

Department	Description
Art	Break up your day with a classroom experience unlike any other. Palatine freshmen can begin their artistic investigation in many creative areas: painting and drawing, sculpture and clay, broadcasting with PTV and video/digital art. Each area provides social and emotional outlets, art making techniques, and collaborative learning skills in a fun and supportive classroom. All classes are in a cooperative hands-on lab environment. No experience necessary and no final exam. Students will be evaluated through portfolios review. In order to prepare students for life after Palatine, our courses fulfill the high school Fine Arts credit that many colleges and universities require upon entry. In addition, AP credit is offered junior and senior year and Dual Credit is offered sophomore, junior and senior year. More information at: http://phsartdepartment.wixsite.com/home
Applied Tech	The future of the world will undoubtedly be heavily ingrained with technology. The need to understand technology is growing at a rapid rate and our mission is to prepare students for college and career opportunities in their future. These STEM-based courses use hands-on and minds-on learning to give students exposure to a multitude of options in their futures. The PHS Applied Technology Department offers the opportunity to obtain industry certifications, earn scholarships, and network with industry partners that may lead to internships or apprenticeships. Depending on the course, students will also have the ability to obtain college credit, dual credit, and honors-weighted credit. Come learn more about our career pathways in engineering, architecture, manufacturing, computer networking, construction, electronics and many more at http://phsappliedtech.wixsite.com/home .
Business	Business has been one of the top college majors for the past 30 years. Business Education prepares students for colleges and careers in business. Palatine alumni majoring in business report that the same material taught at prestigious schools such as Kellogg (Northwestern), Kelley (Indiana), and Wharton (University of Pennsylvania) is also taught in B184 Business Explorations. The business career pathway continues with a diverse curriculum that includes courses in marketing, management, accounting, technology applications, entrepreneurship, business law, and finance. Taking a series of these classes, as well as being involved in our business clubs (BPA, Investment, and Web Page Design) will prepare students for the best business schools in America. In conjunction with Harper College and Northern Illinois University, it is possible to earn a business degree from NIU in only 3 short years. Taking different business classes in high school will better prepare you for where your business career will take you!
English	PHS freshmen take one of three year-long English courses. All three courses focus on building students' skills in the D211 Critical Learning Standards in reading, writing and communicating. Freshmen can now enroll in Journalism I as an elective in addition to this year-long course. Other elective options in English open up sophomore year, including AP and dual credit opportunities.
ESL	Freshmen in EL classes take 1-3 courses based on level. Additionally, all ELs are required to take ESL Resource for additional support. ESL classes focus on the four domains of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students take annual District Benchmark Assessments at each level to demonstrate mastery at the given level of English. Students earn English graduation credit for ESL classes.
Family and Consumer Science	Family and Consumer Science (FCS) courses focus on both college and career readiness in the areas of culinary arts, early childhood education, and design. Using hands-on educational and lab based-experiences, students master skills necessary to live and work in a diverse society. FCS courses challenge students to think critically and creatively, problem solve, and work effectively in a team. In addition, students learn to apply concepts of balancing school/work and family, create solutions to critical and emergent issues, utilize technology effectively in personal and family settings, and maintain healthy lifestyles. FCS education provides the bridge needed by all students to deal with life and career issues. Visit http://kstary.wixsite.com/phsfacs for more information!
Mathematics	Computer Science is a field that is growing exponentially. Currently there are not enough people to fill the jobs available in the field of computer science. All PHS freshman can take M256, Introduction to Computer Science Programming. Freshman students who already have some computer science experience and are in an accelerated math course can take M319 - AP Computer Science Principles. A freshman's math placement is automatically determined by multiple data points gathered during 8th grade. All math courses are aligned to D211 Critical Learning Standards, which are aligned to Common Core and Illinois state mathematics standards. All courses focus on developing problem-solving skills, perseverance and math fluency. Please see the D211 Curriculum Guide for specific math course information.
Music	Can't stop the beat? Join the music family and be creative in a team atmosphere. Choir, band, orchestra and mariachi are all performance-based classes with 3-4 evening performances a year. With three levels of each ensemble (except mariachi), we have a group to meet your skill level. All entering students are automatically placed in the 100-level classes. Placement in the 200, 300, or 400 level ensembles requires an audition. Please contact the directors for more specific audition requirements: Mr. Carlos Esquivel or Miss Marissa Renter (band); Mrs. Dung (Yoom) Pham (orchestra); Mr. Matt Koehlinger (chorus). We also have music classes for students with no prior experience such as C162 Music Production, C272 Fine Arts, and C172 Beginning Band and Orchestra. AP Music Theory is offered for any students with music reading skills.
Science	Our mission is two-fold. We are preparing some students for further study in science and engineering. We also accept the responsibility to educate all of tomorrow's citizens for a world that demands increasing familiarity with science and technology. All students must complete two years of science, which shall consist of one year of biology and one year of a non-biology course. In addition, college-bound students should take chemistry and physics. Students are advised not to specialize in a particular science discipline until they have taken basic courses in several of the major fields. Placement into Freshman Biology is dictated by two pieces of information: Math placement and English placement. Math skills allow the student to accurately measure the world and English language skills allow for the communication of findings to others. These two skills help teachers develop student analytical skills and critical thinking skills that are critical in mastering the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards (NGSS) help prepare students for the world into which they will live and work. Instead of simply memorizing and repeating information, the NGSS emphasize how students use information and apply it to new situations. Course options expand after freshman year and include classes that will prepare a student for both college and career. These courses include dual credit courses (Anatomy and Physiology, Biology 2, Health Career Exploration and Medical Terminology) Advanced Placement courses (Biology, Chemistry, and 3 levels of Physics), as well as classes that lead to professional certification (Certified Nursing Assistant).

Social Studies	<p>The PHS Social Studies has some great courses that will help you meet personal academic goals while meeting requirements for various career pathways and college admission. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 65% of students will hold a job that does not yet exist. The skills that Social Studies courses focus on go beyond the hard skills of reading for understanding and analytic writing. We promote and practice highly sought after "soft skills" that any vocation or institution of higher education will demand. With that stated, PHS offers a wide variety of courses that will encourage learning important skills for specific careers, but choosing a pathway should not discourage you from preparing for the world in which Social Studies is relevant. As matter of fact, many of the colleges will demand 3 or 4 years of Social Studies. For more information about Social Studies options, please visit our department page at https://sites.google.com/a/d211.org/phssocialstudies/electives</p>
Technology and Media	<p>Within the heart of our school is the PHS Technology Department and Media Center. As you would expect from any library, there are books. There is also much more. The Media Center is a friendly place accommodating learning in a variety of ways. The Media Center is home to the Student Success Center, the College and Career Center, Test Make-up Room, the Circulation Desk, the Technology Help Desk, the Instructional Coach's Office, two small group meeting rooms, and the ever-popular Media Center Café. A variety of personal are available to assist learners of any age. On any given day, you will find the PHS Media Center bustling with a wide variety of engaging learning activities and social interactions.</p>
Wellness	<p>Wellness is a multi-dimensional discipline that promotes lifelong learning in the cognitive (intellect/literacy) and psychomotor (physical) and affective (social/emotional) domains. Philosophically, we look to encourage students to engage in opportunities that promote self-improvement, bolster self-esteem, communicate effectively, and learn to cooperate with others by valuing the differences among their peers.</p> <p>Students who graduate from a District 211 Wellness Program should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Display a working knowledge and understanding of health or skill related activities. 2. Apply and utilize components of health or skill related activities in the development of a personal fitness plan. 3. Demonstrate cooperative social skills and behaviors that reflect mutual respect through decision-making in-group & peer interaction. 4. Analyze and apply safety concepts with regard to self in multiple domains.
World Language	<p>World Languages at PHS offers Spanish and French where students are integrated in the language and work towards being immersed if they enroll in all four years. Many colleges require and recommend that students have at minimum 2 years of the same language. All students starting at the first level have the ability to earn dual credit or AP level courses by their senior year. Spanish does have an AP Literature and Culture class that is offered after the AP Spanish Language course. The study of one language for four years is highly recommended for reaching an intermediate to advanced level of proficiency as well as satisfying many college requirements. In order for students to then be successful in the upper level classes, the following should be understood: Sentence forming, mastery of vocabulary and retention and concept and skills applied. For more information, please visit our website https://phsworldlanguage.wixsite.com/phsworldlanguage</p>