One Semester Spring 2027 College Pathways Course List and Descriptions

1. Computer Applications 2 — Grades 7-12

S1	12:15-2:10	T
S2	9:45-11:40	Th
S3	12:15-2:10	Th

Fees: None *One Semester Course (Spring Only)* *Prerequisite: Computers 1*

This course builds on the content of Computers I. It equips students with more advanced computer knowledge and experience. All work is conducted in the PC environment. Students spend most of the semester working on four unit projects, using nine different software programs for their final grade. The projects give students real-world exposure to the different ways technology is used, including audio editing, graphic layout, graphic editing, web design, writing, and stylizing. All work is submitted in the required PC format. Learning is accomplished through lectures, classroom discussions, hands-on exercises in the computer lab, and work at home. Students will need the following programs available from or installed on their home computers in order to work at home (students without access to these programs at home are expected to schedule time during study halls in the computer labs in order to complete their work):

- Microsoft Office 365 (the district provides student licenses for this online platform which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint); GIMP (free program for download and install; URL and instructions are provided)
- Audacity (free program for download and install; URL and instructions are provided)
- Web browser such as Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, or Safari;
- Online Computer Science Program Texts: TCA-developed course materials

2. Critical Thinking — Grades 9-12

S1	9:45-11:40	W

Fees: None *One semester course offered both fall and spring* *Prerequisite(s): none*

In Critical Thinking, students will learn that thinking can be fun, and they will learn to become thinkers along the way. Through the analysis and solving of problems, puzzles (mathematical and logical), mathematical "magic tricks," and playing games, students are taught how to use logic, deductive reasoning, induction, perspective, and pattern recognition. The goal is to produce students whose minds are more adaptive and flexible so that "thinking outside of the box" and being more thoughtfully creative is the result. Students will be able to solve multi-step, complex problems more readily. Many studies show that critical thinking is identified as one of the most important skills needed for life success! As one of the highlights of this class, students will create Escape Rooms for a CP Game Night to showcase thinking skills they have learned. Students begin to love to think critically and apply the skills they learn in many areas in life. Text: None.

3. Health and Wellness — Grades 9-12

S1	7:45-9:40	W
S2	12:15-2:10	W

Fees: $6 (covers cost of consumables & CPR/First Aid cert.) *One semester course offered both fall and spring*

Health and Wellness is a graduation requirement for TCA/College Pathways and Academy District 20. This course will include instruction on character development; physical activity; nutrition; social, mental, and emotional health; substance abuse; and CPR/First Aid training and injury prevention. Students will receive their CPR/First Aid certification. This course does not include human sexuality lessons in accordance with TCA's Core Values. Students are encouraged to take this course through College Pathways but have the option of receiving credit through an approved home school curriculum or an approved college course at PPSC. Text: *Health* by Pruitt, Allegrante, Prothrow-Stith, Pearson, cpr 2014

4. On Course — Grades 10-12*

S1	7:45-9:40	T
S3	7:45-9:40	W

Fees: $2 (to cover a portion of the cost of the materials used in the course)
One semester course offered fall and spring; ***MUST score "college ready" on English or Math Accuplacer Tests***

On Course covers a variety of topics which are essential to the success of our college-bound students. Using the many tools presented during this course, students will explore various career paths and elements of the college application process, develop or hone interpersonal and public speaking skills, learn and implement various life skills such as resumes, interviews, etc., and understand how to function as a young adult on a college campus. On Course is meant to help prepare students for the next level on their college/career paths. On Course is a required course for all College Pathways students wishing to participate in our concurrent enrollment program with Pikes Peak State College. Students typically enroll in On Course during the semester prior to or concurrently with their first semester of classes at PPSC.

**** On Course is taught with college-student-type expectations in a high school setting in order to prepare students for when they are taking college classes. There is a very strict late policy and high expectations. Self-advocacy, responsibility, and maturity are an absolute MUST. Students must achieve at least a C- in order to take a college class the next semester. A grade less than C- will require the course to be repeated. Students who are enrolled in On Course concurrent with their first college class and earn a grade lower than a C- in On Course may have their next semester college courses limited or not authorized.**;** Texts: *What Color is Your Parachute for Teens (workbook)*

5. Personal Finance — Grades 9-12

S1	7:45-9:40	W
S2	9:45-11:40	F

Fees: $35 (to cover the cost of student workbook) *One semester course offered fall and spring*

Personal Finance is a one-credit elective course. Students will study topics such as budgeting, saving, credit, debt, consumer awareness, career readiness, college planning, financial services, insurance, income, taxes, housing/real estate, investing, retirement, global economics, and stewardship/giving. Learning will take place through video lessons, taking notes, workbook assignments/projects, articles, class discussions/activities, and tests. Students will need to complete assignments before each in-person class so they are prepared for class discussions and activities.

Text: *Foundations in Personal Finance (High School version)* by Dave Ramsey (a video series with workbook)

6. PE Outdoor Education — Grades 9-12

S1	7:45-11:40	M
S2	7:45-11:40	M

Fees: $70-80 (covers a portion of cost of course activities); *One semester course offered fall and spring*

Outdoor Education fulfills one credit of the three PE credits required for graduation. Students will participate in hiking, rock climbing, ropes courses, zip-lining, harnessing and belaying, obstacles/challenges, and discussions. Life lessons, teambuilding, leadership, communication, character building, and safety will be interwoven into the course. This class involves activity that ranges from moderate-to-strenuous in difficulty, so please consider this before signing up for the class. It is highly recommended that students have previous experience in hiking and outdoor activities. Additionally, this class is held on Mondays (off campus) and at various scheduling times and locations (weather permitting), so students/families will need to be very flexible and patient. Students will either need to drive themselves to specified class locations or have a parent drive them to and from class locations. Students will also engage in physical activity outside of class and turn in logs which document their activities. ***Students may retake Outdoor Education in different semesters for up to two credits.**

7. PE Personal Fitness — Grades 9-12

S1	7:45-9:40	T
S2	9:45-11:40	T

Fees: None *One semester course offered fall and spring*

Personal Fitness fulfills one credit of the three PE credits required for graduation. Students will participate in a variety of warm-ups, exercises, fitness testing, locomotor skills, sports games, and discussions. Students will also learn character, fitness, and healthy lifestyle habits, as well as set goals and monitor their progress through power, speed, agility, strength, balance, and endurance. Students will engage in physical activity outside of class and turn in logs which document their activities. Certain fitness tests and sports games will vary from the fall semester to the spring semester. ***Students may retake Personal Fitness in different semesters for up to two credits.**

8. Team Sports — Grades 9-12

S1	9:45-11:40	F
S2	12:15-2:10	F

Fees: None *One semester course offered fall and spring*

Team Sports fulfills one credit of the three PE credits required for graduation. Students will participate in a variety of warm-ups, sports games, and discussions. Life lessons, leadership, teamwork, communication, and healthy lifestyle habits will also be interwoven into the course. Students will also engage in physical activity outside of class and turn in logs which document their activities. Certain sports games will vary from the Fall Semester to the Spring Semester. ***Students may retake PE Team Sports in different semesters for up to two credits.**

9. Junior High Physical Education — Grades 7-8

S1	7:45-9:40	Th
S2	7:45-9:40	Th

Fees: None *One semester course offered fall and spring*

Students will participate in a variety of warm-ups, exercises, fitness testing, locomotor skills, sports games, and discussions. Students will also learn character, fitness, and healthy lifestyle habits, as well as set goals and monitor their progress through power, speed, agility, strength, balance, and endurance. Students will engage in physical activity outside of class and turn in logs which document their activities. Certain fitness tests and sports games will vary from the Fall Semester to the Spring Semester. ***Students may take/retake Junior High PE during 7th and/or 8th grade.**

10. Reading For Speed And Comprehension (RFSAC) — Grades 9-12

S2	12:15-1:10	T/Th

Fees: None *One semester course offered fall and spring*

Reading For Speed and Comprehension (RFSAC) is a course developed at the Air Force Academy to greatly increase reading and comprehension rates. It is especially helpful for CP students as their reading demands greatly increase with early college enrollment. Specific goals are to improve students' reading rates, comprehension, recall, and vocabulary skills. The majority of students will triple their reading rates! Students will learn how to think about themselves as readers as they understand their strengths and weaknesses; they will then apply specific reading strategies to enhance their progress. Research studies indicate that most high school students are ill-prepared for the significant increase in reading tasks expected during the first year of college. College reading assignments are typically three to four times longer than high school reading assignments, and they contain a wide variety of technical and highly specialized vocabulary. The increased demands of college-level reading are compounded by the potentially hectic schedule and change in living environment; thus, reading requirements may appear overwhelming. Giving students the tools necessary to read faster and comprehend better enables them to confidently enter new learning environments.

Texts: *Speed Reading Naturally* and various fiction and non-fiction books.

11. Theatre — Grades 8-12

S1	12:15-2:10	F

Fees: $25 (to cover the cost of consumables and maintenance of special equipment)
One semester course offered fall and spring

Theatre serves to help students understand and apply the creative process to the fundamental skills of acting, playwriting, set design, costuming, and directing. Theatre at CP is scheduled as a two-hour class on Fridays in which most of the work is done in cooperation with classmates instead of at home on their own (memorization and character analysis is done individually). Each semester students will act, produce, and perform scenes studied during the course of the semester. Students will be responsible for their own costumes, makeup, and sets/props. Students will analyze plots, characters, and themes in the contexts of culture and history of traditional and modern forms of dramatic expression.
***Students may take Theatre for either one semester or two.**

12. World History 9 — Grade 9

S1	7:45-9:40	W
S2	9:45-11:40	W
S3	1:15-3:10	W
S4	9:45-11:40	F
S5	12:15-2:10	F

Fees: None *One Semester Course (Spring Only)*

In the World History 9 semester, we will focus on the Ancient World and the origins of civilization. We will begin by studying the earliest civilizations in human history. We will then explore Ancient Greece and Rome and their foundational role in western civilization. We will end the class by discussing Medieval Europe and some of the states that rose to power after the fall of the Roman Empire and which left a power vacuum in Western Europe. We will also look at emerging civilizations like Islam and the Mongols who played an important role shaping world history at this time.

During this class, we will discuss the rich heritage of some of the Classical worlds in Western Civilization and analyze the cultures and trends that gave rise to our modern world. It's an age of restless upheaval, fascinating figures, and new, important ideas. We'll see how historians make sense of the stories and adventures of those who lived in, and through, this past.

Texts: *World History and Geography: Early Ages*, McGraw Hill, 2018, and various primary sources.