

# ADVANCED ACADEMICS

PINE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ~ HOME OF THE EAGLES

## WELCOME!

In keeping with the PCHS mission statement, Advanced Academics at PCHS encourages students to “cultivate a passion for learning and excellence.”

Students seeking a greater challenge may enroll in more rigorous and accelerated courses including Advanced Placement, Honors, and/or participate in talented & gifted (TAG) enrichment. Elective and extracurricular activities provide additional avenues for students with special abilities and talents. The Advanced Academics Coordinator, Daria Rose, oversees honors programming and gifted & talented offerings. Mrs. Rose, often with the grade level counselor, may assist advanced students in determining course selection and programming that best meets their individual learning needs. Student self advocacy is encouraged and becomes more and more important as goals for the future are decided.



**Advanced Placement & Honors Courses , Important, But Not Enough! Pine Creek prides itself on differentiated program options for advanced learners!**

### A sampling of TAG/Honors opportunities at Pine Creek include:

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Advanced Placement & Honors Courses | Competitions            |
| Computer Courses                    | Dual Enrollment         |
| Guidance & Counseling               | Independent Study       |
| Mentorships                         | Special Events/Speakers |
| Interest Groups/Clubs               | Leadership activities   |

\* List of Specific Organizations Available

### COMMUNICATION

#### Parents Can Find Out About Advanced Academics Activities By:

- Signing up for the Advanced Academics text message system. Text the message: @topeagle to the number: 81010
- Emailing the Advanced Academics Coordinator: [daria.rose@asd20.org](mailto:daria.rose@asd20.org)
- Periodically checking Advanced Academics page of the Pine Creek Website “Departments” then “Advanced Academics”

### COMMUNICATION

#### Students Can Find Out About Advanced Academics Activities By:

- Signing up for the Advanced Academics text message system. Text the message: @topeagle to the number: 81010
- Bulletin Board outside Advanced Academics Office in 300’s pod
- Visit with the Advanced Academics Coordinator in the AA Office (300’s pod)
- Emailing the Advanced Academics Coordinator: [daria.rose@asd20.org](mailto:daria.rose@asd20.org)

## THE TAG PROGRAM AT PCHS ~ REINFORCING STUDENT LEARNING THROUGH...

#### TAG Specific Activities:

Students work to develop specific goals & objectives (advanced learning plan) to provide challenging and creative opportunities for the school year.

TAG students meet with the Advanced Academics Coordinator at various times throughout the year to update progress towards goals.

TAG students are encouraged to self-advocate and schedule an appointment

to talk about academic planning, activities, social & emotional issues, etc with the Advanced Academics Coordinator, Mrs. Rose.

#### Differentiated Curriculum:

All teachers at PCHS have training in differentiated instruction and are encouraged to use the strategies in all classrooms.

TAG students are encouraged to enroll in Honors and AP classes where they

will experience academic challenge, high level analytical thinking, complex reading material, and open-ended, creative activities.

#### Enrichment Activities:

Students are encouraged to join athletics, music, clubs and TAG/Honors activities to explore new interests, develop talents and meet new people.

# PINE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

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*“Cultivate a  
Passion for  
Learning &  
Excellence”*

We're on the web!  
[www.pinecreek.asd20.org](http://www.pinecreek.asd20.org)  
Click on “Departments”  
and “Advanced  
Academics” Check out the  
links on our website!



Pine Creek's TAG/AP/Honors  
program offers sessions and  
activities to enrich and  
support advanced learners!

## TAG/AP/HONORS ~ Our Unique Approach

TAG programs can help prepare students for some of the most complex and competitive fields worldwide - technology, science, engineering - as well as in traditional liberal arts areas. In addition to providing for the academic needs of students, our program provides important services that may otherwise be unavailable or insufficient. For example, our Advanced Academics Coordinator offers programs that help students with social & emotional needs that are unique to advanced students like perfectionism & underachievement. Additionally, our program offers information about scholarships & contests, summer enrichment activities, and how to build the ideal schedule. Pine Creek's program is good for all advanced learners (not just TAG), as well as for teachers and the school. Modeling after traditional TAG programs at the elementary and middle levels, Pine Creek's program operates like an “a la carte” system. There are monthly enrichment opportunities for students to learn about predetermined topics or to hear from experts from the community. Sessions may focus on stress management, study skills, college planning, dealing with perfectionism, book studies, etc. TAG activities, enrichment opportunities, & programming, are open to all TAG students—as well as any other advanced Pine Creek students. Many of the sessions utilize the knowledge of staff members, like our “speed reading session” presented by our AP Psychology teacher. Such offerings encourage educators to feel inspired and invigorated by working with students with whom they share similar interests. Our program helps support educational standards school wide!

## TALENTED & GIFTED FAQ'S

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT GIFTED CHILDREN VISIT THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN AT [WWW.NAGC.ORG](http://WWW.NAGC.ORG)

### How are gifted kids' needs met in a mixed-ability classroom?

In most regular education classrooms there is a wide range of learner needs. Students differ in readiness levels, interests, and approaches to learning. Our teachers strive to adapt classroom activities to meet these varied needs through differentiated instruction; teachers provide multiple avenues to learning so that the classroom is a good fit for varied learners – including those who are advanced.

### How does PC find the best program for gifted learners?

The answer is simple; the best program is one that meets the needs of the individual student. Since talents and abilities differ among those who may be described as gifted, our programs must be flexible enough to offer services and opportunities to meet the needs of diverse individuals.

### How does PCHS decide to identify students for gifts and talents?

Students who exhibit characteristics associated with gifts and talents should be tested, if testing is necessary to enter special

programs, or if there are problems that cause concern. However, at Pine Creek students do not need to be designated “TAG” to receive the support that TAG students receive. With the exception of yearly goal setting, any advanced student can be assisted by the Advanced Academics Coordinator and participation in any of the programs mentioned here is allowed, TAG or not.

### How does PCHS plan college differently for gifted students?

College planning for gifted students must respond to the unique challenges faced by many bright individuals. For example, gifted youth often have the ability to do very well in a number of fields. As a result, they need more assistance in planning to pursue and integrate more than one career path or choose among several strong interests.

### How do you deal with a gifted underachiever in school?

Many intellectually and creatively gifted children do not achieve to their abilities in school. Even very bright kids should not be expected to

receive “A” grades in everything. In fact, students who complete almost all of their work perfectly may not be sufficiently challenged. Underachievement should be considered a problem if it is severe, is long-standing, or is causing the student distress. Underachievement has many causes, so it is important not to over-simplify the problem. The Advanced Academics Coordinator, counselors, and teachers work together with parents to monitor struggling students. Communication and early intervention are our main tools in helping students overcome underachievement.

### How does PCHS meet the social and emotional needs of gifted students?

Gifted children do not have more problems than other children. However, they do face some different issues. Pine Creek's Advanced Academics Coordinator supports these issues through educating students about healthy social-emotional development like how to deal with perfectionism, stress, etc., in small group support sessions.