



Pacific Elementary School

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Course Descriptions for Independent Study Courses (PESD 201)

Board Approved for the Year 2024-25

The board certifies the following course descriptions for course-based independent study in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and first through sixth grades. In certifying these course descriptions, the board affirms the following:

- The courses are substantially equivalent in rigor, educational quality, and intellectual challenge to in-person instruction and the equivalent classroom-based courses.
- The courses are aligned to all relevant local and state content standards.
- Completing a course-based independent study course at Pacific Elementary School is equivalent to completing the same classroom-based course, and is therefore equivalent to the same number of instructional minutes offered to classroom-based students.

The district will provide at least one opportunity for synchronous instruction with peers and an appropriately credentialed teacher to all students participating in independent study each school day as follows:

- On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, all independent study students are expected to attend in-person classes with an appropriately credentialed teacher and opportunities for peer interaction.
- On Wednesdays and Fridays, the district will provide a synchronous class meeting through Zoom or a similar online platform with an appropriately credentialed teacher and opportunities for peer interaction.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The course of study in transitional kindergarten will include the following subjects:

- **Social and Emotional Development**: Developing and maintaining a positive sense of self and rewarding relationships with others, including adults and peers, identifying emotions in themselves and managing their impulses and emotions, following rules and meeting expectations, learning to work in both independent and cooperative situations, focusing attention, initiating and sustaining peer play, and resolving social conflicts.
- **Mathematics**: Reciting numbers in order, counting small numbers of objects, writing and recognizing some numerals, comparing and manipulating sizes of groups, exploring, naming, drawing, and composing 2- and 3-dimensional shapes, classifying and categorizing objects, recognizing and extending patterns, exploring measurement and concepts such as longer, shorter, more than, and less than, and comparing the positions of objects and people.
- **Language Arts**: Listening, speaking, developing grammar and vocabulary, improving understanding of conventions of standard English, exploring word relationships, learning to clarify the meanings of words, developing phonological awareness and manipulating syllables and sounds, developing awareness of the organization and basic features of print, beginning to recognize and name upper and lower case letters, handling books appropriately, comprehending key ideas and details from stories, writing letters or letter-like shapes, and writing their first name correctly.
- **Social Studies**: Understanding shared responsibility and relationships, discussing the family history and cultural traditions of the self and others, respecting diversity, being involved in group activities (e.g., including decision-making, respect for the majority, and valuing views of others), learning to negotiate, compromise, and pay attention to others' feelings, learning about American and world history examples of honesty, courage, determination, for example, from stories and folklore, making maps and models, exploring calendars and time, and exploring symbols such as traffic symbols.
- **Science and Engineering**: Demonstrating curiosity, asking questions, making and testing predictions, using the five senses to observe and describe objects and events in the environment, identify and use a variety of observational tools, collecting data and recording information, comparing and contrasting objects, investigating characteristics of animals, plants, soil, rocks, bodies of water, types of weather, and processes such as water freezing, melting, and evaporating.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors**: Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education**: Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise, including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for transitional kindergarten is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary kindergarten students. This is equal to or greater than 36,000 minutes of instructional time per year, or 200 minutes (3 hours, 20 minutes) per day for 180 days.

KINDERGARTEN

The course of study in kindergarten will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics**: CA CCSS Math Standards for kindergarten which include representing, relating, and operating on whole numbers, initially with sets of objects, and describing shapes and space.
- **Language Arts**: CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for kindergarten, which include learning the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words; breaking down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes; reading and understanding simple books and stories; writing and sharing information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others, and speaking aloud.
- **Social Studies**: CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for kindergarten which include understanding the concept of good citizenship, symbols, calendars and time, major holidays, and information about important historical figures.
- **Science and Engineering**: CA NGSS Science Standards for kindergarten which include understanding animals and plants in their environment, weather and climate, pushes and pulls, and basic principles of engineering design.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors**: Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education**: Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise, including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for kindergarten is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary kindergarten students. This is equal to or greater than 36,000 minutes of instructional time per year, or 200 minutes (3 hours, 20 minutes) per day for 180 days.

FIRST GRADE

The course of study in first grade will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics**: CA CCSS Math Standards for first grade which include: developing understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20; developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones; developing understanding of linear measurement and measuring lengths as iterating length units; and reasoning about attributes of, and composing and decomposing geometric shapes.
- **Language Arts**: CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for first grade which include learning the letters and sounds that make up words; thinking, talking, and writing about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information; writing with clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary; handwriting in print and beginning to recognize and use linked letters or cursive.
- **Social Studies**: CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for first grade which include understanding the rules by which we all must live – fair play, good sportsmanship, and respect for the rights and opinions of others; examining the geographic and economic aspects of life in their own neighborhoods and comparing them to those of people long ago; exploring the varied backgrounds of American citizens; and learning about the symbols, icons, and songs that reflect our common heritage.
- **Science and Engineering**: CA NGSS Science Standards for first grade which include observing properties of sound and light; understanding growth and development of plants and animals and how they use body parts to survive; observing patterns in daylight and the locations of the sun, moon, and stars; and demonstrating basic principles of engineering design.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors**: Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education**: Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for first grade is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary first grade students. This is equal to or greater than 50,400 minutes of instructional time per year, or an average of 280 minutes (4 hours and 40 minutes) per day for 180 days.

SECOND GRADE

The course of study in second grade will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics:** CA CCSS Math Standards for second grade which include: extending understanding of base-ten notation; building fluency with addition and subtraction; using standard units of measure; and describing and analyzing shapes.
- **Language Arts:** CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for second grade which include: continuing to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills; thinking, talking, and writing about what they read in variety of texts, such as stories, books, articles, and other sources of information including the Internet; learning how to develop a topic in their writing; strengthening their writing skills by editing and revising; and reading and writing handwriting in print and cursive.
- **Social Studies:** CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for second grade which include: exploring the lives of actual people who make a difference in their everyday lives; learning the stories of extraordinary people from history whose achievements have touched them, directly or indirectly; studying contemporary people who supply goods and services; and forming an understanding of the complex interdependence in our free-market system.
- **Science and Engineering:** CA NGSS Science Standards for second grade which include: understanding the structure and properties of different types of matter; investigating plants and animals in ecosystems; exploring basic concepts of geology; and demonstrating principles of engineering design.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors:** Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education:** Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for second grade is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary second grade students. This is equal to or greater than 50,400 minutes of instructional time per year, or an average of 280 minutes (4 hours and 40 minutes) per day for 180 days.

THIRD GRADE

The course of study in third grade will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics**: CA CCSS Math Standards for third grade which include: developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100; developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1); developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area; and describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes.
- **Language Arts**: CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for third grade which include: building important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills; thinking, talking, and writing about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts; writing with more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons; and reading and writing handwriting in print and cursive.
- **Social Studies**: CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for third grade which include: learning more about our connections to the past and the ways in which particularly local, but also regional and national, government and traditions have developed and left their marks on current society; understanding the physical and cultural landscape of California; and researching the American Indians, the subsequent arrival of immigrants, and the impact they have had in forming the character of our contemporary society.
- **Science and Engineering**: CA NGSS Science Standards for third grade which include: designing and conducting experiments demonstrating the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on stationary and moving objects; exploring the interdependence of organisms in a present or past environment; understanding basic principles of life cycles and heredity; analyzing data about climate and weather; designing solutions to address specific problems within constraints, planning and carrying out fair tests of different solutions, and evaluating results.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors**: Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education**: Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for third grade is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary third grade students. This is equal to or greater than 50,400 minutes of instructional time per year, or an average of 280 minutes (4 hours and 40 minutes) per day for 180 days.

FOURTH GRADE

The course of study in fourth grade will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics**: CA CCSS Math Standards for fourth grade which include: developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends; developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers; and understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry.
- **Language Arts**: CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for fourth grade which include: continuing to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills; reading more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information; continuing to grow their vocabulary; clearly explaining in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text; organizing their ideas in writing and develop topics with reasons, facts, details, and other information; and reading and writing cursive handwriting.
- **Social Studies**: CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for fourth grade which include: learning the story of California, unique in American history in terms of its vast and varied geography, its many waves of immigration beginning with preColumbian societies, its continuous diversity, economic energy, and rapid growth; and examining the state in the context of the rest of the nation, with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution and the relationship between state and federal government.
- **Science and Engineering**: CA NGSS Science Standards for fourth grade which include: exploring concepts relating to types of energy and conversion of energy between types; understanding properties of waves; modeling ways in which organisms perceive their environment; relating structures of organisms to their functions; exploring rocks, weathering, and erosion; designing solutions to address specific problems within constraints, planning and carrying out fair tests of different solutions, and evaluating the results.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors**: Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education**: Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for fourth grade is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary fourth grade students. This is equal to or greater than 54,000 minutes of instructional time per year, or an average of 300 minutes (5 hours) per day for 180 days.

FIFTH GRADE

The course of study in fifth grade will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics:** CA CCSS Math Standards for fifth grade which include: developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); extending division to two-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and developing understanding of volume.
- **Language Arts:** CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for fifth grade which include: continuing to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills; reading more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information; continuing to grow their vocabulary; understanding and clearly summarizing what they have learned from readings by referring to specific evidence and details from the text; writing regularly and continuing to develop their ability to gather, organize, interpret, and present information; and reading and writing cursive handwriting.
- **Social Studies:** CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for fifth grade which include: studying the development of the nation up to 1850, with an emphasis on the people who were already here, when and from where others arrived, and why they came; learning about the colonial government founded on JudeoChristian principles, the ideals of the Enlightenment, and the English traditions of self-government; recognizing that ours is a nation that has a constitution that derives its power from the people, that has gone through a revolution, that once sanctioned slavery, that experienced conflict over land with the original inhabitants, and that experienced a westward movement that took its people across the continent; and studying the cause, course, and consequences of the early explorations through the War for Independence and western expansion.
- **Science and Engineering:** CA NGSS Science Standards for fifth grade which include: exploring properties of matter including what happens when materials are heated, cooled, or mixed; modeling the movement of matter and energy within an organism and between organisms in an ecosystem; modeling the interactions between water, air, and landforms; analyzing data about the location of different forms of water on earth; exploring gravity, stars, shadows, and the day and night cycle; designing solutions to address specific problems within constraints, planning and carrying out fair tests of different solutions, and evaluating the results.
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors:** Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education:** Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate, expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics, and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for fifth grade is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary fifth grade students. This is equal to or greater than 54,000 minutes of instructional time per year, or an average of 300 minutes (5 hours) per day for 180 days.

SIXTH GRADE

The course of study in sixth grade will include the following subjects:

- **Mathematics**: CA CCSS Math Standards for sixth grade which include: connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and developing understanding of statistical thinking.
- **Language Arts**: CA CCSS English Language Arts Standards for sixth grade which include: reading a range of challenging books, articles, and texts; demonstrating their understanding of the material by answering questions and contributing to discussions; continuing to work on their use of language, sentence structure, and organization of ideas in writing; integrating information from different sources; responding to challenging content through written interpretation and analysis; and reading and writing cursive handwriting.
- **Social Studies**: CA History-Social Studies Content Standards for sixth grade which include: studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations; understanding the role of geography in the development of the human story; exploring the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, their role in developing social, economic, and political structures, as well as in establishing and spreading ideas that helped transform the world forever; developing higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations developed where and when they did, why they became dominant, and why they declined; and analyzing the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link, despite time, between the contemporary and ancient worlds.
- **Science and Engineering**: CA NGSS Science Standards for sixth grade which include: understanding and modeling earth's weather and water systems; exploring the diversity of life; investigating the geology and ecology of local and California ecosystems; and designing solutions to address specific problems within constraints, planning and carrying out fair tests of different solutions, and evaluating the results
- **Arts and Creative Endeavors**: Students will show grade level-appropriate progress creating, performing, producing, responding to, and thinking reflectively about any of the following: visual arts (including 2-dimensional and/or 3-dimensional art forms), dance, theater, music, cooking and food, film and media arts, building and construction, gardening and agriculture, fashion and design, and/or engineering and architecture.
- **Physical Education**: Students will complete at least 200 minutes every two weeks of physical education and exercise including participating three to four days each week in moderate to vigorous physical activities that increase breathing and heart rate; expanding their understanding of health and fitness topics; and demonstrating and improving their skills in sports, balance, strength, physical coordination and skills, flexibility, and sportsmanship.

Completing the course of study for sixth grade is equivalent to the number of minutes of instructional time completed by classroom-based Pacific Elementary sixth grade students. This is equal to or greater than 54,000 minutes of instructional time per year, or an average of 300 minutes (5 hours) per day for 180 days.

REFERENCES

Transitional Kindergarten: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/documents/tkguide.pdf>

Math: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/ccssmathstandardaug2013.pdf>

ELA: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

ELA: <https://www.cgcs.org/Page/328>

Social Studies: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>

Science: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/NGSS%20Combined%20Topics%2011.8.13.pdf>

Arts and CTE: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/sf/documents/ctestdfontpages.pdf>

Arts and CTE: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/caartsstandards.pdf>

PE: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/pestandards.pdf>