



## **Course Registration Frequently Asked Questions**

This document is to assist families in better understanding the high school registration process at PCH. Below you will find questions that have been asked of our comprehensive counselors over the years. We hope that you find this helpful in navigating the process.

### **Q: What are the differences between standard level courses and honors/AP level courses?**

A: Honors/AP courses are typically more intense and faster paced than standard courses. The level of rigor varies from class to class, but students should plan to spend substantial time outside of class preparing for these subjects each day. Assessments typically require more analytical thinking and application of knowledge in honors/AP level courses. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are equivalent to college-level courses and follow a standardized curriculum. Honors/AP courses also have weighted grades, for example an A in an honors course counts as 4.5 GPA points vs. 4.0 in a standard course.

### **Q: What is Academic Lab (Ac Lab)? Can this be replaced with another elective course?**

A: All students are assigned to an Academic Lab class in their schedule. At the start of Ac Lab, students report to their Ac Lab which is similar to a "homeroom" class composed of other students in their grade for community building, announcements, and attendance until students are released to travel. Once students are released to travel, they are able to sign out and follow Ac Lab protocol to visit a teacher for extra help, make up a quiz that they may have missed, etc. There is no credit or grade earned for the course but a citizenship grade is given. A student remains in the same Ac Lab all 4 years of high school.

### **Q: What is the process for participating in any of the music ensembles that are offered (i.e. band, orchestra, choir)?**

A: Students are placed into large music ensembles based on grade level and audition. Be sure to check the course guide to see grade level and course prerequisites for each ensemble. Freshmen who are interested in participating in marching band would take Symphonic Band during the first semester and then move to Concert Band for second semester. Students participating in choir would register for Concert Chorale - the 9th grade choir. For non-marching band students and orchestra students, the audition process will determine the ensemble you will participate in during the school year. Please request the lowest level and counselors will adjust ensembles as needed once auditions have been completed.

### **Q: I am seeing a certain support class (i.e. Learning Strategies, Algebra Lab) built into my/my student's schedule. Is this course required?**

A: High school administrators, the progress monitoring coach and/or Special School District administrator and teachers collect and review information from middle school faculty, standardized assessments, middle school interventions and previous IEP/504 Plans (if applicable) to determine if students might benefit from additional support at the high school level. These courses are included in your schedule to set you up to be successful and receive the assistance they may need as they begin high school classes. If you feel the courses listed in the Infinite Campus portal do not align with you/your student's needs, please reach out to their current case manager (if your student has an IEP) or their high school grade-level administrator for clarification.

### **Q: Where can I locate the course guide for PCH?**

A: Parkway uses a digital curriculum guide. You will need to [filter to Central High School and then 9th grade](#) to see course offerings you are eligible to request (be sure to also review course prerequisites before choosing). Access the guide here: [Parkway Curriculum Guide](#)

### **Q: What are the MSHAA (Missouri State High School State Activities Association) requirements?**

A: All first-time freshmen are eligible for their first semester of high school. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 3.0 credits (6 classes) each semester. You must also pass at least 6 classes the semester preceding the season of your sport. Up to 1.0 credit (2 classes) passed during summer school may count towards the fall semester. If you are also interested in playing college athletics, you should discuss NCAA requirements with your high school counselor.

### **Q: I am having trouble accessing my Infinite Campus account. Whom should I contact for assistance?**

A: Parents can reach out to the IC Help Desk by emailing: [ic-parenthelp@parkwayschools.net](mailto:ic-parenthelp@parkwayschools.net). The [Infinite Campus Support](#) website also has a link to Infinite Campus as well as a few helpful documents. Students having trouble accessing their accounts should reach out to their building Technology Specialist.