

# High School Course Information 2011-2012

## Pusch Ridge Christian Academy

### General Criteria for Honors and AP Classes:

- Student must desire to be in an Honors or AP class
- Previous teacher's recommendation (New Students) – Completion of recommendation form from student's previous teacher in the subject area.
- Previous teacher's recommendation (PRCA Students) – Teacher's recommendation is submitted to the Guidance Center. Students must receive a recommendation from the previous teacher in order to be placed in Honors or AP classes.
- Previous grades (New and PRCA Students) - A student should have received a 90% or better in the previous associated class. In order for a student to remain in an AP or Honors class, the student must receive an 80% or better. A student who receives lower than 80% may remain in the AP or Honors class on a probationary status with instructor's approval.
- Overall GPA of 3.3 (All Students)
- Attendance is critical – Students that have habitual problems with attendance may not be recommended for AP classes.

### Specific Subject Criteria:

- Honors or AP English (New Students) – A score of 4-6 (6-point rubric) on a timed-writing assessment given and evaluated by the English department.
- Honors or AP English (PRCA Students) – Recommendation by previous English teacher and 90% or better in previous English class.
- Calculus AB – Must have received a B or better in Pre-calculus.
- Honors Social Sciences (New and PRCA Students) – Recommendation by previous Social Sciences teacher and must have 90% or better.
- Honors Chemistry – Students must have completed Alg II with 80% or better, or be currently enrolled in Algebra II and have 90% or better in Alg I.
- AP Chemistry – Completed Chemistry with 90% or better, or Honors Chemistry with 80% or better.
- Honors Biology – Previous science teacher's recommendation and 90% or better.
- Honors Geometry – Previous math teacher's recommendation and 90% or better in Algebra I.
- Honors Functions/Stats/Trig – Previous math teacher's recommendation, and 90% or better in Algebra II.

### Please Note:

AP courses require a significant time commitment outside of the classroom as they are considered college-level courses. Students willing and able to make this time commitment and who meet the above criteria can sign up for AP classes.

Students taking AP courses are encouraged to take the AP Exam at the end of the school year, the cost of which they will be billed. A student who earns a score of 4 or 5 (on a 5-point scale) on a particular AP exam will be reimbursed by the school for the cost of that exam. Students who choose not to take the AP Exam will be required to take a final exam in the course.

## Core Classes

- Students in grades 9 – 11 grades must have 7 classes. For juniors, one of these classes may be a Study Hall.
- Students in grade 12 may attend 1-6<sup>th</sup> or 2-7<sup>th</sup> periods. One of these classes may be a Study Hall.
- If you are interested *and qualified* to take Honors and AP classes, please select the honors/AP course option in the drop down menu.
- Please fill in your math choice. However, final placement will be based on teacher recommendation and previous math grades. A student must receive a C or better (73%) to proceed in the math sequence.
- Honors and AP courses (H) and (AP) will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Students are not guaranteed placement in an honors class, *even if they qualify*. Please note that the deadline for making ANY course request changes (that includes switching from an honors to regular class) is April 30, 2011. All staffing decisions and master schedules are created based on course requests. Please take the time to ensure that you request what you really want! If you are borderline, but really want Honors, request it. You will be notified before summer if you do not qualify and must be placed in a non-honors course.

## Bible Sequence

New Testament (9<sup>th</sup>), Old Testament (10<sup>th</sup>), Biblical Analysis and Christian Worldview (11<sup>th</sup>), Apologetics and Applied Christianity (12<sup>th</sup>)

## English Sequence

English 9 or (H), English 10 or (H), English 11 or (AP), English 12 or (AP)

## Social Studies Sequence

World Geography or (H) (9<sup>th</sup>), World History or (H) (10<sup>th</sup>), US History or (AP) (11<sup>th</sup>), Government/Free Enterprise or (AP) (12<sup>th</sup>)

## Science Sequence

Biology or (H) (9<sup>th</sup>), Global Science, Anatomy and Physiology or (H), Chemistry or (H) or (AP), Physics or (H). (Students must be enrolled in Alg II or higher for Chemistry or Physics.)

## Math Sequence

Pre-Algebra; Algebra I; Geometry or (H); Algebra II or (H); Functions, Stats, Trig or (H); Pre-Calculus; Calculus AB; Calculus BC (Pre-Calc and Calc classes are all honors credit only); Business Math and Economics (Srs. only)

## Elective Classes

- Electives will be offered depending on an adequate number of students signing up for a particular course. Consequently, there is no guarantee that all electives will be offered.
- Although most electives have room for all interested students, some are limited in size. If elective class size is limited, students will be given their top choice of electives based on a first-come first-served basis related to when online course requests are made, provided that you have submitted your re-enrollment forms to the school office and paid the re-enrollment and registration fees by the deadline.

## **Full-Year Electives**

Spanish I, II, III, AP (IV)  
Latin I, II, III  
Band  
Zero-hour Band  
Orchestra  
Voice of Praise  
Ensemble (Voice of Praise and audition required)  
Music Theory and Composition  
Music for Worship  
Beginning Drama  
Advanced Drama-B.O.W. (Beg. Drama and audition req'd)  
Sound, Light and Stage  
Advanced Painting (1 sem of Beg. Painting req'd)  
Graphic Design  
Yearbook (interview required)  
Leadership

## **One-Semester Electives**

Functional Training for boys and girls  
Zero-hour Weight Training for boys  
PE – Recreational Games for boys and girls  
Nutrition/Foods  
Beginning Painting  
Drawing  
Pottery  
Photography I  
Photography II (Photography I required)  
Webpage Design  
Digital and Media Art  
Robotics  
Science Explorations  
Study Hall (Jr, Sr only)  
Teachers Aid

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## **Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Foreign Language**

#### **Spanish I**

**Full Year**

Spanish I will give students an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. This course establishes the fundamentals of speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing. Students will develop a working Spanish vocabulary and a basic understanding of Spanish grammar. They will learn to communicate in Spanish on a variety of everyday topics. There will be a special emphasis on vocabulary acquisition as the basic building blocks for an excellent foundation in the Spanish language. Students will also strive to increase their geographic and cultural awareness.

#### **Spanish II**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Spanish I**

In this second year of Spanish, students are challenged to expand upon their introduction to Spanish vocabulary from the first year of study and begin to perform both orally and in writing at a much higher cognitive level. Students in Spanish II will constantly be challenged with implementing their vocabulary in day-to-day activities that simulate what we hope will happen in real-life conversations. We encourage each student to enter the Spanish-speaking world with the skills and tools they have and to learn by doing. Oral and written expression of thought is of prime importance in the second year of study. We desire each student to challenge him/herself to actually “perform” with the Spanish they have learned by being bold enough to speak the language with the native Spanish speaker. Students are also encouraged to take part in short term mission trips through their church youth group or as opportunities arise. They will be given the essential vocabulary of the gospel to present this life-changing message in a clear and simple manner.

#### **Spanish III**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Spanish II**

In the third year of Spanish, students are challenged daily to perform in the Spanish language for 80 percent of the class time. In this year, we stress the importance of fluency as it relates to pronunciation

and listening comprehension. Though each week will have writing assignments, the emphasis of the class will be in speaking Spanish and being able to communicate about any topic, through the usage of all acquired vocabulary and communication skills. One method of accomplishing this is to integrate the vocabulary and themes of curriculum being studied in other classes. Students participate in weekly fund-raising as they plan and prepare for a mission trip to Mexico should they continue on to take AP Spanish.

## **AP Spanish 4**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Spanish 3**

In this course students work on developing a strong command of the Spanish language, with proficiency in integrating language skills and synthesizing written and aural materials. The formal writing process, extensive interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing practice, and aural comprehension skills are emphasized through quality, authentic, and level-appropriate audio and video recordings. Students are also further exposed to the world of literature and current events of Spanish-speaking countries through authentic written texts, including newspaper and magazine articles, literary texts, and other nontechnical writings that develop students' reading and comprehension abilities. Class is conducted completely in Spanish and includes frequent writing and integration of skills with a rigorous review of grammatical structures. Organizational and analytical strategies are taught. An array of resources is used as necessary to facilitate the learning process. The teacher uses Spanish almost exclusively in class and encourages students to do likewise.

## **Latin I**

**Full Year**

Latin I will give the students an introduction to Classical Latin as well as the Greco-Roman culture. This course will begin to establish the fundamentals of Latin grammar and vocabulary that will guide them in the reading of Latin, as well as writing in Latin. The close relationship between Latin and English will be studied to further the students critical thinking and English vocabulary comprehension. This course will begin to look at Greek and Roman literature (in both the Latin and English languages), art, and architecture to further the students' knowledge of the classical civilizations and their influence on our modern civilizations.

## **Physical Education**

### **Boys Recreational Games**

**Semester or Full Year**

This course looks at the biblical concept of caring for the physical body and explores the wide range of activities that are available to maintain a healthy, fit body. Students are introduced to various types of activity for the present and a lifetime that include: team sports, individual sports, fitness and recreation. The class also discusses the biblical view of sportsmanship, teamwork, encouragement, perseverance and ability.

### **Boys Functional Training**

**Semester or Full Year**

Weight Training is a vital part of the total educational process exploring physical activity and how it relates to the student on a biblical, social, emotional, mental, and physical level. Through this course, students learn to understand and appreciate the importance of improved physical fitness, strength, development and ways to maintain a fit, healthy body. Students learn the use and care of weight and exercise equipment.

### **Girls Recreational Games**

**Semester or Full Year**

This course looks at the biblical concept of caring for the physical body and explores the wide range of activities that are available to maintain a healthy, fit body. It introduces students to various types of

activity for the present and for a lifetime, to include: team sports, individual sports, fitness, and recreation. It discusses the biblical view of sportsmanship, teamwork, encouragement, perseverance, and ability.

## **Girls Functional Training**

**Semester or Full Year**

This course looks at the Biblical concept of caring for the physical body. It defines fitness, and explores ways to maintain a fit, healthy body. It teaches the use and care of weight and exercise equipment. It provides students with a variety of different fitness programs.

## **Nutrition**

**Semester**

In this class we will be examining the way that nutrition affects health and how God created our bodies to use nutrients. We will be discussing and researching several different topics that relate to nutrients, type of foods, proper food preparation, and food controversies. We will practically apply nutrition with food preparation in and out of class.

## **Fine Arts**

### **Marching/Concert Band**

**Full Year**

Marching/Concert Band is an opportunity for students to be part of a musical team. Students will develop technical ability on a chosen instrument, and they will also develop their personal level of musicality through the study of musical concepts such as balance, rhythm, phrasing, and texture. They will also be exposed to many styles of band literature. The band will prepare music at its ability level and will also have the opportunity to perform in several areas within marching and concert settings. Marching uniforms are provided.

### **Orchestra**

**Full Year**

This class is an opportunity for musicians to learn or improve playing a string instrument for performance. Students will be exposed to a variety of string and orchestral music. Performances will include string ensembles, and orchestra, with selected woodwinds and brass invited from concert band. This class will be a combined effort with Middle School. High school students interested in orchestra may participate in the class.

### **Voice of Praise**

**Full Year**

This course is open to all students interested in exploring singing 4-part vocal choral music. It is a prerequisite to Ensemble and includes 4 to 10 out-of-class concerts and workshops. Coursework includes music-reading skills each day and music-theory skills each week, as well as memorizing all performance music. Students will be exposed to variety of musical styles and periods. Students are encouraged to audition for the South East Arizona Regional Choir. Performance dress is required.

### **Ensemble**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Voice of Praise and Audition**

This course is an advanced singing-performance class. It includes approximately 25 out-of-class concerts and workshops during the school year. Coursework includes music-reading skills each day and music-theory skills each week, as well as memorizing all performance music. Students will be exposed to variety of musical styles and periods. Students are required to audition for the South East Arizona Regional Choir. Performance dress is required.

## **Music Theory and Composition**

**Full Year**

In this one-year class students will grow to understand the structure and design of music. The class moves rapidly from a very basic understanding of music and music reading through college-level coursework. Students will compose original music, which they will present in class. Other venues for presenting original works include PRCA chapels, choir concerts, staff devotionals and more.

## **Music for Worship**

**Full Year**

Students will learn the Biblical purpose and design of worship, how worship is developed and carried through in a church setting, and development and performance of original and traditional worship pieces. Students that have instrument and/or vocal experience are encouraged to participate.

## **Beginning Drama**

**Full Year**

The Introductory Drama class introduces students to both individual and group performance and writing for theater. The class will explore the following areas: monologue work: character development, objectives, subtext, focus scene work: blocking, beats, working with a partner, communication, improvisation techniques: character development, physical expression speech/voice: projections and articulation movement: flexibility and freedom skit/scene: demonstrating teamwork, structured development and working to deadlines.

## **Advanced Drama (B.O.W.)**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Beginning Drama**

Advanced Drama is a traditional performance based class focusing on learning by doing. This course will explore the following:

Acting: Participation in two full-length plays with one drama outreach and various scenes and skits throughout the school year. We use performance to learn hands on about character analysis, beats, transitions, blocking, climax, conflict and staging. Improvisation training is continued through out the year and culminates in the out reach, which is run and directed by the students. Directing: understanding the play; interpreting characters; creating a production schedule; choosing a cast; giving feedback and creating a supportive environment; blocking the play; handling transitions

## **Sound, Light and Stage**

**Full Year**

Sound, Stage and Lights Technology Class (aka SLS) aims to introduce the beginner stage technician to the principles and equipment used to light and sound a live performance. Starting with theory and reinforcing this with practical exercises, demonstrations and live performances the students will have the tools necessary to run the performance needs of various types of live shows. This course meets zero hour for several weeks at the beginning of the school year and then requirements include providing technical support for PRCA live performances and chapel.

## **Beginning Painting**

**Semester**

This course will cover the basics of watercolor, pastel, and acrylic painting. The art projects will include still-life, portraiture, landscape, figure, animal life, and conceptualized subjects. Students will strengthen their knowledge of composition through the projects produced. They will exhibit their works a number of times throughout the school year. Most of their works will be of moderate size. Experiencing a variety of painting technique, such as realism, expressionism, impressionism, and abstract is important for each class participant.

## **Advanced Painting**

**Full Year****Prerequisite: Beginning Painting**

This course will strengthen the experience of watercolor, pastel, and acrylic painting. Steps towards developing a personal artistic style will be encouraged. Larger, more demanding works of art will be produced. Each semester will conclude with a formal exhibition of students' work. Sources for written reports will be books, artists, and personal beliefs. Everyone needs to build a portfolio of their works and experiences.

**Drawing****Semester**

This is a beginning level art class that focuses on drawing. Throughout the first semester students will examine and practice different drawing mediums including graphite, charcoal, as well as printmaking, using drawing and printing techniques. The second semester will add pen and ink, and color (through colored pencils and pastels) to the drawing skills. The class will also focus on the development of the student's personal drawing style. Artists that are known for their drawing skills and techniques will also be studied.

**Pottery****Semester**

In this one semester class students will learn what the Bible teaches about clay. Students will write an essay about scriptures teaching on the clay. Students will hand build for one quarter and will throw on the wheel for the second quarter. Students will also produce clay sculpture projects during the second quarter. Hand built projects will include pinch, coil, and slab techniques.

**Graphic Design****Full Year**

This course studies design and its role in society. The foundation of this study is found in Genesis with God as the ultimate artist and creator of man and all things. The class begins with the study of the elements and principles of design and how they are the basis to creating and understanding a well-designed piece of artwork. Part of the graphic design world is the understanding of the Adobe programs: Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Projects are constructed around real-life scenarios and will be created using the Adobe programs.

**Photography 1****Semester**

This course is an introduction to the basic fundamentals of photography and how to take a good photograph. The mechanics of the camera and the different genres of photography will be investigated. Adobe Photoshop will be used to manipulate and adjust photos. A digital camera is required for this class.

**Photography 2****Semester****Prerequisite: Photography 1**

Photography 2 is the continuation of Photography 1 with more professional aspects. Students identify focal topics for their projects and present their photos with businesslike formalities. From here their photographs they will be compiled into a portfolio, which would be helpful for future jobs or college interests. The students must have a digital camera.

**Yearbook****Full Year**

As a member of the Blueprint staff, students will create a professionally published book documenting the school year. The class learns and applies the skills required to produce a yearbook including: developing a layout spread, creating graphics, writing, fundraising, documenting, selling ads and meeting deadlines for

submission to the printers. Students make a commitment to excellence and out-of-class time to act as reporters, documenting the PRCA community and using this material to produce a memorable yearbook.

## **Technology**

### **Robotics**

#### **Semester**

This class uses Lego Mindstorm robots. The students will complete a number of projects that involve building a variety of Lego© robots and programming functions using the NXT software. Each design simulates real-life tasks, like collecting rocks on the moon or entering mineshafts where it is risky for humans to go. Students work with a partner learning the importance of teamwork and partnership. This course touches on students' critical thinking and life skills.

### **Digital and Media Art**

#### **Semester**

The class is an active class designed to teach the students the basics and then apply their knowledge to media related projects. The class will look at technology from a Christian world-view, while learning about cause and effect, orderliness, and relationships in software. The students will use Apple's iLife '09 and Abode's media related software.

### **Web Page Design**

#### **Semester**

This course will examine the Internet, major tools of the Internet, and ethical and legal issues concerning online publishers and online users. It will also introduce basic principles for creating a good website and multiple media authoring programs that are widely used for web design. The students will be primarily using Abode Dreamweaver CS3 to create websites. The course will use a combination of personal experiences, lectures, demonstrations, student discussions, readings, assignments, and projects.

## **General Electives**

### **Student Leadership**

#### **Full Year**

#### **Prerequisite: Elected Office or Chaplain**

The Leadership class is for Associated Student Body Officers (ASBO) to plan and conduct student government business in an effective and efficient manner. The goal of the class is to help the students increase their understanding of leadership principles through directed individual study, classroom activities and actual leadership experiences (leading class meetings, planning homecoming, etc.). Areas of study and practice include: planning, organizing, evaluation, goal setting, strategies, self development, spiritual principles of leadership, and self-awareness (spiritual gifts and abilities). This class counts as an elective credit.

### **Teacher's Aid**

#### **Semester or Full Year**

#### **Prerequisite: Students must complete an application through the guidance center**

Students will receive a pass/fail credit for being a Teacher's Aid. Teachers will be relying on them to complete a myriad of tasks that assist them in their job. Expectations range from filing, copying, making bulletin boards, running errands, grading, laminating, etc.

### **Science Explorations**

#### **Semester**

Using the Science Olympiad model, students will choose an event that is of interest to them. While not required to participate in Science Olympiad, in class they will learn about a specific area of science (earth science, forensics, microbiology, chemistry, etc) or do a building project (helicopter, Sumo-Bot, windmill

generator, or tower). The students will have to develop their own plan of action and all work will be done in class. The Science Olympiad portion of the class will be completed by early to mid-semester at which point students will complete GIS activities using the new ArcMap software to investigate an environmental issue and propose a solution.