



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why is CGHS being utilizing Smaller Learning Communities?

A: To provide greater personalized attention and increased academic achievement while preparing for college and future careers.

Q: What makes SLCs better?

A: In large high schools, many students do not get the individual help they need, causing them to either stop trying or drop out. Because there are only 100-200 students per SLC, teachers and staff know all their students and their individual needs as well as provide a context for their learning.

Q: Will we have to move to another location?

A: No, SLCs are on the same campus as the current high school.

Q: Can students change SLCs?

A: SLC selection is a one-year commitment, however, students may change SLCs after one year.

Q: Can students take a class that is not in their SLC?

A: Yes, students can choose any elective (some have special requirements). However, students must take at least one elective in their SLC. These electives are given priority registration to students enrolled in the SLC.

Q: What if I can't decide which SLC is right for me?

A: Parents, school counselors, career center, and other career resources are all available to help you make the right choice.

Resources:

Casa Grande High School
—Counseling Department:
707-778-4690
—Career Center: 707-778-4690

California Colleges:
www.CaliforniaColleges.edu

California Private Colleges:
www.aiccu.edu

California Student Aid Commission:
(financial aid information)
www.csac.ca.gov

Career Zone (career information)
www.cacareerzone.org

EdFund (financial aid information):
www.edfund.org

Free Application For Federal Student Aid:
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Santa Rosa Junior College
www.santarosa.edu
800-564-7752

Santa Rosa Junior College Pathways:
www.santarosa.edu/careerpathways
707-524-1732

Sonoma State University
www.sonoma.edu
707-664-2778

University of California, A-G
www.ucop.edu/doorways
510-987-9570

University of California
www.universityofcalifornia.edu
800-523-2048

Casa Grande High School

Small Learning Communities



2008-2009



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Petaluma City Schools Board of Education’s Mission and Vision:

The Petaluma City Elementary and Joint Union High School Districts are committed to providing opportunities for all students to be challenged and motivated in school so that upon graduation, they will be successful in their future educational endeavors, careers, and community.



The ELD Academy provides a social and academic setting in which students learn not only the English language but learn to function successfully in a new culture.

The number of English Learners grows each year. With that in mind, an organized, consistent program for rationally, thoughtfully teaching English, as well as other core and elective subjects, is essential.

Language learning and language teaching occur within social and cultural contexts and the ELD Academy provides such a context so that the acculturation (adapting to a new culture) process occurs more easily.

The goals for the students in the ELD Academy are:

1. to improve listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in English, and
2. to help students succeed in other classes leading to graduation.



Academic Program Embedded in SLCs English Language Development

The purpose of the English Language Development Academy is to provide English language instruction and support across the curriculum for non-English speaking and limited English proficient students. The curriculum provides a course of study that allows students to learn English while being enrolled in the core curriculum that is required for graduation from high school and prepare for post-secondary education and/or training.

Through the use of Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) instructional strategies from qualified instructors, as well as language support from Bilingual Instructional Assistants, students have a greater opportunity for success both in completing the courses that are required for graduation as well as in passing the state-mandated California High School Exit Examination.



Casa Grande High School



Dear Parents and Students,

This brochure is designed to familiarize students, parents and the community with the Small Learning Communities (SLC) at Casa Grande High School (CGHS). The goal of the SLCs is to provide students with increased personalization, relevance and rigor, so that they can easily utilize real-world applications, develop critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

Current research shows that reducing the size of schools can positively impact the achievement of students. We want to keep all the advantages of a large comprehensive high school while utilizing the benefits that come with smaller schools. SLC benefits include increased student achievement and graduation rates, fewer discipline referrals, and additional parent and community involvement.

Ninth and tenth grades are organized into SLCs called "Houses." The Houses consist of no more than 120-200 students that share common teachers for three of their courses. Ninth grade students share common English, math, and science teachers. Tenth grade students share English, science and world history teachers.

In the eleventh and twelfth grade, students will choose an SLC that includes both academic and elective courses around a common theme. Within these SLCs, students take their required English and social science courses. Students who remain in an SLC and complete the requirements could earn a certificate within their interest area, a potentially valuable tool in seeking a career or gaining entrance to a specific post-secondary programs and colleges.

Please review this brochure with your family and consider all the options. SLCs provide a variety of opportunities, whether the student has identified an area of interest or is still exploring possibilities. We hope the SLCs will provide the best education possible for all students by providing rigor, relevance, and relationships that prepares them for college and the workforce.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

9th Grade

English
Math
Physical Science
Physical Education
Human Interaction/Sem. Elective
One Elective

10th Grade

English
Math
Biology
World History
Physical Education
One Elective

11th Grade

English
U. S. History
Visual Performing Arts or
Foreign Language
Additional Math or Science or
Math/Science Related (11th or 12th
grade)
Two Electives

12th Grade

English
Government/ Economics
Additional Math or Science or
Math/Science Related (11th or
12th grade)
Three Electives



There are many advantages for students in honors and AP courses:

1. They have the opportunity to work with other students who like to be academically challenged.
2. Graduates are prepared for success at a four-year university.
3. Honors credit is reflected in their transcripts with an H for honors, or a weighted grade point.
4. When counselors are asked on college applications if the student has taken the most rigorous course of instruction, the answer is yes.

In 2002, over one million high school students participated in AP courses, and over 90 percent took the corresponding AP exam. Universities may exempt students from introductory coursework if they demonstrate mastery through an AP test.

Newsweek magazine recognizes schools that do the best job of preparing students for college with their "Best High Schools" list every year. Casa Grande consistently ranks in the top 1000 high schools in the nation due to the number of AP tests taken by graduating seniors. As *Newsweek* states, "It is one way to measure how committed the school is to helping kids take college-level courses."



Academic Program Imbedded in SLCs Accelerated Academic Program

This program serves students who want rigorous academic classes with greater depth and breadth. The courses are fast-paced, and students can expect assignments that demand higher standards of intellectual complexity. For some of the honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes there is an admission test; others have open enrollment.

Please see your counselor for more information on how to enroll. All students in these classes commit to the possibility of course work over breaks such as summer and spring break. AP courses, offer high school students the opportunity to receive university credit for their work during high school.



Petaluma City Schools Graduation Requirements

Students are required to have a minimum of 220 credits (5 for each semester class passed with a D or better), as follows:

English.....	40 credits
Math.....	20 credits
Social Science.....	30 credits
World History.....	10 credits
United States History.....	10 credits
American Government.....	5 credits
Economics.....	5 credits
Science.....	20 credits
Biological Science.....	10 credits
Physical Science.....	10 credits
Fine Arts or Foreign Language.....	10 credits
Physical Education.....	20 credits
Human Interaction.....	5 credits
Additional Math or Additional Science or Math/Science related.....	10 credits
Elective.....	65 credits
Additional Requirements:	
• <i>State of California:</i> completion of Algebra I and passing scores on Math and English Language Arts of the Calif. High School Exit Exam	



Arts, Design, and Media (ADM)

Welcome to ADM, a cluster that seeks to teach the core subject areas of English, history, through the lens of the arts and technology. The influence of technology and scientific innovation is profoundly changing how we express ourselves.

ADM seeks to provide students with a creative, artistic, and intellectual foundation as well as strong communication skills. We will explore deeply creative works—films or photographs, symphonies or sculptures, theater pieces or 3-D video games.

Faculty within ADM is committed to educating responsible designers and artists for the information age by teaching the fundamentals of design (autoCAD and 3D animation), media (web design, video, photography), and the arts (fine arts, music, drama) as well as marketing (sales, promotion, pricing, and advertising) . Within their core subject areas, students continue to tackle rigorous course work flavored by elements of the arts and technology.

If you are interested in music, film, video games, design, animation, marketing or the entertainment business, ADM might be right for you.

Highlights:

- Fieldtrips to art, music, and design venues
- Guest speakers focusing on a range of topics
- Student exhibitions at the end of each semester
- Senior projects related to ADM



Professions: 3D Animator, Automotive & Diesel Mechanic, Architect, Astronomer, Carpenter, Chemical Engineering, Chemist, Civil Engineering, Construction Trades, Contractor, Data Base Development, Drafting Technology, Electronic Technology, Electrician, Energy & Transportation, Engineering, Graphic Communications, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Lab Technician, Landscape Design, Manufacturing, Mathematician, Mechanical Engineering, Physicist, Plumber, Research Technician, Science Teacher, Statistician, Surveyor, Technical Writing, Translators, Web Designer



College Majors: Architecture, Astronomy, Computer Science, Electronics, Engineering, Information Science, Mathematics, Multimedia Communications, Systems Engineering

Junior College Certificate Programs: Adobe Applications Specialist, Adobe Certifications, Aeronautical and Aviation, Applied Graphics, Architecture and Construction, Automotive Technology, Cisco Networking, Civil & Surveying Technology, Construction Management, Diesel Equipment, Drafting, Electronic Technology, Graphic Design Production, HTML Web Content Developer



Service Opportunities: Earn college credits, build resumes or make contacts for senior projects by volunteering at a nonprofit or government agency: Community-based Affordable Housing



Science, Technology & Engineering (STE)

STE is centered around hands-on project based learning that gives students the opportunity to develop a knowledge of and skills in the areas of digital design, architecture, drafting, computer technology, and the automotive field. By combining the core academic courses of English, social studies, and science with elective courses centered on technology and industrial applications students will prepare themselves for college and entry level careers.

Automotive Technology

The Automotive Technology program will give students the basic skills and theory to become a technician. The automotive field has many opportunities for the students including repair, service, sales and handling of hazardous materials. With further education a person can receive an advanced degree in automotive technology or automotive design.

Architecture & Design Technology

Careers in the field of Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) range from entry level drafting to the highly skilled practitioner. People with a drafting background can enter the fields of interior and industrial design, civil engineering and landscape design. Engineering fields include: mechanical, manufacturing and structural.

Computer Technology

The Personal Computer (PC) Technology course teaches students to repair and upgrade PC hardware by allowing students to build and refurbish computers to be used in classrooms school wide. PC technology also teaches technical skills and desktop publishing.

Digital Design Technology

The Digital Design Program introduces and develops high-demand skills in graphic and web design, computer programming, 2- and 3-Dimensional animation, and in using the powerful combination of technology and visual language to persuade, inform, and entertain. Each course combines time-tested design techniques with state-of-the-art technical instruction. These courses prepare students for career exploration in diverse fields such as interface and publication design, information architecture, forensic animation, special effects, and video game design.




Professions: 3D Animator, Actor, Architect, Choreographer, Cinematographer, Critic (art, dance, film, music, theater), Desktop Publisher, Director, Editor, Electrician, DJ, Graphic Designer, Interior Design, Illustrator, Manufacturing, Musician, Painter, Recording Engineer, Sales, Sculpture, Screenwriter, Set Designer, Small Business Entrepreneur, Translator



College Majors: Architecture, Art, Arts Administration, Business, Communications, Computer Graphics, Computer Science, Dance, Engineering, Journalism, Liberal Studies, Mathematics, Marketing, Music, Photography, Theater Arts

Junior College Certificate Programs: Adobe Certifications, Art, Civil and Surveying Technology, Dance, Fashion Studies, General Multimedia, Graphic Design Productions, Interior Design, Theater Arts, Web Content Developer

Service Opportunities: Earn college credits, build resumes or make contacts for senior projects by volunteering at a nonprofit or government agency: Make a Video · Design a Brochure or Poster for an Agency or Special Event · Work at a Theatre Company · Assist with Newsletter Production · Take promotional photographs



Culinary, Academics, Tourism, and Event Planning Resources (CATER)

The goal of CATER, a unique and dynamic SLC, is to create meaningful life experiences centered around food, the garden and the community. English, social studies and elective teachers along with CATER students will embark on this adventure together to discover how our connection with food impacts our past, present and future.

The CATER program, will help students prepare for either advanced training, college or a career in one of the popular fields associated in the culinary arts, agriculture, event planning, hospitality, entrepreneurship, business or tourism fields.

Highlights

- Learn how to make your favorite foods with hands-on experience
- Learn how to plant, harvest and cook your own food from our organic garden
- Discover how to start and operate a small business
- Take field trips to restaurants, cooking schools, farmers markets and farms
- Read about travel and food in literature
- Become knowledgeable about food laws and regulations
- Plan and execute an event at school or in the community

Interesting Facts

- Sonoma County has added 700 jobs this year in the tourism industry and in 2004 tourism invested 1.8 billion dollars in the area
- Sonoma County has established itself as a tourism destination
- According to CBS News, “enrollment is heating up at cooking schools across the country. Thousands are now pursuing their cooking dreams.”
- Sonoma County celebrity chef Guy Fieri has a college degree



Professions: Acupuncturist, Biotechnology Services, Chiropractor, Dental Services, Dietician, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Medical Office Services, Nursing, Ophthalmologist, Optometrist, Personal Trainer, Paramedic, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Physician, Sports Medicine, Surgeon, Therapeutic Services, Veterinarian, X-ray Technician

College Majors: Athletic Training, Biology, Chemistry, Forensics, Foreign Language, Gerontology, Human Development, Kinesiology, Math, Medicine, Nursing, Psychology, Physical Therapy, Science, Sociology

Junior College Certificate Programs: Community Health Worker, Dental Assisting, Dental Hygienist, Dietetic Technology, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Assisting, Nurse Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Psychiatric Technician, Public Safety Technician, Radiological Technology, Vocational Nursing

Learning in the Community:

Students in their junior and senior year participate in internships and extended learning experiences in health-related occupations. Seniors make contacts for their health-oriented senior projects.





Health Careers Pathway (HCP)

HCP is a program designed to integrate curriculum to meet the academic and career needs of students interested in the physical and mental health fields. According to the Sonoma County Medical Services Report the long term outlook for the health service industry in Sonoma County continues to grow. HCP provides students with challenging hands-on, real-world, academic and technical skills in the health, science, English and social studies classes.

In order to best prepare students for health careers, teachers in the HCP program are aligning courses with Santa Rosa Junior College's and Sonoma State's certificate and technical programs.

Highlights:

- Students take part in internships and job shadows
- The *Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA)* for HCP students is a national student leadership organization that includes regional and state competitions, community service, and links to health providers, educational programs and scholarships.
- Students take field trips and learn from guest speakers with expertise in health careers
- Today's health-care crisis in Sonoma County and across California makes the demand for skilled health-care workers higher than ever.



Professions:

Chef (Pastry, Restaurants, Catering, Winery, TV, Cruise Ships), Restaurateur (Restaurant Owner, Restaurant Manager), Caterer/Catering, Event Planner, Wedding Planner, Hotel Management, Wine Taster/Critic, Wine Producer/Production, Food Writer, Food Stylist, Travel Writer, Travel Translator, Tour Guide, Agri-Tourism, Tour Operator, Tourism Marketing, Travel Agent, Artisan Food Producer, Food Distributor, Farmer



College Majors: Culinary Arts, Business, Event Planning, Foreign Language, Hospitality, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Recreation, Sustainable Agriculture, Travel and Tourism, Viticulture

Junior College Certificate Programs: Culinary Arts, Agriculture/Natural Resources, Sustainable Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture

Service Opportunities: Earn college credits, build resumes or make contacts for senior projects by volunteering at a nonprofit or government agency: Food Bank · Soup Kitchen · Homeless Services Programs · After School Programs · SRJC Culinary Café and Bakery



Justice, Environment, and Teaching (JET)

This academy prepares students to provide services that will benefit humankind and the planet. Courses emphasize critical thinking and writing, hands-on projects, and community involvement. This SLC integrates social studies and English with elective courses so students discover that proper understanding of today's global issues requires analysis from many perspectives. Seniors will receive valuable support on their Senior Projects. All students are encouraged to acquire work-place skills and to put them to practical use. Currently they may choose from two separate pathways in JET: Sustainable Society or Political & Social Justice. The Teaching Pathway is under development and courses may be available in 08/09.

The **Sustainable Society Pathway** explores ways that the natural environment has shaped human society while also examining ways that people have impacted the natural world. This pathway promotes student interactions with physical settings on and off campus and draws upon community members with expertise in teaching about aspects of the environment. The theme of "sustainability", or preservation of resources for future generations, will be emphasized wherever appropriate.

Professions: Alternative energy, educator, organic farmer, contractor/landscaper, ecologist, transportation/city planner

Majors: Ecology, Architecture/Construction, Education, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Forestry, International Relations

Junior College Certificate Programs: Human Services, Parks and Recreation Management, Watershed Management, GIS

Service Opportunities: Earn college credits, build resumes or make contacts for senior projects by volunteering at a nonprofit or government agency.

This pathway requires students to take Environmental English as well as U.S. History in the 11th grade. In the 12th grade SSP students will take Environmental English (SSP) and Government.



The **Political and Social Justice Pathway** examines the root causes of social and political controversies, what steps people are taking to address them, and how students are a part of and contribute to the world around them. Students will learn important job skills such as working with others, self-initiation, communication, and presentation skills.

Professions: Lawyer, judge, ranger, politician, teacher, professor, social worker, psychologist, counselor, therapist, poet, author, clergy, probation officer, court clerk, mediator, public relations consultant, journalist, advocate, organizer, campaigner

Majors: Ecology, History, Sociology, Political Science, Administration of Justice, Anthropology, Child Development, Economics, English, Global Studies, Human Services, Psychology, Humanities, Communications, Management, Criminal Justice, Education, Human Development, International Studies, Liberal Studies, Philosophy, Public Administration, Public Relations, Women & Gender Studies, Watershed Management

Junior College Certificate Programs: Paralegal, Police Academy, Child Development, Community Health Work, Firefighter, Corrections Officer, Human Services, Legal Secretary, Legal Office Support, Public Safety, Supervisory Management

Service Opportunities; Earn college credits, build resumes or make contacts for senior projects by volunteering at a nonprofit or government agency.

This pathway requires students to take the combined English and U.S. History course Rebels, Resistance, and Revolution (RRR) in the 11th grade. In the 12th grade PSJ students will take Literature of the 60's for English and both Government (PSJ) and Economics (PSJ).

