

ACADEMIC COURSE CATALOG 2022-2023

Overview of the Course Catalog

The course catalog is designed to support your understanding of courses that are part of your journey at La Pietra. The catalog also provides you with an overview of course options as an upper school student, and an overview of courses as a middle school student. Each choice should align with your educational goals and purpose at La Pietra. Use the resources provided through Naviance, teachers, and college counseling to select courses that meet your goals and the graduation requirements below.

Section	Pages
High School Registration: Grades 8-12	2-22
Middle School Registration: Grades 6-7	22-30
Academic Policies and Procedures	30-35

Upper School Graduation Requirements

SUBJECT	CREDITS	PAGE
English	4	
Electives: Technology and Career	2	
Fine Arts: Visual or Performing Arts	2	
Mathematics	3	
Physical Education	2	
Science	3	
Social Studies	3.5	
Women and Gender Studies	1.5	
World Languages (<i>three years of the same language</i>)	3	
TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS	24	

2022-2023 High School Registration Process

All information for registering for the 2022-2023 school year is included in this course catalog. Follow the checklist below before meeting with the Academic Dean and/or Registrar to register for the upcoming school year.

- ❑ **Step 1.** Review the high school course catalog and descriptions for all departments and fill out the registration form received at Co-Curr. Choose your courses carefully. The classes offered during the year are based on your 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 teachers. Teachers must sign off on advanced course options (AP® level courses) and select upper level classes as noted in the course description.
- ❑ **Step 3.** Discuss with your parents/guardians and have them sign the registration form.
- ❑ **Step 4.** 8th-11th Graders should submit their course requests to Naviance by the specified deadline.
- ❑ **Step 5.** 8th-11th graders will have a meeting with the Academic Dean and/or Registrar to review course requests and register for classes.

UPPER SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The following program will serve as a general guide for students entering 9th grade in 2022-2023.

Grade 9	Intro to Literature and Composition	Algebra 1 or Geometry	World History: Ancient
Physics	World Language	Intro to Women's & Gender Studies ◀	Health and Society (PE/Health) ◀
Visual Arts/Music/Theater Course ◀		PE Upper School or Intro to Dance	

◀Should a student not take these courses in grade 9, these courses would be taken in grade 10.

Grade 10	World Literature	World History: Modern	Chemistry
Electives	Geometry or Algebra 2	World Language	Visual Arts/Music/Theater*
PE Upper School or Intro to Dance		Perspectives In Women's History (Social Studies)	
Introduction To Women's and Gender Studies ◀		Health and Society (PE/Health) ◀	

◀Should a student not take these courses in grade 9, these courses would be taken in grade 10.

Grade 11	World Language (optional after level 3)	Junior Seminar
Electives	US History or AP US History	PE Upper School or Intro to Dance

Biology or AP Environmental Science/AP Physics		Algebra 2/ Pre-Calculus/Math Elective
English: American Literature, Creative Writing or AP English Literature		
Grade 12	PE Upper School or Intro to Dance	Math Core or Elective
World Language (optional after level 3)		Electives
Physics, AP Environmental/AP Physics/ Science Electives		American Government
English: American Literature, Creative Writing or AP English Literature		

Subject Area and Courses

ENGLISH

Upper School English (4 Credits)		
Three Term (1 Credit) Course	Two Term (1 Credit) Courses	One Term (0.5 Credit) Courses
AP® English Literature	Intro to Literature and Composition World Literature American Literature Page to Stage Creative Writing	Gender & Culture College Composition Romanticism in Literature

INTRO TO LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Grade Level: 9 **1 credit**

As an introduction to 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.

WORLD LITERATURE

Grade Level: 10 **1 credit**

World Literature continues to build upon the skills and content that students learned and practiced at the start of high school. Students receive instruction and multiple opportunities to learn how to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, persevere in the face of challenge, and pursue equity. Each of these competencies will be explicitly taught, and students will gain mastery of these skills through projects inspired by their careful, close-reading of literature. Students read and analyze Madeline Miller’s novel *Circe* and Chinua Achebe’s novel *Things Fall Apart*. Students will also read, write, and analyze poetry.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit

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 NYC in the 1980s and experience it through the eyes of a Chinese teenager who has just moved from Hong Kong. In *Slaughterhouse-Five*, students time travel with a POW during WWII, 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 via writing assignments, activities and discussions, projects, and tests. Students compose full-length essays, including the use of analytical claims, commentary, and evidence. 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.

PAGE TO STAGE*

Grade Level: 9-12 1 credit (Fine Arts or English Credit)

In this two-term, interdisciplinary course, Page to Stage students practice and develop the ability to collaborate with peers, communicate effectively, and create original work. Additionally they will learn skills specific to playwriting such as the ability to analyze the genre of playwriting; develop writing skills and habits through workshop methodology; contribute effectively to a writing community; and utilize playwriting to achieve personal writing goals. Each student crafts their own script. In the second term of the course students vote to decide which plays they will put up, then work together to stage two original shows. Our goal is for the class to work as an ensemble, with the playwrights, directors, and actors collaborating to create an original performance project to culminate by the end of the term.

AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE*

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit (3 terms, 0.33 credits per term)

**Prerequisite: Requires 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, we focus on crafting compelling claims about the meaning of specific works of literature, which also involves the organization of evidence and commentary. We practice our timed reading comprehension skills to prepare for the multiple-choice portion of the exam. As students further develop their critical thinking and composition skills, we solidify our understanding of concepts relating to the so-called Big Ideas of AP English: Narrator, Character, Setting, Language, and Structure. Students must take the AP English Literature exam in May.

GENDER & CULTURE

Grade Level: 11-12 0.5 credit

In this interdisciplinary course, students receive explicit 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. Our case studies draw on various cultural productions from the U.S. and the Pacific, focusing on the early 1900s to the present. We address how culture-making can both express and inform gender, and how ideas about gender and sexuality shape cultural environments. The course examines representations of women and gender in film, literature,

and music, as well as cultural productions by women writers and artists. Part of required Women's & Gender Studies. (*Part of required Women's & Gender Studies*)

COLLEGE COMPOSITION

Grade Level: 12 **0.5 credit**

Seniors need to apply to colleges and universities (or plan their next steps) after high school, and no matter what, being able to write effectively, clearly, and imaginatively is both useful and a joy. Becoming a good writer does involve learning some skills, some riffs, some methods. It also involves taking risks. In this course, students read contemporary essays by some of today's most exciting writers. There are three projects, starting with a short essay in the genre of creative nonfiction. The second project is a composition for the Common Application. Thirdly, we study techniques of analysis and argumentation, finishing the term with a short persuasive letter. Learning outcomes focus primarily on writing: the use of tone, figurative language, storytelling, various sentence types, passages of reflection, and more. Note: while this course will equip students with the tools they need to write successful college application essays, it does not operate as a space in which all college essays will be finished as part of the course requirements.

ROMANTICISM IN LITERATURE

Grade Level: 10-12 **0.5 credit**

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, we seek to study these aspects of Romanticism, and within reason, put them into practice ourselves. We 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.

CREATIVE WRITING

Grade Level: 11-12 **1 credit**

Do you have a story to tell? Let's write it down. In this interdisciplinary course we learn about creative life writing and how those on the margins of society used 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. Students will explore indie comics, memoirs, auto/biographies, and fiction. Learn to hone your creative writing craft through drafting and peer reviewing, and gain a deeper appreciation for literary elements and devices through writing your own story. Through engaging with this creative life writing genre, students will appreciate its cultural significance, as well as participating in documenting their own histories.

FINE ARTS: Visual, Theater and Music

Upper School Fine Arts (2 Credits)	
One Term (0.5 Credit) Courses	
Digital Imaging & Photoshop Art Stories	Photography 1 & 2 Select Choir*

Ceramics 1 Ceramics 2 / 3 Fiber Arts Jewelry 1 & 2 Painting Printmaking	Acting Workshop 1 Production Workshop Speech and Public Speaking Improvisation Social Justice Art
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VISUAL ART ELECTIVES

DIGITAL IMAGING & PHOTOSHOP

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

This is an introduction to the basics of digital imaging starting with taking images with an artistic result. These images will then be further worked on in Adobe's Photoshop and Illustrator to create composites. Students will gain a basic foundation of these 2 application's interface features, basic navigation skills and essential tools. They will understand the difference between vector and raster images and different file formats. Students will practice portrait retouching, masking images and learn about copyright issues. The purpose of this course is to gain confidence to explore and pursue the many possibilities in the Digital Arts.

CERAMICS 1

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

This course offers students the basic knowledge and skills with regard to 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, 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.

CERAMICS 2/3

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: 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 develop their individual expression as well as building 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.

FIBER ARTS

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

In this class, students learn a range of techniques and approaches to working with fibers and textiles. Students will learn basic hand-sewing, fabric dyeing, crochet, macramé, and how to use a sewing machine. Students will learn about and analyze the historical and contemporary context of artists working with fibers and textiles. While building their art portfolio, students will practice studio habits of mind and strengthen their

critical thinking and media literacy skills. Throughout the term, students will be expected to propose and complete an independent project using a fiber-based process of their choice.

JEWELRY 1 & 2

Grade Level: 10-12 0.5 credit

This course in Jewelry 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.

PAINTING

Grade Level: 9-12 0.5 credit

In this class, students will explore the possibilities of painting. Students will learn traditional techniques in watercolor and acrylic as well as experimental processes. In addition to learning painting techniques, composition, and color theory; students will 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

Photography 1 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, 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. Limit of 8 students per class.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ART

Grade Level: 9-10 0.5 credit

Focusing on thematic inquiry, this class will utilize multidisciplinary approaches including painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and research. Students will learn how artists respond to various themes while building their portfolio, practicing studio habits of mind, and strengthening critical thinking skills. Themes and essential questions will rotate to provide new perspectives and opportunities each year. Themes may include identity, race, gender, place, community, nature, and activism.

ART STORIES

Grade Level: 11-12 0.5 credit

This class will approach the history of art through the lens of contemporary art and current events. Students will examine how historical art movements influence and inspire artists working today. Students will practice analyzing and critiquing artwork and learn how to write about the evolution of aesthetics and values throughout history. This class is based in a combination of lecture and studio to provide an enriching hands-on experience.

PRINTMAKING

Grade Level: 9-12 0.5 credit

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

MUSIC ELECTIVES

SELECT CHOIR*

Grade Level: 9-12 1 credit

**Prerequisite: Teacher approval and audition required*

Select Choir is La Pietra's premiere performance ensemble. Singers in grades 8-12 audition and are selected on the basis of musicianship, personality, personal integrity and maturity. There are opportunities for solo features. Though we have sung on the mainland and in Europe, performances are usually within the Honolulu community, and Spring and Holiday concerts take place at school. Students memorize 10-14 choral arrangements in each season. Tests consist of singing alone and in groups. While participation in all concerts and performances is mandatory, excused absences are considered on an individual basis. Participation in auxiliary choir rehearsals is often necessary. These are scheduled as needed and at the best times for all participants.

THEATER ELECTIVES

ACTING WORKSHOP 1

Grade Level: 9-12 0.5 credit

Acting Workshop is a project-based acting course that builds upon students' performance skills learned in **Theatre 6 and Middle School Theatre**. Students improve their voice, movement, observation, focusing and performance skills while gaining confidence and poise. Students can expect to practice improvisation and character development, eventually participating in solo and group performances. Students learn to make a professional first impression at auditions and how to engage and win over audiences using techniques such as sensory imagination and emotional recall. This course culminates in a staged performance.

PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Grade Level: 9-12 0.5 credit

This course focuses on what is involved in the process of creating a theatrical production from start to finish. Students study each element involved in producing a theatrical work, and are given the opportunity to think like a producer, a director, a dramaturg, and set/light/costume/sound designers. Students are expected to be actively involved in the spring drama production.

SPEECH AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Grade Level: 9-12 0.5 credit

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 term, 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.

IMPROVISATION

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

Improvisation is a project-based acting course that builds upon students' on-the-spot performance skills **developed in the Acting Workshop**. Students will be introduced to the tenets of improvisation through the use of drills, exercises and games. Over the course of the term, the class coalesces into an ensemble, and will culminate with a presentation of short form improvisation.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Upper School World Language (3 Credits)		
Chinese 1 Chinese 2 Chinese 3 Chinese 4 Chinese Culture (0.5 Credit)	French 1 French 2 French 3 French 4* French 5* French Culture (0.5 Credit)	Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Spanish 4* Spanish 5

CHINESE PROGRAM

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.

CHINESE 2

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: Chinese 1

This course is for students who have successfully developed the four basic skills. 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 shopping, writing a journal about their everyday life, and short descriptive articles.

CHINESE 3

Grade Level: 9-12 **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**. Students are challenged to read authentic materials such as newspapers and write narrative essays and articles.

CHINESE 4*

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

**Prerequisite: C- or better in Chinese 3 and teacher approval*

This course reinforces prior Chinese content and skills by expanding the 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 level 4 are fulfilling daily tasks such as seeing a doctor, asking for directions and planning for a party with competency and proficiency.

CHINESE CULTURE

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

In *Modernity in an ancient country* course, students will **develop a broader understanding of this ancient country and understand the core values** that have survived and influenced modern society, along with a heightened awareness of the power of language. By exploring various topics, such as dynasty, geography, philosophy, traditional values, women's life, traditional Chinese medicine, art, language, poem, and contemporary society, students will **understand the global giant** from a historical perspective to increase global awareness.

FRENCH PROGRAM

FRENCH 1

Grade Level: 8-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: none or Intro to French

French 1 is an interactive class in which students will learn speaking, listening, and writing skills. In addition, students learn about Francophone culture and how to express themselves in a new language. We learn different types of grammar, verb conjugations, have small conversations and share ideas. Students learn how to tell time, shop and express their feelings. They also learn lots of new vocabulary words and we do a mini fashion show.

FRENCH 2

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: French 1

French 2 is an interactive class in which students continue practicing their speaking, listening, and writing skills. In addition, students are exposed to more complex grammatical patterns allowing them to read, write, listen and speak with greater confidence in conversations concerning everyday activities and news events. By the end of this class, students narrate events and express themselves in different tenses using a broader vocabulary.

FRENCH 3

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: French 1 & 2

This class reinforces the skills learned in Level 2. At this level, students are exposed in greater depth to culture through music, theater, short stories, and projects. New grammatical skills include the subjunctive and conditional mood. Vocabulary becomes more challenging and includes topics such as health/illness, traveling, environment, and technology. By the conclusion of this course, students are able to interpret oral and written information through creative and critical thinking skills and engage in conversation with an advanced level of recall and vocabulary.

FRENCH 4*

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

**Prerequisite: B- or better in French 3 and teacher approval*

In Level 4, students read different genres of literature and review them orally and in writing, learning about subjects such as French history from the Middle Ages to the present and French art, literature, and music. Students are required to give presentations and research the literature and movie clips presented in class. Previously learned grammar is reinforced through the writing of both subjective and objective essays.

FRENCH 5

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

**Prerequisite: B- or better in French 4 and teacher approval*

Students at this level of language study focus on acquiring more difficult vocabulary related to ideology, economics, and politics in order to engage in more complex levels of conversation and written communication. In addition, students also understand more refined grammatical points of the language. Experiences in this course tend to be advanced in nature, such as reading and analyzing films, literature, short stories, and newspaper articles. By the conclusion of French 5, students generally test well on college placement exams, allowing them to enter advanced levels of this language at the college level.

FRENCH CULTURE

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

no prerequisite of French language class necessary)

In this course, students are also introduced to the cultures of different French speaking countries. The purpose of this course is to encourage the students to build confidence and enjoy the learning of a new culture that is omnipresent all over the world: the Francophone culture. Through projects and other activities, students will acquire basic knowledge of a new culture. This will help broaden their horizon as well as help them when they travel to Europe and other countries around the world. They will learn about history, demographics, customs, art, fashion, food and stereotypes.

SPANISH PROGRAM

SPANISH 1

Grade Level: 8-12 **1 credit**

As a beginning level course, students **learn the fundamentals of the language** such as the alphabet, numbers, the date, telling time, colors and basic conversations. Students also **learn more sophisticated grammar** such as the present and past tenses, verb conjugations and adjective agreement. A study of geography and culture of the Spanish-speaking world is included.

SPANISH 2

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

As an intermediate level course, Spanish 2 **reviews the fundamentals** of Spanish 1 and provides exposure to more complex linguistic patterns allowing students **to read, write, listen and speak with greater confidence**. New grammatical skills include the subjunctive mood and various types of verbs. By the end of this course, students are able **to express themselves using a broader vocabulary**.

SPANISH 3

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 & 2

Spanish 3 reinforces the skills learned in levels 1 and 2. In addition, there is a focus on more advanced topics that reflect the nuances of the language. Vocabulary also becomes more challenging as students **hone their grammatical abilities**. By the end of this course, students are **comfortable with written and spoken Spanish**.

SPANISH 4*

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

**Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish 3 and teacher approval*

As an advanced course, Spanish 4 **reviews fundamentals of the language** and covers more sophisticated topics such as global citizenship. Culture is further studied through authentic texts and student presentations in Spanish.

SPANISH 5*

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

**Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish 4 and teacher approval*

In Spanish 5, key grammatical concepts are reviewed and students **deepen their understanding of the language** through literature, film, and current event analysis. By the conclusion of Spanish 5, students generally test well on the Advanced Placement Spanish exam, allowing them to enter advanced levels of this language in college.

Upper School Mathematics

Upper School Mathematics (3 Credits)		
Three Term (1 Credit) Courses	Two Term (1 Credit) Courses	One Term (0.5 Credit) Courses
AP® Calculus*	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry	Data Science

ALGEBRA 1*

Grade Level: 8-9 **1 credit**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 1 or Math 7 and department 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.

GEOMETRY

Grade Level: 9-10 **1 credit**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Students **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.**

ALGEBRA 2*

Grade Level: 10-11 1 credit

**Prerequisite: C- or Better in both terms of Algebra 1, Geometry and department approval*

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. 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.

TRIGONOMETRY and PRE-CALCULUS

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit

Prerequisite: 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, and 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 and should be prepared to enroll in AP Calculus.

AP® CALCULUS AB*

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit (3 terms; 0.33 credits per term)

**Prerequisite: B or better in both terms of Pre-Calculus and departmental 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 I/II, 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.

DATA SCIENCE

Grade Level: 10-12 0.5 credit

Jo Boaler has said "90% of the world's data has been accumulated within the past 2 years." As society has become more technology driven, it is important we prepare our students for the growing demand for data analytics in the workforce, as well as data literacy in society. In this course, students will **develop the competencies to interpret, extrapolate, and express (via infographics) data representations.** Students will **develop data literacy and communicate ideas supported through collected data.** Topics will be

selected relative to local and global current events, social justice, and women and gender issues. Through the term, students will engage in activities, culminating in a final project presentation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Upper School P.E. (2 Credits)

PE Upper School
Intro to Dance
Intermediate Dance
Advanced Dance
Self Defense & Strength Training

PE UPPER SCHOOL

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

The emphasis of the Physical Education Upper School 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 and confidence, and learn and demonstrate valuable life skills and character traits** (e.g., cooperation, teamwork, industriousness, persistence, self-discipline, etc.) that can not only be applied for success during the class activities but 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.**

INTRO TO DANCE (Level 1 & 2)

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Introduction to Dance 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.** We use classical and current music to fuel our creativity in class, and students have an **opportunity to self choreograph and perform an original piece at the end of the term.** No textbook is required, however, dance shoes (jazz or ballet slippers) are an optional purchase for class.

INTERMEDIATE DANCE (Level 3 & 4)

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prerequisite : *Dance 1 & 2*

Intermediate Dance **builds upon the skills, techniques, and terminology gained in Dance 1/2 and Introduction to Dance.** 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. They will also **create a portfolio of work demonstrating their ability to conceptualize and create a dance from lighting to make-up, music and costume selection.** No textbook is required, however dance shoes (jazz or ballet slippers) are an optional purchase for class.

ADVANCED DANCE (Level 5 & 6)

Grade Level: 9-12 **1 credit**

Prior to students enrolling in advanced dance, they would have completed Intro to Dance and Intermediate Dance. Advanced dance serves as a class to help elevate the developing students into more confident dancers, performers and choreographers. The course would utilize their advanced skills by incorporating **opportunities for improvisation, choreography composition workshops, and dance portfolio building.** The skills they learned throughout their Introduction and Intermediate classes would be called upon and they would be asked to **contribute original ideas to create a student run showcase.**

SELF-DEFENSE & STRENGTH TRAINING**Grade Level: 11-12** **0.5 credit**

The Women's 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.**

SCIENCE

Upper School Science (3 Credits)		
Three Term (1 Credit) Courses	Two Term (1 Credit) Courses	One Term (0.5 Credit) Courses
AP® Environmental Science* AP® Physics 1 AP® Biology	Physics Chemistry Biology	Marine Biology Astronomy

PHYSICS**Grade Level: 9-12** **1 credit**

Physics is designed as a fundamental science course and 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.

CHEMISTRY**Grade Level: 10** **1 credit**

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**

Biology is a dynamic and ever-changing subject. This course is designed to give students a taste of some of the diverse topics and an appreciation for the many ways biology impacts their own lives. Students explore the diversity of life on Earth, evolution, cellular biology, energy transformations, as well as the basic principles of molecular genetics. Lab work is strongly emphasized with particular emphasis on the **use and care of microscopes and application of the scientific method**. In this course, **students apply the scientific method and build upon prior scientific knowledge** as they explore the different units. **Students read and write scientific papers and complete group projects to demonstrate their knowledge.**

MARINE BIOLOGY

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit

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.**

AP® ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit (3 terms)

**Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry and department approval required.*

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. The 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, environmental science, chemistry, and geography. In May students will take the AP Environmental Science exam.

AP® BIOLOGY

Grade Level: 11-12 1 credit, 3 terms

**Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry and department approval required.*

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, 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 should be able 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).** Students should also **develop an understanding of how changes in the design of the experiments would 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 and Chemistry*

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 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**.

AP® Physics 1

Grade Level: 11-12 **1 credit, 3 terms**

**Prerequisites: Algebra II/Trigonometry and department approval.*

AP® Physics 1 is designed to prepare students for a college level entry physics course. Students will explore topics including linear and rotational motion, Newton's Laws, energy and Conservation Laws, harmonic motion and waves, and electric charge and circuits. **Students will conceptually, and mathematically describe physical phenomena**. They will also **demonstrate sound critical thinking and application of the scientific method** while **sharpening their reasoning skills**. In May students will take the AP® Physics 1 exam.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Upper School Social Studies (3.5 Credits)		
Three Term (1 Credit) Courses	Two Term (1 Credit) Courses	One Term (0.5 Credit) Courses
AP® U.S. History	World History: Ancient World History: Modern US History American Government	Ethics: Medicine, Law, and Media Global Issues Psychology

WORLD HISTORY: ANCIENT

Grade Level: 9 **1 credit**

This two-term 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 through the middle ages and sets students up for World History: Modern. **Students will hone their historical thinking and writing skills through document evaluation, argumentative writing, and independent research**.

WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

Grade Level: 10 **1 credit**

Students in World History will investigate numerous events that have led to the modern world as it is today. Starting with the Renaissance and going to the present day, students will **learn key vocabulary** as they complete a wide variety of assignments including **analyzing primary sources** and creating their own original written and creative work. In addition, students will continue to **develop and refine their researching, sourcing, and writing skills** all on their way to **learning to think historically about the past**.

U.S. HISTORY

Grade Level: 11 **1 credit**

The United States History course emphasizes historical concepts that have shaped America. Students **acquire historical knowledge of past events then analyze 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 from the textbook**. For each chapter covered, students either individually or as part of a group examine a variety of historical topics helping students increase their cultural literacy.

AP® U.S. HISTORY*

Grade Level: 11-12 1.0 credits (3 terms)

**Prerequisites: Requires teacher approval.*

The Advanced Placement (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.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Grade Level: 12 0.5 credit

This one-term 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., and also **compare other governmental systems around the world**.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grade Level: 10-12 0.5 credit

In Psychology, students can expect to learn a survey of the main subfields in the study. This one-term class covers historical concepts, parts of the brain, cognitive processes, emotions, and illness. Through discussion, readings, lectures, and projects students learn about the intricate workings 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 our inner workings and how we can use that knowledge as a tool to approach our lives.

GLOBAL ISSUES

Grade Level: 11-12 0.5 credits

Global Issues in a one-term course that 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 key issues at home and abroad**. In doing so, students will **understand the interconnectivity of the globe** and learn to **create informed opinions and respectful dialogue** on numerous issues.

ETHICS: MEDICINE, LAW, AND MEDIA

Grade Level: 10-12 0.5 credits

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.

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

Upper School Women and Gender Studies (1.5 Credits)

Intro to Women's and Gender Studies*
 Health and Society*
 Perspectives in Women's History*
 Gender & Culture
 Ways of Leading: Igniting Positive Change in the Community
 (*Required Courses)

INTRO TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES (SOCIAL 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 our identity, our perspectives, and our 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 experience and hone their ideas, create and present projects related to the issues, and analyze their social worlds.**

HEALTH AND SOCIETY (PE/HEALTH)

Grade Level: 9-10 0.5 credit

Required course

This class equips 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 a social context. Specifically, students investigate cultural values and views about various health topics and conditions to better understand how we navigate our health in society. Through activities and group discussion, students develop positive communication skills, learn to manage stress, and learn how to advocate for themselves.

PERSPECTIVES IN WOMEN'S HISTORY (SOCIAL STUDIES)

Grade Level: 10-11 0.5 credit

Required course

This Women's and Gender Studies course **gives a historical perspective on women's experiences while also drawing on 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 (ENGLISH)

Grade Level: 11-12 **0.5 credit**

In this interdisciplinary course, students receive explicit 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. Our case studies draw on various cultural productions from the U.S. and the Pacific, focusing on the early 1900s to the present. We address how culture-making can both express and inform gender, and how ideas about gender and sexuality shape cultural environments. The course examines representations of women and gender in film, literature, and music, as well as cultural productions by women writers and artists. *Part of required Women's & Gender Studies.*

WAYS OF LEADING: IGNITING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY

Grade Level: 12 **0.5 credit**

This internship-based course, the final class in the Women and Gender Studies program, will allow students to pursue an independent study in partnership with a community organization or business. Students will partner with an organization or business three days per week and meet in a seminar once a week. The seminar will include topics such as gender in the workplace, leadership and partnership, community impact, teamwork, and finding your way in the world. The focus of this course will be to develop individual student leaders in the areas of responsible citizenship, communication, goal setting, group processes, as well as social justice, business, organizational and managerial skills. Students in this course will present their experiences and knowledge learned to the La Pietra community at the end of the term. These hands-on experiences and reflection seminars will enable them to become highly successful in college, in their chosen career, and in future community involvement.

Prerequisites: Students must have their own transportation to and from the job site. Students must understand that this is a time commitment and therefore schedules need to be considered prior to registering. They also must be on-track to complete all other required courses at La Pietra.

Electives: Technology and College/Career

Upper School Electives (2 Credits)
Yearbook, Journalism, and Design Introduction to Computer Science Life Skills and Competencies Junior Seminar Student Internship* Independent Project One Schoolhouse (Online School for Girls)

YEARBOOK, JOURNALISM, AND DESIGN

Grade Level: 9-12 **0.5 credit**

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 term's deadline, students learn publishing terms, interviewing techniques, use of digital cameras, maintenance of a photo archive, Photoshop fundamentals, editing skills, and 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 AND COMPETENCIES

Grade 12 0.5 credit

What are Life Skills? What is the difference between life skills and life experience? In this class, students will learn how to navigate the beautiful and also scary vastness of adulthood. They will acquire basic knowledge for different situations and this will help them to better understand how to handle adult situations through critical thinking as well as using their "gut feeling." They will learn important lessons such as opening a bank account, doing taxes, changing a car tire, planning a trip, reacting to basic medical emergencies, being proficient in self defense, writing a CV and being their best self during an interview.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING AND CODING

Grades 11-12 0.5 credit

Students in computer programming will have the opportunity to be exposed to the field of computer science and the process of learning a computer programming language. The primary language taught in this course will be Python, which is a popular computer programming language for beginners as well as the industry. Students will learn the theoretical aspects as well as practical aspects of computer programming, which includes creating various personal projects. This course will **promote algorithmic thinking** and students will also **understand the appropriate syntax, structure, and applications of different Python functions**. Students will expand upon their skills to **model real-life procedures into appropriate lines of code**. This course is interdisciplinary which relates various aspects of science and technology.

JUNIOR SEMINAR

Grade Level: 11 0.5 credit Pass/Fail

Junior Seminar is a required class for 11th graders, focusing on academic wayfinding, college guidance and post-secondary goal setting. Students prepare for the senior year college application process and for choosing colleges into which they are best suited for and interested in attending. Topics stem from information on the college selection experience through financial aid. This class will also host on-campus visits from college admissions representatives as scheduling permits.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Grade Level: 10-12 0.5 credit Pass/Fail

**Requires Departmental 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 term (1/2 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 Academic Dean. 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 term in which they are earned; credits earned during the summer are attached to the upcoming fall term of the year the student will be entering.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

Grade Level: 11

Juniors embark on a self-proposed Independent Project during their Junior Year. With the help of an out of school and in-school advisor, students will complete 40 hours on a project of their choosing, culminating in a schoolwide presentation of learning in the Spring of their Junior year.

Online Learning

ONE SCHOOLHOUSE™ - ONLINE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Grade Level: 10-12 1 credit

**Requires Departmental Approval*

La Pietra is proudly partnered with One Schoolhouse- Online School for Girls (OSG), 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. OSG tuition fees are included in the regular tuition when OSG courses are taken during the fall and spring terms 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 Academic Dean; registration is coordinated through La Pietra. To view the 2021-2022 OSG Course Catalog [click here](https://www.oneschoolhouse.org/school-information.html) or visit <https://www.oneschoolhouse.org/school-information.html>.

Prerequisite: Completion of OSG Contract and approval by Academic Dean

- **Regular Course:** Approval by Dean of Academics required
- **A.P. Courses:** Minimum 3.3 GPA and approval by the Dean of Academics and department teacher
- *****All students enrolling in a One Schoolhouse course must complete a Learning Contract and submit payment of \$150 before May 1, 2020. See Dean of Academics for a copy of the Learning Contract.**
- **Withdrawal Policy:** If the student withdraws after the add/drop window, the student will be billed for the entire cost of the course (\$1585).

AP® & ONE SCHOOLHOUSE™ EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Advanced Placement (AP)® Courses

Students enrolled in AP® courses with La Pietra or The Online School for Girls are required to take the AP® exams in May. The cost is \$94 (subject to change) for each AP exam course taken and will be billed to your La Pietra account. AP® exams are scheduled during the first two weeks of May.

One Schoolhouse™ Online Courses

In order to enroll in a One Schoolhouse- Online School for Girls (OSG) Course for the 2020-2021 school year, all students must receive approval from the Dean of Academics. Any students who wish to take an online AP® Course must have earned at least a 3.3 GPA at the time of enrollment, received approval from the department teacher and the Dean of Academics. Additionally, students must complete the One Schoolhouse Academic Contract available from the Dean of Academics.

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. The parent/guardian is responsible for half of the registration fee and La Pietra will subsidize the other half. If a student withdraws, then the family is responsible for the full cost of enrollment (\$1585).

Students are required to fill out an application with the Dean of Academics.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

2022-2023 Middle School Registration Process

All information for registering for the 2022-2023 school year is included in this course catalog. Follow the checklist below before meeting with the Academic Dean 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 at Co-Curr. The classes offered during the year are based on your requests and availability.
- ☐ **Step 2.** Review with your parents and have them sign the registration form.
- ☐ **Step 3.** 6th & 7th Graders will submit their signed form to the front office by Feb 1.

The following program is a general guide for entering students:

Grade 6	English 6	Social Studies 6	Math 6
Art 6	Science 6	Music 6	Theater 6
PE 6		Success In Middle School 1 & 2	

Grade 7	English 7	World Geography	Design Thinking
Math 7	Science 7	Middle School Music	Middle School Theater
Intro to Languages		Middle School Art	PE Middle School

Grade 8	English 8	Civics in Hawai'i	Middle School STEM
Science 8	Pre Algebra or Algebra 1*	Middle School Music	Middle School Theater
Chinese 1/French 1/Spanish 1		Middle School Art	PE Middle School

**Algebra 1 and World Language 1 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.*

Middle School English

English 6
English 7
English 8

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 students will learn to collaborate with their peers through discussions and writing workshops.** To enhance communication skills, we will focus on 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.

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, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.

ENGLISH 8

Grade Level: 8

Eighth grade English continues to build upon the skills students learned and practiced at the start of middle school English. Students will receive instruction and multiple opportunities to learn how to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and persevere in the face of challenge. Each of these competencies will be explicitly taught, and students will gain mastery of these skills through projects inspired by their careful, close-reading of literature. Students read the graphic novel *Persepolis* to explore Iran and Persian culture. We examine *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Denby Fawcett's *Secrets of Diamond Head* to learn about neighbors and our neighborhood.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ART

Art 6
Music 6
Theatre 6
Middle School Theatre
Middle School Art
Middle School Music

ART 6

Grade Level: 6

Pass/Fail

Art 6 serves as a foundation for future art classes. Students will use a variety of different 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.

MUSIC 6

Grade Level: 6

Pass/Fail

Our new students learn school songs, musical theater/pop standards and music for our Holiday and Spring Concerts. In class, they perform scenes/songs from such musicals as *Annie*, *Cinderella*, and *The Sound of Music*. Other classes observe us and give audience feedback. Students will also become familiar with the music and background of Beethoven, Mozart and Gershwin. These experiences **increase their musical knowledge, strengthen their stage presence and professionalism, teach them to work as a group and help them to conquer stage fright**. They learn the importance of listening to and matching pitch, and focusing on their conductor. They begin to **understand the patience, cooperation and dedication** needed in order to present a polished performance.

THEATER 6

Grade Level: 6

Pass/Fail

Theater 6 introduces students to theater terms and the elements of the theatrical process with emphasis on performance, observation, and focusing skills. Students build confidence and imagination as they practice the fundamentals of acting, individually and as an ensemble, through theater games and improvisation. The class rehearses and presents a culmination performance for an invited audience at the end of the term.

MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATER

Grade Level: 7-8

Middle School Theater 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, solo performances, and group performances.

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC

Grade Level: 7-8

Students in Middle School Music class study basic music theory, including note and rest values and dynamics. Students learn to differentiate the periods of music and become acquainted with the lives of various composers and the sounds of orchestral instruments in addition to learning the history of musical theater and American popular music. Making a serious effort to learn these musical aspects will help students **grow in their understanding and appreciation of music and its importance in a well-rounded life**. This course will create the Middle School Choir, allowing students to learn to sing in a choral setting. Within the choir setting, students will practice **blend, harmony, enunciation, breath support and become familiar with different genres of choral works**. Depending on the term, the Middle School Choir will perform in either the holiday or spring concert.

Middle School Math

Math 6
Math 7
Pre-Algebra
Algebra 1*

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.

MATH 7

Grade Level: 7

In this course we 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.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 8

This course is designed to help students bridge from Math 7 to Algebra. 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 their future course in geometry. Students are encouraged to **verbalize their understanding** through class discussion, writing assignments, and group work.

ALGEBRA 1*

Grade Level: 8-9 1 credit

**Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 1 or Math 7 and department 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.

Physical Education (PE) Middle School

PE 6
PE Middle School

PE 6

Grade Level: 6 **Pass/Fail**

Physical Education 6 introduces students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional team and individual sports and physical activities. Students **experience a wide range of skill building, activities, and lead-up games** in various environments that provide opportunities for students to **improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, speed, agility, power, strength, and flexibility**. While doing so, students **gain confidence and competence, learn and demonstrate valuable life skills and character traits (e.g., cooperation, teamwork, industriousness, persistence, etc.), and have positive, enjoyable, physically active experiences**. Assessment for this course is based on progress in skill development towards mastery and consistency in student effort.

PE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade Level: 7-8

The Physical Education Middle school class will introduce students to a variety of traditional and non-traditional team and individual sports, fitness activities, and games. The 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 Kapiolani Park will be utilized during the term. Over the course of the term, 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**. Our 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**. Students will also have an opportunity to explore elements of movement through learning foundational steps of multiple dance styles, investigating patterns of rhythm and introducing basic yoga.

Middle School Science

Science 6
Science 7
Science 8

SCIENCE 6

Grade Level: 6

Students will explore the world through an Earth Systems Science lens. First, through the weather and water unit, where students **develop a model to describe changes in earth's climate and weather systems**. After this, students will 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 will 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.

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**.

SCIENCE 8

Grade Level: 8

This class will introduce middle school students to the study of physical science. Topics will 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.

Middle School Social Studies

Social Studies 6
World Geography
Civics in Hawai'i

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 Hawaii. **Emphasis is placed on developing historical thinking skills such as articulating an argument, placing locations on a map, and chronological thinking**.

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.

CIVICS IN HAWAII

Grade Level: 8

This two-term 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**.

Middle School World Languages			
7th Grade	8th Grade		
Introduction to Languages	Chinese 1	French 1	Spanish 1

INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGES

Grade Level: 7

In this introductory course, students **learn basic vocabulary such as greetings, colors and numbers as well as simple grammatical patterns**. Students are also **introduced to the cultures** of their chosen languages. The purpose of this course is to encourage the students to **build confidence and enjoy the learning of a new language**. Through projects and other hands-on activities, students **acquire a basic knowledge of a new language**. This course runs over two terms with students gaining exposure to all three languages offered: Spanish, French, and Chinese. At the conclusion of this course, students select the language they wish to focus upon beginning with Level 1 in the 8th grade.

CHINESE 1

Grade Level: 8-12 1 credit

**Prerequisite: B- or better in Chinese 3; and teacher approval*

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.

FRENCH 1

Grade Level: 8-12 1 credit

Prerequisite: none or Intro to French

French 1 is an interactive class in which students will learn speaking, listening, and writing skills. In addition, students learn about Francophone culture and how to express themselves in a new language. We learn different types of grammar, verb conjugations, have small conversations and share ideas. Students learn how to tell time, shop and express their feelings. They also learn lots of new vocabulary words and we do a mini fashion show.

SPANISH 1

Grade Level: 8-12 1 credit

As a beginning level course, students **learn the fundamentals of the language** such as the alphabet, numbers, the date, telling time, colors and basic conversations. Students also **learn more sophisticated grammar** such as the present and past tenses, verb conjugations and adjective agreement. A study of geography and culture of the Spanish-speaking world is included.

Middle School Technology and Learning Skills & Competencies

Success in Middle School 1
Success in Middle School 2
Design Thinking
Middle School STEM

SUCCESS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL 1

Grade Level: 6 **Pass/Fail**

In this course, students learn a wide variety of academic and social-emotional skills that contribute to a student's success in middle school. The guiding principle of this course is a growth mindset, **encouraging students to believe in themselves** and their ability to **learn new things and think critically**. Through the exploration of various topics, students **practice strategies to develop confidence and independence** to consider their individual purpose. Students learn **how to use technology** for learning, including keyboarding skills and using Google Suite tools. Students will **examine study and note-taking strategies** to support their other courses. Problem-solving, planning and organizational skills, and leadership are also addressed through class projects and activities.

SUCCESS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL 2

Grade Level: 6 **Pass/Fail**

Success in Middle School 2 builds on the skills and tools from the previous course to prepare students for their middle school journey in their study strategies and character development. Using the course text, *Big Life Journal*, students continue to **explore their own interests and set goals** while also considering their place within our larger community. The value of *kahiau* is explored through class activities and discussions. Students will **enhance their computer skills** by gaining proficiency in Google tools, with an emphasis on Google Docs and Slides and will better understand how to be safe online and what it means to be a digital citizen. Students will also be **introduced to basic concepts of financial literacy**. The focus of the course is tailored to fit the needs of the students to help them achieve success.

DESIGN THINKING

Grade Level: 7

This course introduces students to the design thinking process and how to apply it as a problem solving tool. Expanding from the skills and strategies introduced in Success in Middle School 1 & 2, students will collaborate during project based learning units focused on designing houses, robots, and fashion. Each project will highlight specific aspects of the design thinking process and require students to learn and apply problem solving skills to current issues in Hawaii and on the planet. Each project will also integrate business development skills to include branding and marketing. Students will publicly present design products, write about their features, and pitch ideas to potential funders.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM

Grade Level: 8

The future is code and technology that uses code. Students will learn about the history of computer programming languages while they follow the historical development of women in technology. Using *Girls Who Code* as guide, students develop an app that solves an important problem for young women and then move onto creating a website that features the skills and competencies they have learned and developed

during the middle school program at La Pietra. Websites will be featured at Eighth Grade Project Presentations at the end of the course.



Academic Policies & Procedures

As a college preparatory school, La Pietra’s aim is to teach you skills and offer courses you will need to prepare you for success in college or university and beyond. Your teachers are available to help you over and beyond your scheduled class time. Please make an appointment to see them, as all good students do, when you need additional assistance. Also available to help you are the Dean of Students and the Dean of Academics.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Upon your acceptance to La Pietra, our Dean of Academics 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.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

The goal of college counseling is admission for each graduate at a school of higher education well suited to her needs, talents, and expectations. It encompasses a four-year program of interaction by the College Counselor with students and their parents. In the 9th and 10th grades, emphasis is placed on helping students to make appropriate curriculum choices and instilling in them healthy academic attitudes. The program intensifies in the Junior year with the Junior Seminar college counseling curriculum, visits from college admissions officers, college exploration activities, parent conferences, test taking preparation, and national testing. The Senior year 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.

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. 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 (7) days once the term has started.

Please note that any schedule change processed after La Pietra’s scheduling deadline, if approved, will be charged a \$40 change fee. Students dropping an online course will be charged for the amount of tuition not refunded by One Schoolhouse and must make payment to the school within the school year that the expense is incurred.

Courses that are dropped or changed after seven days will reflect at “W” or “withdraw” on the student transcript. Any course dropped after the midterm, due to approved reasons will show a “W” and the grade at the time of drop (e.g., Withdraw - F). This grade will not be factored into the student GPA, but will be reported on the transcript.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) ENROLLMENT POLICIES

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.

All students who wish to enroll in an AP course must pay a non-refundable AP exam fee of \$95 per AP class they enroll in. The exam fee will be charged to the student account and will be non refundable if they fail to take the AP Exam.

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 \$95 exam fee.

ONE SCHOOLHOUSE ACADEMIC LEARNING POLICIES

Enrollment Requirements

In order to enroll in an online course from One Schoolhouse (formerly known as Online School for Girls), students must receive approval from the Dean of Academics and submit a non-refundable payment of \$150 in full to be enrolled. Any student who wishes to take an online Advanced Placement (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.

Course Demands and Time

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

One Schoolhouse School Year

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

Withdrawal Date

Students who drop the class within the add/drop date will be expected to pay 50% of the total cost of the current school year tuition. Students who withdraw after the drop/add deadline will be subject to pay the full tuition (\$1525). Students who withdraw after thirty (30) days for school-year courses and ten (10) days for summer courses will receive a transcript indicating “WD-Pass” or “WD-Fail.” No academic credit is awarded for withdrawn courses. A failing grade will show up on your transcript with the grade at the time you drop.

Testing

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

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 the course.

End of Term Grades

Because One Schoolhouse courses are on a semester or year long term, grades in these courses will be reflected on the transcript only after term 2 and 4.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT (IP)

As a requirement for graduation from La Pietra, each student must plan and carry out an Independent Project outside of her classroom work that is designed to achieve some personal goal. The purpose of this project is to expand her experiences and perhaps take a few risks in exploring career possibilities or in attempting something she has always wanted to do but didn’t think she could. She must present a proposal to the Independent Project Committee and have it approved before beginning her work. One person from the IP committee will serve as her faculty advisor. Upon completion, she must share the results of her project, giving a presentation during a Co-Curricular period.

This project may be started in the summer with pre-approval. However, 40 hours must be experienced within the school year.

The minimum graduation requirement is a one-term 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. 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.

STUDY HALL/CONSULTATION

All students in 6th through 8th grade are assigned to proctored study halls. Their purpose is to help students complete some of the nightly homework, to allow for 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 to see another teacher or for a meeting, a 6th through 8th grade student must obtain permission from the teacher or meeting advisor in advance.

STUDY/OPEN BLOCK

Students in grade 11 have the option of a maximum of one open block per year and students in grade 12 have the option of a maximum of two open blocks per year in their course schedule. Exceptions to this include periods to balance numerous AP or online course loads. These exceptions must be approved by the Dean of Academics. 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.

GRADES AND REPORTING

Cumulative grade point averages are calculated at the end of each term.
Basic grade scale:

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

*Pass/Fail grades are given in the 6th grade Electives and PE, Junior Seminar, and Independent Study.

HONOR ROLLS

Upper School students who receive an end-of-term 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 to 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 term.

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 2 or more consecutive terms 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.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

10th and 11th graders may take the PSAT annually.

REPORTING

Parents will have access to grade reports via My Backpack at the midterm with personal comments and at end of term with final letter grades. Midterm 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 term when their daughter's achievement changes significantly.

Students' grades, assignments, and attendance records can be accessed online through our MyBackpack [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. Teacher conferences may be arranged through the Dean of Students or Dean of Academics. MyBackpack access will be disabled at the end of each grading period for 3-5 days, for data verification and storage.

Any grade appeals must be made directly with the Dean of Academics within two (2) weeks of receiving a final report card. Any appeals made thereafter will not be eligible for consideration.

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/Math starting with Level I or Algebra I, students must achieve a final term grade of C- or above and/or teacher approval in order to move on to 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 to the next level. 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.

End of Term Policy

Final examinations are generally given in all core upper school courses at the end of each term. There are two final exam periods on each of the final 2 days of each term, corresponding to two courses each day (see schedule below). If no final exam is scheduled on those days, students will still meet to attend class. Middle school students will continue with the daily classes during end-of-term exam days. However, middle schoolers will only have A/B or C/D classes to correspond with upper school students (see below). All students will be dismissed at 1:50 pm on those days.

End of Term Schedule - Middle and Upper School

END OF TERM CLASS SCHEDULE

Day 1: Finals A & B

8:30-10:30 AM	A Block Exam/Class
10:30-11:00AM	A Study Hall/Office Hours
11:00-11:45AM	Lunch
11:50-1:50 PM	B Block Exam/Class

Day 2: Upper School Finals C & D

8:30-10:30 AM	C Block Exam/Class
10:30-11:00AM	C Study Hall/Office Hours
11:00-11:45AM	Lunch
11:50-1:50 PM	D Block Exam/Class

Day 1: Blocks A & B

Day 2: Blocks C & D

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 your own.
- ★ 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.

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 term 3 grades of senior year (and World Language I and Algebra I classes taken in eighth grade year) will be used for grade calculations.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN CRITERIA

A valedictorian will be selected based on the highest cumulative grade point average in grades 9-12 (including Algebra I or Language I taken in 8th grade), to be determined after the third term 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 8 credits at La Pietra at the time of graduation and have attended a minimum of 2 consecutive years at the school.