

PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

“BELIEVE YOU CAN ACHIEVE”

2019 – 2020

STUDENT

HANDBOOK

275 East Central Avenue

Pearl River NY 10965

845-620-3800

www.pearlriver.org

PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

2019-2020

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Ms. Suzanne Horton, Assistant Principal
Mr. Gaetano Vitiello, Assistant Principal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Educational Philosophy of the Pearl River School Board 1
Philosophy of Pearl River High School 1
School Mission 1
BOARD POLICIES..... 2
Alcohol and Other Substances 2
Policy Prohibiting Bullying..... 2
Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)..... 3
Cell Phones, Cam-Phones, Electronic Devices 4
Disability Discrimination Policy for Students..... 4
Policy Concerning Hazing 4
High School Lunch Policy 5
High School Parking Policy 5
Notice of Nondiscrimination 5
Sexual Harassment Policy Concerning Students..... 7
Student-Staff Communications via Email, Cell Phones and Text Messaging 8
Trespassing on School Property 9
ACADEMICS 9
Academic Achievement 9
Auditing 9
Class Rank..... 10
Counseling Services..... 10
Course Changes/Course Drop 10
Course Placement Criteria..... 10
Course Selection 11
Credit..... 11
Curriculum 11
Eighth graders in high school courses 11
Elective Eligibility 11
Electives 11
Final Grades 11
Goals 11
Grade 8 Required Courses 12
Grading Policy..... 12
Graduation..... 12
Graduation Requirements..... 13
High School Equivalency (formerly GED)..... 14
Honors Courses..... 14
Honor Roll..... 14
Honor Society..... 14
National Honor Society Criteria for Admission..... 15
Area Honor Societies..... 17
Individual Awards 18
Minimum Course Load..... 18
Occupational Education 18
Physical Education..... 19
Prerequisites 19
Progress Reports..... 19

Promotion Procedures.....	19
Ranks.....	19
Regents Courses.....	20
Regents Diploma.....	20
Report Cards.....	20
Required ("Core") Subjects.....	20
Rotation Schedule for Unified Arts.....	20
Summer School Courses and August Regents.....	20
Testing.....	20
Testing Program.....	21
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	21
Attendance Procedures.....	21
Building Safety.....	22
Computer Lab.....	23
Detention.....	23
Elevator.....	23
Evacuation Procedures.....	23
Examination make-up.....	23
Extracurricular Eligibility.....	23
Field Trips.....	23
Fire Drill Instruction.....	24
Guidance Appointments.....	24
Homeroom Announcements.....	24
Insurance.....	24
Library.....	24
Lockers.....	24
Lost and Found.....	25
Lunch - Cafeteria.....	25
Medical Examinations.....	25
Medications.....	26
Nurse – Health Office.....	26
Parking.....	26
Passes.....	26
Physical Education Excuses.....	26
Plagiarism.....	27
Political Activity.....	27
Printed Materials Distribution.....	27
Pupil Personnel Services.....	27
Recycling.....	28
School Property.....	28
Smoking.....	28
Study Hall.....	28
Technology devices/Cell phones.....	29
Telecommunications.....	29
Transcript.....	29
Transportation.....	29
Use of Grounds.....	29
Vandalism.....	29
Visitors.....	30

Working Papers	30
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	30
Advanced Placement Examinations (AP)	30
Alternative Education	30
College Credit at Pearl River.....	30
Community Service	31
Early Admission	31
Early Dismissal For Seniors.....	31
Early Graduation.....	31
English as a New Language (ENL)	31
Independent Study	31
Labs in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.....	32
Occupational Education	32
Project Advance (PA)	32
Special Education	32
SUNY Albany	32
Time Schedule, Delayed Opening Schedule, Important Phone Numbers	33
EXTRA CURRICULAR	34
Athletic Eligibility	34
Interscholastic Athletic Requirements	34
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Eligibility (NAIA)	35
CLUBS	36
CLASS ACTIVITIES	39
Eighth Grade Class	39
Freshman Class.....	39
Sophomore Class.....	39
Junior Class	39
Senior Class.....	39
CLASS OFFICERS 2019-2020 – GRADES 9 -12	40
COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS 2019-2020	40
STAFF DIRECTORY	41
Important Calendar Dates 2019-2020.....	43
ACTIVITY CHECKLIST	45

Educational Philosophy of the Pearl River School Board

As the legislative and policy-making body of the district, the Board of Education shall provide the best education possible within the resources of the Pearl River Union Free School District and shall continually strive for improvement. The Board shall strive to operate within the framework of the following educational philosophy:

Inherent in a democratic society is the recognition of the importance of the individual and the responsibility of preparing the individual for an effective role in his or her growth, management and preservation of democratic principles. The school is an institution committed to the creation of an environment in which individual capacities can be guided and developed to their fullest extent, in which individuals can be helped to find and understand their roles in society, and in which the culture and values of society can be maintained and improved.

The Pearl River School District aspires to carry out this philosophy through the development of intellectual growth, self-realization, human relationships, citizenship and economic efficiency.

Philosophy of Pearl River High School

The main goal of education at Pearl River High School is to help individuals understand and cope with a changing society, to increase knowledge and to stimulate desire for intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, and social growth, and to equip students with career skills and a positive self-image. All staff members will strive together to attain these goals. We believe that each student can and will achieve.

PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

School Mission

OUR SCHOOL MISSION IS TO

PPROMOTE A POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE

RREINFORCE CAREER SKILLS

HHELP OUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND AND COPE WITH A CHANGING SOCIETY

STIMULATE DESIRE FOR INTELLECTUAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL GROWTH

MISSION STATEMENT

"BELIEVE YOU CAN ACHIEVE"

BOARD of EDUCATION POLICIES

SUMMARY OF POLICY CONCERNING

Alcohol and Other Substances

The Board of Education of the Pearl River School District is committed to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance use/abuse. This policy describes the philosophy of the District and the program elements the District will use to promote healthy life styles for its students and staff and to inhibit the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances.

No person may use, possess, sell, or distribute alcohol or other substances, use or possess drug paraphernalia, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events, except drugs as prescribed by a physician. The terms "alcohol and other substances" shall be construed throughout this policy to refer to the use of all substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alikes, and any other illicit drugs as defined by the New York State Penal Code. The inappropriate use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall also be prohibited.

Additionally, any person who has consumed or used or shows evidence of use of any of the aforementioned substances is prohibited from entering school grounds or school-sponsored events.

The policy outlines the guidelines used for the development of its substance use/abuse prevention efforts and for any disciplinary measures related to alcohol and other substances. This includes primary prevention, intervention, the employee assistance program, staff discipline, student discipline, staff development, and implementation, dissemination and monitoring of this policy.

Policy Prohibiting Bullying

The Board of Education is committed to safeguarding the rights of all students within the school district to learn in an environment that is free from all forms of harassment, including bullying. Therefore the Board, consistent with law, condemns all forms of bullying.

Bullying is a form of harassment. For purposes of this policy and its implementation "bullying" is defined as:

“The act of threatening, stalking, coercing or intimidating, verbally, physically, in writing, by gesture or through electronic communication, the well-being, health, safety or freedom, of any student, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus that substantially disrupts the educational process.”

If it is determined that bullying has occurred, immediate and appropriate corrective action will be taken. The District shall appropriately discipline the offending individual in accordance with the [School District's Code of Conduct](#). The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed towards any person who reports an act of bullying as well as against any witness who testifies in a bullying investigation.

The Board prohibits the knowingly false reporting of incidents of bullying.

Pearl River Code of Conduct – Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Summary

The Pearl River School District is committed to maintaining high standards of education for our students. In addition, the District and Board of Education is committed to providing an educational environment that promotes respect, dignity and equality in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), and creates and maintains high behavioral standards and expectations.

All students have the right and responsibility to attend and participate in school regularly, be respectful and considerate of others and follow the [School District's Code of Conduct](#) in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, field trips, and at all other school functions and events. Students are expected to treat others as they would like to be treated. All students have the right to feel safe at school, to grow and learn without worry or fear of physical or emotional harm. To that end, the administrators, faculty, staff and students will participate in activities designed to support school climates of caring and respect, and to proactively prevent discrimination, harassment, and bullying, including cyber bullying. These developmentally appropriate activities are designed to foster an acceptance and understanding of differences, provide alternative behaviors and responses, and build the capacity to prevent and reduce bullying.

All students have the responsibility to treat each other with caring and respect. No student shall be treated differently or unfairly because of actual and/or perceived differences. This includes saying hurtful words and/or doing hurtful things either in person, on a computer, or in any other way. Students who feel uncomfortable and/or unsafe because of the words or actions of others should immediately speak with a teacher, administrator, coach, or other adult. The Pearl River [School District's Code of Conduct](#), in accordance with DASA, specifically prohibits, discrimination, harassment, bullying, taunting, hurtful teasing, and cyber bullying, that negatively impacts the ability of a student to focus on school work and participate in school activities based on the following characteristics:

Dignity for All Students	
Race	White, Black or African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian of Other Pacific Islander; Two or more races.
Color	Color of a person's skin.
Weight	The size of a person.
National Origin	Where your relatives were born.
Ethnic Group	Being a part of a group of people who are connected by a shared language, culture, and/or common religion.
Religion	Religious or spiritual belief.
Religious Practice	The expression of your religious belief, customs, traditions, etc.
Disability	A person's body or mind that does not look or work the same as others.
Sex	Are a boy or girl.
Sexual Orientation	A person liking a boy or girl.
Gender Identity and Expression	How a person feels about and expresses being a boy or girl.
Socio-Economic Status	How much money a family earns or has.

Cell Phones, Cam-Phones, Electronic Devices

Cell phones, cam-phones and any other electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off by students during the hours of the student instructional day, except when used with the teacher's prior permission for purposes of calendaring, calculating and noting assignments.

Disability Discrimination Policy for Students

It is the policy of this School District to prohibit discrimination and harassment of students with disabilities as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This policy covers school programs, activities, and events sponsored by the School District. To that end, all officers, supervisory personnel, employees and students of the School District shall be given a copy of this policy and training regarding its terms, procedures, protections and penalties.

Definitions

Disability discrimination is defined as discrimination against a student with a disability recognized under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 whereby such student is not afforded equal educational opportunities, access to educational programs, and/or access to extra- and co-curricular activities for which the student is otherwise qualified in accordance with law.

Disability Harassment is defined as conduct that creates a hostile learning or school environment that is either pervasive and/or severe conduct in the nature of remarks, jokes, gestures, displayed materials or printed materials about the student's disability status or disabled individuals in general. The determination of a hostile learning or school environment shall be objective, based upon the viewpoint of a reasonable person and subjectively perceived to be so by the complainant.

Procedure

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to disability discrimination by an officer, employee, student or business invitee is encouraged to address the matter with the District's Compliance Coordinator, or alternate as designated by the Board, who shall promptly conduct an intake interview and explain the following options for resolution:

- (1) Registering an informal complaint verbally or in writing,
- (2) Registering a formal complaint verbally or in writing, or
- (3) Engaging in mediation to arrive at a resolution of the matter; or
- (4) Placing the District on notice of the objectionable conduct without seeking a resolution through the complaint process or mediation.

The District's Compliance Coordinator or alternate shall be authorized to proceed with a matter raised under paragraph 4 as if it had been filed as an informal complaint or a formal complaint at his/her discretion.

Policy Concerning Hazing

The Pearl River School District prohibits hazing. Hazing has no place in sports or co-curricular activities and will not be tolerated or "excused" as one of the risks assumed by an athlete joining a team (such as an initiation rite) or a student joining a club. Hazing is defined as including but not limited to persecuting or harassing a student by abusing, humiliating, demeaning, rough or difficult tricks; frightening or scolding a student; and/or subjecting a student to personal indignity (physical or mental).

Any student found to take part in any aspect of hazing, as defined above, will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from the team, club and/or school.

High School Lunch Policy

To maintain student focus during the school day on educational program activities, high school students shall be required to eat lunch at school and remain on the school campus during their lunch period with the exception of seniors, who shall enjoy the privilege of walking off school grounds for lunch. Students who drive cars to school, regardless of where they park, are prohibited from using their cars during the hours of the school day, unless they are in possession of a school approved dismissal pass issued by the Building Principal, based upon a written application by the student's parent, legal guardian or the student's own note where the student is an emancipated minor or has reached the age of 21.

For the purposes of enforcing this policy, the School District shall undertake reasonable efforts to monitor automobiles entering and exiting the high school campus lot and to supervise the grounds of the campus. However, the security measures taken are not intended to be a guarantee that no student will leave the campus without authorization during the hours of the school day. It is expected that students will exercise self-control and respect for the school rules in abiding by the requirements of this policy.

Adoption date: September 23, 2003

High School Parking Policy

High School seniors shall be offered the privilege of parking their automotive vehicles at the high school parking lot on days when school is in session. This privilege is subject to revocation in accordance with the [School District's Code of Conduct](#). To be eligible for a parking permit, the senior must produce evidence of a valid driver's license. Students are required to attend a "Safe Driving" seminar given by the Assistant Principal before receiving a parking sticker.

Adoption date: September 23, 2003

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Pearl River Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, creed, sexual orientation, genetic predisposition or carrier status, marital status or military status in employment or its educational programs in accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI); Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1973 (Title IX); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504); the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the ADA); the Age Discrimination In Employment Act of 1967 (the A.D.E.A.); the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.); or Section 291 of the New York State Executive Law, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, creed, sexual orientation, genetic predisposition or carrier status, marital status or military status. Education Act (I.D.E.A.); or Section 291 of the New York State Executive Law, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, creed, sexual orientation, genetic predisposition or carrier status, marital status or military status.

If you have questions regarding the District's responsibilities under these laws and regulations, if you wish to make a complaint pursuant to any of these laws and regulations, or if you require services related to a disability pursuant to Section 504, I.D.E.A. and the ADA, please contact the following: The Director of Special Services is the responsible individual designated as Compliance Coordinator to facilitate the District's efforts to comply with Titles VI, VII, IX, §504/ADA, I.D.E.A., the A.D.E.A. and §291 NYS Executive Law. The Director of Special Services may be reached at (845) 620-5938, 135 West Crooked Hill Road, Pearl River, New York 10965. This policy shall be annually published in employee and student handbooks, the Student Code of Conduct, recruitment materials and publications and issued as part of the school calendar. The District's Compliant Coordinator or alternate will also explain that the complaining student shall not be subject to retaliation or retribution by reason of making the complaint and that confidentiality shall be maintained throughout the process, except as necessary to assure fair and due process.

Informal Complaints

An informal complaint will be promptly reviewed by the District's Compliance Coordinator or alternate, who shall issue a written report to the Superintendent of Schools, within seven (7) days. The Superintendent shall take such further action necessary to reasonably deter any further act prohibited by this policy. Such further action may include referring the matter to a Complaint investigator as if it has been filed as a formal complaint.

Formal Complaints

All formal complaints shall be received in writing or reduced to writing by the Compliance Coordinator or alternate, who shall personally or by reference to a designee on the Board's approval list conduct a full and fair investigation of the complaint, make written findings of fact and, where warranted, recommend a resolution to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall advise the complainant and the subject of the complaint of the disposition of the complaint that may include:

- (1) a finding that this policy has not been violated, or
- (2) a finding that this policy has been violated and appropriate corrective, disciplinary and/or other action has been taken.

Alternates

The Board shall appoint an alternate Compliance Officer and several designated formal Complaint investigators. Complainant will have a choice between the Compliance Officer and alternate to approach regarding a complaint. If the complaint is about the Superintendent of Schools, the Board shall stand in the Superintendent's place for review activities.

Appeal of Formal Complaints

If a formal complaint hasn't been processed to a satisfactory disposition by the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days, unless extended with the written consent of the complainant, the complainant may appeal in writing to the Board for disciplinary action to be taken or disciplinary proceedings to be commenced, where necessary.

Confidentiality

The District's Compliance Officer and alternate, Complaint investigators, the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education shall, to the maximum extent possible, maintain as confidential the transaction(s) underlying the proceedings or complaint, the outcome of a mediated agreement and action taken, other than formal discipline. The subject of the proceedings or complaint, however, shall be informed of the identity of the person who commenced the proceedings or complaint in order to provide fair and due process. Both the complainant and the subject of the complaint shall be given a copy of the findings in the matter of a formal complaint.

Consequences

Any officer, supervisor or employee who violates this policy shall be subject to corrective action up to and including termination of office or employment, with due process provided as necessary. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action.

Any complaint that is determined to have been processed maliciously or in bad faith, shall be deemed to be in violation of this policy and may give rise to disciplinary consequences against the complainant.

Training

The District shall provide appropriate training to students regarding awareness of and sensitivity to issues involving disability discrimination, including condemnation of such conduct, the sanctions for disability discrimination and harassment and preventive measures to help reduce incidents of disability discrimination and harassment.

Distribution of Policy

A copy of this policy and its accompanying regulations shall be made available annually to all personnel, students and parents/guardians and posted in appropriate places within the District.

Sexual Harassment Policy Concerning Students

It is the policy of this School District to prohibit student sexual harassment and student gender discrimination in the schools, at school activities and at events sponsored by the School District. To that end, all officers, supervisory personnel, employees and students of the School District shall be given a copy of this policy and training regarding its terms, procedures, protections and penalties.

Definitions

Sexual Harassment is defined as discrimination against a person of a different or the same sex because of their sex, which creates a sexually hostile learning or school environment.

Sexual harassment that creates a hostile learning or school environment is either pervasive and/or severe conduct that involves unwelcome: sexual advances; sexual conduct that constitutes a crime; sexual touching; indecent exposure of a sexual nature; pervasive sexual remarks, comments, displayed materials, printed materials, electronic media or jokes. The determination of a hostile learning or school environment shall be objective, based upon the viewpoint of a reasonable person and subjectively perceived to be so by the complainant.

Gender discrimination is defined as pervasive and/or severe conduct intended to intimidate or demean a person or persons of the other gender or that which treats a person of the other gender differently in the learning or school environment because of his or her gender.

Procedure

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment or gender discrimination by an officer, employee, student or business invitee is encouraged to address the matter with any District Title IX Officer, who shall promptly conduct an intake interview and explain the following options for resolution:

- (1) Registering an informal complaint verbally or in writing; or
- (2) Registering a formal complaint verbally or in writing; or
- (3) Engaging in mediation to arrive at a resolution of the matter; or
- (4) Placing the District on notice of the objectionable conduct without seeking a resolution through the complaint process or mediation.

The Title IX Officer shall be authorized to proceed with a matter raised under paragraph 4 as if it had been filed as an informal complaint or a formal complaint at his/her discretion.

The intake Title IX Officer will also explain that the complaining students shall not be subject to retaliation or retribution by reason of making the complaint and that confidentiality shall be maintained throughout the process, except as necessary to assure fair and due process.

Informal Complaints

An informal complaint will be promptly reviewed by an intake Title IX Officer, who shall issue a written report to the Superintendent of Schools, within seven (7) days. The Superintendent shall take such further action necessary to reasonably deter any further act prohibited by this policy. Such further action may include referring the matter to a Title IX investigator as if it had been filed as a formal complaint.

Formal Complaints

All formal complaints shall be received in writing or reduced to writing by an intake Title IX Officer, who shall personally or by reference to a designee on the Board's approval list conduct a full and fair investigation of the complaint, make written findings of fact and, where warranted, recommend a resolution to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall advise the complainant and the subject of the complaint of the disposition of the complaint that may include:

- (1) a finding that this policy has been violated; or
- (2) a finding that this policy has been violated and a critical evaluative letter has been issued with a requirement of corrective training for the subject of the complaint if an employee; or
- (3) that disciplinary action has been taken or where pre-disciplinary charges must be preferred, that they have been preferred in order to convene a disciplinary hearing.

Alternates

The Board shall appoint more than one Title IX Officer and several designated Title IX formal complaint investigators. Complainant will have a choice of which Title IX Officer to approach regarding a Title IX complaint. If the complaint is about the Superintendent of Schools, the Board shall stand in the Superintendent's place for review activities.

Appeal of Formal Complaints

If a formal complaint hasn't been processed to a satisfactory disposition by the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days, unless extended with the written consent of the complainant, the complainant may appeal in writing to the Board for disciplinary action to be taken or disciplinary proceedings to be commenced, where necessary.

Confidentiality

The District's Title IX Officer(s), the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education shall, to the maximum extent possible, maintain as confidential the transaction(s) underlying the proceedings or complaint, the outcome of a mediated agreement and action taken, other than formal discipline. The subject of the proceedings or complaint, however, shall be informed of the identity of the person who commenced the proceedings or complaint in order to provide fair and due process. Both the complainant and the subject of the complaint shall be given a copy of the findings in the matter of a formal complaint.

Consequences

Any officer, supervisor or employee who violates this policy shall be subject to corrective action up to and including termination of office or employment, with due process provided as necessary. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary or other corrective action. Any complaint that is determined to have been processed maliciously or in bad faith shall be deemed to be in violation of this policy and may give rise to disciplinary consequences against the complainant

Student-Staff Communications via Email, Cell Phones and Text Messaging

Staff members and students shall not communicate with each other by e-mail, and/or cell phones except at student e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers on a list furnished to staff, by the District, setting forth information contained on a parent consent form. List information shall be shared with the student's current building administrators, teachers, activity supervisors and coaches. The list shall be issued at the beginning of the school year, updated for newly enrolled students and otherwise updated at the beginning of each semester. Employees shall not use information from the list except for that provided to them for their current students. Text-messaging or instant messaging between staff and students while not recommended shall be limited to curricular or school activity related communications.

Such messages shall not be communicated between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. However, teachers, activity advisors and coaches may post information such as homework and scheduling of activities at any time of the day.

Trespassing on School Property

The school buildings and grounds of the District are intended for use to implement the instructional, extra-curricular and athletic activities of students attending our schools, as well as for certain community and civic uses that support the quality of life in our school community. In order to provide for the proper maintenance and security of school grounds, buildings and their contents, persons who are not engaged in school activities or Board – approved after-school hour activities shall be restricted from being present on the grounds of or in the buildings at the several school sites within the District as follows:

High School and Middle school	Between the hours of 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM
Elementary Schools	From one (1) hour after dusk until 6:00 AM

Any persons, violating the restrictions of this policy shall be subject to prosecution for trespassing on school grounds, including for criminal trespass in the third degree whenever such person knowingly enters or remain unlawfully in a school building in violation of conspicuously posted rules or regulations setting forth the rules for entry and use of school buildings or in violation of a personally communicated request to leave the school building from any school administrator of the building.

ACADEMICS

Academic Achievement

The key to our marking is as follows:

Above: 90	-	A - Excellent
80-89	-	B - Good
70-79	-	C - Fair
65-69	-	D - Marginal Passing
Below 65	-	F - Failing

Letter grades are used only for those courses not included in class rank.

High Honors and Honor Roll lists are computed each of the four marking periods for those students carrying the equivalent of six courses, one of which is Physical Education. In addition, a yearly honor roll will be computed for honors achievement in all four quarters.

High Honors - overall average of 90 and above, no failures, no incompletes
Honors - overall average of 85-89.99, no failures, no incompletes

Auditing

Auditing permits a student to attend a class without credit in order to review the subject for reinforcement, to prepare for a Regents examination or for enrichment. Administrator, counselor and teacher permission are required. AP courses may **not** be audited.

Class Rank

Class rank is a student's average in relation to all other members of the class and it is determined by the **weighted** high school average. The high school average includes all final grades achieved in credit courses used toward graduation. It is computed at the conclusion of junior year.

For the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian, and the final class rank for the top 10%, weighted averages are recomputed at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year. Rank also determines the top 10% of students honored at the Awards Ceremony.

Counseling Services

Guidance counselors, the school psychologists, the social worker and others provide assistance to students and families in a myriad of areas beyond scheduling and course placement. There is concern for the personal, social and individual growth of each student.

In order to assist students when they apply to college, please utilize the activity checklist that is located in the appendix of this handbook. This chart has been developed to help students and their parents keep track of high school activities, volunteer experiences and jobs. It is recommended that this chart be updated each June.

Counseling activities include:

Student Orientation	College forums
SAT/PSAT testing programs	Coordination of parent conferences
College Advisement	Naviance
AP Testing Programs	Scheduling
Financial Aid Information	Academic Counseling
Referral services	Support services

Course Changes/Course Drop

Students are expected to remain committed to choices made during the selection process. All course subject changes require parental consent, approval by the counselor and principal and are subject to established deadlines and space availability in the new course. A change of level within the same subject area, generally, will not be approved.

It should be understood that for the student to receive full credit for late entry into a course, arrangements must be made for making up missed work. The student has the responsibility for seeing that this is carried out. The deadline for a student dropping a fall semester course is the first Friday in October, for a second semester course, the first Friday in March. The deadline for a student dropping a full year course is the first Friday in December. Drops before these deadlines incur no penalty. Courses specifically required for graduation may only be dropped in exceptional circumstances and require approval by the principal. The intent of extending this into the second marking period is to give the teacher and counselor the opportunity to encourage the student to remain in the course.

No credit is granted for dropped courses. It is important to note that dropping courses which are selected by students, confirmed by parents, and recommended and approved by staff and counselors is discouraged at all times.

Course Placement Criteria

Specific criteria for each course are available in the [Program of Studies](#) booklet.

Some departments may select different criteria, please refer to the [Program of Studies](#) booklet for specifics.

Course Selection

The annual process of course selection begins in winter when families receive the [Program of Studies](#). It is also posted on the school website. There are a series of information sessions conducted by teachers and counselors as well as individual conferences with students. Teachers will select recommended courses for students to take the following year, entering their choices in our student management system. At the end of that process a listing of the courses selected by each student is posted on the Parent Portal for review and approval by parents. This provides an opportunity to make changes prior to the master schedule being developed.

Credit

Credit is a numerical value given to a subject. One credit is earned for study in a subject conducted five periods a week (40 weeks). One-half credit is awarded for subjects held five periods a week for one-half year (20 weeks) or one which is on alternate days for the entire school year.

Curriculum

Curriculum refers to a course of study offered in an educational institution by a department and tied to specific outcomes.

Eighth graders in high school courses

Eighth grade students may be allowed to enroll in high school level courses upon meeting acceleration criteria. It should be noted that these courses will receive high school credit and will count towards a student's grade point average and class ranking. These courses will appear on the student's college transcript. These courses may also include students in grades 9 through 12. **An eighth grader enrolled in a high school credit course constitutes acceleration; current school, district and state criteria for acceleration apply.**

Elective Eligibility

Courses are generally open to students in grades 9-12 unless specifically noted otherwise. Course placement is randomly assigned by the student management system and electives are not guaranteed.

Electives

Electives are subjects in any department which are not strictly required or "core" subjects. These may be applied to diploma requirements or may be taken in addition to those required for graduation.

Final Grades

In a one semester course, each marking period will count as forty percent of the final grade. The final exam will count as twenty percent of the grade. In full year courses, each marking period will count as twenty percent of the grade. The mid-term and final exams will each count as ten percent. Where no final exam is used, marking periods will be weighted equally.

Goals

1. Students will develop and demonstrate proficiency in the core areas: language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and a world language.

Language Arts

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

Mathematics

- Computation/Estimation
- Data Analysis
- Algebra
- Geometry

Social Sciences

- History
- Geography
- Economics

Science

- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Research

World Language

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Culture

2. Students will demonstrate and have an understanding of the ecological consequences of their decisions.
3. Students will develop a commitment to lifelong learning and demonstrate an understanding of diverse sources of information.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and solve problems individually and cooperatively.
5. Students will exhibit basic civic values and demonstrate the knowledge and understanding necessary to participate in the democratic process.
6. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the use of technology in learning and appreciate how it can enhance the quality of their lives.
7. Students will experience, respond critically and appropriately to the performing and fine arts.
8. Students will be vocationally aware and be prepared to examine different aspects of career opportunities.
9. Students will demonstrate the interpersonal and communication skills necessary to participate effectively in a culturally and politically diverse world.
10. Students will acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable the development of self-esteem and the ability to maintain physical, mental and emotional health.

Grade 8 Required Courses

Language Arts/English
Social Studies
Science
Mathematics

World Language
Unified Arts Rotation
Physical Education

Electives may be chosen from the following areas:

Art

Careers

Technology

Music

These elective courses are high school level courses. Students enrolled in these courses receive high school credit. These courses count toward a student's grade point average. As accelerated courses, prerequisites must be met. The successful completion of 8th grade academic courses is a prerequisite for enrollment in the ninth grade course (Social Studies, Language Arts, Science and Mathematics).

Grading Policy

Grades are generally numeric and only courses using a numerical final average are part of a student's cumulative high school average. Final averages in full year courses are generally calculated using a formula of 20% for each marking period, 10% for a mid-year exam and 10% for a final exam. For semester courses, a weighting of 40% for each marking period and 20% for the final exam is used. When no mid-year or final exam is used, marking period grades are weighted equally. Course failures in courses required for graduation must usually be made up in summer school. Only students with course grades of 50 or better will be eligible for summer school.

Graduation

Upon completion of all credit requirements, sequence requirements, locally required computer/career course, New York State mandated testing and 40 hours of community service (10 hours annually from grades 9-12), a student is eligible to receive a New York State Diploma from Pearl River High School. Currently students are required to earn a total of 22 credits (including PE) to meet minimal graduation credit criteria.

Participation in the graduation ceremony, the commencement exercises in June, is open only to those students who are eligible to receive a New York State Diploma. Students who become eligible for a high school diploma later in June, August or January may participate in the graduation ceremony the following June.

Graduation Requirements

Please note: Graduation requirements include a combination of required Regents exams, units of credit earned, and sequences in addition to the completion of 40 required community service hours (10 hours for each of the 4 years in high school).

REGENTS DIPLOMA

REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION

Content Area	Credits	Content Area	Credits
English	4	English	4
Social Studies	4	Social Studies	4
Math	3	Math	3
Science	3	Science	3
World Language (LOTE)	1*	World Language (LOTE)	3**
Art/Music	1	Art/Music	1
Health	0.5	Health	0.5
Physical Ed	2	Physical Ed	2
Electives	3.5	Electives	1.5
Total:	22.0	Total:	22.0

Note: *New York State requirement is fulfilled after passing the World Language Level I final exam and earning a unit of commencement level credit in World Language. LOTE (Languages other than English)

**Students acquiring 5 units in Art, Music, Business, Technology or Vocational Education may be exempt from 3-year sequence for the advanced diploma.

Special Education students who are exempt on their IEP’s from a world language requirement do not need to make up any additional classes or meet a separate sequence requirement. They must still earn all 22 credits necessary for graduation.

REQUIRED EXAMS

REGENTS DIPLOMA

REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION

(Passing score of 65 or above)

(Passing score of 65 or above)

English Language Arts Regents Exam	English Language Arts Regents Exam
Math Regents Exam	3 Math Regents Exams
Global History Regents Exam	Global History Regents Exam
US History Regents Exam	US History Regents Exam
Science Regents Exam	2 Science Regents Exams (1 physical Science, 1 life science)
	World Language Level III Local Exam

Note: Classified students are allowed certain safety net options regarding Regents exam grades and are eligible for local diplomas. NYS has also established the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential for classified students.

There are pathway assessment options that may be used in combination with the required ELA, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science exams leading to a regents or Advanced Regents diploma. Contact your guidance counselor regarding diploma options.

High School Equivalency (TASC)

Students entering a High School Equivalency program must first drop out of Pearl River High School. Depending on the age of the student, a student may have to wait at least one year before becoming eligible for the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) preparation course offered by RCC. The cost of TASC courses is the responsibility of students and/or their parents. Go to the following website for more information

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/what-hsetasc-test>

Honors Courses

Continuation in Honors Courses

Final course grade of 87

Final exam or Regents exam grade of 90

Honor Roll

Honor roll - overall average of 85- 89.99 with no failing grades, no incompletes

High honor roll - overall average of 90 and above with no failing grades, no incompletes

Students who earn a 90 or above in each individual marking period (1, 2, and 3) are recognized at Awards Night.

NOTE: No rounding up of averages is done for any recognition programs

Honor Society

Pearl River High School maintains membership in the prestigious National Honor Society and inducts new members in the fall of 11th or 12th grade.

Criteria for membership include an average of 90 %, teacher recommendation and individual qualities of leadership, good character and service. In addition, departmental honor organizations are open to qualified students in English, Social Studies, Math, Science, World Languages, Music and Art. Criteria are available from the guidance office.

National Honor Society – Criteria for Admission

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Students are invited to apply for admission in the fall of their junior or senior year, based upon these criteria.

Scholarship– The student must have a cumulative, unweighted average of 90% or above in all high school credit courses taken up through the date of admission.

Character – In his or her interactions within the school and in the community, the student must consistently demonstrate exemplary character as evidenced by such factors as integrity, cooperation, acceptance of responsibility, dedication to learning, compliance with school rules, courtesy, respect, dependability, and high ethical standards. The student’s discipline, attendance and punctuality records are also considered.

Service and Leadership – The student must present a record of service to the school and community which clearly demonstrates an altruistic attitude and a commitment towards volunteerism and which significantly exceeds the required service learning hours needed for graduation. Service hours must have been completed during grades 9 and 10 for juniors or grades 9, 10 and 11 for seniors. Service hours must be activities for which the student did not receive academic credit or monetary compensation and should demonstrate quality time donated to significantly benefit the student’s school and community. Only service hours completed for an established, legitimate service organization will be accepted (For example: **NO** babysitting, private tutoring, or hours completed for profit-making companies will be counted). Through these service activities, the student must exhibit strong leadership skills, including an ability to exercise a positive influence on peers, to delegate responsibilities successfully, to demonstrate initiative, and to conduct oneself as a mature, reliable role model. As indicated on the chart on the next page, service totaling 120 **hours** must be documented as follows:

- 30 Hours for a **non-profit, community service organization not affiliated with Pearl River HS.**
- 30 Hours for a **club, committee or extracurricular activity affiliated with Pearl River HS.**
- 60 Additional Hours in **any combination of community and/or school service.**

Notes: A maximum of 30 hours per season and 60 hours in total will be accepted for sports activities. A maximum of 30 hours per theatre production and 60 hours in total for theatre productions will be accepted. A maximum of 30 hours per club per year and 60 hours in total for a club will be accepted.

Also, if a student has not completed all required hours through one single activity or at one location, s/he may obtain an evaluation form from the advisor of an activity to which they have donated at least fifteen hours of service, and combine services rendered to a few other organizations of at least 5 hours each, in order to reach the total required hours. All hours must be documented on the required forms.

Method of Evaluation: Students who meet the scholarship criteria will be invited to submit a candidate packet of color-coded forms including “Teacher Evaluation Forms” from five subject area teachers as well as “Service & Leadership Evaluation Forms” which will document 120 hours of service verified by school and community advisors who are objective adults not related to the candidates. Evaluation forms should only be given to advisors or organizations for whom the student has donated a minimum of 15 hours. It is the responsibility of the student to submit all required forms and recommendations in time to meet the announced deadline. This information along with the student’s attendance, punctuality, and disciplinary records will be reviewed by a Faculty Selection Committee who makes the final decisions regarding admission. For more information, please visit the National Honor Society website which is a link from the high school homepage.

Green Service Log Addendum Form is optional. It may be used to list service from a few organizations (in groups of 5 hours or more each) which can be added to 15 hours on a blue, pink or yellow form to fulfill the required number of hours

Record of compliance with school policies regarding attendance, punctuality, discipline, and academic integrity.

Information is provided by the high school office.

30 hours of service to one or more community service organizations (no individuals).

Organizations must be not-for-profit

Documented on a blue community service form.

30 hours of service to Pearl River High School in activities affiliated with the school and that benefit the school and its population.

Documented on a pink school service form.

The Successful National Honor Society Candidate

Cumulative unweighted academic average of at least 90%

A maximum of 30 hours per season of a sport and a maximum of 60 total hours for sports will be accepted to fulfill these 90 hours.

A maximum of 30 hours per theatre production and a maximum of 60 total hours for theatre will be accepted to fulfill these 90 hours

A maximum of 30 hours per school activity/club per year for a maximum of 60 total hours for any one school activity/club will be accepted to fulfill these 90 hours.

Completed candidate packet submitted by due date at 3pm. No forms will be accepted after the due date.

Documented on white forms.

5 Teacher Recommendation Forms

Documented on white forms.

60 hours of service in two or more extracurricular activities; may be service to the school and/or the community.

Documented on two yellow extracurricular activity forms.

- Ratings on evaluation forms from teachers and advisors are converted to a numerical scale; a successful student scores at least 9 out of 12 on the scale
- If extra forms are submitted, the faculty evaluation committee will use those evaluations which are most favorable to the candidate.
- Any blue, pink or yellow form with fewer than 15 hours will not be considered toward an application.

English Honor Society

Students are eligible for induction in the National English Honor Society in their junior year based on an English course average of 90% in grades 9, 10, and the first semester of grade 11, provided each yearly average and first semester average in the year of induction is not below an 88%. Continuing membership is based on maintaining membership grades. Students may also become eligible for induction in senior year based on an achievement in English in grades 10, 11, and the first semester of grade 12.

French Honor Society

The French Honor Society is for students in the third year of French who have maintained an average of 90%.

Italian Honor Society

The Italian Honor Society is for students in the third year of Italian who have maintained an average of 90%.

Latin Honor Society

The Latin Honor Society is for students in the third year of Latin who have maintained an average of 90%.

Math Honor Society (Mu Alpha Theta)

Mu Alpha Theta is for students who have completed Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2 and maintained a 90 final course average or at least a 90 Regents exam score for Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2. All members are responsible for attending the honor society induction.

Science Honor Society

The Pearl River High School Science Honor Society is affiliated with the New York State Science Honor Society. After initiation into the Science Honor Society the following criteria must be met: Students must be matriculated in a science course each year with a cumulative 90 average in science. All members must successfully complete 10 hours of service to the Science Department by the last Friday in May. All new members should attend the Science Society induction ceremony.

Social Studies Honor Society (RHO KAPPA)

RHO KAPPA is for students who have achieved a Social Studies average of 90. Students are eligible for induction in junior year based on achievement in all Social Studies classes in grades 9 and 10. Continuing membership is based on maintaining grades.

Spanish Honor Society

The Spanish Honor Society is for students in the third year of Spanish who have maintained an average of 90%.

Tri-M Music Society

Students are eligible by participation in a performing group, receiving a NYSSMA solo rating of Good (B) or better in a County or State Music Function. They must maintain a school academic average of 80% or better and they must perform at concerts as a soloist or in an ensemble. Responsibilities include helping in Music Department fundraisers and ushering at concerts and plays. Students in grades 10 through 12 are eligible and must be nominated by a music teacher.

**PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL
HONOR ROLLS/HONOR SOCIETIES**

Subject	Grade Inducted	Scores/Averages	Teacher Recommendation	Other
Art	11-12	87.5 in all courses 90 average in art courses	Yes (2)	Portfolio, essay, 3 art credits
English	11-12	88 is lowest end of the year average considered. Student must eventually arrive at a 90 combined weighted average in core courses to be admitted in Junior or Senior year.	Yes (2)	
World Languages	10-12	90 for 5 semesters of study	No	Currently in World Language, application
Math	11-12	90 in Algebra, Geometry, algebra 2 (90 Regents as alternate)	No	Currently in Math, Service
Music	10-12	Music ratings of "B", 80% in all courses	Yes	Participation in Music events. 5 hours of music service
Science	10-12	For initial membership a student must have earned a 90 average for the first 2 years of a high school science course or a cumulative average of 90 in the following years.	Yes (2)	Candidates must be enrolled in a science course and must receive recommendations from 2 high school science teachers verifying their character.
Social Studies	11-12	Maintain a 90 average in core social studies classes	Yes (2)	Application-highlighting community service, leadership, extra-curricular activities

Individual Awards

All averages are carried out to four decimal places and no rounding is done for awards, honors, GPA or class rank. Averages will include all numerically graded subjects and no student with a failing grade or an incomplete will be considered for any award.

Minimum Course Load

All students' in grades 9 through 12 must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses or their equivalent plus Physical Education. 8th graders are generally enrolled in the equivalent of 8 periods of study. These requirements may be waived by the principal in exceptional circumstances.

Occupational Education

This term includes the 4 credit programs taught at BOCES and courses taught as Business and Technology.

Physical Education

The high school program helps students develop the knowledge and capacity to plan and implement a personal lifetime program of sound physical and healthful activities. The following are among the program objectives:

- Provide an instructional physical education program of fitness, individual and team sports, and safety.
- Provide a program which offers more opportunities for coeducational experiences and special activities.
- Provide a program which reflects the trends in our society toward physical fitness education, tennis, jogging, nutrition, aerobics, racquetball, golf, archery, weight training, outdoor education, dance and winter sports.
- Provide programs which comply with State recommended guidelines.
- Provide opportunities for physical education counseling which encourage a better understanding of personal goals and objectives.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites are the requirements which must be met before any student may be programmed for a given subject. These may consist of meeting certain standards on exams in previously completed courses, and/or the recommendations of teachers, director or administrators.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be posted on the parent portal a week after the middle of the marking ends (Please see chart under the **Report Cards** section.) Upon request, progress reports will be mailed home.

Promotion Procedures

While the school recognizes that students will make progress toward graduation at different rates, the school does not accept failure as a student's right, but rather expects that all parts of the school community will work together to see that a student's progress toward graduation is continuous.

To help all members of the school community understand that graduation is the goal, the movement from one grade to the next will depend on the outcomes achieved and the number of credits earned toward that goal of graduation by September 1 of each school year. Credits must include English, Social Studies, Math and Science and satisfactory progress in required courses and sequences must be made.

Sophomore status - 5 credits

Junior status - 10 credits

Senior status - 15 credits

Seniors Status

To be considered a senior, a student must be eligible to graduate in June with all required courses scheduled. All requirements for graduation must be completed for a student to participate in the commencement program.

Ranks

Pearl River High School grades are not weighted for report cards, permanent records, or academic awards, with the exception of the top 10% academic awards. Weighted grades are only used to determine rank for college and to determine the top 10% of the graduating class. Final course averages in high school credit courses will be weighted according to the following formula:

Honors courses	1.03
College courses	1.06
Advanced placement courses	1.10

Regents Course

Curriculum is prepared in accordance with the NYS standards issued by the State Education Department and evaluated through the Regents exams in specific core courses. The Regents level is considered "average" by New York State.

Regents Diploma

An endorsement by New York State for students who have reached the required level of achievement.

Report Cards

Report cards will be issued four times during the year at the end of each marking period. The marking periods end on or about the dates listed below. Report cards will be posted on the parent portal and mailed home approximately one week after. The June report cards will be mailed on the day following graduation.

	Progress Report		Report Cards
Mid Marking Period 1	October 4	End Marking Period 1	November 8
Mid Marking Period 2	December 13	End Marking Period 2	January 24
Mid Marking Period 3	February 28	End Marking Period 3	April 3
Mid Marking Period 4	May 15	End Marking Period 4	June 26

Required ("Core") Subjects

Required subjects are those which all students must take to meet graduation requirements as specified by the New York State Department of Education and the Pearl River Board of Education. See the [Program of Studies](#) for detailed outline of high school graduation requirements.

Rotation Schedule for Unified Arts

1 st Rotation	September 4
2 nd Rotation	November 12
3 rd Rotation	January 27
4 th Rotation	April 6

Summer School Courses and August Regents

The cost of summer school courses and August Regents exams are the responsibilities of students and/or their families. Full payment for summer school is required at the time of enrollment. High School guidance counselors will collect checks and complete registration forms for summer school.

Testing

All SAT test scores and ACT scores are the responsibility of the student to report to the colleges to which they are applying. Standardized test scores (SAT/ ACT/ AP/ SAT 2) do NOT appear on the high school transcript. Please refer to www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org to send chosen scores to colleges.

Testing Program

A district-wide, uniform testing program in place for all Pearl River students, provides for aptitude, intelligence and achievement tests at specific grade levels. In addition to the tests, students will be exposed to career interest surveys and value inventories during their freshman and sophomore years as counselors meet with small groups to focus on career development and decision making.

GRADE	TESTS	DATES
8	NYS English Language Arts.....	March 25 - March 27
8	NYS Math.....	April 21- April 23
8	NYS Science Performance Assessment	May 18 - May 20
8	NYS Science Written Assessment	June 1
10, 11	Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT).....	October 19
11, 12	SAT & SAT Subject Tests.....	Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7 May 2, June 6
11, 12	SAT Only.....	March 14
11, 12	ACT.....	Sept. 14, Oct. 26, Dec. 14, Feb. 8, April 4, June 13
10, 11, 12	Advanced Placement Exams (AP)	May 4 - 15
All grades	New York State Regents Exams/Local Exams.....	Jan. 21- Jan. 24
All grades	New York State Regents Exams/Local Exams	June 17 – June 25

SAT

Registration for Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Advanced Placement tests are conducted by Guidance Office personnel and publicized through student announcements prior to the test date. Dates are listed on the District Calendar as well. For the SAT and ACT exams students must register directly with the appropriate testing companies. Information will be provided during the year regarding deadlines and websites.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Attendance Procedures

Arrival at School: Students may enter the building at 7:00 AM. Students arriving earlier in inclement weather should go directly to the cafeteria until that time. Students are expected to be seated in first period and homeroom by 7:34 AM. Students arriving after this time must report to the attendance office. Students coming to school after first period has begun must report to the Attendance desk in the main office to receive a late pass.

Absences: Regular and punctual attendance is of primary importance to academic success. **The knowledge and consent of a parent does not constitute a legal excuse unless it is for reasons deemed legal under the attendance regulations** and such excused absences are generally limited to illness and medical care, death in the family, religious observance with prior notice from the parent, required appearance at governmental agencies, and school approved activities away from the school. If a student is to be absent from school, the parent should notify the Health Office (845-620-3820) or Attendance Office (845-620-3818) that morning. Absences from school will be recorded as unexcused until the school attendance office receives written verification from a parent or guardian for an allowable excuse. For purposes of evaluating the academic performance of a student, regular and punctual attendance is considered a minimum expectation for satisfactory completion of all courses.

Class Absences: A daily attendance bulletin is emailed to all staff members indicating those students absent from school or late to school. A student will be assigned after school detention for the first unexcused absence from class. A parent conference may be arranged to attempt to resolve the problem. Failure to produce a parent note within 48 hours will result in penalties of increased severity including:

- (1) restricted room
- (2) suspension
- (3) suspension for insubordination
- (4) student dropped from class
- (5) superintendent's hearing
- (6) court referral (P.I.N.S. Petition) if under 16

Early Dismissal: Written parental requests for a student to leave school during the school day must be submitted with signature of parent or guardian and the telephone number where the parent or guardian can be reached. Students in grades 8, 9 and 10 will not be permitted to leave the building unless picked up in the main office by a parent or adult relative or adult neighbor that is designated in the letter. The person who is picking up the student must show identification.

Lateness: Latecomers **period 1** must go to the attendance office upon arrival and will only be accepted into class with a pass from the attendance office. Students must bring in a parent note to the attendance office. Failure to produce a note within 48 hours will result in a scheduled after school detention. Students are expected to be on time to all classes throughout the day and to present a pass for any class to which they arrive late.

Readmission: Every student must present a note from a parent or guardian on the first day of that student's return to school. This note shall be presented at the Nurse's Office or the Attendance Office, depending upon the nature of the absence. Each absence note must contain the following information: name and grade of student, date of absence, reason, signature of parent or guardian and the phone number where parent or guardian can be reached during the school day. The appropriate office shall issue the student a re-admit pass if the note is acceptable. This pass is to be shown to all of the student's teachers upon arrival in their classes. It is the responsibility of the student to provide a readmit pass to his/her teachers. Duplicate passes will not be issued.

Invalid or non-existent notes shall result in the student's referral to the Attendance Office. The student shall be issued an unexcused absence pass by the Attendance Officer and will be addressed as noted above. **Make up work following an absence is the responsibility of the student** who should get assignments from a classmate during the absence and, on return, check with each teacher to determine the process for making up work. If a student will be absent more than three days, the guidance office should be contacted. Guidance staff will gather work from teachers and this should be picked up in the guidance office 24 hours after the phone contact. If a student will be absent for an extended period due to illness, contact the guidance counselor or assistant principal to discuss the possibility of home teaching.

If possible, early dismissal letters should be delivered to the main office when the student arrives to school. Letters may also be faxed to (845-620-3904) in case of an emergency. No student will be dismissed unless the written note is confirmed by a phone call from the Attendance Department.

Building Safety

The high school office is open daily from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. After 3:30 PM, the only high school doors open for general use will be those off Central Ave, at the flagpole and at the gym.

Computer Lab

There are supervised computer labs open for students during each period of the day. Students may get a pass to use the computer lab from the study hall teacher or lunch room teacher.

Detention

Detention is part of the school's progressive disciplinary process. It is hoped that surrendering some "free time" might act as a deterrent to violating school rules and regulations. Afterschool detention is assigned by school administrators. In addition, teachers may assign "academic detention" to students who need to make up work or need some extra help.

Elevator

The elevator in the building is for use of people who are covered by the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, by people with temporary medical conditions, by the infirm and by members of the custodial staff in the moving of materials. Use of the elevator may be arranged through the school nurse.

Evacuation Procedures

In the event that an evacuation of Pearl River High School is necessary because of an emergency, the following plan would be implemented:

1. A school-wide announcement would inform students of the situation, of the dismissal time, the bus arrival schedule and any other relevant information. Students would be dismissed from whatever class they are in at the announced dismissal time.
2. Depending on the circumstances, sufficient time may be allowed for students to get belongings from lockers and report to the bus loading area.
3. Students not transported by the district would be directed to leave school and go directly home.
4. Physically limited students would report to the library where special arrangements concerning their transportation home will be made.

Examination Make-Ups

Students missing mid-year or final exams are required to make up these exams within ten school days. Failure to comply will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. Missed Regents, Competency or Proficiency exams can be made up at the next exam period in which the state test is scheduled.

Extracurricular Eligibility

In order to participate in any after school activity, event, game, concert, play, etc., a student must be present in school on the day of the activity (or the day immediately preceding the activity taking place on a weekend or during a vacation) before the end of period 2. An extenuating circumstance may be brought to the attention of the Attendance Officer prior to the event.

Field Trips

For any trip sanctioned by the school, a permission slip signed by the parent or guardian at least five school days before the scheduled trip is a requirement. Eligibility for any field trip to be determined by the teacher and administration who will review course grades, attendance, and disciplinary record to determine eligibility. All field trips are pending approval of the Board of Education.

Fire Drill Instruction

A continuous ringing of the fire bell will indicate a fire drill. Each classroom has a red sign outlining the route to be used in leaving the school building for a fire drill. When the bell is sounded, students should rise quietly and move toward the door. The teacher and class will then proceed quietly and quickly to the exit. Once outside, the class should stay together and move to an area away from the building and off all roadways. An all clear signal will be given, at that time the building may be re-entered and classes resumed.

Guidance Appointments

Appointments may be initiated by students or counselors. Counselors will schedule appointments and provide students with a confirmed appointment pass.

Homeroom Announcements

Period 1 in the morning is the school's "homeroom." It is at the end of Period 1 that daily announcements of activities are made, guidance passes issued, attendance taken and the housekeeping chores accomplished. Students need to be attentive to hear news about class activities, sports and clubs and other important information.

Insurance

Student accident insurance is provided on a limited basis for all Pearl River High School students. The excess coverage policy insures all school activities, but insurance payments must be paid through private family policies first. Remaining medical bills are then covered according to a limited fee schedule. The district sends home policy information each year; additional information may be obtained from the school nurse.

Library

The library is open daily from 7:30 AM until 2:42 PM. The main purpose of any library is reading, research, and study. Therefore, at all times, the library should be quiet and orderly enough so that all who are in the library can read or study undisturbed. Thoughtful consideration for others will help everyone use the library successfully. Students may go to the library during their study hall and lunch periods. A pass from a study hall teacher or cafeteria teacher is necessary to use the library. Any lunch passes picked up earlier in the day from the library must be shown to the teacher on duty in the cafeteria. Students must then remain in the library until the end of the period. Students in classes may go to the library only with permission from their subject area teacher. All library materials must be checked out at the circulation desk before being removed from the library.

Rules Governing Behavior in the Library

1. All students have a right to be treated with respect and have a responsibility to treat other people with respect.
2. All students have a right to a quiet place to study and have a responsibility to respect other people's right to study quietly.
3. All students have a right to freely seek information and exchange ideas in the library. Students have a responsibility to maintain a learning environment in the library.
4. Students have a right to a clean, well-lighted place in which to work and have a responsibility to help keep the library orderly. **No food or drink is allowed in the library.**

Library procedures are explained to students using the library during the first two weeks of each semester. The library staff is service oriented and enjoys being of assistance to students and staff alike.

Lockers

Students may use assigned lockers before and after school and during change of classes providing they are not late to their next class. In order to prevent unnecessary distraction to classes in session, students should not use their lockers during a class period without prior permission from a teacher. Sharing of lockers is not permitted and

combinations should not be revealed to anyone. Do not use lockers to store valuable items and money. Students should not bring large sums of money or expensive jewelry/equipment to school. In the event that it is necessary to bring a large sum of money to school, the money can be secured in the main office.

Lockers are school property assigned to students for their convenience. Lockers will be inspected periodically to ensure their proper use. The school will not be responsible for loss or damage to contents. It is important that students keep their lockers neat and clean. A locker check/clean-out will occur just before Regents/local exams in January and June. All books and belongings must be removed at this time.

Students will be assigned gym lockers for the year. All students are expected to purchase combination locks for these lockers. Secure all items in the gym locker during gym use. Problems dealing with gym lockers should be brought to the physical education teacher, coach or Athletic Director.

Lost and Found

Belongings found by custodians, other school staff, and students should be brought to the secretary to the Assistant Principal in the main office. Items clearly marked with ownership labels will be returned promptly. Items of clothing will be held for 60 days then donated to a community agency. Other items will either be discarded or donated to a community charity.

Lunch – Cafeteria

A hot lunch program and other food items are available each day in the cafeteria during periods 5, 6 and 7. Students utilizing the cafeteria may **not** order lunch from outside vendors. Students using the cafeteria are expected to keep tables clean and use recycling bins where possible. After eating lunch, students may use the recreation area outside the gym under the supervision of a lunch teacher. With prior permission and a pass, students may also leave the cafeteria after they eat for the library, computer room or to meet with teachers and counselors.

Students in grades 8-11 eat lunch in the school cafeteria. Students in grade 12 may **walk** to neighboring restaurants during period 7 Lunch. When seniors return to the building, they should reenter through the main entrances quietly to avoid disturbing classes. Of course, all students must be on time for their 8th period classes. The privilege of leaving school for lunch can be revoked should students be late for their next class or violate school rules pertaining to drugs and alcohol during the lunch period. **Seniors are not permitted to drive off campus during lunch. Any student caught driving or riding in a car will be subject to disciplinary action.**

Because many students and staff work through lunch periods, food may be eaten in a classroom in the lunch periods when instruction and work are going only when students obtain a pass in advance from the supervising staff member.

Medical Examinations

Each student entering school for the first time is required to submit proof of a physical examination: This examination may be performed by either the school physician or preferably by the child's personal doctor. Each student registering for school is required to submit proof of immunization against: Measles - Mumps Rubella - Diphtheria-pertussis - Tetanus - Poliomyelitis - Hepatitis B - Varicella - Meningococcal Meningitis. Proof of a TB test within the past year is also required. Documentation for both physical examinations and immunizations is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Parents are asked to submit an emergency action plan (reviewed by your child's doctor) for students identified with serious medical conditions. Each year, the district is required to submit summary data regarding student immunization and summary data regarding body mass index (BMI). This data does not include identifying student information. Please contact the building nurse if you do not wish your child's individual data to be reported.

Medications

All medication may be administered to students in school only through a doctor's note and parent's written request. Dosage and frequency of administration, as well as diagnosis of the student's condition, must be indicated in the note. Medication must be in the original prescription bottle or packaging and must be given directly to the school nurse by the parents. Students may not carry any medication unless it is for life threatening circumstances and the doctor has approved. In order to keep our schools and students healthy, children who have been sick cannot attend school until they are no longer contagious: either 24 hours without a fever or 24 hours after they have been on an antibiotic for an infection.

Nurse – Health Office

The high school nurse is on duty each day school is in session and the health office is open from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM to assist students. The health office should be provided an updated emergency contact person and phone number as well as any relevant medical information.

Parking

Parking at Pearl River is a privilege reserved for seniors. Remaining available student parking spaces will be allotted to juniors with appropriate documentation and at the discretion of the administration. All DMV rules are observed. Staff members monitoring the parking lot may issue warnings and the Orangetown Police may issue warnings and/or summonses when appropriate. Students must register their vehicles using the application form provided by the Assistant Principal's office. Students must attend a safe driving seminar presented by Pearl River High School in conjunction with the Orangetown Police Department. [Student parking application and forms](#) can be found on the HS webpage.

A parking sticker will be issued to those students with parking privileges. The sticker must be placed on the inside corner of the rear window on the driver's side. Registered student vehicles may be parked only in designated student spaces painted with yellow lines. **No student** parking is permitted at any time near the gym doors. **No** cars may be parked near the entrance to Holt Avenue because there must be free access for emergency vehicles. Students who violate parking regulations, or established rules of safety or courtesy, or who use their vehicle in violating other school regulations will have their parking privileges revoked. Violation(s) of school rules can also result in a loss of parking privileges. **Students may not use or go to their cars during the school day.**

Passes

Students may not leave a class in progress under any circumstances without a pass that is issued by a teacher. Passes will be required to enter a class in progress or in returning to a class missed. Such passes should be obtained from the staff member in charge of the activity which detained the student. Students should not take it upon themselves to engage in conferences or activities which cause them to be late to or absent from a class. Passes to the nurse's office should be obtained in advance or, in cases of sudden illness, from the assigned teacher.

Halls, corridors, common areas of the building are for purposeful traffic and activity at all times of the day during and after instructional time. Students in the building after 3:30 p.m. must be engaged in a teacher supervised activity; students who are not in such an activity must leave the building by 3:30 p.m. During the day from 7:34 to 2:42 any student in the halls during an academic period must have a pass.

Physical Education Excuses

These may be granted when necessary for up to three days if a written request is submitted by a parent to the Health Office. A doctor's excuse submitted to the School Nurse is required for excuses in excess of three days. Alternate physical education activities will be arranged. Participation in the athletic program is restricted as long as a student has an excuse from Physical Education.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is claiming the written work of another person as one's own. Failure to appropriately acknowledge the words and ideas of others will warrant non-credit for the work submitted, and where warranted, further disciplinary action. Please see pages 31-33 of the [School District's Code of Conduct](#) for more details.

Political Activity

The Pearl River High School, as a publicly operated facility, cannot properly be a political partisan. It is, however, properly a forum for the expression of points of view bearing on political matters of national or local concern. To that end, the school is operated within bounds prescribed for public instruction by the State of New York and by the local Board of Education. Consistent with those regulations, the following will apply:

1. Decisions regarding the manner and use of political issues during scheduled classes are made by the professional staff in accordance with Board Policy governing controversial issues.
2. Political interest groups formed by students may have reasonable access to school facilities providing they are open to all students and are governed by Board regulations regarding extra-curricular activities.
3. Students may distribute political literature in accordance with regulations for the distribution of such material. Students are expected to meet their normal obligations for regular class attendance on all school days. The definition of legal absence does not provide for absence by students for the purpose of engaging in political activity, other than that provided for in the instructional program. However, students who absent themselves for such purposes with the written permission of their parents will be readmitted without prejudice but such absences must be recorded as illegal in accordance with State Education Law.
4. All students should be aware that inducing others to absent themselves from required instruction in violation of State Education Law, and the procedures outlined above, constitutes insubordinate conduct under the law and is grounds for suspension.

Printed Materials Distribution

Students may distribute leaflets, newspapers, or other printed material at locations adjacent to the school building without prior authorization providing such material does not advocate or involve an illegal action, and the distribution is not distracting or disruptive of classes in session. With prior authorization, the distribution or posting of such material in the school building will be allowed at locations and times designated for that purpose. Bulletin boards **only** are to be used for postings after approval is received from a building administrator.

Such authorization is obtained through the Assistant Principal but will not be granted to commercial material, or that which advocates an illegal action, appears obscene or libelous, or discriminating against any race, nationality or religion. Certain commercial material dealing with special events or services relevant to educational purposes may be posted with authorization as above.

In all cases, students involved will bear full responsibility for the contents of such material and will be responsible for any litter which results. The sale or solicitation of donations for such materials is prohibited on school property, unless it is sponsored by a school organization with authorization to do so.

Pupil Personnel Services

A number of services and activities are provided for the welfare of students in both the school setting and the community. These services are designed to help students develop as individuals and as members of various groups. The goal of these services is to keep a student in a school program under optimum conditions and ensure a positive school experience. Staff personnel often work as members of a team to help students, parents, teachers and administrators. These staff members, the services they provide and the role they perform are as follows:

A. COUNSELORS – GUIDANCE/ SOCIAL WORKER

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Orientation to School | Volunteer Programs |
| Course Selection and Program Changes | Educational Information |
| Occupational Information, Planning | Referrals to Agencies |
| Testing - Local, National, State | Part-time and Summer Employment |
| Job and College Placement | Release Time Programs |
| Graduation Requirements | Setting Goals |
| Student-Teacher Problems | Study Habits |
| Student-Family Counseling | Parent Conferences |
| Student-Student Problems | Alcohol/Substance Use |

B. NURSE - HEALTH SERVICES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Legal Absence - Sickness | Cumulative Health |
| School Accident, Injury | History |
| Eye, Ear, Teeth Examination | Tine Tests and X-Rays |
| Parent Conferences | State Working Papers |
| Athletic Physicals | Immunizations |
| | Wellness Programs |

C. PSYCHOLOGISTS - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Testing of Students with Special Education | Related Services - Parent Conferences |
| Needs | Committee on Special Education |
| Psychological Reports | 504 Coordination |
| Referral Recommendations | Transition Planning |

Recycling

The school encourages the protection of our environment in several ways. Blue recycling bins are available in all classrooms, offices and other areas for paper products.

Special containers are also in the cafeteria area and gym lobby for the recycling of bottles and cans. We hope to be able to extend the recycling efforts to include glass, milk cartons and the like.

School Property

Students are issued books, uniforms, instruments and other items owned by the school district. All materials must be returned in good condition ready for use by the next student. Fines will be assessed if materials are not returned or have been abused.

Smoking

Smoking is considered dangerous to a person's health. There is no smoking on school grounds or during school sponsored activities. Students who violate the smoking policy will be dealt with under the terms of the discipline code in the [School District's Code of Conduct](#) and cigarettes, tobacco and vaping products will be confiscated from students.

Study Hall

Any student not enrolled in a prescribed class or lunch is required to attend study hall, regardless of the period of the day. The intent of study hall is to provide a quiet atmosphere supportive of the educational aims of the school program. Students are to be attentive and quiet during study halls, working on assigned material, studying or reading. Students may be allowed to leave a study hall to work in the guidance office,

the library or the computer labs. However, signed passes are required, and the student must remain where assigned for the remainder of the class period.

Technology devices/Cell phones

The unauthorized use of cell phones and other types of technology devices are considered distracting and interfere with the academic operation of the school. Considering the potential for distraction and the associated problems, unauthorized use of such devices is prohibited between 7:34 AM and 2:42 AM. Any student observed with such devices will be directed to the Assistant Principal where the device will be confiscated and stored for the day. If there is a second violation, the device will be returned to the parent only. Disciplinary action will be taken for repeat offenders.

Telecommunications

Student access to the "Internet" is governed by a district use policy. Because of the concern over access and use of information which may be inappropriate, lewd, inaccurate or even illegal, the district policy fosters use which is responsible, efficient, ethical and educationally sound. A "Telecommunication User Contract" must be on file in the school. Appropriate forms must be signed and submitted by parents. Students will be issued an I.D. number for security purposes. Any student who uses another student's I.D. or violates the telecommunications policy in any manner may be denied access to the computer network.

Transcript

A formal and legal document which is maintained by school officials for the period of time you are enrolled in high school. It is the official record of a student's grades, courses, credits earned, diploma status and rank in class. The transcript also contains New York State Regents examination scores. The accuracy of the transcript is something the school takes seriously. Students and parents should review this document several times during high school to be certain it is correct and complete.

Transportation

Eligible students receive bus passes directly from the district office. Passes must be carried always and presented on the driver's request. Riders' cooperation with the driver is essential for safety. Smoking and unsafe activities will cause suspension of the bus privilege. Questions concerning transportation should be referred directly to the director of transportation at (845) 620-3857. A late bus will leave the high school from the flagpole area at 4:05 p.m. (Monday through Thursday). Buses may be equipped with cameras which may or may not be used.

Use of Grounds

Students may use areas outside the school building near the outdoor basketball courts during lunch periods but without distracting classes in session, or interfering with walkways. Endangering persons or property, smoking on school grounds, littering, loitering in the parking lot, or leaving the school grounds except as authorized will be cause for being restricted from the use of these areas and/or other disciplinary action.

Vandalism

Willful destruction of school property is considered a flagrant disregard of the rights of others and is an offense warranting suspension. Such destruction can also constitute a civil offense and will be treated as such whenever appropriate. In addition, recent action by the state legislature holds parents of vandals financially responsible for damages up to \$1,000. Anyone who witnesses such an act and fails to report it will be considered by school authorities as having contributed to that action.

Visitors

Generally, only persons on school business will be allowed in the building or on school grounds. No casual visitors will be permitted in the building. All visitors must report to the school greeters at the main entrances who will issue a visitor's pass which must be visibly affixed to the clothing.

Working Papers

Students between the ages of fourteen and eighteen may work part-time in certain types of jobs. For further information as to the types of jobs and limitations, see the school nurse.

The procedure for obtaining working papers is as follows:

1. A student may obtain a working paper or newspaper carrier application from the secretary in the health office.
2. Applicants require proof of age, parental permission, and a physical examination given within the last twelve months. Applicants for a Limited Certificate require a current physical and Pledge of Employment.
3. The completed application is returned to the secretary in the health office. An Employment Certificate will be issued.
4. Certificates and permits may be issued whenever minors apply and with the exception stated above, an employer's signature is not required. The minor may go to work when an employer is found.
5. To work beyond 10 P.M., satisfactory progress in school is required and an application form completed in the guidance office.

NOTE: Research findings suggest that student achievement suffers as the number of hours worked per week increases beyond 20.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Advanced Placement Examinations (AP)

These exams, offered and graded by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at Princeton, are challenging exams designed to evaluate a student's level of achievement in course work designed by ETS and college professors. Pearl River offers students the opportunity to take these exams and encourages students who plan to attend selective colleges to participate in the AP program. Exams include English, U.S. History, World History, Government & Politics, Economics, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Studio Art. Students should consult with teachers and counselors as well as college catalogs about the value of these exams. Depending on the results of each AP exam and the policy of the attended college, AP courses may be accepted for college credit.

Alternative Education

Pearl River participates in a variety of programs offered by the Rockland County Board of Cooperative Educational Services and other agencies. Consult your guidance counselor for descriptions of specific programs or the Office of Special Services.

College Credit at Pearl River

High school students can earn college credits through a variety of programs taught in the high school. Parents and students should consider the many options as a means of saving money as well as accelerating the college degree program. Guidance counselors have information on each program. We are currently offering courses sponsored by Syracuse University, SUNY Albany and SUNY Rockland.

Community Service

Pearl River High School has implemented a service-learning project in which students are advised to complete ten hours of service annually to the community and/or school. The program requirement is that a total of **forty** hours of service will have taken place between the summer after the students completion of 8th grade and the culmination of their senior (12th grade) year, respective of posted deadlines. The purpose of this service-learning program is to provide opportunities for students to experience the joy of making a difference in the lives of others, working more closely with adults and exploring career possibilities. "Community Service" packets are mailed annually to students and parents. Students must submit verification of their hours on Community Service forms, which are available in the Guidance Office. [Opportunities for community service](#) are posted on the Community Service Bulletin Board (Main Office), posted on the school website, and are frequently listed in the daily announcements.

Early Admission

Pearl River High School participates in the Early Admission Program approved by the State Education Department and the State University of New York. Qualified students may apply for full-time college study, in lieu of the senior year, or for part-time college study concurrent with high school attendance. College credits to be used toward a high school diploma require prior approval of the Principal. For students planning on attending SUNY Rockland during senior year, a minimum 80 average is required.

Early Dismissal / Work Study for Seniors

In order to accommodate eligible seniors in part-time employment, students may request early dismissal of up to two class periods, providing all other academic requirements are being met. Such requests should be made as part of the scheduling process and require working papers, parental consent and a commitment from a potential employer. Students must carry five courses plus physical education, maintain passing grades in all subjects and have all the courses needed for graduation. Failure in courses will cause the revocation of the "work study" privilege. Request forms may be obtained in the guidance office. Scheduling of courses chosen may preclude the possibility of an early dismissal.

Early Graduation

It is possible for students to accelerate their high school programs and graduate in advance of their class. Since there are important implications for career and educational planning, all requests must be considered carefully. Please note, students who graduate early will not be eligible to become Valedictorian or Salutatorian. In addition, they will not be eligible for many of the scholarships that are offered.

The student's maturity level, school record, and reason for wishing to graduate early will be considered by the Principal in making a final decision. Students seriously considering such a program are strongly advised to begin action on it during their sophomore year, in order to allow time for appropriate planning.

English as a New Language (ENL)

Students whose native language is not English are, on the basis of individual need, provided with ENL support services in order to gain mastery of the English language. This program is individually designed in accordance with the requirements of New York State.

Independent Study

An independent course of study can only be given to seniors if there are no other course options and credit is needed for graduation or a Regents diploma. Approval of the teacher, guidance counselor, principal and

parent are required. Students taking an independent course will receive pass/fail grades only that will not be calculated in rank and average. Only credit will be given.

Labs in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies

These classes are designed to provide instructional support (academic intervention) to students as determined by standardized testing, state exams, Regents exams results, classroom performance, and teacher recommendations. Enrollment in a lab is not elective. Identified students are scheduled for these non-credit classes in addition to their regular course work, and are carefully monitored by a staff member who serves as a liaison to the classroom teacher. Labs are open to all students at all levels in all grades.

Occupational Education

In addition to the courses offered at Pearl River High School, students may enroll in an occupational program at the Center of Occupational Education run by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Students enrolled in an occupational program spend half of their school day at the Center and the other half at the high school.

The Occupational Education Program is for students who have made an occupational choice according to their interests and aptitude. Although occupational courses are planned to prepare pupils for immediate employment, pupils often continue their education at a two or four year college or technical institution.

These courses carry **four** credits per year and meet major sequence requirements for a local or Regents diploma. Course offerings are listed in the [Program of Studies](#) and in the guidance office.

Project Advance (PA)

Project Advance courses are a cooperative program between Syracuse University and participating high schools. It allows high school seniors to take a regular college course in their own school at a lower tuition. The courses are taught by a carefully selected high school faculty member who attends special Syracuse University workshops and seminars, is trained and supervised by regular Syracuse University faculty members, and is subsequently designated as an adjunct instructor of Syracuse University.

Students who successfully complete Project Advance courses are entitled to Syracuse University credit which may be transferable to other colleges and universities and meets high school graduation requirements. Class size is limited to 20 by Syracuse University. Students may not "audit" PA courses.

Special Education

Programs have been developed to assist students who are specifically evaluated and classified as having special learning needs. Skill support rooms are staffed by specially trained teachers and teaching assistants who provide support for courses taken in the regular, mainstream classroom. The direct/indirect consult model is used. In addition to in-district classes, programs are available in cooperation with other county school districts, BOCES, private day and residential placements, hospitals, and home instruction. For further information, see your guidance counselor or the [Director of Special Education Services](#).

SUNY Albany

College credits from SUNY Albany have been approved for students enrolled in World Languages courses Level IV and Level V.

Time Schedule, Delayed Opening Schedule, Important Phone Numbers

1st Period	-	7:34	-	8:21	-	Homeroom
2nd Period	-	8:25	-	9:08		
3rd Period	-	9:12	-	9:55		
4th Period	-	9:59	-	10:42		
5th Period	-	10:47	-	11:30	-	LUNCH PERIOD
6th Period	-	11:35	-	12:18	-	LUNCH PERIOD
7th Period	-	12:23	-	1:06	-	LUNCH PERIOD
8th Period	-	1:11	-	1:54		
9th Period	-	1:58	-	2:42		

Bus schedules for transportation to and from the Center for Occupational Education (BOCES) are as follows:

	AM	PM
Pick up Time	7:35	11:07
Arrive at Center	8:00	11:30
Leave Center	10:25	2:15
Arrive at Pearl River	10:40	

Late activity buses 4:05 PM (Departing from Flagpole area)

Delayed Opening Schedule

If inclement weather occurs and local radio/television stations advise a "delayed opening," the time schedule will be adjusted upon arrival in school. Families will be notified via a k-12 alert.

Website: www.pearlriver.org

WHUD

100.7

WLIR

1300 AM

WFAS

1230 AM

103.9 FM

NOTE: A "delayed opening" schedule will include all nine periods of the instructional day. If a "delayed opening" of one hour is declared, all transportation pick-ups will be advanced one hour; if the delay is two hours, all pick-up times will be moved ahead two hours.

PM BOCES students will be advised about transportation after they arrive at the high school.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	620-3800
Athletics Office	620-3943
Attendance Office	620-3818
Guidance Office	620-3811
Nurse's Office	620-3820
Transportation (School bus)	620-3857

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Athletic Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in any phase of the school program, curricular or extra-curricular, a student shall have met prerequisites established in writing as law, regulation, or policy. Academic deficiency which is not clearly related to participation in extra-curricular activities shall in no way prejudice the student's continued participation in these activities. However, where participation in extra-curricular activity is clearly rendering a student deficient in the instructional program, such participation may be curtailed until the deficiency is remedied.

Academic deficiency as related to extra-curricular activity will be determined as the result of a conference requested by the teacher concerned and the student's guidance counselor. The counselor will involve all interested parties as needed and report the result with a recommendation to the principal, or his designee, for action. To be eligible for interscholastic sports and academic honors (Honor Roll, Honor Society) a student must be enrolled in the equivalent of six courses each semester, including Physical Education. In addition, students in grades no lower than seventh may compete on any senior high school team providing they meet standards established by the Commissioner and are approved by the school physician, athletic director, and high school principal.

Interscholastic Athletic Requirements

For more information on how to register, please see the [Athletics Department webpage](#).

Some steps include: Pre-physical "tolerance" testing done by school nurse in school (vision, hearing, blood pressure, pulse, urine test) Physical done by school M.D. in school. **All** students must be re-certified **each** sports season. School M.D. will re-certify those students whose physicals were done in the school. Private M.D. **must** re-certify those students who had private physicals. No student is permitted to try out, practice or play until all forms are submitted online.

Interscholastic:

In addition to meeting eligibility requirements, a parent/guardian must complete the sports registration forms on-line using your Family ID account. An updated sports physical must be on file with the Nurse's Office dated within one year of the start date for that respective sports season. For some teams, try outs are required and cuts are possible.

PRHS Boy's interscholastic teams include:

FALL

Cross Country
Football
Soccer

WINTER

Basketball
Bowling
Ice Hockey
Track
Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball
Golf
Tennis
Track
Lacrosse

PRHS Girl's interscholastic teams include:

FALL

Field Hockey
Soccer
Tennis
Cross Country
Cheerleading
Volleyball
Swimming

WINTER

Basketball
Bowling
Track
Cheerleading

SPRING

Softball
Track
Lacrosse
Golf

Intramural sports are available in badminton (tournament), basketball, open gym, golf, ping pong, skiing and weight training.

For information about NCAA eligibility for student athletes, go to <http://www.ncaa.org/about/student-athlete-eligibility> NCAA Eligibility Requirements (Divisions I and II)

To be considered a "qualifier" at a **Division I** institution and be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition during your freshman year of college, you must:

1. Graduate from high school.
2. Present a minimum combined **test score** on the **SAT** verbal and math sections or a minimum combined score on the **ACT** (see website for guidelines)
3. Present a minimum **grade-point average** in at least **16 core courses** in the following areas:

English - four years

Mathematics - two years (algebra I or higher)

Natural or physical science - two years, (1 year of lab if offered by high school)

1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.

Social science (history) - two years

4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

***It is important to note that courses taken in the 8th grade do not count towards NCAA requirements.**

To be a qualifier at a **Division II** institution, you must present credentials similar to those required for a Division I school. Please check the website listed for detailed and most current information. Additional information and requirements are available through the athletic director or the NCAA staff in Dubuque, Iowa. (1-800-638-3731) and the website, <http://www.ncaa.org/about/student-athlete-eligibility>

NOTE: NCAA and college presidents continue to discuss this policy. The high school provides this information as general guidelines. Only the NCAA certifies students based on their interpretation of transcripts.

NAIA Eligibility

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics has established eligibility criteria for participation in varsity sports at NAIA member schools. These requirements help assure that student-athletes have

their priorities in the right order. Athletes are students first and foremost. For detailed information please refer to their website at www.playnaia.org

CLUBS

Listed below are a number of clubs/teams/student organizations available at Pearl River High School.

Academic Team	Recycling
Beautification Club	Robotics Club
Coding Club	Salt & Freshwater Ecology /Marine Science Clubs
Debate/Forensics club	Science Enrichment
English Honor Society	Science Olympiad
Gardening Club	Science Honor Society
Gay/Straight/Trans Alliance	Ski & Snowboard Club
Girls Learn International Club	Social Studies Honor Society
High School Drama Club	Students against Destructive Decisions
International Club	Student Council
Journalism Club	Tech Club Advisor (Stagecraft Club)
Marching Band/PEP Band	The Tenth Muse
Math Honor Society	Varsity Athletes against Substance Abuse
Math Olympiad/Math League	World Language Honor Society
Model UN Club	Yearbook Club
National Honor Society	Youth and Government
Ping Pong Squad	
Pirate Repertory	

A brief description of some activities for students to get involved in are described below. Students may see the PRHS website for additional information on [student clubs](#). Club meetings are announced at the end of first period each morning and are posted in the Pirate Bulletin. Also, please check our website (www.pearlriver.org) for updated information.

Academic Team

Participates in county-wide competition based on academic knowledge. Team members usually have an overall average of 90% or above. The group meets once and sometimes twice a week from November until April. The practices and the meets are fun and rewarding.

Beautification Club

Students interested in beautifying the school campus are welcome to share ideas and/or artistic skills. This club is responsible for creating and designing the subject specific murals in the hallways among other beautification initiatives.

8th and 9th Grade Math League

This is run as part of the American Scholastic Math Association. Participation is open to all students in 8th and 9th grade. Students have the opportunity to answer 7-8 puzzling math questions each meet. Meets take place once a month after school. Scores of the top six students are combined to form a Pearl River team score, which is used to rank us nationally against other schools. Individual Pearl River students with the top cumulative scores for the year are also recognized internally.

Gay/Straight/Trans Alliance

GSTA provides a safe, judgment free zone for gay, straight, trans students and their allies to talk about issues regarding sexuality, gender identity, safety in school, at home as well as current events.

Girls Learn International Club

This organization educates and energizes U. S students in the global movement for girls' access to education. It is a national organization that aids Girl's educational programs around the world. The club has sponsored educational speakers and documentaries along with other community programs to educate others on women's global issues.

International Club

The goal of the club is to support and celebrate cultures of the world. This is done through fundraising for local and global humanitarian causes and raising public awareness through community service about issues we face (locally and abroad). The International club strives to make the world a better place through education on important world issues.

Model United Nations Club

The Model United Nations Club researches and debates important international issues. Students attend one United Nations simulation located at a couple of different college campuses throughout the Northeast. Students are assigned to represent a specific country and a committee in the United Nations. Each conference has topics that their individual committees debate on. Students research these topics prior to the conference and find their country's point of view, other countries that share the same view, and the opposing viewpoints of other countries. These conferences involve debate among other high school students from throughout the country, as well as internationally. They debate and work together to come up with resolutions that are then voted on within their individual committees. Students are expected to fundraiser to help defray the cost of attending the Model UN conference. The club meets at least once a week, with more meetings per week as the conferences approach.

New York State Math League

Participation is open to all students in grades 10 through 12. Students have the opportunity to answer six puzzling math questions each meet. Meets take place once a month during lunch. Scores of the top five students each meet are combined to form a Pearl River team score, which is submitted to the State for ranking against other Rockland County schools. Individual Pearl River students with the top cumulative scores for the year are recognized internally.

Recreation (Friday Nights)

A Friday Night "rec" program is co-sponsored by the school district and the Town of Orangetown. The high school gym is open for athletic activities.

It is supervised by a combination of school staff and town employees. While the program is in operation from October through May, high school activities or inclement weather may cause "rec" to be cancelled. Announcements are made in the high school each Friday morning to indicate if "rec" is scheduled for that evening.

Rockland County Math League

All high achieving math students in grades 9 - 12 are welcome to join the Rockland County Math League. The League meets one Monday each month from October through March.

The meets are held at a different school each month. Participating High Schools include East Ramapo, Nanuet, Nyack, Spring Valley, and Tappan Zee. Each meet consists of various competitions including individual questions, team questions and a team relay question. High scoring individuals can advance to the annual State competition in April, as part of team Rockland.

S.A.D.D. Students against Destructive Decisions

This is a national organization with an active chapter at Pearl River High School that stages campaigns throughout the year, particularly during the holidays and other celebratory occasions. We also host guest speakers and conduct programs to raise awareness. Open to all grades throughout the school year.

Salt & Freshwater Ecology/Marine Science Club

The Marine Science Club is open to all students' grades 8-12. Members must attend at least one meeting per month. Fundraisers include clean-a-thons and seafood dinners. Field trips include Sandy Hook, Rye Beach and Cape Cod. Activities include field studies, aquarium care, snorkeling and work aboard an oceanographic vessel.

Science Olympiads

Teams of fifteen students from grades 9-12 compete in science skill and knowledge competitions. The competitions happen at the regional, state, and national levels, beginning in March. Practice for the events includes weekly club meetings to study specific topic areas of science covered in the competition. Some of the events require construction of mechanical devices while others entail detailed knowledge of facts and specific topics.

Tenth Muse Club

This club meets every Wednesday beginning in October. All interested students are welcome. The task of this group is to develop a student literary magazine for distribution in June. Selection of poems, stories and artwork as well as layout design are the tasks of this group.

VAASA - Varsity Athletes against Substance Abuse

This is an organization of varsity athletes. Activities include visiting the middle school to educate classes about issues of drug and alcohol use and abuse. All members of the program are either juniors or seniors who are alcohol and substance free.

Yearbook Club

The Pirate Yearbook is a student run/student produced publication. Students who want to be members or editors need to attend regular meetings as well as work on assignments between each meeting. Students work in all aspects of creating the publication.

Youth and Government

The purpose of the program is to bring the workings of state government alive to students. It creates an opportunity for students to discuss current state issues with state administrations, elected officials, and students from high schools and YMCA's throughout the state. Each conference is led by teens elected to office by their fellow delegates. Each state provides facilities and volunteers from various state departments who act as resources for the students while they debate the issues. The volunteers help guide the students through mock committee meetings. Students debate and vote on the bills that their

fellow delegates have written and presented. Bills that pass in committee are then taken to the floor of the House or Senate for full debate and vote.

Students are expected to follow the [School District's Code of Conduct](#) when participating in all extracurricular activities.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

Eighth Grade Class

The 8th grade class is an important part of the Pearl River High School family. In early September, the class holds an 8th grade candidate debate, where all of the candidates for 8th grade student offices present their platforms. This is followed by class elections. To help establish an 8th grade treasury, a fund raising event is held in October.

Freshman Class

The freshman class makes a strong effort to help the current 8th grade class feel welcome and comfortable in their new school. To raise money, this class holds individual student fundraisers to offset costs of the Senior Class Trip and other senior activities. Future fundraisers are planned to benefit not only the class treasury, but also for a selected local charity or community group.

Sophomore Class

The sophomore class is responsible for the ordering and distribution of class rings (Ring Day). The future emphasis will be on activities which bring the class together as a group, in hopes of forming a strong class identity. Suggestions are always welcome from all members of the class. The sophomore class will also focus on areas of community service projects in addition to other fun activities.

Junior Class

All eleventh graders are encouraged to participate in class functions. Most activities focus on fundraising to reduce prom expenses. The culminating activity is the Junior Prom which occurs in the spring. There are four elected class officers and a Junior Class Council. Membership in the Council is voluntary and all 11th grade students are welcome.

Senior Class

Senior year should be filled with many wonderful memories. Throughout the year, the seniors have the opportunity to be involved in several "fund" and "fun" raisers. All money raised goes to defray the cost of each individual student's prom, trip and/or yearbook. Some of the senior events are: Halloween Costume Event, Disney World Trip, Senior Prom, Graduation, and Project Graduation.

Please see the list of [class advisors](#) for this school year.

Class Officers 2019-2020

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
President	Marina Capone	Frederick Teige Beaudry	Olivia Piscani	Maddie McGee
Vice President	Allie MacDonald	Ciara Sweeney	Katie Capone	Samantha Gambert
Secretary	Megan Holt	Majella Maltempi	Jackson Lawson	Andrew Brown
Treasurer	Colin Casey	Alexander Cacas	Liam Fitzpatrick	Niamh Sweeney

8th grade will hold an election in the fall

COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS 2019– 2020

Students are assigned to a guidance counselor depending on the first letter of their last name. Note: The assignments for grade 8 is different from the grade 9-12 assignments. **(Students by Last Name Initial)**

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Grade 8-9 Last Name</u>	<u>Grade 10-12 Last Name</u>
Ms. Stark	A-De	A - D
Ms. Hornacek	Di-Le	E-Le
Ms. Ballard	L'H-O	L'H- Pe
Mr. Urvater	P-Z	Pf - Z

Requests for guidance appointments may be initiated by students, counselors or parents. Guidance secretaries will schedule appointments and return confirmed appointment passes to students through homeroom.

**STAFF DIRECTORY
2019 – 2020**

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

Ms. Kimberly Ballard
Guidance Counselor

Ms. Evelyn Hornacek
Guidance Counselor

Ms. Randee Stark
Guidance Counselor

Mr. Richard Urvater
Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Jodi Chiovetta
Nurse

Ms. Jamie Martens
School Psychologist

Samantha Turco
School Psychologist

Ms. Norma Canals
Social Worker

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Ms. Doreen Arney
Ms. Maureen Carroll
Ms. Beth Ann Carter-Pivovar
Ms. Carolyn DeNoyelles
Ms. Tracy Holihan
Mr. Tim McNerney

Ms. Emily Perlman
Ms. Irene Pernick
Ms. Julie Pocalyko
Ms. Kerianne Wolfe
Ms. Laura Zangrilli

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Ms. Andrea della Cava
Ms. Lorna Carroll
Mr. John DeMarco

Mr. Brian Evans
Ms. Darcie Pickering
Ms. Shereen Way

LIBRARY

Diana Nicaj

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Ms. Kathleen Babcock
Mr. Michael Carlacci
Ms. Regina Corless
Mr. Andrew Elbrecht
Ms. Stefanie Jellett
Ms. Chelsea Jevens

Mr. Gregory Licht
Mr. Stephen Parisi
Mr. Patricia Solicito
Ms. Maureen Whaley
Mr. Stephen Whaley

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Douglas D'Agostino
Ms. Shannon Flood
Ms. Lorraine Moylan

Mr. Damon O'Keefe
Mr. Timothy Peabody

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Kara Afanasewicz
Mrs. Elizabeth Barr
Ms. Catherine Bonanno
Ms. Clare Halligan
Ms. Todd Kendrick
Ms. Brenda King
Ms. Beth Lesnick

Ms. Eileen McCaffrey
Mr. William McKerrell
Mr. Thomas Mullane
Ms. Sheryl Palacio
Mr. Michael Santini
Ms. Tricia Sutton
Mr. Darren Thornton
Mr. Matthew Wolfson

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Mr. Brian Casey
Ms. Bonnie Caul
Mr. Brendan Cunningham
Ms. Cathleen Finnican
Mr. Brian Fitzgibbons
Ms. Toni Ann Fortunato

Ms. Christina Hohner
Mr. Jeremiah Houston
Mr. Michael Kiernan
Mr. Jeffrey Michael
Mr. Brian Moore
Mr. Matthew Rose

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Shane Carlacci
Ms. Faith Dunn
Ms. Kim Haugereid
Ms. Gilbert Hawkins

Ms. Megan Johnston
Ms. Amy O'Connell
Mr. Scala-Perykas
Mr. Peter Rizzo
Ms. Amy Voelkel

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Stephen Lonergan

Mr. Andrew Tully

TEACHING ASSISTANTS / TEACHER'S AIDE

Ms. Stacy Alessio
Ms. Jennifer Maresca
Ms. Lisa Nardi
Ms. Doreen Verderame

Ms. Patricia Meyers

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Mr. Thomas Hoetzl
Ms. Elizabeth Kurzawa
Ms. Kristin LaRosa
Ms. Michelle Olinsky

Ms. Caitlin Rosa / Ms. Gardner
Ms. Lynn Schneider
Mr. Scott Silverman
Ms. Julia Tonelli
Mr. Marc Wolf

CLERICAL STAFF

Ms. Cherrie Cacas
Ms. Holly Conway
Ms. Maryanne Duttwyler
Ms. Janet Guerra

Ms. Christine Rudloff
Ms. Fran Spina
Ms. Kathy Toal

MONITORS

Mrs. Jean Bond

Ms. Xuan Johnson

Ms. Ellen Pipolo

CUSTODIAL STAFF

Mr. Jean Pierre Bange
Mr. Ron Bogardus
Mr. Alex Carroll
Mr. Peter Gales
Ms. Maria Haskovic

Mr. Rico Jean
Mr. Neftali Moran
Ms. Maggie Ryan
Mr. Alvin Santiago

Important Dates for 2019-20

September

2	Labor Day
3	Superintendent's Conference Day
4	First Day of Classes
5-6	Senior Portrait Retakes
17	PTSA Meeting/ 7 pm /Pirate Cove
21	HS Homecoming Dance
24	HS College Fair
26	Back to School Night
30	Rosh Hashanah

October

1	Rosh Hashanah
3-4	Underclassman/ Faculty Yearbook Photos
9	Yom Kippur
14	Columbus Day
16-17	Mandatory Disney Meeting for Sr. Parents/Students/ Pirate Cove

	18	HS Senior Drama
	24	Financial Aid Night/ 7pm Pirate Cove
	29	PTSA Meeting/ 7 pm /Pirate Cove
November		
	5	Election Day/ Superintendent's Conference Day
	8	Underclassman/Staff Yearbook Retakes
	13	National Honor Society Induction
	11	Veterans Day
	21-26	Senior Trip to Disney World
	28-23	Thanksgiving Break
December		
	4	Junior Class Disney Trip Meeting/ 7 pm/ Pirate Cove
	12	High School Winter Concert/ 7pm (Snow Date 18 th)
	23-31	Winter Recess
January		
	1	Winter Recess
	10	Senior Musical Show
	15	Winter Pops Concert/ 7pm (Snow Date 16 th)
	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
	22	PTSA Meeting/ 7pm / Pirate Cove
February		
	6	Junior Parent College Night/ 7pm/ Pirate Cove
	17-18	President's Day Recess
	20	International Night / Empty Bowls
March		
	11	World Language / Core Subject Honor Society Inductions
	20	Superintendent's Conference Day
	25	PTSA/ 7pm / Pirate Cove
	26	Science Fair /7pm / Pirate Cove
April		
	3	HS Musical
	9-17	Spring Recess
	24	Junior Prom
	25	Déjà vu
	30	Pirate Palooza
May		
	13	PTSA/ 7pm / Pirate Cove
	20	HS Spring Concert/ 7pm / Auditorium
	25	Memorial Day Recess
	29	HS Spring Pops Concert/ 7pm / Auditorium
June		
	3	HS Gr. 8-11 Academic Awards/ 7pm/Auditorium/Art Show- Pirate Cove
	11	Senior Awards Night/ 7pm/ Auditorium/ Art Show- Pirate Cove
	25	High School Graduation/ 6 pm
	26	Last Day of School

Snow Day Make Up: 1-May 27; 2- May 21; 3- May 26; 4-May 22

Extracurricular Activity Checklist

Athletics	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Baseball				
Badminton				
Basketball				
Bowling				
Cheerleading				
Cross Country				
Field Hockey				
Football				
Ice Hockey				
Golf				
Lacrosse				
Ping Pong Squad				
Ski and Snowboard				
Soccer				
Softball				
Swimming				
Tennis				
Track (Spr/Winter)				
Volleyball				
Weight Training				
Wrestling				
Activities	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Academic Team				
Beautification Club				
Girls Learn Int'l				
Glee Club				
GSTA				
International Club				
Journalism Club				
Marching Band				
Marine Science				
Math League				
Model UN				
Recycling Club				
S.A.D.D.				
Science Olympiad				
Tech Club				
V.A.A.S.A.				

<i>School Government</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
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Student Council				
<i>Dramatics</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Stage Crew				
Drama				
Musical				
Senior Play				

<i>Honor Societies</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
National Honor Society				
English Honor Society				
World Languages Honor Society				
Math Honor Society				
Science Honor Society				
Social Studies Honor Society				
Art Honor Society				
Tri-M Music Honor Society				

<i>Awards/Honors</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
High Honor Roll				
Honor Roll				
Other Award				

<i>Publications</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Tenth Muse				
Newspaper				
Yearbook				

<i>Community Service/Volunteer Activities</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Church/Temple				
Scouting				
Tutoring				
Candy Striper				
Ambulance Corps				
Déjà Vu				
Project Graduation				
Other				

<i>Hobbies</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12

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<i>Private Instruction (music, dance etc.)</i>	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12

Internship/Employment Experiences Grades 9-12

Position Held	Description of Responsibilities	Name of Employer/ Length of Employment

Academic Enrichment (Summer School Courses)

Year	School	Course

Please Note: Indicate the number of hours of participation for each activity, honor society, publication and volunteer experience. Upon completion of volunteer work or internship, it is advised that students ask for a letter of verification that includes the number of hours completed. These letters should be saved in a file.