

WHAT IS PACE?

Program in America and California Explorations (PACE) is a small learning community at John F. Kennedy High School. PACE offers students a four-year advanced academic program. The goal is to ensure that all PACE students are prepared to attend and succeed at competitive four-year colleges and universities. Each PACE student takes a rigorous college-prep curriculum (including Advanced Placement and honors classes in English, history, science, math, and foreign language) and uniquely designed English and history courses with an emphasis on California history, government, and literature, emphasizing writing across the curriculum. The first item college and university admissions counselors look at is a student's GPA in conjunction with the rigor and challenge of his or her course schedule.



WHAT MAKES PACE DIFFERENT?

- **Small Community of Learners** – PACE students get the best of both worlds: PACE English and Social Science classes are pure PACE students and are grouped together in one part of the campus so students benefit from a close-knit environment, yet have access to all the benefits of a large school. Part of the PACE program includes opportunities for teambuilding and new friendships.
- **Access to Extensive Advanced Placement Curriculum** – PACE encourages students to take advantage of the wide variety of Advanced Placement (AP) classes that JFK has to offer. PACE students are required to take AP World History their sophomore year, AP English Language and Composition their junior year, and AP Government their senior year. In addition, PACE juniors choose between AP US History or Honors US History their junior year. Remember, the first item college and university admissions counselors look at is a student's A-G requirements GPA in conjunction with the rigor of his or her class schedule. Students are encouraged to take additional AP classes choosing from the many offered at JFK, such as biology, chemistry, physics, calculus, English literature and composition, Spanish, Latin, Chinese and many more.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF PACE

- **Summer Program for Incoming Ninth-Graders** – The PACE experience begins on the campus of California State University Sacramento with a mandatory enrichment program designed for incoming freshmen. The four classes center on activities in literature, geography, and writing. The summer program provides a unique opportunity for PACE students to establish friendships, work with PACE faculty and begin the transition to high school.
- **School Year Field Trips** – During their four years in PACE, students attend one or more field trips per year. Field trips have included university tours, live theatrical productions, history and art museum visits, state park outings, and explorations of historical sites. Also, out of the region field trips (such as tours of East coast colleges, Ashland's Shakespeare Festival, Europe, Asia, and South America) are offered.
- **Book Club** – PACE encourages its students to read widely and to explore new literary horizons. During their freshman and sophomore years, PACE students participate in several small-group book clubs led by community volunteers. This allows an opportunity for detailed discussion of works of important and popular literature (fiction and nonfiction) in an informal setting. Some book club groups read works by local authors and, in some cases, the authors have visited the book groups. This includes the late Eva Rutland, author of When We Were Colored and Naida West, author of River of Red Gold. When PACers read Zeitoun by Dave Eggers, Mr Eggers spoke at JFK and signed PACE student's books.

Please visit the PACE website at www.jfkpace.org for more information about the PACE Program.