

Science Foundation



Students in grades 6 - 10 gain knowledge across five key scientific areas: Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science, Computer Science, and Engineering. Each year, students explore most of these topics in an integrated fashion. By grade 11, students have a firm understanding of these content areas and how they interconnect and can choose Advanced Placement, honors, or elective courses based upon experience and interest.



PRS Science Electives

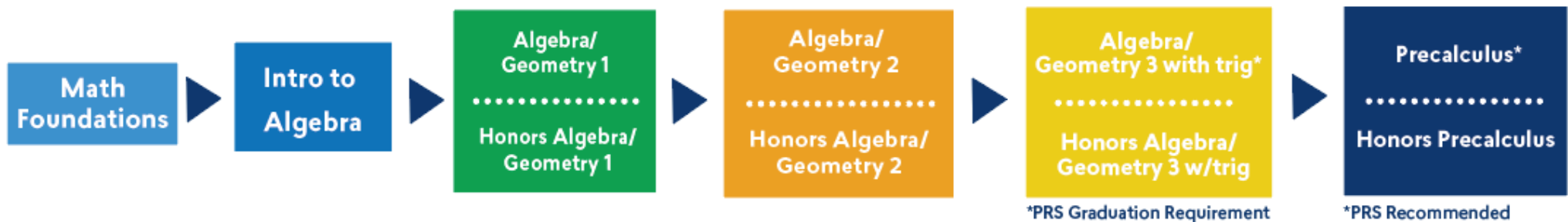
Anatomy and Physiology
Biotechnology
Engineering Design
Marine Biology
Honors Environmental Science

Honors Chemistry
Honors Physics
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics

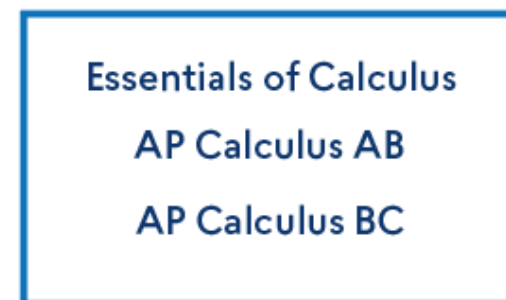
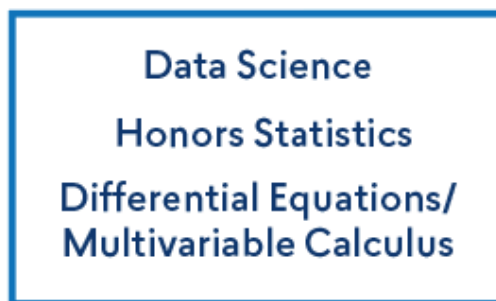
Math Trajectory



Students learn how to persevere when tackling challenging problems, construct viable mathematical arguments, and ultimately communicate clearly about their mathematical knowledge. Classes are student-centered, allowing for students to engage, discover, and practice mastery of mathematical concepts with their peers. Students regularly present their work to the class and discuss various methods of solving problems. They become active participants in their own learning and understanding of mathematical content, both as engaged listeners and vocal contributors to class discussions.



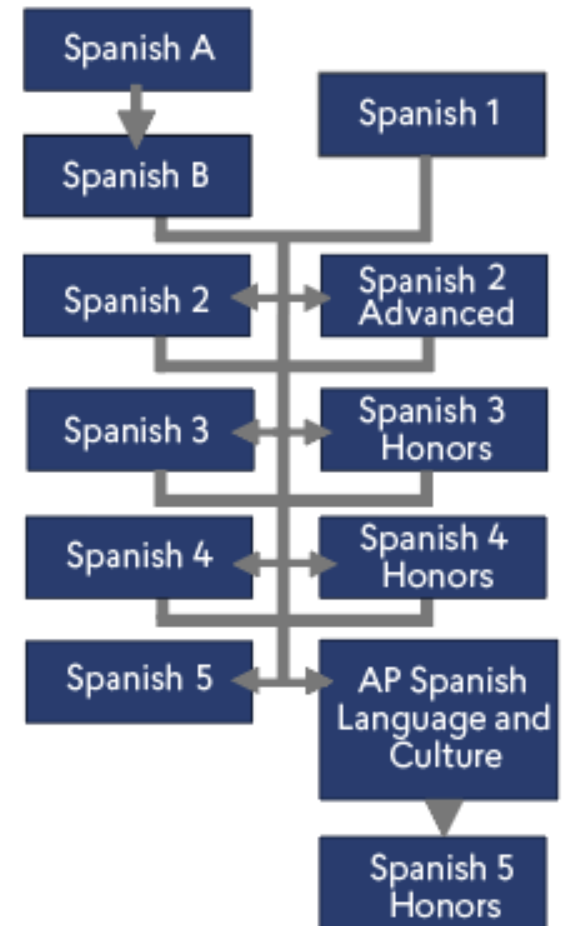
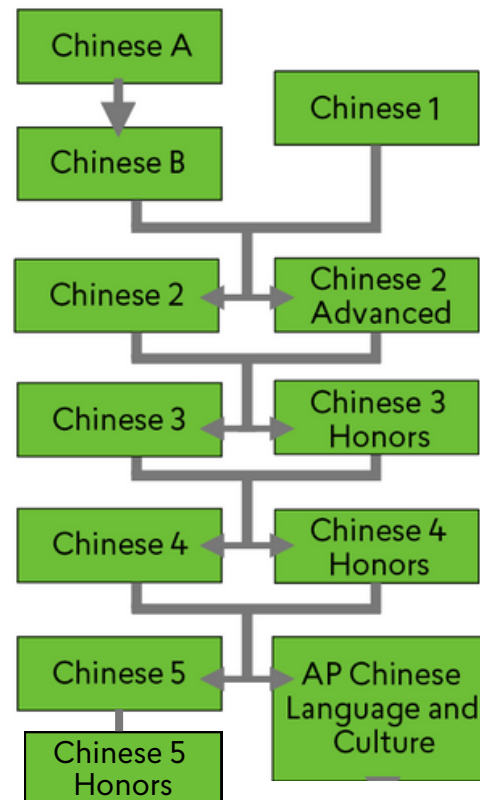
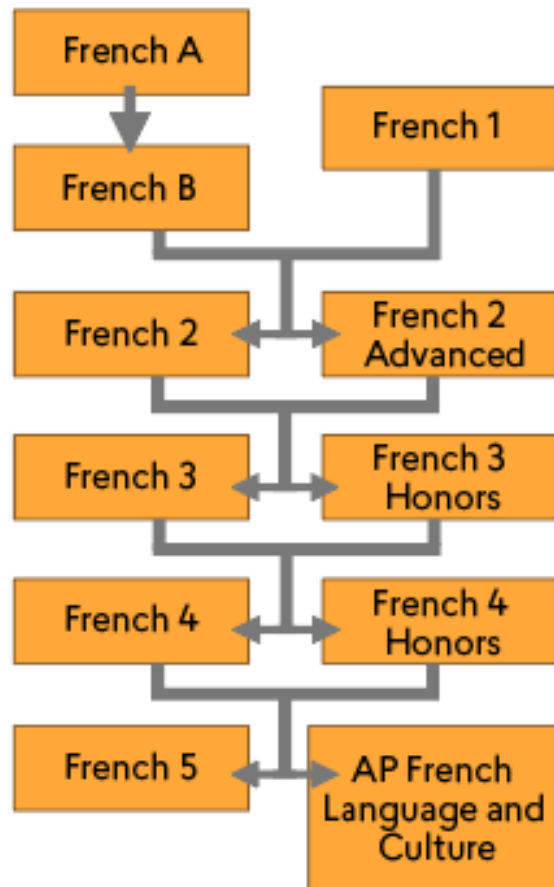
PRS MATH ELECTIVES



World Languages



The curriculum in all our Spanish, French, and Chinese classes is designed around immersion instruction, with students fully engaged and interacting in the target language beginning with their very first class. In addition to speaking, reading and writing are emphasized so that students are equipped to interpret and express ideas in both oral and written form. Cultural competence and cultural appreciation are presented as an integrated and essential part of our mission to connect students to the world around them.



History & Social Sciences



The goal of the Pacific Ridge history and social sciences curriculum is to cultivate engaged citizens capable of informed and responsible problem solving in their communities and the world. To achieve this end, Pacific Ridge history and social science students practice and refine the skills of inquiry, research, historiography, recognition of perspectives, critical reading, dialogue, connecting past and present events, and verbal and written advocacy.

Grade 6

Innovations Past & Present

Grade 7

Social & Community
Studies

Grade 8

American Studies

Grade 9

Ancient World History

Grade 10

Modern World History

Grades 11 & 12

US History, AP US History, Theories of Social Change, US Government & Politics, Middle East History & Diplomacy, Theory of Knowledge, Economics, Contemporary Human Geography, Ethnic Studies, Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies, and Latin American History

English



Students learn to interpret and analyze texts while honing their creativity and clarity in writing. Our writing program encourages students to explore their own voices by writing in a variety of genres, including literary and rhetorical analysis, plays, short stories, poetry, and personal narrative. In the classroom, students engage in cooperative, student-led dialogue that stimulates critical thinking and learning.

Grades 6 - 8

Essential Questions:

What does it mean to "wayfind"? / What does a community need to flourish? / How do we balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the community?

Writing Curriculum:

Writer's Portfolio Project / Hero's Journey Short Story / Poetry / Persuasive Letters / Informative Writing / Descriptive Vignettes / Argumentative Essay / Bildungsroman Graphic Novel / Literary Analysis

Reading Curriculum:

Fiction / Poetry / Media Literacy with Non-Fiction / Graphic Novel

Grade 9

Essential Questions:

Who am I? / What do I want to say to the world? / How do I harness the power of language to say it effectively?

Writing Curriculum:

Passage Commentary Analysis / Personal Narrative / Poetry Portfolio / Persuasive Talks / Literary Analysis Essay / Oration

Reading Curriculum:

Drama in verse / Poetry / Novel in verse / Independent Research and Investigation on Oration topic

Grade 10

Essential Questions:

How are narratives framed and to what effect upon audience?

Writing Curriculum:

Passage Commentary Analysis / Rhetorical Analysis / Literary Analysis Essay / Personal Narrative

Reading Curriculum:

Media Literacy with Non-fiction / Novel / Memoir / Short Story

AP Literature & Composition

Essential Questions:

What are the limits of close reading? / How are marginalized communities represented? / What does it mean to be human?

Writing Curriculum:

Literary research paper(s) / Hamlet creative writing project / Practice AP essays / Poetic forms (sonnets, villanelles, sestinas)

Reading Curriculum:

Hamlet / The Sympathizer / The Metamorphosis / No Exit / Oedipus the King / The Poetics

Rhetoric & Composition

Essential Questions:

How do we read closely? / How do we craft effective persuasive writing? / How do we tackle and better understand the poetry we read? / How is comedy crafted? / How are personal narratives told?

Writing Curriculum:

Writer's Portfolio Project / Persuasive Letter / Poetry Analysis Essay / Short Profile of a Person / Moth-style personal narrative

Reading Curriculum:

How to Breathe Underwater by Julie Orringer (short stories) / Staying Human ed. Neil Astley (poems) / The Moth Presents: Occasional Magic ed. Catherine Burns / Stay True by Hua Hsu

AP Language & Composition

Essential Questions:

How can I make my own choices as a writer to present a cogent argument? / How can I engage a variety of sources to inform my view on a topic? / How do writers choose to convey their experiences and achieve their purpose? / How can understanding the rhetorical purpose of a text influence a reader's interpretation and response? / How do critical reading skills contribute to informed civic engagement and responsibility?

Writing Curriculum:

Rhetorical Analysis / Synthesis Essays / Argumentative Essays / Journaling / Skills for stylistic writing for academic purposes

Reading Curriculum:

Educated / What the Fact? / Cultish / Evicted / Anthropocene Review / Assortment of nonfiction texts such as news articles, speeches, data analysis, advertisements, documentaries, and more

Women in Literature

Essential Questions:

What "forces" shape women's lives and writers' depictions of women? / How do women writers address their inherited literary tradition?

Writing Curriculum:

Narrative Writing / Literary Analysis Essay / Creative Nonfiction / Journal Writing / Skills for stylistic writing for academic purposes

Reading Curriculum:

Circe / The Round House / On Girlhood—collection of short stories / Selection of poetry and excerpts from writers such as Adrienne Rich, Mary Beard, Mary Wollstonecraft, Virginia Woolf, Betty Friedan, Alice Walker / Films - The Witch, Frybread Face and Me, and Girlhood

Honors American Literature / American Literature

Essential Questions:

What does it mean to be American? / What is the current state of democracy in America?

Writing Curriculum:

Literary research paper(s) / Hamlet creative writing project / Practice AP essays / Poetic forms (sonnets, villanelles, sestinas)

Reading Curriculum:

The Great Gatsby / Beloved / Parable of the Sower / The Things They Carried / A Man With Two Faces

World Literature

Essential Questions:

What can readers glean from texts when applying different critical lenses? / What are universal themes broached by contemporary writers across different cultures?

Writing Curriculum:

Literary précis / Close-reading analysis / Research process (prospectus) / Annotated bibliography / Abstract / Reflection papers

Reading Curriculum:

Exit West / The Kite Runner / The Life of Pi / Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits / Pedro Paramo / The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

Genre Studies

Essential Questions:

How do writers implement craft tools to create original pieces in a variety of genres? / How do writers implement feedback through a workshop process to improve their work? / How do writers learn from other writers to inform their voice?

Writing Curriculum:

Poetic forms / Foundations of fiction (flash fiction, scene writing dialogue) / Nonfiction (memoir, journalism, copywriting)

Reading Curriculum:

On Writing / A Poetry Handbook / One World: A Global Anthology of Short Stories



PACIFIC RIDGE SCHOOL ACADEMIES

The academy program draws directly from the school's culture and can be traced back to the school's mission. Students' academic learning is supported by service to the local and global community. Our students have the opportunity to understand and experience the role we can play in public policy and participation in forming the values of a community. Through travel opportunities our students learn cultural connection and interdependencies amongst people all over the world.



Upper School students in the Pacific Ridge Academy program will further develop their own unique learning and leadership journey by tailoring their chosen co-curriculars around an aligned emphasis, presenting these topics and experiences during their grade-level projects, and applying their knowledge in real-world settings and multi-tiered, in-depth study.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Civic Leadership students leverage experiential learning, participating in public policy through civic engagement, political internships, and nonprofit work.

SERVICE LEARNING

Service Learning students blend in-school study with hands-on experiences like attending the National Youth Leadership Council National Service-Learning Conference and presenting to a larger community.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Global Engagement students tailor their academic experiences through cultural study courses, leadership in global clubs like Model U.N., and culturally expansive global travel.



Civic Leadership

REQUIRED COURSES	US Government & Politics
SCHOOL EXPERIENCES	At least one Grade Level project must be structured around the goals of this program.
OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCES	Complete two out of three experiences: One internship or project for an elected official or public policy nonprofit per year. One lobbying trip (local, Sacramento, or Washington, DC). Speak at one City Council or Commission meeting.
CULMINATING EXPERIENCE	Students will showcase their work through their Senior Seminar project.

Service Learning

Integrate and apply service learning to one academic class.	REQUIRED COURSES
At least two Grade Level projects centered around service learning. Participation in an established Service Learning group for three years.	SCHOOL EXPERIENCES
Complete two out-of-school experiences (examples): Present at a community event. Plan a PRS community service day.	OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCES
Students will showcase their work through their Senior Seminar project, with a 3-5 minute video sharing their Service Learning experience.	CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

Global Engagement

REQUIRED COURSES	At least one of the following: World language (specific to region of focus) Cultural studies (e.g., Latin American Studies) Environmental Science
SCHOOL EXPERIENCES	At least two Grade Level projects with a focus on a global issue or cultural study. Participation in two of the following for at least two years: Affinity and Alliance Groups Global Club (M.U.N.) Service Learning Project with a focus on Global engagement
OUT OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCES	Complete two out-of-school experiences (examples): Intern with a global-focused organization. Participate in a global travel program related to region studied.
CULMINATING EXPERIENCE	Students will showcase their work through their Senior Seminar project.