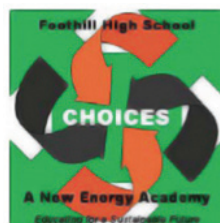


FHS Choices

New Energy Academy
educating for a sustainable future



2012-2013



Why join?

Foothill High School

To be a part of a community

that cares about each one

of its members locally as well as the protection of our environment globally. As a member of the Choices Academy you will have a professional, committed staff available to you. One that wants to teach you about the stewardship of the environment and help prepare you to get into college or find a job after graduation. The academy is very lucky to have some additional resources available thanks to the generous support of PG&E and the California Department of Education. We use those resources to provide a state-of-the-art learning environment including project based lessons, computer assisted learning, and field experiences that reinforce

classroom learning.

rigor

We have created an educational package which correlates to the California Department of Educational Subject Content Standards. Highly qualified teachers collaborate and facilitate project-based lessons and interdisciplinary activities for each of the core classes: English, Social Science, Math, and Career Technology. Our inter-disciplinary curriculum is academically rigorous and challenges students to integrate academic learning with applications connected to real-life. Each student will build an academic portfolio which addresses goals connected to focused study and relevant experiences.

relevance

Through applied experiences, partnerships with industry, team work, and college readiness, we offer integrated and relevant coursework that is critical to engaging students in their learning. Our teachers reframe traditional courses by integrating knowledge and skills about how the world works. We offer an integrated curriculum in a-g university tracked courses.

relationships

The design of the curriculum allows for partnerships and teams to collaborate and develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, inquiry, project assessment and evaluation, and organizational management. Mentors from PG&E and other companies and agencies serve to provide internships.



career or college?

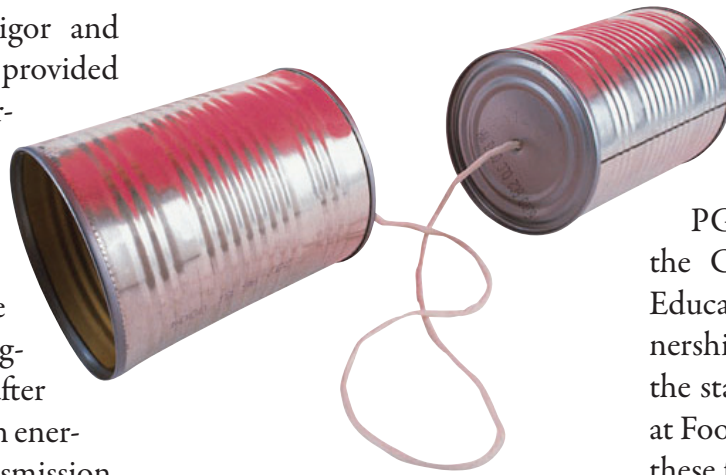
Whether you are planning on going straight to work, pursuing career training or seeking a four-year college degree, the New Energy Academy has the resources to help you make your dreams a reality. Academic Rigor and Real-world Relevance provided in a motivating and caring setting.

focus

The focus of the Choices Academy is to prepare our students for the changing demands of life after high school for careers in energy production and transmission.

tell a friend

communication is key



The face of the energy industry is changing. Utility companies are expanding outwardly from the traditional forms of energy production to cleaner and greener sources, such as solar, wind, and biomass. The workers for these new technologies will need new skills. To meet the needs of creating this workforce,

PG&E has partnered with the California Department of Education to form five new Partnership Academies throughout the state. The Choices Academy at Foothill High School is one of these five.



Students join Choices

Academy Sophomore year

Here is a sample four year schedule for a student joining the academy their sophomore year:

SOPHOMORE

Choices Academy English Language Arts
Choices Academy World History
Foreign Language (German or Spanish)
Choices Academy Introduction to Energy
PE Course
Choices Academy Geometry

JUNIOR

Choices Academy United States History
Choices Academy Energy Generation, Transmission and Storage
Foreign Language (German or Spanish)
Choices Academy Algebra II
Choices Academy English Language Arts
Chemistry

SENIOR

Choices Academy Apex (multiple subjects)
English Language Arts 12
Choices Academy Physics
Choices Academy Economics, American Government
Health and Safety, Sociology
Choices Academy Energy Career Preparation



Career Outlook

The simple act of walking into a restroom, turning on the light, and washing your hands, uses the products of perhaps four different utilities. Electricity powers the light, water supply systems provide water for washing, wastewater treatment plants treat the sewage, and natural gas or electricity heats the water.

According to the US Department of Labor BLS:

- Baby-boomer retirements will lead to excellent opportunities for qualified entrants.
- Persons with college training or advanced technical education will have the best opportunities.
- Earnings for production workers are significantly higher than in most other industries.

Despite overall declining employment, job prospects for qualified applicants entering the utilities industry are expected to be excellent during the next 10 years. As of 2008, about 53 percent of the utilities industry workforce is age 45 or older. Many of these workers will either retire or prepare to retire within the next 10 years. Because on-the-job training is very intensive in many utilities industry occupations, preparing a new workforce will be one of the industry's highest priorities during the next decade.

(<http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs018.htm>)

students who can see a connection between what they're learning and their goals for the future perform better

- Tom Torlakson, CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction



Students enrolled in California Partnership Academies are significantly more likely to graduate from high school and complete courses required to attend University of California or California State University once they do, according to a report released Tuesday by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

"A Profile of the California Partnership Academies 2009-2010," a review of test scores, attendance, and graduation rates by the Career Academy Support Network at the University of California, Berkeley shows that 95 percent of seniors attending California Partnership Academies (CPAs) go on to graduate, compared with 85 percent of students statewide.

The study also found that 57 percent of CPA graduates fulfilled the courses required for admission to UC or CSU systems, compared to 36 percent of

graduates statewide.

"Today's results confirm what I saw in my own classroom: students who can see a connection between what they're learning and their goals for the future perform better," Torlakson said. "This simple but powerful link between learning and the world of work is helping partnership academies build a track record of success."

CPAs are small learning communities within larger high schools. Students follow a multi-year program of study in an

industry-themed pathway that combines rigorous academics with demanding career technical education, and they engage directly with the world of adult work. California has 500 CPAs in operation, serving approximately 3 percent of students in grades ten through twelve.

Funded jointly by the California Department of Education and the James Irvine Foundation, the report shows that even though 50 percent of CPA students enter the program as "at-risk students," they perform better than students at other California high schools. A 2006 report on CPAs showed similar results, so this new report creates longitudinal evidence of superior results for CPA students.

The report also found that African American and Hispanic seniors graduated at significantly higher rates from CPAs than from non-CPAs. The difference was 16 percent higher for African-Americans and 14 percent higher for Hispanics.

In addition, the report found that 88 percent of CPA students plan to attend a two- or four- year college upon graduation. Many CPAs are also part of the rapidly growing field of Linked Learning, an approach that provides students with strong academics connected to real world experience.

(<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr11/yr11rel82.asp>)



All Choices New Energy Academy students

take the PSAT for free, and are encouraged to take the SAT as well to maximize their college acceptance. Academy students also have a very high passage rate for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

Academy faculty are always available for students to answer questions not just about their coursework, but about career and college readiness, or any other issues big or small they need guidance for.

I feel like

[teachers in the academy] are relaxed and more chill compared to the other teachers and they don't freak out as much.

—Elisha

Everybody's pretty cool,

you know, it works. We do fun things like make solar cars. We get to learn new things you don't get to learn just taking regular classes.

—Alexis

The academy teachers

actually care about our grades. I learned how to work as a group instead as an individual.

—Marquis

The academy will

help you in the long run.

—Sean

Choices academy is

awesome! We get to use the computers a lot.

—DeDe

The academy is fun... it's awesome.

—Harmon

The academy is so

great and the teachers are so wonderful. We have so much fun in there and Mr. Yeroshek is fun. Academy is great.

—Karrie Ann

The academy has helped

me out in so many ways. It has helped prepare me for college, for further career opportunities, and I have learned so much from this experience.

—Isaiah

What I like most about the academy

is that we are all basically one big family, we all care for each other and basically we help each other out.

—Scott

**The best thing about**

the academy is we get to use the laptops and build solar cars, and the teachers don't care if you mess around but they do care about you.

—Michael

I joined the academy

because I thought it was gonna be tight.

—Martin

Academy is a great

place to meet new people, go new places, and its just fun!

—Jelian

It's a good work

environment. I joined to meet new people. I like the teachers because they care about our grades and they actually teach us...

—Robert

What I love about

the academy is I met [my friends] and I wouldn't have met them if wasn't for the academy. And we do take hecka field trips so take advantage of that.

—Ariel

Academy is not

exactly what I expected. But it's more than I expected!

—Patty

Go academy!

You can learn a lot of stuff.

—Cassandra

I feel like

[the academy] is good and it helps me out. We go on field trips and discover colleges. We have great opportunities. We all have the same teachers and get to know each other. I left the academy and came back. My grades are much better now than they were before.

—Haley

I joined the academy

because I knew we'd get the one-on-one care we need to succeed from our teachers.

—Jamiko



The only source of knowledge
is experience.

Albert Einstein

Choices New Energy Academy believes that field experiences are a critical component in the education of our students. To that end we have visited the Old Folsom Powerhouse just below the existing dam where the very first in the nation long-distance transmission of power was executed. Our students have walked the halls of power at the state capital to visit with lawmakers and learn about issues related to green energy production and transmission. In a rare opportunity we

visited the highly secure facility responsible for maintaining the electric power grid of California, CalISO (Independent System Operator) - you may have seen news reports from their facility during power outages. Every year we also attend and compete in the Solar Car Races at American River College. Of course, we like to have a little fun to keep students motivated in their studies, and visited Six Flags Discovery Kingdom during their student celebration days.

In partnership with PG&E

PG&E understands the future of California is here—and they are in our classrooms around the state. To address the needs of a growing “green” technology workforce and to better prepare our state’s children for viable and successful futures upon graduation, PG&E created California’s first immersive energy training program of its kind for high school students.

New Energy Academy is based on CDE’s Partnership Academy model, a three-year program for students in grades 10-12. By focusing on a specific career theme, the academy creates a school within a school. Once committed to the program, students participate in relevant science, technology, engineering and mathematic curriculum and are exposed to unique learning experiences such as visiting an operational wind farm.

New Energy Academy schools receive cash grants, customized professional development workshops and webcasts, and access to education, industry and government experts. Teachers participating in the curriculum development phase will also create a plan to integrate the new curriculum into academic and career technical education courses.

This year, PG&E will invest a total of \$1,000,000 to the New Energy Academy program. Funds will be used for classroom enhancements, equipment and \$1,000 scholarships to each graduate of the inaugural New Energy Academy class of 2013!

(<http://www.pge.com/about/community/education/newenergyacademy/>)





Choices New Energy Academy

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