



## Bible and Theology

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Two semesters (1 credit) of Bible for each year a student is attending PCA is required for graduation.

### Logic and Worldviews

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

During the fall semester of this Ninth Grade Bible course, the students use the principles of logic to distinguish true statements from false statements. The students learn the rules of logic and apply them in evaluating beliefs. This prepares the student to evaluate the various worldviews that are studied the following semester. The spring semester, the students trace the major worldviews of theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, pantheism and postmodernism from a historical dynamic. The students learn the basic questions that define a worldview, and evaluate the worldviews according to these important questions. The standard of God's truth is emphasized.

## English

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Eight semesters (4 credits) of English required for graduation. *Students are responsible for purchasing the novels read in their English courses.*

### English I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

This Ninth Grade course is designed to lay the foundation for all other literature courses. Students read from different literary genres—primarily the short story, novel, poem and drama—covering a variety of time periods from classical to contemporary. Major works include novels such as *The Odyssey*, *Animal Farm*, *Lord of the Flies*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Essential Iliad* and *Macbeth*. Students also learn foundational skills in writing (including MLA format), grammar, and vocabulary.

### Pre-AP English I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Student must meet 3 of 4 requirements*

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in English 8*
- *Riverside CogAT: Total Score - 115 or above*
- *Iowa Test of Basic Skills: Reading 80 percent or higher*
- *Department recommendation*

This Ninth Grade course is designed to lay the foundation for all other literature courses. Students read from different literary genres—primarily the short story, novel, poem and drama—covering a variety of time periods from classical to contemporary. Major works include novels, plays and epics such as *The Essential Iliad*, *The Essential Odyssey*, *Animal Farm*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Macbeth*. Students also learn foundational skills in writing (including MLA format), art of discussion (modified version of the Harkness method), grammar and vocabulary. Students in Pre AP are taught to analyze and write about literary elements and techniques used by authors, read more

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works than on-level English, and are prepared for upper level Pre-AP and AP courses by learning the required terminology.

## History

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Eight semesters (4 credits) of History required for graduation.

### World History I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

The World History I course examines from a Christian perspective western man's development and future direction. Emphasis is placed on the key moments in history from Creation to 1400 AD that have helped shape our present culture and the history of ideas that brought these moments to pass.

### Pre-AP World History I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Student must meet 3 of 4 requirements*

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History*
- *Riverside CogAT: Total Score - 115 or above*
- *Iowa Test of Basic Skills: Reading 80 percent or higher*
- *Department/teacher recommendation*

The Pre-AP World History I course examines man's development from Creation through the Renaissance. A Christian perspective is taken as students analyze key historical events that helped shape the unique aspects of Western Civilization. Emphasis is given to the study of the concepts of Western Civilization through critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources.

## Mathematics

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Eight semesters (4 credits) of Math required for graduation. Students must be enrolled in a math class each year at PCA. *All new PCA students are required to purchase the TI84 calculator.*

### Algebra I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Pre-Algebra*

The Algebra I course is designed to provide the foundation for more advanced courses in mathematics and to develop problem-solving skills. Emphasis is placed on solving equations, relations, functions, slopes, inequalities, polynomials, factoring, roots, rational expressions and quadratics.

### Pre-AP Algebra I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Pre-Algebra, Student must meet 3 of 4 requirements*

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in Pre-Algebra*
- *Riverside CogAT: Total Score - 115 or above*
- *Iowa Test of Basic Skills: Total Math 80 percent or higher*
- *Department/teacher recommendation*

Pre-AP Algebra I is a course within the Pre-AP program that integrates AP Calculus concepts at the Algebra I level. This course moves at a faster pace and has a higher level of difficulty. The class covers quadratics and rational expressions in much greater depth. The students work a greater variety of word problems than in Algebra I.

### **Geometry**

Ninth and Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Algebra I*

The Geometry course is taken between Algebra I and Algebra II. Skills mastered in earlier courses are applied to the study of points, lines and planes. Students use logic and algebraic skills to solve problems involving geometric concepts. A formal logic of definitions, postulates and theorems is used in the construction of proofs. The course also covers polygons, parallels, similarity, proportions, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, constructions, areas, surface area, volumes, fractals and tessellations.

### **Pre-AP Geometry**

Ninth and Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: current 8<sup>th</sup> graders

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in regular Algebra I or 85 percent or higher in Pre-AP Algebra I*
- *Riverside CogAT: Total Score - 115 or above*
- *Iowa Test of Basic Skills: Total Math 80 percent or higher*
- *Department/teacher recommendation*

Prerequisite: current 9<sup>th</sup> graders

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in Algebra I or 85 percent or higher in Pre-AP Algebra I*
- *Residual PLAN/ACT or PSAT Math 80 percent or higher*
- *Department/teacher recommendation*

Pre-AP Geometry is a course within the Pre-AP program that integrates AP Calculus concepts at the Geometry level. This course works at a faster pace and integrates higher-level algebra skills. The students also have a much deeper exposure to formal proofs and study right triangle trigonometry and the law of sine and cosine.

## **Science**

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Eight semesters (4 credits) of Science required for graduation.

### **Biology**

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

In Biology, students conduct laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations and make informed decisions using critical-thinking and scientific problem solving. Students study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells, taxonomy, metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms, living systems, homeostasis, ecosystems and plants and their environment. Hands-on labs include dissections of animal hearts, brains and fetal pigs to enhance the study of the various body systems.

### **Pre-AP Biology**

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course    Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Student must meet 3 of 4 requirements:*

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class*
- *Riverside CogAT: Total Score - 115 or above*
- *Iowa Test of Basic Skills: Reading 80 percent or higher*
- *Department/teacher recommendation*

The Pre-AP Biology course is an in-depth survey course that includes the chemistry of life, the structure of plant and animal cells, life-sustaining energy processes, exploration of human anatomy and physiology, the basis of inheritance in all living things and ecology. Critical thinking skills and application of concepts are emphasized. Students learn a variety of laboratory techniques and formal lab reports are introduced.

## World Languages

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Four semesters (2 credits) of the same language required for graduation, six semesters (3 credits) of the same language required for a Distinguished Achievement Diploma.

### Spanish I

Ninth – Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course    Credit: 1.0

The Spanish I course develops the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs. Vocabulary is also emphasized to give the student a basis for communicating. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history and geography of the Spanish-speaking world.

## UPPER SCHOOL ELECTIVES

### Communication Arts

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One semester (0.5 credit) of ***Speech and Communications*** or ***Debate and Communications*** required for graduation.

### Yearbook

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course    Credit: 1.0

***Honors credit is earned for Editor, Managing Editor, Design Editor, and Photo Editor***

0.5 Credit Technology and 0.5 Credit Fine Arts

Prerequisite: *Desktop Publishing, Instructor Approval*

Yearbook is an Upper School course that oversees publication of the school yearbook, *The Lion's Lair*. Students are taught basic journalism skills and then research, gather facts and photograph PCA events to chronicle the year for the student body. They use the desktop publishing software Adobe InDesign, the most widely used software for graphic design and publishing, to design and publish the book.

### Fine Arts

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Two semesters (1 credit) of Fine Arts electives required for graduation.

### **Art I: Studio Art**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5

Art I: Studio Art is an introductory level, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design course with an introduction into three-dimensional design for the Upper School student. The curriculum focus is on creativity with perspective and shallow space design. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements/ principles of design and critiquing major projects. The first quarter is a study in black, white and gray scale. Color theory is studied as well. Drawing, printmaking and painting using a variety of media is explored. Homework is required and a semester exam is given at the end of each semester. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum.

### **Art II**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5

The curriculum focus is on creativity with perspective and shallow space design. Emphasis is placed on further developing compositions using the elements/ principles of design and critiquing major projects. Drawing, printmaking and painting using a variety of media is explored. Homework is required and a semester exam is given at the end of each semester. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum.

### **Beginning Band**

Ninth – Eleventh Grade Elective

Two Semesters Course      Credit: 1.0

The course is an accelerated beginning band class that is designed for high school students who have a genuine interest in being in the PCA Band next year. Students may be expected to rent or purchase their own instruments and accessories. Instrumentation in this group is driven by the needs of the PCA Band. Students cover two band method books over the course of a school year. It is imperative that students spend at least 2.5 hours a week on individual practice. Students who successfully pass this class are placed in the Advanced Band the following school year.

### **Advanced Band**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

Each year a student is enrolled in band they may either receive 1.0 credit for fine arts or split the credit with 0.5 being awarded to PE and 0.5 to fine arts.

Prerequisites: *At least two years of prior instrumental training and permission from the Director.*

The Advanced Band class is offered to PCA students beginning in the Ninth Grade. The Advanced Band class concentrates on performance. The Advanced Band performance activities are divided into four sections during the school year. These sections are as follows: Early fall – Marching Band for football games and competitions; Late fall – Christmas Concert and All-State preparation; winter – Contest/Festival preparation; spring – Contest Festival/Concert performances. Advanced Band members are required to possess a strong desire to contribute to the excellence of our Advanced Band program. The Advanced Band student must attend all performances and trips during the year. A detailed schedule of performance activities is provided during the first week of the school year. In addition to group performances, students in the Advanced Band are given the opportunity to audition for the private school All-State band other solo and ensemble festival events during the year. Students in the Advanced Band as well as must be available to participate in the TPSMEA concert and sight-reading events (and/or other band festivals as decided upon by the Director) during the spring semester.

### **Choir**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade  
Two Semester Course      Credit: 1.0

The Choir course is designed to emphasize vocal performance at a developmentally appropriate level in a choral setting. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills. Students are expected to match pitch in order to fully participate in all class activities. Students also learn advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, and written assignments and tests. All Choir students are involved in at least four major performances throughout the year, including participation in choral music festivals at the regional and state levels. In addition to group performances, students are given the opportunity to audition for the private school All-State Choir plus several other solo and ensemble festival events during the year.

### **Theatre Arts I**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade  
One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5

The Theatre I course is an introductory course for high school students. It covers the basic foundations of theatre: improvisation, comedy, tragedy, theatre history, musical theatre, classical theatre, monologues and scene work. Students also gain experience in writing scripts and basic directing.

## **Physical Education**

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Two semesters (1.0 credit) of PE and one semester (0.5 credit) of Health required for graduation– participation in a season of a sport counts toward credit.

### **Athletics**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade  
Pass/Fail  
One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5

Athletic participation fulfills PE requirement based upon semester credit. A .5 credit is awarded for every season of the sport a student participates. If the sport spans multiple seasons (ie: spirit cheer, trainers, competitive cheer) 1 credit is awarded for participation per year.

## **Technology**

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Two semesters (1.0 credit) of technology electives required for graduation.

### **Desktop Publishing**

Ninth - Twelfth Grade  
One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5

The Desktop Publishing course equips students with key desktop publishing concepts using Adobe InDesign CS6. Topics include page layout, selecting typefaces, managing text frames, placing images, aligning objects, working with layers, and defining styles. This class is designed to prepare students interested in taking upper school newspaper or yearbook courses. Adobe InDesign is also widely used in college classes and in the corporate world for marketing, graphic design, corporate communication, public relations, and art. Students with a desire to major in a field of study in which InDesign is required have a distinct advantage.

### **Computer Science I**

Ninth - Twelfth Grade  
One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5

This course is intended as an introduction to computer science and computer programming. Using object-oriented programming, this class focuses on building computer programs to solve problems through the use of various important aspects of computer science, including the development and analysis of algorithms, the development and use of fundamental data structures, the study of standard algorithms and typical applications, and the use of logic and formal methods. Students write, run, and debug computer programs and recognize the social and ethical implications of computer use.

## Non-Departmental Electives

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### **Honors Future Problem Solving**

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course      Credit: 0.5 Honors credit

Prerequisite: *Student must meet 2 of 4 requirements*

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in English courses*
- *Riverside CogAT: Total Score - 115 or above*
- *Iowa Test of Basic Skills: Reading 80 percent or higher for 9<sup>th</sup> graders or Residual PLAN/ACT Reading, English or PSAT Reading, Writing 80 percent or higher for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders*
- *Teacher recommendation*

FPS is an international competitive program where gifted and high-achieving students compete in teams of three or four after researching topics that have implications for the future. Students utilize reading strategies while reviewing non-fiction material necessary for researching the FPS topics for each year. The topics are always interdisciplinary, but reading and language arts skills dominate the content of the program. The program develops creative thinking, research skills, critical and analytical thinking skills, communication skills, and problem solving strategies as well as increases awareness of and interest in the future. Teams qualifying for the state bowl travel to Austin the last full weekend in April. Students are graded on their individual performance not what they do collectively as a team. Students also participate in FPS scenario writing competition, which is a narrative story written in the future on one of the current topics provided by the international office. Winners in this competition advance to the state bowl. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to use their creative writing talents. Honors credit is given for this course. *Instructor approval required.*

### **Learning Lab**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

Non-graded Course

This academic support program requires separate enrollment and can be selected as an elective to receive small group assistance or can include receiving services such as case management and progress monitoring, test taking in the lab and classroom accommodations. When students attend Learning Lab as an elective, during monitored sessions they may complete assignments and may have extended time for tests. They may also use this time to consult with instructors (if available) as to progress on upcoming assignments, tests or projects as well as grade status. Student must meet PCA's Learning Lab requirements.

### **Lion's Scholar Program**

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

One Semester: One day a week during Activity Period      Honors Credit: 0.25

Prerequisites: *Teacher Approval based on academic achievement, application to the course*

The Lion's Scholar Program is designed to provide an intensive training in the Christian worldview as it connects with the various disciplines such as philosophy, literature, science, mathematics, politics, law, art, theater, and the humanities. This program can essentially be summed up by the phrase "scholastic discipleship". Disciplining students

in the areas of academics in order to better influence those disciplines from a Christian perspective is the heart of the program. The Upper School LSP program focuses on great books and significant literature. The LSP classes do not have written exams or textbooks written by people talking about what other people said. In the Lions Scholar Program, the students dig directly into the classic works of Western literature and Christianity. They learn by reading thoroughly and deeply in preparation for class and through discussion over the texts with other outstanding students.

### **Study Hall**

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Non-graded Course

One Semester Course      No Credit

Students may have one study hall per semester. Juniors are allowed two, one per day. Students are required to be in attendance in their assigned room during study hall. This time should be used to study, prepare for class and do homework. No credit is given.