes college-bound activities, methodologies, and tasks that should be undertaken during the junior year to support students as they apply to four-year universities and confirm their postsecondary plans.

AVID 12**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** AVID 11**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

AVID 12 is the second part in a junior/senior seminar course in which students will continue to refine their academic learning plans and goals, create legacy projects (including service-learning projects/mentoring), as well as develop an increased ability to self-monitor, self-regulate, and manage time. Students will expand their writing portfolio to include an argumentative research paper on a social issue and detailed reflections. Finally, students will prepare for college using inquiry-based collaborative study groups using higher-order thinking and questioning techniques.

**JOURNALISM I****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** None**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

In Journalism, students will study the strategies of news writing and news gathering, as well as learn the specialized vocabulary of the journalism industry. Students will learn the ethical considerations that journalists must take into account when putting together a story. Throughout the year, students in this class will learn journalistic methods of writing, filming, and editing a digital story for an authentic audience. Students will regularly critique their own segments and those of others, utilizing digital tools to create and edit materials.

JOURNALISM II**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10-12**Prerequisites:** Journalism I, application required**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 3 years

In Journalism II, students will deepen their knowledge of news writing, and further their specialized vocabulary of the journalism industry. Students will practice ethical considerations that journalists must take into account, and they will fill editorial roles in the organizational structure of the staff. They will examine and critique the works of other students and guide new journalists in learning the skills necessary to create segments for broadcast. Students in this class will help other students revise their writing, filming, and editing. They will be responsible for meeting deadlines and production schedules and holding other students to the same schedules.

LEADERSHIP - ASB**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10-12**Prerequisites:** Pre-Leadership course, application required**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 4 years

ASB is a demanding, co-curricular program for those active, committed students who have been elected, appointed, or interested in ASB. The course will assist students in developing a greater understanding of the skills it takes to be a successful leader and effective teen in today's world. This course outlines theories of leadership and management skills and then provides realistic opportunities to exercise and test these skills by coordinating and executing school-wide and community activities. Students will receive instruction in democratic governmental procedures and practical experience in planning and running meetings according to accepted parliamentary practice.

**PEER COMMUNICATIONS I/II (PLUS)****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10-12**Prerequisites:** None, application required**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective

Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) is a program that implements youth development activities at schools across America. The PLUS Program has evolved into an identity that serves to build safe school climates by protecting, connecting, and educating students, staff, and parents. The course is designed to enhance the skills of the student leaders as they facilitate group activities on campus. The PLUS Team is responsible for facilitating a forum of discussions between students on campus. The main objective of this course is to provide the leadership and facilitation skills needed by the PLUS Team members to facilitate these critical conversations and activities.

PEER COMMUNICATIONS III/IV (PLUS)**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisites:** Peer Communications I/II, application required**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective, taken up to 2 years

Students in the Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) program continue to develop their mastery of building safe school climates. Students continue to facilitate forums and activities on campus with the following course objectives: improve overall development of the students: cognitive, emotional, and behavioral; impress upon students the need for stronger character and moral development; improve communication and public speaking skills; develop critical thinking and decision-making skills; encourage students to demonstrate tolerance and respect for other people's viewpoints; build leadership abilities that will help students in school, relationships, and careers; afford students ample opportunity to apply course concepts to their own lives; analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

PERSONAL FINANCE**Length of Course:** 1 Semester**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** None, paired with Senior Seminar**Credits:** 5

Personal Finance is a semester long course designed to deliver essential financial understanding in an engaging way. Students will learn personal finance through comprehensive lesson plans, activities, projects and more. The curriculum is also designed to use current technology, spark participation, and integrate real-world scenarios. Personal Finance consists of 10 units and diagnostic, midterm, and final exams that expand upon a student's finance, math and critical thinking skills.

PRE-LEADERSHIP**Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** None**Credits:** 10

The main objective of this course is to improve the character and leadership skills of students. Students who enroll in this class will learn basic skills of leadership, such as working in a committee to plan, set-up, execute, and evaluate an event. The students enrolled in the class are typically responsible for fundraising and all rewards and recognition assemblies on campus. This course serves as a prerequisite



for any student who would like to apply for the ASB elective.

SENIOR SEMINAR

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: None, paired with Personal Finance

Credits: 5

In this course, students will complete several tasks to prepare them for graduation and their 5-year plan. Students will complete college applications using CCGI for the CSU, FAFSA/ Dream Act and UC applications. They will also receive assistance with the Common Application, Black Common Application, College of the Desert EDGE/PLEDGE as well as private school applications. Students entering the workforce out of high school will receive help with career surveys, job searches and completing job applications. Students will also finalize a Scholarship Packet, resume, personal statement and/or cover letter.

YEARBOOK PRODUCTION (ALSO F APPROVED)

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

Students will learn and practice the skills needed to produce a quality yearbook documenting the events and activities of the school year. These skills include photography, layout design, copy and headline writing, development of themes and advertising campaigns. Students should be self-motivated and take responsibility for individual deadlines. They must be willing to work outside of school hours to meet deadlines.

YEARBOOK PRODUCTION ADVANCED (ALSO F APPROVED)

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: Yearbook Production, Application required

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, taken up to 3 years

In this course, students will make decisions that will reflect the history of the campus activities for the present school year. Students will be required to take photographs and write articles to document these activities. In addition, students will have the opportunity to work with computer-aided publishing tools, digital photography, and computer-based photo-editing software. Students will focus on the roles of publication, organizational and teamwork skills, and structural aspects of a scholastic publication. This course requires a strong commitment due to out of class time for news coverage and possible after school or weekend deadlines.



ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE COURSES: CTE Academies & Pathways

UC/CSU Category: G or COD Dual Enrollment

College Prep Electives

CAFE ACADEMY

The Culinary Arts Food Education Academy (CAFE) students are taught the foundations of restaurant management and culinary arts using the ProStart industry-driven curriculum developed by the National Restaurant Association. Students participate in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

CULINARY I: SANITATION & SAFETY - DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Quarter

Grades: 10

Prerequisites: Application required

Credits: 2.5

Type: Elective. (Introductory)

This course is designed to establish the principles of hygiene and sanitation and the control and prevention of food borne illnesses in food service operations. Emphasis is placed on the food handler's responsibility in maintaining high sanitation and safety standards.

CULINARY I: CULINARY FUNDAMENTALS- DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 3 Quarters

Grades: 10

Prerequisites: Application required

Credits: 7.5

Type: Elective. (Introductory)

This course is designed to improve the selection, preparation, storage and combinations of food and beverages. Techniques in heavy food preparation and beverage association are introduced. Components and specific nature and behavior of foods during preparation are developed, along with beginning the recognition and evaluation of quality in products. Basic kitchen utensils and equipment will continue to be covered.

**CULINARY II: CULTURE & CUISINE - DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)**

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Semester**Grades:** 11**Prerequisites:** Culinary I**Credits:** 5**Type:** Elective. (Concentrator)

This course is a study of the evolution of food production, food preservation and preparation techniques, and food habits and beliefs about food. We will delve into geographical, historical, technological and religious factors that have influenced the food-related behaviors of various ethnic groups in the past and present. We will explore how all cultures impact individual's beliefs about food. Several areas of the world will be focused on to help demonstrate the relationship between food and culture. The United States (U.S.) has been referred to as a "melting pot" of many different cultures, which have been, and are being, fused to form the "American" culture. The influence of this fusion on food processing, and culinary methods in the home and in food service establishments will be examined. An introduction to cultural differences in verbal and non-verbal communication-styles will also be examined in-order to prepare students to work most effectively with co-workers and clients.

CULINARY II: CHARCUTERIE - DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Semester**Grades:** 11**Prerequisites:** Culinary I**Credits:** 5**Type:** Elective. (Concentrator)

This course focuses on the total utilization concept and preparation of classical and modern charcuterie products, including terrines, pates, ballotines, and other forcemeats with their accompanying garnishes, sauces, and presentations. Plate presentation, mise en place, organization, and utilizing the fundamental techniques of cooking will be reinforced at all times.

CULINARY III: INTRODUCTION TO BAKING – DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Year**Grades:** 12**Prerequisites:** Completion of Culinary II**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective. (Capstone)

This course is designed to expand students' skills related to the selection, preparation, storage and combinations of food and beverages. Techniques in heavy food preparation and beverage association are advanced. Components and specific nature and behavior of foods during preparation are further developed, along with improving the recognition and evaluation of quality in products. Advanced kitchen utensils and equipment will be covered. Management skills and workforce preparedness will be emphasized throughout the course.



RACE ACADEMY

The Rattler Automotive Careers Education (RACE) Academy prepares students for post-secondary education and employment in the transportation industry. Students are introduced to motor vehicles, rail systems, marine applications, small engines, and specialty equipment. All Automotive courses are COD Dual Enrollment.

INTRODUCTION TO AUTOMOTIVE - DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-11

Prerequisites: Application required

Credits: 10

Type: Elective. (Introductory)

This is a course designed to advance student's learning from the Intro to Automotive Technology course. The goal is to prepare the student for entry-level employment in the automotive service industry. Students will experience basic skills related to tires, batteries, accessories, electrical, cooling systems, and fuel systems. Instruction includes both theory and lab experiences.

AUTOMOTIVE STEERING & SUSPENSION - DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Completion of Intro to Automotive (COD)

Credits: 10

Type: Elective. (Concentrator)

This course provides lecture/discussion and hands-on experience understanding, servicing, troubleshooting, diagnosing, and repairing automotive steering and suspension systems. This course focuses on theory and hands-on experience in automotive steering and suspension systems including theory of operation, service, diagnosis, and repair. The course includes the following topics: front and rear suspension types, steering systems, four-wheel alignment, shocks, struts, tires, and wheels. A test fee for the appropriate Automotive Service Excellent (ASE) Student Exam is required.

AUTOMOTIVE BRAKING SYSTEMS - DUAL ENROLLMENT (COD)

UC/CSU: no

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: Completion of Auto Steering/Suspension (COD)

Credits: 10

Type: Elective. (Capstone)

This course provides theory and hands-on experience in automotive braking systems including theory of operation, service, diagnosis, and repair including both base braking and anti-lock braking systems and components. This class provides lecture/discussion and hands-on experience understanding, servicing, troubleshooting, diagnosing, and repairing automotive braking. A test fee for the appropriate Automotive Service Excellent (ASE) Student Exam is required. Internship opportunities are available to advanced students.

**TTECHS**

Technical Theater Education and Careers for High School Students (TTECHS) allows the students to learn about the action that goes on “behind the scenes” in a theatrical production. Students will be directly involved with the technical aspects of the Rancho Mirage High School Performing Arts Department’s productions as they design and construct sets, costumes, and make-up; hang lights, create special effects, paint, and build props for productions. Students will learn specialized vocabulary and learn set design, lighting design, and costume design. The students will learn practical application, and real-world skills, by working on productions.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL THEATER**UC/CSU: G****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 9-12**Prerequisites:** None**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective. (Introductory)

This course is designed to introduce students to the technical and production aspects of the theater. Students will acquire basic skills and knowledge in the areas of design and construction of stage scenery and properties, as well as fundamentals of lighting and sound design, costume and make-up, and the role of the theatrical arts.

TECHNICAL THEATER I**UC/CSU: F****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 10-12**Prerequisites:** Completion of Intro to Tech Theater**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective (Concentrator)

This hands-on course reinforces to students the action that goes on “behind the scenes” in a theatrical production. Students will be directly involved in the technical aspects of the Rancho Mirage Performing Arts Department’s productions as they design and construct sets, costumes, and makeup; hang lights, create special effects, paint, and build props for the productions. Students will learn specialized vocabulary and learn set design, lighting design and costume design. Students will reflect on design elements found in school and outside productions with design analysis and critique. Students will learn practical application by working on productions.

TECHNICAL THEATER II**UC/CSU: F****Length of Course:** 1 Year**Grades:** 11-12**Prerequisite:** Completion of Technical Theater I**Credits:** 10**Type:** Elective (Capstone)

This hands-on course continues to reinforce to students the action that goes on “behind the scenes” in a theatrical production. Students will be directly involved in the technical aspects of the Rancho Mirage Performing Arts Department’s productions as they design and construct sets, costumes, and makeup; hang lights, create special effects, paint, and build props for the productions. Students will learn specialized vocabulary and learn set design, lighting design and costume design. Students will reflect on design elements found in school and outside productions with design analysis and critique. Students will learn practical application by working on productions and designing their own shows.



ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE COURSES – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school graduation requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU ‘a-g’ requirements.

DANCE I

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This course provides a basic knowledge of all dance skills while developing strength, flexibility, and coordination. Students will learn stage directions, dance terminology, specific dance skills and “step” to be used in routines choreographed to contemporary music.

PE 1

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective

This physical education program emphasizes physical development through daily exercise and sports activities. Satisfies 9th grade PE requirement. Skill development includes participation in all types of team sports, individual sports, and rhythmic activities. Physical fitness testing is also included in the program.

PE 2: LIFETIME SPORTS

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, taken up to 3 years

Satisfies second year PE requirement. This course is set up in 3–4-week units offering a variety of sports and activities with intermediate/advanced skills and plays emphasized. Physical Education units will include weight training, leisure and lifetime sports, and step, pump, and fitness conditioning.

PE SPORTS ADVANCED

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Must be a member of a designated athletic team, coach approval

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, taken up to 4 years

Satisfies second year PE requirement. This course is designed specifically to meet the developing needs during the school year of student athletes. Students enrolled in Advanced Sports must be active members of an athletic team during the school year. Course activities include weight training, conditioning, physical fitness, in addition to developing advanced skills in all sports areas.



WEIGHT TRAINING

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Credits: 10

Type: Elective, taken up to 3 years

Satisfies second year PE requirement. Specific days of the week will be used for weightlifting with certain lifts being executed and recorded in individual weight program folders. Other days of the week will be used for cardiovascular recreational activities; basketball, volleyball, a 30-minute fitness run, soccer, tennis, football, and badminton.

The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

SPECIALY DESIGNED PHYSICAL EDUCATION A

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course provides students an opportunity to develop their physical abilities through daily exercise and activities. Development of skills include participation in a variety of sports in team and individual settings. Students will participate in physical fitness testing as indicated by state requirements. Specially Designed Physical Education A is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.

SPECIALY DESIGNED PHYSICAL EDUCATION B

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course builds on skills learned in Specially Designed Physical Education A. Leisure and lifetime sports activities will be included. Students will learn how to contribute as a member of a team sport. Students will explore leisure activities as part of their physical development and lifetime health practices. Specially Designed Physical Education B is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.



ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE COURSES – OTHER

The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school graduation requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU ‘a-g’ requirements.

ACADEMIC & BILINGUAL TUTOR

Length of Course: 1 Year

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Counselor/Administrative approval

Credits: 10

This course enables the above average student to tutor in a specific content area or assist non-English and/or limited English-speaking students. The tutor will assist the instructor by providing academic support to students while gaining leadership skills.

BUSINESS INTERN

Length of Course: 1 Quarter

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Students will be placed in a business or organization

Credits: 2.5

Business Intern is an elective class that meets once a week and assists students with defining their interests and determining their suitability to various occupations. A variety of business professionals visit the classroom regularly and students are provided with the opportunity to interview them about careers. The student interns spend four hours a week (outside of the regular school day) in a business or nonprofit organization, observing and learning the requirements of a particular occupation (there is no paid employment).

CLERICAL OFFICE AIDE, CLASSROOM AIDE OR LIBRARY SCIENCE AIDE

Length of Course: 1 Semester or 1 Year

Grades: 12

Prerequisites: Counselor/Administrative approval

Credits: 5 or 10

These positions allow students to gain practical experience while serving as an aide to a teacher, librarian, or office staff member. Students will be assigned to a position to learn clerical duties. Students will have instruction regarding general office/classroom/library duties such as: telephone etiquette, message taking, organizing materials, and filing systems.

GENERAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Length of Course: 1 Quarter

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Must be 16 years old, obtain part-time employment and a work permit (issued by the school)

Credits: 2.5

General Work Experience is an elective class in which students earn credit through a combination of classroom instruction and paid employment. General Work Experience is open to 16-year-old students enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade who are employed for a minimum of 10 hours per week. Students must attend one on-campus class session per week. Students are responsible for obtaining their own part-time job.



The following courses are offered in PSUSD and can meet the high school completion requirements, but do not meet the UC/CSU 'a-g' requirements.

LIFE SKILLS

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

In this course, students will work to achieve individual independence. Adaptive daily living skills in this course will include: independent living skills, community, self-care, and social-emotional. Hands-on opportunities (personal hygiene, cooking, home management, etc.) are used to promote experiences in the real world. Student interests in recreation and leisure activities are explored. Life Skills is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.

JOB PREP

Length of course: 1 Year

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: See Counselor

Credits: 10

This course will introduce students to work skills such as mentoring and career awareness. Students will begin to explore vocational options post high school. Opportunities for learning include: job application, keyboard skills, organization, time management, and social interaction. Task completion strategies will be developed. Life Skills is designed for students participating in a course of study that is required to complete high school with a Certificate of Completion.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PSUSD and RMHS offer Special Education programs for those who qualify for mild/moderate and moderate/severe programs which include courses designated for special education students which follow the same sequence and requirements in order to earn a diploma or certificate of completion. You will find the course descriptions in the designated content area.

Inclusion (Diploma)

Self-Contained (Diploma)

Function Life Skills Program (Certificate)



