

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: CONSIDER THESE LEARNING OPTIONS

Independent Study

A student works with a teacher to develop an independent class study, either in pursuit of interest or to meet graduation requirements. The teacher and student decide on the course content, evidence of learning, and achievement expectations. The student works independently through their course, and their supervising teacher provides periodic support.

[Read more about the independent study process here.](#)

Challenge Course

Students at Polaris can create and design curriculum for a course that they would like to work through. Students may follow a model that they have found at another school or institution, or they can create exactly the course that they are interested in taking. For example, students have planned scientific studies with field research, studied types of architecture of a region of nations, and read selections from a genre of literature and networked to find a literature circle in the community to discuss those works. Additionally, access to world class and *free* education online is constantly expanding. Consider these resources to get more ideas:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=library.muni.org• https://openstax.org/subjects (Free textbooks)• https://www.edx.org/ (Free self-paced courses)• https://www.hoopladigital.com/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.khanacademy.org/• http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses• https://adl.overdrive.com/• https://muni.freegalmusic.com/homes/index |
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Gifted Mentorship

The Gifted Mentorship Program is for exceptional high school juniors and seniors who are self disciplined and interested in pursuing an independent study under the direction of a professional/expert in a field of great interest to the student. [Read more about the gifted mentorship process here.](#)

CTE Internships

Internships in a CTE pathway are an exciting extension of the high school classroom into the workplace.

[Read more about CTE Internships here.](#)

Independent Capstone

The Polaris Capstone Project is a student-centered approach to instruction. Students form their own investigation of a guiding curiosity, to develop valuable research skills and new knowledge as they engage in design, problem solving, decision-making, creativity, and investigative activities. The teacher plays the role of facilitator, working with students to frame worthwhile questions, structuring meaningful tasks, coaching both knowledge development and weekly missions, and carefully assessing what students have learned from the experience. With this type of active and engaged learning, students will be inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are curious about. A public exhibition is required in order to complete this class for credit.

Paint a Mural

The intent of Polaris public art is to reflect our diverse community. Murals are encouraged to be unique designs and styles. The artwork should be tasteful and transcend the boundaries of time. Make one! [Read more about the mural process here.](#)

Leadership Endorsement Work time

The Polaris Leadership Program is used to encourage, develop, and recognize the leadership efforts made by high school students during their time at Polaris. Through this program, students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in leadership through multiple avenues. Upon completion of the program, students will receive a graduation cord and endorsement at graduation. [Read more about this program here.](#)

Plan an Intensive or Peer Taught Course

Students create a quarter or semester long curriculum in conjunction with a teacher advisor and deliver that course. Students create a course syllabus, develop lesson plans and implement them working with the advisor to evaluate students and assign grades.

HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

High school students need a minimum 22.5 credits to graduate.
Complete your Credit Checklist with your advisor.

Specific Requirements:

- Math: 3.0 Credits
based on placement, including completion of Algebra
- Language Arts 4 credits
.5 Intermediate Composition, .5 Comp Workshop
.5 World Literature, .5 American Literature, .5 Literature Elective
.5 Advanced Composition, and 1 LA Elective
- Science 3 credits,
1 Life and 1 Physical, and 1 Elective science
- Social Studies 4 credits
.5 Alaska Studies, .5 Social Studies elective, 1 World History, 1 US History,
.5 US Government, .5 Economics
- Health & PE 1.5 credits
1 ½ credits of Physical Education
- Elective 5 Credits
Plus 2 credits Advisory (.5 each year)

9 th Grade Typical Coursework				
Math Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2	Language Arts Intermediate Composition, American or World Literature	Social Studies Ak Studies, Social Studies Elective, US or World History	Science Biology, Concept. Physics, Science Electives: Projects, Natural Sci of AK, Climate, Forensic, Environ.	PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang PE Band/Orch. Spanish 1 or 2 Art Drama
10 th Grade Typical Coursework				
Math Geometry, Algebra 2	Language Arts Composition Workshop, American or World Literature	Social Studies US or World History, AK Studies, Social Studies Elective	Science Biology, Chemistry, Concept. Physics, Science Electives	PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang PE Band/Orch./Art Spanish Drama
11 th Grade Typical Coursework				
Math Algebra 2, AP Statistics, AP Calculus, Financial Lit, Analyzing Data	Language Arts Comp Workshop, Debate, LA Elective, Rhetoric, Adv. Lit. Analysis	Social Studies US or World History, AP History, Economics, US Government	Science Chemistry, AP Physics, Marine Bio, BioTech 1/2	PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang PE Band/Orch/Art Drama Spanish
12 th Grade Typical Coursework				
Math Algebra 2, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Financial Lit, Analyzing Data	Language Arts Advanced Comp, Rhetoric, Adv. Lit Analysis, Debate, LA Elective	Social Studies Economics, US Government, AP History	Science AP Physics, BioTech 1 / 2 , Anatomy/Phys., Science Projects	PE/ Fine Arts/ World Lang PE Drama Band/Orch/Art Spanish