

From: Hawking Kelly <Kelly.Hawking@sarasotacountyschools.net>

To:

Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Subject: Geometry Online

Hello,

I received a notification that _____ has signed up for Geometry Honors online. I was not aware that _____ was considering this as an option. I want to first provide you as the parents with some information to consider prior to approving this request. Thanks!

Comments: *Why weren't you aware? You are this child's counselor. Did you not discuss this option with the parents and students in the interest of providing complete and accurate information so that the parents and students can make informed decisions? Do your job and approve the request, unless you can articulate a specific documented academic, behavioral, or other valid reason why this child is not capable or able to pursue this class.*

We normally do not recommend taking such an extensive and in-depth course such as Geometry online. The summer course is short compared to the in-depth course work (that is also affiliated with the EOC) that is provided in the school year. I recommend you first contact the teacher of record to also receive feedback and recommendations. Parents and students who are taking an online summer course that also aligns with high school credit (EOC), need to be aware of a few additional implications before making any decisions.

Comments: *This is not true because I know a dozen or so kids who took geometry online. (And perhaps if the geometry teachers at PV had a better reputation more students would be interested in taking the class at PV). The course is only a summer course if you take it over the summer, however It is designed as a full year course and covers all of the EOC material. Additionally, because PV now allows geometry and algebra 2 to be taken concurrently, there is no reason that the course must be completed in the summer. In the past the summer completion requirement was only enforced because PV's prerequisite to algebra 2 was geometry. This is a ridiculous prereq anyway, but now that the courses can be taken concurrently, that prereq is no longer valid - so there is no reason that the course would need to be completed by the end of the summer.*

Parents and students should speak to the college counselor about students who do not get to the highest level math at PV and how the college counselor reflects their rigor on their college applications.

If your child takes Geometry online, he/ she will have to take the EOC during summer (normally mid-July) as long as he/she finishes the course. He/She may pass the course with the passing grade, but until he/she takes and passes the EOC, he/she will not receive credit on the high school transcript for the course. Additionally, be aware if he/she would need to take the Geometry EOC in the Fall/Winter or Spring, that is an additional gap in time between the short summer course and the EOC exam. Another point to be aware of is that he/she would then as an 9th grader be in a Geometry class with students who are 2-3 years older. There is not a separate course for 9th graders. Some parents are not comfortable with such an age gap.

Comments: *This is not true - see the above explanation regarding the ability to take geometry and algebra 2 concurrently. Additionally, my kids took the EOC during the school year after they completed the course. The EOC is given several times during the school year and there is no reason that the student would not have an opportunity to take the EOC unless the counseling office fails to provide information regarding administration of the exam. There may be a gap but it is not a big deal. Who cares how old the kids in the class are? It is math, not sex education. Numbers are numbers. Plus it is common for high school students to be in classes with others who may be in a different grade. That is one reason that PV exists... To meet the need of the your student who needs more advanced course work. It would be the teachers job to ensure a safe environment for all students. What do you mean there is not a separate course for 9th graders? Did you not just warn this parent that their child would be thrust into a class with older students? Most parents assume that the teacher will have control of the class and the age of the students should have no bearing in their ability to learn. Additionally, you do realize that there is often almost a two year age range for students in any grade at PV.*

9th Grade students do have the option of taking Geometry and Algebra II at the same time on campus. This means the student would not have an elective, however it allows for valuable in-depth course work all year.

Comments: *Yes, which is a great improvement and puts PV on par with other district high schools. A bit late but about time.*

Because PV only offers 6 classes per year- while traditional high schools offer 7, the PV student is already at a disadvantage over students from other schools. So taking two math classes would eliminate the elective. And many students need and enjoy their elective course.

A very important component to be aware of for future Math class planning is the Dual Enrollment (DE) Calculus 3 and Differential Equations are no longer offered at Pine View. The highest level of Math that will be offered is either AP Statistics and/or AP Calc BC. Students must have a Math course their senior year as the majority of universities require a Math course through a student's senior year. If your child doesn't elect to take a Math course as a senior, it could adversely affect their acceptance to many universities of their choice.

Comments: *So you are saying that the gifted school is going to run out of math classes for the students who take Algebra 2 as freshmen because PV does not have three more math classes for the student's next three years of high school? Really? That is not what was offered at the AP spin night. Calc AB and Calc BC were both offered as was differential equations. So either you are lying or the recommended math flow chart and the math teachers are lying. Which is it?*

Nope there is Stats 2 and Multivariable Calc/Differential Equations both!

As to taking a math course senior year, you are mistaken and misinformed. This is total fabrication and fear mongering. And it is not as if PV does not have enough math classes available. AP Stats and Stats 2 Honors are both possible if Calc AB and BC have been completed. And if all of the PV math courses have been completed the university will know this from the school profile that will accompany the students transcripts.

Not taking a math course senior year, could but likely won't make it difficult for the student to be accepted to their chosen university. It is far more likely that the student who shows initiative in taking an online math class so that he can take the more advanced math classes during his senior year will be favorably judged - you are wrong to scare parents and students with this false information. This is entirely your opinion.

After you discuss this with the teacher and process all the information provided, you would sign up on your own through FLVS and choose either FLVS or under the options SVA (Sarasota Virtual Academy). I then would receive an alert to approve or deny the request. I typically like to provide my parents/students with the above points of concern and recommendations prior to approving a request.

Comments: *No - you are following some management protocol that requires you to dissuade parents and students from making the best educational choices and instead trying to push the agenda promoted by either PV or the district. An agenda that does not take individual student desires, needs, abilities and motivation into account. Shame on you!*

If you have any further information or would like to set an appointment to speak in person, please email or call me. Please provide me with a follow up email of your decision. I hope this helps you make an informed decision.

Comments: *No - this parent and student has made their choice and it is your job to approve the choice absent your personal views, or those promulgated by the administration.*

Best Regards,

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"The level of our success is limited only by our imagination and no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." -Aesop