

# LA PIETRA

HAWAI'I SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



## ACADEMIC COURSE CATALOG 2024-2025

*RAISING WOMEN OF PURPOSE, ON PURPOSE*

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## RAISING WOMEN OF PURPOSE

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Here at La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls, our mission is to educate young women to lead a life of purpose. We are an independent, college-preparatory school for girls in Grades 6-12 located on the slopes of Lē'ahi in Honolulu, Hawai'i, with a rich and unique history. Established as a school in 1964, La Pietra continues to be a place where students flourish in a supportive community led by a vision that values each individual's journey toward a life of passion, confidence, and purpose that they themselves define.

La Pietra's educational philosophy emphasizes developing the whole person, with a goal of giving our students the tools to think critically and creatively—to help them find their voice and develop the confidence to use it. Students participate fully in their learning and have the opportunity to demonstrate critical thinking as well as take on leadership roles.

# UPPER SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

| SUBJECT                                                     | CREDITS   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| English                                                     | 4         |
| Electives                                                   | 2.5       |
| Fine Arts: Visual & Performing Arts                         | 2         |
| Mathematics                                                 | 3         |
| Physical Education                                          | 2         |
| Science                                                     | 3         |
| Social Studies                                              | 3.5       |
| Women’s and Gender Studies                                  | 1         |
| World Languages ( <i>three years of the same language</i> ) | 3         |
| <b>TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS</b>                                | <b>24</b> |

## UPPER SCHOOL REGISTRATION PROCESS

All information for registering for the 2024-2025 school year is included in this Course Catalog. Follow the checklist below before meeting with the Dean of Academics & Faculty and Registrar to register for the upcoming school year.

- ❑ **Step 1.** Review the high school Course Catalog and descriptions for all courses. Consider your options carefully. The classes that will be offered during the school year will be based on core requirements, course requests, and availability. *Requests to change classes after the registration period are usually not able to be fulfilled.*
- ❑ **Step 2.** Discuss your choices with your current core-subject teachers to see which level of the subject they recommend for you. Some courses require prerequisites, including Advanced Placement (AP®) courses, which need teacher approval.
- ❑ **Step 3.** Discuss your selections with your parents/guardians. Your parents/guardians will receive an email with a link to a Google Form, which will be used for your course requests.
- ❑ **Step 4.** 8-11th graders should submit their course requests via the Google Form sent directly to their parents' or guardians' email addresses. Please observe the deadline for submitting the form.
- ❑ **Step 5.** 8-11th graders will have a meeting with the Dean of Academics & Faculty and Registrar to review course requests and register for classes.

# UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM SNAPSHOT

The following program will serve as a general guide for students entering 9th grade in 2024-2025.

## CORE SUBJECTS

\*The following rows detail credit requirements in all core subjects and must be taken within grades 9-12.

\*Not all classes under "Required Courses" are necessarily a sequential requirement.

\*With teacher and administrative approval, AP® Elective Courses (marked with an asterisk), can substitute for a "Required Course."

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>ENGLISH</b><br/>4 Credits Required</p>          | <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Literature &amp; Composition</li> <li>- World Literature</li> </ul>                                   | <p><b>Elective Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AP® English Literature*</li> <li>- American Literature</li> <li>- Creative Writing</li> <li>- British Literature</li> <li>- Romanticism in Literature</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>MATHEMATICS</b><br/>3 Credits Required</p>      | <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Algebra 1</li> <li>- Geometry</li> <li>- Algebra 2</li> </ul>                                         | <p><b>Elective Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AP® Calculus AB*</li> <li>- Statistics</li> <li>- Trigonometry &amp; Pre-Calculus</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>SCIENCE</b><br/>3 Credits Required</p>          | <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physics</li> <li>- Chemistry</li> <li>- Biology</li> </ul>                                            | <p><b>Elective Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AP® Environmental Science</li> <li>- AP® Biology*</li> <li>- Astronomy</li> <li>- Marine Biology</li> <li>- S.T.E.A.M.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b><br/>3.5 Credits Required</p> | <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World History</li> <li>- United States History</li> </ul>                                             | <p><b>Elective Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AP® United States History*</li> <li>- American Government</li> <li>- Asian-American History</li> <li>- Economic Systems &amp; Political Frameworks</li> <li>- Ethics: Medicine, Law, &amp; Media</li> <li>- Global Issues</li> <li>- Hawaiian Studies</li> <li>- Psychology</li> <li>- World Cultures &amp; Religions</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b><br/>3 Credits Required</p>  | <p><b>Required Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chinese 1 or Spanish 1</li> <li>- Chinese 2 or Spanish 2</li> <li>- Chinese 3 or Spanish 3</li> </ul> | <p><b>Elective Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spanish 4/5</li> <li>- Chinese 4/5</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

*\*The following rows detail other credit requirements in order to graduate and receive a diploma from La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls.*

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b><br><i>2 Credits Required</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upper School P.E.</li> <li>- Fitness for Life</li> </ul>                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dance 1</li> <li>- Dance 2</li> </ul>                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self-Defense &amp; Strength Training</li> </ul>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>FINE ARTS ELECTIVES</b><br><i>2 Credits Required</i>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ceramics 1, 2, &amp; 3</li> <li>- Dark Arts</li> <li>- Filmmaking &amp; Production</li> <li>- Improvisation</li> <li>- Jewelry 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Life Skills</li> <li>- Media Literacy</li> <li>- Musical Theater Workshop</li> <li>- Painting</li> <li>- Photography 1, 2, &amp; 3</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Printmaking</li> <li>- Prop &amp; Costume Design</li> <li>- Select Choir</li> <li>- Songwriting</li> <li>- Public Speaking</li> <li>- Threads &amp; Trends</li> </ul> |
| <b>WOMEN'S &amp; GENDER STUDIES</b><br><i>1 Credit Required</i> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health &amp; Society</li> <li>- Intro to Women's &amp; Gender Studies</li> </ul>                |                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Electives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender &amp; Culture</li> <li>- Perspectives in Women's History</li> </ul>                                       |
| <b>OTHER</b><br><i>1 Credit Required</i>                        | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Junior Seminar</li> <li>- Independent Project</li> <li>- Senior Seminar</li> </ul>              |                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Electives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Internship</li> <li>- Yearbook</li> </ul>                                                                |
| <b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b><br><i>1.5 Credits Required</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elective courses from any subject may fulfill this requirement</li> </ul>                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



# UPPER SCHOOL SUBJECT AREA & COURSES

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## ENGLISH

**Upper School English (4 Credits)** to include *Intro to Literature and Composition*, *World Literature*, *American Literature*, and [English electives], or AP® English Literature & Composition (11 or 12).

| Two-Semester (1 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                                        | One-Semester (0.5 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature and Composition</li><li>• World Literature</li><li>• American Literature</li><li>• AP® English Literature</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creative Writing</li><li>• Romanticism in Literature</li><li>• British Literature: From Monsters to Modernism</li></ul> |

## LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

**Grade Level: 9-10**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

With a focus on the basic skills important for the high school English program, this course begins with the study of “The Most Dangerous Game” and other famous short stories. The study of literature is a dangerous, exciting game in itself, as it gives students the capacity to understand complex ideas, express powerful thoughts, and write with accuracy and persuasion. Other units of the course include the study of novels, such as the infamous *Lord of the Flies* and the heartwarming *The Bean Trees*. The outcomes of the course focus on establishing specific skills of composition, such as using quotations, evidence, and figurative language, as well as skills relating to reading comprehension, discussion, and the crafting of basic analytical claims about literature. Students learn to use new vocabulary and increase their understanding and application of grammatical structures.

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## WORLD LITERATURE

**Grade Level: 9-10**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

World Literature continues to build upon the skills and content that students learned and practiced in previous English courses. Students receive instruction and opportunities to learn ways of thinking critically, communicating effectively, collaborating with others, persevering in the face of challenge, and pursuing equity. Each of these competencies will be emphasized, and students will gain mastery of these skills through projects inspired by their careful, close readings and analyses of literature, such as Madeline Miller’s *Circe* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus*. Students will also read, write, and analyze sonnets.

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## AMERICAN LITERATURE

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

In this course, students take several literary journeys into the heart of what it means to be “American.” Through Jean Kwok’s *Girl in Translation*, students go back to New York City in the 1980s and experience it through the eyes of a Chinese teenager who has just moved from Hong Kong. In *Slaughterhouse-Five*, students are transported back and forth in time with a prisoner of war during World War II, sometimes to his past, sometimes to his future, and sometimes to outer space accompanied by aliens. Other stories and novels include Flannery O’Connor’s “A Good Man is Hard to Find” and Rudolfo Anaya’s *Bless Me, Ultima*. The learning outcomes of the course are achieved through writing assignments, activities and discussions, projects, and tests. Students compose full-length essays, including the use of analytical claims, commentary, and evidence, as they continue to expand their knowledge of literary concepts and vocabulary, become familiar with more sophisticated grammatical structures, and incorporate all of them into their writing. Additionally, students learn to use various critical lenses, such as race, class, and gender, as interpretive tools.

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## AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Teacher Approval; additional cost involved*

AP® English Literature and Composition is a challenging course that prepares students for the AP® exam in the spring. This course is for the intellectually brave and adventurous, those who love stories, words, and ideas (or those who want to take the school’s most difficult course in this content area for other reasons). Students read, discuss, and analyze short fiction, novels, drama, and poetry. In line with the assessment criteria used to score the timed composition portion of the exam, the class focuses on crafting compelling claims about the meaning of specific works of literature, which also involves the organization of evidence and commentary. Students practice timed reading comprehension skills to prepare for the multiple-choice portion of the exam. As students further develop their critical thinking and composition skills, they solidify their understanding of concepts relating to the so-called Big Ideas of AP® English: Narrator, Character, Setting, Language, and Structure. Students are required to take the AP® English Literature & Composition exam in May.

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## CREATIVE WRITING

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Do you have a story to tell? Let’s write it down! In this course, students learn about creative writing and how those on the margins of society use this form of literature to represent their stories and that of

others. This class allows students to examine the lives and stories of those who interest them, while simultaneously writing their own stories. Students will explore indie comics, memoirs, autobiographies, and fiction. They learn to hone their craft through drafting and peer-reviewing, and they gain a deeper appreciation for literary elements and devices through writing their own stories. Through engaging with this creative writing genre, students will learn to appreciate its cultural significance as well as participate in documenting their own histories.

---

## BRITISH LITERATURE: FROM MONSTERS TO MODERNISM

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course provides students with a comprehensive view of British literature, from its medieval roots to modern voices. Through a thematic and chronological approach, students will delve into the works of iconic poets and authors, gaining an understanding of the historical, cultural, and literary developments that shaped British literature as we know it today. Emphasis will be placed on the diverse voices that have contributed to the rich tapestry of British literary traditions. Readings will include John Gardner's *Grendel*, William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, along with selections from Jane Austen, Christina Rossetti, Virginia Woolf, and T. S. Eliot.

---

## ROMANTICISM IN LITERATURE

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

The Romanticism elective is an interdisciplinary quest into the literature, ideas, art, and prominent figures of the movement. An enduring influence from the 1700s up to the present, Romanticism encompasses a wide variety of elements. It directs us to experience the thrill of exploring old ruins, walking in forests, and seeking the divine in nature and ourselves; it involves writing poetry and making art about love, cemeteries, the seasons, self-examination, and mysticism; it demands that we come to terms with industry, cities, and urban problems; it includes travel into the unknown and the exotic; it establishes modern ideas of celebrities and geniuses; and it challenges governments and leaders. In this class, students seek to study these aspects of Romanticism, and within reason, put them into practice themselves. They learn what it means to be a Romantic through the composition of poetry, the creation of visual art, the completion of journals, and various in-class and out-of-class activities.

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# FINE ARTS: VISUAL AND PERFORMING

Upper School Fine Arts (2 Credits)



| Full-Year (1 Credit) Courses                            | One-Semester (0.5 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Choir</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ceramics 1, 2, &amp; 3</li><li>● Dark Arts</li><li>● Filmmaking &amp; Production</li><li>● Improvisation</li><li>● Jewelry 1 &amp; 2</li><li>● Media Literacy</li><li>● Musical Theater Workshop</li><li>● Painting</li><li>● Photography 1 &amp; 2</li><li>● Printmaking</li><li>● Prop &amp; Costume Design</li><li>● Public Speaking</li><li>● Songwriting</li><li>● Threads &amp; Trends</li></ul> |

## VISUAL ART ELECTIVES

### CERAMICS 1

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course offers students the basic knowledge and skills needed to work with clay and glazes. Beginning with hand building, coil, pinch, and slab techniques and culminating with the use of the wheel in techniques such as wedging, centering, lifting, and trimming, students experience various approaches to working with clay. Students also learn about making glazes, recycling clay, and the loading/unloading of the kiln. In addition to direct work with clay, learning in this course also occurs through various readings, guest artist visits, museum/gallery visits, and critiques. *Please note that additional study hall or other time may be required should a student not complete their work in class.*

---

### CERAMICS 2 & 3

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: Ceramics 1 or 2*

This course extends the Ceramics 1 experience for students who wish to refine and expand their skills with various approaches to working with clay. Advanced techniques, such as collaring, stacking, and making lidded forms, will be explored. Students will further develop their individual expression as well as build their portfolio. Learning in this course also includes various readings, guest artist visits, gallery/museum visits, and critiques. *Please note that additional study hall or other time may be required should a student not complete their work in class.*

---

### DARK ARTS

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

In The Dark Arts, students will immerse themselves in the enigmatic world of "spooky art." Unleashing creativity at the intersection of Gothic art, surrealism, and the supernatural, students will unravel the mysteries behind haunting classical paintings and venture into the surreal realms, where reality melds with the fantastic. Throughout the course, students will connect with the depths of human emotion, understanding how the Dark Arts can evoke fear, awe, and fascination. Join us in this captivating exploration, where art becomes a portal to the eerie, the dreamlike, and the supernatural, creating pieces that resonate not only visually but also emotionally.

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## JEWELRY 1 & 2

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course covers not only the art of jewelry-making but also a historical look at the adornment of early civilization and contemporary aesthetics. Students begin by building skills in wire-working, measuring, linking, and making jump-rings. Techniques such as sawing, cold connecting, soldering, and polishing are addressed; problem-solving skills, safety knowledge, and personal expression by students are emphasized. Learning in this course is enhanced through participation in various readings, guest artist visits, gallery/museum visits, and critiques.

---

## MEDIA LITERACY

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Unlock the secrets behind the media! This class is designed to cultivate and practice critical thinking skills essential for navigating the diverse landscape of contemporary media. From movies and TV to advertising and social media, students will analyze techniques and choices, uncover embedded perspectives and values, and learn to appreciate the art of media. Guided by fundamental questions, students will build a practical toolkit for consuming and creating media, as a discerning and critical lens is essential for navigating the dynamic world of communication and storytelling in the 21st century. Join us in creating the next generation of media-savvy thinkers and creators!

---

## PAINTING

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

In this class, students will explore the possibilities of painting. Students learn traditional techniques in watercolor and acrylic as well as experimental processes. In addition to learning painting techniques, composition, and color theory, students analyze and engage with historical artworks and contemporary artists. While building their art portfolio, students will practice studio habits of mind and strengthen their critical-thinking and media-literacy skills.

---

## PHOTOGRAPHY 1 & 2

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Photography is an introduction to black and white photography with an emphasis on artistic results.

Students learn about the history of photography and basic camera and darkroom techniques as well as composition, lighting, and portraiture. Projects include photograms, quality of light, along with casual and studio portraits. Portfolio lectures with visiting photographers, field trips to photography exhibits, and hands-on experience in a professional studio provide inspiration and practical application.

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## PRINTMAKING

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Students will learn and explore techniques of printmaking, including relief-printing (block and plate), monotype, collagraph, and screen-printing. They will also study how printmaking is an evolving technology, originally used to print newspapers and pamphlets, but now primarily used for fine arts. Additionally, students will explore and analyze the history of printmaking, mass production, and the possibilities of printmaking in fine arts and commercial settings.

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## THREADS & TRENDS

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Explore the exciting world of fashion and clothing construction in Threads and Trends! Unleash your creativity as you learn the fundamentals of design, pattern-making, and sewing. From sketch to stitch, students will discover the art of fashion through hands-on projects, gaining skills in garment construction, fabric selection, upcycling, and trend analysis. Whether you dream of creating your own clothing line or simply want to express your unique style, this class is the perfect runway to unleash your passion for fashion.

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## PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES



### CHOIR

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Choir is open to all students that want to participate in a performance-based vocal ensemble. The choir learns and performs varied repertoire and pieces for performances on campus and in the community. Students study and practice vocal technique, ear training, music reading, theory and harmony, blend and balance, singing independently, foreign-language pronunciation, and more. Opportunities for solo singing and student arranging are also available.

---

### FILMMAKING & PRODUCTION

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

In Filmmaking & Production, students will learn to write, cast, act in, and produce a culminating five-minute short film. Students are introduced to basic script formatting, writing, “pitching,” and editing.



Focus includes the development of techniques for analysis in shot composition, story-structure mapping, appreciation of silent and scored films, and character development through the visual medium of film. Students begin to analyze works of cinema, research film history and genres, learn about the different positions and roles on a film set, and create original scripts, using techniques studied in class. The semester will culminate in a short film festival.

---

## IMPROVISATION

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Improvisation is a performance-based course, which teaches students the idea of “Yes, and-,” resulting in self-confidence, team-building, and collaboration skills. Students will learn techniques of unscripted acting, with a focus on comedy, through the use of exercises, games, and in-class performance reps. The class culminates in an Improv Comedy Showcase in front of an invited audience.

---

## MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

**Grade Level 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

With an emphasis on individual performance supported by ensemble work, students interested in performing in musical theater will engage with a wide range of repertoire, choreography, and vocal techniques. Teachers and students will work together to determine suitable repertoire for each student based on vocal range, technical difficulty, and student interest, culminating in a personal repertoire, which may be used for future auditions. Areas of study will include acting, music analysis, lyrical analysis, character development, and audition preparation.

---

## PROP & COSTUME DESIGN

**Grade Level 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This spring semester class is a collaboration between the visual arts and theater departments. Students will explore the historical and social contexts of the annual musical and will be tasked with designing and building enchanting props and visually stunning costumes that will bring the story to life. This unique class challenges students to explore their individual creativity, while also fostering collaboration, communication, and teamwork, allowing students to witness the transformative impact of their creations on the stage.

---

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course approaches public speaking as performance art and uses studies of communications as the basis for students to improve their public speaking skills and gain proficiency in their abilities to find their own voices, speak with confidence, and communicate effectively with an audience. Over the course of the semester, students learn how to create and present a wide variety of speeches. Students improve their command of rhetorical techniques, practice how to design effective visual aids, and rehearse how to think and speak on their feet every day.

---

## **SONGWRITING**

**Grade Level 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Songwriting is an introduction to music theory, history, and composition through studying the craft of writing songs. Students will study great songs from throughout history—from French and German art songs to English, American, and Hawaiian folk songs, to jazz standards and modern artists like Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars. Students will practice music theory basics (scales, harmony, melody, meter, form, etc.) as building blocks to artistry; study the elements of lyric writing and content; work to develop musical compositions of increasing complexity and varied style; demonstrate skill-development through writing their own songs individually and collaboratively; and will have the opportunity to perform their original works or have them performed by others. Public performance is not mandatory.

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# MATHEMATICS

Upper School Mathematics (3 Credits) to include Algebra 1, Geometry, & Algebra 2.



| Full-Year (1 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                                        | One-Semester (0.5 Credit) Courses                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Algebra 1</li><li>• Geometry</li><li>• Algebra 2</li><li>• Trigonometry &amp; Pre-Calculus</li><li>• AP® Calculus</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statistics</li></ul> |

## ALGEBRA 1

**Grade Level: 8-9**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Math 7 or Pre-Algebra*

In this course, students will develop an understanding of fundamental operations with real numbers. Students will perform these operations to solve various equations, with special attention to linear equations, linear functions, inequalities, systems of equations in two variables, and an introduction to quadratic equations. Students will develop fluency in expressing linear relationships verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically, using appropriate mathematical notation. Conceptual

understanding of linear relationships, fluency with procedures and skills, and application of knowledge will be emphasized throughout the course.

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## GEOMETRY

**Grade Level: 9-10**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Algebra 1*

Students will develop an awareness and appreciation of two and three-dimensional geometry through visualization, analysis, and deductive and inductive reasoning. Through a variety of activities with angles, polygons, circles, parallel and intersecting lines, congruent triangles, similar figures, and solid figures, students learn the necessary skills and concepts to apply their knowledge to the real world. Special attention is given to hands-on and cooperative learning in an effort to develop the students' ability to reason, test conjectures, solve problems, and communicate geometric understanding.

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## ALGEBRA 2

**Grade Level: 10-11**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry*

The course begins with an extensive study of quadratic functions. This leads to explorations of other functions, including polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions and their transformations. By the end of Algebra 2, students will also be introduced to trigonometry, including the unit circle and using trigonometric functions to relate angles with the side lengths of right triangles. Students will learn to recognize and represent functions in various forms. To build a systemic understanding of functions and their relationships, students will analyze and describe the structure of various functions through their key characteristics. Understanding structural similarities will enable students to write and use equivalent expressions, model real-world scenarios, and solve problems. Students use technology such as graphing calculators and online resources to explore math concepts and patterns more fully.

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## STATISTICS

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: Algebra 2*

Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course, which introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem-solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.

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## TRIGONOMETRY & PRE-CALCULUS

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Algebra 2*

This course serves as a bridge from advanced algebra to calculus. Students are introduced to the fundamentals of trigonometry, developing proficiency in using the unit circle and recognizing the connections between the unit circle and the basic trigonometric functions. Students will also develop an understanding of the different applications of trigonometry. In pre-calculus, students will develop a stronger foundation of the different families of functions, including polynomials, rational, logarithmic, and exponential functions. Students should be able to identify multiple key characteristics of a function, analytically describe functional behavior and sketch its graph using these key characteristics. By the end of this sequence, students may be introduced to elementary topics in calculus. For the 2024-2025 school year, a student enrolled in this course may be eligible to participate in La Pietra's dual-credit program in partnership with Hawaii Pacific University.

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## AP® CALCULUS AB

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: B in Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus and Teacher Approval*

AP® Calculus AB is equivalent to one semester of college calculus. Students in AP® Calculus AB are assumed to have a strong background in Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, Precalculus, and Trigonometry. AP® Calculus AB students will explore the connections between limits and the two essential ideas of calculus: differentiation and integration. A strong emphasis will be placed on utilizing appropriate mathematical definitions and theorems to clearly communicate methods, reasoning, justification, and conclusion. Topics covered include limits, derivatives, applications of derivatives, integration, and applications of integration. For the 2024-2025 school year, a student enrolled in AP® Calculus AB may be eligible to participate in La Pietra's dual-credit program in partnership with Hawaii Pacific University.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Upper School PE (2 Credits)



| Two-Semester (1 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | One-Semester (0.5 Credit) Courses                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dance 1</li><li>• Dance 2</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PE Upper School</li><li>• Self-Defense &amp; Strength Training</li><li>• Fitness for Life</li></ul> |
| <p><i>Students who are on a La Pietra or Pac-5 Varsity team can apply to take another academic course in place of PE to receive physical education credit for their participation in the varsity sport. They must complete and turn in a "Request for Physical Education Credit" form and have it approved by the Dean of Academics &amp; Faculty and the Athletic Director. If approved, the student-athlete will receive ½ credit for physical education. This can be requested only once during each year of high school.</i></p> |                                                                                                                                             |

## PE UPPER SCHOOL

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

The emphasis of this class is to experience, as practitioners, a variety of traditional and non-traditional team and individual sports, activities, and skills. By participating in the lead-up drills/activities, fitness training, and competitive scrimmage games with their classmates, students will gain more competence, confidence, and learn to and demonstrate valuable life skills and character traits (e.g. cooperation,

teamwork, industriousness, persistence, self-discipline, etc.) that can not only be applied to success in class activities, but also in all areas of their lives. This knowledge should encourage students to get involved in, and enjoy, a variety of activities after school and outside of school to promote an active lifestyle that will continue on throughout high school, college, and into adulthood. A variety of environments will be utilized to teach each unit. Assessment for this course is based on progress in skill development towards mastery and consistency in student effort.

---

## DANCE 1

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Dance 1 offers the basics of ballet, jazz, and hip-hop, along with the fundamentals of body awareness, technique development, and choreography. Students learn about the roots of dance and how it has developed, while physically working to execute techniques found in various dance genres. Classical and current music is used to fuel creativity in class, and students have an opportunity to self-choreograph and perform an original piece at the end of the semester. No textbook is required; however, dance shoes (jazz or ballet slippers) are an optional purchase for class.

---

## DANCE 2

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Dance 1 or Teacher Approval*

Dance 2 builds upon the skills, techniques, and terminology gained in Dance 1. Dancers will begin learning to refine their skills along with building upon this foundation and applying more advanced concepts and elements to their class performance. Dancers will explore the styles of lyrical, musical theater, hip-hop, and salsa/social dance, incorporating opportunities for improvisation and choreography-composition workshops. Dancers will also create a portfolio of work, demonstrating their ability to conceptualize and create a dance from lighting, to make up, to music and costume selection. No textbook is required; however, dance shoes (jazz or ballet slippers) are an optional purchase for class.

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## FITNESS FOR LIFE

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Fitness for Life is a course incorporating all aspects of fitness. With an emphasis on weight room workouts, the course is coupled with outdoor excursions and a balance of cultivating a yoga practice. The class will learn the ins-and-outs of weight-training practices utilizing multiple forms of equipment (dumbbells, kettlebells, landmines, barbells, multi-function machines, etc.), while also exploring workout

regimes and styles such as Pilates-based, HIIT style, EMOM, and much more. Aside from weight training, students will incorporate yoga into their weekly routine, developing their very own customized practice and flow. Lastly, this class will incorporate the use of La Pietra's place-based educational model by taking multiple off-campus field trips to hiking destinations throughout the island, some of which may include Lē'ahi, Mānoa Falls, Makapu'u trail, and Koko Head stairway. Our hope is that this wide range of experiences will encourage students to select, get involved in, and enjoy a variety of activities outside of school to promote an active, healthy lifestyle. Assessment for this course is based on progress in skill development towards mastery and consistency in student effort.

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## **SELF-DEFENSE & STRENGTH TRAINING**

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

The Self-Defense and Strength Training course is designed to teach young women to be safer now and in the future. This class will focus on the mental skill of fear management as it pertains to a self-defense situation (and in life). This includes detecting dangerous situations (situational awareness), de-escalating situations, and the ability to mentally decide to defend oneself if absolutely necessary. It will also incorporate simple and effective physical self-defense skills training that relies on the body's natural reflexes based on the methodology of Tony Blauer (<https://blauerspear.com/>). Fitness training and practical skills drilling will be incorporated for physical health and to promote self-confidence.

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## SCIENCE

Upper School Science (3 Credits) to include Physics (9) and Chemistry (10).

| Two-Semester (1 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                           | One-Semester (0.5 Credit) Courses                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physics</li><li>• Chemistry</li><li>• Biology</li><li>• AP® Environmental Science</li><li>• AP® Biology</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Astronomy</li><li>• Marine Biology</li><li>• S.T.E.A.M.</li></ul> |



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## PHYSICS

**Grade Level: 9**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Physics is designed as a fundamental science course and is the foundation for chemistry, biology, and advanced science classes. Students will use conceptual models and basic mathematical and algebraic application to describe physical relationships. Students will describe motion, forces and Newton's Laws,

energy and its conservation, basic thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, and electromagnetic waves. Students will also make connections to describe energy and the environment as it relates to climate change as a special topic.

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## CHEMISTRY

**Grade Level: 10**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is taught within the context of real-world applications. Within the units “Alchemy,” “Smells,” and “Toxins,” students learn about topics including the structure of the elements and the relationship to the periodic table, electron configurations, molecular functions, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and acid-based chemistry. Students will demonstrate strong observational and critical thinking skills, formulate and reassess hypotheses through experimentation, and be able to argue soundly the human effects on environmental change through stoichiometry.

---

## BIOLOGY

**Grade Level: 11**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Biology is a dynamic and ever-changing subject. This is a lab-based course, which surveys the thematic units of the chemistry of life, cellular biology, basic principles of molecular genetics, and plant and animal structure and function. In this course, students apply the Scientific Method and build upon prior scientific knowledge as they engage in biological concepts through inquiry-based learning. Students will read and write scientific papers and complete individual as well as group projects to demonstrate their knowledge. This is a reading and writing intensive course. As such, students will develop study and time management skills to complete assignments in a timely manner.

---

## AP® ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and Teacher Approval*

The AP® Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science through which students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. This course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental Science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, chemistry, and geography. In May, students will take the AP® Environmental Science exam.

---

## AP® BIOLOGY

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and Teacher Approval*

The AP® Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college course in biology. The course requires that students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. Students are expected to describe how to collect data, use data to form conclusions, and apply their conclusions to larger biological concepts. Students should report recorded data and quantitative conclusions drawn from the data with appropriate precision (i.e. significant figures) as well as develop an understanding of how changes in the design of the experiments could impact the validity and accuracy of their results. Many questions on the AP® exam are written in an experimental context, so these skills will prove invaluable for both concept comprehension and exam performance. In May, students will take the AP® Biology exam.

---

## ASTRONOMY

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: Physics, Geometry, Algebra 1*

Astronomy is an application of physics to explain the nature of the universe. Students will conceptually and mathematically describe natural cycles that occur on Earth and in the solar system using Newton's and Kepler's Laws. Students will also build upon prior scientific knowledge to scientifically describe theories on the origin of the universe and solar systems as well as the life and death of stars and formation of the elements. Finally, students will accurately describe theories on the fate of the universe.

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## MARINE BIOLOGY

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: Biology*

In this course, students will develop critical-thinking skills and use the Scientific Method to explore the diversity of organisms that encompass the marine environment, which include microbial, algal, and animal life forms. Students will examine how these organisms interact with abiotic (salinity, nutrients, currents and tides) and biotic factors (competition, predation, and symbiosis). Other topics include geological processes behind the formation of marine ecosystems, primary and secondary production, rocky intertidal biodiversity, estuaries, subtidal communities, coral reefs, pelagic and deep-sea communities, impacts of humans on the ocean, and conservation. Students will explore the different

marine environments through independent research projects and will improve their scientific vocabulary by reading articles and published scientific papers on current topics.

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## **S.T.E.A.M.**

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

In this high school course, S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) students will embark on a journey of inquiry-led, project-based learning, which bridges intellect and innovation. Through experiential and collaborative hands-on learning, participants will engage in real-world problem-solving, fostering critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of S.T.E.A.M. principles. Beyond the confines of textbooks, this course encourages students to express their learning artfully, by demonstrating proficiency in concepts through creative presentations and practical applications. This course aims to help students develop essential skills to address complex issues and make a meaningful impact in our ever-evolving world.

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

**Upper School Social Studies (3.5 Credits)** to include *World History (9)*, *U.S. History (10)*, *AP U.S. History (11-12)*, and *American Government (12)*.

| Two-Semester (1 Credit) Courses                                                                                   | One-Semester (0.5 Credit) Courses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World History</li><li>• U.S. History</li><li>• AP® U.S. History</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• American Government</li><li>• Asian-American History</li><li>• Economic Systems</li><li>• Ethics: Medicine, Law, &amp; Media</li><li>• Global Issues</li><li>• Hawaiian Studies</li><li>• Psychology</li><li>• World Cultures &amp; Religions</li></ul> |

### WORLD HISTORY

**Grade Level: 9**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is an introduction to the history of the global world and to the anthropological study of diverse cultures. Emphasis is placed on the interaction among world cultures, the influence of geography, and the link between the past and the present. The course covers early human foundations up to the modern world as it is today. Students will hone their historical thinking and writing skills through document evaluation, argumentative writing, and independent research. In addition, students will learn key vocabulary as they complete a wide variety of assignments, creating their own original written and creative work.

---

### U.S. HISTORY

**Grade Level: 10**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

The United States History course emphasizes historical concepts that have shaped America. Students acquire historical knowledge of past events then analyze them to create a deeper understanding of their relevance to modern-day society. Assessments and classwork require students to synthesize pertinent information from various sources, including primary-source materials, teacher presentations, as well as material from the textbook. For each chapter covered, students either individually, or as part of a group, examine a variety of historical topics which serves to increase their cultural literacy.

---

## AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

**Grade Level: 12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course provides an overview of the roles and functions of the American government. Through varied assignments, students will understand the foundations of the American government as well as explore its roles and functions in society. Students will also have the opportunity to analyze many of the primary documents that serve as the foundation of the American system of government. After students have gained an understanding of the foundations of the American government, they will explore the role of citizens in a republic (such as voting, researching issues, etc.) as well as compare other governmental systems around the world.

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## ASIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credits**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course explores the diverse histories and contemporary social, cultural, and political experiences of Asian-Americans in the United States. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, students will examine the formation of "Asian America," who is included in the category, who and what decides, and how and why conceptions and understandings of "Asian America" have shifted over time. Major themes and threads will be analyzed, including U.S. imperialism and colonialism, migration, urbanization and suburbanization, labor, leisure, citizenship, and community and identity formation. This course will also focus on the particular experiences of Asian-Americans in Hawai'i.

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## ECONOMIC SYSTEMS & POLITICAL FRAMEWORKS

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credits**

*Prerequisites: None*

People say, "Money makes the world go round." In this class, students will explore that premise through an analysis of major economic systems and their social- and political consequences. The class will start with the liberal economic order, which was put into place after WWII: the Bretton-Woods system. It will also teach students about major economic entities like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Federal Reserve. Moving into contemporary systems, the class will explore how globalization impacts the political and social world and ensure an understanding of neoliberalism and its political implications. The class will use case studies like Jamaica Kincaid's creative nonfiction piece *A Small Place* about the impact of economic policies and tourism on Antigua, an economic history of sugar, or narratives from 21st-century unionization efforts to ground our explorations.

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## ETHICS: MEDICINE, LAW, & MEDIA

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credits**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course enhances students' understanding of the medical, legal, and media worlds and the moral quagmires of each—whether it be doctor-assisted suicide, invasion of privacy, manipulation by the press, or the defense of a mass killer. Through reading the ideas and philosophies of Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, Noam Chomsky, Niccolo Machiavelli, Albert Schweitzer, and others, students learn both the historical- and present-day ins-and-outs of these three interesting fields. Critical thinking, analytical reading and writing, active discussion, and knowledge of current events are key elements of this class.

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## HAWAIIAN STUDIES

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credits**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course introduces students to Hawaiian cultural traditions from ancient times and explores how they are being utilized in contemporary social and political movements, also providing an overview of critical concepts that influence indigenous Hawaiian approaches to the *'āina* (land), *kuleana wai* (water rights), *kūpuna* (ancestors), language, and community. The course examines Hawaiian political and social movements that have responded to colonization and occupation and explores the relationship between Native Hawaiians and Asian settlers. Topics covered include the Aloha 'Āina movement, Hawaiian sovereignty movements, the Save Our Surf (SOS) movement, the efforts to revive *'Ōlelo Hawai'i*, and the *Hōkūle'a*.

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## GLOBAL ISSUES

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credits**

*Prerequisites: None*

Global Issues seeks to examine the ever-changing global system of relationships between countries. Through discussing and analyzing major issues in today's global society, students will develop their research and writing skills by investigating domestic and international key issues. In doing so, students will understand the interconnectivity of the globe and learn to create informed opinions and respectful dialogue on numerous issues.

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## PSYCHOLOGY

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

In Psychology, students learn a survey of the main subfields in the study. This class covers historical concepts, parts of the brain, cognitive processes, emotions, and illness. Through discussion, readings, lectures, and projects, students learn about the intricate inner workings and nuances of their brains and use their knowledge to analyze big questions about bias, discrimination, justice, empathy, and sexuality. This class is meant to foster perspective on humans' inner workings and how we can use that knowledge as a tool to approach our lives.

---

## WORLD CULTURES & RELIGIONS

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**0.5 credits**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course provides a fundamental cultural overview of several religions practiced around the globe. Primarily focusing on the 'Big 5' religions—Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam—this course will deepen students' understanding of the beliefs, practices, and traditions of these religions that have influenced the lives of billions of people throughout history. By engaging in lectures, discussions, projects, reading, and research, students will learn about the founding, development, and spread of these religions as well as their effect on the historical and modern world.

---

## AP® U.S. HISTORY

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: World History & Teacher Approval*

The AP® program in U.S. History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to critically view the past, present, and future in American history. This course prepares students for advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by universities. AP® U.S. History develops the skills necessary to arrive at historical conclusions through informed reasoning and by citing historical evidence. Students must take the AP® U.S. History exam in May.

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## TECHNOLOGY & COLLEGE/CAREER

Upper School Electives (2 Credits)



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## YEARBOOK

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course uses the school's yearbook as the primary vehicle through which students gain an authentic introduction to the three main areas of journalism: reporting, photography, and graphic design. Through the process of meeting each quarter's deadline, students learn publishing terminology, interviewing techniques, and effective use of time management. Students also learn the importance of creating an accurate historical document for the school's present community as well as its future archives.

## LIFE SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Life Skills gives students the tools to navigate the exciting, although sometimes intimidating, vastness of adulthood. They will acquire basic knowledge to get them started on the path to adulthood, including the process of entering the workforce from start to finish, practicing health and mindfulness, learning financial literacy with savings, credit cards, etc., car care and maintenance, self-defense, and more. With guidance from the instructor and guest experts from the community, students will leave the class with a new sense of self-confidence and readiness for the future. The class culminates with a final project of the student's choice, where they will have the opportunity to teach their classmates a new life skill.

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## JUNIOR SEMINAR

**Grade Level: Required for Grade 11**

**0.5 credit (Pass/Fail)**

*Prerequisites: None*

Junior Seminar is a required class for 11th graders in which students will launch their Independent Projects and start the process of looking ahead and learning about post-secondary education options.

---

## INDEPENDENT PROJECT

**Grade Level: Required for Grade 11**

*Prerequisites: None*

As a requirement for graduation from La Pietra, each student must plan and carry out an Independent Project (IP) outside of their classroom work that is designed to achieve some personal goal. The purpose of this project is to expand students' experiences in exploring career possibilities or in attempting something they have always wanted to do but didn't think they could. Students must present a proposal to the Independent Project Committee and have it approved before beginning the work. Each student will be assigned a Faculty Advisor from the IP Committee. Upon completion, students must share the results of their project, giving a presentation to the school community.

The minimum graduation requirement is a one-semester project (minimum of 40 hours), though some projects last a year or even more. The project must be completed by April of the junior year. This project may be started in the summer with pre-approval. However, 40 hours must be experienced within the school year. Individual Independent Projects will be evaluated and given a rating of A through F, which will be noted on the student's transcript and shared on college applications. However, the grade will not be calculated into the student's overall GPA.

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## SENIOR SEMINAR

**Grade Level: Required for Grade 12**

**0.5 credit (Pass/Fail)**

*Prerequisites: None*

Senior Seminar is a required course for 12th graders, designed to equip students with the tools necessary to successfully navigate the college-admissions process. Students will learn about what to consider when creating a list of colleges they are interested in applying to, types of admissions deadlines, how to craft both an effective resume and admissions essay, an overview of the financial aid process as well as going about looking for uncompetitive scholarships, and what to think about when making their final decision of where to attend college. This class will also host visits from college admissions representatives as scheduling permits.

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## STUDENT INTERNSHIP

**Grade Level: 12**

**0.5 credit (Pass/Fail)**

*Prerequisites: Requires Administrative Approval*

This student internship opportunity is designed to provide on-site experiences in school-to-work skills, personal responsibility, and community relationships. Students may be enrolled for one semester (0.5 credit) or its equivalent over the summer program offerings. Requirements for this class include a grade point average of 3.0 or greater, parent permission, faculty/administration recommendation, and approval from the Dean of Academics & Faculty. Students are assessed using input from Internship Supervisor, self-evaluation, journal and a final reflection paper, and participation and attendance. Credits during the school year are attached to the semester in which they are earned; credits earned during the summer are attached to the upcoming fall semester of the year the student will be entering.

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## SUMMER PROGRAM: PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**0.5 credit (Pass/Fail)**

Open to girls in grades 6-12, La Pietra's Pathways to Purpose summer program integrates classroom-based reflection with real-world experiences. The transformative three-week program will explore diverse agricultural sites around O'ahu, seamlessly blending interactive sessions with immersive, technology-focused learning experiences. Students will learn from industry professionals in the field while gaining valuable hands-on skills. Note: this course is a summer program only.

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Upper School Women's and Gender Studies (1 Credit) to include Health and Society (9) and Intro to Women's and Gender Studies.

## HEALTH & SOCIETY

**Grade Level: 9**

**0.5 credit**

*Required Course*

This class uses a Women's and Gender Studies perspective to equip students with knowledge and skills necessary for living a healthy life. Topics include nutrition and exercise, human anatomy of the reproductive system, mental health, substance use and abuse, and relationships. Students learn about the body and its anatomy and functions within the social context of our gendered world. Specifically, students investigate cultural values and views about various health topics and conditions to better understand how women navigate their health in society. Through activities and group discussion, students develop positive communication skills, learn to manage stress, and how to advocate for themselves.

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## INTRO TO WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

**Grade Level: 9-10**

**0.5 credit**

*Required Course*

This introductory course to La Pietra's Women's and Gender Studies program explores how gender is a significant factor in shaping a woman's identity, her perspectives, and life experiences. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students examine the diversity of attitudes, events, and issues that continue to shape the lives of 21st century women. What forces and conditions inform our gender and role identification? What can we learn from women in other societies around the world? Students reflect on their own experiences and hone their ideas, create and present projects related to the issues, and analyze their social worlds.

---

## PERSPECTIVES IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

**Grade Level: 10-11**

**0.5 credit**

This Women's and Gender Studies course gives a historical perspective on women's experiences, while also drawing upon global and transnational perspectives. The course is an interdisciplinary approach to the history of women in the U.S. and abroad. In this class, we look at the significant cultural, socioeconomic, and political conditions that have shaped the lives of women, while centralizing the dynamics of gender, race, and class. Students critically analyze how the stories of women's lives are told and how gender shapes the ways in which narratives are constructed, reproduced, and circulated throughout history. This course places particular emphasis on women's experiences from several different backgrounds and social and geographic locations.

---

## **GENDER & CULTURE**

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**0.5 credit**

In this interdisciplinary course, students receive clear instruction and multiple opportunities to learn how to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, persevere in the face of challenge, and pursue equity. Students practice these competencies by exploring the role of gender, race, class, and sexuality through popular film, television, music, literature, and performance. Studied case studies draw upon various cultural productions from the U.S. and the Pacific, focusing on the early 1900s to the present. The class addresses how culture-making can both express and inform gender and how ideas about gender and sexuality shape cultural environments as well as examines representations of women and gender in film, literature, and music, as well as cultural productions by women writers and artists.

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## WORLD LANGUAGES

**Upper School World Language (3 Credits)** – *Students must complete three consecutive years in one language.*



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### CHINESE 1

**Grade Level: 8-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

This course is for students with little or no prior knowledge of the Mandarin Chinese language, which is the national standard language of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). With the knowledge of the phonetic system, 'Pinyin', and the four tones, students will establish a solid foundation in their listening and speaking abilities. Each lesson incorporates basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns to prepare students to communicate effectively. In addition, students will also learn how to read and write Chinese characters in both simplified and traditional versions.

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## CHINESE 2

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: Chinese 1*

This course is for students who have successfully developed the four basic skills as taught in Chinese 1. Students will expand their oral expression and writing abilities by building on previously studied Chinese characters and advanced sentence patterns. By the end of the course, students can use the language in daily life, such as while shopping, writing a journal about their everyday life, and reading/writing short descriptive articles.

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## CHINESE 3

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: Chinese 1 & 2*

This course is designed to continue building students' daily communication skills in standard Mandarin Chinese with more vocabulary, expressions, sentence patterns, and grammar. The goal is to develop fluency and proficiency in the language. Students are challenged to read authentic materials such as newspapers and write narrative essays and articles.

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## CHINESE 4

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: C- or better in Chinese 3 and Department Approval*

This course reinforces prior Chinese content and skills by expanding on vocabulary, expressions, and sentence patterns. In addition to the textbook, students will listen to the Chinese news and watch short films about current events to deepen their listening comprehension. Students will read Chinese newspapers and summarize using their own words in advanced sentence patterns. The goals for Chinese 4 are fulfilling daily tasks such as seeing a doctor, asking for directions and planning for a party with competency and proficiency.

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## CHINESE 5

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: C- or better in Chinese 4 and department approval*

At this stage, students develop advanced skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking Chinese. This course provides opportunities for students to acquire better speaking skills by emphasizing natural, colloquial usage with opportunities to practice, explore the language, and develop intercultural understanding. They can read authentic materials such as newspapers, short stories, and magazines. Writing tasks include letters, creative writing, and essays. Through developing receptive, productive, and interactive skills, students build skills to respond and interact appropriately in a defined range of

everyday situations. Chinese 5 students have the option, and are encouraged, to take the AP® Chinese exam.

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## SPANISH 1

**Grade Level: 8-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: None*

Dive into the enchanting world of Spanish! Discover the beauty of basic phrases, greetings, and simple conversations. Unravel the foundational elements of grammar and pronunciation, laying the groundwork for your linguistic adventure. As you grasp these building blocks, you'll feel empowered to start expressing yourself in this fascinating language. Each level in your Spanish journey brings discoveries, cultural insights, and linguistic prowess, creating an exciting and rewarding path toward mastering this beautiful language!

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## SPANISH 2

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: Spanish 1*

Progress from foundational knowledge, explore more intricate language structures, and expand your vocabulary. Embrace engaging dialogues and everyday scenarios, gaining confidence in your ability to navigate real-life situations. Delve deeper into Spanish culture, understanding customs, traditions, and idiomatic expressions that add colorful nuances to your speech. Each level in your Spanish journey brings discoveries, cultural insights, and linguistic prowess, creating an exciting and rewarding path toward mastering this beautiful language!

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## SPANISH 3

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: Spanish 1 & 2*

Here, your Spanish fluency flourishes! Engage in lively discussions, share opinions, and express ideas with increasing ease. Enhance your grasp of verb tenses, refine your pronunciation, and absorb complex sentence structures. Immerse yourself further by consuming Spanish media—movies, books, and music—enriching your understanding of the language in context. Each level in your Spanish journey brings discoveries, cultural insights, and linguistic prowess, creating an exciting and rewarding path toward mastering this beautiful language!

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## SPANISH 4

**Grade Level: 11-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish 3 and Teacher Approval*

At this stage, you're honing your Spanish to a proficient level. Dive into sophisticated conversations, articulate your thoughts with finesse, and delve into specialized vocabulary tailored to your interests or profession. Fine-tune your comprehension through diverse mediums, from literature to current affairs, and develop a keen ear for regional variations, embracing the linguistic richness of Spanish-speaking countries. Each level in your Spanish journey brings discoveries, cultural insights, and linguistic prowess, creating an exciting and rewarding path toward mastering this beautiful language!

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## SPANISH 5

**Grade Level: 12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish 4 and Teacher Approval*

Congratulations, you've reached mastery! Refine your Spanish to a near-native level, effortlessly navigating any conversation or written material. Your fluency allows you to express nuanced emotions, comprehend intricate texts, and engage deeply with native speakers across diverse topics. Embrace the joy of effortlessly connecting with Spanish speakers worldwide. Each level in your Spanish journey brings discoveries, cultural insights, and linguistic prowess, creating an exciting and rewarding path toward mastering this beautiful language!

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# ONLINE LEARNING

## ONE SCHOOLHOUSE™

**Grade Level: 10-12**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisites: Requires Administrative Approval*

La Pietra is proud to partner with One Schoolhouse, an organization with elite membership from top schools for girls around the nation. This partnership offers students access to additional classes during the school year in various core subjects. As an integrated element of our curriculum, these courses are considered La Pietra courses and are reflected in student GPAs and on transcripts. One Schoolhouse tuition fees are included in the regular tuition when these courses are taken during the fall and spring semesters of the academic school year. An administrative processing fee per class registration is required, and additional tuition fees are assessed for summer courses. To register for classes, students must contact the Dean of Academics & Faculty, as registration is coordinated through La Pietra. To view the One Schoolhouse Course Catalog, click [here](#).

**Prerequisite: Completion of One Schoolhouse Contract and approval by Dean of Academics & Faculty**

- Regular Course: Approval by Dean of Academics & Faculty required.
- AP® Courses: Minimum 3.3 GPA and approval by the Dean of Academics & Faculty and department teacher.
- All students enrolling in a One Schoolhouse course must complete a Learning Contract and submit a deposit before May 1, 2024. See Dean of Academics & Faculty for a copy.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION PROCESS

All information for registering for the 2024-2025 school year is included in this course catalog. Follow the checklist below before meeting with the Dean of Academics & Faculty and/or Registrar to register for the upcoming school year.

- Step 1.** Review the middle school courses and descriptions for your upcoming grade level. Complete the registration form given in your Hui group. The classes offered during the year are based on your requests and availability.
- Step 2.** Review with your parents and/or guardians and have them sign the registration form.
- Step 3.** Current 6 & 7th graders will submit their signed form to the front office by the deadline given.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM SNAPSHOT

*The following program will serve as a general guide for students entering 6th grade in 2024-2025.*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | GRADE 6                                                                                                                                                                                              | GRADE 7                                                                                                                                                                                | GRADE 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ENGLISH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | English 6                                                                                                                                                                                            | English 7                                                                                                                                                                              | English 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Math 6                                                                                                                                                                                               | Math 7                                                                                                                                                                                 | Pre-Algebra<br><b>OR</b> Algebra 1*                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Science 6                                                                                                                                                                                            | Science 7                                                                                                                                                                              | Science 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Social Studies 6                                                                                                                                                                                     | World Geography                                                                                                                                                                        | Civics in Hawaii                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Intro. to Languages                                                                                                                                                                    | Chinese 1*<br><b>OR</b> Spanish 1*                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>ELECTIVES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PE 6</li> <li>- Art 6</li> <li>- Music 6</li> <li>- Theater 6</li> <li>- Place &amp; Purpose Learning</li> <li>- Creative Coding &amp; Animation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Middle School PE</li> <li>- Middle School Art</li> <li>- Music 7</li> <li>- Theater 7</li> <li>- Robotics &amp; Interactive Design</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Middle School PE</li> <li>- Middle School Art</li> <li>- Musical Theater 8</li> <li>- A.I. Explorers: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence &amp; Machine Learning</li> </ul> |
| <p><i>*Algebra 1 and World Language 1 appear on high school transcripts and are counted towards the cumulative GPA for a student's upper-school academic coursework. Students are required to take a final exam for both Algebra 1 and World Language 1. See Student-Parent Handbook for more information.</i></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SUBJECT AREA & COURSES

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

### ENGLISH 6

#### Grade Level: 6

Sixth grade English is designed to promote reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. In this class, students will learn and practice communicating verbally, and in writing, thinking critically by using textual evidence to support their ideas, and how to collaborate with their peers through discussions and writing workshops. To enhance communication skills, students will enhance their grammar and vocabulary. Through reading and discussing short stories, novels, and poetry, students will gain proficiency in these skills. The two anchor texts of the course are *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg and *Homeless Bird* by Gloria Whelan.

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### ENGLISH 7

#### Grade Level: 7

In this course, students will build on the skills practiced in sixth grade. Emphasis is placed on close reading, communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. Students will practice writing with clarity and organization and will collaborate in writing workshops. Students will continue developing their written and oral communication skills by focusing on vocabulary and grammar. Through studying a variety of genres, students will gain proficiency in these skills and practice telling their own stories. The largest units of study center on *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai.

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### ENGLISH 8

#### Grade Level: 8

English 8 is a high school preparation class designed to develop students' abilities to understand and appreciate literary and cultural productions. Students will practice comprehending and interpreting a variety of works, while applying critical thinking skills to the texts' contents, contexts, and structures. Explored themes include different experiences of maturity and look at how settings and relationships shape who we are and who we become. Students will read classics like *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Romeo and Juliet* alongside *The House on Mango Street* and *Persepolis*.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ARTS



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### ART 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Pass/Fail**

Art 6 serves as a foundation for future art classes. Students will use a variety of materials and methods to explore and learn about the elements of art and principles of design. Students will engage with contemporary artists and historical art movements, while learning basic art techniques in a variety of mediums in order to express themselves creatively. Emphasis is placed on learning foundational art vocabulary, practicing the studio habits of mind, and building critical thinking skills.

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### MUSIC 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Pass/Fail**

Music 6 serves to raise the level of each student's musicianship. Students will engage with a wide range of music and work with the fundamentals of all music: rhythm, harmony, form, tone colors, and textures. Students will practice active listening, instrumental performance, vocal techniques, music

analysis, composition and improvisation. Along the way, students will develop a musical vocabulary, have room to express individually, work collaboratively, think and listen critically and openly, and have the opportunity to further their appreciation of, and joy in, music participation.

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## **THEATER 6**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Pass/Fail**

Theater 6 introduces students to basic theater terms and the elements of the theatrical process with an emphasis on performance, observation, collaboration, and focus skills. Students build confidence and imagination, as they practice the fundamentals of theater arts, both individually and as an ensemble, through theater games, scene work, voice and body work, and improvisation. The class culminates in a special showcase performance for an invited audience at the end of the semester!

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## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART**

**Grade Level: 7-8**

Middle School Art introduces students to basic visual art techniques and the studio habits of mind. Students work in a variety of media and techniques, including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, printmaking, and fiber arts. Students build critical thinking skills by analyzing and engaging with contemporary artists and historical art movements. Specific projects rotate from year to year to provide an enriching hands-on learning experience for middle school students.

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## **MUSIC 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

Music 7 is a continuation of and expansion on developing the fundamental music skills identified in Music 6 but with a greater emphasis on learning through individual and collaborative music creation. Students learn and develop skills with a variety of instruments, including ukulele, percussion, and vocals to create and recreate musical works and learn through active participation. Imaginative creation, clear and kind communication, joyful participation, critical thinking, and deep engagement are the goals, with music theory understanding, instrumental and vocal technique, listening skills, and vocabulary development as paths that lead students there.

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## **THEATER 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

Theater 7 students explore elements of the theatrical process by building imagination, confidence, poise, and ensemble skills. They also learn the basic language used in theater and create material that they perform. Students can expect to have fun while learning voice, movement, observation, focusing, and characterization techniques. Units of curriculum include theater games, improvisation, voice and movement, and solo and group performances. The end of the semester will conclude with a student showcase.

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## MUSICAL THEATER 8

**Grade Level: 8**

This course for eighth grade students combines and elevates the skills learned in their previous music and theater courses. Students learn intermediate techniques on how to “act on pitch,” tell a story through music and lyrics, as well as expand on the basics of vocal technique, musical phrasing, lyrical analysis, making the transition from dialogue to vocals, solo singing, and blending with fellow vocalists. Students learn scenes and songs that culminate in a performance at the end of the semester.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

## MATH 6

**Grade Level: 6**

Throughout the Math 6 course, students learn how to think critically about math concepts, practice math skills, and learn how to effectively share ideas orally and in written work. Students use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems about quantities. Students create and keep math notebooks to summarize and highlight math concepts learned. Major focus areas are number theory, concepts and computation with fractions and decimals, percentage concepts, two-dimensional geometry, and data collection and display in preparation for Math 7.

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## MATH 7

**Grade Level: 7**

In this course, students explore mathematical concepts that are foundational for success in Algebra. Students work on engaging problems both individually and in groups, learning how to effectively verbalize math concepts during group discussions and problem-solving. Students will improve their fluency with integers and rational numbers, extend their understanding of two and three-dimensional geometry, develop proportional reasoning skills, and explore probability. Students will be able to recognize linear relationships in various representations and solve linear equations.

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## PRE-ALGEBRA

**Grade Level: 8**

This course is designed to help students bridge from Math 7 to Algebra 1. Using a problem-centered approach, students master and apply computational and problem-solving skills. Students extend their work with linear relationships, exploring linear models, systems of linear equations, and inequalities. Other types of relationships are introduced, such as inverse variations, quadratic functions, and exponential functions. Units on three-dimensional geometry and the Pythagorean Theorem will give students context for irrational numbers as well as prepare them for geometry. Students are encouraged to express their understanding through class discussion, creative projects, writing assignments, and group work.

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## ALGEBRA 1

**Grade Level: 8-9**

**1 credit**

*Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 1 or Math 7 and Teacher Approval*

In this course, students will develop an understanding of fundamental operations with real numbers. Students will perform these operations to solve various equations, with special attention to linear equations, linear functions, inequalities, systems of equations in two variables, and an introduction to quadratic equations. Students will develop fluency in expressing linear relationships verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically, using appropriate mathematical notation. Conceptual understanding of linear relationships, fluency with procedures and skills, and application of knowledge will be emphasized throughout the course.

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL TECH EDUCATION



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### CREATIVE CODING & ANIMATION

**Grade Level: 6**

**Pass/Fail**

This course introduces students to the exciting world of creative coding using the Scratch platform. Over the course of the semester, students explore fundamental programming concepts, develop interactive animations and games, and engage in peer reviews and reflections on their learning journey. The course covers Scratch basics, interactive animations, game design, and advanced Scratch features, fostering creativity, problem-solving skills, and collaboration. Students plan and storyboard their projects, remixing and enhancing their favorite games with new skills learned. The final weeks focus on creating a side-scrolling maze game, incorporating advanced features, sound effects, and scoring systems. The course culminates in a showcase where students present their remixed games, reflecting on their experiences and celebrating their achievements. This course emphasizes not just coding skills, but also creative thinking and application in various domains.

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## ROBOTICS & INTERACTIVE DESIGN

### Grade Level: 7

This course is an engaging and hands-on course that introduces students to the exciting world of technology, programming, and robotics using LEGO SPIKE and Python. This course covers fundamental Python programming concepts, robotics, and mechanical design through project-based lessons. Students will gain practical skills in design and engineering as they build, program, and experiment with various LEGO models using the LEGO SPIKE system. This course focuses on topics like engineering design and algorithms, while also emphasizing problem-solving and computational thinking. The course covers topics such as Invention Squad, package tracking, automation, and sensor control and culminates in a creative project in which students design and build their own arcade-style game using Python programming and LEGO SPIKE.

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## A.I. EXPLORERS: INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & MACHINE LEARNING

### Grade Level: 8

This course is designed to introduce students to the dynamic field of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). This engaging journey begins with Code.org's AI/ML curriculum, where students gain foundational knowledge and hands-on experience with AI tools. The course then transitions to MIT's "How to Train Your Robot" segment, offering practical applications of AI concepts through programming virtual robots. Students explore ethical considerations related to AI, fostering a responsible perspective. The course focuses on algorithms, data analysis, and the impacts of computing. Utilizing platforms such as Code.org, Scratch, and microbits, students develop a strong understanding of AI, enhance problem-solving skills, and create AI-driven apps. The final project showcases their creativity, technical proficiency, and ethical awareness. As AI explorers, students emerge equipped to perceive the world with a new perspective, recognizing AI's influence on society and envisioning its potential for the future.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## PE 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Pass/Fail**

PE 6 will introduce students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional team and individual sports, fitness activities, and games. Students learn about strategies, history, rules, safety, and good sportsmanship relative to each activity in a variety of environments. The gymnasium, outdoor court, swimming pool, Great Lawn area, and Kapi'olani Park will be utilized during class. Over the course of the semester, students will gain self-awareness, competence and confidence, as well as learn and demonstrate valuable life skills and character traits (e.g. cooperation, teamwork, industriousness, persistence, etc.), while developing their skills and fitness. The hope is that this wide range of experiences will encourage students to select, get involved in, and enjoy a variety of activities in the after-school athletic program or physical activities and sports outside of school to promote an active lifestyle. Assessment for this course is based on progress in skill development towards mastery and consistency in student effort.

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL PE

**Grade Level: 7-8**

Middle School PE will introduce students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional team and individual sports, fitness activities, and games. Students learn about strategies, history, rules, safety, and good sportsmanship relative to each activity in a variety of environments. The gymnasium, outdoor court, swimming pool, Great Lawn area, and Kapi'olani Park will be utilized during class. Over the course of the semester, students will gain self-awareness, competence and confidence, as well as learn and demonstrate valuable life skills and character traits (e.g. cooperation, teamwork, industriousness, persistence, etc.), while developing their skills and fitness. The hope is that this wide range of experiences will encourage students to select, get involved in, and enjoy a variety of activities in our after school athletic program or physical activities and sports outside of school to promote an active lifestyle. Assessment for this course is based on progress in skill development towards mastery and consistency in student effort.

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE



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### SCIENCE 6

#### Grade Level: 6

Students will explore the world through an Earth Systems science lens. First, through the weather and water unit, students will develop a model to describe changes in Earth's climate and weather systems. After this, students explore Earth's history and learn to construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata to describe Earth's 4.5 billion year history. Next, students dive into planetary science and will understand Earth's place in the larger solar system and the universe beyond. Throughout this course, students will engage in hands-on science lab investigations.

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## SCIENCE 7

### Grade Level: 7

Science 7 explores phenomena related to many different aspects of life on Earth. The course is an introduction to different life forms, ecosystems types, heredity, adaptation, and anatomy and physiology of the human body. Students engage in several hands-on investigations of cell structures and functions and explain the interactions between the living and nonliving world. The class is designed to create an interest in the natural world and in the human body systems. Students will collaborate in group projects and laboratory activities as they learn to analyze and interpret data using the scientific method. They also develop their creative and critical thinking skills through independent research and hands-on activities.

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## SCIENCE 8

### Grade Level: 8

This class will introduce middle school students to the study of physical science. Topics include chemical interactions, electromagnetic force, kinetic energy, gravity and waves. Through hands-on experiments, students plan investigations using the scientific method and develop a model to describe chemical and physical changes of substances. Throughout each unit, students learn to analyze and interpret data to draw conclusions about phenomena.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

## SOCIAL STUDIES 6

**Grade Level: 6**

Students in sixth grade social studies explore major ancient civilizations and analyze major themes that appear in all civilizations, including geographic influence on culture, religious systems, social hierarchy benefits and leadership styles. Civilizations studied include Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, China, and Hawai'i. Emphasis is placed on developing historical thinking skills such as articulating an argument, placing locations on a map, and chronological thinking.

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## WORLD GEOGRAPHY

**Grade Level: 7**

Students in World Geography “travel” the world to learn about the globe’s peoples, places, cultures, history, governments, and geological features. During the course, students will build their vocabularies, interpret maps, graphs and charts, and create their own physical and political maps through a variety of assignments. Additionally, students will also develop their researching and writing skills through fiction and nonfiction narratives.

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## CIVICS IN HAWAI'I

**Grade Level: 8**

This class introduces students to the study of civics, with a particular focus on understanding what it means to be an ethical and engaged resident of Hawai'i. Students will build their knowledge of state and local governments and learn how to claim a place within those systems and in other public venues. Students will work on developing their political and historical writing and thinking skills in direct action projects that require them to join conversations about social issues relevant today.

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# LEARNING SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

## Middle School Electives

### PLACE & PURPOSE LEARNING

**Grade Level: 6**

**Pass/Fail**

The course aims to help young women develop their own sense of purpose, *kahiau* (or selfless giving), and the leadership skills required to become change agents in their own communities. There will be opportunities throughout the course to work with community partners and organizations led by women to learn about land and cultural stewardship. Students will embark on a learning journey that encourages place and purpose-based leadership practices as well as self-reflection. While exploring their relationships to the places they call home and deepening their relationships and understandings to the lands of La Pietra, these young women will draw inspiration from wāhine leaders across O‘ahu to see themselves as emerging leaders. The experience culminates in student reflections and expressions of gratitude.

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### SUMMER PROGRAM: PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE

**Grade Level: 6-8**

**Pass/Fail**

Open to girls in grades 6-12, La Pietra's Pathways to Purpose summer program integrates classroom-based reflection with real-world experiences. The transformative three-week program will explore diverse agricultural sites around O‘ahu, seamlessly blending interactive sessions with immersive, technology-focused learning experiences. Students will learn from industry professionals in the field while gaining valuable hands-on skills.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGES

| 7TH GRADE                                                                   | 8TH GRADE                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to Languages</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chinese 1</li><li>• Spanish 1</li></ul> |

## INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGES

**Grade Level: 7**

Welcome to the captivating world of languages! This level is your passport to a rich cultural tapestry. Begin by exploring the fundamentals of basic greetings, introductions, and essential phrases that open the doors to communication. Embrace the beauty of a new alphabet and the melody of pronunciation as you take your first steps into these enchanting languages. Learning a language is an enriching journey that offers a spectrum of proficiency levels, each unlocking exciting possibilities to communicate and connect with a vibrant culture.

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## CHINESE 1

**Grade Level: 8-12**

**1 credit**

This course is for students with little or no prior knowledge of the Mandarin Chinese language, the national standard language of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). With the knowledge of the phonetic system, 'Pinyin', and the four tones, students will establish a solid foundation in their listening and speaking abilities. Each lesson incorporates basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns to prepare students to communicate effectively. In addition, students will also learn how to read and write Chinese characters in both simplified and traditional versions.

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## SPANISH 1

**Grade Level: 8-12**

**1 credit**

Dive into the enchanting world of Spanish! Discover the beauty of basic phrases, greetings, and simple conversations. Unravel the foundational elements of grammar and pronunciation, laying the groundwork for your linguistic adventure. As you grasp these building blocks, you'll feel empowered to start expressing yourself in this fascinating language. Each level in your Spanish journey brings discoveries, cultural insights, and linguistic prowess, creating an exciting and rewarding path toward mastering this beautiful language!

# ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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As a college preparatory school, La Pietra's aim is to teach students skills and offer courses that will prepare them for success in college or university and beyond. Our teachers are available to help beyond scheduled class time. Please make an appointment to see them when you need additional assistance. Also available to help you are the Dean of Students and the Dean of Academics & Faculty.

## COURSE REGISTRATION

Upon your acceptance to La Pietra, the Dean of Academics & Faculty and/or Registrar will work with you to create a schedule for your first year. In each subsequent year, this planning will be done in the spring. A Course Catalog will be available online to assist you in completing your course registration, which you will review with your advisor and your parents or guardians.

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## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP®) ENROLLMENT

Students who request to enroll in AP-level classes, whether on campus or online, must sign the La Pietra AP® Learning Expectations contract at the time of course registration.

Students enrolled in AP® courses with La Pietra or One Schoolhouse are required to take the AP® exams in May. The cost for each AP® exam course taken will be billed to your La Pietra account and is non-refundable if they fail to take the AP® Exam. AP® exams are scheduled during the first two weeks of May.

AP® Students agree to organize their time and effort to successfully complete the AP® course in which they are enrolled. The student will be expected to complete assignments, readings and projects outside of class time. In accordance with La Pietra school policy, all enrolled students are required to take the AP® Exam on its scheduled date and time as outlined by the College Board. Students in level 5 language classes who choose the option of taking the AP® exam will be required to notify their teacher and pay the exam fee.

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## ADD/DROP POLICY

Our goal at La Pietra is to both challenge and support students academically. Elective courses will have been added to courses required for graduation in order to meet the school's requirements for a full master schedule.

Schedule change requests must be approved by the Dean of Academics & Faculty. Changes are granted only for significant academic reasons. Any changes made after schedules are finalized are subject to a \$40 change fee. Schedule changes are not allowed after seven calendar days once the semester has started.

Any course dropped after the quarter, due to approved reasons, will show a “WD,” or withdrawal. This grade will not be factored into the student GPA, but will be reported on the transcript.

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## STUDY HALL/CONSULTATION

All students in sixth through eighth grade are assigned to proctored study halls. These are designed to allow students to complete some of the nightly homework, get help from teachers, and to make up work. Either a student or teacher may request a conference at this time or a student may have the opportunity to make up work. To leave a study hall for a meeting or to see another teacher, a middle school student must obtain permission from the teacher or meeting advisor in advance.

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## STUDY/OPEN BLOCK

Students in Grade 11 have the option of a maximum of one open block per year. Students in Grade 12 have the option of a maximum of two open blocks per year. Exceptions to this include periods to balance numerous AP® or online course loads. These exceptions must be approved by the Dean of Academics & Faculty. Students are expected to productively utilize this time for their studies. For Grades 9–12, teachers reserve the right to hold students in study hall.

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## END OF SEMESTER POLICY

Final examinations are generally given in all core upper school courses at the end of each semester. There are two final exam periods on each of the final two days of each semester. If no final exam is scheduled on those days, students will still meet to attend class. Middle school students will continue with their daily classes during end-of-semester exam days; however, middle schoolers will follow the same bell schedule as the upper school students.

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## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students must exhibit academic integrity in all aspects of their lives at La Pietra—doing their own work fairly and honestly. All violations of academic integrity, whether intentional or unintentional, may be treated the same. Conduct prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to:

- Any form of cheating or misrepresentation.
- Plagiarism - passing off another’s work as one’s own, including taking someone else’s completed assignment and submitting it as yours.
- Copying, emailing, exchanging or duplicating assignments that will each be turned in as “original work.”
- Giving, receiving or use of unauthorized assistance, technology, or answers during any assignment, quiz, or test.

- Allowing parents, family members, tutors, or friends to do work for you.
- Submitting material created by someone else without proper citation.
- Forging of signatures.

## GRADES

Cumulative grade point averages are calculated at the end of each semester. See basic grade scale below:

|                       |                |                 |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>A 93-100%</b>      |                | <b>A- 90-92</b> |
| <b>B+ 87-89</b>       | <b>B 83-86</b> | <b>B- 80-82</b> |
| <b>C+ 77-79</b>       | <b>C 73-76</b> | <b>C- 70-72</b> |
| <b>D+ 67-69</b>       | <b>D 63-66</b> | <b>D- 60-62</b> |
| <b>F 59 and below</b> |                |                 |

*\*Pass/Fail grades are given in sixth grade electives and PE, Junior Seminar, Senior Seminar and Student Internship.*

*\*Grades earned are reported on a 4-point scale. Students in any Advanced Placement® courses have their grades reported on a 5-point scale.*

## REPORTING

Parents will have access to grade reports via My Backpack at the mid-semester with personal comments at the end of the semester with final letter grades. Mid-semester grade reports with comments note a student's progress as of the date indicated in the report. Parents will receive progress reports at any point in the semester when a student's achievement changes significantly.

Students' grades, assignments, and attendance records can be accessed online through the My Backpack [Parent Portal](#). A username and password are required to access this information. If you have not received your username and password or have misplaced them, please contact the main office at (808) 922-2744 or [info@lapietra.edu](mailto:info@lapietra.edu). Teacher conferences may be arranged through the Dean of Students or Dean of Academics & Faculty. My Backpack access will be disabled at the end of each grading period for three to five for data verification and storage.

Any grade appeals must be made directly with the Dean of Academics & Faculty within two weeks of receiving a final report card. Any appeals made thereafter will not be eligible for consideration.

## HONOR ROLL

Upper-school students who receive an end-of-semester grade point average of 3.67 or higher earn a place on the Head's List. Those earning a grade point average of 3.33 – 3.66 earn a position on the Honor Roll. The Honor Roll status and cumulative grade point average is determined at the end of each semester.

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## GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Students who earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and higher will graduate with honors. All upper school courses up to Spring Semester grades of senior year (and World Language 1 and Algebra 1 classes taken in the eighth grade year) will be used for grade calculations.

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## VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN CRITERIA

A valedictorian will be selected based on the highest cumulative grade point average in Grades 9-12 (including Algebra 1 or World Language 1 if taken in eighth grade), to be determined after the Fall Semester of senior year. A salutatorian shall be the student with the next highest cumulative grade point average.

Any disciplinary issue regarding academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, cheating or plagiarism) or other major disciplinary actions (such as suspension) in the junior or senior year will disqualify students from valedictorian or salutatorian eligibility.

To be eligible, a student must have earned their final eight credits at La Pietra at the time of graduation and have attended a minimum of two consecutive years at the school.

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## COLLEGE COUNSELING

La Pietra's College Counseling program is designed to prepare all students for higher education and post-graduate endeavors, primarily based on the students' needs, talents, and expectations. In grades 9 and 10, emphasis is placed on helping students make appropriate curriculum choices and instilling them with healthy academic attitudes. The program intensifies in the junior year with the Junior Seminar curriculum, including visits from college admissions representatives, test-taking preparation, and national testing. Students then take Senior Seminar during their senior year, which is devoted to deciding where to apply and successful navigation of the actual application process. Our students have been accepted at a diverse range of colleges and universities.

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## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

10th and 11th graders take the PSAT annually. They are also encouraged to take the SAT at least once in their junior year. Additionally, students gain an understanding of the policy of test-optionality now held by many colleges.

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## **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

Students earning grades of C- or above in all classes are considered meeting satisfactory academic progress. Difficulty with maintaining these grades for two or more consecutive semesters may result in academic probation, during which time additional support and monitoring will occur. Parent conferences or additional reporting may also be requested. If a student continues to struggle with satisfactory progress, the school reserves the right to make the best decision in the interest of the school and the student.

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## **SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN SEQUENTIAL COURSES**

If a student fails to meet the minimum required grade to progress in a course, teachers may require the student to repeat the course, even if a passing grade has been earned in the first attempt. For each level of World Language or Mathematics, starting with level 1 or Algebra I, students must achieve a final semester grade of C- or above and/or teacher approval in order to move onto the next level. Students who do not meet this requirement may have to retake the course or complete summer supplemental coursework in order to advance. In this case, the most recent course attempt will be used to compute credit and GPA. All course attempts will be recorded on the school transcript.

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## **DUAL-CREDIT PROGRAM WITH HAWAI'I PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

Through a partnership with Hawai'i Pacific University, La Pietra - Hawai'i for Girls offers a dual-credit program. This program provides students the opportunity to earn college course credit while in high school. The dual-credit program with HPU represents a commitment to developing innovative models for high school education. For the 2024-2025 school year, a student enrolled in Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus or AP® Calculus AB may be eligible to participate in the dual-credit program. Participating students attend dual-enrollment courses on the La Pietra campus.

# ONE SCHOOLHOUSE ACADEMIC LEARNING POLICIES

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## ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to enroll in an online course from One Schoolhouse, students must receive approval from the Dean of Academics & Faculty and submit a non-refundable deposit to be enrolled. Any student who wishes to take an online AP® course must have earned at least a 3.3 GPA at the time of enrollment and must have received approval from the content area teacher and the Dean of Academics & Faculty. Students are then required to fill out an application with the Dean of Academics & Faculty.

Cost for One Schoolhouse class registration is borne by both the family and the school. The student will submit a non-refundable payment to register and the school will subsidize the remainder of the course.

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## COURSE DEMANDS AND TIME

95% of our students report that the courses are appropriately challenging or difficult. Year-long coursework ranges between 8-10 hours per week for AP® courses and between 6-8 hours per week for non-AP® courses.



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## ONE SCHOOLHOUSE SCHOOL YEAR

Our courses run from September through the end of April. The first semester is September through December, and the second semester is mid-January through the end of April. There is an extended winter break, but no spring break. Summer courses run from June through August.

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## ONE SCHOOLHOUSE WITHDRAWAL DATE

If you wish to withdraw or drop the course, you will be responsible for 50% of the **entire cost of the course**. Students who withdraw after thirty days for school-year courses and ten days for summer courses will receive a transcript indicating the withdrawal (WD). A failing grade will show up on your transcript with the grade at the time you drop.

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## TESTING

Students are expected to take all Topic Tests and Cumulative Exams on-site with a proctor.

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## COURSE RESOURCES: BOOKS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MATERIALS

Course resource lists are emailed to registered students one month before the start of the course. Students are responsible for purchasing the books and materials required for each course.

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## END OF SEMESTER GRADES

Since One Schoolhouse courses are on a semester or year-long term, grades in these courses will be reflected on the transcript at the conclusion of each semester.