

# What Sets Prestonwood Christian Academy Apart?

Prestonwood Christian Academy (PCA) provides rigorous college-preparatory curriculum based upon each student's individual needs. The curriculum integrates a biblical worldview to enhance and reinforce core knowledge and life-long skills while encouraging Christian virtues. PCA offers 19 AP courses, 11 dual credit courses as well as honors, Pre-AP, and college prep level courses to allow each student to reach their full potential. Not only have our graduates matriculated to some of the top universities in the US and around the world, but they are well prepared for success at the university level and beyond.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

PCA's International Student Program is focused on each student's success. Our first-year students take an academic support class which not only helps the student do well academically, but also helps the student adjust to life in the US and at PCA. Students have a faculty mentor who helps them navigate day-to-day activities at PCA as well as function as an advocate for the student. We maintain I-20's, coordinate homestays, is a liaison between the school and the parents, and coordinates monthly outings for the International Students.

## HOMESTAY

A priority of our International program is a safe and nurturing home for all our international students. All Host Families undergo a rigorous interview process which includes a background check. PCA is committed to providing a caring home environment to help foster cultural adaptation, social and emotional support, and accelerated English acquisition.

## COLLEGE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Our team of experienced and knowledgeable counselors guide families through the college search and application process. Our college placement program starts in 8th grade and consists of a series of grade-level seminars to educate students and parents on the college admission process as well as individual guidance meetings to tailor the college search and application process to a student's needs and calling. Our counselors build relationships with students, parents, teachers, and college admission representatives to enable students to identify their best "fit" colleges in terms of opportunities for academic, spiritual, social, professional development.

All PCA students take the PSAT each year starting in grade 8, and the Residual ACT starting in year 9. By having multiple practices on the exams, students are better equipped and familiar with the college admission tests prior to taking the exam for university admission. In addition, all International Students take a practice TOEFL examination twice a year in order to track their improvement in English acquisition as well as prepare them for college admission requirements.

## STEM PROGRAM

From inquiry-based learning in the STEM garden to a two-year research project, PCA provides students Pre-K through 12th grade with advanced STEM coursework blended with outside study. We focus on allowing students the opportunity for innovative learning through original research and hands-on learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Students can graduate with STEM Honors.

## FINE ARTS

PCA's award-winning fine arts programs allows our talented students to achieve at high levels in areas of art (2D and 3D), theatre (acting and technical), vocal music (choir and individual), and instrumental music (marching, symphonic and jazz band). PCA students are consistently recognized at state and national competitions and are highly recruited by universities.

## COMMUNICATION ARTS

**Mock Trial** is a national high school competition that teaches students how to analyze legal arguments, prepare witnesses for direct and cross examination, and present opening statements and closing arguments. Students develop their critical thinking, public speaking, and analytical skills.

Not only does PCA offer courses in **Film and Broadcasting**, but we also have our own broadcasting studio, Lion Nation Studios, which produces programming in partnership with Prestonwood Baptist Church's professional media team.

## FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS

Future Problem Solvers (FPS) provides a venue for students at PCA to utilize the skills they have acquired to compete against the best and brightest students from public schools from Texas and around the world. Through this club, students develop creative, critical and analytical thinking skills, improve research skills, study current significant issues, develop teamwork skills, improve written and verbal communication skills, and learn to utilize problem solving strategies.

## SENIOR CAPSTONE

The Senior Capstone is a interdisciplinary research project completed in year 12. Each student chooses a literary work from grades 9 – 12 and completes a literary analysis, a historical analysis, a philosophical analysis, Portrait of a Graduate synthesis and an oral presentation and defense. The purpose of this project is to affirm students' ability to think critically and creatively, to make reasoned and biblically based decisions, and to communicate effectively.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (SLI)

Student Leadership Institute is designed to assist students in the development of their leadership philosophy and skills through a multifaceted year-long program. Through speakers and a small group research project, students investigate and learn about real-world current issues. Grade 12 students participate as small group leaders.

## MINIMESTER

The week before Spring Break, the hallways at the upper school at PCA may be quiet, but the education has not stopped. PCA dedicates the entire week to serving and learning about the world around us. Students have the opportunity to travel to local, nationwide, and international communities to explore cultures, histories, and diversity to prepare them for the real world. While the students are learning, they are also serving others by building homes, feeding the homeless, assisting in medical clinics, and working with the under-privileged.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PCA offers students a variety of school sponsored clubs, activities and competitions including: Sports, Science Olympiad, Future Doctors of America, Lion Scholar Program, Band, Choir, Theatre Productions, Jazz Band, Art, French Club, and others.

## SAFETY

Safety is a priority at PCA. Plano, Texas has been ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> safest city in the US! However, we do not stop there. Some of our security features are: All visitors on the PCA campus are required to check in and provide ID while on campus; Recently upgraded password activated security gates and locks; Constant Plano police presence on our campus; Monthly lockdown practice; and background checks required of all employees and volunteers on our campus.