

YOU'RE IN PREPS class of 2025

Incoming Parent and Student FAQ

Q: Is it difficult to balance school work and sports?

- "It's not difficult to balance! Using your free study periods, collaboration on Blue Days, and Flex are great times to get a lot of work done! Although I'm not an athlete, the robotics program that I partake in requires my involvement for around 18-20 hours every week. I'm still able to get my work done every day by using my time wisely and seeing teachers for extensions if I ever need it." Sarah Ungerer '20

Q. We are ready for our daughter to become a member of the class of 2025. How do we secure her space?

- You can go to the [Class of 2025 website](#) and use a credit card to pay the deposit. The link to go directly to the deposit link [here](#). The deposit is due no later than 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 30th.

Q. How are students accepted with honors?

- To be accepted with honors students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher and score 90% or greater on the High School Placement Test.

Q: How are my classes for Freshman year decided?

- All accepted students are invited to take our placement tests in order to best place them in honors courses and the proper level of classes.

Q. Can you take dance as an elective

- Yes. Dance is in the performing arts department and counts for the "F" requirement for the UC/CSU system.

Q. How many classes do you take freshman year? Did you take electives or free periods?

- "I would recommend taking 6 classes and an elective. I had a free period my freshman year that I really didn't need. I wish I had taken an elective instead of a free period because the freshman classes are pretty easy to manage. Free periods are the most helpful as you go up grade levels because your workload will increase." - Grace Jackson '21

Q. How many honors classes do you suggest taking? How many AP courses do students generally take?

- Honors and AP classes vary from student to student based on the prerequisites, the students level of challenge and the subjects that are of interest to her. You will receive more guidance on the subject at the scheduling evening which is on April 22nd.

Q. How often do you meet with your counselors?

- There are three levels of counseling that you will get at PHS. Your personal counselor will meet with you at least once a semester unless you request more frequent check ins. You also have an academic mentor who meets with you at least once a week but usually more often. And finally you have a college counselor who will increase their appointments with you as you get closer to your Junior and Senior Year

Q. What are the uniform requirements?

- "I LOVE the uniform. Before I started at Pres. I was a little worried because I NEVER wear skirts, but oh my gosh it is so easy and convenient to not have to think about what you're wearing every day. The specific uniform requirements/dress code can be found [here](#). Although it may seem scary or not fun to have to comply with a dress code, Pres. has made sure that we can still express who we are even when in uniform. I generally wear a plain or pres-wear t-shirt, a hoodie, my skirt, and fuzzy boots. This keeps me in dress code as well as nice and comfy during the day. By the way, Pres- wear are presentation-specific clothes that are very cute that you can wear everyday. They're sold through Merry Mart, so you can't get dress coded in them! Overall I love the uniform, and my

friends at non-uniform schools are always jealous that I don't have to stress about what I wear in the morning like them.”- Zoe Miller '21

Q. What kind of science programs are available at Pres?

- In addition to the curricular offerings in science which can be found [here](#), we have programs that support STEM like, Robotics, the Astronomy Club, Girls who Code, Math and Science Academy, Panthers Exploring Medicine, The Student Environmental Action Society, Women in Computer Science and the participation of our students in the Math and Science Colloquium.

Q. What does the first day of school for a freshman look like?

- We spend two days orienting our Freshmen. Those days are spent getting to know your classmates through fun activities, being introduced to your Big Sisters and your teachers. Practicing getting from class to class and also opening your lockers.

Q. How do you start a club if it doesn't already exist?

- If there is enough interest you can take the proposal to the student council and get it approved there and then it is taken to the Administrative leadership team for approval.

Q. How has Pres helped you with college and time management

- “One thing that Pres has taught me is to be adaptable. Not all of your teachers are going to be teaching the same way. Through the years, you will experience all types of different teaching styles, both in and out of class. Presentation has helped me realize that I must become flexible in completing my work. Not only are students exposed to different teaching styles but are also taught how to work as individuals. I think that this is very important going into college because professors are more likely to teach to a larger group of students. This means that teachers will no longer be able to focus on each student. Pres students will be able to adapt to the teaching style of each new professor and will be successful because they have already found their own specialized ways in taking in the information provided.” Meghan Manalad '21

Q. How long does homework take for frosh?

- "It really depends on your course load. Although I encourage you to challenge yourself, make sure it fits you and what you know you can do. It took me a while to adjust to freshman year, so homework took me more time to complete than it would others. But now I have learned how to be more efficient because I reached out to my teachers and they helped me, so I have time after school for sports and downtime. Homework is very different for each student, but if you manage your time well and take advantage of the time Pres. gives you to work on your homework, you should be able to complete it and have time for sports and other activities." - Zoe Miller '21

Q. Describe the big sister program?

- Upon arrival at PHS, each student is paired with a Big Sister who is a junior or Senior that is the point person for the incoming freshman for questions, concerns or information.

Q. How easy is it to meet people from different schools?

- "It's actually really easy to meet people outside of Pres! All the local Catholic schools, mostly Presentation, Bellarmine, Mitty, and Notre Dame, host mixers and dances throughout the year where you can meet new people. If social events aren't your speed, we also host plenty of collaborative events with these other schools for things like leadership, community service, or even school spirit. It's also really easy to meet new friends outside of Pres through playing for one of our sports teams or even just attending other teams' games. All of our teams compete regularly against other schools in the West Catholic Athletic League in official matches, as well as some local non-Catholic schools like Willow Glen High School in unofficial scrimmages. It's a great time to engage in some friendly competition, but still bond with new people over a shared passion. Ultimately, regardless of what you choose to get involved in, there will always be plenty of opportunities to meet and establish new connections with people both inside and outside the Pres community." Amelia Landess '21

Q. How does carpool work?

- We put together lists of people in your zip code areas and have that available for people who would like to carpool.

Q. Is independent research done outside of class or in a separate class?

- Our Independent Research is done outside of the normal schedule, but it is a class you must enroll in if you would like to participate. This class meets once a month during our Collaboration period on Blue days and is taken for pass/fail credit. Members of this class also meet one-on-one with the moderator to work on their projects. At the end of the year all members of the class compete in the Synopsys Science Fair.

Q. Are the sports at Pres competitive?

- Athletics at Presentation have a rich and storied history and in the last five years we have been lucky enough to capture 19 league championships, 9 section championships, 2 NorCal championships and 3 state championships; both individual and team. Our success is not just gauged on how many championships we are able to win but rather our student-athletes experience and ability to grow as a person. Athletics help round out the educational experience of the Presentation student and we will have been successful if those lessons learned through athletics are carried forward into the student's everyday lives.

Q. How often are tests taken?

- We teach through units and at the end of each unit, students are assessed. The number of units ranges depending upon the class, but is somewhere between 3 and 7 units.

Q. When do clubs meet?

- Clubs typically meet during lunch on Gold days, but sometimes can have quick meetings during our Flex Time. Some of the larger clubs, like Peer Ministry, meet on Blue days during collaboration. Typically meetings are around 30 minutes long, so you still have some time to enjoy your lunch period.

Q. Timing of school days

- Our school schedule is as follows: [School Schedule](#)

Q. What is the main strength of Pres academically?

- PHS is proud to meet the needs of a wide range of students. We have an extensive breadth and scope of class offerings for all students.

Q. Can you take another class instead of a free period?

- You can take a maximum of 7 classes over the course of a Blue and Gold Day if you would prefer to skip a study period.

Q. Do freshmen still get the electives they want or only juniors and seniors?

- While Junior and Seniors get first pick of elective classes, we have many offerings and enough for the freshman and sophomores to choose from.

Q. How many clubs do you have?

- We have over 20 clubs and organizations at PHS.

Q. What does spirit week look like at your school?

- "Spirit at Pres is awesome because it's year-round! There are so many activities throughout the year to show your spirit such as Magazine Drive, rallies, and spirit week. Spirit week is so much fun because it's a class level competition. Each class will get points for different activities such as decorating posters or dressing up according to daily themes. At the end of the week, we have a huge rally with a bunch of games and dances performed by classes. At the end of the school year, the grade with the most spirit points gets the spirit trophy!" - Grace Jackson '21

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