

PACE

Program in America
and California Explorations

John F. Kennedy High School



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 Advanced Placement (AP) classes—taught by our many nationally certified AP instructors—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. After demonstrating mastery of the subject by passing an exam at the end of the course, students receive college credit.

Additionally, students who enroll in AP US History, AP US Government & Politics, and AP French may qualify for college credit through Sac State’s Accelerated College Entrance (ACE) program.

“I joined PACE because it would prepare me for college, but it’s done more than that. For the past four years, it’s been like a family.” – M.L., PACer at Stanford

■ ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We support our students by offering several “safety nets” when needed. PACE Homework/Tutoring Lab is offered 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.

Our senior/freshman mentoring program helps the transition to high school go smoothly for students who need extra encouragement.

La Raza de PACE provides opportunities to explore identity, celebrate culture, and empower the Chicano community. Students who participate in this program engage in mentoring activities, attend community events, and see guest speakers.

PACE sophomores may elect to take a four-week summer course that will prepare them for the rigors of Advanced Placement World History.

■ 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.

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 high school-level classes center on activities in literature, geography, writing, and community awareness. Past field trips have featured visiting the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco, performing community service to the needy in Sacramento, and participating in an overnight trip to Donner Summit.

The summer program provides a unique 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 minimal cost to the student. Out-of-

“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.” – E.Y., PACEr at University of California, Davis

the-region field trips (such as a tour of East coast colleges, a London-Paris trip, and a trip to Ashland's Shakespeare Festival) are optional field trips that are not offered at a reduced cost to students.

■ 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; Phil Angelides, State Treasurer of California; Doris Matsui, Congresswoman from Sacramento; and Bob Graham, former US Senator and Governor of Florida.

■ 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 through meaningful service that benefits the needy.

■ 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, assemblies, the year-end dinner, and the annual senior trip to Disneyland.

"Participating in PACE Book Club really got me into reading, and reading a lot got me into writing a lot, and through working on AP essays and all the intensive writing we do in PACE, I got into writing as a hobby." – T.N., PACer at University of California, Santa Cruz

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

(This schedule represents possible options, not necessarily required courses.)

Freshman Summer Program

Literature
Writing
Geography
Community Awareness

Freshmen

PACE Block (2 periods) California History / Advanced English
Molecular Biology (or appropriate level science)
Advanced Geometry (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 1
PE

Sophomore Summer Program (optional)

AP World History Preparation

Sophomores

PACE Block (2 periods) AP World History / Advanced English
AP Chemistry (or appropriate level science)
Algebra II (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 2
PE

Juniors

Fine Art
AP US History
AP English
AP Biology (or appropriate level science)
Pre-Calculus (or appropriate level math)
World Language Level 3

Seniors

AP Government/Econ
AP English
AP Physics (or appropriate level science)
Advanced Math
World Language Level 4
Internship in State Capitol

“The core of the PACE experience to me has been its devotion to critical thinking no matter what form it takes. Whether it was spoken word, wrestling, politics or Eminem (and, yes, that was old even when Ms. Reynaga referenced him in my senior year), the teachers ask you to think about the subject critically. Not only does this make for fun dissections of popular culture, it trains you to read analytically. Now at a time when we are constantly flooded with information and articles about how to feel or what position to take, it is important to be able to discern fact from artifice, to discern our own thoughts and emotions from the rhetorical mechanisms that might incite anger and passion. Learning to do this in high school is a great advantage.” – J.F., PACer at University of California, Irvine

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

ART

Beg/Intermediate Art
Beg/Int 3-dimensional Art
Beg/Adv Architectural Design
Graphic Illustration and Design
Productive Advertising
AP Studio Art
Illustrator/Photoshop

WORLD LANGUAGES

French, AP French
Spanish, AP Spanish
Mandarin Chinese, AP Mandarin Chinese
Japanese (1-3)
Latin (1-4)

SCIENCE

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

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I
Beginning/Advanced Geometry
Algebra II, Algebra II Honors
Beginning/Advanced Pre-calculus
AP Calculus AB, BC
AP Statistics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS

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/Drama
Band
Jazz Ensemble
Music Appreciation

OTHER OFFERINGS

Speech and Debate
Newspaper Publishing
Practical Politics Internship
Yearbook
Student Government
Intro/Adv. Culinary Technology
Psychology
Web Design
Information Technology
Engineering
Auto Technology (I/II)

“The entire program was an enriching experience. From the lifelong friends I made, to the way PACE helped me become the person I am today, I don’t regret a single moment going through. PACE not only helped me get into Berkeley, but also prepared me for the level of difficulty I am facing this year. I owe a lot of thanks to the teachers that put in so many hours and genuinely cared about us as students.” – L. H., PACER at University of California, Berkeley

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- PACE's API score is estimated to be 909. Kennedy's API score is 760, higher than any other comprehensive high school in the district.
- Last year's PACers passed 171 AP exams for college credit. 100% of PACers take at least three AP courses during high school. Almost all take five or more. JFK has the highest number of AP Scholar Awards in the district. This prestigious award is presented to students who pass multiple exams.

- College Placement for the PACE class of 2009 (This list reflects student enrollment, not just admission.):

<u>College System</u>	<u>Percent of students</u>
University of California	36%
California State University	27%
Community College	26%
California Private Colleges	10%
Out-of-State Colleges	1%

- In a survey of the class of 2009, the vast majority felt that PACE helped them prepare for and get admitted to college. PACE students felt close to their classmates and believed that PACE teachers created a welcoming and supportive learning environment. Overwhelmingly, PACE students felt safe on campus and in their classrooms.
- PACer Lyndsie Harris was one of only 26 students in the nation to achieve a perfect score on the ACT in 2006.

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 www.jfkpace.org, or at John F. Kennedy High School, beginning December 1 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.

"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!" – D.S., PACer at University of California, Berkeley

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 Friday, January 15, 2010. 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 a PACE 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 at www.scusd.edu, or by calling 643-9075.

“We didn’t just have close relationships with the teachers, we all had tight bonds with each other since we had the same classes together. While PACE prepared me academically and gave me experiences that I wouldn’t have gotten otherwise, I loved PACE because of these close friends whom I love and couldn’t imagine high school without.” – E.F., PACEr at University of California, Berkeley

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

Brett Williams – 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 Jennifer Yee, PACE Coordinator, at 433-5200, x1326, or jennifer-yee@sac-city.k12.ca.us

IMPORTANT DATES

PACE Visitation Dates: Wednesday December 9 or 16, 8:30 am–noon

PACE Open House: Monday, December 14, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm

Application due: Friday, January 15, 2010, 4:00 pm

“I built my voice in high school and I am now showing it in San Francisco.” – M.H., PACer at California State University, San Francisco



"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."

– M.G., PACEr at Pacific University

PACE

**John F. Kennedy High School
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For more information:
**(916) 433-5200, ext. 1326
www.jfkpace.org**

