

High School Course Catalog

PA LEARNERS *Online*

Pennsylvania Learners Online Regional Cyber Charter School is a public school accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We pride ourselves in maintaining high academic standards, and our curriculum correlates with the Pennsylvania Standards.

Helping you achieve your educational goals.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Academic Area Number of Credits Required

English.....	4.00
Social Studies.....	4.00
Science.....	4.00
Mathematics.....	4.00
Physical Education.....	2.00
Health.....	0.50
Electives.....	4.50+
<u>Credits to graduate.....</u>	<u>23.00+Senior Project</u>



Grading Scale

Grades are calculated every nine weeks using the letter grading system which follows:

90 – 100% = A 80 – 89% = B 70 – 79% = C 60 – 69% = D
0 – 59% = F I = Incomplete

Log on to Learn!

Physical Education will be graded “O” (outstanding), “S” (satisfactory), or “U” (unsatisfactory). An outstanding or satisfactory grade is required to achieve credit.



Administration

Dr. David Martin-----Principal
Dr. Edward Mandell-----Assistant Principal (9-12)
Dr. Kelly Sherbondy-----Assistant Principal (K-8)
Mr. Paul Cindric-----Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Coordinator

ENGLISH

Four (4) English credits in High School are required for graduation.

ENGLISH I

One Year- 1 Credit

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: Elements of Literature, Third Course Enhanced ©2005

Students in the English I course will be introduced to a broad range of literary genres and grammar techniques. Students will be prompted to develop written responses to the literature they are reading. Their initial writing responses will be informal. As the year progresses, students will build upon their writing knowledge to compose full length essays supporting a thesis that they can support with evidence from the text.

ENGLISH II

One Year- 1 Credit

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: English I

Textbook: Elements of Literature, Fourth Course Enhanced ©2005

English II continues to build on the skills introduced in English I, including comprehensive reading, writing and grammar. Students will respond to a variety of literary genres, such as the short story, novel, poetry, and drama, but will also extend their vocabulary and critical thinking skills. Students will master the three- to five-paragraph essay, in a variety of rhetorical modes, and will focus on paraphrasing and summarization skills as well.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

One Year- 1 Credit

Grade: 11

Prerequisite: English II

Textbook: Elements of Literature, Fifth Course Enhanced ©2005

The American Literature course covers the authors and poets throughout American History. Authors' biographies provide the inside stories behind the great works of great writers.

The student is exposed to interactive Writer's Models present annotations and reading tips to help the student with their writing. Printable Professional Models and Student Models provide the student with quality writing by real writers and students across the country.

Interactive vocabulary-building activities help build student's word power. Video clips from historical speeches provide the tools to analyze elements of great speechmaking. Project and activities help extend the student's study of literature through writing, research, art, and public speaking.

WORLD LITERATURE

One year- 1 credit

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: American Literature

Textbook: Elements of Literature, World Literature ©2006 Online Edition

The World Literature course covers the literature of The Ancient Middle East, Ancient Greek and Roman Literature, the literature of India, China and Japan, Literature of Africa and the Middle East, European Literature, and Modern and Contemporary World Literature.

The student is exposed to interactive Writer's Models present annotations and reading tips to help the student with their writing. Printable Professional Models and Student Models provide the student with quality writing by real writers and students across the country.

Short informational readings relate the literature in the textbook to the student's other courses/studies and to real life situations.

Interactive vocabulary-building activities help build student's word power. Video clips from historical speeches provide the tools to analyze elements of great speechmaking. Project and activities help extend the student's study of literature through writing, research, art, and public speaking.

The World Literature course also includes the preparation and presenting of the Senior Project. The seniors are taught the tools necessary to write a research paper and they are guided through the preparation for the mandatory presentation.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

One Year- 1 credit- This course is run through Florida Virtual School, there will NOT be a PALO teacher to assist the student.

Grade: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I & II; English Department or Counselor recommendation.

Supplemental resources: <http://vsa.flvs.net>

The AP Language and Composition course will provide high school students with college level instruction in studying and writing various kinds of analytic or persuasive essays on literary and nonliterary topics in language, rhetoric and expository writing. This course will effectively prepare students for the AP Exam by enabling them to ready, comprehend, and write about complex texts, while developing further communication skills on a college level. Students should have a willingness to learn and challenge themselves in a college-level course.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE

One Year- 1 credit- This course is run through Florida Virtual School, there will NOT be a PALO teacher to assist the student. Seniors will have to complete their graduation project in addition to the course.

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I, II, and American Literature; English Department or Counselor recommendation.

Supplemental resources: <http://vsa.flvs.net>

For a year, participate in the AP Dinner Party in the AP Literature and Composition course. Menu items include reading, analyzing, writing, rewriting, and discussion creations by the master chefs, renowned authors. With intensive concentration on composition skills and on authors' narrative techniques, the dinner party equips students with recipes for success in college, in a career and the AP exam.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Four (4) Social Studies credits in High School are required for graduation.

GEOGRAPHY

One year- 1 credit

Grade: 9 (may be taken at different grade levels depending on incoming credits)

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Holt World Geography Today ©2003, 2005

Students will develop deeper skills in geographic literacy through the study of geographic tools. Students will study the location, physical characteristics and human characteristics of places and regions of the world. The course will examine the impact of the world's physical systems on people and the impact of people on the world's physical systems. Geography is a year long course.

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS

One year- 1 credit

Grade: 10 (may be taken at different grade levels depending on incoming credits)

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Holt World History: The Human Journey ©2003, 2005

World History is a two-semester course. It emphasizes events and developments in the past that greatly affected large numbers of people across broad areas of the earth and that significantly influenced peoples and places in subsequent eras. Some key events and developments pertain primarily to particular people and place; others, by contrast, involve trans-cultural interactions and exchanges between various peoples and places in different parts of the world. Students are expected to practice skills and processes of historical thinking and inquiry that involve chronological thinking, comprehension, analysis and interpretation, research, issues-analysis, and decision-making. They are expected to compare and contrast events and developments involving diverse peoples and civilizations in different regions of the world. Students are expected to examine examples of continuity and change, universality and particularity, and unity and diversity among various peoples and cultures from the past to the present. Finally, students are expected to apply content knowledge to the practice of thinking and inquiry skills and processes.

AMERICAN HISTORY

One year- 1 credit

Grade: 11 (may be taken at different grade levels depending on incoming credits)

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Holt The American Nation Full Volume ©2003, 2005

United States History is a year-long course, which builds upon concepts developed in previous studies of American history. Students in this course are expected to identify and review significant events, persons, and movements in the early development of the nation. After providing such a review, the course gives major emphasis to the interaction of key events, persons, and groups with political, economic, social, and cultural influences on state and national development in the late nineteenth, twentieth, and early twenty-first centuries.

CIVICS

One year- 1 credit

Grade: 12 (may be taken at different grade levels depending on incoming credits)

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Holt American Civics ©2003, 2005

Civics is an overview of citizenship roles and responsibilities designed to help students become independent thinkers and conscientious citizens. The course deals with political behavior which students and citizens consider to be relevant to the most pressing issues of the day. This course provides students with experiences that will develop citizenship attitudes within the framework of a democratic society. Topics include: (1) the process of policymaking, (2) methods of public participation in policymaking, (3) citizenship rights and responsibilities in a changing society, and (4) the relationship between modern society and government.

AP US HISTORY

One Year- 1 credit- This course is run through Florida Virtual School, there will NOT be a PALO teacher to assist the student. Seniors will have to complete their graduation project in addition to the course.

Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of American History; Social Studies Department or Counselor recommendation.

Supplemental Materials: <http://vsa.flvs.net>

Students will learn all about what makes America great while preparing for the College Board Advanced Placement exam in May. You will use interactive assignments, write essays, study primary source documents, and engage in discussions on topics ranging from Colonial America to the Civil War to the Cold War. Advanced Placement History is a college level course. It is meant to introduce students to the major points throughout American History from the Colonial Period to the present. Students are required to show competency in critically evaluating primary and secondary sources. Students will be taught how to best succeed in the AP exam held in May while gaining a thorough understanding of American History.

MATH

Four (4) Math credits in High School are required for graduation. High School level classes taken at the Middle School level do not count toward graduation requirements.

PRE-ALGEBRA

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: *Algebra Concepts and Applications* (Glencoe, 2006)

This course will prepare the student for Algebra I. Students will begin the development of algebraic skills and concepts through the exploration of real numbers, equations, linear functions, graphing, proportions, and probability.

A review of pre-requisite skills essential for success in Algebra will include coverage of the following topics: fractions, decimals, percents, factoring, and operations with signed numbers.

ALGEBRA 1

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: *HOLT Algebra I* and Online interactive program by ALEKS

This course will develop algebraic skills and concepts and enhance problem solving ability. The topics covered include a study of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, and systems of equations. Algebra 1 also explores polynomials and factoring, quadratic and rational functions, radicals, probability, and transformations.

GEOMETRY

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Textbook: Online interactive program by ALEKS

Properties of geometric figures will be discussed and discovered in this course, along with methods of deductive and inductive reasoning. Other topics include the study of similarity, congruence, postulates, theorems, proofs, areas, and volumes. The concept of space (solid) geometry are introduced early in the course and used thereafter. Finally, the student is introduced to elementary ideas of plane analytical geometry.

ALGEBRA II

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry

Textbook: *HOLT Algebra II* and Online interactive program by ALEKS

This course will review and extend an understanding of the number system, formulas, equations, and graphs. Subject matter includes a study of the properties of real and complex numbers, absolute value, factoring, operations and polynomials, graphs of equalities and inequalities, quadratic equations, and systems of linear and quadratic equations. Logarithms and exponential functions are also introduced.

PRE-CALCULUS

One year- 1.0 credit

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 2 and Geometry

Textbook: Online interactive program by ALEKS

Students in Pre-Calculus review and expand their knowledge of polynomial equations and functions, complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, and analytic geometry. Other topics include matrices, sequences and series, probability, statistics, and limits. The emphasis of the course is on the analysis of functions and their properties.

CALCULUS

One year- 1.0 credit

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Calculus

Textbook: Online interactive program by Holt

Students in Calculus, building on their background knowledge of algebra and trigonometry, will study limits, derivatives, anti-derivatives, integrals and infinite series. Most basically, calculus is the study of change, in the same way that geometry is the study of space. Calculus has widespread applications in science and engineering, and is used to solve problems for which algebra alone is insufficient.

SCIENCE

Four (4) Science credits in High School are required for graduation.

BIOLOGY

One year- 1 credit

Grade: 9 (or any high school level)

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Prentice-Hall, Biology: Exploring Life; CD

Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com gizmos

This course is a general biology course appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities that will address the life science strand of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology.

Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: scientific processes and inquiry, cells, inheritance, history of life, microbes, plants, animals, human structure and function, and ecology. There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home hands-on investigations and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework. Students will be expected to complete at least one self-designed experiment each year.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 10, 11 (required by beginning of junior year)

Prerequisite- Algebra 1 or approval by math or science departments

Textbook- Holt Science Spectrum: Physical Science ©2004 (Enhanced)

Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com gizmos, internet resources

This course will be a general physical science course appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities that addresses the physical science strand of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology.

Topics to be covered include but are not limited to: the nature of science, matter, gases, atoms and the periodic table, the structure of matter and chemical bonding, chemical reactions, solutions, acids and bases, motion, forces, work and energy, heat and temperature, waves, sound and light, electricity, and magnetism. There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home, hands-on investigations, and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework.

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 10, 11, or 12

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Holt Earth Science ©2006

Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com gizmos, Internet resources

Earth Science is a course appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities that addresses the earth and space science strand of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology. It is recommended that students take this course by their junior year if possible. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: scientific processes and inquiry, composition of the earth, history of the earth, earth processes (such as plate tectonics, and how the earth's features change over time) study of oceans, atmosphere and climate, water resources, energy and energy resources, and the solar system and components of the universe.

Included in the course is a laboratory component, which consists of at-home hands-on investigations, field activities and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the course.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

High School Credit - 1

Grade Level - 11 or 12

Prerequisites - none

Textbook: Holt Online Learning *Environmental Science* - Copyright 2004

Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com (gizmo virtual labs)

This course is appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities. It addresses the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology and the Environmental Science strands of the PSSA test.

Topics to be covered include: ecosystems, species diversity, biomes, biodiversity, population dynamics, agriculture, pest management, resource use, waste management, air pollution, water pollution, climate change, and environment and human health. There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home hands-on investigations and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework.

Assessments include: assignments, labs, quizzes, tests, and discussion boards. Also, students will be expected to complete at least one self-designed experiment each year.

CHEMISTRY

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: C or better in Algebra 1

Textbook: Holt Chemistry ©2004 (Enhanced)

Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com gizmos

Chemistry is an elective course designed for upper-level learners or college-bound students. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: the science of chemistry, matter and energy, atoms and moles, the periodic table, ions and ionic compounds, covalent compounds, the mole and chemical composition, chemical equations and reactions, stoichiometry, causes of change, states of matter and intermolecular forces, gases, solutions, chemical equilibrium, acids and bases, reaction rates, oxidation, reduction and electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, carbon and organic compounds, and biological chemistry.

There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home, hands-on investigations, and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework.

PHYSICS

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Textbook: Holt Physics ©2006

Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com gizmos

Physics is an elective course designed for upper-level learners or college-bound students. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: Newton's laws of motion, forces and vectors, work and energy, momentum, vibration and waves, and the study of the characteristics of light and sound.

There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home, hands-on investigations, and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework.

AP BIOLOGY

One year- 1 credit- This course is run through Florida Virtual School, there will NOT be a PALO teacher to assist the student.

Grade: 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology, Chemistry, Algebra I; Science Department or Counselor recommendation.

Supplemental resources: <http://vsa.flvs.net>

Students will use The Biology Place, Virtual Labs, and [Biology: Concepts and Connections](#) to complete the AP Biology course. Throughout this course students will be expected to explore many on-line sites, answer questions, reflect on issues and complete lab activities. The primary emphasis is to develop an understanding of concepts rather than memorizing terms and technical details. Remember this course requires a great deal of self-discipline and motivation. The ultimate goal of this course is to prepare you to successfully take the AP Biology examination offered in May.

Physical Education/Health (1/2)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9

Half year- .5 credit- students need two (2) full P.E. credits to graduate.

In 9th grade physical education students will be exposed to several new physical activities and skills. The curriculum will also encompass a focus on fitness through different training methods like plyometrics, core muscle, and cross training. Students will be assessed through quizzes, discussion board forums, and physical activity questions and projects. Students should improve basic motor skills, fitness levels, and be able to understand simple activity strategies by the end of the 9th grade.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10

Half year- .5 credit- students need 2 full P.E. credits to graduate.

Textbook: NONE

The mission of Physical Education is to facilitate students in improving their quality of life through regular physical activity. This is done by using a student-centered approach while teaching the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective aspects of physical fitness and sport. A heavy emphasis is placed on each student attaining the knowledge of cardio respiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, body composition, and agility as well as demonstrating personal responsibility and cooperation in all areas of the curriculum. Students will be evaluated by measuring their cognitive knowledge with the use of weekly assignments, test, quizzes, psychomotor skills, and alternative assessment assignments.

The curriculum includes a variety of team sports and individual activities. The team sports may include omni kin ball, engle ball, speedball, ultimate Frisbee, football, and softball. The individual activities include lifetime activities, outdoor adventure, and strength training

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 11

Half year- .5 credit- students need 2 full P.E. credits to graduate.

Textbook: NONE

Mohnsen, editor The 11th grade PALO physical education course will challenge students to be better informed in the areas of nutrition, technology in fitness and sports, lifetime exercises and training for athletes and personal gain. Students can expect to research information as well as participate in many physical activities on their own in order to become a more physically educated student. The assessments will vary for each assignment as students can expect to complete written assignments, post messages on discussion boards, prepare for quizzes, write journals, participate in live classes and even design and submit their own projects. The class uses selected articles on health and nutrition information from <http://mypyramid.gov/> as well as assignment and assessment strategies from **Concepts and Principles of Physical Education: What Every Student Needs to Know, 2nd Edition** by Bonnie Mohnsen, editor.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 12

Half year- .5 credit- students need 2 full P.E. credits to graduate.

Textbook: NONE

The 12th grade PALO physical education course will challenge students to expand their learning from the topics covered in 11th grade PE in such areas as nutrition, technology in fitness/ sports, lifetime exercises and training for athletes & personal gain. Students can expect to research information as well as participate in many physical activities on their own in order to become a more physically educated student. The assessments will vary for each assignment as students can expect to complete written assignments, post messages on discussion boards, prepare for quizzes, write journals, participate in live classes and even design and submit their own projects. The class uses selected articles from health journals and nutrition information from <http://mypyramid.gov/> as well as assignment and assessment strategies from **Concepts and Principles of Physical Education: What Every Student Needs to Know, 2nd Edition** by Bonnie Mohnsen, editor.

HEALTH

Semester course- .5 credit

Textbook: Holt Lifetime Health copyright 2007

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the physical, mental/emotional, and social aspects of health. An emphasis is placed on the importance of making healthy decisions that will lead to a higher quality of life. Course information is presented in a practical manner incorporating current health trends and concerns. Content areas will include: Personality, Stress, Mental Disorders, Relationships (bullying prevention), Nutrition, Weight Management, Personal Fitness, Non-infectious Disease, Human Growth and Development, A.I.D.S. and other STD'S, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, Personal Safety. Students will be evaluated by measuring their cognitive knowledge.

ELECTIVES

Four and a half (4 ½) or more elective credits are required for graduation.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

STUDY SKILLS

*Half Year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** half of an elective credit or as half of an English credit if needed.*

Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: none

The Study Skills Course will help students become a successful online student, acquire effective study and course participation skills, learn to utilize time effectively and acquire essential test-taking strategies. In addition, Study Skills will provide students with writing skills and strategies, as well as tools to assist in writing and studying in each content area.

CREATIVE WRITING

*Half year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** half of an elective credit or as half of an English credit if needed.*

Grades: 11 & 12

Prerequisite: None

Supplemental Materials: None

Creative writing explores writing through a series of activities and projects. Each week the students will write in a journal and complete several assignments that teach them about structure and building ideas in their written work. Students will write frequently. Students do not need to be good writers necessarily, but they should be willing to work and turn in their work on time. This will be a difficult class in which to fall behind.

Through the course we will be writing informative, narrative, and persuasive pieces. In addition, we will write poetry and children's books. Students will employ all parts of the writing process. They will share and present their work on the discussion board several times throughout the course. At the end of the semester, they will submit a portfolio of work which they choose as their best work. This will be their final grade for the course.

MATH ELECTIVES

SENIOR MATH

Half year- .5 credit

Grade 12

This course is designed to assist students in demonstrating proficiency in mathematics to meet Pennsylvania graduation requirements. Students are required to master benchmark goals in each area of mathematics as facilitated by the instructor based upon individual student needs.

BUSINESS MATH

Full year- 1 credit

Grade 12

In this class students will learn mathematics with business applications. Specific areas that will be covered include a review of high school fundamental mathematics skills and topics covering personal and business finance. Through this class, students will learn work readiness, mathematical skills for life and leadership skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

PSYCHOLOGY

*Half year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** half of an elective credit or as half of a Social Studies credit if needed.*

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: *Holt Psychology: Principles in Practice ©2007*

This course looks at behavior and mental processes with emphasis on the scientific nature of contemporary psychological investigation. Topics discussed include research methods, the biology of behavior, sensation and perception, stress and adjustment, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, life-span development, personality, abnormal behavior and its therapies, social behavior, and individual differences.

SOCIOLOGY

*Half year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** half of an elective credit or as half of a Social Studies credit if needed.*

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: none

Textbook: *Holt Sociology: The Study of Human Relationships ©2005*

Sociology is designed as an introductory approach to group behavior and conflict in society. Course content will include a study of social class structure, race and ethnic group relationships, the family, and other contemporary social issues.

PA HISTORY

*Half year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** half of an elective credit or as half of a Social Studies credit if needed.*

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: none

Pennsylvania History covers the people, places, and events that comprise the heritage of our great home state. In this semester course, we will first go over how to read a map, and the natural resources of Pennsylvania. From there, we will learn about Native Americans, the European settlement of Pennsylvania, the French & Indian War, and the American Revolution.

CAREER PLANNING

*Half year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** half of an elective credit or as half of a Social Studies credit if needed.*

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Supplemental Resources: www.bridges.com

In this comprehensive course, students will learn how self-knowledge contributes to career success and how goal setting and decision making are integral to career planning. They will also investigate different careers, master job-finding techniques, and learn how to make the transition from school to work.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

ASTRONOMY

*Half-year- 0.5 credit- This class may be used as **either** a half of a science credit for those deficient or as a half elective credit.*

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Holt, Astronomy (Short Course Module)

Supplemental Resources: Internet resources

Astronomy is an elective course generally taken in the student's junior or senior year. Topics that will be studied include, but are not limited to, how space is studied, origin and formation of the universe and its components, and space exploration.

Integral to this course is an "inquiry component", which requires to students to use the methods and processes of science to investigate the important issues and topics in astronomy. Some of the activities will consist of field activities and internet and research activities.

SCIENCE INQUIRY

*Half year- .5 credit- This class may be used as **either** a half of a science credit for those deficient or as a half elective credit.*

Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: Prentice-Hall, The Nature of Science and Technology (short course)

Supplemental Resources: Internet resources

This class is a one semester course of study for students to explore topics in "the nature of science" and "science as inquiry." Utilizing the text and internet resources, students will learn about the following topics: History of Science, Limits in Science, Scientific Method and its Application, Uncertainty in Science, the Process of Science, Scientific Investigation models, and issues with "Science, Technology and Society" including ethics.

In addition to regular weekly assignments, students will complete two projects as part of this course. One project involves designing and performing a scientific investigation, and the other project involves writing a research paper. Another component of the class is for students to complete some assignments that address current events and important news in science topics. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with their classmates on these topics through discussion board assignments.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ELECTIVES

AP ART HISTORY

One Year- 1 credit- This course is run through Florida Virtual School, there will NOT be a PALO teacher to assist the student.

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World Civilizations

Supplemental Resources: <http://vsa.flvs.net>

This course will provide students with college level instruction in the history of art. Students will examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present and from a variety of cultures. Students will learn to look at these works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience. Students must be willing to challenge themselves in a college-level course and gain knowledge about historical and cultural art media.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

One year- 1 credit- This course is run through Florida Virtual School, there will NOT be a PALO teacher to assist the student.

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I & II

Supplemental Resources: <http://vsa.flvs.net>

Students will play the role of a "Survivor" while they work their way through the course material. AP Computer Science A is a college level computer course covering the applications of computing within the context of programming methodology, algorithms, and data structures. This is a one year course and students will be able to take The College Board Computer Science A examination in May. The computer language that will be used is Java, which is a free download for either a Macintosh or a Windows platform

LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

FRENCH I

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Supplemental Resources: www.pglms.com

This course utilizes Power-Glide, the leader in online language courses. This course will provide a solid foundation for reading, speaking, writing, and understanding French and allow students to explore the culture of France.

FRENCH II

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French I

Supplemental Resources: www.pglms.com

This course utilizes Power-Glide, the leader in online language courses. French 2 will concentrate on the students' ability to articulate more and more complex thoughts and to understand authentic native language.

SPANISH I

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Textbook: None

Supplemental Resources: www.pglms.com

Spanish I a full year, web based course, which introduces students to the language, culture and history of the Hispanic world. It is designed to enable students to begin the process of acquiring proficiency in Spanish. Vocabulary and grammar, the building blocks of a language, will be taught as students work to develop the basic skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking in Spanish. A program called Centra, in which teacher and students can meet online, will give students an opportunity to practice their listening and speaking skills. The online textbook, *Ven Conmigo*, offers students the opportunity to see and hear native speakers in authentic locations around the Spanish-speaking world. In an effort to help students recognize their roles as a member of a global society, the course also advocates a fundamental understanding, appreciation, and respect for, the Hispanic culture, people, and lifestyles.

SPANISH II

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I

Textbook: ¡Ven Conmigo! Level 1 ©2003

Spanish 2 is a full year, web based course. Students will review material learned in the first year Spanish course and then build upon that material. It is designed to help students continue to grow in their level of proficiency. The course provides continued practice in the correct use of basic vocabulary and language structures as students work to develop more advanced skills in each of the four language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. A program called Centra, in which teacher and students can meet online, will give students an opportunity to practice their listening and speaking skills. The online textbook, *Ven Conmigo*, offers students the opportunity to see and hear native speakers in authentic locations around the Spanish-speaking world. Additional cultural aspects of the Hispanic world will be presented to enhance their awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world and develop a cultural sensitivity and knowledge about various Hispanic countries.

SPANISH III

One year- 1 credit

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I & II

Textbook: ¡Ven Conmigo! Level 1 ©2003

Spanish 3 is a full year, web based course. Students will review material learned in the first two years of Spanish and then build upon that material. The course will continue to provide students with a variety of opportunities to improve their vocabulary, develop additional conversational idioms, explore more advanced grammatical structures, and develop an increased awareness of the phonological characteristics of the Spanish language. Emphasis will be in helping students acquire proficiency and competency by increased use of the Spanish language listening, reading, speaking and writing. A program called Centra, in which teacher and students can meet online, will give students an opportunity to practice their listening and speaking skills. The online textbook, *Ven Conmigo*, offers students the opportunity to see and hear native speakers in authentic locations around the Spanish-speaking world. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

ART ELECTIVES

ART STUDIO

Full Year – 1.0 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Textbook: none

In this year long course students will learn skills to create art using many types of media. The beginning of the course will focus on drawing and reviewing the elements and principles of art. We will also explore other media and forms of art such as, sculpture, painting, printmaking and clay. Students will also be encouraged to share their work in the annual art display and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Homestead.

ART APPRECIATION

Half Year - .5 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Textbook: None

This semester course will discuss art and its meaning, value, history and creation. Each student will form a definition of art by studying many cultures, time periods, artists and styles. Students will review the elements and principles of art and learn to use them to form judgments about art. Students will create some art projects and write a few reports during the course to show what they have learned.

MUSIC ELECTIVES

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Half year- .5 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed to introduce students to the world of music and help them understand and appreciate music in its many forms. Students will be introduced to different musical genres and forms through audio and visual media and the course textbook. This course is for musicians and non-musicians alike. Enrollees in this course will leave with a better understanding of what music is and its impact on the history and cultures of the world.

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY

Half year - .5 credit

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for the teaching and application of basic music theory. Beginning with basic music notation, students will learn to evaluate all aspects of musical scores and learn to compose music within standard guidelines. Students will also train their musical ear through listening exercises, and melodic and rhythmic dictation. This course is open to musicians and non-musicians who want to better understand the fundamentals of music.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

YEARBOOK

One year- 1 credit
Grades: 9,10,11, 12
Prerequisite: None

Students in the Yearbook class will work collaboratively to create a document that highlights PALO student achievements throughout the year. Yearbook students will utilize Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat, and Microsoft Publisher to create pages that will be assembled into a digital yearbook for all PALO students.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIVING

Half year- .5 credit
Grades: 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: none
Textbook: Skills for Family Living

This one semester class strives to prepare students for successful independent and family living. Basic knowledge and skills in achieving satisfying interpersonal and family life, understanding and caring for children, managing money and making wise consumer decisions, determining and preparing healthful food choices, selecting and caring for clothing, and identifying housing alternatives and decoration principles will be explored.

PARENTING

Half year - .5 credit
Grades: 10, 11, 12 (parent approval requested)
Prerequisite: None

This course will attempt to enlighten students as to the responsibilities of parenting and prepare them for parenthood. Prenatal care, birthing options, and costs of children will be examined along with children's physical, intellectual, socio-emotional development. Theories of guidance and discipline for children through the teenage years along with careers related to this field will be additionally explored.

INTRODUCTION TO WEB DESIGN

Half year - .5 credit
Grades: 10, 11, 12

Introduction to Web Design is a semester-long introduction to the design, creation, and maintenance of web pages and websites. Students learn how to critically evaluate website quality, learn how to create and maintain quality web pages, learn about web design standards and why they're important, and learn to create and manipulate images. The course progresses from introductory work on web design to a culminating project in which students design and develop their own web site.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER PROGRAMING

Half year - .5 credit
Grades: 10, 11, 12

In this semester-long Introduction to Computer Programming course, students will create their own digital stories, animations, games, music and art, with Scratch, a new programming language designed to help young people produce rich interactive media while developing meaningful 21st century skills. This class is intended for students interested in learning to use computer programs to solve problems and create simple animated games in a structured environment. Students explore fundamental concepts in programming as they learn to write basic interactive programs.

ANNUAL NOTICE

PA LEARNERS Online Regional Cyber Charter School (PALO), as required by law, issues annual public notification to parents concerning special education services and programs, screening and evaluation, Chapter 15 and other protected handicapped students, and notification of rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

PA LEARNERS Online Regional Cyber Charter School PALO provides a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities who, because of their disabilities, need special education and related services. School age children with disabilities who need special education and related services are identified as eligible for special education if they need specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

Autism/pervasive developmental disorder
Deaf-Blindness
Deafness
Emotional disturbance
Hearing impairment
Mental Retardation
Multiple disabilities
Orthopedic impairments
Other health impairments
Specific Learning Disability
Speech or language impairment
Traumatic brain injury
Visual impairment including blindness

Screening

PA Learners Online Regional Cyber Charter School (PALO) has established and will implement procedures to locate, identify and evaluate school age students thought to be eligible for special education services. These procedures include, but are not limited to, review of student records (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, and report cards), hearing and vision screening, speech and language screening.

The screening process will incorporate:

1. Curriculum based or performance based assessments for students who have academic concerns.
2. Observations of student behavior in the virtual classroom or elsewhere.
3. Required interventions based on the above assessment results
4. Compilation of data and assessment of the student's response to the interventions initiated.
5. Determination of whether the students assessed difficulties are due to a lack of instruction or limited English proficiency
6. Determination of whether the student's needs exceed the functional ability of the regular education program.
7. Information from parents.

If the student is thought to be in need of services, PALO will initiate the screening process and if, after sixty days, the student has made little or no improvement in their identified areas of difficulty, or, the screening process indicates that a student may be eligible for special education services, the student will be referred for a multidisciplinary evaluation. The parents can at any time, request a formal evaluation prior to or during the screening process by contacting the PALO Principal in writing at:

PA LEARNERS Online
475 E. Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120

Evaluation

When screening indicates that a student may be eligible for special education services, PALO will seek parental consent to conduct a formal, multidisciplinary evaluation. The evaluation is conducted by a multidisciplinary team comprised of teachers, school psychologist and other qualified professionals who work with the child and parents. When completed, the evaluation results are summarized in a written evaluation. This report makes recommendations about a student's eligibility for special education, based on the presence of a disability and the need for specially designed instruction. If it determined that the student does have a disability and is in need of specially designed instruction, a team will be convened to develop an Individualized Education Plan.

The I.E.P team will consist of the following members:

1. One or both of the student's parents
2. The student, if the purpose is to discuss transition planning, or if the parent chooses to have the student participate
3. At least one special education teacher of the students
4. At least one regular education teacher
5. A local educational agency representative other than student's teacher who:
Is qualified to provide or supervise special education
Is knowledgeable about the general curriculum
Is knowledgeable about the availability of the resources of the LEA
6. Other Public agencies that are likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.
7. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results
8. Any other individuals at the discretion of the parent.

Educational Placement

Developed annually, the I.E.P includes descriptions of a student's current educational levels, lists individual goals and objectives and individual programs and services that the student will receive. The I.E.P team makes decisions about the types of service, the level of intervention and location of the provided services.

The educational placement for each student will be made in the least restrictive environment in which the student's needs can be met with special education and related services.

Reevaluation

Students who are receiving special education services through PALO will be reevaluated at the following intervals:

1. Every two years for students identified with Mental Retardation.
2. Every three years for students identified with other disabilities.

PALO will seek parental consent to reevaluate when necessary.

SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

Students who are not eligible to receive special education programs and services may qualify as handicapped students and therefore may be protected by other federal and state laws intended to prevent discrimination. PALO will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the students family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the child's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" may be distinct from those applicable to eligible or thought to be eligible students. The parent may initiate an evaluation if they believe a student is a protected handicapped student. For further information on the evaluation procedures and provisions of services handicapped students, parents should contact the PALO Assistant Principal.

Annual Notice of Rights Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

PALO protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding its eligible, thought to be eligible, and protected handicapped students in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and implementing regulations as well as IDEA '97 and its implementing regulations.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. Parents have the right to inspect and review a child's education record. PALO LEARNERS Online Regional Cyber Charter School (PALO) will comply with a request to inspect or review education records without unnecessary delay and within no more than 45 days from the receipt of the request. Requests should be submitted in writing, indicating the records the parent wishes to inspect, to the school principal or other designated school official. The school official will make arrangements for access and will notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where records may be inspected. Parents have a right to request copies of the records. While PALO cannot charge a fee to search for or to retrieve information, it may charge a copying fee as long as it does not effectively prevent the parents from exercising their right to inspect and review the records.
2. If the parent thinks information in an educational record is inaccurate, they may request amendment of the record. Requests should be made in writing and clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. PALO will decide whether to amend the record and will notify the parents in writing of its decision. If PALO decides not to amend a record, it will notify the parents of their right to a hearing to challenge the disputed information. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. Parents have the right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in student' education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. Information may be disclosed without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by PALO as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom PALO has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on a official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her professional task. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Directory information may be released without parent consent. Parents have the right to refuse to let an agency designate any or all of the above information as directory information.

PALO will inform parents when personally identifiable information is no longer needed to provide educational services to the child. Such information must be destroyed at the request of the parent. However, a permanent record of a student's name, address, and telephone number, his or her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed may be maintained without limitation.

Palo will provide, upon request, a listing of the types and locations of education records maintained, the school officials responsible for these records, and the personnel authorized to see personally identifiable information. PALO keeps a record of parties obtaining access to education records, including the name of the party, the date the access was given, and the purpose for which the party is authorized to use the records.

Within 10 school days of receipt of written request, PALO releases education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Parents have a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures of PALO to comply with the requirements of FERPA. Complaints may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.