

2026-2027

UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

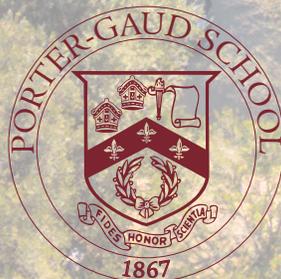


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Upper School Leadership

Mrs. Silvia Davis
Head of Upper School
sdavis@portergaud.edu

Mr. Brent Hilpert
Assistant Head of Upper School/Dean of Students
bhilpert@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Audrey Holsten
Assistant Head of School for Academics
aholsten@portergaud.edu

Fr. Palmer Kennedy
Head Chaplain
pkennedy@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Liz Boeschen
Upper School Counselor/Dean of Wellness
lboeschen@portergaud.edu

Mr. Andy Christopherson
Upper School Counselor
achristopherson@portergaud.edu

Ms. Jennie Harris
Director of College Counseling
jharris@portergaud.edu

Ms. Alex LeBlanc
Associate Director of College Counseling
aleblanc@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Kate Brown
Assistant Director of College Counseling
kbrown@portergaud.edu

Ms. Emily Wingfield
Administrative Assistant to College Counseling/Testing Coordinator
spage@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Shannon Page
Registrar
spage@portergaud.edu

Mr. David Myer
Upper School Scheduler
dmyer@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Bess Bluestein
Upper School Learning Specialist
bbluestein@portergaud.edu

Mr. Al Wilson
Athletic Director
awilson@portergaud.edu

Ms. Casey Crenny
Associate Athletic Director
ccrenny@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Hope Walters
Director of Athletic Operations
hwalters@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Karie Ann Crowther
Upper School Administrative Assistant
kcrowther@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Dana Cadden
Upper School Receptionist
dcadden@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Barbara Harpe
Dean of the Class of 2030
bharpe@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Jana Bruton
Dean of the Class of 2029
jbruton@portergaud.edu

Dr. Tom Westerman
Dean of the Class of 2028
twesterman@portergaud.edu

Mrs. Sarah Romano
Dean of the Class of 2027
sromano@portergaud.edu



Academic Program

The Upper School academic program at Porter-Gaud School is designed to provide a rigorous, well-rounded education that prepares students for college and beyond. With a strong foundation in core academic subjects, the program also emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and leadership. The curriculum is coordinated and purposeful, ensuring that students build a comprehensive knowledge base while also engaging in meaningful exploration of the world around them.

Students have opportunities to participate in a variety of advanced courses, including numerous Advanced Placement (AP) offerings, as well as specialized programs in areas like computer science, World Language, and the arts. The program is complemented by a robust set of co-curricular activities, including student competitions, field experiences, and interdisciplinary projects, which enrich the academic experience and foster a deeper understanding of subject matter. Faculty members are dedicated to guiding students through their academic journey, helping them to become thoughtful, informed, and active participants in their communities and the broader world.

Course Load

All Upper School students are required to enroll in six courses for both semesters of the school year every year. Students may select Study Hall as one of seven courses. A student who fails to meet course credit requirements risks not meeting the requirements for graduation. All students are expected to remain enrolled in their courses for the duration of the school year. Seniors who attempt to drop a course must present their case to the Academic Registrar Committee, which will review and approve or deny the request to drop. Seniors who drop a course must inform the colleges to which they have applied of their decision.

Graduation Requirements

Class of 2028 and Class of 2027

Department	Credits	Course Specifics
English	4	Including surveys of British and American literature
World Language	3	Three consecutive years of the same language, at a minimum through Level III
History	3.5	Including World History and US History plus ½ credit course in US Government & Civics
Mathematics	4	One year each of Algebra I, Geometry I, Algebra II, and one year beyond
Science	3	One year each of Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Fine Arts	1	Public Speaking + ½ additional credit
Physical Education	1	P.E. / Health + ½ additional credit; Participation on approved J.V. or Varsity team will earn a one-time ½ credit
Computer Science & Computational Thinking	0.5	Credit in Computer Science I
Religion & Philosophy	0.5	Credit in approved Religion & Philosophy course
Total Departmental Graduation Credits	20.5	
Additional required credits	3.5	Additional credits can be from any department
Total Credits Required	24.0	

Class of 2029 and Class of 2030

Department	Credits	Course Specifics
English	4	Including surveys of British and American literature
World Language	3	Three consecutive years of the same language, at a minimum through Level III
History	3	Including one (fall) semester of 9th grade history, Modern World History/AP World, US History/AP US History and ½ credit course in US Government & Civics
Mathematics	4	One year each of Algebra I, Geometry I, Algebra II, and one year beyond
Science	3	One year each of Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Fine Arts	1	Credits must be fulfilled through Fine Arts courses
Physical Education	1	P.E. / Health + ½ additional credit; Participation on approved J.V. or Varsity team will earn a one-time ½ credit
Computer Science & Computational Thinking	0.5	Credit in Computer Science I
Religion & Philosophy	0.5	Credit in approved Religion & Philosophy course
Total Departmental Graduation Credits	20	
Additional required credits	4	Additional credits can be from any department
Total Credits Required	24.0	

Honors and Advanced Placement Course Enrollment Guidelines

Porter-Gaud offers twenty-three Advanced Placement (AP) courses, beginning in 10th grade. There are no AP courses offered in 9th grade. Advanced Placement courses are part of the curriculum of the College Entrance Examination Board and are designed to allow students to engage in college-level coursework while in high school. Given the academic rigor and the importance of students taking on appropriate academic challenges, the following guidelines have been established for Honors and AP course enrollment.

Course Recommendation Process

Enrollment in an Honors or Advanced Placement course is based on a careful departmental evaluation of the individual student. Each department has specific criteria for course recommendations, which are based on historical indicators of student success in both the course and on the AP exam. Semester One grades are used for initial course placement. These criteria may include, but are not limited to:

- Teacher recommendations
- Performance in similar courses in previous years
- Specific course prerequisites
- Standardized test scores
- Demonstrated student interest and commitment

Criteria for admission into Honors/AP courses are listed by department before course descriptions. Some placements may require additional preparation/summer work by students to ensure that they are prepared to succeed in the course they seek to take. Should a student's performance in a course change significantly in the second semester, each department reserves the right to amend their initial recommendation in order to best serve the students of Porter-Gaud.

Appeal Process for Honors and AP Courses

Students who are not initially recommended for an Honors or AP course did not meet all of the department's criteria for admission. However, a formal appeal process is available for students who wish to pursue enrollment. A successful appeal is one in which the student provides additional information that was not previously available or demonstrates significant improvement in one or more of the required criteria. Students appealing a recommendation should:

1. Complete the Appeals Form provided by the Department Chairs.
2. Submit the form by the specified deadline (late submissions will not be considered).
3. Demonstrate meaningful academic improvement or provide new information that strengthens their case for enrollment.

Once a student has submitted the request, the following will occur:

1. The appeal will be reviewed by the Department Members including the Department Chair.
2. Students may be asked to include additional information, such as a writing sample or placement exam.
3. Students will be notified by the Department Chair of the Department's decision via Official Notes in Blackbaud.
4. Final decisions could be made anytime up to the end of the school year, if the Department wishes to review final grades and the final exam.

Considerations for AP Enrollment

Porter-Gaud encourages students to take an appropriate and balanced course load and to resist academic pressure when choosing AP courses. AP courses require a greater time commitment than non-AP courses, and students should carefully consider their academic, athletic, and personal obligations before enrolling.

Enrollment limits in Honors and AP courses align with college and university expectations, ensuring that all students maintain a well-rounded, challenging, and balanced academic schedule.

AP Exam Policies and Requirements

- AP Exam Requirement: Students enrolled in an AP course must take the AP exam in the spring, unless a serious extenuating circumstance exists. Testing fees may apply to exam participants.
- Final Exam Exemption: Students enrolled in an AP course for the entire year will be exempt from the Porter-Gaud final exam if they have a cumulative AP class average of 80 or higher on the day of the AP exam. Additionally, students may have no more than 8 unexcused absences. Otherwise, students must take the Porter-Gaud final exam for that subject.
- Attendance after AP Exams: Juniors and sophomores enrolled in AP classes must continue attending class after the AP exam until the final day of academic classes. Faculty may use this time for special projects, research, or field trips.
- Absences for AP Exams: Students are excused from all other classes and school obligations on the day of their AP exam. However, students are encouraged to reflect on their academic standing in other courses and consider attending classes when possible. Students are responsible for completing missed coursework following the Makeup Work Policy.

Adding/Dropping or Changing Courses

Course Changes

Course changes cannot be guaranteed and are dictated by the existing schedule. Course changes, including level changes, requested after June 15 of the scheduling year are contingent upon the space available in existing sections. Space may be unavailable in the newly requested course or in other course(s) in the student's schedule that would make the requested change impossible to implement. Course changes, if available, may also necessitate a change in instructor. Class sections will not be extended beyond the predetermined capacity to accommodate a schedule change.

Drop/Add

All changes require permission from the Department Chair and the Head of Upper School. To initiate an add/drop, students should see the Upper School Registrar. Students must attend all scheduled classes until change requests are completed.

In special, extenuating circumstances involving documented physical or emotional health issues, a student may be permitted to drop a class after the designated deadline; however, the student must fulfill all Porter-Gaud departmental and credit requirements needed for graduation. Any request to drop a course for health-related issues will be reviewed by the Assistant Head for Academics and the Head of Upper School on a case-by-case basis and will require medical documentation.

Seniors

All students are expected to remain enrolled in their courses for the duration of the school year. Any Senior who attempts to drop a course must present their case to the Academic Registrar Committee, which will review and approve or deny the request.

to drop. After September 1, 2026, any Senior who drops a year-long course or changes a course level after the Drop/Add Period will be required to notify all colleges to which they have applied. The College Counseling Office will retain a copy of the notification in the student's file.

Course and Level Changes

Course selections and placements are made with great care, but it occasionally happens that a student is misplaced in a course level. Students wishing to change levels must complete a Course Change Form (available from the Upper School Registrar) and submit it to the Head of Upper School for approval. Students must petition for a level change by the end of Quarter 1.

If a student chooses to change a course within the same department or a level within a course by the end of Quarter 1, the grades from the previous course will not be transferred to the new course; only grades earned in the new course will be used in the semester calculation. As such, moving to a new course prior to the end of Quarter 1 will result in the student's cumulative grade being composed of fewer assessments than students who are enrolled in the course for its entirety.

The next opportunity to pursue a course change within the same department or level within a course will be at the completion of Semester 1.

For Level Changes: The new course will show on the transcript. The student's year-end grade will be the average of the Semester 1 grade in the initial course and the Semester 2 grade in the new course. The credit and grade will appear in association with the Semester 2 course.

For Course Changes: Both the Semester 1 course and the Semester 2 course will show on the transcript. The student's year-end grade will be the average of the Semester 1 grade in the initial course and the Semester 2 grade in the new course. The credit and grade will appear in association with the Semester 2 course. The initial course will show on the transcript as WP (Withdrawn Passing) or WF (Withdrawn Failing) with a 0.00 credit.

Course Withdrawals

Permission to withdraw may be granted by the Head of Upper School on a case-by-case basis; however, the student must fulfill all Porter-Gaud department and credit requirements needed for graduation. Withdrawals are recorded on a student's transcript appearing as WP (Withdrawn Passing) or WF (Withdrawn Failing) depending on the student's grade at the time of withdrawal.

For additional information regarding Upper School Academic Policies, please see the [2025-2026 Porter-Gaud Handbook](#) (2026-2027 Handbook will be posted in the summer of 2026).

New Courses

UPPER SCHOOL | 2026-2027



New courses added to the Upper School Course Guide are summarized here. Refer to each department's section for detailed descriptions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Honors Computer Science: 3-D Modeling & Animation

Semester Course

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th

Course Level: Honors

Prerequisite: Computer Science I

Note: This course fulfills a 0.5 Fine Arts requirement

HISTORY

AP Psychology

Yearlong Course

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th

Course Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History

Corequisite: US History/AP US History

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Honors Christianity in Art

Semester Course

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th

Prerequisite: Modern World History

Corequisite: US History/AP US History

Note: This course fulfills a 0.5 Religion & Philosophy requirement

FINE ARTS

Intro to Theater

Semester Course

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Course Level: On-Level

Prerequisite: None

Playwriting

Semester Course

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Course Level: On-Level

Prerequisite: None

Vocal Alchemy

Semester Course

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th

Course Level: On-Level

Prerequisite: None

Note: All of the above courses fulfill a 0.5 Fine Arts requirement

Malone School Online Network

Porter-Gaud belongs to the Malone School Online Network (MSON) which provides highly motivated 11th and 12th-grade students with a variety of academically challenging courses that supplement our school's existing curriculum. These seminars bring together independent school students and teachers from across the country. Students may take part in courses that PG does not offer. Although the Malone Schools Online Network offers many courses, we have listed only those that occur outside of our school day. You can find further information about the specific courses listed below within the [2026-2027 MSON Course Guide](#).

Students enrolled and completing any of the MSON courses on the approved list will receive honors credit, which does factor into the SCUGP (South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy) GPA. Additionally, these courses will be listed on semester and final report cards and on transcripts. An MSON course can count as a sixth course.

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Environmental Bioethics

Spring Semester Course

Monday/Wednesday, 3:35-4:35 pm

Making Ethical Medical Choices in a Diverse World

Fall Semester Course

Monday/Wednesday, 3:35-4:35 pm

Ethics, Politics, & Persuasion

Fall Semester Course

Tuesday/Thursday, 3:35-4:35 pm

WORLD LANGUAGES

American Sign Language (ASL) Level 2

Yearlong Course

Monday/Wednesday, 3:35-4:35 pm

Ancient Greek I

Yearlong Course

Monday/Thursday, 4:40-5:40 pm

Application and approval process is provided through Dr. Aaron Lehman - MSON Liaison, alehman@portergaud.edu.

Semester Away Programs

Students interested in participating in a semester away program during their Junior year must speak with Brent Hilpert, Assistant Head of Upper School, prior to the beginning of the application process. This is typically the Fall or Winter of the school year before potential departure. Advance planning is incredibly important: discussing a student's academic progression to assure on-time graduation, ensuring the program the student is interested in is the best match, and planning for post-program return to school life.

- Students applying to a semester away program for their Junior year, must meet with the Assistant Head of Upper School to discuss their application no later than **the end of the first semester of their Sophomore Year**. Many programs have deadlines from October through February the school year prior to travel, and programs with financial aid potentially have earlier application deadlines for those students who wish to be considered for aid.
- After this meeting, students will be provided with a [Porter-Gaud Semester Away Application](#), which must be completed and submitted to the Assistant Head of Upper School by **the end of January of their Sophomore Year**.
- Once applications have been submitted for semester away programs, the curriculum of the semester away program will be evaluated by the Head of Upper School, Assistant Head of Upper School, Assistant Head of School for Academics, Director of College Counseling, Registrar, Class Deans and Department Chairs to determine if and how graduation requirements may be fulfilled. Certain courses in the Porter-Gaud graduation requirements must be taken at Porter-Gaud. Interested students and parents understand that the student may need to do additional work outside of school to cover material that did not match up exactly between the courses at Porter-Gaud and the semester school.
- Once a student has been approved to apply for a semester away program, the student's parent/guardian must notify the Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Management and Parent Relations, Mr. Ken Hyde, khyde@portergaud.edu, by **March 1 of their Sophomore Year** to secure their child's space in the class and receive any updated tuition information. Failure to inform Porter-Gaud by this date of participation in a semester away program may result in the loss of a reserved tuition waiver and requirement to pay a full Porter-Gaud tuition.

Course Descriptions by Academic Department

2026-2027





Computer Science & Computational Thinking

For more information about our Computer Science curriculum, please contact Silvia Davis at sdavis@portergaud.edu or Audrey Holsten at aholsten@portergaud.edu

Porter-Gaud's Computer Science & Computational Thinking program is designed to spark interest, build confidence, and give students meaningful experience in the field of computer science. Students learn by creating apps, games, physical computing projects, and digital models with meaningful choice built into their work to increase engagement and ownership. Rather than front-loading abstract concepts, programming and problem-solving skills are introduced through real projects, helping students build understanding as they design, test, and refine their ideas. Students begin by developing a strong foundation in computational thinking and core principles, then steadily expand their ability to design, build, and refine increasingly complex projects. As they progress, they move from understanding how systems work to applying their knowledge creatively through digital design and modeling, and then to exploring how emerging technologies shape industries and entrepreneurship. Across the sequence, the emphasis is not just on writing code, but on thinking critically, designing thoughtfully, and applying technology in meaningful, real-world contexts, including career pathways, ethical considerations, and emerging trends. The honors sequence in grades 10-12 is selective and designed for students eager to pursue deeper study. Our goal is to graduate students who are curious, capable, and confident in their ability to use technology thoughtfully and creatively.

Course Offerings

Computer Science I: Computer Science Principles
Honors Computer Science II: Problem-Solving & Systems Designs

Honors Computer Science III: Entrepreneurship through Emerging Technologies

Honors Computer Science: 3D Modeling & Animation (see also Fine Arts Department)

Honors Computer Science IV: Advanced Programming Concepts
Honors Computer Science IV: Collaborative Project Development

Computer Science Department Honors Criteria

Students must demonstrate proven performance in both Computer Science and Mathematics. In addition, they should:

- Exhibit a willingness to explore and master emerging unfamiliar technologies.
- Enjoy tackling challenging assignments that utilize cutting-edge devices and software.
- Demonstrate clear leadership in technological skills, work ethic, and academic achievement.

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Computer Science II: Problem-Solving & Systems Design	Computer Science I	90	Application, recommendation, and approval from the Computer Science Department.
Honors Computer Science: 3D Modeling & Animation	Computer Science I	90	Application, recommendation, and approval from the Computer Science Department.
Honors Computer Science III: Entrepreneurship through Emerging Technologies	Honors Computer Science II	90	Recommendation and approval from Computer Science Department.
Honors Computer Science IV: Advanced Programming Concepts	Honors Computer Science III	93	Recommendation and approval from Computer Science Department.
Honors Computer Science IV: Collaborative Project Development	Honors Computer Science III	86	Recommendation and approval from Computer Science Department.

Computer Science & Computational Thinking Courses

Computer Science I: Computer Science Principles | Fall/Spring Semester Course

In this class, students will explore advanced concepts of problem-solving, programming, and software design using a variety of languages and engaging contexts. This is a technology immersion class and is project-oriented: Robotics, Game Programming, app development, and hardware will be explored.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None
Required for all Ninth Grade Students

Honors Computer Science II: Problem-Solving & Systems Design | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course is the second in a series of four classes in the Honors Computer Science program. It is the first elective class in our program, so students will move far beyond the introductory level of code from Computer Science I. The class will introduce the next level of problem-solving, computation, algorithm, and software development skills as we explore a variety of creative projects in a variety of different technologies. Students will be working on two large projects.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Computer Science I

Honors Computer Science: 3D Modeling & Animation | Spring Semester Course

This is a project-based course that introduces students to 3D design, digital sculpting, and animation using professional-level tools. Students learn how to transform ideas and reference images into fully realized 3D models, explore principles of visual storytelling, and produce a short animated work. The course emphasizes creativity, iteration, and technical problem-solving while building skills applicable to fields such as game design, digital media, engineering, architecture, and data visualization. No prior experience with 3D modeling or animation is required. This course can be taken any year following completion of Computer Science I.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Computer Science I

Note: This course fulfills a 0.5 Fine Arts requirement

Honors Computer Science III: Entrepreneurship through Emerging Technologies | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course is the third of a series of four classes in the Computer Science program. The class will continue to develop problem-solving, computation, algorithm, and software development skills as we explore a variety of creative projects using a variety of different technologies. Students will be working on a single project that is larger in scope, with increased complexity, and technology demands.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Computer Science I, II

Honors Computer Science IV: Advanced Programming Concepts | Fall Semester Course

This semester-long course equips students with advanced programming skills using Python, providing a strong foundation for college-level computer science. Students will deepen their understanding of core concepts such as variables, data types, loops, and object-oriented programming. Projects include various game theories culminating in the development of an original computerized board game. This course is ideal for students with a strong interest in computer science who want to master critical programming concepts for future success.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Computer Science I, II, III

Honors Computer Science IV: Collaborative Project Development | Spring Semester Course

This semester-long course emphasizes teamwork, creativity, and the application of computer science to real-world problems. Students will collaborate to develop an app or solution for an internal or external client, with each team member specializing in roles such as coding, design, or project management. Students select the development platform and tools that best suit their project, gaining experience in adapting to new technologies. This course fosters problem-solving, communication, and innovative thinking.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Computer Science I, II, III



English

Department Chair: Dr. Aaron Lehman - alehman@portergaud.edu

The mission of the Upper School English Department is to engender in every student two crucial skills: critical close reading and fluid, articulate writing, both in a variety of genres, styles, and voices. In terms of reading, we believe our students' minds and souls are best served by reading from an expansive literary canon that includes diverse voices and retains classic elements of the Western tradition. Literature demands slow, contemplative attention, and such meditation helps students to become careful students and more considerate people; to that end, our classes promote depth over breadth, always asking students to engage in the critical-thinking skills of inferring, synthesizing, and connecting. In terms of writing, we see composition as equally demanding, and as such we require students at every grade level to complete eight formal essays to hone their craft in terms of what we traditionally call "content" (argument, analysis, idea) and "form" (voice, style, mechanics). We believe writing, like reading, is thinking, such that even separating form from content is a false choice—that who we are is inextricably linked to how we say things. Ultimately, our hope is that in their various future spaces--their dorms, their classrooms, their careers—PG writers are the thinkers and craftspeople to whom everyone turns for guidance and wisdom.

Course Offerings

English I: Introduction to Genres	English IV: Approaches to World Literature	Creative Writing: Poetry
English II: Major British Writers	AP English Language	Creative Writing: Fiction
Honors English II: Major British Writers	AP English Literature	Publications: WATCH Magazine
English III: American Literature	Public Speaking	Publications: Yearbook

English Department Honors/Advanced Placement Criteria

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors English II: Major British Writers	English I: Introduction to Genres and Eighth Grade English	94	Current Teacher's Recommendation and Essay Average of 90 or above Year-to-Date
		94	
AP English Language	English II: Major British Writers or Honors English II: Major British Writers and English I: Introduction to Genres	94	Current Teacher's Recommendation and Essay Average of 92 or above Year-to-Date
		90	
		94	
AP English Literature	English III: American Literature or AP English Language and English II: Major British Writers or Honors English II: Major British Writers	94	Current Teacher's Recommendation Rising seniors, please note that teacher recommendations for this course may override the minimum grade required.
		90	
		94	
		94	

English Courses

English I: Introduction to Genres | Yearlong Course

In this course, students study short stories, poems, two plays, and two novels to continue the development of their skills in the close reading and understanding of literature. Student discussion focuses on basic literary elements of the different genres. Compositions include narrative, analytical, and argumentative genres, and students write eight formal compositions; in order for students to better understand the narrative forms they are reading, particular emphasis is placed on the narrative form, as students focus on selection and development of precise setting detail, unity, transition, indirect characterization, point-of-view, and use of sensory images. Students continue their vocabulary development with Membean, a dynamic online program, and practice grammatical and usage conventions through the Analytical Grammar system.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None
Required for all Ninth Grade Students

English II: Major British Writers | Yearlong Course

This survey course is traditionally offered after the 9th grade for students who are not yet considering Advanced Placement English courses. While the literature component includes a survey of major British writers, the course is designed for sophomores who would benefit from further focused instruction in skills of critical reading and writing. Instruction and student practice include vocabulary development (also through Membean) with emphasis on contextual meanings, literal and inferential reading comprehension, review of grammar, usage, and mechanics, as well as specific PSAT- and SAT-tested verbal skills. Composition instruction covers exposition, analysis, and argument; the primary focus shifts to exposition, with practice in types of coherent organizational patterns, development of ideas through detail and example, and refinement of stylistic techniques. As in the ninth grade, students write a minimum of eight formal, graded essays. Major writers may include, but are not limited to, the Beowulf poet, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Austen, Achebe, and the Romantic poets, among others.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: English I

Honors English II: Major British Writers | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for sophomores with strong skills in both writing and critical reading who are considering Advanced Placement English courses. Although Honors English is NOT a prerequisite for taking AP English courses, the class is fast-paced for students serious about advanced level instruction. The literature component of this course is a survey of Western literary heritage, emphasizing major writers of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period through the 20th century. Composition instruction and practice emphasize acquiring the expository techniques and methods utilized in college English courses. Course objectives also include vocabulary development (also through Membean), grammar review, and practice in specific PSAT and SAT skills. Major writers may include, but are not limited to, the Beowulf poet, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Austen, the Romantic poets, Achebe, and Conrad, among others.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th | Prerequisite: English I

English III: American Literature | Yearlong Course

The first semester focuses on American Romanticism. This course follows the great flowering of American literature from ~1820 until ~1890 and may include the works of Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, E.A. Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Emily Dickinson, and Walt Whitman, among others. Students explore

various themes of the movement, including the veneration of nature, bi-racial friendships, the gothic, mock gothic, and individualism. Compositions include both narrative and analysis.

The second semester focuses on 20th-Century American Literature. In the second semester, students examine the differing faces of the individual as expressed in literature during the dynamic growth of the United States between 1900 and 2000. Particular attention is paid to the elements of race, gender, and class and the shifting tensions that have existed between them. Topics and works may include the Harlem Renaissance; *The Great Gatsby*, 19th- and 20th-century poetry; and various short stories. Compositions focus on literary analysis.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: English I, II

AP English Language | Yearlong Course

This course combines the objectives of the American literature survey course with a college-level writing option. Students strengthen their skills in reading non-fiction prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. AP Juniors develop their composition skills in expository writing, focusing on how the conventions and resources of language contribute to effective and persuasive prose. The objective is for students to write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum as well as in their professional and personal lives. With rare exception, the May AP test is required for all students to earn credit for the course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: English I, II

AP English Literature | Yearlong Course

This course involves seniors in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Students develop their understanding of how writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure to their readers and learn to analyze and interpret literature through various critical perspectives. They practice careful observations of textual detail, establishing connections among their observations and drawing inferences from those connections. Writing instruction focuses on the critical analysis of literature, improving student abilities to explain clearly and cogently their understanding and interpretation of the literary works that they read, and students are required to complete at least eight essays with rough drafts. Texts may include, but are not limited to, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Shakespeare's *Othello* or *Hamlet*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. With rare exception, the May AP test is required for all students to earn credit for the course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: English I, II, English III or AP English Language

English IV: Approaches to World Literature | Yearlong Course

This course involves seniors in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Students develop their understanding of how writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure to their readers and learn to analyze and interpret literature through various critical perspectives. They practice careful observation of textual detail, establishing connections among their observations and drawing inferences from those connections. Writing instruction focuses on the critical analysis of literature, improving student abilities to explain clearly and cogently their understanding and interpretation of the literary works that they read, and students are required to complete at least eight essays. Texts may include but are not limited to Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, William Shakespeare's *Othello* and *Hamlet*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, and various anthologized short stories and poems.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: English I, II, III

ENGLISH ELECTIVE COURSES

These offerings do not meet the English graduation requirement.

Creative Writing: Poetry | Fall Semester Course

Time was when legions of high-school students wrote their own poetry, from the dark and angsty to the buoyant and celebratory, as a means for self expression in a difficult-to-navigate world. The world seems harder than ever to navigate, and so poetry seems as relevant as ever as a means of personal response to it. This course, then, aims to have students study various kinds and schools of poetry with an eye towards composing their own poems on whatever subjects they'd like. Since poems come from other poems, we will read—and learn how to read—all sorts of poets and poems to help us express ourselves as precisely and richly as possible. On a daily basis, students will read and discuss poetry from the 16th to the 21st century; on a weekly basis, students will create individual poems to share and workshop with their fellow poets. Open to juniors and seniors; no familiarity with writing poetry necessary. The only prerequisites are an interest in self expression and a love for words.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th/12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: English I, II

Creative Writing: Fiction | Spring Semester Course

The premises of this semester course are simple but profound ones: (1) Writers read. (2) Writers make choices. Exploring the craft of storytelling through elements of fiction--point-of-view, description, structure, characterization, prose style and voice--we will read a variety of short stories to think about why and how writers make artistic decisions in narrative. Then, we will write our own stories and vignettes with an eye towards those techniques. The bulk of the class will be conducted in a workshop format in which students will submit their work to the class and then receive feedback from the instructor and their classmates. Open to juniors and seniors; no familiarity with writing fiction necessary. The only prerequisites are an interest in self expression, a love of stories and storytelling, and an admiration for words.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th/12th | Course Level : On-Level | Prerequisite: English I, II

Public Speaking | Fall/Spring Semester Course

The course objective is to train the student in practical methods for development and delivery of the informative and persuasive public speech, including theoretical bases for speech development, composition and delivery. Exercises and applications include extemporaneous and impromptu speaking; information, persuasion, and introduction speeches; and speeches with visual aids. Students will be evaluated by the instructor as well as by other students. Discussions cover topics such as listening, contemporary speechmakers, and proper audience behavior. Skills required for development of the public speech, such as expository writing style and research methods, have cross applications to other core courses. In addition, speaking before an audience prepares the student for collegiate and business presentations.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Publications: Polygon Yearbook | Yearlong Course | AM/PM Course

The Yearbook class covers all facets of publishing a yearbook, including content curation, theme development, photography, and layout design. Students learn to use an online publishing program as they cover the events of the school year for the yearbook. Each student is responsible for a minimum of eight pages of the Polygon and will receive one half of an English elective credit for each year in the class. **Students are expected to be available after school every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:20 until 4:05 p.m.** After expressing interest on their scheduling card, students must complete an application to be submitted to the yearbook advisors to indicate if they wish to be part of the Polygon staff in one of the following areas: photography, design, and content curation.

1. Photographers will be responsible for taking pictures of academic and student life during the school day and during various after-school events, including sports, socials, and performances. Students with previous photography experience are strongly encouraged to apply, but those with an interest in and curiosity about photography are also welcome.
2. Designers will be responsible for coordinating individual page layout, theme development, and section arrangement. While designers may also engage in taking photos and writing copy, they will primarily focus on the aesthetics of the publication as a whole.
3. Content curators will be responsible for caption writing and copy editing throughout the publication; vivid writers with an eye for detail—and strong grammar skills—are encouraged to apply.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Type: Pass/Fail | Prerequisite: None

Publications: WATCH Magazine | Yearlong Course | AM/PM Course

Born out of a marriage between The Porter Grits newspaper and the school's elder WATCH Literary Magazine, WATCH Magazine combines the strengths of both into a single publication that features editorials, interviews, news stories, literary works, and visual art from across campus. **Applicants making the staff will be expected to attend class and meetings on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:20 until 4:05 p.m. and to adhere to all deadlines with careful, polished work.** Staff members will earn one half of an English elective credit for each year that they remain on the staff.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Type: Pass/Fail | Prerequisite: None



Fine Arts

Department Chair: Mrs. Ashley Stock - astock@portergaud.edu

The Fine Arts Department offers students a variety of courses throughout the year to prepare them for a career in the arts, an appreciation of the arts or even an opportunity to explore something out of their comfort zone.

Students are able to create a path for themselves through music, drama, dance or visual art that will enable them to cultivate a better understanding of their aspirations.

They will gain their voice in elective courses focused on presentation skills and theatre, embark upon a musical journey in choir, jazz band or music theory and explore their artistic creativity with different mediums in the art studio. There are more opportunities for students interested in drama, music and dance to further their interest in performance, technical theatre or stage crew.

Course Offerings

AP Studio Art	Dance I	Jazz Ensemble
Art History (see also History Department)	Dance II	Handbell Choir
Studio Art I	Dance III	Chamber Singers
Studio Art II	Introduction to Music	Debate
Honors Studio Art III	Honors Music Theory	Costume Design I
Digital Design & Photography	AP Music Theory	Costume Design II
Honors Comp. Sci: 3D Modeling & Animation (see also Computer Science Department)	Instrumental Music: Piano	Introduction to Theater
	Performance Choir	Playwriting
	Vocal Alchemy: Breath, Technique and Musicality for the Solo Singer	

Fine Arts Department Honors/Advanced Placement Criteria

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
AP Studio Art	Studio Art I and Studio Art II strongly recommended Studio Art III	93 93	Current Teacher's Recommendation and Completed projects from Studio Art II and III will be evaluated to determine if the student is a candidate for AP Studio Art
AP Music Theory	Honors Music Theory I and Honors Music Theory II	93 93	Current Teacher's Recommendation and A demonstrated ability to sing on pitch and All students must take a music literacy and skills assessment to determine whether or not the student has a working knowledge of basic music theory.

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Dance II	Dance I	no minimum grade	Conversation with and recommendation from current instructor and Students must be willing to try new things, perform in front of an audience (large or small) and Be willing to learn and execute dance steps and movement techniques and Be willing to observe and critique one another's work
Dance III	Dance I and Dance II	no minimum grade	Conversation with and recommendation from current instructor and Students must be willing to try new things, perform in front of an audience (large or small) and Be willing to learn and execute dance steps and movement techniques and Be willing to observe and critique one another's work

Fine Arts Courses

ART COURSE OFFERINGS

AP Studio Art | Yearlong Course

This course continues the development of pieces for the selected works section of the exam while extending and expanding the study of a sustained investigation. It is designed for students who are not only seriously interested in the study of art but also, and more importantly, willing to put in a substantial amount of time in developing mastery of the concept, composition, and execution of their artwork. This course's ultimate purpose is to facilitate the completion of a successful Portfolio of work to be submitted for one of the three AP Portfolios (2-D Design, 3-D Design, or Drawing)

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Studio Art I, II

Art History | Yearlong Course

In this history course, students will study and explore the various movements, art, and artists of 19th and 20th Century Europe, with emphasis on artistic, political, and social analysis. A reading and writing intensive course, students will formally and visually analyze works while considering and framing them within their historical context. Students will develop oral and written analytical skills as they study physical properties of specific artworks, such as their subject matter, composition, symbolism and color use, as well as their contextual and cultural frameworks. This course is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Fine Arts credit or count as a History elective credit. This elective is reading and writing intensive.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: World History I, II

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Studio Art I | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This introductory art course teaches students the building blocks (aka “the RULES”) needed to create successful pieces of artwork. To do this, students will develop an understanding of the Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Form, Value, Color, Space, Texture and will work with a variety of introductory materials including charcoal, pencil, pen and ink, colored pencils, pastels, and acrylics. Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Studio Art II | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This developmental art course builds upon the foundation laid in Studio Art I while teaching students how to use the Principles of Design to guide their personal creativity. This course also introduces students to more advanced materials and techniques while fine-tuning their use of the basic skills previously learned.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Studio Art I

Honors Studio Art III | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This advanced art course gives students the time and instruction needed to begin to develop successful pieces that represent the expanse of his or her artistic knowledge. Through varied explorative assignments students will discover an assortment of artistic problems to solve. Students will also keep a sketchbook in which they can begin to explore options for sustained investigation. This course will prepare students to move forward successfully into the AP Studio Art course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Studio Art I, II

Digital Design & Photography | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Digital Design & Photography is an introductory, project-based course that explores the use of digital mediums for visual communication and artistic expression. Through the use of products such as the Adobe Creative Suite: InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator, Canva, and Procreate, students will hone skills in digital design. Principles of art and design and fundamental photography techniques will be applied to create visually appealing art, logos, digital patterns, and presentation images.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Honors Computer Science: 3D Modeling & Animation | Spring Semester Course

This is a project-based course that introduces students to 3D design, digital sculpting, and animation using professional-level tools. Students learn how to transform ideas and reference images into fully realized 3D models, explore principles of visual storytelling, and produce a short animated work. The course emphasizes creativity, iteration, and technical problem-solving while building skills applicable to fields such as game design, digital media, engineering, architecture, and data visualization. No prior experience with 3D modeling or animation is required. This course can be taken any year following completion of Computer Science I.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course level: Honors | Prerequisite: Computer Science I

Note: This course fulfills a 0.5 Fine Arts requirement

DANCE COURSE OFFERINGS

Dance I | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of dance forms and techniques while encouraging self-discipline and confidence. The students will develop body control and coordination while learning dance steps, terminology, combinations, and dances. The dancers will experiment with creative movement and be introduced to choreographic principles and processes. As the students learn stage movement concepts and musical theatre styles of dance, it will tie into their stage movement and

performance. There will be elements of Jazz, tap and ballet involved in all of the theatre movements and dance as well as LMA (Laban Movement Analysis). Movement for the athlete will also be incorporated into the dance program. This will include strength training, stretching, coordination skills, and drills to improve quickness.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Dance II | Fall Semester Course

Dance II is a continuation of Dance I. In Dance I a strong foundation of dance basics, stretching and movement techniques are taught. In Dance II the student will be able to expand that basic knowledge and move towards a level involving performance, more difficult choreography, and a better understanding of different styles of dance. The students will be able to move right into this next level with the structure they have been taught in Dance I. Movement for the athlete will also be incorporated into the Dance II program. This will include strength training, stretching, coordination skills, and drills to improve quickness. Drills and exercises that are currently in the College of Charleston Athletic dance curriculum will be used for the athletes at Porter-Gaud.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Dance I

Dance III | Yearlong Course

Dance III is a continuation of Dance II. In Dance II a strong foundation of dance basics, stretching and movement techniques are taught. Dance III will dive deeper into the History of Dance and into Dance Film studies, allowing students to expand their basic knowledge and move towards more difficult choreography and a better understanding of different styles of dance. The course will culminate in a performance featuring both student and faculty choreography.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th; 11th with approval from Fine Arts Department Chair | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Dance I; Dance II

MUSIC COURSE OFFERINGS

Introduction to Music | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course will expose students to a variety of musical styles and genres. A heavy emphasis will be placed on the use of recording technology via Garageband. Students will use this platform to create original song projects in a variety of genres. Students will study the birth of rock and roll, jazz and classical music. No previous music experience is required.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Honors Music Theory | Yearlong Course

Honors Music Theory covers topics such as note and rhythm reading, meter, chords, scales, inversions, and 4 part writing. Students will engage in ear training and sight singing exercises as well. Some basic musical knowledge is required and that can be determined by a skills assessment.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: None

AP Music Theory | Yearlong Course

AP Music Theory prepares students for the demands of the AP Theory exam. A skills assessment can determine AP readiness. In addition to all that is covered in Honors Music Theory, AP students will do melodic and harmonic dictations, realize figured bass lines, and harmonize given melodies.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Honors Music Theory unless the student has significant prior knowledge

Instrumental Music: Piano | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This class teaches students how to play the piano; no prior experience is required. Students will learn note reading, rhythms, scales, chords, and chord progressions. The students will have the skills demonstrated to them and then will have their own

keyboard/piano to practice on. The final exam consists of learning and memorizing a piece of music. This class will accommodate all piano levels.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: None

Vocal Alchemy: Breath, Technique and Musicality for the Solo Singer | Fall/Spring Course

Students will learn the fundamentals of vocal production and strengthen the building blocks necessary to unlock the power of the individual voice as they explore different vocal genres and styles. All skill and experience levels are welcome.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE OFFERINGS

Performance Choir | Yearlong Course | AM/PM Course

Students will learn the discipline, skill, and vocal performance within a group. The choir will study basic techniques of singing while preparing numerous concert selections of various musical styles and periods. All students with an interest in singing are welcome to join our choir. Students are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts. Rehearsal attendance, basic choral theory knowledge, effort, class participation, and music preparation at home will be the determining factors of the student's grade. In the event of an excused or unexcused absence, students missing a concert and/or dress rehearsal must complete an alternate assignment. Uniform Concert Dress is required and must be purchased by the student.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Course Type: Pass/Fail | Prerequisite: None

Jazz Ensemble | Yearlong Course | AM/PM Course

Students will learn basic jazz ensemble techniques. Students must have a knowledge of their instrument and should have taken or are presently taking private lessons. All students will be required to participate at all concerts. Uniform Concert Dress is required.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Course Type: Pass/Fail | Prerequisite: Knowledge of their instrument and should have taken or are presently taking private lessons

Handbell Choir | Yearlong Course | AM/PM Course

Students will learn basic handbell ensemble techniques. The Chamber Handbell Choir, comprised of the most experienced ringers. All students are required to participate at all concerts. The Developmental Handbell Choir is open to 9th and 10th grade students. Uniform Concert Dress is required.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Course Type: Pass/Fail | Prerequisite: None

Chamber Singers | Yearlong Course | AM/PM Course

This select ensemble provides advanced singing experience for mixed voices in a small group setting. This ensemble performs several times during the year, including Founder's Day, Lessons and Carols, Spring Concert, Baccalaureate, and other community performances. There is potential for group travel. All students are required to participate in all concerts. Students in this ensemble will also have the opportunity to audition for PorterBellas, our a cappella group. Students in Chamber Singers are required to perform with the Upper School Choir.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Audition or prior participation in Chamber Singers

Note: This is a non-credit ensemble and will not be scheduled by the Scheduler. Students will sign up for this with the Director.

PRESENTATION COURSE OFFERINGS

Debate | Fall/Spring Semester Course

An introductory course, Debate covers a variety of styles of public speaking and formal debate. Through research and practice, students will become familiar with these styles through instruction, research, and practice. Students will work on Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate and Lincoln Douglas Debate in class as well informal debate styles throughout the semester.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

THEATER ARTS COURSE OFFERINGS

Costume Design I | Spring Semester Course

This course meets from 3:20 – 4:05 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The purpose of this course is to cover the basic elements of costume design, including character/script analysis, collaboration, research, visual design ideas and techniques, budgeting and time management as well as creation and execution of costumes for production. Period research, design and rendering skills will be fostered through practical exercises and projects.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Costume Design II | Spring Semester Course

This course meets from 3:20 – 4:05 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Costume Design II is for students who wish to further develop their design portfolio. They will work extensively on design and costume builds for the Spring Musicals as well as other in depth projects. The students will start the design process from the beginning sketches and build the final design on mannequins for performance. Student work will be exhibited during the Spring Arts Festival.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Costume Design I

Introduction to Theater | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course will teach students the following: to use the body and voice expressively, to express character through movement and voice, to understand the formal elements and history of drama, and to develop an appreciation for theatre as an art form.

Students will get a more detailed understanding of performance and acting technique than they currently do in rehearsal for a specific performance. The techniques covered and practised in this class will be applicable to music performance as well as drama.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Playwriting | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course will be an engaging, equity-driven Drama and Playwriting Curriculum for students in grades 9–12. Grounded in experiential learning, the curriculum will empower students to explore storytelling, character development, and theatrical production while developing core 'Vision of a Learner' attributes such as communication, empathy, creativity, and resilience.

Students will participate in a class featuring hands-on improvisation, collaborative scriptwriting, and guided rehearsals. The program will culminate in a public performance of original student-written plays. Aligned with Strategic Plan goals, the project supports deeper learning, inclusivity, and authentic audience engagement.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None



History

Department Chair: Mr. Paul Baran - pbaran@portergaud.edu

“The study of history requires investigation, imagination, empathy, and respect,” said Jill Lepore.

Featured on some of Porter-Gaud’s history class bulletin boards or websites, quotations like Prof. Lepore’s reflect the History Department’s emphasis on the deeper significance of the discipline beyond knowing what happened in the past. Studying history means trying to make sense of causes and effects of major historical developments that have social, cultural, political, and economic implications for the world. Studying history means experiencing history, which includes empathy for and understanding of historic cultures and societies, as well as individuals of every sociopolitical stratum. Studying history means demonstrating a broader comprehension of the world and its inhabitants, while being able to think and write critically through the evaluation of evidence, both subjective and objective, in order to formulate clear positions that require analysis, synthesis, contextualization, and historical literacy.

Consequently, the History Department places a greater emphasis on thematic history and the interrelationship of events over memorization of facts, challenging students to focus more on the how and why, rather than the names and dates. The department also emphasizes the instructional goal of empowering students to personalize history while appreciating the achievements and sacrifices of those who came before them. History, ultimately, is a complicated story that requires critical analysis to comprehend, and our goal is to guide students through this complex narrative in order to be more prepared to make educated decisions in a diverse and shifting world that has been forged by decisions and developments of the past. Our students will become leaders in this world, and they will have the tools necessary to manage and understand their role within it through their coursework here at Porter-Gaud.

In the words of David McCullough, “History is who we are and why we are the way we are.” If we can share our own enthusiasm and value for the discipline as a medium to better understand our world and life itself, we will be contributing to a more promising future.

Course Offerings

Historical Invention and Innovation	AP U.S. History	AP Psychology
Honors Historical Research	U.S. Government & Civics	Honors History of World Religions
Historical Leadership & Power	Economics & Personal Finance	(see also Religion & Philosophy Department)
Honors Truth & Perception in History	AP Comparative Government	Art History (see also Fine Arts Department)
Modern World History	AP Microeconomics	Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy
AP World History	AP Macroeconomics	(see also Religion & Philosophy Department)
U.S. History	AP U.S. Government & Politics	

History Department Honors/Advanced Placement Criteria

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Historical Research	Eighth Grade History	93	Current Teacher’s Recommendation and Writing Sample

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Truth & Perception	Eighth Grade History	93	Current Teacher's Recommendation
AP World History	Historical Invention & Innovation or Honors Historical Research	90 86	Current Teacher's Recommendation
AP US History	Modern World History or AP World History	90 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation and PSAT Critical Reading Score of 530+
AP Macroeconomics	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation and PSAT Math Score of 530+
AP Microeconomics	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation and PSAT Math Score of 530+
AP Comparative Government & Politics	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation
AP U.S. Government & Politics	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation
AP Psychology	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation
Honors History of World Religions	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation
Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current Teacher's Recommendation

History Courses

Historical Invention & Innovation | Fall Semester Course

In this first semester course, students will explore the transformative innovations and inventions that defined ancient civilizations, from the early societies of Mesopotamia to the vast Roman Empire. Focusing on key technological advancements and intellectual breakthroughs, students will examine how ancient innovations in areas such as communication, transportation, medicine, and architecture laid the foundation for modern society. Through a combination of historical analysis and hands-on activities, students will investigate the cultural, social, and economic contexts that spurred these developments, while also assessing their lasting impact on the world today. The course will highlight the ways in which these ancient discoveries continue to shape contemporary technologies and ideas, offering students a deeper appreciation of the interconnectedness between past and present. Along the way, students will enhance critical historical skills, including engaging with primary sources, analyzing evidence, and constructing well-supported arguments.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: None

Honors Historical Research | Fall Semester Course

This first semester Honors-level course is designed to develop advanced research, writing, and analytical skills through a deep dive into historical inquiry. Students will engage with four core skills: Annotation and Note-taking, Time Management and Study Habits, Research and Bibliography, and Writing from a Draft and Rubric. Emphasis will be placed on mastering the process of analyzing and synthesizing historical information, moving beyond simple memorization of facts to explore the "why" and "how" behind historical events. Students will refine their ability to think critically and communicate their insights effectively. Participation in National History Day (NHD) will offer a hands-on opportunity to practice these skills, as students research a historical topic, produce a well-supported paper, and create a documentary for the NHD competition. By the end of the course, students will have developed a sophisticated historical perspective and the ability to present a well-articulated, evidence-based argument related to this year's NHD theme. This honors course places substantial responsibility on students to handle and master a significant writing and research project independently in an accelerated timeline.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: None

Modern World History | Yearlong Course

In Modern World History, students gain a broad understanding of the political, economic, social, and cultural attributes of world societies from 1500 to the present. Through examination of the significant characteristics of past societies and historical movements, students develop an appreciation for the impact of ideologies, conflict, and globalization on the contemporary world. In addition to exploring the nature of world societies, this curriculum is designed to develop critical reading, writing, research, and thinking skills.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course

AP World History | Yearlong Course

Students in AP World History undertake a comparative study of human societies within prescribed historical periods, from the foundations of history to the present, in order to identify the broad patterns and processes that explain change and continuity over time. Organized around specific themes of World History, the course is designed both to provide relevant factual knowledge and to foster analytical and interpretive skills. Together, these attributes will empower students to derive informed conclusions

about complex historical themes. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course

US History | Yearlong Course

This survey course will cover United States history beginning with the colonial period and stretching into the 1980s. The course will stress American political, social, cultural, and economic history. Intellectually, this course should be a good preparation for the demands of college work, as it will require students to think critically about readings, hone their skills in writing and research, and strengthen their ability to vary perspective and challenge interpretations of events, while analyzing the context of America's contemporary structure.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History

AP US History | Yearlong Course

This intensive survey expands American historical literacy by way of thematic conceptualization of key historical trends and analysis of instrumental changes over time that have shaped the American identity. The course objectives are to improve each student's analytical and critical-thinking skills, writing skills, study skills, knowledge of significant major events and individuals in U.S. history, including various interpretations of these events, knowledge of geography, research skills, and public speaking skills. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History

US Government & Civics | Fall/Spring Semester Course

US Government & Civics introduces students to the fundamental structure of the U.S. government, including analysis of each of the three branches of government and their relationship with each other and state and municipal laws. Students will also study essential Supreme Court cases that ground Americans' civil liberties and civil rights, while deepening their understanding of American citizenship. This course will help students navigate the complex institutions that affect government and politics, such as interest groups, media, and political parties.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

[This course cannot be taken simultaneously with AP United States Government and Politics or after a student has already passed AP United States Government and Politics]

HISTORY ELECTIVE COURSES

AP Macroeconomics, **AP Microeconomics**, and **US Government & Civics** may be taken separately as semester courses. **AP US Government**, **AP Comparative Government**, **US Government**, **Economics**, **AP Psychology**, **Art History**, **Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy**, and **Honors History of World Religions** are upperclassmen history electives that may not be used to fulfill the third year United States history requirement. In addition to three years of history, all students must graduate with a semester or year long passing grade in a government course [US Government and Civics; AP US Government and Politics; AP Comparative Government and Politics].

Historical Leadership & Power | Spring Semester Course

In this course, students will engage with the complex rise and fall of influential world empires and the leaders who shaped their legacies. Through detailed case studies, students will analyze the political, cultural, and military strategies of figures such as Alexander the Great, Ashoka, Julius Caesar, and Genghis Khan, gaining insight into how their leadership decisions impacted both their empires and the course of history. By comparing these historical events to contemporary leadership dynamics, students

will draw connections between past and present, deepening their understanding of the enduring influence of these civilizations on today's world. This course will also emphasize the development of key historical skills, including critical reading, analytical writing, and historical thinking. Students will refine their ability to engage with primary sources, construct evidence-based arguments, and evaluate the long-term impact of leadership decisions.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Historical Invention & Innovation

Honors Truth & Perception in History | Spring Semester Course

This second semester honors course invites 9th-grade students to delve deeply into historical case studies, examining pivotal events from ancient civilizations to modern times. Students will explore complex themes such as truth and perception, ethical decision-making, and the dynamics of social change by engaging with a variety of primary and secondary sources. Through an analysis of key historical moments—ranging from the Neolithic Revolution and the American Revolution to the Holocaust and modern global issues like outsourcing—students will develop critical thinking and analytical skills. This honors course challenges students to question historical narratives and understand their ongoing impact on the present through frequent opportunities for debate, discussion and writing. Ideal for students with a passion for history and a commitment to academic rigor.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Honors Historical Research

AP US Government & Politics | Yearlong Course

This intensive survey expands American historical literacy by way of thematic conceptualization of key historical trends and analysis of instrumental changes over time that have shaped the American identity. The course objectives are to improve each student's analytical and critical-thinking skills, writing skills, study skills, knowledge of significant major events and individuals in U.S. history, including various interpretations of these events, knowledge of geography, research skills, and public speaking skills. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History

AP Comparative Government & Politics | Yearlong Course

Comparative Government challenges students to compare the governments and political structures and policies of the following nations: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. Students will focus on understanding the political, social, and economic challenges within the selected countries and gain a stronger understanding of their socio-political conditions and how they cope with global issues. Through this course, students will develop a broader vision of international politics while expanding their ability to consider different worldviews through analysis of unique political systems outside the United States. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

AP Psychology | Yearlong Course

This course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

Economics & Personal Finance | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This course introduces students to the fundamental economic question: *how do we best utilize our scarce resources?* Students will explore core concepts such as opportunity cost, supply and demand, and marginal analysis, in order to make sound decisions. Students will explore the economy as a whole, learning to evaluate national economic health through the study of economic indicators. They will also learn how the government uses fiscal and monetary policy to intervene in order to spur growth or control inflation. The second half of the course focuses on Personal Finance, including decisions regarding topics such as home mortgages, credit cards, investments, insurance, and budgeting. The course will include several projects and simulations in order to assess student learning.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

[This course cannot be taken simultaneously with AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics or after a student has already passed AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics]

AP Macroeconomics | Fall Semester Course

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college course that holistically analyzes economic conditions in the United States and evaluates government responses to those conditions. In particular, it considers how fiscal and monetary policy is used to impact changes in aggregate demand and inflation. There is an emphasis on the construction and analysis of graphs to demonstrate how decisions are made, and favors quantitatively inclined students who think more conceptually. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

[Enrolling in this course assumes paired enrollment in AP Microeconomics]

AP Microeconomics | Spring Semester Course

AP Microeconomics is an introductory college course that explores the nature of individual and business decision making in the marketplace. Students will investigate various market conditions that influence such decisions as how much of a good should be produced, and at what price it will be sold. There is particular emphasis on the construction and analysis of graphs to demonstrate how these decisions are made and favors quantitatively inclined students who think more concretely. Congruent with the AP Curriculum, this class culminates in the May AP Exam for potential college credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

[Enrolling in this course assumes paired enrollment in AP Macroeconomics]

Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy | Yearlong Course

Beginning with the pre-Socratics, the first semester concludes with Descartes; the second semester continues the philosophical survey through Wittgenstein in the early 20th century. This survey course includes lectures on the chronology and contributions of major thinkers, but its greater emphasis features intensive discussion of primary source material, which spans the fields of mathematics, science, theology, aesthetics, political theory, and ethics. This honors-level elective is reading and writing intensive. This course is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Religion and Philosophy credit or count as a History elective credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

Honors History of World Religions | Yearlong Course

This honors-level survey of World Religions aspires to challenge students' preconceptions regarding religion as a historical and cultural phenomenon. Study begins with an examination of the critique of the religious foundation, writ large. With a focus on

reading the world's great religious scriptures as primary sources, the principal tenets of the major world religions will be explored in greater detail to rebuild an informed religious edifice. The course culminates with students better apprised of the diverse iterations of human religious experience, more capable of reconstructing his or her emerging definition of Religion in the format of a final project. This elective is reading and writing intensive. This course is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Religion and Philosophy credit or count as a History elective credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

Art History | Yearlong Course

In this history course, students will study and explore the various movements, art, and artists of 19th and 20th Century Europe, with emphasis on artistic, political, and social analysis. A reading and writing intensive course, students will formally and visually analyze works while considering and framing them within their historical context. Students will develop oral and written analytical skills as they study physical properties of specific artworks, such as their subject matter, composition, symbolism and color use, as well as their contextual and cultural frameworks. This course is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Fine Arts credit or count as a History elective credit. This elective is reading and writing intensive.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: 9th Grade Semester History Course, Modern World History

History Course Sequence

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	
Historical Invention & Innovation Honors Historical Research (Fall Semester Course in History required for all 9th grade students) Historical Leadership & Power Honors Truth & Perception in History (Spring Semester Course in History optional for all 9th grade students)	Modern World History AP World History	US History AP US History AP Comparative Government (yearlong elective) AP US Government & Politics (yearlong elective) AP Psychology (yearlong elective) Honors History of World Religions (yearlong elective) Honors History of Western Thought & Philosophy (yearlong elective) Art History (yearlong elective) US Government & Civics (semester elective) Economics & Personal Finance (semester elective)	YEARLONG COURSES	SEMESTER COURSES
			Honors History of World Religions Honors History of Western Thought/Philosophy Art History AP US Government & Politics AP Comparative Government AP World History AP Psychology	AP Macroeconomics (Fall) AP Microeconomics (Spring) US Government & Civics Economics & Personal Finance



#11-16 (need 2Kt review)

11 = April
J = Jones W P
3 = The student first p
4 = forgotten in to black
A = How many notebook
6 = p by had in p unit

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Mathematics

Department Chair: Mrs. Jessica Schenkel- jschenkel@portergaud.edu

The Mathematics Department is committed to equipping students with a strong foundation in mathematical thinking that prepares them to be confident problem-solvers and innovators. Our students not only build content knowledge but also develop the independence and resilience needed to become lifelong learners of mathematics. Across all courses, teachers intentionally create opportunities for students to engage in problem-solving and critical thinking, ensuring that these experiences are scaffolded appropriately by course and grade level. Every lesson is guided by the Vision of a Learner, fostering a dynamic and inquiry-based approach to mathematics.

Our department embraces a cycle of learning grounded in research-based instructional practices that support mastery of mathematical content. Instruction balances procedural fluency with conceptual understanding, ensuring students engage meaningfully with curricular standards. Aligned with the principles of the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics, lessons are structured around eight core tenets - including focused learning goals, connections to prior knowledge, mathematical discourse, encouraging productive struggle, and using purposeful questioning to elicit and refine student thinking. Through this intentional, student-centered approach, we cultivate strong mathematical thinkers and confident learners prepared to meet complex challenges in and beyond the classroom.

Course Offerings

Algebra I	Precalculus with Statistics	AP Statistics
Geometry	Honors Precalculus	Data Science
Honors Geometry	AP Precalculus	Advanced Algebra w/ Financial Applications
Algebra II	AP Calculus AB	Multivariable Calculus & Linear Algebra
Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry	AP Calculus BC	

Mathematics Department Honors/Advanced Placement Criteria

Honors and AP Mathematics students are self-motivated, critical thinkers who enjoy exploration, problem solving, learning mathematics and who possess a strong work ethic. Recommendation for enrollment in Honors and AP math courses are made by the Math Department as a whole, and are based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Geometry	Algebra I or Honors Algebra I	96 90	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry	Geometry or Honors Geometry	96 90	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)
Honors Precalculus	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry	87 80	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)
AP Precalculus	Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry	90	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)
AP Calculus AB	Honors Precalculus or AP Precalculus	90 80	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)
AP Calculus BC	AP Precalculus	90	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)
AP Statistics	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry or Precalculus with Statistics or Honors Precalculus or AP Precalculus	93 85 93 85 80	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)
Multivariable Calculus & Linear Algebra	AP Calculus BC	90	Current and Previous Teacher's Recommendations and Midterm and Final Exam grades in prior math courses and Standardized Tests Scores (ERB, PSAT, ACT or SAT)

Please Note:

- Some placements may require additional preparation/summer work by students to ensure that they are prepared to succeed in the course they seek to take.
- Should a student's performance in a current math course change significantly in the second semester, the Mathematics Department reserves the right to amend their initial recommendation in order to best serve the students of Porter-Gaud.

Mathematics Courses

Algebra I | Yearlong Course

This course is the foundation for Upper School mathematics. Students are first introduced to the language of algebra and functions. Students learn to read, write, and evaluate algebraic expressions. Next, students learn how to work with fundamental operations of polynomials, linear equations, and linear inequalities. The second semester covers linear systems, quadratic expressions and equations, factoring, rational equations, radicals, and radical equations. Graphing calculators are introduced and problem solving is emphasized throughout this course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Geometry | Yearlong Course

This course in Euclidean Geometry focuses on reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and solids. Students discover theorems dealing with congruence, similarity, right triangles, area, and volume for geometric figures. Coordinate geometry, algebra skills, and problem solving are reinforced throughout the year. The geometry course requires fundamental algebra skills and aids in the reinforcement and enrichment of those skills in preparation for Algebra II.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Algebra I

Honors Geometry | Yearlong Course

This course in Euclidean Geometry focuses on reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and solids. Students discover theorems dealing with congruence, similarity, right triangles, area, and volume for geometric figures. Coordinate geometry, algebra skills, and problem solving are reinforced throughout the year. Problems in Honors Geometry are more abstract and challenging, and topics are covered at a faster pace. The course requires fundamental algebra skills and aids in the reinforcement and enrichment of those skills in preparation for Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Algebra I/Honors Algebra I

Algebra II | Yearlong Course

Algebra II is designed to reinforce and extend the concepts introduced in Algebra I and Geometry and to thoroughly cover the standard topics of intermediate algebra. The concept of functions, specifically linear and quadratic functions, is more fully developed. New functions such as absolute value, exponential, logarithmic, radical, rational and polynomial functions are then explored. The studies of conic sections, sequences, series, probability, and/or elementary trigonometry complete the course. Problem solving is emphasized throughout this course, and graphing calculators are essential.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry

Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry | Yearlong Course

Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry is a rigorous fast paced course designed to reinforce and extend the concepts introduced in Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry, and to thoroughly cover the standard topics of intermediate algebra. The concept of functions, specifically linear and quadratic functions, is more fully developed. New functions such as absolute value, exponential, logarithmic, radical, rational and polynomial functions are then explored. The Trigonometric and circular functions are thoroughly covered in this course in addition to the algebra concepts. Problem solving is emphasized throughout this course, and graphing calculators are essential.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th, 11th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Algebra I/Honors Algebra I; Geometry/Honors Geometry

Precalculus with Statistics | Yearlong Course

This course is a traditional Precalculus course designed to strengthen students' understanding of functions, their properties, and their applications, while integrating foundational concepts from statistics. Students will study linear, quadratic, higher-degree polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions, emphasizing multiple representations and real-world modeling. Statistical topics include the analysis of univariate and bivariate data, with a focus on modeling bivariate data using a variety of parent functions. Students will use CODAP to build and evaluate models, analyze residual plots, and assess the accuracy and appropriateness of statistical models. The course also includes an in-depth study of trigonometry and its applications. Graphing calculators and technology tools are essential to support exploration, analysis, and problem solving. This course does not serve as a pathway to AP Calculus. However, students can gain entry into AP Statistics if they meet the specified criteria.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: On-Level | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II

Honors Precalculus | Yearlong Course

This course builds on the skills and concepts cultivated in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. It is designed to be the first year of a two-year program that concludes with the study of AP Calculus AB. The course begins by continuing the study of linear, quadratic, logarithmic, exponential, and other functions. Composite and inverse functions are also examined. The trigonometric and circular functions are also covered in this course. The second semester studies trigonometric equations and identities, non-right triangle trigonometry, conic sections, complex numbers, sequences and series, probability, and vectors. This course prepares students for the AP Calculus AB course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II

AP Precalculus | Yearlong Course

This course follows the advanced placement syllabus designed to help students build a deep understanding of functions and their use in modeling real-world phenomena. Students explore a broad spectrum of function types—including polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions—and examine mathematical scenarios through graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations. The course focuses on developing strong skills in algebraic manipulation, multiple representations of functions, and reasoning and communication. It is designed to be the first year of a two-year program that concludes with the study of AP Calculus BC. This course is open only to students who have been invited by the mathematics department. The syllabus includes a thorough review of trigonometry as well as standard topics in advanced algebra, including exponential and logarithmic functions, vectors, parametric functions, polar coordinates, polar graphs, and sequences and series. During the second semester, students will be introduced to basic topics of differential calculus such as limits, continuity, the limit definition of the derivative, and techniques of differentiation. This course prepares students for the AP Calculus BC course. All students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Precalculus exam in the spring.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry

Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications | Yearlong Course

Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications is a mathematical modeling course that is algebra-based, applications-oriented, and technology-dependent. The course addresses banking, investing, credit, employment and income taxes, automobile ownership, independent living, retirement planning and household budgeting. Students are encouraged to use a variety of problem-solving skills and strategies in real-world contexts, and to question outcomes using mathematical analysis and data to support their findings.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II

Data Science | Yearlong Course

Data Science will introduce students to the main ideas in data science through free tools such as Google Sheets, Python, Data Commons and Tableau. Students will learn to be data explorers in project-based units, through which they will develop their understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, the power of data in society, and more! Students will follow the data science process in each of their projects, beginning with asking questions of their own design, analyzing data sets relevant to their questions, and communicating their findings in a meaningful way. At the end of the course, students will have a portfolio of their data science work to showcase their newly developed abilities.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II

AP Calculus AB | Yearlong Course

AP Calculus AB follows the advanced placement syllabus and concentrates on the skills, concepts, and applications of differential and integral calculus. This is a college level course. It requires deep thinking and problem solving as well as reading and writing. There is a strong emphasis on student responsibility for learning. All students are expected to take the Advanced Placement AB exam in the spring.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II; H Precalculus AB

AP Calculus BC | Yearlong Course

AP Calculus BC follows the advanced placement syllabus by covering all the material in the AB course, extending the study of some of those topics, and thoroughly covering Taylor series. This is a college level course. It requires deep thinking and problem solving as well as reading and writing. There is a strong emphasis on student responsibility for learning. All students are expected to take the Advanced Placement BC exam in the spring.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II; H Precalculus BC

AP Statistics | Yearlong Course

AP Statistics follows the advanced placement syllabus and includes data analysis, experimental design, probability, and statistical inference. This course is a college level course. It requires deep thinking and problem solving as well as reading and writing. There is a strong emphasis on student responsibility for learning. All students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in the spring.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II; or Precalculus strongly encouraged but not required.

Multivariable Calculus & Linear Algebra | Yearlong Course

This course has a prerequisite of AP Calculus BC. Students will continue their study of calculus with the following topics: vectors and matrices, partial derivatives, double and triple integrals, and vector calculus in 2 and 3-space in the first semester. Students will also study matrix theory as it relates to linear algebraic systems.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry; Honors Algebra II; H Precalculus BC; AP Calculus BC

Mathematics Course Sequence

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
	Algebra I	Geometry Honors Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry	PreCalculus with Statistics Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications Honors PreCalculus AP PreCalculus
Algebra I Honors Algebra I	Geometry Honors Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry	PreCalculus with Statistics Honors PreCalculus AP PreCalculus AP Statistics	Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications Data Science Honors PreCalculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics
Geometry Honors Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry	PreCalculus with Statistics Honors PreCalculus AP PreCalculus	Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications Data Science Honors PreCalculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Multivariable Calculus & Linear Algebra

Key Notes on Mathematics Course Eligibility:

- Students in on-level Algebra II are not eligible for AP PreCalculus. AP Precalculus is only available to students who took Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry the previous year and were recommended for the course.
- Students in Honors Precalculus are not eligible for AP Calculus BC, but may take AP Calculus AB and/or AP Statistics, if recommended. AP Calculus BC is only available to students who took AP Precalculus the previous year and were recommended for the course.



Physical Education

Department Chair: Mrs. Hope Walters- hwalters@portergaud.edu

The Porter-Gaud Physical Education program is designed to develop each student’s physical, emotional, and social growth. Physical Education in Upper School is focused on continuing to build on the knowledge and understanding of health-related physical fitness through exercise and organized game play. Students will learn through team games the importance of working together for a common goal, being great teammates and displaying great sportsmanship. The curriculum strives to promote students' self-confidence by cultivating a positive environment through sports activities as well as building on their base knowledge of fitness that the students can carry with them throughout their lives.

Course Offerings

- Health & PE 9
- Fitness & Wellness I
- Fitness & Wellness II
- Yoga, Mindfulness & Meditation I
- Yoga, Mindfulness & Meditation II

Physical Education Courses

Health & PE 9 | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Health & PE 9 is a required course for all students that must be completed in the 9th grade. This course helps students develop a positive attitude towards health and fitness. The physical education activities will continue to build upon the physical, teamwork, and leadership skills introduced in the Middle School PE curriculum. Through team sports, an emphasis will be placed on active participation and sportsmanship. In the process, the students will develop physical skills, strength, and stamina; and an appreciation of the value of exercise and fitness as a lifestyle choice. In health education, students cover topics such as personal fitness, nutrition, alcohol and drug abuse, healthy interpersonal relationships, stress management, and some aspects of physical, mental, and social health for total wellness. Each student will also be taught First Aid and CPR through the American Heart Association program.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Prerequisite: None

Fitness and Wellness I and II | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Lifelong wellness and fitness are skills that must be learned and developed early in life. Fitness & Wellness is a course that will kickstart this lifestyle journey by introducing students to the basics of exercise, stress management techniques, and healthy nutrition habits. Students will learn the squat, push, pull and hinge movement patterns, along with other exercise variations, through individualized daily workouts. The stress management and the nutrition portions of the course will be group activity and discussion-based.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Prerequisite Level I: none Prerequisite Level II: Fitness & Wellness I

Yoga, Mindfulness & Meditation I and II | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Yoga, Mindfulness, & Meditation students will learn valuable skills and techniques to reduce stress, develop a stronger mind, and achieve harmony between the body and mind. During this class, students will be taught basic yoga poses and postures that are designed to develop flexibility, muscular strength, and muscular endurance with an emphasis placed on correct alignment and safe practices. Students will also have the opportunity to explore techniques in mindfulness and meditation which can help attain inner peace and mental wellness.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Prerequisite Level I: none Prerequisite Level II: Yoga, Mindfulness & Meditation I

Porter-Gaud Sports that Qualify as a ½ Physical Education Credit Towards Graduation Requirement

The Porter-Gaud Physical Education Department and Porter-Gaud Athletic Department aim to strategically align as Porter-Gaud's interscholastic athletic program comprises (60 teams competing in 30 sports at the middle school, junior varsity, and varsity levels) over 80% of middle and upper school students-athletes.

Each 9th grader at Porter-Gaud completes a semester of the required PE/Health class. This provides 0.5 of the 1.0 departmental requirement. The other 0.5 credit may be earned by completion of a PE class, such as Fitness & Wellness, Yoga, or participation in an approved Porter-Gaud J.V. or Varsity team. Approved teams are Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross-Country, Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Sailing, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Wrestling and Volleyball. Middle School participation in a Porter-Gaud J.V. or Varsity team does not count towards PE credit.

What Qualifies as an Approved Porter-Gaud Team for PE Credit?

Porter-Gaud grants Physical Education graduation requirement credit for sports that meet the following criteria:

- Practice at least 3x a week in-season
- Ability of sport to meet multiple PE standards written for High School PE from the NASPE standards
- Ability of sport to broaden a variety of motor skills and movement patterns

Please note that SCISA may offer sports that Porter-Gaud teams participate in that do not fit the above criteria. Therefore, SCISA sports not meeting these criteria do not count as a PE credit towards graduation.

Per the above guidelines, participation in Bowling, Sporting Clays, and Equestrian does not count toward a PE credit for graduation.





Religion & Philosophy



Department Chair: Fr. Palmer Kennedy - pkennedy@portergaud.edu

The Religion & Philosophy Department exists to serve the mission of Porter-Gaud School by educating students on the questions and pursuits of ultimate concern, including what are the ingredients to a good life, why is there something rather than nothing, and what to do with pain and suffering. Consistent with the standards of Episcopal education, our aim is neither indoctrination nor catechesis. Rather, we seek to create space for students to humbly, critically, and comparatively explore the various responses to the questions of ultimate concern offered by the major religious and philosophical traditions of the world. This exploration takes the form of analytical reading, creative and argumentative writing, seminar-style discussions, and formal debate within an environment of open-mindedness, empathy, and respect. For our department, success looks like students who better understand their world, their neighbors, and themselves.

Course Offerings:

Christian Theology & Ethics

Honors History of World Religions (see also History Department)

Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy (see also History Department)

Honors Christianity in Art

Life Worth Living: Philosophical Studies

Honors Religion Seminar: Just War in Religion

Religion & Philosophy Department Honors Criteria

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Christianity in Art	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current History Teacher's Recommendation
Honors History of World Religions	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current History Teacher's Recommendation
Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current History Teacher's Recommendation
Honors Religion Seminar: Just War in Religion	Current History Course: On-Level Honors AP	90 86 83	Current History Teacher's Recommendation

Religion & Philosophy Courses

Christian Theology and Ethics, **Honors Christianity in Art**, and **Honors History of World Religions** are each courses that may fulfill the 0.5 credit requirement for Religion & Philosophy.

Christian Theology and Ethics | Fall/Spring Semester Course

This semester-length required course introduces students to the Christian theological tradition with a particular emphasis on The Apostles' Creed. The course utilizes an inquiry-based approach in which students are faced with many of life's ultimate questions (e.g. What is our origin? How am I to act? etc.). In engaging these questions, students shall investigate responses offered by the Christian tradition and place this tradition in conversation with other competing worldviews.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: None

Honors Christianity in Art | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Christianity served as the historical cradle for traditional Western Art, Music, and literary Writing. Despite the progressive emergence of secularization after the Quattrocento, the Christian religion continued to furnish patronage and provide content for the Arts. This semester course will attempt to explore each of these artistic disciplines across a timeline extending from the late Middle Ages (monophony to polyphony, for example) through the Renaissance (the 'ad fontes' rediscovery of Greek and Roman themes and techniques), continuing with Humanism (and the emerging validation of the vernacular) through the Enlightenment (such as Masonic Themes in the Classical period), and culminating in Romanticism through various movements of the turn of the 20th century. This survey aspires to explore fundamental Christian theology reciprocally with foundational Western Art, equipping a student with a baseline knowledge of both the religion and culture as well as an appreciation of their mutual evolution.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

Honors History of World Religions | Yearlong Course

This honors-level survey of World Religions aspires to challenge students' preconceptions regarding religion as a historical and cultural phenomenon. Study begins with an examination of the critique of the religious foundation, writ large. With a focus on reading the world's great religious scriptures as primary sources, the principal tenets of the major world religions will be explored in greater detail to rebuild an informed religious edifice. The course culminates with students better apprised of the diverse iterations of human religious experience, more capable of reconstructing his or her emerging definition of Religion in the format of a final project. This elective is reading and writing intensive. This course is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Religion and Philosophy credit or count as a History elective credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY ELECTIVE COURSES

Life Worth Living: Philosophical Studies, **Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy**, **Honors Religion Seminar: Just War in Religion** are upperclassmen electives that may not be used to fulfill the 0.5 credit requirement for Religion & Philosophy.

Life Worth Living: Philosophical Studies | Fall/Spring Semester Course

What is a life worth living? What does it mean for a life to go well? What shape would such a life take? We will individually and collaboratively explore these all-important questions through engagement with the visions offered by the religious and

philosophical traditions of our world. We will also investigate the lives lived by a diverse array of both past and present figures as well as examine the findings and implications of contemporary positive psychology. The course will be discussion, inquiry, and project-based, and it aims not to provide particular answers to the great questions of life but to create an environment in which we each deeply reflect upon our own responses and how these may inform and guide our daily lives.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: None

Honors History of Western Thought: Philosophy | Yearlong Course

Beginning with the pre-Socratics, the first semester concludes with Descartes; the second semester continues the philosophical survey through Wittgenstein in the early 20th century. This survey course includes lectures on the chronology and contributions of major thinkers, but its greater emphasis features intensive discussion of primary source material, which spans the fields of mathematics, science, theology, aesthetics, political theory, and ethics. This honors-level elective is reading and writing intensive. This course is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Religion and Philosophy credit or count as a History elective credit.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History

Honors Religion Seminar: Just War in Religion | Fall Semester Course

This honors-level seminar explores the historical and theological relationship between religion and violence, challenging students to analyze critically how faith traditions have justified or condemned acts of war. Students will then engage with case studies from diverse religious and cultural traditions, analyzing how religious ideologies have influenced historical conflicts. Through the study of primary texts, historical narratives, and philosophical discourse, students will evaluate the ethical and theological dimensions of religious violence. The course culminates in a final project in which students synthesize their learning and articulate their own perspectives. This elective is reading and writing intensive. It is intended to be cross-curricular and can fulfill a Religion and Philosophy elective credit or count as a History elective credit**.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Modern World History | Corequisite: US History/AP US History



Science

Department Chair: Ms. Caitlin Adelson - cadelson@portergaud.edu

Science is a way of understanding the world rooted in experimentation and evidence. In science classes, students explore the natural world by testing ideas, analyzing data, and refining understanding. From the smallest building blocks of matter to the largest structures in the universe, our curriculum emphasizes hands-on inquiry and critical analysis of data and information. The science department faculty strive to develop learners who approach the world with curiosity, discipline, and confidence in the scientific process.

Course Offerings

Biology	Honors Physics	AP Chemistry	Environmental Science:
Honors Biology	Honors Biomedical Sciences	AP Physics C: Mechanics	Problems & Solutions
Chemistry	Honors Biotechnology Research	AP Environmental Science	Oceanography
Honors Chemistry	AP Biology	Astronomy	
Physics		Forensic Science	

Science Department Honors/Advanced Placement Criteria

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Biology	Eighth Grade Science	92	Current Teacher's Recommendation
	Eighth Grade English	90	Recommendation from Current English Teacher or ERB Reading Comprehension 7th-9th Stanines
	Eighth Grade Math	90	Recommendation from Current Math Teacher or ERB Math & Quantitative Reasoning Combined 7th-9th Stanines
Honors Chemistry	Requirements for Rising Sophomores		
	Algebra I	90	Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses and ERB Scores all minimum 6th Stanine
	Requirements for Rising Juniors		
	Algebra II	88	Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses and PSAT Math Score of 560+ or PreACT STEM Score of 26+

Course	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Physics	Algebra II	90	Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses and PSAT Math Score of 600+ or PreACT STEM Score of 26+ or PSAT 8/9 Math Score of 560+
AP Chemistry	All previous math and science courses	88	Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses and PSAT Math Score of 630+ or PreACT STEM Score of 26+ or PSAT 8/9 Math Score of 560+
AP Biology	All previous math and science courses	88	Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses and PSAT Math Score of 630+ or PreACT STEM Score of 26+ or PSAT 8/9 Math Score of 560+
AP Environmental Science	All previous math and science courses	88	Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses and PSAT Math Score of 630+ or PreACT STEM Score of 26+ or PSAT 8/9 Math Score of 560+
AP Physics C: Mechanics	Physics or Honors Physics All previous math and science courses	95 90 90 average	Concurrent enrollment or prior completion of calculus Current teacher recommendations in math and science courses. and PSAT Math Score of 630+ or PreACT STEM Score of 26+
Honors Biotechnology Research	Honors Chemistry	Separate Application Process with Department Approval	

Science Courses

Biology | Yearlong Course

Biology provides students with a comprehensive view of fundamental and emerging topics in life science by exploring the interrelationships of organisms within our biosphere. Beginning with the molecular basis for life and biochemical processes, students will investigate energy systems and continue with the study of cell biology, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Laboratory activities are designed to develop students' skills in making observations, generating hypotheses, and critically analyzing data in support of the various concepts studied throughout the course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Prerequisite: None

Honors Biology | Yearlong Course

Honors Biology is an introductory course covering the concepts and skills previously described in the Biology course; however the class moves more rapidly and is intended for students who have demonstrated both a strong aptitude and keen interest in the sciences. Honors Biology will challenge students to further analyze and apply information and complete additional research. Laboratories and activities are used to reinforce concepts throughout.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: None

Chemistry | Yearlong Course

Chemistry surveys the core topics found in an introductory chemistry course, from the nature of atoms to chemical reactions. Teachers nurture the abstract reasoning and mathematical skills that lead to independent scientific thought. Hands-on laboratory exercises reinforce the theoretical foundation while training students to work with others in a safe, productive, and scientific fashion.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th | Corequisite: Algebra II or higher

Honors Chemistry | Yearlong Course

Honors Chemistry is an in-depth investigation of matter, structure, reactions, and energy's role in these changes. The class moves through the concepts more rapidly than the previously described Chemistry course and is intended for students who have demonstrated both a strong aptitude and keen interest in the sciences or who may be interested in a career that requires substantial scientific preparation. Laboratories, projects, and activities are used to reinforce concepts throughout.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th | Corequisite: Algebra II or higher

Physics | Yearlong Course

The purpose of this course is to develop a solid capability in physical reasoning at a level of mathematics usage consistent with college bound non-science majors. Emphasis will be placed on in-class activities and demonstrations, software programs, labs, and media presentations to cultivate the student's interest in the sciences and to motivate the student to consider enrolling in introductory science courses in college. Students placed in this laboratory science course will place more emphasis on basic concepts of physics and less emphasis on mathematical applications.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th | Prerequisite: Algebra I

Honors Physics | Yearlong Course

This is an introductory course covering topics normally found in a rigorous first-year physics curriculum. The class moves through the concepts more rapidly than the previously described Physics course and is intended for students who have

demonstrated both a strong aptitude and keen interest in science or who may be interested in a career that requires substantial scientific preparation. Laboratories and activities are used to reinforce concepts throughout.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Algebra II

SCIENCE FULL-YEAR ELECTIVE COURSES

AP Biology | Yearlong Course

AP Biology is a college-level, molecular-based course which examines energetics and metabolism, classical Mendelian and molecular genetics, the diversity and evolutionary development of organisms, population dynamics, and interactions within ecosystems. Laboratory sessions covering topics such as enzyme kinetics, human genetics, cellular respiration/photosynthesis are included in preparation for the AP Biology exam. At the conclusion of this course, students will take the AP Biology exam.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

AP Chemistry | Yearlong Course

The goal of AP Chemistry is not only to prepare students to perform at their maximum potential on the AP exam, but also to learn more about the integral role of chemistry in life and in our universe. The course involves the application of mathematics and physics concepts and builds analytical and critical reasoning skills in students. Laboratory experiments allow for hands-on practice of topics discussed in class and prepare students for future lab work on the secondary or university level.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Algebra II and Chemistry

AP Environmental Science | Yearlong Course

AP Environmental Science is a college-level course that introduces students to the science behind many controversial and relevant topics today. An informed citizen must discern between media hype and scientific evidence, between biased agendas and positive solutions. This class will give students the scientific background they need to make informed decisions and the information necessary to form opinions on topics related to current environmental issues and the world in which we live. Students will be challenged to identify and analyze problems, as well as examine options for solving them. Each student should leave this course with a strong understanding of current environmental issues, the science background necessary to support that understanding and the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed decisions as a responsible citizen.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

AP Physics C: Mechanics | Yearlong Course

AP Physics C: Mechanics is a second-year elective physics course for students interested in continuing studying the STEM fields in college and beyond. Students will explore concepts such as kinematics; Newton's laws of motion, work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; rotation; oscillations; and gravitation. Students will do hands-on laboratory work and in-class activities to investigate phenomena and use calculus to solve problems. This course is the equivalent to a semester-long, introductory calculus-based college course in physics.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Physics | Corequisite: Calculus

Honors Biomedical Sciences | Yearlong Course

This course will provide students who are interested in health sciences with an opportunity to apply their fundamental knowledge in biology to gain a further understanding of anatomy, physiology, neuroscience, microbiology, and ethics. The class will explore topics including but not limited to human organ systems, infectious diseases, epidemiology, pharmacology, and cognitive neuroscience. Throughout the year, students will participate in practical labs, dissections, case studies, and independent projects to gain hands-on experience within each of these fields and how they are applicable to our everyday lives.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Biology

Oceanography | Yearlong Course

Oceanography is a multi-disciplinary course which explores the Earth's oceans. It will familiarize students with the physical (waves, tides, and currents), chemical (properties of seawater), and biological (marine biology and ecology) aspects of the ocean ecosystems. Students will explore each of these systems using laboratory experiments, a variety of field trips, and hands-on research. The end of the year will primarily focus on the environmental concerns for our oceans. Students will independently research a marine environmental topic of their choice and work on developing solutions. They will be encouraged to become civically engaged throughout the year as well.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Biology

Environmental Science: Problems & Solutions | Yearlong Course

Environmental Science: Problems and Solutions is a year-long elective science course in which students will explore the foundations of environmental systems. Students will participate in citizen science projects that focus on human impacts on the biotic and abiotic components of local ecosystems such as loss of biodiversity, habitat modifications, and the influence of pollutants on natural systems. The design, implementation, and analysis of their own independent research project over the course of the year will culminate with the communication of their results at a public research symposium.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Biology

SCIENCE SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSES

(LIMITED TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS)

Astronomy | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Embark on a journey through the vast expanse of the cosmos. This course delves into the fundamental principles of astronomy, exploring celestial bodies, their movements, and other mysteries of the universe. Offering a holistic perspective on astronomy, this elective blends historical context with contemporary scientific understanding and introduces students to the special instruments used to study the universe. Topics include the structure and development of our solar system, stars and stellar evolution, exoplanets, galaxies, black holes, cosmology, and other extreme phenomena. The StarLab features as a key component of our class structure as a way to both introduce new ideas and reinforce previously learned topics. The class will incorporate some traditional assessments with a number of projects and hands-on inquiry activities designed to reinforce the topics covered.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Chemistry

Honors Biotechnology Research | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Honors Biotechnology Research provides students interested in biotechnology and bioengineering the opportunity to conduct molecular biology research in collaboration with labs at various research institutions. Students in the course select the collaborating lab they are most interested in working with and spend their semester engaging with that lab's research questions while designing and engineering DNA plasmids that directly advance ongoing research projects, contributing meaningfully to real-world scientific inquiry beyond the classroom. Through this work, students develop technical skills transferable to any biotechnology lab, including PCR, restriction digestion, electrophoresis, bacterial transformations, DNA isolation, ligation, DNA sequence analysis, and the genetic engineering of DNA plasmids. In addition to mastering laboratory techniques, students hone essential professional skills such as experimental design, project planning, collaboration, responsible lab citizenship, time management, and scientific troubleshooting.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Honors Chemistry

Forensic Science | Fall/Spring Semester Course

Forensic Science is designed to introduce interested students to the many aspects of forensics incorporating their previously acquired knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics. The course focus is hands-on activities and labs. A selection of activities includes fingerprint analysis, blood spatter studies, fiber and hair analysis, DNA analysis, forensic entomology, and forensic anthropology. Videos and films are used to enhance the student's knowledge of a number of topics. Assessment for this course includes, but is not limited to, a book report and a final cumulative project.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th,12th | Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry

Science Course Sequence

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Biology Honors Biology	Chemistry Honors Chemistry	Physics Honors Physics AP Biology (yearlong elective) AP Chemistry (yearlong elective) AP Environmental Science (yearlong elective) AP Physics C: Mechanics (yearlong elective) Honors Biomedical Sciences (yearlong elective) Oceanography (yearlong elective) Environmental Science: Problems & Solutions (yearlong elective) Astronomy (semester elective) Forensic Science (semester elective) Honors Biotechnology Research (semester elective)	AP Biology (yearlong elective) AP Chemistry (yearlong elective) AP Environmental Science (yearlong elective) AP Physics C: Mechanics (yearlong elective) Honors Biomedical Sciences (yearlong elective) Oceanography (yearlong elective) Environmental Science: Problems & Solutions (yearlong elective) Astronomy (semester elective) Forensic Science (semester elective) Honors Biotechnology Research (semester elective)



World Languages

Department Chair: Mrs. Emmanuelle Greenwell - egreenwell@portergaud.edu

Becoming proficient in another language and learning about other cultures is vital in today's global community and the Porter-Gaud World Language program. Our curriculum provides students with the opportunity to participate in a multilingual and multicultural environment and to learn to connect and communicate with speakers of other languages. In addition to working toward acquiring the languages, students will be introduced to the practices and perspectives of these global cultures. In all languages - Spanish, French, Latin, and Mandarin Chinese - our department faculty utilize engaging resources including developmentally appropriate content, rich stories, authentic texts, computer applications and audio and video resources to facilitate learning to communicate, interpret the language and bring the targeted cultures to life.

Course Offerings

Chinese I, II, III, IV, V	French I, II, III, IV, V	Latin I, II, III, IV	Spanish I, II, III, IV, V
Honors Chinese II, III, IV	Honors French II, III, IV	Honors Latin II, III, IV	Honors Spanish II, III, IV
AP Chinese	AP French Language	AP Latin	AP Spanish Language
Honors Advanced Chinese Studies	Honors Advanced French Studies		Honors Advanced Spanish Studies

Course offerings may vary from year-to-year and are dependent on student enrollment.

World Language Department Honors/Advanced Placement Criteria

Each student's proficiency level will be considered for placement. Appeals will be reviewed after proficiency levels are determined.

Course Level	Prerequisite Course(s)	Minimum Grade	Additional Requirements
Honors Level II	Level I	93	Current Teacher's Recommendation and Proper proficiency level (STAMP, PLACE)
Honors Level III	Honors Level II	90	Current Teacher's Recommendation and Proper proficiency level (STAMP, PLACE)
Honors Level IV	Honors Level III	90	Current Teacher's Recommendation and Proper proficiency level (STAMP, PLACE)
AP	Honors Level IV	90	Current Teacher's Recommendation or In certain cases for students with proficiency scores above the class average, and average of 98 or better in Honors Level III and teacher recommendation will be considered for promotion directly to the AP Level (Spanish only).
Honors Advanced Language Studies	AP	90	Current Teacher's Recommendation

*If an honors course was not offered, a minimum grade of 93 in the on-level course and teacher recommendation are required for promotion to the next honors level.



World Language Courses



Chinese I | Yearlong Course

This course provides an introduction to the Chinese language and culture. It is an accelerated version of the middle school curriculum and serves as the foundation for subsequent study. With a focus on using the language in real-world situations, and the goal of beginning their journey on the path to proficiency, students will build a basic vocabulary and learn the grammatical structures needed to perform basic communicative functions related to their daily lives. Through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources, students will develop their skills in all modes of communication. **Please note that minimum enrollment numbers must be met to offer this course.**

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Prerequisite: None

Chinese II | Yearlong Course

In the second level of Chinese, students will continue on the path to proficiency by expanding the topics on which they are able to communicate and increasing the level of sophistication with which they can express their ideas and understand others. Through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources, students will develop their skills in all modes of communication in addition to continuing their study of Chinese culture.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Prerequisite: Chinese I

Honors Chinese II | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the Chinese language. In Honors Chinese II, students will continue to study Chinese culture and to develop proficiency in all four modes of communication (listening, reading, writing, and speaking) through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources. They will expand the topics on which they are able to communicate and increase the level of sophistication with which they can express their ideas and understand others while working at an accelerated pace. Students in this course are being prepared to eventually take the AP Chinese Language course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Chinese I

Chinese III | Yearlong Course

In the third level of Chinese, students continue to further their proficiency by expanding their vocabulary and incorporating more sophisticated grammatical constructions into their communication. Students will be expected to participate actively using the target language to narrate events in various time frames in oral and written form, and to interpret more advanced print and audio texts. Authentic resources will continue to be used as a means of developing proficiency as well as a greater appreciation for and understanding of Chinese culture.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Prerequisite: Chinese I, II

Honors Chinese III | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the Chinese language. Honors Chinese III will be conducted primarily in Chinese. Students will enhance their proficiency through reading comprehension, listening, speaking and writing tasks and study more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar topics in an accelerated manner. Honors Chinese III will prepare students for Honors Chinese IV and AP Chinese. Authentic resources will continue to be used as a means of furthering proficiency as well as a greater appreciation for and understanding of Chinese culture.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Chinese I, II

Chinese IV | Yearlong Course

In the fourth level of Chinese, students will continue to increase their proficiency by adding more precise vocabulary to their repertoire and working to refine their language skills. Through authentic readings and videos in Chinese, students will elevate their interpretive skills and continue to foster a greater appreciation for Chinese history and culture. They will continue to elevate the level of sophistication with which they are able to express themselves both orally and in the written word through classroom discussions, conversations, presentations and compositions. Students will focus on a variety of topics beyond those related to their present daily lives but extending to past experiences, future and hypothetical situations and more abstract topics.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Chinese I, II, III

Honors Chinese IV | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and high level of proficiency in the Chinese language and prepares students for the AP Chinese course. This intensive course focuses further development of communicative competence in the areas of speaking, writing, listening, and reading. The course is taught almost exclusively in Chinese, and students are expected to use the language for general conversation, intense discussion, and other aspects of study of the language and culture. Students will be asked to prepare various presentations on prepared and spontaneous topics as well as to write extensively developed compositions in Chinese.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Chinese I, II, III

Chinese V: Conversation and Culture | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for motivated students who are interested in further developing their proficiency in the Chinese language at an advanced level. The students will study a broad variety of Chinese films and read literacy selections and articles that pertain to Chinese history and culture. Discussion of Chinese cinema and literature will enable students to improve their understanding of many aspects of Chinese culture. They are expected to use the target language exclusively in formal and informal writing assignments and compositions, and to discuss issues in a variety of forums including informal conversations, improvisational dialogues, roundtable discussions, debates, and presentations.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Chinese I, II, III, IV

AP Chinese Language and Culture | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and ability in the Chinese language and would like to take the AP Chinese test in May. The college-preparatory curriculum is designed to reinforce and sharpen communicative skills with the goal of achieving a high level of proficiency in Chinese (as defined by the College Board's AP Chinese Course Description). This course is taught exclusively in Chinese, will include advanced conversation and discussion, composition, intensive reading of texts of various genres, and interpretation of audio passages from various source types.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Chinese I, Chinese II, III, IV

Honors Advanced Chinese Studies | Yearlong Course

This course is for students who have completed AP Chinese and wish to continue their studies. It is designed to continue moving students toward a higher level of proficiency in the language and further advance their cultural knowledge and awareness through the lens of literature, news, films, etc. The course will be conducted entirely in Chinese and students will be expected to provide insightful opinions, analyze, predict, hypothesize, and compare and contrast as they communicate in oral and written discourse.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Prerequisite: AP Chinese Language and Culture

French I | Yearlong Course

This course provides an introduction to the French language and Francophone culture. It is an accelerated version of the middle school curriculum and serves as the foundation for subsequent study. With a focus on using the language in real-world situations, and the goal of beginning the journey on the path to proficiency, students will build a basic vocabulary and learn the grammatical structures needed to perform basic communicative functions related to their daily lives. Through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources, students will develop their skills in all modes of communication. **Please note that minimum enrollment numbers must be met to offer this course.**

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Prerequisite: None

French II | Yearlong Course

In the second level of French, students will continue on the path to proficiency by expanding the topics on which they are able to communicate and increasing the level of sophistication with which they can express their ideas and understand others. Through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources, students will develop their skills in all modes of communication in addition to continuing their study of Francophone culture.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Prerequisite: French I

Honors French II | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the French language. In Honors French II, students will continue to study the Francophone culture and to develop proficiency in all four modes of communication (listening, reading, writing, and speaking) through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources. They will expand the topics on which they are able to communicate and increase the level of sophistication with which they can express their ideas and understand others while working at an accelerated pace. Students in this course are being prepared to eventually take the AP French Language course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: French I

French III | Yearlong Course

In the third level of French, students continue to further their proficiency by expanding their vocabulary and incorporating more sophisticated grammatical constructions into their communication. Students will be expected to participate actively using the target language to narrate events in various time frames in oral and written form, and to interpret more advanced print and audio texts. Authentic resources will continue to be used as a means of developing proficiency as well as a greater appreciation for and understanding of Francophone culture.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Prerequisite: French I, II

Honors French III | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the French language. Honors French III will be conducted primarily in French. Students will enhance their proficiency through reading comprehension, listening, speaking and writing tasks and study more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar topics in an accelerated manner. Honors French III will prepare students for Honors French IV and AP French. Authentic resources will continue to be used as a means of furthering proficiency as well as a greater appreciation for and understanding of Francophone culture.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: French I, II

French IV | Yearlong Course

In the fourth level of French, students will continue to increase their proficiency by adding more precise vocabulary to their repertoire and working to refine their language skills. Through authentic readings and videos in French, students will elevate

their interpretive skills and continue to foster a greater appreciation for Francophone history and culture. They will continue to elevate the level of sophistication with which they are able to express themselves both orally and in the written word through classroom discussions, conversations, presentations and compositions. Students will focus on a variety of topics beyond those related to their daily lives but extending to past experiences, future and hypothetical situations and more abstract topics.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: French I, II, III

Honors French IV | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and high level of proficiency in the French language and prepares students for the AP French course. This intensive course focuses on further development of communicative competence in the areas of speaking, writing, listening, and reading. The course is taught almost exclusively in French, and students are expected to use the language for general conversation, intense discussion, and other aspects of study of the language and culture. Students will be asked to prepare various presentations on prepared and spontaneous topics as well as to write extensively developed compositions in French.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: French I, II, III

French V | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for motivated students who are interested in further developing their proficiency in the French language at a higher level of proficiency. The students will add to their repertoire of vocabulary at an upper level and study grammar topics in context. They will read literary selections and articles in French that pertain to both the historical and contemporary issues in Francophone countries as well as other cultural practices and perspectives and watch television shows and short and long films and documentaries in French. They are expected to use the target language almost exclusively in formal and informal writing assignments and compositions and to discuss issues in a variety of forums including informal conversation, improvisational dialogues, roundtable discussions, debates, and presentations.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: French I, II, III, IV

AP French Language and Culture | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and ability in the French language and would like to take the AP French Language Test in May. The college-preparatory curriculum is designed to reinforce and sharpen these skills with the goal of achieving a high level of proficiency in French (as defined by the College Board's AP French Language Course Description.). The course, taught exclusively in French, will include advanced conversation and discussion, composition, and intensive reading of texts of various genres, and interpretation of audio passages from various source types.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: French I, II, III, IV

Honors Advanced French Studies | Yearlong Course

This course is for students who have completed AP French and wish to continue their studies. It is designed to continue moving students toward a higher level of proficiency in the language and further advance their cultural knowledge and awareness through the lens of literature and films from the twentieth century to modern day. Themes and works from diverse Francophone cultures will be presented, thus students will increase their intercultural competence as well. The course will be conducted entirely in French and students will be expected to provide insightful opinions, analyze, predict, hypothesize, and compare and contrast as they communicate in oral and written discourse.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Prerequisite: AP French Language and Culture

Latin I | Yearlong Course

This course provides an introduction to the Latin language and to the culture and history of Rome and mythology. It is an accelerated version of the middle school Latin curriculum and serves as the foundation for subsequent study. Essential grammar and vocabulary are introduced, including case endings, verb tenses, conjugations and sentence structure as students begin to learn how to interpret the written word. **Please note that minimum enrollment numbers must be met to offer this course.**

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Prerequisite: None

Latin II | Yearlong Course

In the second level of Latin, students are expected to have a firm understanding of the basics of Latin sentence structure and word formation, including all noun declensions and regular verb conjugations. Students will continue a survey of more sophisticated Latin grammar, including participles, indirect statement, and the subjunctive mood, as well as expand their vocabulary knowledge in both English and Latin. Students will continue to enhance their translation skills, study the lives of famous Romans such as Cicero and Vergil, and take a more detailed survey of the Roman world.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Prerequisite: Latin I

Honors Latin II | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the Latin language. In Honors Latin II, students are expected to have a firm understanding of the basics of Latin sentence structure and word formation, including all noun declensions and regular verb conjugations. Students will continue a survey of more sophisticated Latin grammar including all of the same topics as the standard Latin II course, while working at an accelerated pace and taking a deeper dive into their exploration of the language and historical topics of the Roman world. Students in this course are being prepared to eventually take the AP Latin course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Latin I

Latin III | Yearlong Course

In the third level of Latin, students will explore the connections and contrasts between the Roman world and modern day. Advanced topics in grammar and prosody will be introduced. Translation will be enriched by readings in English. Cultural topics considered will include the Classical tradition in epic and satire, as well as the historical and mythological framework for Latin literature.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Prerequisite: Latin I, II

Honors Latin III | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the Latin language. Just as in the standard Latin III course, students will explore the connections and contrasts between the Roman world and modern day. Advanced topics in grammar and prosody will be introduced. Translation will be enriched by reading in English. However, students will move at an accelerated pace and will take a deeper dive into the study of both the language and the historical culture of the Roman world. This course will prepare students for Honors Latin IV and eventually the AP Latin course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Latin I, II

Latin IV | Yearlong Course

In the fourth level of Latin, students will focus on readings in Caesar's *Bellum Gallicum* and Vergil's *Aeneid*, which are mandatory selections for the AP exam. However, this course will also cover Latin literature beyond the range of the test, including Cicero's *De Re Publica*, selections of Catullus' poetry, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Throughout the course, students will be presented with opportunities to understand the influence that Latin vocabulary and literature play in our lives today.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Latin I, II, III

Honors Latin IV | Yearlong Course

This course is a challenging course for highly motivated Latin students who have a strong interest and proficiency in the Language. Students finalize and refine their understanding of Latin grammar and extend their vocabulary through word studies and translation of ancient authors, including Cicero and Catullus. In addition, students become familiar with important mythological and historical topics in preparation for the AP Latin course. Applicants to this course should demonstrate a firm grasp of earlier Latin concepts as well as a commitment to an accelerated reading pace.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Latin I, II, III

AP Latin | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and ability in Latin and would like to take the AP Latin Test in May. Students in AP Latin will focus on readings in Caesar's *Bellum Gallicum* and Vergil's *Aeneid*, which are mandatory selections for the AP exam. The college-preparatory curriculum is designed to reinforce and sharpen these skills with the goal of achieving mastery in the skills of Latin (as defined by the College Board's AP Latin Course Description.).

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Latin I, II, III, IV

Spanish I | Yearlong Course

This course provides an introduction to the Spanish language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. It is an accelerated version of the middle school curriculum and serves as the foundation for subsequent study. With a focus on using the language in real-world situations, and the goal of beginning their journey on the path to proficiency, students will build a basic vocabulary and learn the grammatical structures needed to perform basic communicative functions related to their daily lives. Through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources, students will develop their skills in all modes of communication.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th | Prerequisite: None

Spanish II | Yearlong Course

In the second level of Spanish, students will continue on the path to proficiency by expanding the topics on which they are able to communicate and increasing the level of sophistication with which they can express their ideas and understand others. Through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources, students will develop their skills in all modes of communication in addition to continuing their study of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Prerequisite: Spanish I

Honors Spanish II | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the Spanish language. In Honors Spanish II, students will continue to study the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and to develop proficiency in all four modes of communication (listening, reading, writing, and speaking) through the use of readings, listening exercises, videos, internet/computer activities and other authentic resources. They will expand the topics on which they are able to communicate and increase the level of sophistication with which they can express their ideas and understand others while working at an accelerated pace. Students in this course are being prepared to eventually take the AP Spanish Language course.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 9th, 10th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish III | Yearlong Course

In the third level of Spanish, students continue to further their proficiency by expanding their vocabulary and incorporating more sophisticated grammatical constructions into their communication. Students will be expected to participate actively using the

target language, to narrate events in various time frames in oral and written form, and to interpret more advanced print and audio texts. Authentic resources will continue to be used as a means of developing proficiency as well as a greater appreciation for and understanding of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Prerequisite: Spanish I, II

Honors Spanish III | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for the student who is committed to pursuing a more intense study of the Spanish language. Honors Spanish III will be conducted primarily in Spanish. Students will enhance their proficiency through reading comprehension, listening, speaking and writing tasks and study more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar topics in an accelerated manner. Honors Spanish III will prepare students for Honors Spanish IV and AP Spanish. Authentic resources will continue to be used as a means of furthering proficiency as well as a greater appreciation for and understanding of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 10th, 11th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Spanish I, II

Spanish IV | Yearlong Course

In the fourth level of Spanish, students will continue to increase their proficiency by adding more precise vocabulary to their repertoire and working to refine their language skills. Through authentic readings and videos in Spanish, students will elevate their interpretive skills and continue to foster a greater appreciation for the history and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. They will continue to elevate the level of sophistication with which they are able to express themselves both orally and in the written word through classroom discussions, conversations, presentations and compositions. Students will focus on a variety of topics beyond those related to their daily lives but extending to past experiences, future and hypothetical situations and more abstract topics.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III

Honors Spanish IV | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and high level of proficiency in the Spanish language and is a prerequisite for the AP Spanish Language course. This grammar intensive course focuses on the use of that grammar in the areas of speaking, writing, listening, and reading. The course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish, and students are expected to use the language for general conversation, intense discussion, and grammar review. Students will be asked to prepare various presentations on prepared and spontaneous topics as well as to write extensively developed compositions in Spanish.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Honors | Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III

Spanish V | Yearlong Course

This course is designed for motivated students who are interested in further developing their proficiency in the Spanish language at a higher level of proficiency. The students will add to their repertoire of vocabulary at an upper level and study grammar topics in context. They will read literary selections and articles in Spanish that pertain to both historical and contemporary issues in Spanish-speaking countries as well as other cultural practices and perspectives and watch television shows and short and long Spanish and Latin American films and documentaries in the target language. They are expected to use the target language exclusively in formal and informal writing assignments and compositions and to discuss issues in a variety of forums including informal conversation, improvisational dialogues, roundtable discussions, debates, and presentations.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III, IV

AP Spanish Language and Culture | Yearlong Course

This course is for highly motivated students who have a strong interest and ability in the Spanish language and would like to take the AP Spanish Language test in May. The college-preparatory curriculum is designed to reinforce and sharpen these skills with the goal of achieving a high level of proficiency in Spanish (as defined by the College Board's AP Spanish Language Course Description). The course, taught exclusively in Spanish, will include advanced conversation and discussion, composition, and intensive reading of texts of various genres, and interpretation of audio passages from various source types.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 11th, 12th | Course Level: Advanced Placement | Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III, IV

Honors Advanced Spanish Studies | Yearlong Course

This course is for students who have completed AP Spanish and wish to continue their studies. It is designed to continue moving students toward a higher level of proficiency in the language and further advance their cultural knowledge and awareness through the lens of literature and films from the twentieth century to modern day. Themes and works from diverse Spanish-speaking cultures will be presented, thus students will increase their intercultural competence as well. The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish and students will be expected to provide insightful opinions, analyze, predict, hypothesize, and compare and contrast as they communicate in oral and written discourse.

Eligible Grade Level(s): 12th | Prerequisite: AP Spanish Language and Culture

Students who move from an on-level World Language course to an Honors or AP course will be required to complete summer work to prepare them for this transition.

