

CLASS OF 2029

# FRESHMAN ACADEMY HANDBOOK



Peachtree Ridge  
High School

# The Freshman Academy

## Peachtree Ridge High School

### THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome to the Freshman Academy at Peachtree Ridge High School!

The Freshman Academy is a group of teachers, counselors, and administrators dedicated to the well-being of our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Lions! Our Peachtree Ridge Freshman Academy is here to help you as you transition from middle to high school. The Academy is located in the upstairs “A200” pod and houses math, language arts, and social studies courses. Science classes are nearby and run down the upstairs “D200” pod. An essential part of your freshman year is learning the culture and expectations of Peachtree Ridge High School. You will find that high school is very different from middle school. You will have far greater freedom and independence (for example, you sit wherever you want at lunch and transition with your friends as you move to each class). You will also have far greater responsibilities. Your grade reflects which aspects of the curriculum you have mastered at Peachtree Ridge, and there are no “effort” grades. This means you take responsibility to complete all assignments (homework, projects, etc.) when they are due and that you study for all your tests. It also means that you actively participate in class, ask questions if something is unclear, and seek extra support if you find yourself falling behind. Your Freshman Academy teachers will challenge and stretch you, but they will also work beside you to support you each step of the way.

Welcome to the Class of 2029!

We are so glad that you are joining our PRIDE of the Lions!

### Important Dates for Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders

- Nov 19: Hull MS Elective Presentation
- Nov 20: Northbrook MS Elective Presentation
- Jan 15: Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night at 6PM
- July 28: Walk the Ridge at 6PM



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is Block Scheduling?**

On our block, students are enrolled in 4 courses a day which last approximately 90 minutes each. Some courses are semester long (2 quarters) or year-long (4 quarters) depending on the course level. Students complete quarters 1 and 2 during the Fall semester and quarters 3 and 4 during the Spring semester.

## **I want to make sure I am ready for college. How do I decide which classes to take?**

The best advice...challenge yourself to take classes in which you can be successful. You will be better prepared for success in college, and many colleges consider the difficulty of an applicant's high school curriculum in making admission decisions.

## **How do I decide which courses will be most challenging for me?**

As you progress through high school, your academic teachers will recommend you for the level that they feel will challenge you at your highest and allow you to have success. You need always to put forth your best work, which plays a key factor in your future course recommendations.

## **When do my grades start "counting" toward my college applications?**

All high school grades are calculated into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). All grades in your core academic classes count toward eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship program.

**Grades are important from the very beginning. How can I make sure I perform well in my classes?** From the moment you walk into each class, you should actively engage in your learning. Ask questions, participate in class activities, do your homework, and study for your tests. Your teachers will give you all the materials you need to succeed in their class, but you must also do the work. Your teachers, counselors, assistant principals, and family will all be behind you and encouraging you to do your best work from the first day, but most of your success in high school depends on you!

## **If I am not doing well in a course, what should I do?**

First, speak with your teacher and set up a time before or after school for extra help or tutoring. If you need additional suggestions or resources, you may also speak to your counselor. Teachers will publish weekly tutoring opportunities available for their individual courses.

## **If I am failing a class, can I drop it mid-semester?**

No. Once the semester begins, you do not have the option to drop a class. Individual teacher or End-Zone tutoring is available weekly to support any academic needs you may have for your courses.

## **How do I make up a course if I fail?**

Courses can be made up during Summer School or Ridge Credit Recovery (when available). You can also retake courses through Phoenix High School or Gwinnett Online Campus outside of the regular school day. Please see your counselor for more information on the best option for your specific needs.

## **If a student fails a course and retakes it, is the first grade dropped and "canceled" out?**

No. Once a student earns a semester grade, it is never removed from the academic record (transcript). Required courses must be retaken if failed, and both semester grades will be a part of the academic record, high school GPA, and calculated into the HOPE scholarship eligibility.

**When are final exams?**

Final exams have two parts: performance and multiple-choice. Final multiple-choice exams are given in the last few days of the quarter or semester. Each exam is approximately two hours long. Students take two exams per day and are released early on these exam days. Performance exams are taken a few weeks earlier as they take longer to grade. For courses with a state required EOC, that exam serves as the multiple-choice final, and a unit test is given on exam day.

**When will I have an opportunity to take elective courses that interest me? Which electives can I take?**

Elective courses are available in academic areas, fine arts, technical education, and physical education. Many students consider possible careers and select elective courses accordingly. If you are interested in visual or performing arts, you may take these elective courses every year. If you are interested in taking courses at Maxwell High School of Technology or Grayson High School Technical Education Program, you may begin these courses as a junior. It is important to talk to your counselor about your goals. Some technical education and computer science courses also meet the requirements for a fourth science credit. Please see your counselor for details on electives.

**How important is it to be involved in extracurricular activities, such as clubs, sports, and volunteer projects?**

School leaders recommend that all students participate in one or more extracurricular activities while in high school. Students who are involved in activities feel more connected to the school. In addition, colleges and scholarship committees frequently request information on extracurricular participation and demonstrated leadership while in high school. Colleges want a well-rounded student, not only a scholar.

**Why does high school start so early?**

The bus schedule determines the time of the day high school begins in the cluster. High Schools begin and release earlier than other schools in the cluster, allowing students to participate in after-school sports and activities. This also allows them to have a job if desired.

**How are my grades calculated?**

Gwinnett County Public School Grading Scale	
A= 90% and above	4.0 CGPA Value
B= 89%-80%	3.0 CGPA Value
C= 79%-70%	2.0 CGPA Value
F= Below 70%	0 CGPA Value

# ATTENDANCE POLICIES

**Please read carefully as high school attendance has a tremendous impact on student success and staying on track for graduation.**

State law requires attendance at school from ages 6 to 16. Excused absences are defined by state law and include only the following:

- Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the health of others.
- Serious illness or death in immediate family members
- Recognized religious holidays.
- Student under orders from court or other government agency
- Service as a page in the General Assembly
- Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety.
- Registration to vote or voting in a public election.
- Up to five excused absences per year for students whose parent/legal guardian is in military service and is being sent overseas for active duty, on leave from active duty, or returning from active duty.
- Foster care students attending court proceedings relating to the student's foster care.
- Service in the Student Teen Election Participant program (STEP)

**Absences are unexcused for all other reasons, including but not limited to:**

- Missing the bus, oversleeping, power outages, etc.
- Vacations, trips, family visits, non-school sponsored competitions, and events
- Car trouble, babysitting, running errands, traffic accidents/problems.

Students who miss 30 minutes or more of a class will be considered absent from that class. Georgia law requires schools to report students with 10 unexcused absences to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles, which could result in the loss or denial of a learner's permit or driver's license.

## REPORTS TO PARENTS

ParentVUE (GCPS's new Parent Portal) is web portal and app designed to provide families with easy access to essential information about their student's education. It offers a centralized location for viewing grades, assignments, class schedules, attendance, program information, discipline records, report cards, transcripts, and calendars. Parents can see up-to-the-minute information, track academic performance, standardized test results, view course history, receive customizable grade alerts, any balances or fees, and checked-out books and resources. Additionally, it includes a parent resource list that links important information, including MyPaymentsPlus and ParentSquare. ParentSquare is GCPS communication tool.

Transcripts will be mailed to the student's home, by the county, two weeks after the semester ends. Transcripts are cumulative, as is the student's grade point average, so all courses and grades taken in high school will be reflected.

# HIGH SCHOOL VOCABULARY

- **Academic Letter:** Students can earn an academic letter upon completion of 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The celebration/recognition is hosted in the fall, following each school year, for the students that have met one the following criteria:
  - Have a 94 cumulative NGA for PRHS credits ONLY >2 Sem (no summer school, JE9, Dual Enrollment, or GOC credits)
  - Have made a 94 GPA for EACH semester the previous year (PRHS credits only)

\*Students can qualify either way

- **ACT:** A standardized test used for college admissions. Students register outside of the school day through ACT.org, often beginning during their junior year. Students can take the exam multiple times.
- **AKS (Academic Knowledge & Skills):** Gwinnett's custom, Board-approved curriculum spells out the essential content students are expected to know and be able to do for each subject. The AKS curriculum is aligned to state standards.
- **AP (Advanced Placement):** Rigorous, college-level coursework taken in high school. The College Board governs the content for these courses and the AP exam. Students who score a 3 or better (on a 1-5 scale) on the AP exam at the end of the year may earn college credit or skip entry-level college classes.
- **Block Schedule:** On our 4x4 block, students are enrolled in 4 courses per day (with each class lasting approximately 90 minutes each).
- **Career and Technical Educational Pathway:** A grouping of courses in Technical Education that provides knowledge and skills to prepare students for post- secondary studies and the workplace.
- **Class Rank:** A student's standing based on a 100 pt scale cumulative grade percentage average compared with other class members. The student with the highest average in the grade would be ranked as 1. Class ranks are published on transcripts at the end of each semester.
- **Courses:**
  - **Core Courses:** Refers to both required and academic elective courses in language arts, math, science, social studies and world languages.
  - **Elective Courses:** Courses that may be selected by the student and are included in the 23 credits required for high school graduation.



- **Credits/Carnegie Units/Units:** These terms are used interchangeably to identify the weight of each course. Each passed course counts towards the 23 credits required for graduation from high school. At Peachtree Ridge, students earn 32+ Carnegie Units. Please see course syllabus for specific Carnegie Units earned in the course.

Fall Semester	Quarter 1	1 <sup>st</sup> 9 weeks	.5 CU for each of the 4 course in schedule
	Quarter 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks	.5 CU for each of the 4 course in schedule
Spring Semester	Quarter 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks	.5 CU for each of the 4 course in schedule
	Quarter 4	4 <sup>th</sup> 9 weeks	.5 CU for each of the 4 course in schedule

- On the block schedule, students at Peachtree Ridge can earn at least 8 Carnegie Units a year where in a traditional schedule, students would only earn 6 Carnegie Units. Carnegie Units are earned when courses are passed. This means students will have more elective spots available than are required for graduation.
- Students who take high school level courses in GCPS, while in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, may earn high school credit for these courses. Eighth grade students and parents will complete an online form **at the end of 8th grade**, noting whether they will accept high school credit for each high school level course. If the course is passed and the credit is accepted, the student will be awarded a “P” for pass on their high school transcript. These courses cannot be retaken once the credit has been accepted. A “P” is not factored into the GPA or eligible for HOPE Scholarship calculations.
- **Dual Enrollment:** Juniors or seniors can take courses at a local college as a part of their Peachtree Ridge schedule which is funded by the state. The students receive both high school and college credit for the course.
- **Eligibility:** Mandatory guidelines for student participation in sports and extracurricular activities, as directed by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). Students must meet two requirements: to be on grade level as determined by their entry date into high school and to earn 2.5 credits the previous semester.
- **Final Exams:** Final exams account for 20% of a student’s overall grade in the course. These exams are given four times a year at the conclusion of each quarter. There are two components of the final exam:
  - **Performance Finals-** performance finals are often more task oriented and allow students to show their mastery of the content through a variety of methods. Performance finals may be a project, essay, presentation, etc and are often given a week or two prior to the end of the quarter. Performance finals usually count between 5 and 10% of a student’s overall grade.
  - **Objective Finals-** are cumulative, objective exams given on the last few days to each quarter to measure the student’s knowledge of the content. The objective exam counts between 10 and 15% of the student’s overall grade.
- **Fine Arts:** Includes both performing arts and visual arts.
- **Four-Year Plan:** This plan is an outline of the courses a student plans to take while in high school. It considers the student’s academic history, career goals, interests and plans for additional education beyond high school.

- **Gifted Courses:** Rigorous coursework for students who qualify for Gifted education services. We blend our Gifted and honors courses together.
- **Grade Point Average (GPA):** The average of all student's grades in every high school course the student has taken. This system uses 4 for an A, 3 for a B, 2 for a C, and a 0 for any failing grades. For example, a student with A's and B's may have a CGPA of 3.4. This is the 4.0 grading scale.
- **Gradebook categories:** Gradebook categories are the percentage breakdown used to calculate a student's overall average in each class. Each course has a unique breakdown determined by the district or state. Here is an example:

AKS Mastery	45%
AKS Progress	35%
Performance Final	5%
Objective Final	15%

- **Honors Courses:** Rigorous coursework for students who excel in the specific content area. We blend our honors and gifted courses together.
- **HOPE Scholarship Program: (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally)** An educational funding program through the Georgia Lottery, offering different funding options through HOPE:
  - **HOPE Grant:** As of 2012, the HOPE Grant pays a portion of tuition for qualified students who are enrolled in eligible diploma or certificate programs at selected *technical colleges* and *institutes* in Georgia.
  - **HOPE Scholarship:** As of 2012, the HOPE Scholarship pays a portion of tuition for eligible students who are enrolled in *public colleges* and *universities* in the state of Georgia. The amount of the award will be adjusted annually, based on lottery revenue. Eligible students enrolled in a Georgia *private college*, or *universities* may qualify for a private HOPE award plus a Georgia Tuition Equalizer Grant. Minimum requirements: GPA: 3.0 and 4 rigor requirements
  - **Zell Miller Scholarship:** As of 2012, students who meet more rigorous GPA, coursework and testing standards qualify for full tuition at Georgia's *public colleges* and *universities* and the full private HOPE award at *private* Georgia colleges and universities. Visit [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) for more information. Minimum requirements: GPA: 3.7, 4 rigor requirements, ACT 25, SAT 1200
- **Lion Time:** Lion Time is a flexible block offered one to two days a week to provide students with an opportunity to engage in interventions, enrichment, clubs, exercise, study hall, and more. Students sign up for their choice every two weeks through Student Support Time.
- **Math Placement:** a student's 8th grade math course determines their high school placement. Students may not "double up" on math courses. Each student may take one math course a year for all four years.
- **Numeric Grade Average (NGA):** The average of all student's course grades in every high school course he or she has taken on the 100-point scale. This scale is used for determination of class rank as well as eligibility for Academic Letter.



- **Pathways:** we offer several unique pathways at PRHS:
  - **Accelerated SPIRE Science Pathway:** this pathway gives students the opportunity to take 3 AP science classes.
  - **Integrated SPIRE:** Biology with ELA and Oral Communication, Chemistry with ELA and Engineering, Physics with Engineering
  - **Career & Tech Ed Pathway:** a student needs to complete and pass three consecutive courses within a select area and take and receive a passing grade on the industry certification End of Pathway Assessment (EOPA).
- **LEAP:** this pathway is for students who are interested in marketing. It combines language arts, marketing and public speaking.
- **SPIRE:** Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program providing students with a hands-on learning experience (see Pathways)
- **Postsecondary:** Referring to college or technical college/institute coursework. PS will show up on the schedule for students who participate in the Dual Enrollment program.
- **Prerequisites:** Courses, test scores, and/or grade level that must be completed before taking the next sequential course, grade, etc.
- **PRIDE:** A structured, non-graded portion of the day in which students receive school information and discuss grade-level appropriate topics with their advisor. Your PRIDE advisement teacher will show as “Homeroom” teacher on the schedule.
- **Required Courses:** Specific courses that must be successfully completed prior to high school graduation. These courses must be retaken if not passed.
- **SAT:** A standardized exam used for college admissions. This exam is offered once during the school day during students’ junior year and is paid for by the district. Many students opt to take it multiple times to earn a higher school. Students can register to take the SAT outside of the school day through collegeboard.org.
- **Semester and Year-long:** Some courses are semester long (2 quarters) while others are year-long (4 quarters) Students complete Q1 and Q2 in the Fall and Q3 and Q4 in the Spring.
- **Summer School:** A shorter, more intensive session offering students the opportunity to repeat or take additional courses required for high school graduation either face-to-face at a school or through GOC. This requires a \$250 fee per .5 credit.
- **Superscore:** The superscore combines student’s highest math and verbal scores on the SAT even from different test dates for their college admissions. Many colleges allow and encourage students to submit all test scores.
- **Transcript:** The complete record of all high school courses taken, and grades earned. A student’s transcript contains his or her cumulative record and colleges and universities use this to review for entrance. Think of this as your old report card.

# Academic Requirements



Gwinnett County Public Schools Graduation Requirements (to receive a diploma)	
Subject	Credits Required
Language Arts	4
Math (Alg, Geom, Adv. Alg, 4 <sup>th</sup> Math)	4
Science (Bio, Chem, Physics, 4 <sup>th</sup> science)	4
Social Studies (World, US, Gov and Econ)	3
Health/Personal Fitness	0.5/ 0.5
Required Electives* (Any combination of Fine Arts, CTE, or World Language)	3
General Electives	4
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>23</b>
*2 units of World Language are required for university admission in the state of Georgia.	

Gwinnett County Public Schools Promotion Criteria (to move to the next grade level)	
Grade Level	Credits Required
9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>	5.0
10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.0
11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup>	17.0
Graduation	23.0*
*Students must meet graduation rules and standardized assessment requirements as determined by state and district policies.	

Students can earn a variety of Career Ready Diploma Seals through rigorous coursework defined by the Department of Education. Please see the GaDOE [website](#) for qualifications and additional information.

## COURSE REQUEST PLANNING SHEET

As you select your course requests, begin by identifying the core classes you would like to complete. You should select a course for each core content area and work with your current teachers and parents to identify the appropriate level for each course. Remember that you must complete at least one course in each of the following areas each year at PRHS: language arts, math, science, and social studies. Once you have identified your core classes, identify additional elective classes that interest you.

Please remember that during the registration process, the classes you select are **requests**. You are making a year-long commitment with your selections, so please work with your teachers and parents to ensure that your selections are the best choices for you. You will have an opportunity to review your course requests before the end of the current school year. Please remember that students cannot request a specific teacher, the order of their classes, or the semester in which they would like to complete a course.

### Freshman Year (9<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

### Sophomore Year (10<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

### Junior Year (11<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

### Senior Year (12<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

# Contact Information



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[www.gcpsk12.org/PeachtreeRidgeHS](http://www.gcpsk12.org/PeachtreeRidgeHS)

Department	Contact	Email Address
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Dr. Brittany Devitt- Asst. Principal	brittany.devitt@gcpsk12.org
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sean O'Connor- Asst. Principal	sean.oconnor@gcpsk12.org
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor (A-L)	Wanda Merchant	wanda.merchant@gcpsk12.org
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor (M-Z)	Aubrey Banks	aubrey.banks@gcpsk12.org
Curriculum & Instruction	Micah Porter- Asst. Principal	micah.porter@gcpsk12.org
Community School (Summer Health/PE)	Nina Hidalgo- Asst. Principal	nina.hidalgo@gcpsk12.org
Special Education	Ashley McClam	ashley.mcclam@gcpsk12.org
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Science	Jessica Brace	jessica.brace@gcpsk12.org
Career & Technical Education	Nicole Fillman	nicole.fillman@gcpsk12.org
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Gifted Program	Andy Pasarilla	andy.pasarilla@gcpsk12.org
Advanced Placement	Dr. Adrienne Wylie-Asst. Principal	adrienne.wylie@gcpsk12.org
Dual Enrollment	Chrissie Bolt	chrissie.bolt@gcpsk12.org

## Required Social Studies Courses (GCPS)

### 3 Units Required for Graduation

Social studies curriculum allows for level movement between grade level courses.

World History, American History, Economics, and American Government are required for graduation.

<b>Social Studies</b>	<b><u>Standard Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>Honors/Gifted Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>AP Pathway</u></b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade (Elective)</b>	World Geography College Prep	World Geography Honors/Gifted	AP Human Geography with Study Skills (Year-long)
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	World History College Prep	World History Honors/Gifted	AP World History with Latino/Hispanic Studies and Asian Studies or AP World History with AP European History (Both Yearlong)
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	US History College Prep (EOC)	US History Honors/Gifted (EOC) or Dual Enrollment	AP U.S. History with American Indian Studies and Women's Studies or APUSH with AP Seminar (Both Yearlong) or Dual Enrollment
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Economics & Personal Finance & American Government College Prep	Economics & Personal Finance & American Government Honors/Gifted or Dual Enrollment	AP Macroeconomics with AP Political Systems (Yearlong) or Dual Enrollment

- Students are required to participate in state-mandated End of Course assessments (indicated by EOC) to earn credit for designated high school courses.

## Differences between AP Human Geography and CP / Honors-Gifted World Geography

1. Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography is a college level class. College Preparatory / Honors/Gifted World Geography are both high school level classes.
2. AP class is a year-long course. CP & Honors/Gifted are both one semester courses.
3. AP students take a national exam in May to see if students can receive college credit for the course. (See College Board's website— "AP Central" --- for details on the AP exam)
4. AP course students learn and analyze broad concepts (ex: "Population", "Religion", "Industry", "Agriculture", etc.) as they relate to all areas of the world. (*I.e.—the AP course is organized thematically.*)
5. CP & Honors/Gifted students learn about and relate physical and cultural geography facts in different regions of the world, and units are organized by region (ex: "East Asia", "North America", "Europe", etc.).
6. AP textbook and supplemental readings are at a college reading level. The CP & Honors/Gifted textbook is written at a high school reading level (See sample textbook readings provided).
7. AP students are expected to complete a significant amount of reading independently, outside of class time. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. Some in-class guided reading is also completed.
8. AP Students have a **summer assignment**. CP & Honors/Gifted students do not.
9. The amount and complexity of writing increases from CP to Honors/Gifted to AP. Honors/Gifted and AP students complete more writing (both inside and outside of class). Writing in all three courses is predominantly of an analytical and expository nature. AP students will be prepared to write the required elements for responding to a Free Response Question on the AP examination.
10. AP students receive 10 additional points on their grade at the end of the semester. CP/Honors/Gifted students do not receive additional points.

### Typical Textbook Readings

#### CP & Honors / Gifted World Geography:

Excerpt from: *Geography: The Human and Physical World*, McGraw Hill Publishers, page 78.

"Geographers study culture, the way of life of a group of people who share similar ways of thinking, believing, and living, expressed in common elements or features. For example, a particular culture can be understood by looking at language, religion, daily life, history, art, government, technology, and economy."

#### AP Human Geography:

Excerpt from: *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, Pearson Publishers, page 115.

"Geographers divide culture into two types: Folk culture is traditionally practiced primarily by small, homogenous groups living in isolated rural areas. Popular culture is found in large, heterogeneous societies that share certain habits despite differences in other personal characteristics. Each cultural element has a distinctive origin, diffusion and distribution. Geographers observe that folk culture and popular culture typically differ in their processes of origin, diffusion and distribution."

## Required Science Courses (GCPS)

### 4 Units Required for Graduation

Science curriculum allows for movement between grade-level courses.  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and a fourth science are required for graduation.

<b>Science</b>	<b><u>Standard Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>Honors/Gifted Pathway or Integrated SPIRE</u></b>	<b><u>AP or Accelerated SPIRE Pathway</u></b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Biology College Prep (EOC)	Biology Honors/Gifted (EOC) or SPIRE Biology: Year-long course paired with 9th SPIRE LA (Honors/Gifted EOC)	SPIRE Chemistry/Engineering Honors/Gifted
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Chemistry College Prep	Chemistry Honors/Gifted or SPIRE Chemistry: Year-long course paired with 10th SPIRE LA (Honors/Gifted)	SPIRE AP Biology (EOC)/Scientific Research (Yearlong)
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Physics College Prep	AP Physics 1 or SPIRE Physics: paired with Engineering (Yearlong)	SPIRE AP Physics C /Engineering (Yearlong)
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Environmental Science or Forensics Science or AP Computer Science Principles or Game Design	One of the courses below or an above course not previously taken AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science AP Physics, Robotics Advanced Scientific Research Mechatronics/AP Computer Anatomy & Physiology AP Computer Science A Web Development Dual Enrollment	

- Students will participate in state-mandated End of Course assessments (indicated by EOC) to earn credit for designated HS courses.
- SPIRE Placement is based on learning style fit and possible interest in STEM-related careers.
- Students who begin in 9<sup>th</sup> Chemistry/Engineering should have an aptitude for science and choose to replace 9<sup>th</sup> Biology with AP Biology in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and AP Physics in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- All AP courses, except for AP Environmental Science and AP Physics 1, are year-long commitments.
- Students enrolled in AP Biology and AP Physics C are required to participate in the Science Fair.



STEM Program for Innovation, Rigor, and Excellence

Peachtree Ridge High School's GA DOE STEM-certified SPIRE (STEM Program for Innovation Rigor and Excellence) aims at providing equal access to quality STEM education for all students. This is an interest-based program where any student who desires to experience science through an engineering lens within a project/ problem-based environment may opt-in. Typical SPIRE classroom instructional strategies include:

#### Project/Problem-Based Learning

Students work individually, in pairs, and in small teams to engage in multiple interdisciplinary projects. Through project or problem-based learning and the Engineering Design Process, students master content standards and experience the world as it exists outside of classroom walls.

#### Integration of Standards

Interdisciplinary- STEM classes increase relevance for students and help students make connections across content areas.

#### Literacy and Communication Skills

Students explicitly practice and improve their 21st-century skills such as critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, leadership development, and technology skills.

### Overview of SPIRE Options

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Integrated	Year-long Honors/Gifted <u>Biology</u> integrated with <u>Language Arts</u> and <u>Oral/Written Communication</u>	Year-long H/G <u>Chemistry</u> integrated with <u>Language Arts</u> and <u>Foundations of Engineering</u>	Year-long H/G <u>Physics</u> with embedded <u>Concepts/Application of Engineering or Mechatronics</u>	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Robotics, Advanced Scientific Research, Mechatronics/AP Computer Science Principles, Anatomy & Physiology/Essentials of Health Sciences, Forensics Science, AP Environmental Science
	Or	Or	Or	
Accelerated	Honors/Gifted <u>Chemistry</u> with embedded <u>Foundations of Engineering</u>	<u>AP Biology</u> with embedded <u>Scientific Research</u>	<u>AP Physics C</u> with embedded <u>Concepts and Applications of Engineering</u>	

Students in the Accelerated pathway are required to complete a Science Fair project each year. SPIRE provides multiple entry-ramps and flexible movement between classes and pathways. To learn more about SPIRE, visit our school website, [www.peachtreeridge.org](http://www.peachtreeridge.org), under Academics.



## Required Language Arts Courses (GCPs)

4 Units Required for Graduation

The Language Arts curriculum allows for movement between grade-level courses based on student performance and teacher recommendations.

<b>Language Arts</b>	<b><u>Standard Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>Honors/Gifted Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>AP Pathway</u></b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	CP Literature and Composition 1	H/G Literature and Composition 1	H/G Literature and Composition 1
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	CP Literature and Composition 2 (EOC)	H/G Literature and Composition 2 (EOC)	H/G Literature and Composition 2 (EOC)
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	CP American Literature	H/G American Literature or AP Lang or Dual Enrollment	AP Lang or APUSH/AP Seminar Combo (Yearlong) Or AP Lang with AP Art Hist Combo (Yearlong) or Dual Enrollment
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	CP Multicultural Lit or CP Advanced Composition	H/G Multicultural Lit or AP Lang or Dual Enrollment	AP Literature paired with Writer's Workshop and Literary Types (Yearlong) or AP Lang with AP Art Hist Combo (Yearlong) or Dual Enrollment

- Students are required to participate in state-mandated End of Course assessments (indicated by EOC) to earn credit for designated high school courses.

**\*\*12<sup>th</sup> Grade** courses are available based on demand and may not be available every year.



## What is LEAP?

The Literacy & Entrepreneurship Advancement Program provides students with an enriching learning experience that allows them to earn Language Arts course credit while completing the Marketing Management Pathway requirements. Students will learn to develop the entrepreneurial mindset and use critical thinking skills to identify opportunities, overcome challenges, learn from decisions, and take action for continuous improvement.

Fostering high levels of collaboration between language arts and CTE teachers, LEAP improves reading and writing skills through real-world applications. As Marketing Management Pathway completers, students will be able to articulate ideas effectively to become productive members of a changing economic environment.



## Why Should You Make the LEAP?

LEAP students work and learn collaboratively in an engaging classroom environment that fosters creativity and innovation. If you have an interest in entrepreneurship and marketing and want to earn 3 course credits in 2 blocks, then LEAP is for you.

### Course Progression



### \*One Block Yearlong Combo Course

For more information, please contact Nicole Fillman or Stephanie Stone at [Nicole.Fillman@gcpsk12.org](mailto:Nicole.Fillman@gcpsk12.org) / [Stephanie.Stone@gcpsk12.org](mailto:Stephanie.Stone@gcpsk12.org)

Peachtree Ridge High School

## Required Math Courses (GCPS)

### 4 Units Required for Graduation

- All students must complete for graduation:
  - **Algebra: Concepts & Connections**
  - **Geometry: Concepts & Connections**
  - **Advanced Algebra: Concepts & Connections**
  - **One additional fourth math course**
- Math course sequences allow for multiple on and off-ramps for students throughout the course pathway to meet the individual needs of each and every student.
- While there are no honors course numbers in math, the middle column represents a possible sequence for an honors level student in mathematics.

<b>Mathematics</b>	<b><u>Standard Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Honors/Gifted Pathway</u></b>	<b><u>Possible AP Pathway</u></b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> (based on 8 <sup>th</sup> grade course performance)	Algebra: Concepts and Connections (EOC)	Geometry: Concepts and Connections	Accelerated Geometry: Concepts and Connections
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Geometry: Concepts and Connections	Adv Algebra: Concepts and Connections	Enhanced Adv Algebra and AP Precalc*
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Adv Algebra: Concepts and Connections	AP Precalculus or Stat Reasoning or Dual Enrollment	AP Calculus or Stat Reasoning or Dual Enrollment
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Adv. Financial Algebra or AP Precalc or AP Stat	AP Calculus or AP Stat or Calculus or AP Stat Combo or Dual Enrollment	GA Tech Distance Learning Math or Advanced Calculus or AP Stat or AP Stat Combo or Dual Enrollment

\*Enhanced Adv Algebra and AP Precalculus requires teacher recommendation as well as an additional review of the student's course history by the Math department.

## Career & Technical Education Department Pathways (CTE)

**It is strongly recommended for all students to complete at least one CTE pathway.**

CLUSTER	Pathway	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3
Business Management and Administration	Entrepreneurship	Introduction to Business & Technology	Legal Environment of Business	Entrepreneurship
	Business Accounting		Financial Literacy	Accounting I
Finance	Advanced Accounting		Accounting I	Accounting II
			Business & Technology (Office Aide Application Required)	Business Communication (Office Aide Application Required)
Marketing	LEAP Language Arts / Marketing Management	Marketing Principles/ 9 <sup>th</sup> LA / Oral Communications	Marketing & Entrepreneurship / Marketing Management / 10 <sup>th</sup> LA	
	Marketing Communications	Marketing Principles	Professional Selling & Promotion (Mane Event Application Required)	Marketing Communications (Mane Event Application Required)
	Sports & Entertainment Marketing	Marketing Principles	Introduction to Sports & Entertainment Marketing	Advanced Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Education and Training	Teaching as a Profession (11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> )	Examining the Teaching Profession	Contemporary Issues in Education	Teaching as a Profession Internship
Information Technology	Game Design	ADVANCED COMBO: Introduction to Software Technology / AP CSP (SC)		Game Design (SC)
	Computer Science	Introduction to Software Technology	AP Computer Science Principles (SC)	AP Computer Science (SC)
	Web Development			Web Development (SC)
STEM	SPIRE Engineering & Technology*	SPIRE Foundations of Engineering Technology*	SPIRE Engineering Concepts*	SPIRE Engineering Applications*

CLUSTER	Pathway	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3
Distribution & Logistics	<b>Distribution &amp; Logistics</b>	Logistics Fundamentals	Logistics Operations	Materials Management
Health Science	<b>Exercise Physiology</b>	Introduction to Healthcare Science	Essentials of Healthcare (SC)	Exercise Physiology
	<b>Therapeutic Services</b>	Introduction to Healthcare Science	Essentials of Healthcare (SC)	Allied Health & Medicine
AV Tech Communication	<b>Audio-Video Technology &amp; Film</b>	Audio-Video Tech & Film I	Audio-Video Tech & Film II	Audio-Video Tech & Film III (RVN Application Required)
	<b>Graphic Design</b>	Intro to Graphics & Design	Graphic Design & Production	Advanced Graphic Design (Ridge Prints Application Required)
Manufacturing	<b>Mechatronics (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Intro to Mechatronics	AC Theory, Electric Motors, & Hydraulic Systems	Semiconductors, Mech Systems, and Pump & Piping Sys
Government and Public Administration	<b>JROTC-Navy</b>	Naval Science I-VIII		

\*\*CTE pathways are subject to change due to State revisions

(SC) – Denotes courses fulfill the 4th year science credit.

**Work-Based Learning – Apply your skills while working & earn course credit. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> course for ALL PATHWAYS.**

**\*STEM (SPIRE) Combination Classes that include CTE courses–**

- SPIRE Physics/Engineering Concepts/Engineering Applications: 2 semesters, 4 credits
- SPIRE Chemistry/Foundations of Engineering: 1 semester (9<sup>th</sup>) or 2 semesters for (10<sup>th</sup>), 2 credits
- AP Statistics/AP Computer Science Principles: 2 semesters, 2 credits

## Career & Technology Education Course Descriptions

<b>Audio/Video Technology</b>
<p>Explore behind the scenes at a broadcast studio to learn how to create scripts, set up lighting and sound, and operate digital cameras and teleprompters. The primary guideline for this course is excelling with methods and techniques in working as a team to produce effective communication to the masses.</p> <p><b>Follow Up Courses:</b> Audio /Video Tech II, Ridge Video News (RVN)—Application Only</p>
<b>Introduction to Business and Technology (IBT)</b>
<p>This course concentrates on the Microsoft Office suite of applications, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access. IBT is a prerequisite for all business classes. Topics include management's role, planning skills, problem-solving, business ethics and organization structure, policies, and procedures for US and International business. Students will investigate effective manager skills such as communication, quality control, leadership styles, report writing, and human relations.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Legal Environment of Business, Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy, Accounting I and II</p>
<b>Introduction to Software Technology (IST)</b>
<p>Students will understand, communicate, and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their personal life, society, and the business world. Exposure to foundational knowledge in programming languages, software development, app creation, and user interfacing applications are all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project-focused tasks.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Courses:</b> AP Computer Science Principles, Game Design, Web Development, AP Computer Science A</p>
<b>ADVANCED COMBO Introduction to Software Technology / AP Computer Science Principles</b>
<p>*COMBO course of Introduction to Software Technology and AP Computer Science Principles is offered; students will earn 2 credits in 1 semester; this is a fast-paced curriculum, and it is strongly recommended that students have experience in coding and have earned credit in Algebra.</p>
<b>Introduction to Healthcare Science</b>
<p>Introduction to Healthcare Science is the foundation course for all Health Science. This course will enable students to receive initial exposure to the many Healthcare Science careers and employability, communication, and technology skills necessary in the healthcare industry. The concepts of human growth and development, interaction with patients and family members, health, wellness, and preventative care are evaluated, as well as the legal and ethical responsibilities of today's healthcare provider.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Essentials of Healthcare (w/ Anatomy and Physiology), Exercise Physiology, Allied Health &amp; Medicine</p>
<b>Marketing Principles</b>
<p>This is the foundational course for all pathways in Marketing Education and addresses how marketing satisfies consumer and business needs and wants for products and services. An understanding of the functions of marketing and how these functional areas affect business will be understood from this course. Learn basic marketing concepts and the role of marketing in our economy. Students also develop skills in applying economic concepts to marketing, distribution and logistics, marketing information management, finance in marketing, product/service planning, pricing mixes, promotional strategies, and personal selling.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Intro to Sports/Entertainment Marketing, Adv Sports/Entertainment Marketing, Integrated Marketing Communications</p>

<b>Introduction to Graphic Design</b>	
This course provides students with the processes involved in the technologies of printing, publishing, packaging, electronic imaging, and their allied industries.	
<b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Graphic Design and Production, Advanced Graphic Design—Ridge Prints, application only	
<b>Logistics Fundamentals</b>	
Topics include movement, storage and control, protection of products through manufacturing, distribution, consumption, and disposal.	
<b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Logistics Operations, Materials Management	
<b>Introduction to Mechatronics</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Students will be introduced to direct current concepts and applications, pneumatic system fundamentals, and programmable logic controllers (PLCs).	
<b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Mech II, Mech III, AP Computer Science Principles	
<b>Examining the Teaching Profession</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
The Teaching as a Profession (TAP) Pathway prepares students for careers in education through three key courses: Examining the Teaching Profession, which introduces students to the roles, responsibilities, and history of teaching; Contemporary Issues in Education, which explores current challenges such as educational equity, technology integration, and diversity; and TAP Practicum, which provides hands-on experience in a classroom setting through student teaching internships. This pathway not only equips students with essential teaching skills but also fosters critical thinking and leadership abilities. By engaging in real-world experiences and discussions on contemporary issues, students gain valuable insights into the teaching profession, helping them make informed career choices and enhancing their readiness for future roles in education.	
<b>Follow-up Courses:</b> Contemporary Issues in Education and Teaching as a Profession	
<b>Work Based Learning (WBL)</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
WBL provides students with real-life work experiences off campus where they can apply academic and technical skills and develop their employability. Students are required to find a job, submit their weekly or biweekly pay stubs, and complete weekly assignments on eClass. An application is required for this course. See Mr. Hernandez in E111.	

## Academic Electives

<b>AP African American Studies</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Students learn about the experiences of Black people from a variety of fields in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Also includes Introduction of foundational concepts and frameworks of Ethnic Studies and to the experiences of ethnic communities in and around our school and community.	
<b>Psychology and Sociology</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Psychology introduces students to fundamental concepts and principles, exploring determinants of personality, intelligence development theories, and characteristics of basic needs and self-concept. This knowledge equips students to adapt to change and make informed decisions. fulfillment of basic needs. Sociology aims to foster an understanding of people as independent agents engaged in cooperative activities. Topics included organized social rules and enforcement (Social control), and the study of possessions, thoughts, and actions within society (culture).	
<b>Law and Contemporary Issues</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Learn about and discuss basic components of the legal and criminal justice system.	
<b>Philosophy and Controversial Issues</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
In philosophy, students explore truths, principles of knowledge and conduct, analyze historical philosophers' arguments, and refine their own positions through writing and class discussions. Controversial Issues investigates topics such as social issues, politics, the economy, and current events- encouraging students to develop their own opinions as they prepare to graduate high school.	
<b>AP Psychology</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
Examine the scientific nature of psychology, as well as brain and human development.	
<b>AP Comparative Government</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
One semester course that introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the governments and political processes in a variety of country settings.	
<b>Servant Leadership</b>	<b>11th and 12th grade</b>
This servant leadership course is designed to grow, develop, and improve students' leadership skills and to help create the best versions of themselves. These attributes and skills will be used to make a positive difference at their school and communities. See Coach Muyres in the Fieldhouse.	

### Maxwell & Grayson Technical High School Programs

*11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders only and must have 4 open blocks – students apply to Maxwell & Grayson for a variety of different programs and if accepted your schedule will be altered to include them. Applications open on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on the Technical School App under Resources on the Portal. Open House events are offered in the spring. Informational videos can be found on the PRHS Curriculum and Instruction eCLASS page or on the website.*



## Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)

Courses may require additional fees for participation and materials. Please contact the specific program with any questions.

<b>What is NJROTC?</b>
The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) is a leadership program designed to give students a head start. NJROTC develops the self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills to help you successfully meet life's challenges. People who are successful in life, who succeed in business, industry, and education, have developed strong self-discipline, the ability to lead and motivate others, and a well-rounded character. The NJROTC curriculum and instructional activities are designed to develop your leadership ability regardless of your career path.
<b>What does NJROTC teach?</b>
The naval science curriculum includes subjects such as leadership, naval history, citizenship, astronomy, oceanography, meteorology, naval ships and aircraft, seamanship, radar and sonar electronics, navigation formal classroom training supplemented by training cruises aboard ships, orientation visits, and field trips to various naval facilities to enhance classroom studies. Students who complete 3 consecutive courses in NJROTC meet the graduation requirement for Health/PE.
<b>Who gains from Navy Junior ROTC?</b>
You do! Like most young adults, cadets strive to prepare themselves for the future. Navy JROTC can help students compete for NJROTC scholarships to a major university, appointments to the US Naval Academy, or other service academies. While cadets are under no obligation to join the armed services after graduation from high school, some individuals choose to enlist in the military. Successful completion of the NJROTC program allows entry into the armed forces up to two pay grades higher than your fellow enlistees without junior ROTC experience. Navy JROTC encourages participation in community and school programs and projects. It encourages civic responsibility and helps to develop strong and informed leaders for the future. In NJROTC, you learn to take great pride in your country, your Navy, your uniform, and yourself!
<b>Any extracurricular activities?</b>
Being a Navy JROTC cadet is not all work and no fun. You may attend award ceremonies and military balls sponsored by your NJROTC unit. You can also participate in school activities and athletic events as part of a color guard or a drill team or participate in a field meet against other NJROTC units. Other activities include field trips and tours to naval installations and trips on naval ships and naval aircraft. Selected cadets get to attend a mini-boot camp or the NJROTC Leadership Academy in the summer.
<b>What is provided?</b>
The Navy provides all books, drill equipment, uniforms, and other teaching materials. All you provide is the dedication to the Navy's core values of honor, courage, commitment, and the determination and desire to be a well-rounded young person of high moral character.
<b>Who can enroll in NJROTC?</b>
To enroll in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, you must be enrolled in grades 9-12, attend a regular course of instruction at the school hosting the unit, and be a United States citizen, national, or lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. You must also be qualified to fully participate in the school's physical education program, be accepted by the naval science instructor, maintain acceptable standards of academic achievement and standards of conduct and comply with NJROTC personal grooming standards.

## Performing Arts Descriptions

**Courses may require additional fees for participation and materials. Please contact the specific program with any questions.**

<b>Band</b>
The Peachtree Ridge High Concert Band is a performance-based class that focuses on the development of the fundamental skills and techniques necessary to perform at the high school level. It is not only tailored towards the overall ensemble's ability, but the abilities and ensemble awareness of the individual student. Young wind band and percussion repertoire will be used to develop these concepts while we also ask the students to use a variety of writing, listening, and individual playing assessments to demonstrate the mastery of the AKS for high school band. <b><i>Placement in this class is by the band director's recommendation or by audition.</i></b>
<b>Chorus</b>
Do you love to sing? Whether you've been singing all your life or have never had the chance to join a choir, there is a place for you in the Peachtree Ridge Chorus. Students perform a wide variety of music throughout the year and will strengthen their skills in reading music. Chorus does not interfere with athletics or extracurricular activities, and opportunities are also given to travel and compete at district, state, and national levels. There are three ensembles open to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students: Concert Choir (no audition), Women's Ensemble, and Chorale. <b><i>Placement in Women's Ensemble or Chorale is by audition, but students can sign up for Concert Choir without recommendation or audition.</i></b>
<b>Dance</b>
Learn all about the exciting world dance has to offer! In the Ridge Dance Department, students get the opportunity to learn many different styles of dance. Students will learn technical dance skills as well as gain a base knowledge of what it takes to put on a performance. All dance classes have a mandatory uniform/performance expectation and after-school rehearsals which are a major part of the student's final grade for the class. <b><i>Placement in the upper-level classes is by audition only.</i></b>
<b>Introduction to Music Technology</b>
Do you want to bring your music to life? Then music technology is the class for you! Students use Apple software to create, compose, produce, and record their music in this class. If you want to release the next great pop song, country music hit, or orchestral symphony, students will learn the skills necessary to reach their musical goals, even if they have no prior experience with music. <b>Follow up courses:</b> Intermediate Music Tech, Advanced Music Tech, Mastery Music Tech
<b>Orchestra</b>
The Peachtree Ridge High School Orchestra program offers classes that will take your playing to the next level. You'll build on the instrumental skills you already have in a fun, engaging way while making friends and learning lots of great music. Also, orchestra will not interfere with your extracurricular activities! There are three ensembles open to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students: Concert Orchestra (no audition), Symphonic Orchestra, and Philharmonic Orchestra. Auditions are required for Symphonic and Philharmonic. <b><i>Placement in an orchestra class is by the orchestra director's recommendation or by audition.</i></b>
<b>Theatre</b>
There are two options for intro level theater in high school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Acting 1 (Yearlong):</u></b> In this class, you get an introduction to improvisation, movement, and character development. Students will learn acting skills as well as gain a base knowledge of what it takes to put on a play. This yearlong class has a mandatory performance expectation and after-school rehearsals which are a major part of the student's final grade for the class. <b><i>Placement in upper-level classes is by audition only.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Theatre Fundamentals (One Semester):</u></b> In this class, you get an introduction to improvisation, movement, character development, and theater history. Students will learn acting skills as well as gain a base knowledge of what it takes to put on a play. <b><i>Placement in upper-level classes is by audition only.</i></b></li> </ul> <b>Follow up courses:</b> Acting II, Tech Theater, Musical Theater, and One Act
<b>Guitar</b>
Learn your favorite songs on guitar! From Rock to R&B to metal to country, we cover many styles of playing along with learning how to read music and apply music theory to the songs we are learning. Previous guitar playing experience will help you in this class, but beginners are also welcome. Come rock out- we'd love to have you! <b>Follow up courses:</b> Intermediate Guitar, Advanced Guitar, Mastery Guitar

## Visual Arts Descriptions

Visual Arts I/II	
Beginning level class; experience with two and three-dimensional artwork; learn basic skills of drawing, painting, clay and sculpture. <b>It is the prerequisite for all other art courses.</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Visual Arts Course Options	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramics I - Students will design and create hand-built clay forms, incorporating the elements and principles of design.</li> <li>• Sculpture- Students will design and create hand-bult forms using a variety of materials, incorporating the elements and principles of design.</li> <li>• Graphic Design - Students will use Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to create a variety of computer-based artwork.</li> <li>• Photography - Students will learn the operations of digital and film cameras, while exploring the darkroom and Adobe Photoshop.</li> <li>• Drawing &amp; Painting - Students will explore a variety of drawing, painting, and printmaking techniques in a range of materials, styles, and subject matter.</li> <li>• Jewelry and Metalworking- Students will use a variety of materials and methods to design and create jewelry.</li> <li>• Printmaking- Students will explore basic techniques of printing and inks, in combination with paper design.</li> <li>• Digital Design- Students will use Adobe Photoshop to produce digital paintings and conceptual art by applying traditional art skills in the virtual environment.</li> <li>• Crafts</li> </ul>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Visual Arts Course Options	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramics II</li> <li>• Photography II</li> <li>• Drawing &amp; Painting II</li> </ul>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Visual Arts Course Options	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Studio Art 2D- portfolio based application required.</li> </ul>	

## Physical Education Descriptions

<b>Introduction to Personal Fitness/Health</b>
A prerequisite for all other PE classes, and it is a graduation requirement for the state of Georgia. This is not an elective, but a requirement for graduation.
<b>Beginning Weight Training</b>
This series of courses provides a student with the opportunity to develop muscular strength and endurance through weight training and conditioning principles.
<b>Body Sculpting</b>
These courses provide basic instruction in defining, conditioning, and reshaping the body through specific exercises. Topics covered are weight training, conditioning exercises, proper nutrition, muscle definition, posture, physical response to exercise, and weight control.
<b>Team Sports</b>
This series of courses provides students with an opportunity to learn the history, rules, and basic skills of two or three of the following team sports: basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, touch or flag football, field hockey, floor hockey, ultimate Frisbee, and softball. As the courses progress, students will have an opportunity to experience team play, strategy development, and officiating techniques in each team sports offered.
<b>Introduction to Outdoor Education</b>
This course provides an appreciation of the outdoors and provides physical activities in an outdoor laboratory. Topics such as camping, hiking, orienteering, outdoor cooking, hunting and fishing are covered.
<b>Walking</b>
This class will consist of daily walking outside weather permitting. The areas of walking will include outdoor track, school perimeter, Peachtree ridge park and indoor track. Students will be able to utilize cellphones for tracking mileage and individual music preferences.
<b>Soccer</b>
This is a general soccer team sports physical education class designed to provide the basic knowledge and skills needed to participate in a competitive soccer match. Basic soccer skills and tactics will be taught in the class along with speed and agility training, and basic weight training concepts to help strengthen soccer related muscle groups.

## World Languages

It is strongly recommended for students to take at least two years of the same language. Most colleges and universities now require two Carnegie Units of language study as an admission requirement.

<b>Level I (Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish)</b>
Students will begin by working on all four language skills: speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Students will be introduced to the target cultures and will acquire knowledge through a variety of learning activities. By the end of the course, students will have simple conversations about likes/dislikes, personality traits, school, family, and food. Native speakers are welcome and may be placed in higher level courses depending on their language skills.
<b>Level I Latin</b>
Students begin acquiring reading skills in Latin and strengthening their English reading and vocabulary skills through vocabulary building and analyzing sentence structure. Through reading selections, class discussion, activities, and projects, students learn about the daily lives of the Romans and make comparisons relevant to today's society. Students also begin their study of Greco-Roman mythology.
<b>Level II (Chinese, French, Korean and Spanish)</b>
Students will deepen and expand their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language. Students will communicate in the past, present, and future tenses while discussing travel, childhood, technology, and health and wellness. Students will perform skits, write compositions, give simple presentations, and work with authentic materials in the target language.
<b>Latin II</b>
Students refine reading skills in Latin and continue to strengthen their English reading and vocabulary skills through vocabulary building and analyzing sentence structure. Through the reading selections, class discussions, and projects, students acquire more in-depth knowledge about the daily lives and history of the Romans. Students also continue to make comparisons relevant to today's society. Students may use Latin orally to initiate and respond to more complex statements and commands as well as read Latin aloud.
<b>Level III (Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish)</b>
Students continue to develop speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills. Students combine learned material with new concepts to express their thoughts in a more complex manner. Topics explored include media, careers, health, cultural perspective, art, and literature of the target cultures. Students will continue to work with authentic materials as well.
<b>Level IV, Level V, and AP (Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish)</b>
Students will deepen their knowledge of media, careers, health, cultural perspective, art, and literature of the target cultures. Students will continue to work with authentic materials as well.
<b>Spanish for Native Speakers I &amp; II and III – Requires a placement exam</b>
This course sequence is designed for heritage and native speakers of Spanish. Students will develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as they explore issues related to the identity of Spanish speakers in the US and Hispanic cultures, including language variation, customs, geography, history, and current events.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Science Options

Students at Peachtree Ridge High School take a science class all four years while in high school.

**Advanced Intro to Computer Science Combo (Intro to Software Technology and AP Comp Sci Principles):** Combination class for the student that presents with advanced computer skills. 1 semester course. Application required. Available to all grade levels.

coursework that covers ecology, energy resources, conservation, and pollution.

**Advanced Scientific Research** - Students will complete a science or engineering fair project for their SPIRE capstone experience. Application and 12<sup>th</sup> only.

**Anatomy & Physiology** - An overview of the 11 major body systems. Students will learn the function (physiology) of each system and the organs/structures involved. Investigations and dissections are required throughout this course.

**AP Biology** Successful completion of Biology AND Chemistry required; College-level biology coursework; advanced labs, analyze & explain the “whys” of biological science. Two semesters, 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**AP Chemistry** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry required. College-level chemistry course work uses advanced lab activities. Two semesters, 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders only.

**AP Computer Science Principles:** AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. One semester, 10<sup>th</sup> /11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders only.

**AP Computer Science A** – Intense study of structured programming in Java and advanced programming analysis. AP CSP and Advanced Algebra required.

**AP Environmental Science** - Successful completion of Biology & Chemistry recommended. College level coursework that covers ecology, energy resources & conservation, pollution & biotechnology. Meets 4<sup>th</sup> year Science requirement. One semester 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders only.

**AP Physics C** - Calculus-based problems solving at a high level; study of mechanics. Applications of math and science are used to predict the success of an engineered solution. Engineering course work is paired in this course. Two semesters, 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Environmental Science** – The unifying theme for the course is human impact on the environment. The aim is to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, evaluate the relative risks associated with the problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

**Forensics** – Explore the scientific & technological aspects of criminal investigations (DNA, fingerprinting, blood & collection of evidence).

**Game Design: Animation & Simulation** – Investigate career opportunities, trends and requirements related to 3-D graphics and animation.

**Mech II/Mech III/AP Comp Sci Principles** – A combination of mechanics, electronics, and computer science. Build projects that use computer programming to control physical machines. Two semesters. Strong math skills required, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Robotics** - This course builds upon the foundation students acquired in their previous science course and provides an overview of robot mechanisms, programming, and mechanical design. This course is intended for students who are interested in the field of robotics or computer science. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> only.

**Web Development** – Increase knowledge of digital media and create internet productions.

## Application & Audition Classes

*Students need to fill out an application or audition for the following classes due to limited spacing. Please be sure to talk to the appropriate people and apply by the deadlines!*

**AP European History with AP World History**- see Mr. Dean in C105

**Upper-Level Band** – Intermediate, Advanced and Mastery, see Ms. Curtis or Mr. Mercer in G101.

**Upper-Level Chorus** – Women’s Ensemble, and Choral, see Ms. Wyatt in G103.

**Upper-Level Orchestra** – Symphonic, Philharmonic and Chamber, see Dr. Scruggs, Ms. Cleaton or Ms. Kim in G102

**Upper-Level Dance** – All except for beginning, see Ms. Ondre or Ms. Carter in the Studio.

**Advanced Acting** – Develop skills in performance and advanced theater topics, see Ms. Wood in the Theater; Theater Fundamentals is a prerequisite.

**One Act** – Rehearse and produce the One-Act play that PRHS will take to the region One-Act play competition in October. After school rehearsals are required for this class. See Ms. Ondre in the Theater or Studio; Theater Fundamentals is a prerequisite.

**Musical Theater:** This class works on the big spring musical, with a focus on singing and musical theater acting. See Ms. Ondre in the Theater or Studio; Theater Fundamentals is a prerequisite.

**SPIRE program:** Spaces in the SPIRE program are limited. Therefore, students are selected based on their interests and academic abilities.

### Application Courses for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**AP Art History w/ AP Lang** - see Mr. Dean in C105

**Peer Facilitation** – This course provides students with a framework for understanding the problem-solving process, opportunities to participate in meaningful activities that affect our society in positive ways (civic participation), conflict resolution training and effective communication skill development. Other course topics include adhering to ethical codes of practice, exercising tolerance and advocacy of others’ rights, 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade only. See Ms. Wilson in the Counseling Office.

**Gifted Internship**- After submission of the applications, student complete an interview with the district office to be placed in an off-campus industry experience. See Ms. Bolt in the Curriculum Office.

**Library Science** – Students learn about the inner workings of the Media Center and its resources, including circulation (check out), shelving, printing, deliveries, etc. See Ms. Bengochea in the Media Center.

**Work Based Learning** – Students are released early from school for 4<sup>th</sup> block, only. Must have a stable job and work approximately 10 hours per week. Seniors only. See Mr. Hernandez in E105.

**Business Communication** (Office Aide) – Students build on previous Career Ed coursework and learn office support in a hands-on environment. IBT is a prerequisite, and this is for seniors only. See Mr. Collins in E103.

**Gifted/SPIRE Internship** – Students are released early from school for 4<sup>th</sup> block only. They must intern at least 7 hours per week. See Ms. Bolt in Curriculum to apply. Gifted is for juniors and seniors and SPIRE is 12<sup>th</sup> only.

**Mane Event** (Professional Selling & Promotion) – Gain retail experience by running and operating the school store. See Ms. Fillman in E112.

**Ridge Prints:** The third level graphic design class where students run our school print shop. See Coach Laird in i104.

**Ridge Vision News (RVN):** The third level AV Tech Film course that produces our daily PR News and more. See Coach Zopf in the RVN.










**Marketing Communication** - Gain retail experience by running and operating the school store. See Ms. Fillman in E112.

**Work Based Learning-** Provides students with real-life work experiences off campus where they can apply academic and technical skills and develop their employability. Students are required to find a job, submit their weekly or biweekly pay stubs, and complete weekly assignments on eClass. See Mr. Hernandez in E111.











**Yearbook** – Involves the production and sale of the school’s yearbook, yearlong. See Ms. Bahun in A112.

## Electives Video Links

Scan the QR codes below to access the video description for that elective offering.

<b>PRHS Curriculum &amp; Instruction Main Website</b> <i>Access this site to explore everything Curriculum Office!</i>			
<b>Accounting</b>		<b>Drawing/Painting</b>	
<b>AP Art History</b>		<b>Digital Design</b>	
<b>AP Environmental Science</b>		<b>Graphics Design</b>	
<b>Band</b>		<b>AP Studio Art</b>	



Chorus		NJROTC	
Orchestra		World Language	
Philosophy/Controversial Issues		Law/Contemporary Issues	
Peer Leading		Sociology	
AP Human Geography		Game Design	

# Athletics, Clubs, and Activities



## Fall Sports

Competition Cheer (Coach Davis)  
Boys Cross Country (Coach Overstreet)  
Girls Cross Country (Coach Guilbeau)  
E-Sports (Coach Guthridge)  
Flag Football (Coach Stover)  
Football (Coach Helmerich)  
Softball (Coach Hollingsworth)  
Spirit Cheer (Coach Wascak)  
Volleyball (Coach Rodriguez)

## Winter Sports

Dance Team (Coach Ondre)  
Boys Basketball (Coach Griffin)  
Girls Basketball (Coach T Harrington)  
Boys Swimming (Coach Zopf)  
Girls Swimming (Coach Emmons)  
Wrestling (Coach Petty)

## Spring Sports

Baseball (Coach Suggs)  
Co-Ed Bass Fishing (Coach Clanahan)  
E-Sports (Coach Guthridge)  
Boys Golf (Coach Collins)  
Girls Golf (Coach Koester)  
Boys Lacrosse (Coach Autman)  
Girls Lacrosse (Coach Alderdice)  
Boys Soccer (Coach Sutton)  
Girls Soccer (Coach Evans)  
Boys Tennis (Coach Fernandez)  
Girls Tennis (Coach Jones)  
Boys Track (Coach Boroff)  
Girls Track (Coach Brick)

## Physicals

All GHSA Sanctioned sports require a physical to participate.

Information can be found on

<https://prlions.com/athletic-participation/>

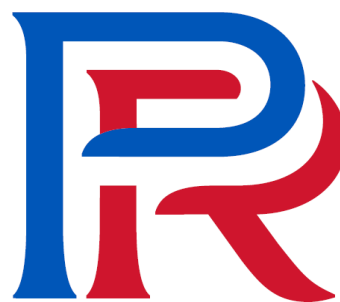
## Non-Cut Sports

Students may participate in the following sports without the risk of being cut. This allows students to try something new and discover new interests.

Cross Country  
E-Sports  
Football  
Wrestling  
Bass Fishing  
Track & Field

## Coach's Contact Information

Head Coaches contact information can be found on [www.prlions.com](http://www.prlions.com) or through the Staff Directory on the School's website.



# Clubs and Activities

AASO (Asian American Student Organization)  
Academic Team  
African American Student Association  
American Red Cross  
Anime Club  
Art Club  
ASK-M (Advancing Student Knowledge through Mentorship)  
Badminton  
Beta  
Biological SCI  
Book Club  
Chess Club  
Children's Services  
Computer Science Club  
Crochet Club  
Dance  
DECA  
Diversity Club / PRHSDIVE  
FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)  
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)  
Film Appreciation  
French Honor Society  
Girl Up  
Girls Who Code  
Green Team  
GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance)  
Gwinnett Student Leadership Team (GSLT)  
Habitat for Humanity  
HoPe (Hispanic Organization Promoting Education)  
HOSA  
I Am A Difference Maker Project  
Interact  
Investment Club  
Jewish Student Union / Jewish Culture Club  
Junior Classical League  
Key Club  
Korean Immersion Club  
KPop Club  
Lit Club  
Literary Magazine  
MENAS (Middle Eastern and North African Society)  
Mental Health Awareness Club  
Middle Eastern Club

Mock Trial  
Model UN  
Mu Alpha Theta/Math Team  
Multiracial Student Union  
Muslim Student Association  
National Art Honor Society  
National Chinese Honor Society  
National English Honor Society  
National Honor Society  
National Latin Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
National Technical Honor Society  
NJROTC Academic Team  
NJROTC Armed Drill Team  
NJROTC Armed Exhibition Drill Team  
NJROTC Athletic Team  
NJROTC Color Guard  
NJROTC Marksmanship Team  
NJROTC Unarmed Drill Team  
NJROTC Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team  
PASA (Pan African Student Association)  
Physics Club  
Ping Pong Club  
Psychology Club  
Readers Rally  
Ridge Rhetoric Speech & Debate  
Robo lions  
SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)  
Science National Honor Society  
Science Olympiad  
SESAA (Self-Esteem and Self-Awareness Club for All)  
Sinfonia  
Social Entrepreneur Influence Club  
Society of Women Engineers  
South Asian Student Association  
Spanish Club  
Student Council Association  
Swiftly Speaking  
Table Top Club  
Theatrix  
Tri M  
TSA (Technology Student Association)  
UNESCO  
Unicef  
Women in Medicine  
Young Progressives

