



Advanced Placement/Honours Program

Overview

To meet the enrichment and academic needs of Pinetree students, Pinetree Secondary offers a challenging and academically rigorous 9 – 12 program of studies for the gifted, talented and highly motivated.

Student Choice

In the academic subjects, qualified students in grades 9 & 10 may register in Honours courses designed to provide a challenging, enriched learning experience in an environment of similar ability peers. At the senior level students may choose Advanced Placement courses in English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, European History (*new 2011/2012*), Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Math department offers Calculus 12H as the top level for talented math students. *In addition, new for 2011/2102, the Language department will be offering an IDS course in Japanese. The Art department will be offering honour classes for Art 9, 11 and 12.*

Senior students may take as many AP courses as they wish; however, students may decide to select only the subjects in which they are especially interested and talented. These options allow maximum flexibility for students to choose courses suitable for their academic needs and strengths without having to give up valuable elective courses serving their creative, technical and artistic interests.

Achievement

Students entering the AP/Honours Program from middle school should expect to be challenged by the course work, and will need a strong commitment to their studies in order to succeed. *Teachers of Honours and AP courses will ensure that course marks accurately reflect the ability of students and will reflect what the student would have achieved at the regular level.* At any point in a student’s progress through the stream in a particular and into regular classes. Alternatively, a student who has not



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courses in the junior grades may still opt to take the AP level with teacher and counsellor recommendation.

Honours Program Pathway Options

Mathematics	Humanities (English/Social Studies)		Science		
Math 9 Honours	Humanities 9 Honours		Science 9 Honours		
Grade 10 Year Math 10 Honours (Fall) Math 11 Honours (Spring)	Socials 10H	English 10H	Science 10 Honours		
Grade 11 Year Math 12 Honours (Fall) Calculus 12 Honours (Spring)	Socials 11H (Fall) / History 12 (Spring) / AP European History	Grade 11 Year English 11H (Fall) / AP English Language 12(Spring)	Bio 11H	Ch 11H	Ph 11H
Grade 12 Year Independent Directed Studies		Grade 12 Year English 12 / Literature 12 / AP English Literature 12	Bio 12/ AP	Ch 12/ AP	Ph 12/ AP

Note: All AP Designated Courses are College Board Authorized and can be viewed online at <https://apcourseaudit.epiconline.org/ledger/>

In addition, the following AP Exams are offered at Pinetree
Calculus AB, BC Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Macroeconomics Physics C: Mechanics
Microeconomics Psychology

Grade Nine Honours Entrance

Students who are living in the Pinetree Secondary attendance area may apply to the Honours program through their middle school. Students must complete an application form, which includes parent consent. Students can apply for a space in the Science, Math or Humanities Honours Program or a combination of the three classes. Applicants for the Humanities program will complete an in-class essay as well as a reading comprehension exercise. Science and Math applicants are expected to sit a Math test and a Science question that will examine their critical thinking skills. Since these tests assess higher order thinking skills there is no way to prepare for the exams. Pinetree Secondary staff will administer all testing. Space in each of the courses is limited.

Grade Ten/Eleven Honours Entrance

Students who are currently attending Pinetree Secondary and not currently enrolled in the Honours 9 program may select Math, Science, English and/or Social Studies Honours classes. Each department will review the applications for their program to determine which students may join the Honours class. Placement in the program is dependent upon available space and department recommendation.

Advanced Placement Entrance

Students may select as many AP course options as they wish. Placement in the course(s) is based on available space and teacher recommendation. Students are not required to have been enrolled in the grade 9 and 10 Honours classes, although it is recommended.

Sample Course Overviews:

New for 2011/2012!

ART 9 HONOURS
Art 9 Honours is intended for students who are interested in exploring with more rigor the technical and creative aspects of two and three dimensional art and the creative process. This course will be well suited for students who may have an interest in pursuing further art training and experience.

ENGLISH 10 HONOURS
English 10 Honours is intended for students who have demonstrated exceptional skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course emphasizes the development of students’ skills in academic writing and requires students to read widely. Students will have the opportunity to develop background knowledge from the Western tradition in literature, which will be beneficial for the senior level AP/Honours English courses.

MATH 12 HONOURS / CALCULUS 12 HONOURS
The core course material is based on Principles of Mathematics 12 and a portion of the Calculus 12 course. In addition, there will be extensive discussion regarding theory, proofs, and derivations for each of the topics covered. Homework continues to be a daily event. There will be an intensive evaluation process, including a midterm and final examination.

New for 2011/2012!

JAPANESE IDS
Japanese IDS is designed for self-motivated learners who have completed Japanese 12 and wish to take their knowledge of the language to the highest level possible at Pinetree. This course is highly recommended for those students wishing to take the Japanese AP Test or the JLPT. Students will meet weekly to facilitate the oral component. In addition students have the option to gain further experience working as a teaching assistant within the Japanese program.

New for 2011/2012!

SOCIALS 11H/HISTORY 12 / AP EUROPEAN HISTORY
Students taking this course will have the opportunity to receive credit for SS11 Honours, History 12 and AP European History. The goals of the AP European History course are to develop: a broad knowledge base of the factual history of Europe from 1450 to the present; an understanding of the key themes in modern European history; analytical ability when working with historical evidence; and, the ability to effectively demonstrate that knowledge in written and spoken format.

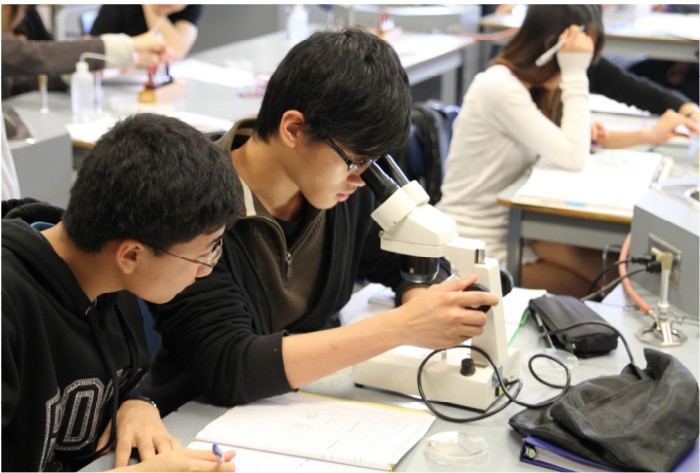
Other Course Previews can be viewed in our program planning booklet
<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/pinetree/Pages/default.aspx>

Advanced Placements and Grades:
Five Point Scale

- 5 – Extremely Well Qualified
- 4 – Well Qualified
- 3 – Qualified
- 2 – Possibly Qualified
- 1 – No Recommendation

Regardless of the grade students receive on an AP course or an AP exam, neither could work against them for the following reasons:

- The marking scheme in each AP course within the school is adjusted to compensate for the increased level of difficulty.
- University admission officials know very well that all courses are not equal. Their evaluation of students' grades focus as much on the quality of courses as on the grades received.
- The AP exams occur in the middle of May well before the Provincial Exams in June.
- The AP exam is not a requirement for the course; however, it is recommended.



Advantages of the Advanced Placement Program:

In addition to the financial savings and increased range of educational choices mentioned above, some other advantages of taking AP courses include:

- Students may select a single course or a combination of courses, gaining
- Enrichment and challenge in areas of academic strength and interest.
- A gradual acclimatization to collegiate work load and pace.
- Enrichment without sacrifice of extracurricular activities.
- Laboratory activities offered in Advanced Placement Science courses parallel those required in first year lab units. Students are able to decrease their time spent in the lab by as much as two thirds due to their confidence and experienced gained in their AP classes.
- Excellent preparation for both provincial as well as many external scholarship exams.

Advanced Placement at North American Universities

Some B.C. Institutions that recognize the AP program:

Simon Fraser University
University of British Columbia
University of Victoria
Trinity Western University
University of Northern B.C.
University of the Fraser Valley

Many Institutions outside of B.C. recognize the AP program:

University of Alberta	Dalhousie
University of Manitoba	Carleton
McGill University	Queens
University of Toronto	
University of Waterloo	

And Most U.S. Colleges

As more high school graduates continue to apply for a limited number of places for first year students, post secondary institutions are embracing the Advanced Placement alternative more than ever before. In North America more than 11,000 high schools participate in AP and 2900 colleges grant credit to over 46,000 students.

Student's comments on their Advanced Placement experiences

•"The AP Examinations were valuable experiences, and the college placement and credit I received as a result of AP."

•"One the greatest benefits from AP experience was the preparation it provided for college."

•"Even if I hadn't received credit for the AP exams, taking AP courses still would have been worth the extra effort they required."

•"I am writing this letter to you in appreciation for all the teachings that I now value greatly in UBC Science. I just had my Chemistry midterm today which covered Thermodynamics, Chemical Equilibrium, Electrochemistry, and Acid & Base; all of which I had previously experienced in your AP class."



For Further Information Please Visit our Website at:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/pinetree/Pages/default.aspx>

or Contact:

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