PINEWOOD AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THESSALONIKI

HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2026 - 2027

GRADES 9 - 12

An American college-preparatory curriculum, **Advanced Placement** courses, the **International Baccalaureate** Diploma Program, and **Global Online Academy** — three pathways to graduation, and a curriculum built to prepare every student for university study anywhere in the world.

Where every learner is known, challenged, and inspired.

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CONTENTS

The High School Program of Studies — 2026–2027

Section 01

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the **Program of Studies** for Pinewood High School! My name is Apostolos Rofaelas, and as your principal, I am proud to share a curriculum that reflects our commitment to academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and the development of well-rounded, lifelong learners.

I earned my **PhD in American Studies** from the **College of William & Mary** in Virginia, USA, an institution that has shaped my own appreciation for the transformative power of education. This perspective continues to inform my belief in the importance of providing students with meaningful opportunities to explore their interests, challenge themselves, and pursue their aspirations.

Our English, Math, Social Studies, Arts, and World Languages courses adhere to the **American Education Reaches Out (AERO) standards** for American overseas schools. AERO standards identify critical areas in each subject, provide instructional guidance, and offer links to additional resources. They are aligned with the **Common Core Standards** used in over 40 U.S. states.

For Sciences, we use the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**, which adopt a three-dimensional learning approach: Practice, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Cross-Cutting Concepts. In all our courses, we work to ensure concepts are grounded in authentic situations, where the principles and content of the course come alive for our students — connecting them to real events and engaging them in the world in which they live.

Pinewood is proud to offer the **Advanced Placement (AP) Program**, allowing high school students to enroll in **college-level courses and exams** for potential college credit. AP courses are designed to challenge students and prepare them for higher education, offering a wide variety of subjects to explore in depth. Success in AP courses enhances **college applications** and ensures readiness for **academic success**.

In their chosen AP course, students may also participate in **AP with WE Service**, which combines rigorous academic learning with meaningful **service experiences**. Through research, collaboration, and action, students apply course concepts to real-world issues, developing a deeper understanding of the curriculum while cultivating **leadership**, **empathy**, and a sense of **civic responsibility**.

Our students also have the opportunity to take **Global Online Academy (GOA)** courses. These courses provide access to diverse subjects not traditionally available in our classrooms, fostering **independent learning**, **critical thinking**, and **global collaboration**. Designed to complement our curriculum, GOA courses offer a flexible and innovative learning environment where students can explore their interests.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. I look forward to a year of **academic excellence**, **personal growth**, and **shared achievements**.

Dr. Apostolos Rofaelas

High School Principal | AP Coordinator

Section 02

ABOUT PINEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Pinewood American International School is an independent, co-educational, non-profit day and boarding school offering an American college-preparatory curriculum, Advanced Placement courses, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program.

The IB Diploma Program is a joint program with Anatolia College, offered to students from the local and international communities. The language of instruction is English. Each grade level in high school has either three or four sections with a class-size average of **18–20 students**.

210	55+	18–20	1950
Students in the school	Nationalities represented	Average class size	Established

The student body consists of approximately 210 students representing over 55 different nationalities, including students from the diplomatic community, international business, the military, the local Greek community, and others. Pinewood is part of the larger **Anatolia College family** as the American international school of the institution. At Pinewood, students engage in a student-centered program that challenges them to develop our core values as **curious, creative, and caring thinkers**.

ACCREDITATION

Pinewood is fully accredited through the internationally recognized **Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)**. MSA verifies that our school meets or exceeds quality educational standards, is engaged in a program of continuous school improvement, and provides for quality assurance through self-evaluation and peer review. In pursuit of its re-accreditation — a regular process occurring every seven years — Pinewood has been selected among the very few schools worldwide to implement the **Sustaining Excellence protocol**, foregrounding relationships as the cornerstone of our teaching and learning practices. In addition, Pinewood is authorized by the **College Board** to offer the AP Capstone Diploma and a large number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SPONSORSHIP

Pinewood is one of **192 schools around the world** assisted by the U.S. State Department / Office of Overseas Schools. Although the majority of Pinewood's revenue derives from tuition and fees, the school also receives a small yearly grant from the U.S. State Department to support educational programming and professional development. The State Department is a valued partner for the school. Pinewood's Regional Education Officer (REO) in Washington, DC visits our school every other year to support us in implementing the philosophy and methods of American education.

MISSION

Pinewood aims to offer students a **progressive, personalized American international education** centered on academic excellence in each student's journey towards **self-actualization**. This is achieved in a stimulating, multicultural learning environment that emphasizes service, respect for ethical values, and awareness of local culture.

VISION

Pinewood strives to be a growing center of excellence in the region by educating students through best practices for reaching their full potential as **adaptable global citizens**.

CORE VALUES

CURIOUS THINKERS

Our school environment nurtures curiosity and skills for inquiry, research, and all types of communication. Our students are encouraged to ask 'why' and to take risks in their learning experiences. Our goal is to motivate each student to develop and sustain a **love of learning**. Arising from curious thinking are insight, awareness, inquisitiveness, motivation, inspiration, and discovery.

CREATIVE THINKERS

Our school environment encourages a rich diversity of original ideas, opinions, and expressions to flourish. Our students are given myriad opportunities to practice flexibility of thinking in order to develop a critical mindset. Our goal is to foster **problem solving** and equip our students for their complex future. Arising from creative thinking are originality, critical thinking, open-mindedness, individuality, confidence, innovation, and imagination.

CARING THINKERS

Our school environment includes a holistic approach to educating students to show empathy, integrity, and respect. Our students are committed to the care and understanding of all people. Our goal is for students to care for themselves and to **make a positive difference** in the lives of others and in the world. Arising from caring thinking are kindness, balance, cooperation, integrity, responsibility, respect, and concern for self and others.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Pinewood admits students of any race, color, religion, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

PRIVACY POLICY

Pinewood understands that the privacy of its students and their families is important. To that end, we have adopted a policy and regulations regarding the collection, use, and dissemination of personal information, in accordance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Roxanne Giampapa	**Head of School**
Dr. Apostolos Rofaelas	**High School Principal / AP Coordinator**
Mr. Nikos Tsachtanis	**Activities Coordinator / College Counselor / Facilities & Operations**
Ms. Petroula Rosiou	**HR & Ministry of Education Officer**
Mr. Dimitris Balampanis	**High School Administrative Officer**

Section 03

PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

The school offers **three pathways to graduation**, each designed to prepare students for university matriculation in the U.S. and around the world.

AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Based on the American model and awarded after successfully meeting all Pinewood graduation criteria.

DIPLOMA WITH ADVANCED PLACEMENT

A combination of AP courses and American High School Diploma courses.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

A two-year program of study, joint with Anatolia College, with the diploma awarded by the IBO.

GREEK DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY

The Greek Diploma Equivalency is intended for students who wish to receive an equivalency to the **Greek Apolytirion**. This requires **Greek Language & Literature** and **Greek History** courses each year of high school, following the Greek Ministry of Education curriculum. Upon successful completion of the program, students receive a certificate of attendance and grade transcript, which they submit along with their American High School Diploma to the relevant office of the Greek Ministry of Education, which issues the equivalency to the Greek Apolytirion.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements for all options are consistent with the goals of the school, the requirements for admission to higher-education institutions, and the **Carnegie Unit system**. Pinewood grants its diploma only to students who have successfully completed all graduation requirements. Students are required to attend

eight semesters in high school and to complete a minimum of **22 credits** in order to obtain a diploma from Pinewood. The strong majority of Pinewood students graduate with more than the minimum credit requirement.

Transfer students will have their official transcripts reviewed for credit approvals. A minimum of **11 credits** for students transferring to Pinewood in Grade 11 and **6 credits** for students transferring in Grade 12 must be earned at Pinewood, along with meeting the credit distribution requirements.

DEPARTMENT	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT	RECOMMENDED FOR UNIVERSITY
English	4 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	4 credits
World Languages	2 credits	4 credits
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
Electives	5 credits	6 credits

GRADE ADVANCEMENT

The following policy applies to all students in the High School (Grades 9–12):

- Students must obtain at least **5 credits** by the end of Grade 9 to advance into Grade 10.
- Students must obtain at least **10 credits** by the end of Grade 10 to advance into Grade 11.
- Students must obtain at least **16 credits** by the end of Grade 11 to advance into Grade 12.

Final grades are determined through a combination of the scores earned on both summative assessments and exams. For High School courses, a minimum grade of **60%** is required to receive credit, while for AP courses a minimum score of **2** is required. Only final grades — not progress-report marks or semester scores — are used to calculate a student's GPA for the year.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR ADMISSIONS

All prospective students for Grades 9–12 are required to demonstrate a specific level of English-language proficiency on the scale of the **Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)**, as determined by the Admissions Test. Recommended English-proficiency levels at the time of admission are as follows:

Grade 9	**B1 or higher**
Grade 10	**B2 or higher**
Grade 11	**B2 or higher**
Grade 12	**B2 or higher**

Section 04

AWARDS, TESTING & INTEGRITY

ACADEMIC AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN

- The valedictorian and salutatorian honors go to **two top-ranking seniors**.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

- Sponsored by the President of the United States via the U.S. Department of State, this award goes to the students with the **top three GPAs in each grade level**.

HONOR ROLL

- To recognize outstanding academic achievement, an Honor Roll has been established at Pinewood. There are two levels of the Pinewood Honor Roll: **Director's Honors** and **High Honors**.

RYAN GIATAS SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD

- Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Athanasios Giatas, this award honors their son, a Pinewood 11th grader whose life was tragically taken in an accident in October 1996. It is given annually to the secondary student, by vote of the entire secondary student body, who shows the **most enthusiasm and interest in school life**.

ALL-AROUND STUDENT AWARD

- This award goes to the student in Grades 9–12 who makes the greatest contribution across several different areas of school life. A helpful way of considering students for this award is to consider the NHS criteria of **service, character, and leadership**. Students are nominated and voted on by the secondary faculty.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

- These are awards in the major subject areas of English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, World Languages, Physical Education, and Art. One award is given for each department based on **excellence and merit**, selected by a consensus of all faculty members in that department.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, AND PSAT/NMSQT

- All students in Grades 9–11 take the **Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)** at school. Questions should be directed to the principal.

SAT

- The SAT is administered at Anatolia College throughout the year on the test dates set for international centers. Questions and registration should be directed to the **College Counselor**.

IELTS / TOEFL / DUOLINGO

- Both IELTS and TOEFL can be taken at a testing center in downtown Thessaloniki throughout the year. Duolingo can be taken from home.

CTY GREECE EXAMS

- The Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Greece at Anatolia College holds exams for entrance into the program every year. The English version of the test is held in **November at Pinewood**. CTY uses two tests, developed and scored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth: the School and College Ability Test (SCAT) and the Spatial Test Battery (STB), which measure verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning ability. Each student can take one or both tests.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Pinewood expects all students to abide by **ethical academic standards**. Academic honesty is a fundamental component of the integrity of the teaching and learning process. Acts of academic dishonesty — including plagiarism (presenting others' words and ideas as one's own without crediting the source), copying work from other students, or using notes during a test — are considered **serious offenses** and shall be subject to academic and disciplinary penalties.

ADVISORY

The aim of Advisory is to implement an extra-curricular program for a **holistic education**. During Advisory, students have the opportunity to connect and interact with their Advisors in a meaningful and productive way. The weekly themes are adjusted to students' needs and current circumstances to further promote

the well-being of students and raise awareness of global matters. Students are exposed to interactive, informative, and thought-provoking activities on **mental health, healthy lifestyle, people with differences, online safety, and career orientation**.

Section 05

STUDENT SERVICES

Pinewood's Student Services aims to enhance students' experiences and well-being in all areas of life at school — academics, mental and physical health, setting future goals, independence, and developmental growth.

We offer the following support services through the department: **Psychological Support, Learning Support (SEN), College Counseling, Library Services, After-School Activities, and Dormitory Support**.

Mr. Nikos Tsachtanis	**College Counselor & Activities Coordinator**
Ms. Maria-Angeliki Apalodima	**Student Services Coordinator**
Ms. Ellie Tsachtani	**High School Psychologist**
Ms. Chara Tampakaki	**Learning Specialist**
Dr. Jonathan Sudholt	**Librarian**
Ms. Mihaela Cretu	**School Nurse**
Ms. Marianthi Serafeim	**Dorm Liaison**

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Psychological Support provides support to all students experiencing emotional, social, and behavioral difficulties within the school setting. In close collaboration with educators and parents, we aim to promote the well-being of everyone and enhance the teaching and learning environment by creating a **caring, safe, and confidential environment**.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Learning Support Services aim to identify and support students with different learning needs, within and outside the classroom, to ensure that each Pinewood student may learn and flourish academically, socially, and emotionally in a **nurturing, inclusive, and responsive environment**.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The School Nurse oversees and promotes the emotional, mental, and physical health of all students, faculty, and staff, supporting student success through assessment, intervention, and follow-up. She also participates in actions organized at school, such as Advisories and webinars, to raise awareness of specific health matters, healthy habits, and student well-being.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

College Counseling at Pinewood is an integral component of each student's high school education. The goal of our College Counseling Services is to provide solid advice and guidance to students as they decide where to continue their studies after graduation, and to support seniors in achieving the **highest possible placement** at the institutions of their first preference. The College Counseling Services continuously follow the latest developments at international universities, and meetings with college representatives are held throughout the year.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The library at Pinewood is a welcoming space for students, faculty, and staff to learn, think, and find inspiration. With a growing collection of **over 15,000 volumes**, it serves readers of all ages and interests and provides a space for creative learning activities. The library continuously hosts important events, such as parents' evenings, meetings with teachers, and presentations by professionals.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Pinewood offers a great range of after-school activities to support the **holistic development** of students and enhance their cognitive, social, emotional, and organizational skills, with an emphasis on teamwork. Through these activities, students have the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of experiences, activities, and sports.

DORMITORY SUPPORT

Pinewood's outstanding Boarding Department is available for students in **Grades 7–12** and accommodates students from a wide range of nationalities. Our Student Services offers constant, personalized support to students living in the dormitories, with weekly visits by the Pinewood Dormitory Liaison, planned off-campus activities, and the availability of our Dormitory Liaison every day during school hours.

Graduating Class of 2025

Section 06

THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program offers high school students the opportunity to engage in college-level coursework and earn college credit while still in high school.

Administered by the College Board, the AP Program is recognized by colleges and universities around the world. Students who participate in AP courses gain a deeper understanding of subjects they are passionate about and develop skills that are essential for success in college and beyond.

WHY TAKE AP COURSES

COLLEGE CREDIT

Many colleges and universities recognize the rigor of AP courses and offer credit, placement, or both for qualifying scores — translating into substantial savings on tuition and the opportunity to graduate early.

ACADEMIC SKILLS

AP courses mirror the level of academic challenge found in college classes, helping students develop critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and effective time management.

ADMISSIONS EDGE

Admissions officers recognize the effort and dedication required to succeed in AP classes, making students more attractive candidates to top-tier institutions.

Engaging in this level of coursework while still in high school means students are better prepared for the demands of higher education — learning to manage complex assignments, engage in in-depth discussions, and tackle rigorous exams.

Research consistently shows that students who take AP courses are **more likely to succeed in college**. The skills and knowledge they gain often translate into better grades and higher retention rates. These students are typically more confident in their academic abilities and more adept at navigating the

challenges of college life. Successfully completing a challenging AP course and earning a high score is also a significant achievement that builds accomplishment and confidence.

In summary, AP courses offer numerous benefits that can profoundly impact a student's educational and professional trajectory. By providing opportunities for college credit, fostering essential academic skills, enhancing college applications, and building confidence, AP courses are an invaluable part of the high school experience. We encourage all students to consider the many advantages of enrolling in AP classes and to take full advantage of the resources and support available to them.

AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The AP Capstone Diploma program is a college-level program built on two courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — that complement and enhance discipline-specific AP courses by developing the independent thinking, research, writing, and collaboration skills that colleges increasingly value.

Students who earn scores of **3 or higher** in both AP Seminar and AP Research, together with four additional AP Exams of their choosing, receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**, signifying outstanding academic achievement and college-level research skills; those who succeed in AP Seminar and AP Research alone receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate**. At the heart of the program is authentic scholarship: in AP Research, students investigate a topic of genuine personal interest — formulating questions, analyzing evidence, and presenting findings in a scholarly manner — while AP Seminar builds intellectual curiosity and critical thinking as students examine complex issues from multiple perspectives.

Communication runs throughout the program. Students regularly present their ideas through individual and collaborative work, refining their ability to express themselves clearly and persuasively. The program's emphasis on independent research and teamwork mirrors real-world professional environments and fosters personal agency and confidence as students take ownership of their learning journey.

AP WITH WE SERVICE

The AP with WE Service program merges rigorous Advanced Placement coursework with a genuine commitment to **community service**. Designed for students who wish to excel academically while engaging in service-learning, it helps them apply their academic knowledge to real-world contexts — deepening their understanding of their studies while cultivating a sense of civic responsibility.

Built on the WE Service model, the program pairs each AP course with a service project that complements its content and addresses both local and global challenges. Students engage in project-based learning and structured reflection through essays, presentations, and discussions. Service activities are assessed on impact, creativity, and alignment with AP coursework, and successful completion is recognized with a **certificate** that strengthens college applications by demonstrating both academic excellence and a commitment to service — while developing leadership, project-management, and reflective-thinking skills valuable for college and beyond.

Section 07

AP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following AP courses are offered at Pinewood, organized by department. Grade-level availability is indicated with each course title.

AP CAPSTONE

AP Seminar

GRADES 10-11

AP Seminar is the first course in the AP Capstone Diploma program and one of the most distinctive offerings in the AP program — an interdisciplinary course that, unlike all other AP courses, is not about mastering a specific body of subject knowledge but about developing the **foundational academic skills** that make a student successful in any discipline. Students choose the real-world and academic topics they investigate, exploring questions ranging from the impact of technology on society to challenges of sustainability, justice, and human well-being.

The course is organized around the **QUEST framework** — Question and Explore, Understand and Analyze, Evaluate Multiple Perspectives, Synthesize Ideas, and Team, Transform, and Transmit. Students are assessed through three interconnected components: a **Team Project and Multimedia Presentation**, an **Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation**, and an **End-of-Course Exam**.

AP Research

GRADE 12

AP Research is the second course in the AP Capstone Diploma program and the most independent, student-driven academic experience the AP program offers. Building directly on the skills developed in AP Seminar, students spend the entire year designing, planning, and conducting a **sustained scholarly investigation** on a topic of their own choosing — asking an original research question, selecting and justifying an appropriate methodology, reviewing the relevant scholarly literature, and producing findings that contribute meaningfully to an existing field of inquiry.

The course culminates in two interconnected assessments: a **4,000–5,000 word academic paper** submitted to the College Board for scoring, and a **15–20 minute presentation and oral defense** before a panel of evaluators. Throughout the year, students maintain a process and reflection portfolio documenting the evolution of their thinking.

ENGLISH

AP English Language and Composition

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to **read the world like a writer** — analyzing how language is used to persuade, inform, and move audiences, and developing the rhetorical skills to do the same in their own writing. Equivalent to an introductory college-level composition course, it is organized around nine units that build progressively from foundational skills in claims and evidence and reasoning and organization through increasingly sophisticated work in rhetorical situation, style, argument, synthesis, and multimodal analysis.

Students engage with a wide range of nonfiction texts — newspaper editorials, political speeches, personal essays, critical arguments, visual and quantitative sources — reading them not merely for content but for the rhetorical choices that make them effective, and developing three core writing practices: **rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis**.

AP English Literature and Composition

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to read literature with the precision, curiosity, and interpretive depth of a **literary scholar** — engaging closely with complex works of fiction, drama, and poetry to understand how writers use language to create meaning, provoke thought, and illuminate the human condition. Organized into nine units structured around three recurring genre-based cycles — **short fiction, poetry, and longer fiction and drama** — each revisited at increasing levels of complexity.

Students develop skills across three interconnected big ideas: literary argumentation; character; and structure, perspective, and figurative language.

MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

AP Precalculus

GRADES 10-12

Develops students' ability to use mathematical tools and ways of thinking to make sense of the world — building the deep functional reasoning, modeling fluency, and mathematical maturity that open pathways to success in calculus, statistics, and quantitative fields. Organized into four interconnected units: **Polynomial and Rational Functions; Exponential and Logarithmic Functions; Trigonometric and Polar Functions; and Functions Involving Parameters, Vectors, and Matrices**.

A defining feature is its emphasis on **multiple representations** — examining every mathematical situation graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally — and on mathematical modeling.

AP Calculus AB

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think mathematically about **change** — building a deep, connected understanding of the concepts, methods, and applications of differential and integral calculus that form the foundation of modern mathematics, science, and engineering. Equivalent to a first-semester college calculus course, students explore eight interconnected units from **Limits and Continuity** through **Applications of Integration**.

Students develop four core mathematical practices and learn to move fluidly between graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations, applying calculus to authentic contexts ranging from optimization and motion to exponential growth and area accumulation.

AP Statistics

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to **think like statisticians** — collecting, analyzing, and drawing meaningful conclusions from data in a world where the ability to reason under uncertainty is one of the most powerful and transferable skills a person can have. Equivalent to a one-semester, non-calculus-based introductory college statistics course, it is organized around four fundamental statistical practices: formulating questions, collecting data, analyzing data, and interpreting results.

Students explore five content areas, from **Exploring One-Variable Data** through **Regression Analysis**, building fluency in describing distributions, designing studies, modeling randomness, and making evidence-based inferences.

AP Cybersecurity

GRADE 9

Develops students' ability to think like **cybersecurity professionals** — systematically analyzing how digital systems are attacked, why attacks succeed, and how individuals and organizations build layered defenses. Requiring **no prior programming experience**, the course is organized into five interconnected units, from Introduction to Security through Securing Applications and Data, with three core skills — Analyze Risk, Mitigate Risk, and Detect Attacks — spiraling throughout.

The course aligns with the **NICE Workforce Framework**. Students who earn a qualifying score on the AP Exam also earn the **AP Cybersecurity Credential** and a voucher for the **CompTIA Security+** certification exam.

AP Computer Science Principles

GRADE 10

Develops students' ability to think computationally about the world — exploring how computing works, how it shapes society, and how it can be harnessed as a tool for creativity, problem-solving, and discovery. **No prior coding experience is required**, and the course may be taught in any programming language. Organized around five Big Ideas: Creative Development, Data, Algorithms and Programming, Computer Systems and Networks, and Impact of Computing.

A distinctive feature is the **Create Performance Task**, a sustained project in which students independently design and develop a program of their own choosing.

AP Computer Science A

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think algorithmically and computationally — designing, writing, analyzing, and testing programs to solve problems with precision, creativity, and rigor. Equivalent to a first-semester college computer-science course, it is taught in **Java** and emphasizes object-oriented programming and design, covering concepts from primitive types and using objects through inheritance and recursion.

Students develop five core computational-thinking practices: reading and understanding code, writing and developing code, analyzing and evaluating code, tracing and testing programs, and making connections to real-world applications.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

AP Human Geography

GRADE 9

Develops students' ability to **think spatially** — using the tools, concepts, and analytical frameworks of geography to understand how and why human societies organize themselves across the surface of the Earth. Students explore seven interconnected units from **Thinking Geographically** through **Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes**.

Students develop four core geographic-reasoning skills and learn to interpret maps, charts, graphs, images, and infographics as primary tools of geographic inquiry.

AP African American Studies

GRADES 11-12

Offers students a rich, rigorous, and deeply **interdisciplinary** encounter with the history, culture, literature, and lived experiences of African Americans and the broader African diaspora. Drawing from history, literature, the arts, geography, science, and law, it invites students to see the full complexity of Black life and thought through direct engagement with primary sources, original artifacts, and scholarly perspectives.

Organized into four chronological and thematic units, from **Origins of the African Diaspora** through **Movements and Debates**. A distinctive feature is the **Individual Student Project**, a sustained independent research initiative.

AP Comparative Government & Politics

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think like **comparative political scientists** — examining how different political systems are structured, how they exercise power, and how they respond to the challenges of governance, legitimacy, and change. Using the comparative method, students analyze six course countries: **China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom** — a diverse set representing democratic, authoritarian, and hybrid regimes.

Organized around five big ideas: power and authority; legitimacy and stability; democratization; internal and external forces; and methods of political analysis.

AP United States Government & Politics

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think analytically about how **American democracy** works — examining the structures, institutions, and processes that define the U.S. political system. Equivalent to a semester-long introductory college course in political science, students explore five interconnected units from **Foundations of American Democracy** through **Political Participation**.

A distinctive feature is engagement with required foundational documents — including the Constitution and the Federalist Papers — and **15 required Supreme Court cases**.

AP World History: Modern

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think and reason **like historians** — analyzing sources, identifying patterns across time and place, and constructing evidence-based arguments about the forces that have shaped the modern world. It spans from **c. 1200 CE to the present** across nine chronological units, from The Global Tapestry through Globalization.

Six overarching themes run throughout: humans and the environment; cultural developments and interactions; governance; economic systems; social interactions and organization; and technology and innovation.

AP Business with Personal Finance

GRADES 10 & 11-12

Develops students' ability to think strategically, make sound financial decisions, and apply core business principles to real-world challenges. Students explore five key disciplines — **entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting, and management** — while mastering the National Standards for Personal Financial Education, covering budgeting, investing, credit, and long-term financial planning.

A defining feature is the **Business Canvas Project**. Students who earn a qualifying score on the AP Exam also earn an employer-endorsed credential recognized by the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** and hundreds of leading organizations.

AP Microeconomics

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to **think like economists** — analyzing how individuals, households, and firms make decisions under conditions of scarcity, and how those decisions interact to shape prices, production, and the allocation of resources. Students explore six interconnected units from **Basic Economic Concepts** through **Market Failure and the Role of Government**.

Students develop four core economic-reasoning skills, including modeling economic scenarios using accurately labeled graphs.

AP Macroeconomics

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think like economists — using principles, models, and data to analyze how **entire economies** function, why they fluctuate, and how policy decisions shape outcomes for millions of people. Students explore six interconnected units from **Basic Economic Concepts** through **Open Economy — International Trade and Finance**.

Students develop four core economic-reasoning skills, including modeling economic scenarios using graphs.

SCIENCES

AP Biology

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think and investigate like biologists — exploring the living world from the molecular scale of DNA and proteins to the sweeping scale of ecosystems and evolutionary change. Equivalent to a first-year college introductory biology course, students investigate eight interconnected units from **Chemistry of Life** through **Ecology**.

A significant portion of the course is devoted to **inquiry-based laboratory investigations**. Through six core science practices, students develop the habits of mind of working scientists.

AP Chemistry

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think and reason like chemists — moving well beyond memorization to explore the fundamental principles that explain why matter behaves the way it does at the atomic and molecular level. Students investigate nine interconnected units from **Atomic Structure** through **Electrochemistry**.

At least 25% of the course is devoted to hands-on laboratory investigations. Through six core science practices, students develop the intellectual tools of practicing chemists.

AP Psychology

GRADES 10 & 11-12

Introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of **human behavior and mental processes** — one of the most fascinating and personally relevant disciplines a high school student can encounter. Through five interconnected units, students explore the biological bases of behavior; cognition and memory; human development and learning; social psychology and personality; and mental and physical health.

Students develop four core science practices, and finish the course with a deeper, more nuanced understanding of themselves and the people around them.

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think like physicists — building physical intuition, constructing and testing models, and applying algebra-based reasoning to explain the behavior of the natural world. Students explore five big ideas spanning **Newtonian mechanics, energy, momentum, rotational motion, gravitation, and simple harmonic motion**.

A significant portion of the course is devoted to inquiry-based laboratory investigations, through which students develop the habits of mind of practicing physicists.

AP Physics C: Mechanics

GRADES 11-12

The most rigorous and mathematically demanding of the AP Physics courses — a **calculus-based**, college-level study of classical mechanics designed especially for students planning to pursue the physical sciences, engineering, or mathematics at university. Students explore seven interconnected units from **Kinematics** through **Gravitation**, applying the tools of differential and integral calculus throughout.

A defining feature is its inquiry-based laboratory component, through which students develop the analytical sophistication expected of university physics and engineering students.

ARTS

AP Drawing

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to communicate ideas, emotions, and observations through the sustained practice of drawing as an **expressive and investigative discipline**. Working across media such as painting, printmaking, sequential art, illustration, mixed media, and analog and digital drawing, students pursue a deeply personal inquiry-driven body of work.

Organized around two portfolio components: a **Sustained Investigation** and **Selected Works**.

AP 2-D Art and Design

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to communicate ideas, solve visual problems, and express meaning through the full range of two-dimensional media and processes — from graphic design and photography to printmaking, illustration, painting, animation, and fibers. Students investigate how the elements and principles of 2-D design can be applied with intention and originality.

Organized around two portfolio components: a **Sustained Investigation** and **Selected Works**.

AP Art History

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to analyze, interpret, and contextualize works of art from across the globe and throughout human history — from prehistoric times to the contemporary world. Spanning **ten content areas across all continents**, students examine how culture and cultural interaction, materials, processes, and techniques, theories and interpretations of art, and purpose and audience shape the creation and meaning of art objects.

Through visual and contextual analysis, comparative essay writing, attribution exercises, and structured academic discussion, students develop art-historical thinking skills.

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

AP French Language and Culture

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to communicate with **accuracy, fluency, and cultural understanding** across the full range of real-world contexts. Equivalent to an intermediate college-level French course, students explore six rich thematic units — Families and Communities, Personal and Public Identity, Beauty and Aesthetics, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, and Global Challenges — using authentic francophone sources.

Instruction is organized around three modes of communication: **interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational**.

AP Spanish Language and Culture

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to communicate with **accuracy, fluency, and cultural understanding** across the full range of real-world contexts. Equivalent to an intermediate college-level Spanish course, students explore six rich thematic units — Families and Communities, Personal and Public Identity, Beauty and Aesthetics, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, and Global Challenges — using authentic Hispanophone sources.

Instruction is organized around three modes of communication: **interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational**.

Section 08

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

As of May 2024, Pinewood is a proud member of the Global Online Academy (GOA), a not-for-profit consortium of **140+ international, independent, public, and charter schools** from around the world.

Started by a group of independent schools looking to bring the benefits of online learning to their teachers and students, GOA prepares learners for a global future by providing high-quality, networked learning experiences and interest-based courses and pathways.

GOA's courses are taught by experienced educators who are experts in their fields, ensuring that students receive personalized attention and support tailored to their individual learning needs. The curriculum emphasizes the development of **critical thinking, collaboration, and the practical application of knowledge** to real-world scenarios.

One of the key advantages of GOA is the **flexibility** it offers. Online learning allows students to manage their schedules and responsibilities more effectively, enabling them to pursue their academic interests at their own pace — particularly beneficial for students involved in extracurricular activities, sports, or other significant commitments. GOA's courses are designed to be engaging and interactive, with a focus on project-based learning and modern technology.

In addition to the academic benefits, GOA fosters a sense of **global citizenship**. By participating in a community of learners from different countries and cultures, students gain a broader understanding of the world and develop the ability to communicate and collaborate across cultural boundaries.

THE NINE LEARNING PATHWAYS

Central to the GOA experience are its nine Learning Pathways, which allow students to go deep in an area of genuine curiosity long before they set foot on a college campus:

- Art, Media & Design
- Business, Economics & Finance
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Global Studies
- Health Science
- Justice, Ethics & Human Rights

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning | Psychology & Neuroscience | World Language & Culture

By completing **three courses within a single pathway**, a student earns a **GOA Pathway Certification** — a credential that helps them declare a major, explore a career, and tell a more distinct story in the college-admissions process.

Pinewood students in **Grades 10 to 12** can attend **one course per semester**, during regular school hours, with each course granting **0.5 credits**. The full GOA course catalogue is available on the Global Online Academy student-program website.

Students and teachers at the Genius Bar

Section 09

GRADE 9 COURSES

English 9

CORE

Builds students' **analytical precision and personal voice** through close, critical engagement with literary and non-literary texts, focusing on how small details in a text unlock deeper understanding of the whole. Through drama, film, poetry, novels, and short stories, students encounter themes of identity, resilience, injustice, and responsibility — recognizing how language and narrative can persuade, provoke empathy, and inspire change.

Students progress from crafting well-structured paragraphs to producing extended analytical writing, while developing confidence in oral presentation and collaborative discussion.

Practical Ethics 9

CORE

Develops students' ability to think critically about **complex moral questions** and make reasoned ethical judgments across personal, societal, academic, and digital contexts. Through five interconnected units, students examine authentic dilemmas that shape their lives as students and members of contemporary society, exploring foundational ethical frameworks while analyzing real-world conflicts of interest.

Students develop ethical literacy through scripted skits, video creation, research proposals, and **Socratic seminars**, building sophisticated language, presentation, and digital-media skills.

Mathematics 9

ALGEBRA I AND FOUNDATIONS OF GEOMETRY

Develops students' capacity for **rigorous abstract reasoning** and mathematical analysis, marking a key step toward the formal, function-based thinking of higher-level mathematics. Students build foundational Algebra I skills through **linear equations and relations**, explore **quadratic and polynomial functions**, engage with **congruence and proof** in geometry, and develop formal probabilistic reasoning.

Instruction challenges students to move fluidly between representations, construct and communicate rigorous mathematical arguments, and apply their skills to unfamiliar, multi-step problems.

World History 9

CORE

Develops students' ability to think critically about the past by analyzing **causes, consequences, and patterns of change**, while building the skills necessary to construct and evaluate historical arguments. The course encourages students to understand history not as a fixed narrative, but as an **interpretive process** shaped by evidence, perspective, and inquiry.

Students explore key developments in modern history — the American and French Revolutions, industrialization in Britain and Japan, World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the rise of totalitarian regimes. Instruction is supported through the **PEEL** writing framework, **OPCVL** source analysis, debates, Socratic seminars, and oral testimonies.

Biology 9

CORE

Develops students' ability to think and reason **like scientists** by establishing a strong conceptual foundation in the life sciences. Students explore relationships within ecosystems, examine mechanisms of evolutionary change, investigate the structure and function of cells, and study how genetic information is stored, expressed, and inherited.

Students learn to design and evaluate scientific investigations, interpret data, and communicate findings with clarity. The course emphasizes analytical thinking and scientific writing in preparation for **AP Biology and IB Biology**.

Physical Education 9

CORE

Develops students' understanding of the value of physical activity through active participation in a range of individual and team sports. Students refine sport-specific skills, strengthen coordination and fitness, and develop a more confident and consistent approach to movement. Units include **Basketball, Soccer, International Sports, Volleyball, and Baseball**.

Through structured practice and increasingly purposeful game play, students apply the rules of each sport, refine individual techniques, and develop stronger understanding of tactics and strategies.

Entrepreneurship 9

ELECTIVE

Develops students' ability to evolve an **innovative idea into a validated business opportunity**, using a lean-startup approach to research, test, and refine their thinking. Students use the **lean business model canvas** to ideate and pressure-test opportunities, develop business-plan artifacts and executive summaries, and pitch their ideas to a panel of expert judges for the chance to win funding and publicity.

Units include Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset, Testing an Opportunity, Building a Competitive Edge, Making Profit, and an **Opportunity Pitch Competition**.

Visual Arts 9

ELECTIVE

Develops the capacity to **think, make, and communicate through art**. Designed for all experience levels, this course builds the conceptual and technical foundations for advanced study while fostering an experimental mindset. Students learn to take risks, sit with uncertainty, and revise without fear.

Through four core units — **The Power of Line, The Language of Color, Faces of Identity, and The Artist's Voice** — students work in drawing, painting, sculpture, and photography, transitioning from foundational skills to professional portfolio development.

Greek Language & Literature 9

CORE

Builds students' capacity to engage critically with a wide range of texts while refining their analytical, interpretive, and expressive skills. Through Euripides' *Helen*, students analyze dramatic structure and explore themes of identity and illusion; an excerpt from **Kazantzakis** strengthens interpretation of complex ideas and authorial voice; antiwar poetry develops sensitivity to figurative language and tone; and engagement with online texts on cyberbullying builds **critical digital literacy**.

Across all units, students strengthen written and oral communication by organizing ideas clearly and adapting language to different audiences and purposes.

Greek International 9

CEFR A1

Introduces learners to the foundations of Greek, focusing on understanding and using basic expressions in familiar everyday contexts. Students learn to introduce themselves and talk about their origin, family, and daily life, while developing core vocabulary and essential grammatical structures through guided and interactive practice.

As the course progresses, students expand their ability to describe routines, free time, and simple experiences, and begin to use language in practical contexts such as travel and everyday interactions.

French / Greek International / Spanish 9

CEFR A2-B1

World Languages 9 develop students' ability to communicate with **increasing independence** across a broad range of familiar and everyday contexts. Learners strengthen their ability to organize language more effectively in order to express ideas, share experiences, and communicate personal viewpoints with greater clarity and confidence.

Students expand their engagement with **authentic materials** to interpret meaning, make connections across contexts, and deepen their understanding of cultures and perspectives.

Section 10

GRADE 10 COURSES

10

English 10

CORE

Develops students' ability to use language as a vehicle for **critical thinking, interpretation, and self-expression** while strengthening analytical and personal approaches to literary and non-literary texts. Students examine how arguments are constructed across a range of contexts, synthesize multiple perspectives through nonfiction analysis, and explore complex human experiences through **Gothic fiction**, Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, and J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*.

Through carefully scaffolded instruction — from close reading and analytical paragraph development to synthesis essays, presentations, and structured discussions — students refine their use of academic language.

Practical Ethics 10

CORE

Builds on Grade 9 and extends students' ethical reasoning into **professional and institutional contexts**, deepening their ability to recognize and navigate complex moral questions within specialized domains. Through five interconnected units, students examine authentic dilemmas that define professional responsibility.

Students deepen analytical complexity and develop independent judgment through presentations with **oral defense**, structured academic controversies, and collaborative dialogue.

Mathematics 10

ALGEBRA II & GEOMETRY

Develops students' capacity for **advanced algebraic reasoning** and multi-representational thinking, equipping them with the analytical tools and mathematical maturity needed for higher-level study. Students refine algebraic manipulation, explore rational and radical functions, deepen their understanding of exponential and logarithmic functions, build connected trigonometric reasoning, and develop statistical literacy.

Instruction emphasizes rigorous justification, fluency in moving between algebraic, graphical, and numerical representations, and sustained engagement with complex, multi-step problems.

World History 10

CORE

Examines the defining events, movements, and transformations of the **twentieth and twenty-first centuries**. Students explore major themes of conflict, cooperation, and social change — World War II and the Holocaust, the Cold War, Civil Rights Movements, the European Union, and Globalization — while developing skills in analyzing historical patterns and evaluating multiple perspectives.

Instruction emphasizes source analysis, case studies, map work, and evidence-based argumentation, with perspective-taking activities, debates, and research projects that mirror how historians construct knowledge.

Chemistry 10

CORE

Develops students' ability to explain macroscopic observations through **particulate-level reasoning**, fostering deep conceptual understanding of matter and energy at the molecular scale. Students explore the structure and properties of matter, chemical bonding and interactions, chemical quantities, and chemical transformations.

Instruction emphasizes inquiry-based activities and laboratory investigations, scientific modeling, strategic use of mathematics, and rigorous analytical reading and writing — preparing students well for **AP Chemistry**.

Physics 10

CORE

Develops in students a deep appreciation for the **order hidden beneath the complexity** of the physical world — and the tools to uncover it. Students learn to build and interpret mathematical models that describe motion through kinematics, sharpen their sensitivity to cause-and-effect relationships through forces and dynamics, discover how conservation laws unify phenomena, and explore momentum and collisions and particle physics.

Through laboratory investigations, quantitative problem-solving, graphical analysis, and a carefully scaffolded progression from concrete observations to abstract principles, learners develop the ability to model complex physical systems with increasing precision.

Physical Education 10

CORE

Develops students' understanding of the value of physical activity through active participation in a range of individual and team sports. Building on Grade 9, students consolidate sport-specific skills, strengthen coordination, fitness, and overall performance, and approach movement with greater confidence and self-awareness. Units include **Basketball, Soccer, International Sports, Volleyball, and Baseball**.

Students take a more active role in **officiating and scorekeeping**, consolidating the rules of each sport and strengthening their use of tactics and strategies.

Dance 10

ELECTIVE

Helps students use movement to **express themselves, communicate ideas, and think creatively**. Designed to build strong technique and performance skills across different dance styles, this course sets the foundation for advanced study. Students learn to embrace physical challenges, choreograph their own work, and perform with confidence.

Through four units — **Movement and Technique, The Art of Choreography, Performance Skills, and Personal Expression** — students grow from learning foundational techniques to designing their own thoughtful dance pieces.

Greek Language & Literature 10

CORE

Strengthens students' ability to think critically, interpret complex texts, and communicate effectively. Through the thematic study of **human rights**, students develop skills in analyzing arguments and constructing ethical positions; Papadiamantis' *The Murderess* deepens literary analysis; Lorca's *Yerma* develops interpretation of dramatic technique and symbolism; non-literary texts build rhetorical awareness; and post-war Greek writing connects literature to historical context and **collective memory**.

Across all units, students refine their writing by producing structured, evidence-based responses while strengthening oral communication through discussion and presentation.

Greek International 10

CEFR A1

Introduces learners to the foundations of Greek, focusing on understanding and using basic expressions in familiar everyday contexts. Students learn to introduce themselves and talk about their origin, family, and daily life, while developing core vocabulary and essential grammatical structures through guided and interactive practice.

As the course progresses, students expand their ability to describe routines, free time, and simple experiences, and begin to use language in practical contexts such as travel and everyday interactions.

French / Greek International / Spanish 10

CEFR A2-B1

World Languages 10 develop students' ability to communicate with increasing independence and consistency across a broad range of familiar and real-life contexts. Learners refine their ability to organize language to express ideas clearly, share experiences in detail, and communicate personal viewpoints with greater coherence and confidence.

Students engage with **authentic materials** to interpret meaning, compare perspectives across cultures, and respond to information in more sustained ways.

Visual Arts 10

ELECTIVE

Emphasizes the **process of producing creative work** — not just the finished artwork, but the thinking, experimenting, revising, and reflecting that bring it into being. Designed to build the foundational skills and habits of mind that students will draw on in AP Art and Design and college-level studio courses, the course centers on structured opportunities to **generate, test, and refine ideas** through sustained practice, peer-to-peer dialogue, and purposeful revision.

Organized into three modules — **Sources, Structures, and Iteration** — each explored through five interconnected big ideas.

Senior Walk, Class of 2025

Section 11

GRADES 11–12 COURSES

11

ENGLISH

American Drama

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to use language and dramatic texts as a vehicle for critical thinking, interpretation, and self-expression. Students explore how playwrights construct meaning through **dialogue, stagecraft, and character**. Through five landmark American plays, students examine themes of illusion and reality, the American Dream, identity, power, class conflict, and moral responsibility.

Through carefully scaffolded instruction — from close reading of dramatic texts and analysis of symbolism, structure, and stagecraft to analytical writing, performance tasks, and structured discussions — students refine their use of academic language.

American Literature & Culture

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to critically analyze how literature and media reflect, challenge, and shape **American identity, values, and cultural narratives**. Through Gothic short stories by Edgar Allan Poe, advertisement analysis, August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, Hollywood film study, and American poetry, students engage with a range of literary and non-literary texts.

Through scaffolded instruction — from close reading and film analysis to structured essay writing, presentations, and collaborative discussions — students refine their ability to construct well-supported arguments.

World Literature & Texts

GRADES 11-12

Designed to strengthen students' ability to use language as a tool for **thinking, reflection, and expression** while fostering critical and personal approaches to interpreting literary, visual, and multimodal texts. Through a diverse range of works — short stories, poetry, a graphic novel, world street art, and global imagery — students explore narrative craft, human experience, voice, identity, and visual communication across cultures.

Through analytical writing, visual analysis, research, oral presentation, and collaborative discussion, students build academic writing and communication skills.

MATHEMATICS

Math Applications

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to engage with mathematics as a **practical, investigative, and analytical discipline**, building the quantitative reasoning, statistical literacy, and real-world problem-solving skills essential for success in a data-driven world. Students move from pattern recognition to generalization through **Sequences and Series**, apply trigonometric reasoning in a hands-on capstone project, engage with the full investigative cycle through a substantial **Statistics research project**, and develop probabilistic reasoning leading to **Hypothesis Testing**.

Instruction connects mathematical ideas to authentic contexts through project-based learning, real data, and investigative tasks.

Math Systems

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to engage with **abstract algebraic and structural thinking**, building the symbolic reasoning and systems-level problem-solving skills essential for advanced mathematics. The course progresses through six interconnected units, from Algebraic Methods and Linear Equations and Functions through **Matrix Algebra**, including Quadratic Equations, Polynomials and Complex Numbers, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Circles and Coordinate Geometry, and Vectors.

Instruction emphasizes how mathematical structures illuminate relationships, enable powerful generalizations, and provide flexible methods for problem-solving.

Business Math

GRADES 11-12

Develops **financial literacy and analytical decision-making** skills by applying mathematics to authentic business scenarios. Through financial-statement analysis, investment evaluation, cost-benefit reasoning, and business-performance metrics, students learn how professionals make sound financial decisions in real-world contexts.

Using real business data, simulations, and case studies across six units — from Business Foundations through Investment Decisions and Business Planning — students gain the mathematical foundation and professional judgment needed for entrepreneurship and college business programs.

SCIENCES

Deep Time: Earth, Life, & Evolution

GRADES 11-12

Invites students to step back from the details of any single discipline and ask the largest question of all: **how did we get here?** Spanning 13.8 billion years — from the Big Bang to the present — the course explores the universe's increasing complexity through the formation of stars and planets, the emergence of life, and the development of human societies.

Through engaging projects, case studies, and collaborative inquiry, students investigate significant **thresholds of complexity** and examine the physical, biological, and social forces that have shaped our world.

Integrated Science

GRADES 11-12

Invites students into one of humanity's oldest and most ambitious endeavors: understanding **why the universe behaves the way it does**. Through waves, students recognize that energy and information travel without the transfer of matter; through astrophysics, they develop a sense of cosmic scale; and through neuroscience, they confront the profound question of how physical structures give rise to thought, sensation, and behavior.

Through laboratory investigations, case studies, and simulations, learners move from the familiar to the extraordinary — connecting the oscillation of a spring to the behavior of light, and the firing of a single neuron to the complexity of human thought.

SOCIAL STUDIES & BUSINESS

Civics

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' understanding of **political systems, institutions, and civic processes** while fostering critical thinking, inquiry, and informed engagement with public life. Students explore how governments and institutions function at local, national, and international levels, examine the role of citizens in shaping societies through participation and activism, and analyze global issues and current affairs.

Through inquiry-based learning, case studies, debates, and collaborative discussion, learners strengthen their ability to evaluate sources, consider multiple perspectives, and construct clear evidence-based arguments.

Introduction to Finance

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' understanding of **core financial principles**, analytical tools, and decision-making frameworks while fostering quantitative reasoning and real-world application. Students explore how organizations raise and manage funds, how performance is measured through financial statements and ratios, and how individuals and firms assess risk, return, and value.

Through applied problem-solving, case studies, data-driven inquiry, and collaborative tasks, learners apply quantitative methods including **break-even analysis** and **time value of money**.

Political Science

GRADES 11-12

Develops students' ability to think critically about **power, governance, and the forces that shape political life** at the local, state, national, and international levels. Through the study of political institutions, ideologies, public policy, and international relations, students build a rigorous and nuanced understanding of how governments function and how citizens can meaningfully engage with the systems that govern their lives.

Through case studies, debates, current-affairs analysis, Socratic discussion, and evidence-based argumentation, students develop the ability to evaluate multiple perspectives and construct well-reasoned positions.

ARTS

Fashion Design

GRADES 11-12

Develops the capacity to **think, make, and communicate through design**. Designed for all experience levels, this course builds the conceptual and technical foundations for advanced study while fostering an experimental mindset. Students learn to take risks, sit with uncertainty, and revise without fear — transferable skills that drive innovation from entrepreneurship to the sciences.

Students bridge the gap between creative concept and physical garment, moving through the design process from developing moodboards and researching designers to mastering **sewing and pattern-making**, enriched by field trips into the real-world fashion industry.

GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Greek International 11/12

CEFR A1-C1

A **differentiated course** designed to support learners across all proficiency levels (A1–C1), enabling students to develop their language skills according to their individual stage. The course builds students' ability to communicate effectively in Greek through listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a range of familiar and increasingly complex contexts.

Beginning learners focus on basic vocabulary and essential structures; as proficiency develops, students expand their ability to describe experiences and engage in sustained interactions; and advanced learners refine their fluency, accuracy, and clarity.

Greek Language & Literature 11

GRADE 11

Further develops students' independence as **critical readers, thoughtful writers, and confident communicators**. Through Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, students analyze dramatic technique, power, and social constraint; Karkavitsas' *The Beggar* deepens skills in narrative perspective and social critique; persuasive techniques in advertising build rhetorical awareness; and practice with official letters and personal statements develops writing for specific purposes and audiences.

Across all components, students enhance their capacity to construct **coherent, well-supported arguments**, engage in meaningful academic discussion, and present ideas with confidence.

Greek Language & Literature 12

GRADE 12

Consolidates students' **analytical, interpretive, and communicative skills** in preparation for higher education and informed civic engagement. Through the study of different poetic movements, students interpret how historical and cultural contexts shape poetic expression; Theotokis' *Honor and Money* develops complex narrative analysis; scientific texts and political speeches sharpen **critical literacy** and detection of bias; and advanced essay writing develops students' ability to structure arguments and synthesize information.

By the end of the course, students demonstrate a high level of independence in reading and analysis and produce sophisticated, well-organized written work.

Pinewood at night