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Making Choices for 9th Grade

Honors Classes

Read through the checklist below to see if your child is a student who would appreciate the challenges of the honors classes. If all of the items on this list pertain to your child for a certain subject, consider enrollment in honors classes for that subject. Ask your child if these statements apply:

- My grades have consistently been B's or better in previous courses.
- I enjoy reading without being prompted.
- I am organized and seldom do homework "at the last minute."
- I enjoy writing.
- I always read at the pace assigned by teachers.
- I am attentive in class and frequently participate in class discussions.
- I enjoy challenging assignments and going beyond what is expected.

KAMSC

Students should sign up for classes assuming they will be attending PCHS all day; this includes math and science classes. If accepted into KAMSC, parents must contact your assigned counselor and your schedule will be changed to include KAMSC classes.

ATYP English, IB English and college preparation

We encourage students who intend to apply to four-year colleges to continue to take English throughout their high school enrollment. Students planning to take IB English in high school should enroll in Honors English classes at PCHS, as these classes prepare students for the IB curriculum. Keep in mind, due to the IB regulations, students may not enroll in IB classes until junior year. For questions or clarifications about college preparation, please contact your child's high school counselor directly.

Seminar

This elective course is a teacher supervised class for students where they can do homework or get help in our Learning Center. The Learning Center is another staff supervised room that has tutors. This class counts as a half credit elective for graduation, the same as any other semester class.

In a seminar course, the students receive points every day for reading for ten minutes and for being productive throughout the hour. The class has a letter grade throughout the semester. Once a passing grade is earned, the student will receive a *P* for pass. A *P* does not affect grade point average. As long as you pass your seminar with a D- or higher, you will earn credit toward graduation for this course. Keep reading for more information on the next page.

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If your child has earned mostly C's or lower in middle school, know that your child may need extra time for help on his/her schoolwork, or if your child does not have time outside of the high school day to do homework, a seminar is highly recommended.

Keep in mind that seminars do close due to high enrollment. If you want a seminar for your child, please request this course during scheduling in the spring. We cannot guarantee seminars will be open every hour in the fall.

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Requirements for Graduation

As listed in the Program of Studies, students must complete a total of 26 credits (18 core and 6 elective) to graduate. In order for a student to participate in the commencement ceremony, one must meet the criteria as established in the Student Code of Conduct.

English Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics Core	3 credits
Algebra I	1 credit
Geometry	1 credit
Algebra II	1 credit
Mathematics or Mathematics Related Course in the Senior year	1 credit
Science	3 credits
Chemistry I or Chemistry I Honors	0.5 credit
Physics I or Physics I Honors	0.5 credit
Biology I or Biology I Honors	1 credit
Earth Science (year) or IB Environmental Systems & Societies SL or IB Biology HL I or IB Chemistry HL I or IB Physics HL I	1 credit
Social Studies	3 credits
Modern American History of Honors Modern American History	1 credit
U.S. Government or A.P. U.S. Government	0.5 credit
Economics or Honors Economics	0.5 credit
Contemporary International Studies (and Elective World History) or IB 20th Century World History	1 credit
Physical Education	1.5 credit
Fine or Applied Arts	1 credit
Health	0.5 credit
Online and/or Technology Integration Experience (<i>Embedded in other courses</i>)	1 credit
World Language	2 credits

The following pages will provide more specific information about the graduation requirements.

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English Pathways to Graduation-4 credits required

✓ Grade 9	English 9	OR	Honors English 9
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✓ Grade 10	English Prep 10	OR	English 10	OR	Honors English 10
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✓ Grade 11	English Prep 11	OR	English 11	OR	IB HL English I
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✓ Grade 12	English Prep 12	OR	English 12	OR	IB HL English II
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Several additional English elective options are available for those who choose to have additional English credits beyond the required courses, including:

- Drama
- TV Internship
- Forensics
- Creative Writing

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Mathematics Pathways -4 credits required:

There are three common starting points for incoming freshman:

Option 1: For Students who Passed Math 8

9th grade	Algebra 1
10th grade	Geometry
11th grade	Algebra 2
12th grade	IB Math Analysis and Approach SL or Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics or IB Math Application and Interpretation SL or math related

For students that do very well in Algebra 1 (semester grades of A- or higher), we have Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 which offer a greater challenge. These courses will contain some additional content, will focus on problem solving, and will include independent projects.

9th grade	Algebra 1
10th grade	Honors Geometry
11th grade	Honors Algebra 2
12th grade	IB Math Analysis and Approach SL or Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics

Option 2: For Students Who Passed Math 8 Plus (Algebra 1)

9th grade	Honors Geometry or Geometry*
10th grade	Honors Algebra 2 or Algebra 2
11th grade	IB Math Analysis and Approach SL or Pre-Calculus
12th grade	IB Math Analysis and Approach HL or AP Calculus or AP Statistics

*(*Students should only start in Geometry or Honors Geometry if they have taken and passed Algebra 1 in a Michigan public middle school; but if they came from out of state or from a non-public school, then they have to test out of Algebra 1 first. That test is given during finals week in the first week of June.)*

Option 3: For Students Who Need More Time with Math Concepts

(This pathway is by teacher or parent recommendation only.)

9th grade	Algebra 1A/1B
10th grade	Algebra 1C/Geometry A
11th grade	Algebra 2A/2B
12th grade	Geometry B/Algebra 2C

These courses are for students who have not mastered the material and need a slower paced course.

There are many ways to get extra help with math, including:

- The Learning Center, if the student has a seminar.
- Tutoring from the teacher before or after school.
- Online tutoring from the math textbook website.

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Science Pathways to Graduation-3 credits required-Classes of 2024 and beyond*

The sequence of required courses and optional electives includes:

Grade 9 (1 credit)- required, one semester of Chemistry and one semester of Physics

✓ Chemistry 1 or Honors Chemistry 1 **AND** Physics 1 or Honors Physics 1

Grade 10 (1 credit)-required, one year-long Biology course

✓ Biology or Honors Biology (some students choose to take additional science electives if their schedules allow)

Grade 11 (at least one additional credit from these options)

✓ one year of: Earth Science or IB Environmental Systems SL or IB Biology HL I or IB Chemistry HL I or IB Physics HL I

Grade 12-if graduation requirements have been met, students may take additional elective science options including:

Biology-related options

- IB Biology HL I and II (2 credits)
- IB Environmental Systems SL (1 credit)
- Anatomy and Physiology-Biology 3 (0.5 credit)
- Ecology and the Environment (1 credit)

Chemistry-related options

- IB Chemistry HL I /II (2 credits)
- Chemistry 2 **or** Honors Chemistry 2 (0.5 credit)
- Organic Chemistry 3 (0.5 credit)

Physics-related options

- IB Physics HL I and II (2 credits)
- Physics 2 **or** Honors Physics 2 (0.5 credit)
- Advanced Topics-Physics 3 (0.5 credit)
- Astronomy (0.5 credit)

Other science options

- IB Sports and Exercise Science SL (1 credit)
- Forensic Science 1 (0.5 credit)
- Forensic Science 2 (0.5 credit)
- Offsite EFE options as listed in the program of studies
- Electives can be taken any time there is room in the student schedule if the student has taken the necessary science and math courses needed to be successful in that course.

****For classes of 2021 and 2022 please see the program of studies for science graduation requirements.***

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Social Studies-3 credits required

✓ Grade 9 (1 credit required) Modern American History **OR** Honors Modern American History

-A short comparison of the 9th grade options to help you decide:

Modern American History

- College Prep
- Focus on structure and format
- Study Skills reinforced
- Participation encouraged
- Emphasis on projects
- More cooperative group work
- Evaluation of primary documents
- Stress responsibility
- ½-1 hour of homework/week
- 5 hours of community service/semester
- Required to graduate

Honors Modern American History

- College Prep
- Focus on IB preparation
- Enjoys reading and writing
- Strong speaking skills
- Emphasis on research
- Stress personal accountability
- Evaluation of primary documents
- Effective time management
- 3-5 hours homework/week
- 5 hours of community service/semester
- Required to graduate
- Summer reading required
- Active participation required

✓ Grade 10 (1 credit/1 class per semester)
Economics **OR** Honors Economics **AND** US Government **OR** AP US Government

✓ Grade 11 (1 credit required)
IB 20th Century World History SL (1 year)
OR Contemporary International Studies **AND** one additional semester chosen from these options: Ancient World History, Eastern World Studies, European History, or Comparative World Religions

✓ Grade 12 (optional electives) IB History of the Americas HL, Psychology, IB /AP Psychology, Sociology, or any of the grade 11 options not chosen previously. Lab in Democracy (Student Council) can be taken each year of high school (if elected by your peers) as an elective.

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World Languages-2 credits required

- French and Spanish are offered at Portage Central. Latin is offered at Portage Northern (see your guidance counselor for information about transportation).

Recommended: C average in French I in order to go into French II.

Recommended: C average in Spanish I or permission of the instructor in order to go into Spanish II.

- Take level I of a language if:
 - You want a new language.
 - You struggled in world language in middle school.
 - You failed your world language classes in middle school.
 - Your 8th-grade teacher recommends it.
- Freshmen entering at level two have the opportunity to reach level five by their Senior year and will have the option to take the Higher Level IB exam (recommended for college-bound students as college credits may be earned).
- Most colleges recommend at least three years of world language study at the high school level.

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Fine/Applied Arts-1 credit required

Students need to complete a total of 1 credit chosen from the following list of Fine and Applied Arts courses:

Course Name	Grades Available	Credits
Ceramics & Sculpture	10, 11, 12	1.0
Design I	9, 10, 11, 12	1.0
Design II	10, 11, 12	1.0
IB Visual Arts	11, 12	1.0
Independent Study Art	11, 12	0.5
Jewelry	10, 11, 12	0.5
Marketing	9, 10, 11, 12	1.0
Entrepreneurship	9, 10, 11, 12	1.0

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Music Electives

Course Name	Grades	Credits
Chamber Strings	9, 10, 11, 12	1.0
Chamber Singers	10, 11, 12	1.0
Concert Choir	10, 11, 12	1.0
IB Music SL	11, 12	1.0
Orchestra	9, 10, 11, 12	1.0
Symphonic/Concert Band	10, 11, 12	1.0
Winds & Percussion	9, 10, 11, 12	1.0
Women's Ensemble	10, 11, 12	1.0

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Physical Education-1.5 credits required

Students need to complete 1.5 credits from the following physical education options*:

Course Name	Grades	Credits
Aquatics	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5
Fitness for Life	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5
Advanced Basketball	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5
Advanced Football	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5
Team Sports	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5
Weightlifting & Fitness	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5
Weightlifting & Fitness for Females	9, 10, 11, 12	0.5

*Students should see their counselor if they are seeking a waiver of the physical education requirement due to participation in sports or other approved activities.

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Health/Freshman Focus-0.5 credits required

Health Education - 1 semester class

or

Freshman Focus - Full year class, freshmen only (also meets the ½ credit health requirement for graduation)

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The International Baccalaureate Program

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced program of education and final examinations that prepares students for success at university and life beyond. IB classes are taken in the junior and senior year. We are unique at Portage Central, as students can take some IB Classes, or students can do the full IB Diploma and take six IB Courses over their junior and senior years. 60% of our juniors and 70% of our seniors take at least one IB course. Approximately 35-50 students each year pursue the full IB Diploma.

The IB Diploma Program offers students college-prep and college-level courses with the goal of fostering a well-rounded education that meets entrance requirements for colleges throughout the world. IB Diploma students must take courses in at least five subject areas: Studies in Language and Literature (in the student's primary language); Language Acquisition (a second language, which is typically studied for four to five years); Individuals and Societies; Experimental Sciences; and Mathematics. Diploma students must take a sixth subject, which can be a second course in one of the subject areas listed above or could be an arts class. In addition, IB Diploma students take a course called Theory of Knowledge, which focuses on different areas of knowledge and the ways in which knowledge is acquired. Diploma students also complete Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) hours, including a CAS project, and they write a research paper called the Extended Essay.

IB Courses at Portage Central High School (HL - 2 Year Courses, SL - 1 Year Courses)

Group 1 - English HL

Group 2 - Spanish HL/SL, French HL/SL, Latin SL

Group 3 - History HL/SL, Psychology HL/SL, Business SL

Group 4 - Biology HL, Chemistry HL, Physics HL, Environmental Systems & Societies SL, Sports Health Exercise Science SL

Group 5 - Mathematics HL/SL, Math Studies SL

Group 6 - Visual Arts HL/SL, Music SL, Theatre SL

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