We all want something bigger than ourselves.
You’re part of shaping the future.

PURPOSE

High School Planning Guide
Preparing students for Graduation | College | Career
This publication is designed to give students and families a sense of what the student experience may be like during high school in PSD. It can serve as a starting point in the journey to preparing your student for success after graduation – no matter what path they follow.

This guide contains information about high school fundamentals, graduation requirements, as well as the opportunities available to explore passions, complete internships, earn college credit and industry certifications during high school, and more.

We have lofty career goals for our kids, and we want each one of them to find something that drives them to stay engaged and grow into the phenomenal adults we know they will become. Part of the work we do in PSD is to teach students to pursue work that gives them a sense of satisfaction and pride that they’re part of something bigger.

Our educators and staff ask questions – much like families do – and prompt students to dig deep and figure out what it is they’re good at and care about. The key then is to help them to see what careers integrate these skills and personal priorities.

For example, a student might be passionate about pottery, but their only career pursuit is not limited to being a potter. Instead, they might articulate that what they really love about pottery is the opportunity to make something with their hands and work in a place that values creativity. That discovery opens the door to endless job opportunities.

We know every student has their unique journey – through high school and beyond. We want to support them along the way.

I hope you find this publication informative. If you have any questions about your child’s academic or post-graduation path, please contact your child’s school.

Sincerely,

Sandra Smyser, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Transitioning to high school

The move from middle school to high school may be a huge shift for some students. Together, PSD staff and families form a team that supports students in reaching their highest potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

Social and Emotional Learning
It’s normal for students to experience a range of emotions when they start high school. PSD’s mental health team, school counselors, teachers, and staff collaborate to give students services and resources. Our goal in PSD is that every student has at least one adult with whom they say they feel connected.

Academic Planning
High school counselors connect with incoming PSD ninth graders in the spring of their eighth-grade year at their middle schools, and during special events for both students and parents. Freshmen work with counseling and school staff to create a four-year plan to meet PSD’s graduation requirements. Along with core academic classes, this plan may include courses in the student's interest areas such as music, art and computer coding, career and technical education classes and college courses.

During their time in high school, PSD students have opportunities to connect with business mentors; complete internships and apprenticeships; develop essential skills like working with a team, taking initiative and problem solving; earn industry certifications and college credits; and more.

Activities, Athletics, and Clubs
High school clubs and activities give students opportunities to be involved in school outside of classes and to meet friends who share similar interests. Clubs and activities range from chess to ice cream to robotics and foreign languages. Athletic sports, governed by the Colorado High School Activities Association, are offered at the four comprehensive high schools with varsity and junior varsity teams for cut and non-cut sports. Students who attend a choice school (such as PSD Global Academy or Polaris) may participate in clubs and sports at their neighborhood high school.

What does it take to graduate from high school in PSD?

Everything we do in PSD leads up to one thing: the day our students proudly cross the stage and accept their high school diploma.

In order to make that moment a reality, high school students must meet PSD’s graduation requirements, which align with state standards. They must earn 240 credits in a variety of courses (see the credit tracker on page 4), ranging from mathematics and language arts to personal wellness and financial literacy. Additionally, they must complete one of the following options:

• Meet or exceed minimum scores in mathematics and English on a state-approved measure (e.g. ACT, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course tests, Armed Services Vocational Battery Assessment, etc.)

OR

• Meet one of the “individualized” state-approved college and career-readiness measures (e.g. Earn an industry certificate, which indicates the student is prepared to work in a professional setting after high school).

Learn more about graduation requirements: psdschools.org
### Credit and Course Planning Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Category</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>*8th Grade/Summer School</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
<th>Examples of Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language Arts</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any English class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 years</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics &amp; Computer Science</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Any Math class (Algebra I and higher)</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any Science class starting with Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<td><strong>Social Studies</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>World Geography, AP Human Geography, Government, U.S. History, World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester class</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. History</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>World Language/Culture</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish, French, German or World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fine &amp; Applied Arts</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Art classes, Perf. Art classes, Tech Ed, Culinary, and Computer Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Economics</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Economics, AP Economics, Business Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester class</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Finance</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Personal Financial Literacy, Finance, Career and Financial Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 semester class</td>
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<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Classical, Contemporary, or other Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wellness</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Health, PE or other classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 classes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Music, Arts, Career and Technical Courses (ie. Foods, Business &amp; Marketing, Engineering)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum of 13 semester classes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Credit at my high school</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High School Select from FRCC/Aims, CU Succeed, AP/IB Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Core class or elective)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Credit on a college campus</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Select at FRCC, Aims, CSU Ready</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Core class or elective)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td>240</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 semester class = 5 credits

*Parents have the option of declining high school graduation credit for approved courses taught at middle school. See your student’s counselor for details.
Career Cruising complements a student’s ICAP and allows them to:

- **Build resumes and set goals**
- **Explore occupations that match skills, interests**
- **Research colleges, careers, and scholarships**
- **Interact and build relationships with business leaders and future employers**
- **Find job shadow opportunities, internships, and apprenticeships**
- **Learn about industry speakers, career fairs, and workplace tours**

### Roadmap to graduation

During freshman year, students set goals for their future, explore careers, and create a timeline to achieve goals. Milestones are managed through the Individual Career and Academic Planning, or ICAP, process. This multi-year process intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic, and postsecondary opportunities. With the support of talented educators and staff, students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create their own meaningful post-secondary pathways that can lead to the workforce, Armed Services, or college.

### Navigate the roadmap together

During freshman year, students set goals for their future, explore careers, and create a timeline to achieve goals. Milestones are managed through the Individual Career and Academic Planning, or ICAP, process. This multi-year process intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic, and postsecondary opportunities. With the support of talented educators and staff, students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create their own meaningful post-secondary pathways that can lead to the workforce, Armed Services, or college.

**Did you know?**

Students can invite parents/guardians to Career Cruising:

- From the Career Cruising homepage, go to “My Plan” under the student’s name.
- Click “Share My Plan,” then “Invite a Parent or Guardian.”

Learn more about college and career readiness: psdschools.org
Explore Colorado's Career Clusters

PSD's career and innovation opportunities not only prepare our students to be successful in a changing world, they also align with the State of Colorado's overall employment landscape and help prepare the next generation of Colorado's talented workforce.

Management and Administration
- Administrative Services
- Business Information Technology
- Corporate/General Management
- Human Resource Management
- Operations Management

Marketing
- Marketing Communications
- Marketing Management
- Marketing Research
- Merchandising
- Professional Sales/Sales Management

Finance
- Accounting
- Banking Services
- Corporate Finance
- Insurance
- Securities & Investments

Government & Public Administration
- Foreign Service
- Governance
- Legal Services
- Planning
- Public Management & Administration
- Regulation
- Revenue & Taxation

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Animal Science*
- Agribusiness Systems
- Food Products & Processing Systems*
- Natural Resource & Environmental Systems*
- Plant Science*
- Power, Structural & Technical Systems*

Energy
- Electromechanical Generation & Maintenance*
- Electrical Energy Transmission & Distribution*
- Energy Efficiency & Environmental Technology*
- Fossil Energy Extraction, Processing & Distribution*
- Renewable Energy Production*

* STEM affiliated pathway

Business, Marketing & Public Administration

Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness (PWR)
- Entrepreneurial: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, Creativity & Innovation, Inquiry & Analysis, Informed Risk Taking
- Personal: Initiative & Self-Direction, Personal Responsibility & Self-Management, Adaptability & Flexibility, Learning Style Awareness
- Civic: Core Academic Foundation, Collaboration & Teamwork, Communication, Global & Cultural Awareness
- Professional: Time & Work Management, Career Literacy, Grit & Resilience, Work Ethic, Dependability & Reliability

Hospitality, Human Services & Education (+)

Hospitality & Tourism
- Lodging
- Recreation, Amusements & Attractions
- Restaurants, Food & Beverage Services
- Travel & Tourism

Human Services
- Consumer Services
- Counseling & Mental Health Services
- Early Childhood Development
- Family & Community Services
- Personal Care Services

Education & Training
- Administration and Administrative Support
- Professional Support Services
- Teaching and Training
  + FACS Core & World Of Work (WOW)

CTSOs = DECA, FBLA, PBL

Health Science, Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Health Science
- Biotechnology Research & Development*
- Diagnostic Services
- Health Informatics
- Supportive Services
- Therapeutic Services

Law, Public Safety*, Corrections & Security
- Correction Services
- Emergency & Fire Management Services
- Law Enforcement Services
- Security & Protective Services

CTSOs = HOSA & SKILLSUSA

* STEM affiliated pathway

Updated June 2017 - www.coloradostateplan.com + www.cccs.edu

CTSO = Career and Technical Student Leadership Organization
A glimpse at career readiness in PSD

- Career and skill assessments
- Career fairs
- Industry speakers
- Workplace tours
- Military visits
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination - college preparatory program)
- College tours
- Informational interviews
- Mock interviews
- Career Cruising job exploration with industry information and videos
- Colorado Career Cluster Model Pathway (how courses align to specific job sectors as defined by industry)
- Elective courses
- Career and innovation courses
- Job shadowing
- Capstone projects (culminating projects for courses or clubs that focus on career skills)
- Student-run enterprises (coffee cart, sign shop, food truck, student store)
Through strong partnerships with Front Range Community College (FRCC), Colorado State University, Aims Community College, and the University of Colorado, PSD students have many opportunities to explore college-level academics and career pathways before earning their high school diplomas.

### PSD’s Early College Programs (Concurrent Enrollment)

#### Advanced Placement / International Baccalaureate

Most PSD high schools offer AP courses, which are identified by the College Board as college-level instruction. Many universities accept AP courses and test scores. IB courses, available at Poudre High School, are based on accepted standards and recognized worldwide. The IB diploma is recognized by many universities as an internationally accepted qualification for entry to higher education.

#### High School Select

PSD students take accredited college level courses at their high school through:
- Front Range Community College (FRCC)
- Aims Community College
- CU Denver Extension, “CU Succeed” program
- The PSD Futures Lab

Courses are taught by college professors, or PSD teachers qualified to teach for the credit-bearing institution, and are credit-bearing. Courses from FRCC and Aims are typically transferable to Colorado colleges and universities, while courses from CU Denver are recognized by many universities across the country.

#### Campus Select

PSD students take college-level courses at:
- Front Range Community College (transportation provided in some cases)
- Aims Community College
- Colorado State University, “CSU Ready” program (Math and World Language only)

#### ASCENT

ASCENT (Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment) is a one-year program that allows students to remain in high school for a fifth year and take classes at Front Range Community College or AIMS Community College, paid for by PSD. To participate, students must have completed at least 12 college credits prior to the end of their senior year, in addition to meeting PSD’s graduation requirements.

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Note: While courses taken for college credit during high school count toward graduation requirements, transfer credit is up to the receiving university. Students should check with their preferred college or university regarding the credit transfer process.
PSD has programs to support students with special needs, so they may grow and succeed throughout their high school journey and beyond.

**Community Connections** assists PSD students with significant learning needs transition from high school to adult living and/or the post-secondary education world. In the program, students learn adult living skills; community recreation and access skills; and employment/volunteer skills. This program is open to students, ages 18-21, who currently receive services through PSD Integrated Services and demonstrate transition needs in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Students should work with their high school social worker, counselor, or case manager to see if this is a good fit.

**Cooper Home** is a collaborative effort between students, parents, and the community to assist students in moving toward natural supports within the community and the work site while fostering independence. During the two-year program, students receive services such as job development and coaching; training in work-related skills; independent living preparation; assistance with navigating outside agency services; guidance with higher education; and more.

**Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE)** is available at all PSD high schools. ACE provides work experience, related classroom instruction, and vocational transition planning for high school students with special needs. Students develop personal and career skills preparing them to live and work independently as vital, contributing members of their community.

**Project Search** is a business-led collaboration that enables young adults with special needs to gain and maintain employment through career exploration and training at Columbine Health Systems. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides job coaching support.

**School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP)** is a transition program that helps youth, with mild to moderate special needs, find and keep a job. PSD partners with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to offer this free program.
Whether students are preparing for college or on a path leading directly to a career, PSD offers students a curriculum to help them be successful in the workplace, higher education, and community. There are many career and innovation classes offered at middle and high schools, ranging from welding and woodworking to greenhouse management and unmanned aerial systems (drone) aviation. Check class offerings at a student’s home high school or the Futures Lab, which is open to all high school students.

Work-based learning opportunities

PSD students can gain real-world experience in the business community through internships, job-shadowing, and apprenticeships. Through these opportunities, students develop essential skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, initiative, and creativity.

- **Post-Secondary and Workforce Ready (PWR) Internships**
  Juniors and seniors explore areas of interest while earning high school credit. Students spend 75-150 hours one semester with an employer/mentor.

- **Professional and Community Experience (PaCE) Program**
  Juniors and seniors gain job skills through internships, apprenticeships, paid work and volunteer experiences.

- **Apprenticeships**
  Students can prepare for college and earn: industry-recognized national credentials, up to $40,000, and three years professional experience that sets them apart from peers. More info: [www.CareerWiseColorado.org](http://www.CareerWiseColorado.org), info@CareerWiseColorado.org, or talk with your counselor/CTE teacher.

Learn more: psdschools.org/academics/college-career-readiness/work-based-learning
**NoCo Inspire**

NoCo Inspire gives PSD high school students a chance to explore careers and industries by connecting them with local employers and community mentors. Here's how it works:

**Benefits for PSD high schoolers**

- Learn about career development opportunities in their local community.
- Submit questions to real working people in different careers. Receive advice and encouragement.
- Submit questions to representatives of companies they're interested in and get info right from the source.
- Receive targeted, vetted communication from companies and advisors about opportunities that match their interests.

**Benefits for Northern Colorado businesses**

- Connect with PSD high school students about work-based learning opportunities.
- Help inform the future workplace about skills, qualifies, and careers that are and will be in-demand.
- Promote the community as a place to live and work – now and in the future.

Learn more: NoCoInspire.org

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**Futures Lab**

The Futures Lab is a multi-faceted, career-based experiential learning environment available to all PSD high school students.

Each pathway offers 20 or 40 high school credits, plus concurrent enrollment college credit, industry credential(s), or both. Pathways include but aren’t limited to: Coding Networking & Cybersecurity; Aviation; Design Thinking; Business & Innovation; Audio Production & Management; Architecture, Construction, & Engineering; Advanced Manufacturing; and Culinary & Hospitality.

They are held at the Futures Lab building in half-day bundles of courses in either first or second semester. Busing is provided for all students to/from their base high school. Students still attend their home high school.

Learn more: fut.psdschools.org
Points of Pride/Core Values

At CHS, our mission is to make the changes needed for success. We are a small, student-centered, diploma-focused, alternative high school whose approach is grounded in the core values of high relationship and high expectations.

CHS incorporates a social, emotional, and behavioral approach using the Discovery Model. Discovery is a nationally-recognized program that teaches students skills needed to be successful in school and in life. The Discovery Program provides our foundation and cultivates a culture where students feel respected and are held to high standards. All staff and students are trained to use the same skills and language to create a close-knit community based on positive relationships with high expectations for behaviors.

Centennial High School is a diverse and inclusive community that believes everyone is worthy of dignity and respect. CHS strives to develop a strong sense of community and a support system for all students.

The common goal for all Centennial High School students is to earn a high school diploma, and catch their vision for a happy, productive, and healthy life after high school.

Performance & Demographics

• 73% of Centennial High School staff earned master’s degrees and has a 21-year combined average years teaching and classroom experience.
• Students choose to be here, and they choose to stay, resulting in a 93% attendance rate.
• CHS is academically rigorous, earning the CDE Performance level based on mandated assessment scores and the strong programming for engagement and post-high school readiness.
• Students are expected to maintain a 70% or higher in all classes.
• Students can earn college credit and certification through Front Range Community College’s Concurrent Enrollment and College Now programs.
• Integrated Services – fully inclusive model.
• CHS is an alternative setting for students who have not experienced success at their home high school.

Signature Programs

Consistent class schedule: CHS daily academic schedule consists of five 75-minute classes that meet every day for six weeks from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (limited bussing is available). The daily schedule consists of courses designed to meet PSD graduation requirements in supportive (small class size), and friendly (first-name basis) environments. We use alternative approaches in methodology.

Closed campus: provides structure and safety.

Hexter Schedule: CHS offers six-week grading periods (hexters). Hexter scheduling gives CHS students the ability to experience short-term efforts leading to long-term goals.

Discovery Class: a concrete, skills-based curriculum that teaches students positive social and emotional skills necessary to be successful in school and in life. The Discovery program is designed to increase student achievement and is supported across the campus.

Dynamic and Responsive Counseling Department: CHS counselors are invested in the well-being, academic success, and futures of every student. Every CHS student has a counselor in their corner.

With a 26-year history of helping to create healthy learners better prepared for academic and life success, the Health and Wellness Center at Centennial offers integrated and comprehensive medical and behavioral health care to any PSD student who enrolls for care, regardless of their ability to pay for services. The Center, part of the nationally recognized School Based Health Center (SBHC) model, is currently one of two SBHC in PSD.

Work Based Learning: ACE students earn elective credits toward graduation requirement through success on the job while attending Centennial.

All classes are designed to meet PSD graduation requirements and provide unique opportunities for credit recovery.

Contact for more information:
(970) 488-4940
Mike Roberts, Principal
Katie Jaskowiak, Counselor
Jo Locricchio, Counselor
Students at FCHS create a culture of **Acceptance, Pride, Integrity, Respect, and Responsibility**. These principles are ingrained in the school’s culture and displayed by the Pillars of Excellence that hang in our halls. FCHS has a diverse student body and coordinates the only high school-sponsored Diversity Conference in Northern Colorado.

Students challenge each other to look for the best in others, dream big, choose positive influences, speak kindness, and start their own chain reaction.

Freshmen at FCHS are enrolled in yearlong Seminar course “Lambkin Way,” designed to promote a successful transition between middle school and high school. The course provides students with opportunities for academic enrichment and assistance; improvement of organizational, study and communication skills; and promotion of FCHS schoolwide expectations, goals and activities.

### Signature Programs
- **Advanced Placement**
- **Honors Academy and Bioscience Career Academy**
- **Opportunities for ALL students through AVID program, English Language Development and PACE/ACE, Worked Based Learning, Project Based Learning**
- **Unique Collins Career Connections**
  - that provide students with opportunities to earn certificates and/or recognitions
- **School-sponsored and student-initiated clubs and activities**
  - including Link Leader, MHS, NHS, Science Club, DECA, Student Council, Key Club, GSA, and many more
- **Concurrent Enrollment through**
  - Front Range Community College, Aims Community College, Colorado State University and University of Colorado

### Performance & Demographics
- Enrollment of 1,844 with an average teacher/student ratio of 1/28
- Oldest high school in PSD; we pride ourselves on keeping the tradition alive and embracing our diverse student body
- 117 certified teachers; 70% having earned at least a master’s degree; 2/3 having at least 12 years in education
- The daily class schedule consists of eight 50-minute periods (three days a week), and four 90-minute blocks (two days a week)
- 22 AP courses available, including AP Seminar. In 2019, we had 424 students take 758 exams; 85.6% of those students scored a 3 or higher
- Average SAT for 2018-19 was 1088 (second in the district), and average ACT in 2015 was 21.9
- In school history, won 71 state team championships and 354 conference championships, securing FCHS as the “Home of the Champions”
- In the past five years, graduated 15 National Merit Scholars and 5 Boettcher Scholars
- Host the only state Gifted & Talent Honors Academy, serving over 50 students; and the only district Bioscience Career Academy
- The music program has performed in 5 CMEA and 5 CBA state performances in recent years
- Classes to fit all needs of students from interventions, co-taught and Advanced Placement
- Over 45 student clubs to meet every student’s interest
- Promote healthy well-being with our Wellness Center, Stop & Think week and Spread the Love week
- Unique opportunities in CTE through concurrent enrollment and industry certifications
- Award-winning “Spilled Ink” student newspaper
- Opportunities Unlimited South: A 1- to 3-semester program housed within Fort Collins High school that focuses on giving students, ages 17-21, the skills and environment they need to earn a PSD High School Diploma or prepare for the HiSET

**Counseling Information:**
- Student Services
- (970) 488-8100
Points of Pride/Core Values

- RIDGE: Respect, Integrity, Determination, Gratitude and Excellence defines our #fossilfamily
- Award-winning music, visual arts and theater opportunities
- Four-year Advisory program designed to support ICAP completion and encourage students to develop and sustain enduring connections with our school community
- Inclusive classroom environment for students with special needs and host of Special Olympics for Northern Colorado high school students
- Yearly Colorado State Championships in athletic and academic competitions

Performance & Demographics

- FRHS enrollment 2019-20: 2,122
- Class 2019: 79% of FRHS graduates plan to attend a four-year university; 9% of FRHS graduates plan to attend a two-year/community college
- Student mean SAT score: 1151
- Student mean PSAT10 score: 1066
- Student mean PSAT9 score: 1028
- Class of 2019: 1 National Merit Scholarship finalist
- 2018-19 school-year: 565 FRHS students took at least 1 Advanced Placement Exam; 1,071 AP Exams were taken with an average score of 4.09 on a 5.00 scale
- 2019 DECA and FBLA State & National Competitors
- 2019 Gold Medalist at State Marching Band Championships
- 2019: 15 students selected to Colorado All-State Choir; 8 to All State Orchestra, and 5 to All-State Band
- 2018 Boys and Girls Golf 5A Champions
- 2018 Etched In Stone 5 Awards for Colorado Student Media Association
- 2019 John Erwin School of Excellence

Signature Programs

- 9-12 Student Advisory Program committed to supporting student leadership, as well as academic and personal growth and social emotional learning
- STEM Academy Program offerings serve 135+ students per year
- Nearly two dozen Advanced Placement course offerings
- Multiple Concurrent Enrollment programs providing college credit opportunities from Front Range Community College and CSU; High School Select, Campus Select, Career Pathways, Accent, and CSU Ready serving 450+ students each year
- Wellness Center – Available all day for students to receive peer support and learn wellness and self-regulation life skills
- 2019 John Erwin School of Excellence

Counseling Staff:
Melissa Vasa (last names A-B), (970) 488-6345
Chris Savage (last names C-Fi), (970) 488-6272
Matt Murphy (last names Fo-Ha), (970) 488-6338
Sarah Switalic (last names He-Ka), (970) 488-6261
Kelli McPhee (last names Ke-Mc), (970) 488-6365
Jen Smela (last names Me-Q), (970) 488-6431
Nicole Alvarado (last names R-Sr), (970) 488-6271
Carolyn Fries (last names St-Z), (970) 488-6264
Sandi Emanuel (registrar), (970) 488-6265

Over 65 different school-sponsored organizations and student-initiated clubs
Design Principles

The design principles reflect the mission and vision of the Futures Lab, allowing a consistent experience for all learners.

**AUTONOMY**
Learning is self-directed, with student ownership of path and product.

**DEEP LEARNING**
Learning is an iterative process that is immersive, complex, and messy.

**CONNECTION**
Learning connects concepts, skills, and people in novel ways.

**AUTHENTIC WORK**
Learning impacts the world beyond the classroom walls.

Pathways
Each offers 20 or 40 high school credits, plus Concurrent Enrollment college credit, industry credential(s) or both.

### Pathways
- Coding
- Networking
- Aviation
- Design Thinking
- Entrepreneurship
- Media Production & Management
- Architecture, Construction, & Engineering

For information on Futures Lab pathways, visit our website and choose “Course Guide & Registration.”

Get involved!
Visit our website and choose “support the lab.” futureslab.psdschools.org

Schedule

Pathways are available for any high school student in Poudre School District. They are held at our building in half-day bundles of courses in either first or second semester: Morning: 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. / Afternoon: 12:45-3:45 p.m. Bussing is provided for all students to/from their base high school.

Example Pathway structure at Futures Lab:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway Course</th>
<th>Every day – 10 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Futures Lab Seminar</td>
<td>Mon/Wed – 5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended graduation requirement or Micro Internship</td>
<td>Tues/Thur – 5 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to Register

**Step 1** Review our pathway options on our website.

**Step 2** Choose your pathway and submit along with your registration materials at your base high school.
Points of Pride/Core Values

- Small class sizes (12-16) that focus on relationship and community building
- Meeting individual students’ academic and social/emotional needs
- Support students in building skills toward self-advocacy and postsecondary workforce readiness.
- Annually, students earn up to 200 community volunteer hours

Performance & Demographics

- Continued yearly increase in enrollment, currently at 200
- Performance AEC School for the past two years
- 75% of teachers at PCA hold a master’s degree
- Serving students grades 8-12
- Students participate in a variety of after-school activities at their home high school
- Creative and flexible options to successfully earn high school diploma
- Pursuing the addition of CHSAA-sanctioned athletics
- Winners of the AEC Athletic Challenge, and the traveling trophy for the past two out of three years.
- Consistently exceed participation expectations of standardized tests
- Eight academic letter award winners in 2019
- A variety of student-led clubs and events
- National Honor Society chapter founded 2019

Signature Programs

Weekly Service Learning within the Northern Colorado community
- Preparing & serving lunch at Catholic Charities and FoCo Café
- Art in the Community & Give Next Program
- Student mentoring at Irish Elementary and Fullana Early Childhood
- Outdoor stewardship
- Animal Debt Rescue
- Connecting youth with elderly

Multiple credit recovery and acceleration opportunities

Gifted & Talented support

Concurrent enrollment opportunities on- and off-campus

Counseling Staff:
Janie Wald: (970) 490-3015
Melissa Sugar-Johnson: (970) 490-3353
Anya Dowey-Blank: (970) 490-3633
Points of Pride/Core Values

Our Mission: Educating Global Students in a Local Community
Our Vision: We will partner to make PGA a place where students achieve at their highest level in a safe and respectful community that values innovation, integrity, and positivity.
Our Focus: We focus on personalized learning and relationships, while teaching relevant skills and knowledge necessary for success in the 21st Century.
Our Why: We value each individual and believe they have the potential to positively impact the world.

Performance & Demographics

- Average class size = 20
- Instructional staff-student ratio = 1/7
- Consistently exceed state expectations for academic growth in elementary, middle, and high school
- 90-100% positive Student Connections results according to recent PSD surveys. Students indicate, on this survey, how connected they feel to other students, and school staff/teachers.
- K-12 school of 260 students
  - 120 high school
  - 60 middle school
  - 80 elementary
- Nationally recognized as a “K-12 Best Practices School”
- National Proof Points School
- Transformation Award School
- John Irwin School of Excellence

Signature Programs

Blended courses (on-campus and online) with individualized support for students at all academic levels

Small advisory classes that emphasize noncognitive and 21st Century skills necessary for success after high school

May participate in athletics and extra-curriculars at your neighborhood high school

Concurrent enrollment opportunities through Front Range or Aims Community College and Colorado State University

Clubs and school community events throughout the year (Student Council, History Bowl, Diversity Club, etc.)

Leadership opportunities with elementary, middle, and high school students

After-hours GED preparation

Counseling Staff:
Christine Hagge, K-12 Counselor: (970) 490-3061
Anne Eakins, 9-12 Counselor: (970) 490-3104
Points of Pride/Core Values

At Poudre High School, we live by the philosophy of Ubuntu—translated as “I am who I am because of who we are.” Ubuntu speaks about our interconnectedness and how our actions affect the whole community. We’re all in this together—students, parents, counselors, teachers and staff. Your success is our success!

Pathways for students, based on the Colorado Career Cluster model, create smaller learning communities within a large high school.

Poudre is home to PSD’s International Baccalaureate Program and authorized by the Higher Learning Commission as an alternate site for Front Range Community College.

The mission of IB, to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect,” is clearly embedded in the PHS philosophy represented by Ubuntu. Further, the philosophy of the Middle Years Program taught in all classes encourages students to develop the academic and social skills needed to be successful learners.

Performance & Demographics

- PHS Enrollment: 1,825
- 96% of IB Class of 2017 earned a full IB Diploma (International average is 79%); average score was 5.2, well above passing score of 4.0
- Last year, over 600 students participated in Front Range Community College programs, resulting in thousands of credits earned and saving families over $500,000 in college tuition
- Over 10% of 2019 graduating seniors were accepted into Colorado’s ASCENT program, earning themselves a free year of college
- State and nationally recognized teams in Science Olympiad, Theatre, DECA, FCCLA, FBLA, FFA, HOSA, Robotics, Speech and Debate, and more
- Students continually recognized as National Merit Scholars, Daniels Fund Scholars, and Boettcher Scholars
- Gold key winners in the Scholastic Arts competition; annual award-winning student-literary magazine; students selected each year for honor ensembles in choir, orchestra and band
- Award-winning Visual Arts Programs

Signature Programs

- PSD’s International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
- Fifth in the state for students participating in concurrent enrollment
- 20+ different AP Course offerings
- Front Range Community College authorized site: 20 different, on-campus classes

Student Pathways in the areas of:
- Engineering and Design
- Entrepreneurship
- Health Science and Human Services
- Arts and Humanities
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- IB

Newcomer Program

All Poudre Pathways offer an industry certification

Counseling Office: (970) 488-6064

Call our office to be directed to the correct member on our staff who can assist you!
Points of Pride/Core Values

• Supporting students in becoming Leaders of Their Own Learning through various Expeditionary Learning Structures
  – Student-Led Conferences
  – Digital Portfolios
  – Presentations of Learning
  – Peer Critique and Feedback
  – Standards-Based Grading

• Getting students out of the classroom in an effort to build connections with their peers, community members, and interests
  – Students explore their local and national communities 20 – 30 days per year
  – Each year students interact with over 100 field experts, organizations, and/or businesses

• Teaching the standards through Expeditions: The in-depth study of compelling topics over an extended period of time
  – Little use of textbooks
  – Wide variety of assessments used to gauge learning
  – Delivering standards through current and relevant topics
  – Project-Based Learning

• Developing citizenship and supporting the District Ends through the use of Digital Portfolios and a focus on our Global Learning Targets
  – Depth of Knowledge
  – Career Readiness
  – Civic Engagement/Service
  – Communication and Collaboration
  – Creative Process
  – Critical Reasoning
  – Information, Media and Technology
  – Leadership
  – Innovation and Problem Solving

Performance & Demographics

• K-12 school of 400 students:
  – 165 High School
  – 135 Middle School
  – 100 Elementary School

• Average Class Size: 23

• “National School to Watch”

• Last ACT Composite - 22.5,
  2018 Spring SAT Composite - 1075

• Clubs vary each year depending on student interest

Counseling Staff:
Cynthia Erickson
(970) 488-8267
Points of Pride/Core Values

Rocky Mountain High School emphasizes character with our guiding philosophy called the Lobo Way. Within the Lobo Way is our new mission statement: Self. Purpose. Place. We exist to help our students find a greater sense of self, develop their purpose, and create for them a sense of place they take with them even after they graduate. We do this by living out our four core family values:

- **Compassion:** Active gratitude with humility
- **Respect:** Everybody matters
- **Perseverance:** Commitment to purpose
- **Integrity:** Do the right thing. Always.

This creates a positive and inclusive school culture exemplified by our school spirit and student participation at a variety of schoolwide activities. Additionally, students are challenged to think beyond school walls and give back to the greater community through programs such as Adopt-a-Family, GiveNext, Cans Around the Oval and through club participation. Rocky truly has something for everyone.

At Rocky, students are exposed to college-style scheduling with a 4x4 block focusing on three to four classes at a time. Teachers at Rocky emphasize student engagement and work daily to develop positive relationships with their students. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit through concurrent enrollment and 24 AP course offerings. We have an excellent comprehensive high school that offers programming for students at all levels, and we take great pride in preparing each of our students for what their future holds.

“The strength of the Pack is the Lobo, the strength of the Lobo is the Pack.”

Performance & Demographics

- Current enrollment: 2,000
- 95 teachers in the building have master’s degrees
- Students earned over $16 million in scholarship money last year
- Students continually recognized as National Merit, Daniels, or Boettcher Scholarship winners
- An average of 25 students per year continue on to play athletics in college
- SAT growth greater than state average
- Concurrent Enrollment opportunities save our families well over $1 million in college tuition
- Highest number of students in the district participating in Career Pathways and Campus Select on Front Range Community College campus

Signature Programs

- 4x4 block, similar to college schedule. Focus on 3-4 classes at a time and smaller class sizes
- No. 1 in the state for CU Succeed class offerings (15) and credits earned (2,208) for comprehensive high schools last year
- 24 AP offerings
- Lobo Bistro and Rockit Designs provide students with hands-on work and life skills
- Award-winning Visual Arts program offering diverse curriculum
- Award-winning Performing Arts with ensembles in Orchestra, Band, and Choir with 5 full-time teachers
- High participation and support of Unified Sports program
- Home to the most athletic teams in the city
- Wellness Center available all day long for students to learn wellness and self-regulation skills
- 80+ clubs each year
- 24 Rocky alumni working in the building
- College and Career Center staffed with certified counselor and work-based learning coordinator

Students earned over 5,500 college credits last year through Concurrent Enrollment and AP exams.

Counseling Staff:

Justin Tate, 9th-grade Counselor: (970) 488-7027
Kim Weis, 9th-grade Counselor: (970) 488-7029
Karen Bennett, 9th-grade Administrator: (970) 488-7008
Mike Ruffner, 9th-grade Dean of Students: (970) 488-7192
Leah Kapral, Counseling Secretary: (970) 488-7032
Debbie Aragon, Registrar: (970) 488-7033
Amy McCoy, Registrar: (970) 488-7031
The Career Pathways program at Front Range Community College (FRCC) offers students the opportunity to take classes on the FRCC campus that relate to a specific career or industry. Career Pathways is designed specifically for Poudre School District and Thompson School District students, affording them the opportunity to earn elective credits for high school plus credits from FRCC. The District pays tuition costs at FRCC, but any other fee associated with a class, program or the college is the responsibility of the student and his or her family.

### Program Details:

- **Take classes with other high school students on a college campus.**
- **Programs emphasize hands-on learning** (field trips, labs, projects, job shadows, community service, and/or internships) in addition to classroom activities. Student fee of $100 or less for each program.
- **Schedule:** Yearlong program; 8-10 a.m. or 12:30-2:30 p.m., Monday – Friday
- **All programs offer optional FRCC college credit,** and students can earn FRCC and industry certificates in most programs.
- **All programs earn 25 PSD high school elective credits.**
- **Course prerequisites and/or testing requirements** for Medical Careers Exploration. Please see your counselor.
- **Recommendations for Success:**
  1. Good attendance
  2. Good work ethic
  3. Participate in all assignments
  4. Self-advocate and communicate with faculty