



# Course Descriptions

Persevere. **B**elieve. **L**ead. **A**dvocate.

At Regis University 3333 Regis Blvd. Denver, CO 80221

## Porter-Billups Leadership Academy

To give deserving candidates a hand up, not a hand out.



The PBLA community promotes academic excellence, values the individual, exemplifies life-long learning, and encourages students to develop 21st century

“PBLA is where dreams of a fulfilling future began.”

—Miriah Abram, PBLA Graduate

Thank you for your interest in the Porter-Billups Leadership Academy. This Academy grew from a desire to see young people with ability achieve their potential. Both Coach Lonnie Porter and Chauncey Billups grew up in inner city neighborhoods. They credit their success to the people who challenged them at a young age to work hard and get an education. The Academy is a way for both men to do for low-income youth what others did for them.

Each summer, Coach Porter and a team of Colorado educators work with youth from grades 4 to 12 for three weeks to develop leadership, critical thinking, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills. Though they may not be straight A students, the Academy helps them become leaders among their peers, learn that education is a path to success, and offers the skills to prepare them for college.

Once the students reach college age, additional financial support is needed to ensure qualified students have the resources to receive a college education. The Porter Billups Academy Scholarship at Regis recognizes this need and extends the Academy’s educational opportunity to include attending Regis University. The ultimate goal of Academy is to awaken students to the opportunities available to them, while encouraging them to be thoughtful and engaged members of their own growth and development.

We would like to invite you to experience a small part of what the Academy offers to these young people. Thank you for joining us at Regis University today. We look forward to answering any questions you might have.

Again, welcome!

# PBLA LEADERSHIP CLASSES

## 4th Grade Jackie Robinson's Nine Values

Sharon Jones, Instructor

As an introduction to leadership and the expectations of the Porter-Billups Leadership Academy, 4th graders will focus on character traits that leaders need to be effective. The class examines Jackie Robinson's nine principles to live by and looks at his biography as a guideline to determine what a leader does. Robinson's nine principles are: Courage, Determination, Teamwork, Persistence, Integrity, Citizenship, Justice, Commitment and Excellence.



## 6th Grade Transitions

—Paul Roberts, Instructor

Students entering sixth grade are embarking on a whole new adventure in school. In order to assist our students as they transition to middle school expectations, we have created a class called Transitioning to Leadership. This class focuses on the soft skills that are not always taught, but are necessary for academic success. It also addresses other essentials such as self-advocacy, organization, time management, and problem solving. Additionally, we will explore resources to support students academically as they make the transition to taking responsibility for their own learning.



## 5th Grade Investigative Leaders

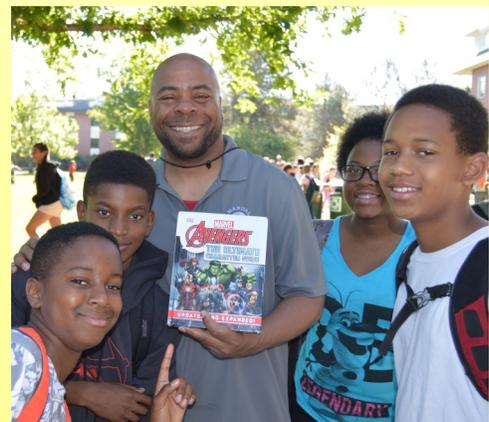
— John Farnham, Instructor

Students will learn and practice investigative skills, problem solving strategies, observation techniques, and critical thinking by participating in reading and writing activities, science experiments, escape rooms, board games, and other multi-media simulations. Students will develop their leadership skills by taking on various roles including forensic scientist, police investigator, jury member, prosecuting or defending attorney, and/or a member of a crime task force.

## 7th Grade Human Rights

— Jorge Resendez, Instructor

The topic of Human Rights is compelling and important. We'll discuss the rights set in place by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who led the United Nations to know there must be policies and procedures for all nations in order to care for the people of the world. These rights were written and sworn in during FDR's presidential term in the USA. Now, if these rights are abused by any nation, they take the risk of losing their place in the United Nations and are considered a nation who cannot follow rules and regulations.



## 8th Grade Social Justice — Angela Sidhu and Brian Moland, Instructors

Integrates and contextualizes current events and controversial issues through reading, writing, public speaking and presentation skills. Students will identify and research a social issue and prepare a written and videoed proposal. Students will practice AVID organizational strategies, and participate in Socratic Seminars and Philosophical Chairs.



## 9th Grade Transition to High School —Alina Acosta, and Meredith Blatner, Instructors

The transition to high school is full of opportunity for students but can also present academic and social challenges. In this course students will be challenged to reflect on their identity and life thus far, set their own goals, and build community in order to gain confidence to enter high school prepared with a support network and toolbox to succeed.

## 11th Grade Introduction to Social/Emotional Leadership —K'iana Roberts, Instructor

The foundation of our three-week course is grounded in Paolo Coelho's novel, *The Alchemist*. Through building an understanding of Archetypes as they appear in *The Alchemist*, students will create blueprints of their core desires and beliefs, as we break down quotes and interactions Santiago encounters. Students will take a deep look at their cultural background, surroundings, and ultimate core goals to create the vision of their being. Students will end the course with a written utobiography to accompany their Promise Art Canvas.

## 10th Grade The Complexity of Compliance —Sean Malloy, Instructor

Over the course of the next three weeks, we will hone our skills in writing while concurrently reading Paolo Coelho's powerful novel, *The Alchemist* and exploring the idea behind the novel's overarching theme of "personal legends." Our topics of writing will include (but not limited to) your own life goals, as well as the different paths you can all take in ultimately achieving your own "personal legend." Our three-week journey will culminate in a literary analysis of the book as well a persuasive piece in which you reflect on your life thus far, and your goals for high school, college, and beyond.



## 12th Grade Leadership Relationships —William Anderson, Instructor

Every person's life is made up of a collection of relationships - a portfolio. Just like with financial investments, wise choices need to be made about who is included in your portfolio. How well you manage your relationships will determine how successful you will be in your life? This class will look at five types of relationships - Self, Family, Friends, Romantic and Professional and seek to

give students insights and skills for getting the best return on their investment.



## STEAM —

### Art —

Robin Segura, Instructor

Self-expression is an important form of communication. This year, students will have the opportunity to express themselves through art. Students will be asked to bring in an item that inspires them, and they will create a painting, drawing, or collage based on the picture or item they select.



### Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship

YouthBiz-Out of the Box — YouthBiz

Kelley Dawkins, Instructor

Students will create business teams around shared interests and complementary skills. They will select a product they want to create, choosing the materials and procedure they need to make 20 high quality, finished goods. Students will complete all of their own financial calculations, marketing, and advertising to culminate in a real world marketplace for students to sell their products. Finally, they will calculate their revenue, sales tax and profit.

### Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship

YouthBiz-StartUp— YouthBiz

Meredith Blatner, Instructor

Students will learn to think, speak, learn, and act as entrepreneurs. In learning the foundations of entrepreneurship, students will design and create a product from scratch using everyday materials. Students will then present their product in a “pitch contest” which will be judged by local business men and women. Overall, this course will provide students with an authentic experience in business design and ownership.

## Outdoor Education

— Conor Simbeck, Instructor

A place-based health education program that combines structured academic activities and unstructured outdoor play to share with young people the health benefits of experiencing nature. Using the Arboretum of Regis University as their classroom, 6th graders explore the award winning trees and landscape to become advocates for reducing screen time and increasing time in nature. 7th graders will learn survival skills such as preparing a survival pack, setting up a tent, and set a life time goal of hiking at least one “fourteener”. This year, in collaboration with Lincoln Hills Cares, both groups will experience first hand African American Heritage and outdoor skills at Lincoln Hills resort.



## Life Skills — Angela Sidhu and John Farnham, Instructors

Life Skills are essential to learn and master in order to be successful in any endeavor. This year's focus will be on how to make a lasting and positive impression. Young people today are not always perceived in a positive manner. By addressing specific skills such as dressing and speaking for your audience, etiquette in different situations, handling peer pressure, negotiating conflicts, and the art of conversation, we will focus on making positive impressions.



## LIFE LESSONS— Will Baird Instructor

*Ten Toes Down* “The game is going to test you but never fold, stay 10 toes down. It’s not on you, it’s in you and what’s in you they can’t take away.”

Airmiess Joseph Asghedom

Life Lessons is focused on helping students connect to their inherent skills and talents. Students will explore multiple perspectives and skills used in wisdom, perseverance, and the art of living. Students will study Stoicism and the four-hundred-year journey of African Americans from 1619 to present. By illuminating past life lessons students will gain new ways of thinking about their future. Students will explore powerful quotations, historical anecdotes, and social commentary from: Kobe Bryant’s Mamba Mentality, Robert Kiyosaki’s financial literacy tenets from Rich Dad Poor Dad, Harvard Business Review articles on Mental Toughness, Michele Obama’s Becoming, and Airmiess Joseph Asghedom The Life and Times of Nipsey Hussle. These life lessons will provide students the opportunity to find tranquility, fearlessness, and freedom. Learners will gain advice, inspiration, and best practices needed for aspiring leaders.

## 11th Grade The Pathway to Leadership — Miguel Ortega, Instructor

In this course, students will explore the value and importance of telling the stories of their identity and community. Students will explore their own identities and heritage and the communities that shaped them. Students will also learn about the various ways that marginalized people document their communities and the value of counternarrative storytelling from examples in history as well as in the local community. Students will then work to document their own communities around the greater Denver area.

## STEAM I — Martha Britt, Instructor

This Introduction to STEAM course provides an overview of the engineering process that is taught in a middle school and STEAM classroom. Students experience true integration of topics from science, technology, engineering and mathematics taught in a purposeful, meaningful manner. Emphasis will be placed on engineering and practice, regarding ‘failure’ and reflecting on what inspire students to engage in learning. The topics covered in this introductory course include designing and creating original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specification using concepts and skills from math and science. The goal of this class is to grow students’ capacity for creativity, fun, leadership, and confidence in the engineering cycle. Each grade will begin the summer with an engineering challenge to practice the engineering cycle. They will then each apply the engineering cycle to a different engineering project and present their work to their peers.

## TECHotshots — Anderson College of Business

CompTIA A+ certification validates the latest foundation-level knowledge and skills needed by today’s computer support professionals. It is the starting point for a career in the Information Technology industry. This international, vendor-neutral certification is accredited by the International Organization for Standards (ISO) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). CompTIA A+ certification proves competence in a technician’s ability to perform essential IT tasks such as installation, configuration, diagnosing, preventative maintenance, basic networking and security. It also confirms a technician’s understanding of customer service and communication skills needed to work with clients.

## Seniors — College Prep — Ryan Turk, Instructor

Seniors will research scholarship opportunities, write their college entrance common application essays, and tour the Regis University campus. They will engage in mentor opportunities with younger students. Finally, they will prepare for their PBLA graduation speech.

# Curriculum

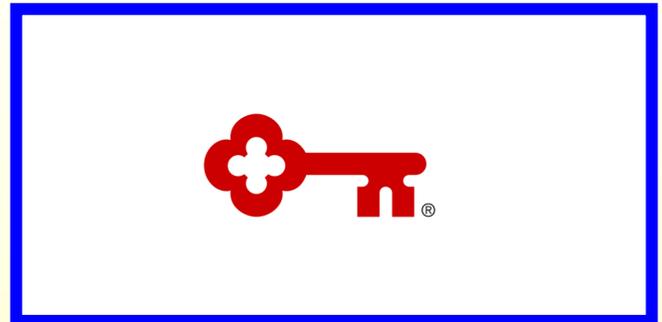
## Partners:



We have partnered with Lincoln Hills to enhance our outdoor education program. The 7th and 8th graders take a field trip to Lincoln Hills to participate in outdoor activities that they might never have a chance to experience. These activities include: fly fishing, archery, an African American history hike, and equestrian skills.



## Financial Partners:



### Sooper Credit Union & KeyBank

Students are receiving financial literacy classes in cooperation with Sooper Credit Union and KeyBank. The topics include: savings accounts, credit cards, interest rates, and the differences between banks and credit unions.

