

Curriculum

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CURRICULUM

The school curriculum is designed to prepare the students to successfully satisfy the high school graduation requirements and to be fully ready for the challenges of higher education.

The elementary and middle schools offer a comprehensive curriculum that is aligned fully with California State standards. Apart from the core subjects of Social Studies, English, Mathematics, Science, Fine Arts, students also take classes in Physical Education, Computer, Dance and Music. Moreover, Armenian Language and Armenian Studies are also taught in a sequential manner from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Technology is both integrated in subject areas and is taught as separate course included in the curriculum.

High School graduation requires three years of Social Studies, four years of English, one year of Grammar/Composition, four years of Mathematics, three years of Laboratory Sciences, four years of Armenian language, two years of Armenian Studies, two years of Physical Education, one year of Fine Arts and additional elective courses.

As such, our graduation requirements exceed California State graduation requirements as well as University of California and California State University admissions requirements. Almost all courses required for graduation from Ferrahian are officially approved by the University of California system and overall meet the requirements of colleges and universities in the United States.

Furthermore, the high school curriculum offers the students three paths for graduation one of them being AP/Honors. For AP/Honors courses please see the next section.

There are 180 instruction days, comprised of two semesters with two quarters per semester. The schedule of the academic program varies between grade levels. The requirements are as follows:

- Grades K-2 and 6-8 are enrolled in seven periods a day.
- Grades 3-5 are enrolled in eight periods a day.
- Grades 9-11 take seven courses per semester.
- Grade 12 students take a minimum of five courses per semester.
- To graduate a student must complete 26 units (260 credits) of high school coursework. Each unit is equal to two semester courses and each course is 5 credits.

The curriculum at Holy Martyrs Armenian Elementary & Ferrahian High School is not designed to meet the needs of students with special educational, psychological, and emotional limitations.

ADVANCED, HONORS AND AP COURSES

The high school curriculum, in addition to satisfying Ferrahian graduation and UC/CSU admission requirements, offers school-designated advanced courses, UC/CSU Honors Courses and College Board approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Advanced, Honors and AP courses improve students' academic skills and enhance their college standing. The following are the courses offered in respective categories:

School Advanced Courses				
Grade	Math	English	Science	Social Studies
8	Algebra I Adv.			
9	Geometry Adv.	English Lit. Adv.	Biology Adv.	
10	Algebra II Adv.	English Lit. Adv.	Chemistry Adv.	
11	Pre Calculus Adv.			
12				Armenian Studies Adv.

Honors Courses		
Grade	Armenian	English
12	Armenian Literature Honors	English Literature Honors World Literature Honors

College Board AP Courses				
Grade	Math	English	Science	Social Studies
9				Human Geography AP
10			Biology AP	World History AP
11		English Lang AP	Chemistry AP	U.S. History AP
12	Calculus AP*	English Lit. AP	Physics AP * Env. Science AP*	U.S. Government AP

Placement, Weight and College Credit:

Placement in Advanced, Honors and AP Courses requires:

- Overall GPA of 3.00 or better
- Completion of the prerequisites with a grade B or better.
- Instructor's recommendation
- Administration's approval

School-designated Advanced courses carry additional weight in GPA calculations for school graduation purposes only. They are not weighted by the UC/CSU systems.

Honors and AP courses carry additional weight in GPA calculations both for school graduation and college admission purposes. Furthermore, AP courses are given college credit. For more information about the AP program, please visit www.collegeboard.com/testing.

AP POLICY

Advanced Placement (AP) courses provide the students the opportunity to conduct college-level studies while still in high school. AP students must be prepared to be involved in critical reading and writing practices, analysis of material, synthesis of ideas and problem solving.

AP Guidelines

- An AP course will be offered only if five or more students are enrolled in that class.
- Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the corresponding College Board exams.
- If a student enrolled in an AP class fails to take the College Board administered exam, the AP grade received in school will not be weighted.
- The grade received for the College Board administered AP exam has no bearing on the grade earned in school. The grade recorded in the report card is final and cannot be modified.
- All AP curricular instruction must be completed before the exams.
- Teachers may utilize after-school hours and weekends for additional instruction.
- AP teachers are not allowed to borrow time from other teachers.
- All AP classes resume regular instruction after the AP exam administration and students take school-administered final exams as scheduled. This time period is also utilized to prepare the students for SAT-II subject exams.

Our school is registered with the College Board under the name of Holy Martyrs Armenian High School and the CEEB Code is **050869**. For more information please visit www.collegeboard.com

AP Prerequisites

Placement in AP courses requires:

- Completion of the prerequisites with a grade of B or better.
- Instructor's recommendation.
- Overall GPA of 3.00 or better and the approval of the Administration.
- Students may petition for reconsideration if not considered for AP placement.

AP Biology	Grade of B or better in Biology. Biology teacher's recommendation.
AP Chemistry	Grade of B or better in Chemistry. Chemistry teacher's recommendation.
AP Physics	Grade of B or better in Physics. Science teacher's recommendation.
AP Env. Sci.	Grade of B or better in any 11 th grade science course.
AP Calculus	Grade of A in Pre-Calculus. Pre-Calculus teacher's recommendation.
AP English Language	Grade of B or better in 10 th grade English. Satisfactory results on the AP Language Diagnostic Exam. English teacher's recommendation
AP English Literature	Grade of B or better in 11 th grade English/AP Language. Satisfactory results on the AP Literature Diagnostic Exam. English teacher's recommendation.
AP Human Geo.	Grade of B or better in 8 th grade Social Studies. Social Studies teacher's recommendation.
AP World History	Grade of B or better in AP Human Geography or English language. Social Studies or English language teacher's recommendation.
AP US History	Grade of B or better in World History. World History teacher's recommendation.
AP US Gov.	Grade of B or better in US History. US History teacher's recommendation.

SPECIAL CURRICULAR FEATURES

Armenian Language Development

Armenian Language Development (ALD) is a program for students who need special attention in the Armenian language and is offered to students in grades 1-10. A student in ALD must complete the program in three years. After completion of the ALD program, students are placed in their respective grade-level Armenian language classes.

Concurrent Enrollment

Upon approval of the Academic Director and upon completion of the necessary forms, students in grades 9-12 may attend other high schools and/or colleges when the following conditions exist:

- To repeat a failing course (the new course must be identical to the old one)
- To make up credit deficiencies
- To complete college admission requirements
- To take courses for college credit

On-Campus College Courses Offered Through Pierce College

The Los Angeles Pierce College has chosen Ferrahian School as a satellite site to offer evening college courses. Classroom regulations and grading policies are set by Pierce College.

The following courses are offered in conjunction with Pierce College:

- Psychology 1 Fall semester
- Sociology 1 Spring semester

These courses are selected from college General Breadth requirements and are UC/CSU transferable.

These are college courses, and the students need to abide by the Los Angeles Community College District Rules and Regulations. The grades earned in these college courses will become part of permanent records kept by the community colleges.

