

## AP and Honors Scheduling at PCHS

Pali believes that there is sufficient time for even high-achieving students to take Honors and college-level AP courses in grades 10-12. We also believe it is important for students to get the chance in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year to acclimate to the new environment and new expectations that high school presents before taking on these more rigorous courses. To that end we limit most Honors and AP offerings to grades 10-12.

**ENGLISH**- All 9<sup>th</sup> grade English courses are heterogeneously mixed, with no Honors or AP options. In 10<sup>th</sup> grade all students start in Honors English 10 and have the option to drop to non-Honors within the same class if the workload is too much for them. Students that perform well are recommended for AP English Language in grade 11, otherwise they are in Honors with the same system as in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In 12<sup>th</sup> grade there are several Honors-level options (California Lit, War Lit, Chicano Lit, African-American Lit, World Lit) as well as AP English Literature.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**- After taking Humanities and a Pod elective in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 10<sup>th</sup> grade students take Honors World History with the option to drop to non-Honors within the same class or they may opt to take AP World History or AP European History. In grade 11 students take Honors US History (with the option to drop down) or AP US History. In grade 12 students take Honors Government and Honors Economics (with the option to drop down) or AP Government. AP Human Geography is also offered as an elective.

**SCIENCE**- Most students take Environmental Engineering in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for their physical science lab course, then Biology or Honors Biology in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Those at the Algebra 2 / Honors Algebra 2 level in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade may choose to take Chemistry / Honors Chemistry instead and then proceed to Biology or Honors Biology in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In grades 11 and 12 students may request courses in Honors Environmental Science, Honors Human Anatomy, Honors Physiology, Honors Marine Biology, Honors Physics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics or AP Environmental Science.

**MATH**- Math levels are determined by performance on the Math Placement test as well as prior math courses taken by the student. For 9<sup>th</sup> grade, math placement is determined by the PCHS Math Placement Criteria that has been approved by our Board of Trustees as compliant with the Math Placement Act of 2015 (SB 359). There is no Honors-level Algebra 1 but we do offer Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 and Honors Math Analysis, as well as AP Statistics and AP Calculus (both AB and BC).

**ELECTIVES**- Honors and AP Elective offerings are available based on student ability and interest but tend to be for students in grades 10-12. These include Honors and AP Spanish and French, AP Music Theory, AP Studio Art (2D, 3D, Drawing) and AP Computer Science (both A and Principles).

As a school, we offer over 20 AP courses but students must take care not to overload themselves. Both Honors and AP courses require extra time commitment from students that have many other demands on their time (clubs, community service, sports, music, drama, eating, sleeping...) which are also important. Parents should monitor their student for early signs of anxiety and exhaustion as many high-achieving students do not typically ask for help. We advise parents to try to help their student reach the appropriate balance of courses with AP in their areas of interest and Honors or College Prep or a less demanding elective for others. This way students can continue to excel with less risk of burnout.

As interests change, students should update their counselor so that course selections can change as well. Students should communicate their new course preferences to their counselor who will then try to get the student the courses they need to reach their academic goals. Not all Honors courses are UC-approved for extra GPA weighting. See counselor for details.