

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

Platte Canyon High School
Bailey, Colorado

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The plan presented herein is designed to serve students, parents, school board members, administrators, teachers, and support staff as a ready reference concerning instruction for grades nine through twelve.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Graduation Requirements	5
Honors Program	6-7
Ninth/Twelfth Grade Schedules for students interested in attending Warren Tech	8
Ninth/Twelfth Grade Schedules for students interested in a College-Bound Program	9
LANGUAGE ARTS	10-12
English 9 (1)	
English 9 (2)	
Advanced English 9	
English 10	
Advanced English 10	
English 11	
English 12	
College Prep English 1	
College Prep English 2	
Advanced Placement English	
Literacy (Elective)	
Creative Writing (Elective)	
Yearbook (Elective)	
Journalism (Elective)	
MATHEMATICS	13-15
Algebra 1	
Algebra 1A and 1B	
Geometry	
Consumer Math	
Algebra 2	
Algebra 3	
Pre-Calculus	
Advanced Placement Calculus AB/BC	
Statistics (Elective)	
Intro to Computer Programming (Elective)	
Advanced Placement Computer Science (Elective)	

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SCIENCE	16-19
Earth Science	
Biology	
Physical Science	
Chemistry	
Physics	
Advanced Placement Biology	
Anatomy & Physiology (Elective)	
Forensics (Elective)	
Outdoor Exercise Physiology (Elective)	
Science and Engineering (Elective)	
Science Olympiad (Elective)	
STEM (Elective)	
Advanced STEM (Elective)	
3D Printing (Elective)	
SOCIAL STUDIES	19-22
World History	
United States History	
Government/Civics	
Advanced Placement World History	
Advanced Placement United States History	
College Prep Government/Civics	
Economics	
Geography (Elective)	
Psychology (Elective)	
Seminar: Current Events (Elective)	
Seminar: Social Media/Politics (Elective)	
Sociology (Elective)	
Travel Geography (Elective)	
Analyzation of History Through Visual Media (Elective)	
WORLD LANGUAGES	23-24
Introduction to Thai Language and Culture	
Introduction to American Sign Language	
Spanish 1	
Spanish 2	
Spanish 3	
Spanish 4	

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

ELECTIVES --- PHYSICAL EDUCATION	24-26
Physical Education/Health	
Athletic Development	
Athletic Development: Basketball	
Athletic Development: Football	
Athletic Development: Volleyball	
Fitness and Conditioning	
Weight Training	
ELECTIVES --- FINE ARTS/TECHNICAL ARTS	26-29
Band	
Jazz Band	
Marching Band	
Adv Drama/Musical/Musical Pit	
Choir/Glee	
2D Studio Art	
3D Studio Art	
Creative Arts	
Beginning Drama	
Advanced Drama	
Film Making	
Guitar	
History of Rock & Roll	
Speech	
World Mythology	
Beginning Photography	
ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES	30-31
SAT Preparation (Elective)	
Assistant	
Early Dismissal/Late Arrival	
English/Math/Science Intervention	
Home Economics: Cooking	
“Off” Period	
Personal Finance	
Study Hall	
Technology: Going Viral	
Introduction to Business	
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION	32-33
Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE)	
Credit Recovery	
Concurrent Enrollment Options	
PCHS Online Program	
Warren Occupational Technical Center (WOTC)/Personalized Educational Class (WOTC/PEC)	
In-Depth Study (approval by committee)	

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/SERVICES	34
ASCENT Program	
Response to Intervention (RtI)	
Learning Services	
APPENDIX A --- CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OPTIONS	35-36

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn twenty-eight credits in order to graduate from Platte Canyon High. Credits must be earned in the following manner (grade in which course is usually taken is shown in parentheses):

English	4 credits (including English 12)	(9-12)
Mathematics	3 credits	(9, 10, 11)
Earth Science	1 credit	(9)
Biology	1 credit	(10)
Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics	1 credit	(10,11,12)
World History	1 credit	(10)
United States History	1 credit	(11)
Government	1 credit	(12)
Economics	.5 credit	(12)
Electives	14.5 credits	(all)

All students must also demonstrate reading proficiency by obtaining:

- 1) a PSAT ERW score of 430 or higher; OR
- 2) an ACT Reading score of 18 or higher; OR
- 3) an SAT Critical Reading score of 480 or higher; OR
- 4) a percentile rank of 40 or higher on a national standardized test including computerized reading assessments.

SMEAR: Approximately 18 weeks of the school year that equals one year of classwork (90-minute classes). The academic school year at PCHS is comprised of two smears.

HONORS PROGRAM

To participate in the Honors Program, a student must meet all graduation requirements, take six out of the fifteen Honors classes in the proper sequence **AND** maintain a **grade greater than or equal to 80% in EACH Honors class**. For two-credit AP courses, each semester will be treated as a separate Honors class relative to grades. For classes in which grades are weighted, the weighted grade will be the grade reviewed in terms of Honors criteria. The Honors program will include the following classes:

PREREQUISITE

English 9 & 10 (95% or above) and/or
Advanced Eng 9 and 10 (80% or above) and/
or English 10 & 11(80% or above) and/or
teacher recommendation

CP English 1 (80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

CP English 2 (80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

Algebra 2 (80% or above)

Algebra 3 (80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

Pre-Calculus (80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

Algebra 2 (80% or above) or teacher
recommendation

Previous English course (80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

World History and CP English 1
(both 80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

U.S. History (80% or above) or
teacher recommendation

Biology (80% or above)
or teacher recommendation

Algebra 2 (80% or above)
or teacher recommendation

HONORS COURSES

College Prep (CP) English 1

CP English 2

Advanced Placement (AP) English

Algebra 3

Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus (each semester counts
as one Honors course)

AP Computer Science

AP World History (each semester
counts as one Honors Course)

AP U.S. History (each semester
counts as one Honors course)

CP Civics/Government

AP Biology (each semester counts as
one Honors course)

Chemistry and/or Physics

Biology (80% or above) or
Teacher recommendation

Anatomy and Physiology

World Language 1 and 2 (80% or
above) or teacher recommendation

World Language 3 and 4

To compete for Valedictorian/Salutatorian, students must complete all high school graduation requirements, take **eight** of the **nineteen** honors courses (two of which must be AP courses in different subject areas), and obtain the highest percentage grade. The student who receives the highest percentage grade will be valedictorian, while the student receiving the second highest percentage grade will be salutatorian. If more than one student receives the highest percentage grade, all will be designated valedictorians. If more than one student receives the second highest percentage grade, all will be designated salutatorians. **All Honors students will receive special recognition at the graduation ceremony.**

SUGGESTED NINTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE SCHEDULES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING IN A CAREER/VOCATIONAL PROGRAM THROUGH WARREN TECH

NINTH GRADE

English (two smears)
Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or Algebra 2)
Earth Science
Physical Education/Health
Electives (1 or 2)

TENTH GRADE (Students must enroll in four classes each smear.)

English (one smear)
Mathematics (Geometry, Algebra 2, and/or Algebra 3)
Biology
World History
Foreign Language (Level 1 and/or 2)
Electives (3)

ELEVENTH GRADE

English (English 11 or College Prep English 1)
Mathematics (Geometry, Algebra 2 if needed)
Chemistry and Physics OR Physical Science
United States History
Warren Tech Personalized Educational Class
Electives – All classes taken at Warren Tech will count as electives

- Students must enroll in four classes each smear
- Students will complete their Warren Tech personalized education class with the Warren Tech coordinator.

TWELFTH GRADE

English (English 12 or College Prep English 2)
Government and Economics
WarrenTech Personalized Educational Class
Electives – All classes taken at Warren Tech will count as electives

- Students must enroll in four classes each smear
- Students will complete their Warren Tech personalized education class with the Warren Tech coordinator.

SUGGESTED NINTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE SCHEDULES FOR STUDENTS ENROLLING IN A COLLEGE-BOUND PROGRAM

Note: The College Preparatory Program is designed for students who wish to take classes that will adequately prepare them for college. Students interested in graduating as Valedictorian or Salutatorian of their class must complete 8 of the 17 honors courses, two of which must be Advanced Placement classes. See page 6 for Honors Program requirements.

NINTH GRADE

English 9 (two smears) (possibly Advanced English 9 and Advanced English 10)
Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry and/or Algebra 2)
Earth Science
Physical Education/Health
Electives

TENTH GRADE

English (College Prep English 1 and/or English 11-teacher approval)
Mathematics (Algebra 2 and Algebra 3 or Algebra 3 and Pre-Calculus)
Biology
World History or AP World History
Foreign Language (Spanish 1 and 2)
Electives

ELEVENTH GRADE

English (College Prep English 2 and/or English 12)
Mathematics (Algebra 3 and Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus)
Chemistry and Physics OR Physical Science
United States History or AP US History
Foreign Language (Spanish 3 and 4)
Electives

TWELFTH GRADE

English (Advanced Placement English)
Mathematics (A.P. Calculus)
Physics or Chemistry, and AP Biology
Social Studies (College Prep Civics /Government and College Prep Economics)
Electives

SPECIAL NOTES:

- 1) Students may retake a course to improve a grade in that subject; however, the average of the two grades will be used to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian, overall percentage grade, and class rank. Both grades will remain on the transcript, but only one credit will count toward graduation.
- 2) Students planning to attend college, universities, vocational, technical, or other career-oriented school should check the bulletin from their chosen schools to ensure all required coursework has been taken.

LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 9 (1)

Prerequisite: FMS/PCHS teacher recommendations after review of middle school performance

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (.5 elective credit at 60% or above, .5 English credit at 60% or above)

This course is the 1st half of the year-long English 9 curriculum. This course provides the foundation for progressing through the upper level English classes. It is an integrated study of grammar, composition, vocabulary, and literature. Grammar is a study of the structure of English, its usage and mechanics. Composition is studied in conjunction with grammar. Writing emphasis is on the supported-thesis essay with some narrative, expository and descriptive writing. Students survey the major types of literature: poetry, drama, the short story, and the novel, as well as non-fiction prose.

ENGLISH 9 (2)

Prerequisite: Pass English 9 (1)

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (.5 elective credit at 60% or above, .5 English credit at 60% or above)

This course is the 2nd half of the year-long English 9 curriculum supplemented with additional reading, writing, and vocabulary instruction. Students deliver demonstrative speeches.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 9

Prerequisite: FMS/PCHS teacher recommendations after review of middle school performance

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 English credit)

Advanced English 9 is for students with above-average reading and writing skills. All English 9 curricula are covered. **Students must earn an 80% or better in this course in order to advance to the next course in the PCHS language arts sequence, Advanced English 10, or a 60% or better to move on to English 10.**

ENGLISH 10

Prerequisite: English 9 (2)

Grade Level: 10

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 English credit)

This course covers continued grammar and vocabulary development, various types of essay writing, and the reading of both fiction and nonfiction prose. Composition is studied in conjunction with grammar. Writing emphasis is on the supported-thesis essay with some narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive writing. Students also deliver expository or persuasive speeches.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 10

Prerequisite: Advanced English 9 (minimum grade of 80%) and teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 English credit)

Advanced English 10 is for students with above average reading and writing skills. All English 10 curricula are covered.

ENGLISH 11

Prerequisite: English 10 (English Department recommendation for sophomores)

Grade Level: 10 or 11

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 English credit)

This course pursues traditional high school English curricula with emphasis in the areas of grammar, usage, and mechanics. It also covers persuasive essay writing, novel/literature study, and preparation for the ACT.

ENGLISH 12

Prerequisite: English 11 (English Department recommendation for juniors)

Grade Level: 11 or 12

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 English credit)

This course is a continuation of English 11. However, in addition to work in grammar, usage, mechanics, literature, and essay writing, students are required to complete a major research assignment.

COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH 1- HONORS

Prerequisite: English 10 (95% or better and English Department recommendation for sophomores),
Advanced English 10 (80% or better) or English 11 (80% or better)

Grade Level: 10 or 11

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 English credit)

College Prep English 1 is an integrated study of the English language covering grammar, essay composition, college-bound vocabulary and American literature.

COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH 2- HONORS

Prerequisite: College Prep English 1 (minimum grade of 80% and English Department recommendation for juniors)

Grade Level: 11 or 12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course is a continuation of College Prep English 1. It is designed to enhance the writing and analytical skills of the college-bound student. Emphasis is placed on advanced grammar usage, advanced essay and composition writing, preparation of the research paper, and vocabulary for the college-bound student. Literature studies include selections from world literature with the primary focus covering British Literature.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION-HONORS

Prerequisite: College Prep English 2 (minimum grade of 80%)

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course offers a challenging survey of prose rhetoric. Students will read and analyze rhetorical and stylistic devices in passages of prose (narration, exposition, description, and argument) and write numerous essays containing analysis, argument, and description. One objective of this course is to prepare students for the AP exam. Another involves covering college compositions. A passing score of 3 on the AP exam is worth college credit at most colleges and universities. The cost of the exam is approximately \$94. This course requires a textbook purchase (approximately \$40) and completion of a reading journal that is due the first day of class.

LITERACY (Elective credit only)

Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (42-minute class, .5 elective credit)

In this course, students will improve reading skills by enhancing vocabulary knowledge, comprehension strategies, and note taking skills in order to display proficiency as required by the PCSD School Board in order to meet graduation requirements. Students will interact with a wide array of reading materials including short stories, operator manuals, newspaper articles, labels, opinion pieces, and many more in order to expose students to the vast assortment of printed material available in today's society.

CREATIVE WRITING (Elective credit only)

Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

Come discover yourself. This class will provide students with opportunities to explore various elements of creative writing including reflections, perspectives, poems, and short stories while they work collaboratively with their peers and delve into themselves as writers to discover their voice and experiment with various genres and writing prompts. Music, photography, and reminiscing will enable writers will explore multiple prompts to establish their skills as they journey through the writing process and share their journeys with their writing groups. Inside the groups, students will forge comfortable relationships where writing will be discussed and ameliorated. The struggles of writing and the joys of success will culminate with a shared experience and writings that students publish into a book for everyone to enjoy.

YEARBOOK

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course length: 1 Quarter each, 1st - 3rd quarters, .125 elective credit each

This class is designed for students who are dedicated, can collaborate and think creatively. Yearbook staff members must commit to being a team player with a positive attitude for three consecutive quarters as well as being willing to:

- Cover school events as photographer and journalist
- Participate in creating a marketing plan to sell yearbooks and raise money
- Provide creative design solutions
- Offer constructive criticism
- Take on leadership roles

JOURNALISM

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course length: 1 Quarter, every other day, .125 elective credit

In the elective Journalism course, students will learn about the purpose of journalism and different types of journalism by following current news and viewing diverse forms of journalism. Students will have the opportunity to learn about writing tools of such as the inverted pyramid and 3 different types of journalistic writing. They will be given creative scenarios in which they will write a breaking news article, a developing news story, and a feature story.

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisite: FMS/PCHS teacher recommendations after review of middle school performance

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 math credit)

Students will study real-world applications, tables, graphs and equations of functions, such as linear, absolute value, quadratic, and the connections between them. Also, students will collect, display, and analyze data and connect this data to the functions. Graphing calculator technology is used regularly.

ALGEBRA 1A

Prerequisite: FMS/PCHS teacher recommendations after review of middle school performance

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (0.5 Math credit and 0.5 Elective credit)

This course will cover the 1st half of the Algebra 1 curriculum and will be taught at a pace that allows extra time to cover the main curricular subject areas as well as additional topics such as computation, estimation, statistics, probability, and basic personal finance.

ALGEBRA 1B

Prerequisite: Pass Algebra 1A

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear (0.5 Math credit and 0.5 Elective credit)

This course will cover the 2nd half of the Algebra 1 curriculum and will be taught at a pace that allows extra time to cover the main curricular subject areas as well as additional topics such as computation, estimation, statistics, probability, and basic personal finance.

GEOMETRY

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Grade Level: 9-10

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 math credit)

This course stresses two areas. One area is the real-world application of geometric principles. The second area is the geometric logic structures including formal proof. Concepts of three-dimensional geometry are integrated into plane geometry. Topics will include trigonometry, area, volume, and coordinate geometry. Students should provide their own ruler, protractor and compass.

CONSUMER MATH

Prerequisite: Geometry

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 math credit)

In this course, students will study and review arithmetic skills that they can apply in their personal lives and in their future careers. The course begins with a focus on occupational topics; it includes details on jobs, wages, deductions, taxes, insurance, recreation and spending, and transportation. In the second half of Consumer Math, students learn about personal finances, checking and savings accounts, loans and buying on credit, automobile expenses, and housing expenses.

ALGEBRA 2

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (minimum grade of 70%)

Grade Level: 9-11

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 math credit)

This course extends the concepts presented in Algebra 1. Students will continue to study real-world applications, tables, graphs, and equations of linear, absolute value, and quadratic functions. They will then learn about power and root functions, systems of equations and linear programming.

ALGEBRA 3 --- HONORS

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (minimum grade of 80%)

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 1 Smear (1 math credit)

This course extends the Algebra 2 curriculum and prepares students for Pre-Calculus. Topics covered include sequences and series, analytic geometry, conic sections, parametric equations, and triangle trigonometry. Students will add to their knowledge of functions by studying rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions, extending their knowledge of functions. Graphing calculator technology is regularly used. We recommend that students purchase their own TI-84 Plus calculator. .

PRE-CALCULUS --- HONORS

Prerequisite: Algebra 3 (minimum grade of 80%)

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

Students will study graphs of equations, inequalities and circles, complex numbers, functions including piece-wise defined, greatest integer, composite, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and transformations thereof, analytic trigonometry, applications of trigonometric functions, polar coordinates and vectors. Graphing calculators will be used on a daily basis. We recommend that students purchase their own TI-84 Plus calculator.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB --- HONORS

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus (minimum grade of 80% or higher recommended)

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Course Length: 1 smear

This is a first semester college level calculus class that covers limits, derivatives, the beginning of the definite and indefinite integral, and parametric equations. In addition, various techniques and rules in solving derivatives problems will be addressed. Applications of calculus in the areas of physics, business and economics, and other fields are also discussed and solved. All of the topics evaluated by the Advanced Placement Calculus Test will be addressed during this semester and AP Calculus BC course. Graphing calculator technology (TI-84 Plus and TI-89) will be regularly used. Students may purchase their own books. The same book is used for this course and the BC course. Students may also choose to receive four semester hours of credit from the University of Colorado at Denver for taking this course. Students are required to take the final.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS BC --- HONORS

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB with a grade of 75% or higher or permission of the instructor

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Course Length: 1 smear

This is a second semester college level calculus class that covers limits, derivatives, integrals, series and sequences, vectors, parametric and polar equations. In addition, various techniques and rules used for solving integrals and series and sequences will be addressed. Applications of calculus in the areas of physics, business and economics, and other fields are also discussed and solved. All of the topics evaluated by the Advanced Placement BC Calculus Test will be addressed in this class and the AB class. Graphing calculator technology (TI-84 Plus and TI-89) will be regularly used. Students may also take the AP Calculus test in May. The cost of the AP test is approximately \$92. Students may also choose to receive four semester hours of credit from the University of Colorado at Denver for taking this course.

STATISTICS (Elective)

Prerequisite: Algebra 3 (80% or better) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Course Length: 1 smear

This course will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: 1) Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns, 2) Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study, 3) Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and 4) Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. Students are encouraged to purchase a TI 84 or TI 89 calculator for this course.

INTRO TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 quarter

This course provides an introduction to computer application programming using the Python language. Students will learn skills in basic syntax and program design strategies.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (80% or higher) or instructor permission

Grade level: 10-12

Course length: 1 smear

The AP Computer Science A course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design. The AP Computer Science A course curriculum is compatible with many CS1 courses in post-secondary institutions.

SCIENCE

EARTH SCIENCE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course is designed to provide the student with the basic concepts of earth science, which includes the disciplines of geology, meteorology, astronomy, and hydrology. Students are introduced to the identification, properties, formation, and occurrence of rocks and minerals, to the earth's physical processes (earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, weathering, erosion), landforms, groundwater, the oceans, the interpretation of the history of the earth based on fossil evidence, and to the exploitation of natural resources. Students will also learn about the earth's atmosphere, climate, and weather processes, and the other planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe.

BIOLOGY

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 10

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course is designed to provide an introduction to biology and scientific methodology. It begins with a study of the conditions and the unique properties of organisms which set living things apart from non-living things. Studies range from molecular and cellular biology to reproduction and genetics leading to the study of organ variation and methods of scientific classification. A series of laboratory investigations are incorporated into the course that emphasizes problem solving strategies, the use of laboratory equipment, and introduction to technology.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the basic concepts of chemistry and physics. Students are introduced to the processes of scientific investigation, common properties, forms and changes in matter and energy (Motion, energy, mechanics, classification of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonds, solutions, reactions, waves, sound, light, mirror, lenses, electricity and magnetism) and to the interrelationships between science, technology and human activity.

CHEMISTRY --- HONORS

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 (80% or higher) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course introduces the elements in the periodic chart, the mole and its application in stoichiometric problems, molecular structure and bonding, the states of matter and gas laws. Laboratory experiments and projects are integrated through the course. A scientific/graphing calculator is essential.

PHYSICS --- HONORS

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 (80% or higher) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course introduces equations and theories concerning motion and vectors, dynamics, work and power, waves and energy transfer, light, electricity and circuits. Laboratory experiments and projects accompany work being completed in the classroom. A scientific/graphing calculator is essential.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY --- HONORS (Offered every other year, next offered 2018-2019.)

Prerequisite: Biology (80% or better) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 10- 12

Course Length: 2 Smears (2 credits)

This course fulfills two of the three required science credits and is designed for college-bound students. The class pace and amount of content covered in this course are similar to a freshman-level college biology class. AP Biology includes topics regularly covered in a college biology course for majors. At the conclusion of the year-long course, students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; expand and apply analytical skills to assess the rapidly changing science of biology, especially as it relates to environmental and social concerns, gain laboratory skills and an appreciation of science as a dynamic process through designing, implementing, and interpreting complex labs, and communicate effectively with peers and adults through speech, writing, graphics, and presentations. The labs completed in this course are the equivalent of those done by college students. Students may take the AP Exam in May. The cost of the exam is approximately \$94.

Concurrent credit (both HS and college credit) can be earned in this course through Red Rocks Community College.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY--- HONORS

Prerequisites: Biology (80% or better) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This honors course is designed to provide an introduction to anatomy and physiology of the human body compared to that of other mammals. It is intended for students interested in going into any medical field, veterinary science, or for students who simply want to know how their body is organized and functions. Explorations of the major systems of the body include the skeletal, muscular, nervous, circulatory, respiratory, endocrine, digestive and reproductive systems. Through cat, sheep, and pig dissections, the anatomy of the systems is compared to that of humans. This course also includes a histology unit where students analyze different tissues of the body and create a histology book.

FORENSICS (Elective)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

This elective course is designed to introduce students to forensics – the application of science for solving crimes. This course is rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes.

OUTDOOR EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY (Elective)

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 and Biology (75% or better in both) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 semester, 1 elective credit

This course is designed to relate outdoor activities to the physiological changes that occur in the human body. It is intended for students interested in forestry, botany, physical education, and physiology, or for students who simply want to learn more about their environment and the physical challenges it provides. Students will be introduced to survival techniques, fitness, and the interrelationships between different organisms in the mountains. They will explore different sports such as kayaking, backpacking, and rock climbing. Through lab dissections and experiments, students will recognize the importance of the muscular, nervous, endocrine, respiratory, and cardiovascular systems as they relate to exercise. **There is a \$50 materials fee for this course. Students are encouraged to provide their own outdoor gear, including, but not limited to mountain bikes, backpacks, snowshoes, and skis.**

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (Elective)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

In this course students will apply the engineering design process beginning with identifying the problem and constraints. Researching and designing a possible solution, followed by building a prototype. The prototype will then be tested and evaluated. Finally, the design will be reevaluated and changes will be made finishing with a functional solution to the problem. Example problems could include rocket flight and recovery, bridge and tower building, and car design (such as hydrogen fuel cell).

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (Elective)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

In this course students who intend to compete in the Science Olympiad will work on their individual and team events in a supervised environment. Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events including such topics as genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology.

STEM (Elective)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (44-minute class, 0.5 elective credit)

This STEM course exposes students to design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation. The course gives students the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of course concepts through activity-, project-, and problem-based (APPB) learning. **A \$10-\$20 materials fee will be charged for this course.**

ADVANCED STEM (Elective)

Prerequisites: 75% in Algebra 2 or 80% in STEM.

Grade level: 9-12

Course length: 1 Semester, (44-minute class, 0.5 elective credit

In this course you will work in a team to complete a project of your choosing that incorporate, design, building, circuits, and coding. This course requires students to self motivated and able to set and meet goals. Students will develop the project, timeline, and end goals and work as a team to complete the project in the course of the semester. **A \$10-\$20 materials fee will be charged for this course.**

3D PRINTING (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course length: 1 Quarter, every other day, .125 elective credit

In this course you will design objects virtually and then turn them into physical objects using 3D printing. This course will focus on making designs to specific dimensional requirements while learning to make a design that keeps the limitations of the printer in mind.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD HISTORY

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 10

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course includes a study of world history, focusing on how events around the world have shaped lives today. The major units of study will follow six thematic units from the beginnings of civilization through the modern age. Students will be challenged to evaluate how historical events, cultural phenomena, and social movements have created and designed experience today. Students will be engaged in a variety of learning experiences that range from sculpture and music to PowerPoint.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Prerequisite: World History

Grade Level: 11

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course is a thematic study of the history of the United States from its discovery to present day. The themes of each unit will be focused on a Big Idea that will help the student focus and analyze the information presented to them. Students will be challenged to evaluate historical patterns, events and social movements through primary resources, readings, file, projects, research and essay writing.

GOVERNMENT/CIVICS

Prerequisite: United States History

Grade Level: 12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course introduces students to the foundation upon which our federal government was built, stressing various philosophies and documents that directly and indirectly contributed to the United States Constitution.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY – HONORS (Offered in alternating years, next offered 2018-2019).

Prerequisite: Previous English course (80% or above) or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 2 Smears (2 credits)

This course fulfills the World History requirement and is designed for college-bound students. This course includes an in-depth study of world history, focusing on how events around the world have shaped lives today. The cognitive level of learning is emphasized through the use of supplementary reading, including literature and primary sources, and through essay writing. Students may take the AP Exam in May. The cost of the exam is approximately \$94. **Dual Credit (both HS and college credit) can be earned in this course through Red Rocks Community College.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY --- HONORS (Offered in alternating years, next offered 2019-2020).

Prerequisite: World History (80% or better) and CP 1 or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 2 Smears (2 credits)

This course fulfills the United States History requirement and is designed for college-bound students. The course is designed to provide students the opportunity to evaluate events throughout United States history, from exploration to the present. The cognitive level of learning is emphasized through the use of supplementary reading, including literature and primary sources, and through essay writing. Students may take the AP Exam in May. The cost of the exam is approximately \$94.

COLLEGE PREP GOVERNMENT/CIVICS-HONORS

Prerequisite: CP1 AND AP U.S. History or U.S. History (85% or better) with teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course introduces students to the foundation upon which our federal government was built, stressing various philosophies and documents that directly and indirectly contributed to the United States Constitution. Students will engage in contemporary application of these ideas and values through research, project and group work, essay writing, and class discussion. This semester-long course follows the basic structure of its non-honors equivalent; however, students are required to go much further in depth. More analytical responses in the form of projects and essays are required. Skills necessary at the college level (note-taking, study habits, independence, etc.) are emphasized throughout the course.

ECONOMICS

Prerequisite: United States History

Grade Level: 12

Course Length: 1 Semester (45-minute class, .5 social studies credit)

In this class, students will study how individuals and societies decide how to use scarce resources in order to satisfy their unlimited wants. Concepts that develop out of scarcity will include supply and demand relationships, the business cycle, social costs and social goods, values and characteristics of command and market systems, the role of fiscal and monetary policy, and the impact of international trade on all countries. Additionally, students will learn basic personal finance skills.

GEOGRAPHY (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Length: 1 Semester (44-minute class, .5 elective credit)

This course includes a study of the major geographical regions throughout the world. Students will review cultures, climate, and politics of these areas. Students will participate in various activities, utilizing textbook, atlas, and games relating to the geographic content of the course.

PSYCHOLOGY (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (44-minute class, .5 elective credit)

This course is designed to give the student a broad overview of the study of psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The student will be introduced to the important concepts, principles, terms, and theories in this field. In this course, attention will be given to development, intelligence, personality, emotions, and motivations in an attempt to obtain a better understanding of the individual. Learning activities will include lectures, simulations, research, presentations, debates, videos, experiments, and class discussions.

SEMINAR: CURRENT EVENTS (Elective)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

In this course, students will select, research, and discuss current events. This course will emphasize analytical writing, research skills (including determining the validity of sources), oral language development, and presentation skills. Seminar students are expected to participate in, and eventually act as moderators for Socratic seminars.

TRAVEL GEOGRAPHY (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

Travel Geography has students use geography and life skills to plan a different types of trips, gain a better understanding of the different resources available to them to use in the 21st century world, and demonstrate the skills needed to have a successful trip.

SEMINAR: SOCIAL MEDIA/POLITICS (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

Social Media/Politics is a one quarter course aimed at better familiarizing students with the world around them. Students will attain a greater comprehension of both national and international issues and how those issues directly impact them. Particularly, a large portion of class will focus on the upcoming state- and federal-level elections. Through readings, discussions and debates, students will learn how to craft well-reasoned opinions grounded by factual information. Ultimately, the course will better prepare students to actively participate in the democratic society in which they live.

SOCIOLOGY (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (44-minute class, .5 elective credit)

This course is designed to give the student a broad overview of the study of sociology. Sociology is the study of social behavior, including its origins, development, organizations, and institutions. The student will be introduced to the important concepts, principles, terms, and theories in this field. In this course, attention will be given to learning about the development and differences in societies and cultures, as well as how and why societies function. Learning activities will include lectures, simulations, research, presentations, debates, videos, experiments, and class discussions.

ANALYZATION OF HISTORY THROUGH VISUAL MEDIA --- ELECTIVE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

History is a body of facts that explain past events. The main job of a historian is not only to record facts, but to interpret and evaluate them. Just like historians, Hollywood uses films to interpret society. Both study suitable sources, then select and arrange facts to tell their stories. Due to biases, books, articles, and movies cannot be considered the absolute truth. Therefore articles, books and movies must be evaluated along with other sources on the subject in order to have a more balanced and truthful interpretation of history. In this course, students will examine Hollywood feature historical films in order to discover a reasonable version of the truth. Students will view movies on various historical topics, conduct additional research, and write essays comparing the film evidence to more traditional sources such as articles, film reviews, and commentaries. **Note: This course is not a replacement course for the regular History course that is required for graduation.**

WORLD LANGUAGES

INTRODUCTION TO THAI LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

This course is an exploratory class in which students learn to speak basic Thai and engage with the culture. Students will address the Thai language as it relates to government, geography, festivals, population groups, religion, cultural expectations, food, travel, and shopping. This is a project-driven course. **NOTE: This course is not a replacement for a first-year level world language course (as required by most post-secondary institutions).**

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

This is an introductory overview of American Sign Language (ASL) including its basic vocabulary, structure, and grammar. Students will focus on mastering the basics of finger-spelling, numbers, colors, facial grammar, and sentence structure. Introductory information about deaf culture will also be presented to provide students with a broad picture of the language and culture. **NOTE: This course is not a replacement for a first-year level world language course (as required by most post-secondary institutions).**

SPANISH 1

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 11-12 (10th grade – space permitting)

Course Length: 1 Smear

Spanish 1 students will be exposed to the Hispanic culture and learn to recognize and speak key phrases in the Spanish language. The emphasis will be on an introduction to Spanish grammar. Students will be taught correct pronunciation and the basic fundamentals of the language.

SPANISH 2

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 (80% and teacher recommendation)

Grade Level: 11-12 (10th grade – space permitting)

Course Length: 1 Smear

The focus of attention in this course will be on improving oral skills, reading comprehension and writing ability. The course will continue to emphasize grammar; by the end of the course, students will have learned the imperfect, future and conditional tenses. They will also be introduced to the perfect tenses. **A \$17-\$20 workbook fee will be charged for this course.**

SPANISH 3 – HONORS

Prerequisite: Spanish 2 (80% and teacher recommendation)

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

This course is geared towards the advanced Spanish student and prepares him/her for Spanish at the college level. Students will concentrate on the spoken language, listening skills, and composition. A general review of grammar will be covered, but the emphasis will be concerned with advanced Spanish grammar. Compound tenses and the subjunctive tense will be introduced during this course.

SPANISH 4 – HONORS

Prerequisite: Spanish 3 (80% and teacher recommendation)

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

The emphasis of the course will focus on the student's ability to speak the language. Dialogue between the teacher and student in Spanish will be increased during the course and the student will be expected to communicate effectively using the foreign language. The subjunctive tense will be covered thoroughly and testing will include composition.

ELECTIVES --- PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 semester, .5 elective credit

This course emphasizes the improvement of the components of physical fitness and how they contribute to optimal wellness. Students will be exposed to principles of strength training, elements of cardiovascular health, basic anatomy, and basic nutrition. Students will also experience a variety of team and individual activities. In addition, students will have the opportunity to improve their fitness levels by participating in various fitness assessments throughout the semester.

ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT

Prerequisite: Students must be participating in an interscholastic sport (in-season) or coach recommendation.

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (45-minute class, .5 elective credit)

This course provides an additional 45 minutes per school day for our athletes to work on individual improvement through weight training, plyometrics, and agility drills. Additionally, coaches may work with athletes in season on sport-specific techniques, game preparation, and video review. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT: BASKETBALL

Prerequisite: Students must be participating in-season in basketball. Enrollment is by teacher/coach recommendation only.

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

In this conditioning course, students who are participating in basketball will partake in weight training, plyometrics, ball-handling drills, shooting drills, and film study to better prepare them for a successful season. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT: FOOTBALL

Prerequisite: Students must be participating in-season in football. Enrollment is by teacher/coach recommendation only.

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

In this conditioning course, students who are participating in football will partake in weight training, plyometrics, speed, agility drills, and film study to better prepare them for a successful season. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT: VOLLEYBALL

Prerequisite: Students must be participating in-season in volleyball. Enrollment is by teacher/coach recommendation only.

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

In this conditioning course, students who are participating in volleyball will partake in weight training, plyometrics, speed, agility drills, and film study to better prepare them for a successful season. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

FITNESS and CONDITIONING

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (45-minute class, .5 elective credit)

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.

WEIGHT TRAINING

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (45-minute class, .5 elective credit)

The emphasis in this course is on muscular strength, endurance, and safety. The core lifts in this course include parallel squats, power cleans, bench press, and military press. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, muscle identification, basic nutrition, and individual goal setting are all important components in this course. In addition, students will monitor and improve their skill related fitness levels by participating in various skill-related fitness assessments throughout the semester.

ELECTIVES --- FINE ARTS/TECH ARTS

BAND

Prerequisite: Must be accomplished on chosen band instrument or audition with band instructor

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 semester, .5 elective credit

The PCHS Band is comprised of students interested in performing band music. Acceptance is on an audition basis. Band will explore marching band and concert band styles of music. The workload is heavy and the rehearsals are rigorous. The band will participate in extra-curricular performances throughout the year. Some of these performances include pep rallies, football games, parades and any other functions requested by the school.

JAZZ BAND

Prerequisite: Must be accomplished on chosen band instrument or audition with band instructor

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (42-minute course, .25 elective credit)

This performance-based course provides students with a variety of jazz ensemble experiences. Music is studied and performed from an intermediate level of jazz repertoire. The focus will be on many styles (including swing, bebop, funk); and there will be a focus on improvisation. One concert performance per quarter is mandatory. Students must have proficiency on at least one traditional jazz instrument (i.e. – saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, drums & mallet percussion).

MARCHING BAND

Prerequisite: Must be accomplished on chosen band instrument or audition with band instructor

Grade level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter, .25 elective course)

Marching Band is a course designed for students that are proficient on a band instrument. (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, percussion) This course focuses on preparing and performing half-time performances at all home football games. Attendance at all games is mandatory. Music is often taken from the pop and rock genres, and there is a strong focus on marching fundamentals.

ADVANCED DRAMA/MUSICAL/MUSICAL PIT

Prerequisite: Involvement in the Spring Musical cast or crew

Grades: 9-12

Course length: 1 Quarter (.25 credit)

The Musical class is for the cast, tech crew, and musicians for the annual PCHS musical. Students will use the time to rehearse and prepare for the big performance. Students may only take this class with permission from Ms. Waterhouse or Mr. Walters, as it is limited to students in the show.

CHOIR/GLEE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

The focus of this course is to provide growth in the areas of music reading, interpretation and performance. Students will also develop healthy vocal techniques while building confidence in a performance situation. Performances include two concerts per smear.

GUITAR

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 semester, .5 elective course

The PCHS Guitar class is open to all students of all ability levels. The focus is on music literacy. Students will learn to play music on the guitar, read sheet music, and write using musical notation. Students will also develop their guitar skills at every level. Skills include but are not limited to: open chords, barre chords, power chords, strumming patterns, melody performance, finger-picking, soloing, and scale patterns.

BEGINNING DRAMA

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (45-minute class, .5 elective credit)

This course addresses the basics of acting for theater and film. Content areas include oral interpretation, stage movement, character development, play analysis, and the basics of technical theater.

ADVANCED DRAMA

Prerequisite: Beginning Drama or teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 semester, .5 elective credit

This course addresses advanced aspects of theater and drama. Content areas include oral interpretation, stage movement, character development, play analysis, theater history, and technical skills. As part of the course, and as a part of their midterm/final exam grade, students will put on a theatrical production, which will include multiple performances for different audiences. Students will both act in and do tech work for these productions, and the Advanced Drama class will also assist with the technical work for other shows being produced at the school such as the musical (spring semester). Students will also attend and analyze outside live theater performances as a part of the course.

2D STUDIO ART

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (.5 credit)

In this class students will participate in studio art processes while exploring a variety of two dimensional materials and methods. Emphasis will be demonstrating competency in traditional and new media as well as utilizing technology to refine ideas. Through a series of traditional and experimental studio assignments and demonstrations students will develop projects through self discovery using contemporary themes. Students will be assessed on responses to essential questions, self reflections, unit rubrics, artist statements and artworks.

3D STUDIO ART

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (.5 credit)

Students will be introduced to foundational skills of sculpture. The emphasis will be using the additive, subtractive or substitution methods while exploring a variety of three dimensional materials. Students can choose from traditional to nontraditional materials to express ideas with careful consideration of space and form. Emphasis will be demonstrating successful 3D compositions with high regards to craftsmanship. Students will be assessed on responses to essential questions, self reflections, unit rubrics, artist statements and artworks.

CREATIVE ARTS

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (.5 credit)

This self-directed class is designed to offer an opportunity for students to think and work like an artist independently or collaboratively. Students will be immersed in the creative process of: generating original ideas through research and self discovery, expressing ideas using materials, connecting these ideas to the real world, self reflection of their process.

Emphasis will be critical thinking and artistic invention. This will be assessed through a self reflection rubric of originality, craftsmanship, effort and other SMART goals set by student and teacher.

FILM MAKING

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (45-minute class, .5 elective credit)

In Film Making, students will learn the basics of planning, producing, shooting, editing, and promoting short films. The class focuses on the documentary (i.e. nonfiction genre). Students will create and share their own movies using "everyday" technology and settings. Students will also learn the basics of movie making by critically viewing a variety of professionally-produced films and film clips.

BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

Prerequisite: None

Grade level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter, every other day, .125 elective credit

This course will focus on composition of photographs using symmetry, framing, color, and other techniques. Students will share and discuss their own photographs in a positive encouraging environment.

HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 semester, .5 elective course

This course includes a study of rock and roll history, beginning with early 20th century pop music and concluding with an evaluation of present-day rock and roll. Students will gain an understanding of the chronological development of rock music. They will also understand the impact of politics, religion, philosophy, and technology on rock music.

SPEECH

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 semester, .5 elective credit

Speech combines the basic elements of speech and communication and also provides preparation for, and competitive opportunity in forensics. Students will encounter and participate in a wide range of speech communication situations such as introduction, literary interpretations, information speeches, formal debate, etc. Practical techniques for speech development, analyzing and delivery will be covered. Attention will also be given to critical listening skills. Speech is designed to help students communicate in an increasingly verbal and media-oriented age. The class includes competitive speaking opportunities and students will participate in public speaking events outside of class.

WORLD MYTHOLOGY

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (44-minute class, .5 elective credit)

From the earliest recorded history, mankind has tried to make sense of the world through storytelling. This class explores the role of myths in society historically as well as in modern day. From Gilgamesh to Robin Hood; from Zeus to Spiderman; from Thor to, well, Thor; students will read and study myths from a variety of cultures including Greek, Egyptian, Norse, Native American, and European as they consider the connections between myths and psychology, politics, religion, and literature.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

SAT PREPARATION

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Semester (44-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

This course is designed to assist students in preparing to take the SAT Test. This course will provide an overview of the test, practical test taking strategies and opportunities to take practice SAT exams.

ASSISTANT

Prerequisite: Teacher/Counselor/Secretary/Administrator approval

Grade Level: 11-12 (minimum of 80% overall grade point average)

Course Length: 1 Semester

An elective open to all students in grades 11 and 12; the assistantship is designed to provide an opportunity in practical work experience with various teachers, counselors, secretaries or administrators. Student must arrange enrollment in advance with who he/she wishes to work.

EARLY DISMISSAL/LATE ARRIVAL (No credit)

Prerequisite: Counselor/Administrator approval

Grade Level: 11-12 (minimum of 70% overall grade point average, "on-track" to graduate)

Course Length: 1 Smear

This schedule option is open to students in grades 11 and 12. Students may choose to arrive late or leave early if they are "on-track" to graduate. Students must provide their own transportation for this option. In either case, students may not loiter on-campus during their Early Dismissal or Late Arrival period. Students may not have both Late Arrival and Early Dismissal in the same semester.

ENGLISH/MATH/SCIENCE INTERVENTION

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class every other day, 0.125 elective credit)

This course is specific to the subject areas of English, mathematics and science. The course is designed to target remedial needs by using a variety of means to assess each student's level in the assigned content-area intervention. Teachers will use re-teaching and remedial instruction to help bolster students' depth of knowledge in the targeted area.

HOME ECONOMICS: COOKING

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class every other day, 0.125 elective credit)

This course is a beginning foods and nutrition class. Students cook and eat mouth-watering recipes such as cinnamon rolls, pizza, pastas, simple dinners, pies, pastries, cookies, etc. The focus is on basic concepts of food preparation, use and care of equipment and appliances, food purchasing and nutrition. Students select recipes, plan their meal projects, cook, and evaluate results. This is a hands-on class, and creativity is encouraged.

“OFF” PERIOD

Prerequisite: Counselor/Administrator approval

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class, No credit)

PCHS students may request an “off” period in their course schedule if they are a sophomore, junior, or senior, are “on track” to graduate (having earned an average of 3.5 credits per high school semester), and have demonstrated the ability to work independently in a mature manner. In general, students report to the Learning Commons prior to the start of their “off” period for attendance purposes. After that, students may be in either the PCHS West 1st floor lobby, PCHS West 2nd floor lobby, or in the Learning Commons. In rare cases, students may be with teachers in classrooms with prior, written permission. Students may not be in classrooms if teachers are conducting classes. Students will use this time for school-related business or to conduct personal business.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Smear (45-minute class every other day, 0.125 elective credit)

This course is designed to provide students with the skills to set long- and short-term personal and financial goals, create and work with a personal budget, identify how and when to use credit, save and invest, and understand the basics of banking services. Additionally, this course offers insights on behaviors and situations that can lead to a financial downsizing, clues to recognize when a budget is in trouble, and the options available when a budget fails.

STUDY HALL

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class every other day, .125 elective credit)

This course is a silent working period for students who are dedicated to getting assignments started during school hours. **Note: A maximum of two study hall quarters may be taken per school year.**

TECHNOLOGY: GOING VIRAL

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Quarter (45-minute class every other day, 0.125 elective credit)

In this project-based class, students will learn skills in advertising, social media, basic coding, blogging, vlogging, and web design as we examine how to make a successful online presence today.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: 1 Smear (45-minute class every day, 0.5 elective credit)

In this introductory business course, students will learn the basics of planning and launching a successful student-run business. Students will learn how to develop new business ideas, how to pitch a business to potential investors, the basics of marketing, and managing expenses.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Note: Courses in this section are offered as alternatives to courses in the traditional classroom setting.

ALTERNATIVE COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (ACE)

Prerequisite: Qualification for the program via competitive process and/or Rtl team placement

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear, 1 School Year, or 2 School Years

Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) is available to all students. The goals of the program are to achieve academic requirements while training in the career planning process, exploring career alternatives and understanding the skills and qualities necessary for successful employment. The student is enrolled in classes one-half day and works one-half day. Subjects required in ACE are based on graduation requirements. Each student will have a Personalized Education Plan (PEP).

CREDIT RECOVERY

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: 1 Smear

Credit recovery courses are offered on a limited basis for students who have a need to make up or repeat a course. Typically, these courses are "bare-bones" versions of a regular course.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (See APPENDIX A for details)

PCHS ONLINE PROGRAM

Prerequisite: Prior to enrollment, the student must complete a PCHS Online Contract with counselor, parent, and principal approval

Grade Level: 10-12, 9th graders on Advanced Learning Plans may petition the Principal to take an online course

Course Length: Various

Students take online courses for a variety of reasons: for credit recovery, to take a course not offered in the PCHS Master Schedule, because of schedule conflicts, or because of alternative placement. PCHS offers almost unlimited credit options through several online platforms. These programs offer online courses that the student can take independently. All courses are taught by ESSA highly-qualified teachers. Examples of courses include, but are not limited to, Mandarin Chinese, C++ Programming, Environmental Science, and Anthropology. Consult with the counselor or principal for other course options. All high school-level online courses will be graded on the 100-point grade scale and will be recorded on student transcripts accordingly.

WARREN TECH (WOTC)

Prerequisite: Students must fill out an application in the Spring prior to their attendance in the Fall. The selection process includes: number of credits earned, GPA, discipline, attendance and teacher recommendation. Students must be accepted by PCHS and Warren Tech to be enrolled.

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Level: One-Year Course or Two-Year Course

This program is for juniors and seniors who wish to enroll in a vocational training program. Students must apply during the spring smear of each year for the following year. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to three credits per year.

WARREN TECH PERSONALIZED EDUCATIONAL CLASS

Prerequisite: Enrolled in Warren Tech

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear, 1 Year or 2 Years

Subject based on graduation requirements

IN-DEPTH STUDY

Prerequisite: Staff Leadership Team Approval

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: 1 Smear to 1 Year

An In-Depth Study is designed for students who wish to pursue individualized course work beyond the school day. Students must interview with the evaluation committee, present a written proposal including subject area, goals and objectives of the study, present an outline of how 120 hours will be budgeted and explain how the goals will be demonstrated. Students will be assigned a mentor/teacher from the particular department of their course of study. Students must also demonstrate successful completion of goals before the evaluation committee. Students will receive a Pass/Fail grade for this course.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ SERVICES

ASCENT PROGRAM

The ASCENT (**A**ccelerating **S**tudents through **C**oncurrent **E**nrollment) Program allows a qualified student (see Article 10 of Board Policy 540 and description below), designated by CDE, to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses, including academic courses and career and technical education courses, in the year directly following the year in which he or she was enrolled in the twelfth grade at PCHS. ASCENT courses taught by non-PCHS staff members will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis and will be recorded on student transcripts accordingly. A qualified student may be designated as a participant if he/she:

1. Has completed or is on schedule to complete at least twelve credit hours of postsecondary course work prior to the completion of his or her twelfth-grade year.
2. Is not in need of a basic skills course.
3. Has been selected for participation in the program by the PCHS Principal.
4. Has been accepted into a postsecondary degree program at an institution of higher education.
5. Has satisfied any other selection criteria established by the State Board of Education.
6. Has not been designated an Ascent Program participant in any prior year.

An ASCENT Program participant shall not be considered a high school graduate until he/she has completed his/her participation in the ASCENT program.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

In order to meet the needs of students who exhibit special needs in the areas of academic achievement, aberrant school behavior, and/or social behavior, PCHS employs a Response to Intervention (RtI) model, in order to identify and address these student needs. Students who appear to be in needs of extra services are referred by staff members to the RtI team on a monthly basis. At that point, students are assigned a staff mentor who meets with the student weekly in order to develop strategies that aim to aid in the student's success. The RtI team meets monthly to brainstorm ideas to help meet the needs of these students. In a few instances, students may eventually receive a referral for a Special Education (Learning Services) Assessment.

LEARNING SERVICES

Platte Canyon High School offers a Learning Services Program that addresses the special needs of certain students. This program provides qualified students with academic and emotional support services. The Learning Services Program is based upon an intervention strategy, with the goal of helping identified students be successful in their individual academic endeavors. Both the state and federal government specifically fund this program.

When a student is referred for a Special Education Assessment, individual academic and psychological testing is completed to determine if the student meets the necessary eligibility criteria. A student can qualify for the program based upon individual learning disabilities or emotional problems. The parents, the student, Special Education staff, school administrators, and other diagnostic personnel review the testing results.

Guidelines for eligibility have been established by state and federal education agencies in order for a student to be staffed into the Special Education Services Program. It is the goal of the school's Special Education Department to place each student in as many mainstream classes as possible. Accommodations will be made to help each student be successful in the regular classroom.

Alternative classes that will be functional class credits can be offered to the student. Modifications will be made within the Resource Room to accommodate each student's ability to read assigned materials and complete assignments.

APPENDIX A

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Prerequisite: Sixty days prior to enrollment, the student must complete a Concurrent Enrollment agreement with post-secondary institution, counselor, parent, and principal approval.

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Variable, typically one semester

These courses, as authorized by the School Board, are taken at a Colorado post-secondary institution. Tuition may be reimbursed by the District. Concurrent enrollment course grades will be recorded on student transcripts as follows: 1) If the course is taught by a PCHS teacher, the PCHS course grade will be recorded on the transcript; 2) If the course is taught off-campus/online, either the numeric grade will be recorded, or if a letter grade is given, these grades will be transcribed as follows: A = 100, A- = 93, B+/B = 89, B- = 83, C+/C = 79, C- = 73, D+/D=69, D- = 63, F=59.

PLATTE CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS ACT AND POLICY 540, ARTICLE 11

Requirements/Limitations

The Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq.) and Platte Canyon School District Policy 540, Article 11 establish an option for juniors and seniors to be concurrently enrolled at a Colorado higher education institution:

"Concurrent enrollment" means the simultaneous enrollment of a qualified Platte Canyon High School (PCHS) student in one or more postsecondary courses including academic or career and technical education courses at an institution of higher education. "Qualified student" means a person who is less than twenty-one years of age and is enrolled in the ninth grade or a higher grade level at PCHS. A qualified student who has applied and received approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee may register with and concurrently enroll in an institution of higher education within the provisions of this policy:

1. A student shall not enroll in a basic skills course unless he/she is enrolled in the twelfth grade at PCHS;
2. A student who has not satisfied the minimum requirements for graduation from PCHS at the end of his/her twelfth-grade year and is therefore retained for additional instruction shall not concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses including academic or career and technical education courses that are worth more than a total of nine credit hours including basic skills courses;
3. A qualified student may enroll in six credit hours of postsecondary courses including academic courses and career and technical education courses in any academic semester if the student is registered as a full-time pupil at PCHS or three credit hours of postsecondary courses including academic courses and career and technical education courses if the student is registered as a part-time pupil at PCHS.
4. A qualified student who seeks to concurrently enroll in an institution of higher education shall apply, using the District's application form, to the Superintendent or designee for approval of concurrent enrollment not later than sixty days before the end of the academic term that immediately precedes the intended term of concurrent enrollment. The Superintendent or designee may wave the time limitation at his/her discretion.
5. A qualified student who seeks to concurrently enroll in an institution of higher education shall establish, in consultation with the Principal or designee, an academic plan of study that describes all of the courses that the student intends to complete to satisfy his or her remaining requirements for graduation from PCHS. Prior to

concurrent enrollment, the Principal or designee shall approve the academic plan of study consistent with guidelines established by the State Board of Education.

6. A qualified student who intends to concurrently enroll in a postsecondary course shall satisfy the minimum prerequisites for the course prior to his/her enrollment in the course. If the minimum prerequisites for the course have not been met, the student may enroll in a basic skills course if he/she is enrolled in the twelfth grade at PCHS and if the institution of higher education offers the basic skills course.

Such courses shall count for credit towards the student's graduation requirements unless the Principal denies the credit and such denial is upheld by the Superintendent and the Board of Education on the basis that high school credit is inappropriate. Satisfactory passage of the approved courses shall result in appropriate credit toward a high school diploma as well as credit at the higher education institution.

Notification of Intent to Enroll

Upon meeting these limitations and requirements, the student must, in writing, notify the Principal of the intent to enroll at a higher education institution at least two months prior to such enrollment. The notice must specify the courses in which the student intends to enroll.

Agreements/Tuition/Payments

At the time of the student's enrollment in the higher education courses, the institution and the District will enter into an agreement that addresses (1) the high school credit to be granted for coursework successfully completed, (2) the requirement that the course work count as credit for a degree or certificate at the institution, (3) the requirement that the school district shall **reimburse** the amount of **tuition paid** for such courses. The District shall not pay or reimburse other expenses and is not required to transport or pay for transport of the student to or from the institution of higher education.

The student or the student's parent or guardian shall pay the in-state tuition for the courses in which the student enrolls. For a non-public higher education institution, the tuition shall not exceed the average in-state tuition charged by comparable state institutions of higher education. Tuition paid by the student or the student's parent or guardian for the first two courses per academic term shall be reimbursed by the District upon receipt of evidence of successful passage of the courses by the student.

Tuition Exception: The District shall pay the required tuition for the first two courses per academic term for any student who is eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch pursuant to the provisions of the National School Lunch Act or for any student when the Principal deems that payment by the student, parent or guardian would constitute a financial hardship. For any tuition paid under this exception clause, the student, parent/guardian must sign a promise to repay the amount of tuition paid by the District if the student fails or otherwise does not complete the postsecondary course for any reason without the consent of the Principal of Platte Canyon High School.