



Potomac High School

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Potomac High School: <https://potomachs.pwcs.edu>
 Prince William County Public Schools: <https://www.pwcs.edu>

2025-2026 School Profile

Potomac High School is the Cambridge Centre for Math and Physical Science, an Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) school. Potomac also offers specialty programs in culinary arts, cybersecurity, and welding. It is one of thirteen high schools located in suburban Prince William County, Virginia, twenty miles south of our nation's capital. The diverse community consists primarily of business, professional, U.S. Government, and military residents. The student population varies from 1900 to 2100 in grades 9 through 12.

Potomac High School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Definition of Curriculum

Prince William County Public Schools provides a range of courses from remedial levels to advanced placement, dual enrollment, Cambridge Programme, and those meeting requirements for standard or advanced studies diplomas. Both vocational and academic courses are available, allowing students to prepare for college, enter the workforce after graduation, or pursue post-secondary training in various fields.

Specialty Program Information

Cambridge Programme Information

This program includes the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), both developed by the University of Cambridge, one of the world's top academic institutions. The IGCSE courses, typically taken in 9th and 10th grades, are equivalent to a U.S. honors curriculum and prepare students for advanced coursework. Students then progress to AICE courses in 11th and 12th grades, which are equivalent to U.S. college-level classes. AICE includes AS (one-year) and A Level (two-year) courses, with exams assessing in-depth subject knowledge through essay-based formats. The AICE Diploma requires the student to pass seven exams, including Global Perspectives and Research, with courses selected from, Mathematics and Sciences, Languages, Arts and Humanities, Interdisciplinary and Skills-Based.

At least one credit must come from Groups 1–3. AICE offers flexibility, academic rigor, and international recognition. For more information please visit the specialty program website: https://potomachs.pwcs.edu/our_school/specialty_programs/cambridge_programme/index.

Seven Period A/B Schedule

PWCS follows a 7-period schedule wherein each student takes seven 92-minute classes. Under this schedule, students have the opportunity to earn seven credits per year.

PWCS Grading Scale

Grading Scale	1.0 Weighted	0.5 Weighted	Unweighted	
A	90-100	5.0 points	4.5 points	4.0 points
B+	87-89	4.4 points	3.9 points	3.4 points
B	80-86	4.0 points	3.5 points	3.0 points
C+	77-79	3.4 points	2.9 points	2.4 points
C	70-76	3.0 points	2.5 points	2.0 points
D+	67-69	1.4 points	1.4 points	1.4 points
D	60-66	1.0 point	1.0 point	1.0 point
F	below 60	0 points	0 points	0 points

Profile of Class of 2025 Graduates

Advanced Studies Diploma	34%
Standard Diploma	62%
Four Year College	45%
Two Year College	26%
Other Continuing Education	9%
Military	7%

2024-25 SAT Mean Scores

	Potomac	PWCS	Virginia	Nation
ERW	462	503	567	521
Math	448	482	544	508

Students have the option to report SAT scores based on the requirements of the colleges to which they are applying. The PWCS transcript lists only the highest combined scores from all test dates.

Grade Distribution 2024-25

A	B	C	D	F
35%	28%	20%	12%	5%

AICE Courses

Art & Design	Music
Economics	Physics
English Language	Psychology
English Literature	Spanish IV
Environmental Management	Thinking Skills
French V	US History
Global Perspectives	World History
Higher Math I	
Higher Math II	

Advanced Placement Program

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are taught in all PWC high schools. These courses are deemed by the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) as advanced/accelerated and are awarded grade point values based upon a 5.0 scale and are indicated by a plus sign (+) beside the course title on the student transcript. AP courses adhere to the stringent requirements prescribed by the CEEB and have been approved by the College Board.

AP Courses

AP Statistics	AP US Government
AP Computer Science A	AP 3D Art Design
AP Comp Sci Principals	AP Studio Art Drawing
AP Physics	

Dual Enrollment

Potomac partners with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) to offer dual enrollment opportunities for students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. These courses, indicated by "DE" in the course title, are taught within the high school day by Potomac faculty who are credentialed adjunct faculty.

DE Courses

English College Composition 12	Social Problems DE
20th Century US Civil Rights Teachers for Tomorrow	Welding I DE
Teachers for Tomorrow II	Welding II DE

Class Percentile

All courses with Carnegie units of credit are used to compute GPA and percentile, shown on student transcripts. Starting with the class of 2022, PWCS reports class percentile instead of class rank. Courses are not evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Transcripts from other districts with pass/fail grades won't affect GPA and percentile unless a corresponding letter grade is provided. All students earning an Advanced Studies or Standard diploma are included in the senior class percentile.

Graduation Requirements

Students entering 9th grade in 2018-2019 and beyond

VDOE Diploma Type:	Advanced Studies	Standard Diploma
Units of Credits	26 units	22 units
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	3
Science	4	3
Social Studies	4	3
Foreign Language	3 of 1 (or) 2 of 2	0
Health/Physical Education	2	2
Economics & Personal Finance	1	1
Fine Arts or CTE	1	1
Other Electives: must include at least two sequential electives	2-3	5

Additional requirements for both diplomas:

- Earn **five** verified credits by passing the specified courses and their associated end-of-course Standards of Learning test or other state-approved assessment. Students can take a total of 11 tests during their high school tenure.
- Pass a CTE credentialing exam, complete one advanced course, or engage in a High-Quality Work-Based Learning experience as defined by the VDOE.
- Virtual Course for Credit or Non-Credit
- CPR/First Aid/AED Training

School Counseling Staff

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