



Pacific Coast Charter School
294 Green Valley Road Watsonville, CA 95076
Phone: 831-786-2180 Fax: 831-761-6166 www.pccs.pvusd.net
Principal, Andrew Singleton (*Suzanne Smith, substitute for 1st semester*)
School Counselor, Lisa Kellert
CEEB Code: 053713

HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

Community

Most of our students live within the boundaries of Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD), though any student from Santa Cruz County or contiguous counties may enroll. PVUSD serves a large, heavily agricultural community centered on the city of Watsonville. Approximately 20,000 students attend PVUSD's seven high schools, ten middle schools, and sixteen elementary schools. Eight of the schools are alternative or charter schools.

School

Pacific Coast Charter School (PCCS) is a community-based independent study charter school founded in 1999 and sponsored by PVUSD. Our six-year accreditation was renewed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in May 2023. Our school serves 207 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, with 144 served by our high school program. The student population is 71.7% Hispanic/Latino, 23.9% White, 5.6% other.

Our vision is for all students to pursue their individual interests while meeting the educational standards and requirements of the State of California. PCCS is a high-quality public education option that blends academic classroom work and independent study. Some students choose to participate in enrichment workshops and on-site classes. Each student is supervised by a teacher who is a highly qualified credentialed teacher. Most students stay with their supervising teacher for all four years. Supervising teachers are also classroom teachers. All students have access to one School Counselor for both academic and socio-emotional needs.

PCCS students are a diverse group. The demographics of PCCS are similar to other schools in PVUSD, with an average of 85% socio-economically disadvantaged, 16.38% English-language learners, and 22% have disabilities.

Curriculum

At the high school level, PCCS provides a mix of college-preparatory and various elective courses. Most college-preparatory courses are offered in a college-style format, with classes meeting twice per week. Students are responsible for studying further and completing significant assignments at home. Most courses, including college prep subjects, are available through independent study and online courses. Teachers with specific subject credentials monitor these classes. Course availability may vary yearly depending on student interest, teaching resources, and budget constraints. Students can also use our online courses through Edgenuity for credit attainment, recovery, and advancement. Most courses offered through Edgenuity are approved by UC and are included in our A-G classes.

College-preparatory classes available 2023-24:

A-Social Studies: World History, US History, US Government

B-English: English 1, 2, 3, 4

C-Mathematics: Math 1, 2, 3, Pre-Calculus, Financial Math

D-Science: Biology, Chemistry, Earth Space, Environmental, Oceanography, Physics

E-Language Other than English: French 1, 2, Spanish 1, 2, 3

F-Visual & Performing Arts: Art History, Visual Arts

G-College Prep Electives: Economics, Health, Health Science & Medical Technology, Medical Terminology, Nursing Assistant

Additional courses are available as independent study and/or general courses.

Advanced Placement, Honors, International Baccalaureate

PCCS does not offer AP, honors, or IB courses due to the size of our school. Students are actively encouraged to seek advanced-level coursework at community college.

Expanded Learning

PCCS also offers students a wide variety of elective courses, both on-site and as independent study. Our Media Center is well-equipped with Chromebooks and a library with a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction books. A digital photography class leads to a special-interest class in which high school students prepare a yearbook for the entire K-12 school.

Students with skills and interests outside the usual class offerings may work with a supervising teacher to develop a personalized special-interest elective course. For example, a student with an interest in culinary arts may develop a plan to learn or develop new recipes, execute meal plans, and prepare a final report. The supervising teacher ensures that the student fulfills the assignments and allotted time commitment. The teacher grades the assignments the same as any other independent study course.

Grading System

All college-preparatory courses are assigned grades. Students may choose pass/fail options for special-interest classes. At the instructor's option, special-interest classes may be offered as pass/fail only. A = Excellent, 90-100, 4.0; B = Above Average, 80-89, 3.0; C = Average, 70-79, 2.0; D = Below Average, 60-69, 1.0; F = Fail, 0-59, 0.0.

GPA Calculation and Ranking

GPA is calculated on the 4.0 scale indicated. PCCS applies no weighting, as no honors or AP courses are offered. However, if a student transfers credit for an AP course from another school, one honors point is applied; for example, the point value for an A becomes 5.0, for a B 4.0, and so on. PVUSD does not use rank.

Student transcripts also report an "A-G Unofficial" GPA, which provides students an estimate of the GPA California public universities will derive from their coursework, adding a strictly limited number of honors points for both AP and college-prep work.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete 220 credits (where 10 credits correspond to a full-year course) and meet PVUSD course requirements. Four-year university-bound students complete coursework to satisfy California university requirements. Alternatively, a student may choose (with parental permission) to work toward the achievement of personal learning goals, earn credits as desired, and prepare for the GED (age 18). In addition, all students complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service.

College Attendance

In recent years, about 4% reported enrolling full-time at four-year public universities. Most seniors advance to two-year community colleges, and many graduates choose to combine work and part-time college.