



LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

Law and Public Safety

A high school pathway program for law and public safety prepares students for careers in fields such as law enforcement, corrections, and legal services. Through a specialized curriculum and hands-on experiences like mock trials and debate, students gain foundational knowledge and practical skills. These programs often provide opportunities for internships, dual enrollment college credits, and industry certifications, giving students a significant head start on their career journey.

Location: Eastside High School

Courses

Intro to Law and Public Safety (Grade 10)

Introduction to Law and Public Safety is an introductory, first-year course required of Law & Public Safety Pathway students. The course focuses on our national, state and local legal systems, in addition to the exploration of careers in Law & Public Safety. The content will be conveyed in a practical format to allow students to gain the knowledge necessary to survive in our law-saturated society. Students will engage in the study of law from several vantage points to criminal, civil, contract, family law, and immigration law in the classroom and in the community. A strong emphasis will be placed on written work in the form of case studies.

Justice Studies (Grade 11)

The course Justice Studies provides a comprehensive exploration of sociological theories surrounding criminal behavior and the criminal justice system. Students will analyze the root causes of crime, the impact of social factors on criminal behavior, and the role of social structures in shaping patterns of deviance. Through engaging activities and discussions, students will delve into the influence of socialization on criminal identities and behaviors, as well as the intersection of social inequalities within the criminal justice system. The course also explores restorative justice and rehabilitation practices, emphasizing healing and accountability over punitive measures. Throughout the 36-week course, students will critically examine emerging issues in criminal justice, debates, challenges, and the future of the justice system. There will be a strong emphasis on critical thinking, analysis of social influences on criminal behavior, and discussions on fostering community-based solutions to address underlying causes of crime.

Policing in America (Grade 11)

This course explores the history, evolution, and modern-day role of policing in the United States. Students will examine the structure and function of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as the legal and ethical responsibilities of police officers. Topics include community policing, use of force, accountability, civil rights, constitutional law, and the impact of social and technological change on modern policing practices. Through case studies, guest speakers, critical discussions, and project-based learning, students will analyze the balance between public safety and individual rights. This course encourages students to think critically about justice, authority, and the role of law enforcement in a democratic society.

Debate and Public Speaking (Grade 12)

High School Public & Speaking Debate is a dynamic course designed to develop students' critical thinking, persuasive communication, and confident presentation skills. Through structured debates, speeches, and impromptu speaking exercises, students will learn to research topics, construct logical arguments, and articulate their ideas clearly and effectively. Emphasis is placed on respectful discourse, active listening, and adapting communication for various audiences and purposes. This course prepares students for academic and real-world situations where strong verbal communication is essential.

Public Safety Capstone (Grade 12)

The Public Safety Capstone Certification is a senior-level course designed to prepare students for real-world emergency response situations through a combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on training. Students will learn the principles of emergency medical dispatch, including call-taking protocols, prioritization of medical emergencies, and communication with first responders. The course also provides American Heart Association-certified instruction in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and First Aid, equipping students with the skills to assess, stabilize, and assist individuals in medical emergencies. By the end of the course, students will be eligible for certification and gain a foundational understanding of pre-hospital care and public safety communication, ideal for those pursuing careers in healthcare, emergency services, or public safety.

Skills Gained

- **Technical Skills**

- **Legal—Through** the pathway, students will learn about the processes, tiers, and framework of the American justice system. Students will gain information rooted in restorative justice, theory, corrections, and rehabilitation.
- **Emergency Services—Emergency** Medical Dispatcher and First Responder certifications can be attained through the program, giving students real-world skills and certifications leading to immediate employment
- **Policing—The** groundwork will be laid for initial knowledge into law enforcement and first responder agencies for a heightened awareness of direction working towards future goals within emergency service response, emergency management, and both federal and state agencies available.

- **Professional Skills**

- Communication
- State and federal agencies in the American judicial system, their focus, and intent.
- A knowledge base of public and civic service

Certification

- Emergency Medical Dispatcher/911/ CPR

Careers

- Emergency Medical Dispatch
- First Responder-EMT, Paramedic
- Law Enforcement
- Corrections
- Fire and Rescue
- County, State, Federal Public Safety
- Family Intervention Programs
- University educational program
- Military Service