

WHAT IS PACE?

Program in America and California Explorations (PACE) is a Small Learning Community (SLC) at John F. Kennedy High School. PACE offers students a four-year advanced academic program with an emphasis in English and history. The goal is to ensure that all PACE graduates are prepared to attend and succeed at competitive four-year colleges and universities. Each PACE student takes a rigorous college-prep curriculum (including math, science, and foreign language) and takes uniquely designed English and history courses with an emphasis on California history, government and literature.

During their freshman and sophomore years, PACERs are taught in two-hour “teaching blocks.” History is taught to one group of students one semester for two consecutive class periods with one break, while English is taught the other semester, utilizing the same two-period teaching block. For PACE staff, block scheduling allows for more instructional flexibility and provides opportunities for getting to know their students better. PACE junior and senior students follow the traditional six-period schedule. Junior and senior PACE students continue a rigorous curriculum and are offered honors and Advanced Placement courses in English, history, government, and science taught by PACE faculty. Other AP courses are also available.

WHAT MAKES PACE DIFFERENT?

- **SMALL COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS**
PACE students get the best of both worlds. PACE classes are grouped together in one part of the campus so that students benefit from a close-knit environment, yet have access to all the benefits of a large school. Freshmen start our program during the summer and arrive at Kennedy’s campus in the fall already having established PACE friendships.
- **ACCESS TO EXTENSIVE AP CURRICULUM**
We encourage students to take advantage of the wide variety of AP classes that Kennedy has to offer. Students can choose among many AP subjects including: biology, calculus, statistics, chemistry, English language & composition, English literature & composition, government, physics, Spanish, art, US history, world history and more.
- **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
We support our students by holding PACE Homework/Tutoring

as a tour of East coast colleges and a trip to Ashland's Shakespeare Festival) are offered at a reduced cost.

■ **SPEAKER SERIES**

PACE students are given the opportunity to attend question and answer sessions with prominent leaders. Past speakers have included Ron George, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court; Rick Rodriguez, Executive Director of *The Sacramento Bee*, Phil Angelides, State Treasurer of California.

■ **INVESTMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

A PACE education encompasses not only academic subjects, but also citizenship through social responsibility. A student community service requirement (thirty hours per-school-year) encourages PACE students to learn about matters outside the classroom and provides them the opportunity to give back to their community.

■ **CULTURAL/CIVIC EVENTS**

There is a rich array of cultural and civic activity occurring in the Sacramento area. PACE students are required once each semester (twice during the school year), to attend a cultural or civic event and write an essay about their experiences. Attending these events provides opportunities for PACE students to learn more about their community, to expand their cultural and civic horizons, and to articulate their perspectives.

■ **BOOK CLUBS**

PACE encourages its students to read widely and to explore new literary horizons. During their freshman and sophomore years, PACE students participate in several small-group book clubs led by community volunteers. This allows an opportunity for detailed discussion of works of important and popular literature (fiction and non-fiction) in an informal setting.

■ **INTERNSHIPS**

The Practical Politics Internship allows seniors to gain firsthand experience in government by working at city, county or state agencies, including the governor's office. The program has recently expanded to the private sector, with internships at a pharmacy, architectural firm, financial planning office and other places of business.

■ **JUST FOR FUN**

PACERs have many opportunities to socialize and celebrate their achievements at informal events, including PACE dances, rallies, the year-end dinner, and the annual senior trip to Disneyland.

Kennedy offers a wide variety of courses—including electives—that are open to all students.

ART

3-dimensional Art
Beginning/Advanced
Architectural Design
Beginning/Intermediate Art
Graphic Illustration and Design
Productive Advertising
AP Studio Art

WORLD LANGUAGES

French, AP French
Spanish, AP Spanish
Japanese, AP Japanese
Mandarin Chinese, AP Mandarin
Chinese
Latin, AP Latin

SCIENCE

Earth Science
Cellular Biology
Molecular Biology
AP Biology
Chemistry, AP Chemistry
Physics, AP Physics
Anatomy & Physiology

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I/II
Beginning/Advanced Geometry
Beginning/Advanced Pre-calculus
AP Calculus
AP Statistics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Aerobics
Basketball
Baseball
Body Sculpting
Cheerleading

Cross Country

Dance

Football

Net sports

Softball

Soccer

Tennis

Track and Field

Volleyball

Weight Training

Wrestling

MUSIC AND PERFORMING

ART

Concert/Show Choir

String Orchestra

Theater

Band

Jazz Ensemble

OTHER OFFERINGS

Speech and Debate

Newspaper Publishing

Practical Politics Internship

Yearbook

Student Government

Intro/Advanced Culinary

Technology

Psychology

Information Technology

Engineering

Law

Auto Technology

Mechanical Drafting/CADD

“PACE taught me to take the initiative to develop and expand my horizons beyond just reading textbooks. As a result, I am prepared to take my academic development to the next level.” – *Edmund Yu, PACER at University of California, Davis*

“PACE and APs can offer enough of a challenge that college, even the UC system, doesn’t pose nearly as much of a challenge as they otherwise would.” – *Tara Querin, PACER at University of California, Davis*

“Being in PACE meant being held to a higher standard and it gives you a sense of excellence and confidence in just about everything you do.”
– *Dexter Yee, PACER at University of California, Berkeley*

HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO PACE?

Application packets for the following school year may be obtained from Sacramento City Unified School District K-8 and middle schools, online at <http://jfkhigh.ca.campusgrid.net/home/classroom/PACE>, or at John F. Kennedy High School, beginning December 1st each year. The application form is brief, requesting contact information for the student applicant and parent(s)/guardian(s). Each student applicant is required to write a short essay about his or her high school expectations and college/career aspirations.

Student transcript, achievement test results, and a middle school attendance report must accompany the application form. In addition, two recommendation forms, one completed by a history or English teacher and the other by a community member, must be forwarded to the PACE office. (Community members include coaches, Boy Scout/ Girl Scout leaders, church leaders, and other extra-curricular group or organization leaders.)

Students must have a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA at the end of the first term of eighth grade and have scored in the “Proficient” range or higher on the California STAR achievement test (or equivalent test) for English-Language Arts. This test is usually administered in the spring of seventh grade. In rare instances, students not meeting the above criteria may be considered.

Completed application packets must be received (not post-marked) at JFK High School by 4:00PM on the last Friday in January. Applications received after the deadline will be considered for the waiting pool. Please read the open enrollment information within this brochure.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

All PACE applicants are required to complete an application packet. However, it is not necessary for students to open enroll for PACE if they live in the Kennedy attendance area. For students who do not live in the Kennedy attendance area, there are a limited number of open enrollment spaces available in PACE. Open enrollment information may be obtained by calling 643-9075.

CORE PACE FACULTY

Stephen Brooks – PACE Director and English teacher
Alida Imbrecht – PACE Lead teacher and Practical Politics
Internship Coordinator
Jonathan Andrews – social science teacher
Angelina Garcia – English teacher
Brian Gleason – English teacher
Jennifer Reynaga – English teacher
Todd Whalen – social science teacher
JoAnn Yee – social science teacher

Gary Hart, former State Senator and Education Secretary, founded PACE in 2002. PACE is grateful to Mr. Hart for his continuing support of our program.

For more information, contact Karen Uyeno, PACE Coordinator, at 433-5200, x1323, or karen-uyeno@sac-city.k12.ca.us

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Last year's senior class passed 139 AP exams for college credit. Currently, 91% of our PACE juniors are enrolled in at least one AP course; 100% of PACE seniors are taking one or more AP class.
- College Placement for Class of 2006:

<u>College System</u>	<u>Percent of class</u>
University of California	41%
California State University	18%
Community College	30%
California Private Colleges	6%
Out-of-State Colleges	3%
- In a recent survey of our seniors, over 90% felt that PACE prepared them for college and offered opportunities for leadership experiences. PACE students felt close to their classmates and believed that PACE teachers created a welcoming and supportive learning environment. 94% took advantage of PACE counseling activities on campus. Overwhelmingly, PACE students felt safe on campus and in their classrooms.

PACE STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"I found that there was more to this program than free field trips. I found that my classmates were my motivation and my inspiration.... I found my place in this family and I can't wait to see what everyone has done at our reunion!" – *Dianna Savangsy, PACEr at University of California, Berkeley*

"PACE certainly put me through a constant routine of work and thought processes that made the transition to college education seamless." – *Jared Yee, PACEr at University of California, Santa Barbara*

"I can honestly say that I loved high school and that I'll miss it, and a good part of that is due to PACE." – *Malia Gonsalves, PACEr at Pacific University*

"Thank you [PACE] for giving me the opportunity to find a subject I truly love and perhaps even a career I will enjoy in the future. It was [AP Government] that gave me the chance to express my excitement for politics and history." – *Jennifer Tagliamonte, Student Assistant at the California Integrated Waste Management Board*

"I built my voice in high school and I am now showing it in San Francisco." – *Melissa Hook, PACEr at California State University, San Francisco*

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

Freshman Summer Program

English
Writing
Geography
Field Trip Preparation

Freshmen

0 period (optional): Student Government
PACE Block (2 periods) California History/Advanced English
Molecular Biology
Advanced Geometry (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 1
PE

Sophomore Summer Program (optional)

AP World History Prep
AP Chemistry Prep

Sophomores

0 period (optional): Speech and Debate
PACE Block (2 periods) AP World History/Advanced English
AP Chemistry
Algebra II (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 2
PE

Juniors

0 period (optional): Sacramento City College English 300 – College
Composition or Critical Thinking
Fine Art
AP US History
AP English
AP Physics
Pre-Calculus (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 3

Seniors

0 period (optional): Sacramento City College English 300 – College
Composition or Critical Thinking
AP Government/Econ
AP English
AP Biology
AP Calculus (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 4 (AP Spanish, AP Japanese, AP French, AP Latin,
AP Mandarin)
Internship in State Capitol

Lab four days a week so students can receive extra help for their challenging courses. PACE teachers are accessible both before school and after school to provide tutoring or just a quiet place to study.

■ **COLLEGE COUNSELING**

Students are guided through the college admissions process by having access to a full-time counselor. Our evening Information Series assists parents with strategies for supporting their child through this complex process.

■ **SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE CLASSES HELD AT JFK**

Several academic and enrichment courses taught by Sacramento City College professors are offered each semester on the JFK campus. Students wishing to challenge themselves and to enhance their high school education are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES OF PACE

■ **SUMMER PROGRAM FOR INCOMING NINTH-GRADERS**

The PACE experience begins on the California State University, Sacramento campus with a mandatory four-week enrichment program designed for incoming ninth graders. The four daily high school-level classes center on activities in English, geography, writing and field trip preparation. Past field trips have featured river rafting or hiking near the American River, exploring San Francisco, conquering a ropes course and participating in an overnight trip to Yosemite National Park or Donner Summit.

The summer program provides a great opportunity for PACE students to establish PACE friendships, work with PACE faculty and begin the transition to high school. High school credits are earned for this program if student absences do not exceed three days. (Students may miss up to five days of summer school and still maintain their ninth-grade acceptance status in PACE, but will not receive any high school credit for PACE summer school classes.)

■ **SCHOOL-YEAR FIELD TRIPS**

During their four years in PACE, students attend two or more field trips per year. Field trips have included university visits, live theatrical productions, history and art museum tours, state park outings, and explorations of historical sites. These field trips have been offered at no cost to the student. Out-of-state field trips (such
