

**Penncrest High School**  
**Summary of Academic Guide Updates for 2025-2026**

***Updated End User Experience***

- Uniform look and feel throughout the document
- Updated fonts for consistency, legibility, and accessibility
- Updated charts to demonstrate suggested sequencing and options within the block
- Consolidated similar statements for departments/ course descriptions
- Linked table of contents for online users

***New Additions***

- Principal welcome message - pg. 3
- Block schedule information - pg. 22
- Course information (how to read) - pg. 23
- Graduation planning guide - pg. 27
- Simon Youth Academy information - pg. 19
- Life Skills Special Education course descriptions - pg. 79

***Updated Sections***

- General information - pg. 2: Added the district mission and vision statements
- Graduation requirements - pg. 6: Updated the chart to include certain required courses. Added a graphic aid for Act 158
- Grading - pg. 8: Changed the letter grade for failure from E to F
- Weighted GPA - pg. 8: Updated the chart for simplicity
- Academic placements - pg. 9: Consolidated individual department charts
- Flexible Schedule - pg. 10: Name change from “Work Release”. Updated language for new block schedule format
- NCAA courses - pg. 14: Added a graphic aid
- College Board assessments - pg. 14: Consolidated information
- Service and career readiness - pg. 15: Updated language for clarity. Updated graduating classes
- Dual enrollment - pg. 16: Updated language for clarity. Added WCU PRIZE information
- DCTS - pg. 17: Updated language for clarity. Added clusters information
- Academic Courses - pg. 29: formerly “Academic Support”

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***Course information***

| <b>Department</b>       | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Comments</b>   | <b>Rationale</b>   |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Academic Courses</b> | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Advanced Academic Studies Lab</i></b>            | This is a new 0.5 credit elective pg. 29                                    | This course is aimed at assisting students with a heavy AP level academic load by understanding how to maximize the resources in AP Central, time for research or focused study, and AP test taking strategies |
|                         | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Special Education Practicum</i></b>              | This is a new 1.0 credit elective pg. 29                                    | Course designed for students who are considering a career in Special Education.  |
|                         | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Unified Courses</i></b>                          | These are new 0.5 credit electives. pg. 29                                  | Course designed to add flexibility of scheduling for special education students in elective courses.   |
|                         | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Mathematics Education Practicum</i></b>          | This is a new 1.0 credit elective pg. 29                                    | Course designed for students who are considering a career in Education.  |
| <b>Art</b>              | Approve new courses:<br><b><i>Ceramics I, II, and III</i></b>                 | Reformatted ceramics classes, replacing Ceramics A, B, and Advanced. pg. 32 | Reformatted for block scheduling and more succinct sequencing  |
|                         | Approve new courses:<br><b><i>Digital Design I, Digital Photography I</i></b> | This is a new 1.0 credit elective pg. 33                                    | Courses are designed to continue studies in digital art, making the program more comprehensive.  |
|                         | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Art Major IV</i></b>                             | This is a new 1.0 credit elective pg. 35                                    | Courses are designed to continue studies in 2D and 3D art, making the program more comprehensive and adapting to opportunities in a block schedule.  |
| <b>Business</b>         | Title change:<br><b><i>Business Computer Applications</i></b>                 | Replaces <i>Computer Applications for the 21st Century</i> . pg. 36         | Updating the course title to reflect current business nomenclature and practices.  |
|                         | Title change:<br><b><i>Personal Finance</i></b>                               |   | Updating the course title to reflect current business nomenclature and practices.  |

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|                                |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                                |   | Replaces <i>Personal Financial Management</i> .<br>pg. 38           |  |
| <b>English</b>                 | Title change:<br><b><i>(H) English 11</i></b>                                   | Replaces <i>Composition</i> and <i>American Literature</i> . pg. 42 | Reflects de-leveling for the class of 2026. Combines these courses into a single, full-credit, integrated course.  |
|                                | Title change:<br><b><i>(CP, H, ACC) English 12</i></b>                          | Replaces <i>Writing</i> and <i>World Literature</i> . pg. 42        | Combines these courses into a single, full-credit, integrated course.  |
|                                | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Creative Writing</i></b>                           | This is a new 0.5 credit elective pg. 45                            | Creative writing is a popular course subject. In this block schedule format provides opportunity for more students.  |
|                                | Approve new course:<br><b><i>Modern Shakespeare</i></b>                         | This is a new 0.5 credit elective pg. 45                            | Course is designed for students wanting to explore in-depth the works of Shakespeare.  |
|                                | Renew<br><b><i>Women in Lit.</i></b>  | revamped course. pg. 46   | Women in Lit. is a popular course subject. In this block schedule format provides opportunity for more students.   |
| <b>Family Consumer Science</b> | Title change:<br><b><i>Food and Nutrition</i></b>                               | Replaces <i>Advanced Food and Nutrition I and II</i> . pg. 48       | Consolidates the 2 courses into a single, 1.0 credit course to better fit within the block schedule.   |
| <b>Mathematics</b>             | Approve new courses:<br><b><i>Algebra IA and IB</i></b>                         | Each 1.0 credits pg. 50   | Designed for standard level students to have more in-depth time with Algebra 1. Courses are intended to be taken in a single year, in preparation for keystones testing. |
|                                | Change in format:<br><b><i>AP Calculus AB and BC</i></b>                        | Changing from 1.0 credits to 1.5 credits.                           | Format change to align with block schedule.  |
| <b>Music</b>                   | Approve new courses<br><b><i>Intro to Ensembles: Instrumental and Vocal</i></b> | This is a new 0.5 credit elective pg. 59                            | These courses are designed to provide music performance opportunities for students with novice or no music experience.   |
|                                | Title change:<br><b><i>Piano Lab</i></b>  | Replaces <i>Piano Lab A, B, C, D</i> pg. 61                         | The new format of the course allows students of any level to have an individualized music learning experience.   |

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|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Science</b>   | Title change:<br><b><i>Physics I</i></b>  | Replaces <i>Honors Physics</i><br>pg. 68   | Reflects de-leveling for the class of 2026.   |
|  | Title change:<br><b><i>Chemistry: Theory and Application</i></b>  | Replaces <i>Honors Chemistry: Theory and Application</i> pg. 70  | Reflects de-leveling for the class of 2026.   |
|  | Title change:<br><b><i>(H) Chemistry I</i></b>  | Replaces <i>Honors</i> and <i>Accelerated Chemistry I</i><br>pg. 70  | Reflects de-leveling for the class of 2026.   |
|  | Title change:<br><b><i>Integrated Science</i></b>   | Replaces <i>CP Integrated Science</i> pg. 71   | Reflects de-leveling for the class of 2026.   |
|  | Approve new courses<br><b><i>Science and Technology: Rocketry and Astronomy</i></b><br>and<br><b><i>Science and Technology: Measurement and Engineering</i></b> | New 0.5 science courses<br>pg. 71  | Dividing topics presented in the former <i>Science and Technology</i> course for more in-depth study in the block schedule. |
| Approve new courses<br><b><i>Forensic Biology</i></b><br>and<br><b><i>Forensic Chemistry and Physics</i></b> | New 0.5 science courses<br>pg. 72   | Dividing topics presented in the former <i>Forensics</i> course for more in-depth study in the block schedule. |   |
| <b>Social Studies</b>  | Title change:<br><b><i>(H) US History</i></b>   | Replaces <i>CP, Honors,</i> and <i>Accelerated US History</i> pg. 74   | Reflects de-leveling for the class of 2026.   |
|  | Approve new course<br><b><i>History Through Film</i></b>  | New 0.5 credit elective pg. 78   | Course is designed to provide additional historical study opportunities for students.                                       |

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|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Special Education</b> | Title change:<br><b><i>Fundamentals of Reading</i></b>  | Replaces <i>Wilson Reading</i> pg. 79  | Updating the title to be more flexible to meet students' individual needs.   |
| <b>Technology</b>        | Approve new courses:<br><b><i>Introduction to Filmmaking</i></b><br><br>Move <b><i>TV Production I</i></b> and <b><i>II</i></b> to Technology Department  | New 1.0 credit elective course<br><br>Formerly in the English department pg. 83  | Course is designed to provide additional technology offerings and address the popularity of TV production/film student interests.<br><br>Updated to better match the scope and study of the courses. |
| <b>World Language</b>    | Approve new course<br><b><i>Wenhua: Chinese Storytelling</i></b><br><br>Alternating courses <b><i>Le Monde Francophone: Canada</i></b> and <b><i>Northern Africa</i></b><br><br>Alternating courses <b><i>El Mundo Hispanohablante: Spain &amp; Cuba</i></b> and <b><i>Argentina &amp; Cuba</i></b> | New 0.5 credit elective pg. 87<br><br>Alternates with <i>Europe</i> and <i>Africa Sub Saharan</i> pg. 90<br><br>Alternates with <i>Mexico &amp; Peru</i> and <i>Costa Rica &amp; Dominican Republic</i> pg. 95 | Course is designed to provide additional Chinese study opportunities for students.<br><br>These courses alternate yearly<br><br>These courses alternate yearly                                       |