

Portland Lutheran School High School Course Offerings

Availability

All courses are offered on a sufficient-demand basis.

Honors Program

The PLS Honors Program is designed to give students with ability and desire an avenue to expand their education. The Honors designation on the transcript may have a positive impact on college admission and receipt of scholarships.

The Honors program will use the standard curriculum for a given course. The student will complete an additional independent, original research project germane to the course work of the class, a project which expands on the content of the course, or an accelerated version of the course curriculum. All projects are under the guidance of the instructor.

Prerequisites for the Honors option:

- Enrollment in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade
- Cumulative GPA of 3.25+ (students with a lower GPA and/or a significant interest are welcome to submit a request)
- Written request granted by the faculty

A student who achieves a grade of A or B at the end of both semesters (or at the end of one semester of a .5 credit course) will be entitled to the designation “Honors” for that course on the transcript.

Advanced Placement Courses

AP English Literature/Composition and AP English Language/Composition are required of all juniors and seniors.

Baccalaureate Package (BacPac) Program

This program is for juniors and seniors who have demonstrated the capacity for college-level work. Courses are taught on the PLS campus by instructors from Concordia University, Portland. Students earn both college and high school credit for these courses.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

4 credits required

ENGLISH 9/10

one unit each year required; courses alternate yearly

This introductory course emphasizes varied genres of speaking and writing (i.e. narrative, expository, and persuasive) through journal writing, essays, informal and formal speaking, and response to literature. In the **A** sequence, students will look at the theme of conflict through literature such as *Lord of the Flies* and *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as varied short stories and poems. The **B** sequence studies the themes “Who was I?” “Who am I?” and “Who will I be?” and focuses heavily on biography (e.g. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*) and futuristic writing.

AP ENGLISH Literature

one unit each year required; courses alternate yearly

American Literature

This course is designed to introduce students to major literary movements, influences, and writers from the pre-Columbian period to the present. A novel project acquaints the students with personal critical analysis, using MLA format.

British Literature/World Literature

This course is designed to introduce students to major literary movements, influences, and writers from the ancient times (Beowulf/Gilgamesh) to the present. A novel project acquaints the students with a personal critical analysis, using MLA format.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE/NON-FICTION LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This course will involve the writing and reading of many styles of prose. Students will learn the elements involved in non-fiction rather than fictional novels and poetry. Classroom activities will entail writing short essays on a daily basis, researching and writing longer papers each quarter, studying and dissecting professionally published essays, and reading longer works of non-fiction as assigned. A strong emphasis on styling sentences and improving word choice will also be a focus of the course. Students enrolled in Styles of Composition will be well prepared for college-level writing expectations, as well as receive feedback on college application and scholarship essays.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

1 credit in Fine Arts required

ART SURVEY (one unit) *1st year offered: 9*

An exploratory course designed to stimulate visual involvement and to determine the art interests of the individual. The class presents an introduction to various media and art procedures. Both two- and three-dimensional problems are presented.

ADVANCED ART: Drawing and Painting (one-half unit) *1st year offered: 10*

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to develop the fundamental techniques of drawing and painting and to utilize different drawing and painting materials.

Prerequisite: Art Survey ("B" or higher)

ADVANCED ART: Ceramics and Printing (one-half unit) *1st year offered: 10*

A course in hand building techniques using coil, slab, and pinch methods. Traditional, sculptural, and free-form shapes will be explored, and a variety of decoration techniques will be used. Other three-dimensional media will also be explored.

Prerequisite: Art Survey ("B" or higher)

ART STUDIO (one unit) *1st year offered: 11*

A course designed for serious art students who wish to explore a medium of their choice in more depth. School visual projects will also be assigned to this class.

Prerequisite: Art Survey ("A") and at least one-half unit in a second- year art program ("A") and instructor approval.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE (one unit) *1st year offered: 9*

A group which performs for concerts at Christmas, in the spring, for school chapel and selected local churches. Singers will learn to improve their singing ability, proper body and vocal positioning for singing, and be introduced to music theory and will sing from a large repertoire of chiefly sacred music. Instrumentalists are welcome – piano, bass, all woodwinds, all brass, etc. This group will perform at various locations in the Portland area, school chapel, and local churches. Performances are a vital part of the class and are required.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

2 units required, 3+ recommended

Modern languages are receiving increased emphasis in today's world of international travel, faxes, computers, and instant global communication. There is a greater need for understanding our neighbors than ever before. Most universities have an entrance requirement of two or three years' study of the same language. In addition, universities are increasingly requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in foreign language rather than just complete "seat time." Although some students may be able to demonstrate proficiency at the desired level at the end of the second year, a third year of language study is recommended for the majority of students. Foreign language instruction at PLS is conducted in accordance with State of Oregon proficiency benchmarks.

SPANISH

Spanish I, II, III, and IV are sequential beginning to advanced university preparatory courses leading to proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehending Spanish. PLS students follow a course of study guided by the state and national benchmarks and proficiency guidelines.

SPANISH I

(one unit)

1st year offered: 9

First year of a foundational, multimedia course for beginners, utilizing a whole language approach involving reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students learn about the history and culture of Spanish speaking countries as part of each unit. Grammar, verb forms and sentence structure are woven throughout each lesson in this and subsequent courses. This course is a true academic introduction to Spanish for the serious student preparing for university and college foreign language requirements.

SPANISH II

(one unit)

1st year offered: 9

Second year (advanced beginner) in the sequence of the course described above. Students may be admitted to the class without taking Spanish I if they demonstrate proficiency at the high-novice level as a result of prior learning.

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Spanish I or passing a Spanish I proficiency assessment

SPANISH III*(one unit)**1st year offered: 10*

Third year (intermediate) in the sequence of the course described above. Students may be admitted to the class without taking Spanish II if they demonstrate proficiency at the low-intermediate level as a result of prior learning.

Prerequisite: "B" or better in Spanish II and teacher approval

SPANISH IV*(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

Fourth year (advanced) in the sequence of the course described above. The emphasis will be on fluent use of the language and on Spanish literature. Students may be admitted to the class without taking Spanish III if they demonstrate proficiency at the high-intermediate level as a result of prior learning.

Prerequisite: "B" or better in Spanish III and teacher approval

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

2 credits required, 3+ recommended

The Math Department at PLHS believes that mathematics is important to a well-rounded course of study for the secondary student. Students are encouraged to take as many math courses as they can successfully handle to prepare for the increasing demands of our technological society.

PLHS requires every student to successfully complete two years of high school mathematics beyond Pre-Algebra. The Oregon University System requirement is three years of college preparatory math that includes Algebra I, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry.

PRE-ALGEBRA

(one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This course is designed for those students who need to build a better foundation in mathematics before taking Algebra. The course consists of fundamentals of mathematics, which are used to build Algebra skills. Students work variables, equalities and inequalities, integers, rational numbers, factors, decimals, percents, statistics, probability and simple geometry concepts.

Prerequisite: Placement test and elementary school recommendation or grades.

ALGEBRA I

(Required; one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This course is the foundation course for the math curriculum. It studies operations with expressions involving variables, solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear and quadratic equations and inequalities in one and two variables, sets, operations with sets, and other topics necessary to provide the fundamentals for moving into advanced topics.

Prerequisite: Placement test or grade of "C" or higher in second semester of Pre-Algebra.

GEOMETRY

(Required; one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This course is a study of geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It is designed to increase the student's understanding of spatial relations. Emphasis is also placed upon applying algebra to geometric problem solving, and applying the basic terminology and concepts of geometry in a logical and organized manner, including formal proofs. A scientific calculator is required.

Prerequisite: Algebra I grade of "C" or higher in second semester.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA/TRIGONOMETRY (one unit) 1st year offered: 10

This course is designed for students who have strong skills in mathematics and are interested in a strong rigorous math experience. The course studies topics such as operations with expressions, linear and quadratic algebra, and functions. It also studies conic sections and trigonometry.

Prerequisite: Geometry grade of "C" or higher in second semester.

PRE-CALCULUS (one unit) 1st year offered: 11

Students planning a math-related major should take this course. Analytical Geometry and Trigonometry are integrated with other important topics in mathematics by an approach that stresses the use and understanding of functions. Study will include such topics as polynomial functions, trigonometry, polar functions, conics, exponential and logarithmic functions, and selected topics in discrete mathematics. A TI graphing calculator is required (the TI-83 or TI-85; approximate cost is \$100.)

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra grade of "B" or higher in second semester.

CALCULUS (one unit) 1st year offered: 12

Calculus is the basis of advanced mathematics and science. The purpose of the course is to teach students to not only solve problems but also to begin to see how mathematical concepts describe the natural phenomena around them. Topics will include, but not be limited to, limits, derivatives, differentiation rules, applications of differentiation, integration, trigonometric function and logarithmic functions, infinite series, Taylor series expansions, and elementary multivariable calculus. Students will need good algebra skills and be comfortable with elementary trigonometry functions (sine, cosine, tangent) to succeed in this course.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus grade of "B" or higher in second semester or consent of instructor.

PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS (one-half unit) 1st year offered: 10

Topics covered include data classification, experimental design, descriptive statistics, basic concepts of probability, discrete probability, normal probability distribution, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing with one and two samples, correlation and regression, chi-square tests and the F-distribution, and nonparametric tests.

Prerequisites: Since this course contains many formulas and variables, familiarity with algebra and evaluation of algebraic expressions is a prerequisite. Some experience with the Excel spreadsheet program and the TI-83 graphing calculator are also necessary.

ADVANCED PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGIES*(one-half unit)**1st year offered: 11*

This course teaches students to think through problems by introducing them to 16 different problem solving strategies. The approach is investigative rather than formulaic, and multiple approaches for solving the same problem will be explored. Many of the problems arise from situations faced by people in businesses. Because math outside of secondary school is seldom done in isolation, students will work in teams on some of the problems. Please note: The problem solving techniques learned in this course are useful for standardized test taking.

Prerequisite: Geometry grade of "C" or higher in second semester.

MATHEMATICAL EXCURSIONS*(one-half unit)**1st year offered: 11*

In this class students will study the practical use of mathematics in relation to social choice (voting and democracies), management (least paths, traversing paths only once, "bottlenecks"), growth (Fibonacci Numbers, populations), symmetry (fractals), and statistics.

Prerequisite: Geometry grade of "C" or higher in second semester.

FINITE MATH*(one-half unit)**1st year offered: 11*

This is an application-oriented branch of mathematics which is interested primarily in non-decimal numbers. Topics discussed are used extensively in business, management, economics, information technology, and the social sciences, and include linear systems, matrices, input-output models (Leontief matrices), linear programming and the Simplex method of optimization, mathematics of finance, and logic. Near the end of the term, the class will select topics of interest to study such as elementary probability, counting principles, elementary statistics, Markov chains, and/or game theory.

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra grade of "B" or higher in second semester or consent of instructor; TI graphing calculator.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH DEPARTMENT

One unit each of Health and PE required

BASIC PHYSICAL EDUCATION *(Required; one unit)* *1st year offered: 9*

This course is designed to enhance movement forms, develop motor skills, model a physically active lifestyle, teach good physical and social behavior, build an understanding of personal differences, and teach an enjoyment of activities for their greater good.

WEIGHT TRAINING *(one-half unit per semester)* *1st year offered: 10*

This course is designed to teach safety, technique, and the benefits of a consistent weight-training program. Students will also receive speed, agility, and quickness training as a part of improving physical fitness.

Prerequisite: Basic Physical Education

HEALTH *(Required; one unit)* *1st year offered: 12*

The emphasis of this class is on wellness and a positive life style. Studies will include units on alcohol, tobacco, drugs, nutrition, STD, human sexuality, stress, and current health issues.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Three units required.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE (one unit) *1st year offered: 9*
A comprehensive course to begin the development of understanding biological, chemical, physical, and earth/space science. Students will learn proper laboratory procedures and use the scientific method as a problem-solving tool. Content is on a three-year cycle.

BIOLOGY (one unit) *1st year offered: 9*
A college-preparatory inquiry-based class designed to balance lab investigation, problem solving, critical/creative thinking, and scientific method skills. This course focuses on the relationship between living organisms and their environment.

Prerequisite: admission as a 9th grader requires a “B” in the previous science course and a science teacher recommendation.

ADVANCED BIOLOGY (one unit) *1st year offered: 10*
An inquiry-based class focusing on science in the “real world”. The course content follows a path from micro to macro, providing an understanding of function and form by comparing cellular systems to organism systems. This course will include units on genetics, modern biotechnology, and anatomy and physiology.

Prerequisite: “C” or better in Biology and instructor approval.

CHEMISTRY (one unit) *1st year offered: 10*
The content of this course includes matter, thermochemistry, atomic structure and function, and types of chemical interactions and factors affecting reactions. The goals of this course are to equip students to become effective decision makers in our society and to prepare students to be successful in college-level chemistry. It is expected that students have a good working knowledge of Algebra and Geometry and have earned a “A” or “B” in two previous high school-level science courses.

PHYSICS*(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

This mathematics-based science course is designed to provide an in-depth awareness of fundamental concepts of matter and energy. The course also teaches about relationships among the sciences, confidence with lab materials, and a more complete development of problem solving skills.

Prerequisite: "C" or better in previous science class, successful completion of Advanced Algebra, and instructor approval.

GEOLOGY/ASTRONOMY*(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

The Geology portion of this Advanced/Honors level course will cover earth history, plate tectonics, minerals, rocks, erosion, earthquakes, deformation, the effect of gravity and water on earth systems, glaciation, wind, deserts, and the seashore and shoreline processes.

Astronomy will cover the origins of modern astronomy, the cosmos, stars, the universe, the solar system, and astrobiology (life on other worlds).

Prerequisites: A or B in two previous high school science classes, A or B in Algebra and Geometry, enrollment in or completion of Advanced Algebra.

BacPac ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE*(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

A study of the critical state of the earth's environment and how humans affect and are affected by it.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the BacPac program.

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

4 units required

WORLD HISTORY

(Required; one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of the history of the world. Units covered will include a brief survey of ancient and classical civilizations and the Middle Ages. This will be followed by a more in-depth look at Europe in transition (1350-1795), the age of Revolution, the industrial age, and imperialism.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

(Required; one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of the geography of the world. The five themes of geography will be used as the basic format for the course. Emphasis will be placed on the physical features and national political composition of the various areas of the world.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Required; one-half unit)

1st year offered: 11

This course introduces students to a study of government and the U.S. Constitution in context with an understanding of the American past. The goal of the course is to equip students intellectually to be active participants in the American present and future. Course content includes political philosophy, history, political sciences, and major issues of today.

Alternates yearly with U.S. History.

ECONOMICS

(Required; one-half unit)

1st year offered: 11

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic economic concepts and models. We will discuss the variously economic systems around the world. The focus will primarily be on the role of scarcity, the functioning of a market economy, and the effects of supply and demand. We will also study the United States banking system, the Federal Reserve, and the role of government in the economy.

Alternates yearly with U.S. History.

U.S. HISTORY*(Required; one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

In this course students will survey the history of the United States with particular emphasis on the Civil War and events following it until the present day. This will expose students to the knowledge necessary for college-level U.S. history courses and enable them to understand our country as it appears to us today.

Alternates yearly with Political Science and Economics.

BacPac INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY*(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

This course examines the study of human behavior, its principles, and terminology. Students will study the mental growth of individuals, learning theory, personality, motivation, and individual differences.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the BacPac program.

BacPac PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY*(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

This course is an introduction to sociological principles, social institutions, social structure, social changes, and social and cultural trends.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the BacPac program.

**BacPac INTRODUCTION TO
CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY***(one unit)**1st year offered: 11*

This course is an introduction to cultural geography, including language, religion, government, tribal, traditional, and industrial societies, and population trends and problems.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the BacPac program.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

1 unit required

BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS (Required; one unit) *1st year offered: 9*

This course is designed to give students the basic technology tools they will need in order to successfully complete their course of studies at PLS. The course includes instruction in typing, word processing, spreadsheets, Microsoft PowerPoint, and development of research skills.

COMPUTERS IN BUSINESS (one unit) *1st year offered: 10*

An intermediate-level course covering database programs, desktop publishing, and web site design. This course alternates yearly with Computer Programming.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (one unit) *1st year offered: 11*

Students will learn to program computers using a variety of languages. The course includes instruction in Visual Basic, C++, and Java.

INDEPENDENT COMPUTER PROJECT (one unit) *1st year offered: 12*

Students will work independently on a faculty-approved project of their choice, such as maintaining the school web site, serving as business office assistant, designing programs as needed for use by the school and/or faculty, etc.

PUBLICATIONS (one unit) *1st year offered: 10*

This course is designed to teach the principles of publication design and good journalistic writing. Students in this course will produce the yearbook and school newspaper. Enrollment is limited and an application may be required. Students interested in photography are especially encouraged to take this course.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

One unit required for each year in residence

Students are required to take and pass one unit in religion each year. The courses in religion serve as the context for the student's deepening quest for a more personal, mature relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As a part of this experience, each student is required to participate in 20 or more hours of Community Service each year.

OLD TESTAMENT

(one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This chronological study of the Old Testament is intended to familiarize students with the basic content, characters, eras, covenants and theology of the Christian faith. Important themes which run the length of the Old Testament are discussed and followed throughout the course: God, creation, fall, grace, sin, human nature, obedience, faith, forgiveness, covenant, stewardship, the Messiah, revelation, inspiration, etc. Students will read the majority of the Old Testament over the year and will memorize assigned scripture. Wisdom literature is covered in quarters 3 and 4 (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job).

NEW TESTAMENT

(one unit)

1st year offered: 9

This study completes the Old Testament course and focuses on the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Students learn how Jesus' teachings and actions form and inform the lives of Christians. The first semester is dedicated to a study of the four gospels. Similarities and differences between the gospels are explored to develop a fuller understanding of Jesus and his ministry. The second semester is dedicated to the Acts of the Apostles and to Paul's Epistles. Emphasis is placed upon how the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of his Second Coming informed the actions and thinking of the early disciples and how these doctrines are applicable to our lives today. Students will read the majority of the New Testament over the course of a year and memorize assigned scriptures.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

(one-half unit)

1st year offered: 11

Christian Ethics is an exploration of values and decision-making. The course begins with an exploration of what informs values. Students are led to clarify their value system and consider how they make decisions. Major historical theories for decision making (deontology, utilitarian, responsibility) are presented. The strengths and weaknesses of each system are discussed. The course continues with a study of the Christian virtues (faith, hope, love) and Cardinal virtues (justice, fortitude, prudence, temperance) and of how these form the center of sound living. The final unit of the class presents case studies in which students determine what constitutes ethical action in a given situation.

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS (one-half unit) 1st year offered: 11

This course lays the foundations for understanding Christianity and its similarities and differences with other religions of the world. Students are encouraged to better understand and appreciate their own faith traditions and to dialog with others. Unit one covers the content and meaning of the Apostles' Creed. Unit two covers a brief history of denominations and what sets them apart from each other: Catholics, Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed, Baptist. Unit three explores the claims of divergent groups such as Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science and Scientology. Unit 4 explores the beliefs of major world religions: polytheism and animism, New Age beliefs, Hinduism, Shinto, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Islam.

FAITH IN ACTION (one-half unit) 1st year offered: 11

Faith in Action explores issues of spirituality and social engagement. Students are introduced to the spiritual life through the practice of disciplines such as prayer, journaling, self-examination, etc. Students will read from a variety of Christian authors and will be challenged to deepen their commitment to God and neighbor. In the second half of the course, topics such as poverty, hunger, homelessness, addiction, etc. are discussed. Experts from the community will inform the class of needs in our community. Students will consider their sense of personal call and how they might engage the world around them.

CHURCH HISTORY AND DOCTRINE (one-half unit) 1st year offered: 11

Christian History and Doctrine charts the development of Christianity from a small group of committed disciples in 33 AD to the development of the most wide-spread religion in the world. The 20 centuries of history are broken into eras, and key figures, and movements, and the development of doctrine are discussed. Special emphasis is placed upon the Reformation Age and reformers such as Martin Luther. Students will read from primary sources and discuss how the issues of yesteryear are pertinent to our lives

MISCELLANEOUS OFFERINGS

TEACHER AIDE (FACULTY OR OFFICE)

(one-half unit per semester)

A Teacher Aide is a PLHS student who is well-qualified in a subject or area and has a strong interest in helping other students learn. An aide is assigned for one period and works under teacher supervision according to a job description which may include assisting groups and individuals in library research, tutoring during class time, distributing supplies, cleaning up, preparing class materials, making bulletin board displays, and meeting regularly with the teacher to coordinate the tasks. It does not include giving grades, teaching a class, or being responsible for class behavior.

ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFERINGS

Because of the special needs of our international students, particularly in English language learning, the following courses are available:

INTERMEDIATE ESL *(one unit)* *1st year offered: 9*

This course is designed for international students who are in the United States for the first time and is intended to supplement the English language learning begun in their home countries. Grammar topics include verb tenses, time clauses, subject-verb agreement, nouns, and pronouns. Vocabulary, reading, pronunciation, and paragraph writing are equally emphasized and practiced frequently.

ESL INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY *(one unit)* *1st year offered: 9*

This course is designed for international students who are unfamiliar with Christianity. Topics include the Trinity, Christian worship, the life of Jesus, the Ten Commandments, and a survey of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.