

# Freshman Academy Handbook

Peachtree Ridge High School



Class of 2027

# The Freshman Academy

## Peachtree Ridge High School

### THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome to the Freshman Academy at Peachtree Ridge High School!

The Freshman Academy is a group of teachers, counselors, and administrators dedicated to the well-being of our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Lions! Our Peachtree Ridge Freshman Academy is here to help you as you transition from middle to high school. The Academy is located in the upstairs “A” pod and houses math, language arts, and social studies courses. Science classes are nearby and run down the upstairs “D” pod. An essential part of your freshman year is learning the culture and expectations of Peachtree Ridge High School. You will find that high school is very different from middle school. You will have far greater freedom and independence (for example, you sit wherever you want at lunch and transition with your friends as you move to each class). You will also have far greater responsibilities. Your grade reflects which part of the curriculum you have mastered at Peachtree Ridge, and there are no “effort” grades. This means you take responsibility to complete all assignments (homework, projects, etc.) when they are due and that you study for your tests. It also means that you actively participate in class, ask questions if something is unclear, and seek extra support if you find yourself falling behind. Your Freshman Academy teachers will challenge and stretch you, but they will also work beside you to support you each step of the way.

Welcome to the Class of 2027!

We are so glad that you are joining our PRIDE of the Lions!



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is Block Scheduling?**

On our block, students are enrolled in 4 courses a day which last approximately 90 minutes each. Some courses are semester long (2 quarters) or year-long (4 quarters) depending on the course level. Students complete quarter 1 and 2 during the Fall semester and quarter 3 and 4 during the Spring semester.

## **I want to make sure I am ready for college. How do I decide what classes to take?**

The best advice...challenge yourself to take classes in which you can be successful. You will be better prepared for success in college, and many colleges consider the difficulty of an applicant's high school curriculum in making admission decisions.

## **How do I decide which courses will be most challenging for me?**

As a freshman, your 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will recommend your math, language arts, science, and social studies levels as they have worked with you for the year and know your performance level. As you work your way through high school, your academic teachers will recommend you for the level that they feel will challenge you at your highest and allow you to have success. You need always to put forth your best work, which plays a key factor in your future course recommendations.

## **When do my grades start "counting" for my college applications?**

9<sup>th</sup> grade is not a "practice year" for grades. Your freshman grades count just as much as the grades you earn as a junior or senior, as college admissions offices will see all of those grades on your high school transcript. All high school grades are calculated into your cumulative grade point average (GPA.) All grades in your core academic classes count toward eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship program.

## **I can see that my grades will be important from the very beginning. How can I make sure I will do well in my classes?**

From the moment you walk into each class, you need to engage in your learning actively: ask questions, participate in class activities, do your homework, and study for your tests. Your teachers will give you all the materials you need to succeed in their class, but you should do the work. Your teachers, counselors, assistant principals, and family will all be behind you and encouraging you to do your best work from the first day, but most of your success in high school depends on you!

## **What are some things that I can do at home?**

Be organized and keep up with homework and projects. Study class notes to review what was taught in class, even when you do not have assigned homework or a test. Begin studying for a test several days ahead of time so that you can review the material and retain it.

## **If I am not doing well in a course, what should I do?**

Speak with your teacher and set up a time before or after school for extra help. If you need additional suggestions or resources, you may speak to your counselor as well. All teachers will publish weekly tutoring opportunities available for their students.

## **If I am failing a class, can I drop it mid-semester?**

No. Once the semester begins, you do not have the option to drop a class.

## **How do I make up a course if I fail?**

Courses can be made up during Summer School or Ridge Credit Recovery (when available). You can also retake courses through Phoenix High School or Gwinnett Online Campus outside of the regular school day. See your counselor for more information on the best option for your needs.

**If a student fails a course and retakes it, is the first grade dropped and canceled out?**

No. Once a student earns a semester grade, it is never removed from the academic record (transcript). Required courses must be retaken if failed, and both semester grades will be a part of the academic record, high school GPA, and calculated into the HOPE scholarship eligibility.

**When are final exams?**

Final exams have two parts – performance and multiple-choice. Final multiple-choice exams are given in the last few days of the quarter or semester, and each one is approximately two hours long. Students take two exams per day and are released early on these exam days. Performance portions are taken a few weeks earlier as they take longer to grade. For courses with a state required EOC, that exam counts as the multiple-choice final, and a unit test is given on exam day.

**Are PE and Health required courses? Do I have to take them in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Yes, Introduction to Personal Fitness (PE) and Introduction to Health are both required for graduation. You do not have to take these courses in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, although that schedule is best for most students. Students who want to have extra room in their schedule for other electives may choose to take PE/Health during the summer for a fee. In addition, students taking three consecutive credits of JROTC will satisfy the PE/Health requirement for graduation.

**When will I get the drug and alcohol certificate I need for my driver's license?**

During Health class, you will participate in a one-week seminar on drugs and alcohol, called the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program (ADAP.) You will receive a certificate to show you completed the course. Keep the certificate, as you will need it when you apply for your driver's license.

**Should I take another language as my elective in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade?**

We do not always recommend that freshman students start a world language their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, as it is an academic elective, and we need to consider the transition year. World language is not required for graduation from high school, but all four-year colleges in the state of Georgia require two years, in the same language, for admissions. If a student begins their world language as a sophomore, they will be able to take coursework through the AP level should they choose to do so at Peachtree Ridge.

**When will I have an opportunity to take elective courses that interest me? What electives can I take?**

Once you fulfill the requirements for Health and PE, you will have more flexibility in your schedule. Elective courses are available in academic areas, fine arts, technical education, and physical education. Many students consider possible careers and select elective courses accordingly. If you are interested in visual or performing arts, you may take these elective courses every year. If you are interested in taking courses at Maxwell High School of Technology or Grayson High School Technical Education Program, you may begin these courses as a junior; talk to your counselor about your goals. Note: Some tech ed and computer science courses meet the requirements for a fourth science credit. Please see your counselor for details on electives.

**How important is it to be involved in extracurricular activities, such as clubs, sports, and volunteer projects?**

School leaders recommend that all students participate in one or more extracurricular activities while in high school. Students who are involved in activities feel more connected to the school. In addition, colleges and scholarship committees frequently request information on extracurricular participation and demonstrated leadership while in high school. Colleges want a well-rounded student, not only a scholar.

**Why does high school start so early?**

The bus schedule determines the time of the day high school begins in the cluster. High Schools begin and release earlier than other schools in the cluster, allowing students to participate in after-school sports and activities. This also allows them to have a job if desired.

# HIGH SCHOOL VOCABULARY

**AKS (Academic Knowledge & Skills):** Gwinnett's custom, Board-approved curriculum spells out the essential content students are expected to know and be able to do for each subject. The AKS curriculum is aligned to state standards.

**AP (Advanced Placement):** Rigorous, college-level coursework taken in high school. The College Board governs the content for these courses and the AP exam. Students who score a 3 or better, on a 1-5 scale, on the AP exam at the end of the year may earn college credit or skip entry-level college classes.

**Block Schedule:** On our 4x4 block, students are enrolled in 4 courses per day (with each class lasting approximately 90 minutes each).

**Career/Technical Educational Pathway:** A grouping of courses in Technical Education that provides knowledge and skills to prepare students for post-secondary studies and the workplace.

**Class Rank:** A student's standing based on his or her cumulative grade percentage average as compared with that of other members of the class. The student with the highest average in the grade would be ranked as 1.

**Core Courses:** Refers to both required and elective courses in language arts, math, science, social studies and world languages.

**Elective Courses:** Courses that may be selected by the student and are included in the 23 credits required for high school graduation.

**Credits/Carnegie Units/Units:** The terms credits, Carnegie units, and units are used interchangeably to identify how much each course passed counts toward meeting the 23 credits required for graduation from high school. At Peachtree Ridge, students earn 32+ Carnegie Units. Please see course syllabus for specific Carnegie Units that can be earned in the course.

- Fall
  - Quarter 1 (1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks) = .5 CU
  - Quarter 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks) = .5 CU
- Spring
  - Quarter 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks) = .5 CU
  - Quarter 4 (4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks) = .5 CU

Students may earn 8 credits or more if in LEAP/SPIRE courses at Peachtree Ridge. Carnegie Units are earned when courses are passed.

**Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):** The average of all of a student's course grades in every high school course the student has taken. This system uses 4 for an A, 3 for a B, 2 for a C, 1 for a D and a 0 for any failing grades. For example, a student with A's and B's may have a CGPA of 3.4. This is the 4.0 grading scale.

**Eligibility:** Mandatory guidelines for student participation in sports and extracurricular activities, as directed by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). Students must meet two requirements: to be on grade level as determined by their entry date into high school and to earn 2.5 credits the previous semester.

**Fine Arts:** Includes both performing arts and visual arts.

**Four-Year Plan:** This plan is an outline of the courses a student plans to take while in high school. It takes into consideration the student's academic history, career goals, interests and plans for additional education beyond high school.

**Gifted Courses:** Rigorous coursework for students who qualify for gifted education services. We blend our gifted and honors courses together.

**Grade Percent Average (GPA):** The average of all a student's course grades in every high school course he or she has taken.

**Honors Courses:** Rigorous coursework for students who excel in the specific content area. We blend our honors and gifted courses together.

**HOPE Scholarship Program:** (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) An educational funding program through the Georgia Lottery, offering three different funding options through HOPE.

- **HOPE Grant:** As of 2012, the HOPE Grant pays a portion of tuition for qualified students who are enrolled in eligible diploma or certificate programs at selected *technical colleges* and *institutes* in Georgia.
- **HOPE Scholarship:** As of 2012, the HOPE Scholarship pays a portion of tuition for eligible students who are enrolled in *public colleges* and *universities* in the state of Georgia. The amount of the award will be adjusted annually, based on lottery revenue. Eligible students enrolled in a Georgia *private college* or *universities* may qualify for a private HOPE award plus a Georgia Tuition Equalizer Grant.
- **Zell Miller Scholarship:** As of 2012, students who meet more rigorous GPA, coursework and testing standards qualify for full tuition at Georgia's *public colleges* and *universities* and the full private HOPE award at *private* Georgia colleges and universities. Visit [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) for more information.

**Math Placement:** a student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade math course determines the high school placement. Students may not "double up" on math courses. Each student may take one math course a year.

**Pathways:** we have several different pathways at the Ridge:

- **Accelerated SPIRE Science Pathway:** this pathway gives students the opportunity to take 3 AP science classes.
- **Career & Tech Ed Pathway:** a student needs to complete and pass three consecutive courses within a select area and take and receive a passing grade on the state final exam.
- **LEAP:** this pathway is for students who are interested in marketing. It combines language arts, marketing and public speaking.
- **SPIRE:** We have two SPIRE pathways for students who have an interest in STEM:
  - **Accelerated:** (Chemistry and Engineering)
  - **Integrated:** (Biology, Language Arts, Public Speaking)

**Postsecondary:** Referring to college or technical college/institute coursework.

**Prerequisites:** Courses, test scores, and/or grade level that must be completed before taking the next sequential course, grade, etc.

**PRIDE:** A structured, non-graded portion of the day in which students receive school information and discuss grade-level appropriate topics with their advisor. Your PRIDE teacher will show as your "Homeroom" teacher on your schedule.

**Required Courses:** Specific courses that must be successfully completed prior to high school graduation. These courses must be retaken if not passed the first time.

**Semester and Year-long:** Some courses are semester long (Q1 and Q2) while others are year-long (Q1-Q4) Students complete Q1 and Q2 in the Fall and Q3 and Q4 in the Spring.

**Summer School:** A shorter, more intensive session offering students the opportunity to repeat or take additional courses required for high school graduation either face-to-face at a school or through GOC. This requires a fee.

**Transcript:** The complete record of all high school courses taken, and grades earned. A student's transcript contains his or her cumulative record and colleges and universities use this to review for entrance. Think of this as your old report card.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To earn a regular Gwinnett County high school diploma, students must:

- Learn the AKS to earn the course credits required by the state, including those courses with a state-mandated End of Course Test.
- Pass Gwinnett's High School Gateway Writing Assessment in Science and Social Studies.

## STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<b>Area of Study Required</b>	<b>Units</b>
Language Arts	4*
Mathematics	4*
Science	4*
<i>*The 4<sup>th</sup> Science may be used to meet both the science and elective requirement</i>	
Social Studies	3*
Specific Electives (students may have any combination of the following)	
World Languages and/or	3*
Career/Technical Education and/or	
Fine Arts	
Health & Physical Education	1
Electives	4
<b>Total Units (Minimum)</b>	<b>23</b>

\*For admission to a university system of Georgia college or university, students are required to pass specific courses in each academic area, including two units of the same World Language. Core academic courses, both required and elective, are included in the calculation of the HOPE GPA for scholarship eligibility.

## GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADING SCALE

	CGPA Value
A = 90% and above	4.0
B = 80% - 89%	3.0
C = 70% - 79%	2.0
F = Below 70%	0

# ATTENDANCE POLICIES

State law requires attendance at school from ages 6 to 16. Excused absences are defined by state law and include only the following:

- Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the health of others
- Serious illness or death in immediate family members
- Recognized religious holidays
- Student under orders from court or other government agency
- Service as a page in the General Assembly
- Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety
- Registration to vote or voting in a public election
- Up to five excused absences per year for students whose parent/legal guardian is in military service and is being sent overseas for active duty, on leave from active duty, or returning from active duty
- Foster care students attending court proceedings relating to the student's foster care
- Service in the Student Teen Election Participant program (STEP)

Absences are unexcused for all other reasons, including but not limited to:

- Missing the bus, oversleeping, power outages, etc.
- Vacations, trips, family visits, college visits, non-school sponsored competitions, and events
- Car trouble, babysitting, running errands, traffic accidents/problems

Students who miss 30 minutes or more of a class will be considered absent from that class. Georgia law requires schools to report students with 10 unexcused absences to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles, which could result in the loss or denial of a learner's permit or driver's license.

## REPORTS TO PARENTS

GCPS' Parent Portal offers parents online, timely, and secure access to their student's school information. Parents can access an overview of their student's grades, attendance, discipline record, and program information. They can also review their student's results on standardized tests, see summary information about their student's library materials and textbooks, and check the current balance in their MyPaymentsPlus account.

Transcripts will be mailed to the student's home, by the county, two weeks after the semester ends. Transcripts are cumulative, as is the student's grade point average, so all courses and grades taken in high school will be reflected.



# COURSE REQUEST PLANNING SHEET

As you select your course requests, begin by identifying the core classes you would like to complete. You should select a course for each core content area and work with your current teachers and parents to identify the appropriate level for each course. Remember that you must complete at least one course in each of the following areas each year at PRHS: language arts, math, science, and social studies. Once you have identified your core classes, identify additional elective classes that interest you.

Please remember that during the registration process, the classes you select are **requests**. You are making a year-long commitment with your selections, so please work with your teachers and parents to ensure that your selections are the best choices for you. You will have an opportunity to review your course requests before the end of the current school year. Please remember that students cannot request a specific teacher, the order of their classes, or the semester in which they would like to complete a course.

## Freshman Year (9<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

## Sophomore Year (10<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

## Junior Year (11<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

## Senior Year (12<sup>th</sup>)

Fall – Requested Classes	Spring – Requested Classes

## Required Math Courses (GCPS)

### 4 Units Required for Graduation

The course sequencing for math is determined by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math course only.  
There is no movement between grade level courses.

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Post-Secondary
ACC Geometry: Concepts & Connections	Option 1A Enhanced Advanced Algebra and Precalculus: Concepts & Connections*	AP Calc AB, AP Calc BC, or AP Statistics	Advanced Calculus II, Multivariable Calculus, or Dual Enrollment	STEM Majors
Geometry: Concepts & Connections	Option 1B Advanced Algebra: Concepts & Connections	Precalculus or AP Precalculus	Calculus, AP Calc AB, AP Calc BC, or AP Statistics	STEM and Non-STEM Majors
Algebra: Concepts & Connections (EOC)	ACC Geometry: Concepts & Connections  Geometry: Concepts & Connections	Option 2A Enhanced Advanced Algebra and Precalculus: Concepts & Connections*	Calculus, AP Calc AB, AP Calc BC, or AP Statistics	STEM and Non-STEM Majors
		Option 2B Advanced Algebra: Concepts & Connections	Precalculus, AP Precalculus, or other 4 <sup>th</sup> math Course Option	Non-STEM majors

\*Students may opt to take the AP Precalculus Exam upon completion of the course.

- The state of Georgia requires that all high school students take four years of mathematics courses.
- All students must complete for graduation:
  - Algebra: Concepts & Connections
  - Geometry: Concepts & Connections
  - Advanced Algebra: Concepts & Connections
  - One additional fourth math course.
- The 2023-2024 Math Course Sequences allows for multiple on and off-ramps for students throughout the course pathway to meet the individual needs of each and every student.
- Other fourth math courses may include: Stat Reasoning, Advanced Mathematical Decision Making and Advanced Financial Algebra.

## Required Social Studies Courses (GCPS)

3 Units Required for Graduation

Social studies curriculum allows for movement between grade level courses.  
World History, American History, Economics, and Political Systems are required for graduation.

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
World Geography College Prep	World History College Prep	American History College Prep (EOC)	Economics & Political Systems College Prep
World Geography Honors/Gifted	World History Honors/Gifted	American History Honors/Gifted (EOC)	Economics & Political Systems Honors/Gifted
AP Human Geography Year-long	AP World History Year-long  OR AP World History & AP European History Year-long	AP U.S. History Year-long  OR AP Language & AP Art History Year-long	AP Macroeconomics EOC & AP Political Systems Year-long

- Students are required to participate in state-mandated End of Course assessments (indicated by EOC) to earn credit for designated high school courses.

## Differences between AP Human Geography and CP / Honors-Gifted World Geography

1. Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography is a college level class. College Preparatory / Honors/Gifted World Geography are both high school level classes.
2. AP class is a year-long course. CP & Honors/Gifted are both one semester courses.
3. AP students take a national exam in May to see if students can receive college credit for the course. (See College Board's website— "AP Central" --- for details on the AP exam)
4. AP course students learn and analyze broad concepts (ex: "Population", "Religion", "Industry", "Agriculture", etc.) as they relate to all areas of the world. (*I.e.—the AP course is organized thematically.*)
5. CP & Honors/Gifted students learn about and relate physical and cultural geography facts in different regions of the world, and units are organized by region (ex: "East Asia", "North America", "Europe", etc.).
6. AP textbook and supplemental readings are at a college reading level. The CP & Honors/Gifted textbook is written at a high school reading level. (See sample textbook readings provided.)
7. AP students are expected to do a good deal of reading independently, outside of class time. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. Some in-class guided reading is done, as well.
8. AP Students have a **summer assignment**. CP & Honors/Gifted students do not.
9. The amount and complexity of writing increases from CP to Honors/Gifted to AP. Honors/Gifted and AP students do more writing (both inside and outside of class). Writing in all three courses is predominantly of an analytical and expository nature. AP students will be prepared to write the required elements for responding to a Free Response Question on the AP examination.
10. AP students receive 10 additional points on their grade at the end of the semester. CP/Honors/Gifted students do not receive additional points.

### Typical Textbook Readings

#### CP & Honors / Gifted World Geography:

Excerpt from: *Geography: The Human and Physical World*, McGraw Hill Publishers, page 78.

"Geographers study culture, the way of life of a group of people who share similar ways of thinking, believing and living, expressed in common elements or features. For example, a particular culture can be understood by looking at language, religion, daily life, history, art, government, technology and economy."

#### AP Human Geography:

Excerpt from: *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, Pearson Publishers, page 115.

"Geographers divide culture into two types: Folk culture is traditionally practiced primarily by small, homogenous groups living in isolated rural areas. Popular culture is found in large, heterogeneous societies that share certain habits despite differences in other personal characteristics. Each cultural element has a distinctive origin, diffusion and distribution. Geographers observe that folk culture and popular culture typically differ in their processes of origin, diffusion and distribution."

## Required Science Courses (GCPS)

4 Units Required for Graduation

Science curriculum allows for movement between grade-level courses.  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and a fourth science are required for graduation.

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Biology College Prep (EOC)	Chemistry College Prep	Physics College Prep	Environmental Science, Anatomy & Physiology, Forensics Science, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics I, AP Physics C, Robotics, or Mechatronics/AP Computer Science
Biology Honors/Gifted (EOC)	Chemistry Honors/Gifted	Physics Honors/Gifted AP Physics 1- 1 semester	See above choices
<b>SPIRE/STEM Program</b>			
<b>Integrated Pathway</b> Biology Honors/Gifted (EOC) Year-long course paired with 9 <sup>th</sup> SPIRE LA	Chemistry Honors/Gifted Year-long course paired with 10 <sup>th</sup> SPIRE LA & Engineering	Physics Honors/Gifted Year-long paired with Engineering or Mechatronics	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Robotics, Advanced Scientific Research, Mechatronics/AP Computer Science or above courses not previously taken
<b>Accelerated Pathway</b> Chemistry/Engineering Honors/Gifted	AP Biology (EOC) Year-long paired with Scientific Research	AP Physics C Year-long paired with Engineering	

- Students will participate in state-mandated End of Course assessments (indicated by EOC) to earn credit designated high school courses.
- SPIRE Placement is based on learning style fit and possible interest in STEM-related careers.
- Students who begin in 9<sup>th</sup> Chemistry/Engineering should have an aptitude for science and choose to replace 9<sup>th</sup> Biology with AP Biology in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and AP Physics in the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- All AP courses, except for AP Environmental Science and AP Physics 1, are year-long commitments.
- Students enrolled in AP Biology and AP Physics C are required to participate in the Science Fair.



STEM Program for Innovation, Rigor, and Excellence

**Peachtree Ridge High School's GA DOE STEM-certified SPIRE (STEM Program for Innovation Rigor and Excellence)** aims at providing equal access to quality STEM education for all students. This is an interest-based program where any student who desires to experience science through an engineering lens within a project/ problem-based environment may opt-in. Typical SPIRE classroom instructional strategies include:

#### **Project/Problem-Based Learning**

Students work individually, in pairs, and in small teams to engage in multiple interdisciplinary projects. Through project or problem-based learning and the engineering design process, students master content standards and experience the world as it exists outside of classroom walls.

#### **Integration of Standards**

Interdisciplinary- STEM classes increase relevance for students and help students make connections across content areas.

#### **Literacy and Communication Skills**

Students explicitly practice and improve their 21st-century skills such as critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, leadership development, and technology skills.

**SPIRE provides multiple entry-ramps and flexible movement between classes.**

### **Overview of SPIRE Options**

<b>Accelerated Pathway</b>	<b>Integrated Pathway</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> : Chemistry integrated with Foundations of Engineering, (typically Accelerated Geometry). Students are expected to move onto AP Bio in their 10 <sup>th</sup> -grade year and requires a Science Fair Project each year.	9 <sup>th</sup> : Biology, SPIRE Language Arts integrated with Public Speaking.
10 <sup>th</sup> : AP Biology, SC Research, (typically Accelerated Pre-Calculus)	10 <sup>th</sup> : Chemistry integrated with Foundations of Engineering, SPIRE Language Arts
11 <sup>th</sup> : AP Physics C integrated with Concepts and Applications of Engineering, (AP Calculus)	11 <sup>th</sup> : Physics integrated with Concepts and Applications of Engineering
12 <sup>th</sup> : AP Chemistry, Advanced SC Research/ Internships, (typically GA Tech Calculus)	12 <sup>th</sup> : Advanced Math and Science options, Senior AP Capstone/Internships/Work-based Learning Opportunities

To learn more about SPIRE, visit our school website, [www.peachtreeridge.org](http://www.peachtreeridge.org), under Academics.

# Required Language Arts Courses (GCPS)

4 Units Required for Graduation

Language Arts curriculum allows for movement between grade-level courses.

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep Genre Study	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep World Literature	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep American Literature (EOC)	12 Grade College Prep Media Literacy
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors/Gifted Genre Study	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors/Gifted World Literature	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors/Gifted American Literature (EOC) or AP Language *IF AP Lang is chosen, 11 <sup>th</sup> H/G must also be taken	12 Grade Honors/Gifted Media Literacy, AP Language or AP Literature (2 terms)
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade SPIRE Year-long course paired with SPIRE Biology (EOC)	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade SPIRE Year-long course paired with SPIRE Chemistry	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors/Gifted American Literature (EOC) or AP Language *If AP Lang is chosen, 11 <sup>th</sup> H/G must also be taken	12 Grade Honors/Gifted Media Literacy, AP Language or AP Literature (2 terms)
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade LEAP Year-long course paired with Marketing	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade LEAP Year-long course paired with Marketing Entrepreneurship & Management	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade LEAP American Literature (EOC)	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade LEAP, AP Language or AP Literature (2 terms)

# MAKE THE LEAP



Literacy & Entrepreneurship Advancement Program

## What is LEAP?

The Literacy & Entrepreneurship Advancement Program provides students with an enriching learning experience that allows them to earn Language Arts course credit while completing the Marketing Management Pathway requirements. Students will learn to develop the entrepreneurial mindset and use critical thinking skills to identify opportunities, overcome challenges, learn from decisions, and take action for continuous improvement.

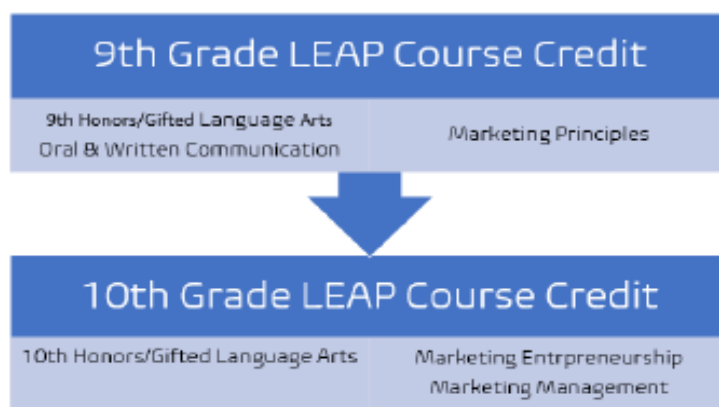
Fostering high levels of collaboration between language arts and CTE teachers, LEAP improves reading and writing skills through real-world applications. As Marketing Management Pathway completers, students will be able to articulate ideas effectively to become productive members of a changing economic environment.



## Why Should You Make the LEAP?

LEAP students work and learn collaboratively in an engaging classroom environment that fosters creativity and innovation. If you have an interest in entrepreneurship and marketing and want to earn 3 course credits in 2 blocks, then LEAP is for you.

### Course Progression



### \*One Block Yearlong Combo Course

For more information, please contact Nicole Lassiter or Stephanie Stone at [Nicole.Lassiter@gcpsk12.org](mailto:Nicole.Lassiter@gcpsk12.org) / [Stephanie.Stone@gcpsk12.org](mailto:Stephanie.Stone@gcpsk12.org)

Peachtree Ridge High School



# Career & Technical Education Department Pathways (CTE)

It is strongly recommended that all students complete at least one CTE pathway.

Area	Pathway	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3
Business Management, and Administration  Finance	Entrepreneurship	Introduction to Business & Technology	Legal Environment of Business	Entrepreneurship
	Business Accounting		Financial Literacy	Accounting I
	Advanced Accounting		Accounting I	Accounting II
			Business & Technology (Application Required)	Business Communication (Application Required)
Marketing	LEAP LA/Marketing Management	Marketing Principles/9 <sup>th</sup> LA/Oral Communications	Marketing & Entrepreneurship/Marketing Management/10 <sup>th</sup> LA	
	Marketing Communications	Marketing Principles	Professional Selling & Promotion (Application Required)	Marketing Communications (Application Required)
	Sports & Entertainment Marketing	Marketing Principles	Introduction to Sports & Entertainment Marketing	Advanced Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Education Training	Teaching as a Profession	Examining the Teaching Profession	Contemporary Issues in Education	Teaching as a Profession Internship
Information Technology	Game Design	Introduction to Software Technology	Computer Science Principles (SC)	Game Design
	Computer Science			AP Computer Science (SC)
	Web Development			Web Development
STEM/Logistics	SPIRE Engineering & Technology*	SPIRE Foundations of Engineering Technology*	SPIRE Engineering Concepts*	SPIRE Engineering Applications*
	Distribution & Logistics	Logistics Fundamentals	Logistics Operations	Materials Management
Health Science	Exercise Physiology	Introduction to Healthcare Science	Essentials of Healthcare (SC)	Exercise Physiology
AV Tech Communication	Audio-Video Technology & Film	Audio-Video Tech & Film I	Audio-Video Tech & Film II	Audio-Video Tech & Film III (RVN)
	Graphic Design	Intro to Graphics & Design	Graphic Design & Production	Advanced Graphic Design (Application Required)
Government and Public Administration	JROTC-Navy	Naval Science I-VIII		

**\*\*CTE pathways are subject to change due to State revisions**

**Work-Based Learning** – Apply your skills on a job & earn course credit.

## **\*STEM Combination Classes (SPIRE) –**

- AP Physics/Engineering Concepts/Engineering Applications: 2 semesters, 4 credits
- STEM Chemistry/Foundations of Engineering: 1 semester, 2 credits
- AP Statistics/AP Computer Science Principles: 2 semesters, 2 credits
- Robotics/Mechatronics: 1 semester, 2 credits

## Career & Technology Education Course Descriptions

<b>Audio/Video Technology</b>
Explore behind the scenes at a broadcast studio to learn how to create scripts, set up lighting and sound, and operate digital cameras and teleprompters. The primary guideline for this course is excelling with methods and techniques in working as a team to produce effective communication to the masses.
<b>Introduction to Business and Technology</b>
This course concentrates on the Microsoft Office suite of applications, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access. Students also learn how to put this software to use and time management skills. The class is a prerequisite for all business and computer classes and provides an overview of the functions of management qualifications for becoming a business manager. Topics include management's role, planning skills, problem-solving, management information systems, business ethics and organization structure, policies, and procedures for American and International business. Students will investigate effective manager skills such as communication, quality control, leadership styles, report writing, and human relations.
<b>Introduction to Software Technology</b>
Students will understand, communicate, and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their personal life, society, and the business world. Exposure to foundational knowledge in programming languages, software development, app creation, and user interfacing applications are all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project-focused tasks.
<b>Introduction to Healthcare Science</b>
Introduction to Healthcare Science is the foundation course for all Health Science pathways and is a prerequisite for all other HealthCare Science pathway courses. This course will enable students to receive initial exposure to the many Healthcare Science careers and employability, communication, and technology skills necessary in the healthcare industry. The concepts of human growth and development, interaction with patients and family members, health, wellness, and preventative care are evaluated, as well as the legal and ethical responsibilities of today's healthcare provider.
<b>Marketing Principles</b>
This is the foundational course for all pathways in Marketing Education; it addresses how marketing satisfies consumer and business needs and wants for products and services. An understanding of the functions of marketing and how these functional areas affect business will be understood from this course. Learn basic marketing concepts and the role of marketing in our economy. Students also develop skills in applying economic concepts to marketing, distribution and logistics, marketing information management, finance in marketing, product/service planning, pricing mixes, promotional strategies, and personal selling.
<b>Introduction to Graphic Design</b>
Students in this program will learn the basic concepts and tools for Graphic Design.
<b>Logistics Fundamentals</b>
Topics include movement, storage and control, protection of products through manufacturing, distribution, consumption, and disposal.

## Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)

<b>What is NJROTC?</b>
The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) is a leadership program designed to give students a head start. NJROTC develops the self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills to help you successfully meet life's challenges. People who are successful in life, who succeed in business, industry, and education, have developed strong self-discipline, the ability to lead and motivate others, and a well-rounded character. The NJROTC curriculum and instructional activities are designed to develop your leadership ability regardless of your career path.
<b>What does NJROTC teach?</b>
The naval science curriculum includes subjects such as leadership, naval history, citizenship, astronomy, oceanography, meteorology, naval ships and aircraft, seamanship, radar and sonar electronics, navigation formal classroom training supplemented by training cruises aboard ships, orientation visits, and field trips to various naval facilities to enhance classroom studies. Students who complete 3 consecutive courses in NJROTC meet the graduation requirement for Health/PE.
<b>Who gains from Navy Junior ROTC?</b>
You do! Like most young adults, cadets strive to prepare themselves for the future. Navy JROTC can help students compete for NROTC scholarships to a major university, appointments to the US Naval Academy, or other service academies. While cadets are under no obligation to join the armed services after graduation from high school, some individuals choose to enlist in the military. Successful completion of the NJROTC program allows entry into the armed forces up to two pay grades higher than your fellow enlistees without junior ROTC experience. Navy JROTC encourages participation in community and school programs and projects. It encourages civic responsibility and helps to develop strong and informed leaders for the future. In NJROTC, you learn to take great pride in your country, your Navy, your uniform, and yourself!
<b>Any extracurricular activities?</b>
Being a Navy JROTC cadet is not all work and no fun. You may attend award ceremonies and military balls sponsored by your NJROTC unit. You can also participate in school activities and athletic events as part of a color guard or a drill team or participate in a field meet against other NJROTC units. Other activities include field trips and tours to naval installations and trips on naval ships and naval aircraft. Selected cadets get to attend a mini-boot camp or the NJROTC Leadership Academy in the summer.
<b>What is provided?</b>
The Navy provides all books, drill equipment, uniforms, and other teaching materials. All you provide is the dedication to the Navy's core values of honor, courage, commitment, and the determination and desire to be a well-rounded young person of high moral character.
<b>Who can enroll in NJROTC?</b>
To enroll in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, you must be enrolled in grades 9-12, attend a regular course of instruction at the school hosting the unit, and be a United States citizen, national, or lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. You must also be qualified to fully participate in the school's physical education program, be accepted by the naval science instructor, maintain acceptable standards of academic achievement and standards of conduct, and comply with NJROTC personal grooming standards.

## Performing Arts Descriptions

<b>Band</b>
The Peachtree Ridge High Concert Band is a performance-based class that focuses on the development of the fundamental skills and techniques necessary to perform at the high school level. It is not only tailored towards the overall ensemble's ability, but the abilities and ensemble awareness of the individual student. Young wind band and percussion repertoire will be used to develop these concepts while we also ask the students to use a variety of writing, listening, and individual playing assessments to demonstrate the mastery of the AKS for high school band. <b><i>Placement in this class is by the middle school band director's recommendation or by audition.</i></b>
<b>Chorus</b>
Do you love to sing? Whether you've been singing all your life or have never had the chance to join a choir, there is a place for you in the Peachtree Ridge Chorus. Students perform a wide variety of music throughout the year and will strengthen their skills in reading music. Chorus does not interfere with athletics or extracurricular activities, and opportunities are also given to travel and compete at district, state, and national levels. There are three ensembles open to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students: Concert Choir (no audition), Women's Ensemble, and Chorale. <b><i>Placement in Women's Ensemble or Chorale is by audition, but students can sign up for Concert Choir without recommendation or audition.</i></b>
<b>Dance</b>
Dance I: Learn all about the exciting world dance has to offer. In the Ridge Dance Department, students get the opportunity to learn many different styles of dance. Students will learn technical dance skills as well as gain a base knowledge of what it takes to put on a performance. All dance classes have a mandatory uniform/performance expectation and after-school rehearsals which are a major part of the student's final grade for the class. <b><i>Placement in the upper-level classes is by audition only.</i></b>
<b>Introduction to Music Technology</b>
Do you want to bring your music to life? Then music technology is the class for you! Students use Apple software to create, compose, produce, and record their music in this class. If you want to release the next great pop song, country music hit, or orchestral symphony, students will learn the skills necessary to reach their musical goals, even if they have no prior experience with music.
<b>Orchestra</b>
The Peachtree Ridge High School Orchestra program offers classes that will take your playing to the next level. You'll build on the instrumental skills you already have in a fun, engaging way while making friends and learning lots of great music. Also, orchestra will not interfere with your extracurricular activities! There are three ensembles open to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade students: Concert Orchestra (no audition), Symphonic Orchestra, and Philharmonic Orchestra. Auditions are required for Symphonic and Philharmonic. <b><i>Placement in an orchestra class is by the middle school orchestra director's recommendation or by audition.</i></b>
<b>Theatre</b>
There are two options for freshmen who want to take theater in high school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Acting 1 (Yearlong):</u></b> Learn the skills to become a star! In this class, you get an introduction to improvisation, movement, and character development. Students will learn acting skills as well as gain a base knowledge of what it takes to put on a play. This yearlong class has a mandatory performance expectation and after-school rehearsals which are a major part of the student's final grade for the class. <b><i>Placement in upper-level classes is by audition only.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Theatre Fundamentals (One Semester):</u></b> In this class, you get an introduction to improvisation, movement, character development, and theater history. Students will learn acting skills as well as gain a base knowledge of what it takes to put on a play. <b><i>Placement in upper-level classes is by audition only.</i></b></li> </ul>
<b>Guitar</b>
Learn your favorite songs on guitar! From Rock to R&B to metal to country, we cover many styles of playing along with learning how to read music and apply music theory to the songs we are learning. Previous guitar playing experience will help you in this class, but beginners are also welcome. Come rock out- we'd love to have you!

**\*Courses may require additional fees for participation and materials. Please contact the specific program with any questions.**

## Visual Arts Descriptions

Visual Arts I/II
Beginning level class; experience with two and three-dimensional artwork; learn basic skills of drawing, painting, clay and sculpture. <b>It is the prerequisite for all other art courses.</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Visual Arts Course Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pottery I - Students will design and create hand-bult clay forms, incorporating the elements and principles of design.</li> <li>• Sculpture- Students will design and create hand-bult forms using a variety of materials, incorporating the elements and principles of design.</li> <li>• Graphic Design - Students will use Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to create a variety of computer-based artwork.</li> <li>• Photography - Students will learn the operations of digital and film cameras, while exploring the darkroom and Adobe Photoshop.</li> <li>• Drawing &amp; Painting - Students will explore a variety of drawing, painting, and printmaking techniques in a range of materials, styles and subject matter.</li> <li>• Jewelry and Metalworking- Students will use a variety of materials and methods to design and create jewelry.</li> <li>• Printmaking- Students will explore basic techniques of printing and inks, in combination with paper design.</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Visual Arts Course Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pottery II</li> <li>• Photography II</li> <li>• Drawing &amp; Painting II</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Visual Arts Course Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photography III</li> <li>• Photography IV</li> <li>• AP Studio Art*</li> </ul>

**\*Graphic Design, Photography, Drawing & Painting I and Drawing & Painting II, as well as teacher recommendations, are required for AP Studio Art.**

## Physical Education Descriptions

<b>Introduction to Personal Fitness/Health</b>
A prerequisite for all other PE classes, and it is a graduation requirement for the state of Georgia; this is not an elective but a requirement.
<b>Beginning Weight Training</b>
This series of courses provides a student with the opportunity to develop muscular strength and endurance through weight training and conditioning principles.
<b>Body Sculpting</b>
These courses provide basic instruction in defining, conditioning, and reshaping the body through specific exercises. Topics covered are weight training, conditioning exercises, proper nutrition, muscle definition, posture, physical response to exercise, and weight control.
<b>Team Sports</b>
This series of courses provides students with an opportunity to learn the history, rules, and basic skills of two or three of the following team sports: basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, touch or flag football, field hockey, floor hockey, ultimate Frisbee, and softball. As the courses progress, students will have an opportunity to experience team play, strategy development, and officiating techniques in each team sports offered.

## World Languages

It is strongly recommended for students to take at least two years of the same language. Most colleges and universities now require two Carnegie Units of language study as an admission requirement.

<b>Level I (Chinese, French, and Spanish)</b>
Students will begin by working on all four language skills: speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Students will be introduced to the target cultures and will acquire knowledge through a variety of learning activities. By the end of the course, students will have simple conversations about likes/dislikes, personality traits, school, family, and food.
<b>Level I Latin</b>
Students begin acquiring reading skills in Latin and strengthening their English reading and vocabulary skills through vocabulary building and analyzing sentence structure. Through reading selections, class discussion, activities, and projects, students learn about the daily lives of the Romans and make comparisons relevant to today's society. Students also begin their study of Greco-Roman mythology.
<b>Level II (Chinese, French, and Spanish)</b>
Students will deepen and expand their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language. Students will communicate in the past, present, and future tenses while discussing travel, childhood, technology, and health and wellness. Students will perform skits, write compositions, give simple presentations, and work with authentic materials in the target language.
<b>Latin II</b>
Students refine reading skills in Latin and continue to strengthen their English reading and vocabulary skills through vocabulary building and analyzing sentence structure. Through the reading selections, class discussions, and projects, students acquire more in-depth knowledge about the daily lives and history of the Romans. Students also continue to make comparisons relevant to today's society. Students may use Latin orally to initiate and respond to more complex statements and commands as well as read Latin aloud.
<b>Level III (Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish)</b>
Students continue to develop speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills. Students combine learned material with new concepts to express their thoughts in a more complex manner. Topics explored include media, careers, health, cultural perspective, art, and literature of the target cultures. Students will continue to work with authentic materials as well.
<b>Level IV, Level V, and AP (Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish)</b>
Students will deepen their knowledge of media, careers, health, cultural perspective, art, and literature of the target cultures. Students will continue to work with authentic materials as well.
<b>Spanish for Native Speakers I &amp; II and III all require teacher placement</b>
This course sequence is designed for heritage and native speakers of Spanish. Students will develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as they explore issues related to the identity of Spanish speakers in the US and Hispanic cultures, including language variation, customs, geography, history, and current events.

# Athletics, Clubs & Activities Peachtree Ridge High School



## Fall Sports

Competition Cheer (Coach Gourdeau)  
Cross Country (Coach Brick)  
E-Sports (Coach Martin)  
Flag Football (Coach Stover)  
Football (Coach Helmerich)  
Marching Band (Mr. Kochik)  
Softball (Coach Najafi)  
Spirit Cheer (Coach Wascak)  
Volleyball (Coach Evans)

## Winter Sports

Boys Basketball (Coach Griffin)  
Girls Basketball (Coach Haynes)  
Boys Swimming (Coach Laird)  
Girls Swimming (Coach Zopf)  
Boys Wrestling (Coach Harris)  
Girls Wrestling (Coach Harris)  
Winterguard (Coach Myers)

## Spring Sports

Baseball (Coach Suggs)  
Co-Ed Bass Fishing (Coach Clanahan)  
E-Sports (Coach Martin)  
Boys Golf (Coach McAuliffe)  
Girls Golf (Coach McAuliffe)  
Boys Lacrosse (Coach Merrow)  
Girls Lacrosse (Coach Alderdice)  
Boys Soccer (Coach Sutton)  
Girls Soccer (Coach Veljovic)  
Boys/Girls Tennis (Coach Fernandez)  
Boys Track (Coach Sessions)  
Girls Track (Coach Brick)

## Physicals

*All GHSA Sanctioned sports (other than  
E-Sports) require a physical to participate.*

*Information can be found on  
<https://prhslions.com/athletic-participation/>*

## Fine Arts

Art (Multiple)  
Band (Kochik)  
Chorus (Wyatt)  
Dance (Ondre)  
Drama (Ondre)  
Orchestra (Enloe/Scruggs)

## Non-Cut Sports

*Students may participate in the following sports  
without the risk of being cut. This allows  
students to try something new. In order by  
season seen to the left.*

Cross Country  
E-Sports  
Football  
Marching Band  
Wrestling  
Bass Fishing  
Track & Field

## Coach's Contact Information

*Head Coaches contact information can be  
found on [www.prhslions.com](http://www.prhslions.com) or through the  
Staff Directory on the School's website.*





## **Peachtree Ridge Clubs**

Asian American Student Organization  
Academic Team  
African American Student Association  
Amnesty International  
Anime  
Art  
Ask - M  
Badminton  
BETA  
Chess  
Computer Science  
Crochet Club  
Dance  
DECA  
Diversity Club  
FBLA  
FCA  
Future GA Educators  
Film  
Final Round  
French Club  
French Honor Society  
Girls Who Code  
Green Team  
Gwinnett Student Leadership Team  
Habitat for Humanity  
HoPe LC  
HOSA  
I Am A Difference Maker Project  
Interact  
Investment Club  
Jewish Student Union/Jewish Culture  
Junior Classical League  
Key Club  
Korean Immersion Club  
KPop (Beatbox)  
Literary Magazine  
Mental Health Awareness  
Mock Trial  
Model UN  
Mu Alpha Theta/Math Team  
Muslim Student Association  
National Art Honor Society  
National Chinese Honor Society  
National Honor Society  
National Latin Honor Society  
National Science Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society

## **National Technical Honor Society**

NJROTC Academic Team  
NJROTC Armed Drill Team  
NJROTC Armed Exhibition Drill Team  
NJROTC Athletic Team  
NJROTC Color Guard  
NJROTC Marksmanship Team  
NJROTC Unarmed Drill Team  
NJROTC Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team  
PASA  
Ping Pong Club  
Readers Rally  
Ridge Rhetoric Speech & Debate  
Robo Lions  
SAT Prep  
Science Olympiad  
Sinfonia  
Social Entrepreneur Influence Club  
Society of Women Engineers  
South Asian Student Association  
Spanish Club  
Spectrum  
Student Council Association  
Table Top Club  
The Buddy Bunch  
The Maker Club  
Theatrix  
Thread Therapy (Crochet)  
Tri M  
TSA  
Unicef  
Young Progressives

For more information on clubs,  
sponsors and meeting times, scan the  
QR Code below

