



DMHS High School 2018-19 Course Overview *Semester One*

Overarching year's focus of study and action:

The DMHS high school draws on the Millennium Project's 15 most relevant issues of our time (<http://www.millennium-project.org/projects/challenges/>), surveying students yearly to gauge interest for the following year. From these broad issues, we design Humanities and Science curricula, as well as math projects, that meet DPS graduation and college entrance requirements and recommendations.

Teacher's Assistants (TA)

Seniors, and in exceptional cases Juniors, have the option to gain an academic or arts elective credit in each discipline by serving as a TA. These positions are awarded by application and require advanced content and executive functioning skills, as well as older adolescent maturity. Expectations in each class vary but are likely to include the following: Leading mini and regular lessons, workshops, lesson stations/small groups, and seminars; facilitating peer revision; co-hosting office hours; helping with grading; offering feedback on curriculum; serving as a key liaison between students and teachers.

HISTORY

United States History

Study of History at DMHS begins and ends in the present--a relevant contemporary issue is introduced, students then travel back in time to trace the development of the issue, and we land back in the present in order to propose a solution to the contemporary issue first introduced. In this way, history becomes applicable and relevant in the present day.

In the first semester, we will focus on Ethnic Conflict, a term that in policy development encompasses religion, race, culture, and often even political perspective. Options for global study include the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, 9/11 and our history with countries in the Middle East, the history of authoritarian Communism, and the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction. Options for local study include gang violence, gentrification, gun violence, and refugees/immigrants. The integrated literature study will include exploration of philosophy and world religions, as well as key political writings. Authors and works may include Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Canasatego, The Federalist Papers, the Second Amendment, Elie Weisel, Arundhati Roy, Ishmael Beah, Karl Marx, and the Torah, Bible, and Qur'an as literature.

Honors US History

Honors humanities is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves to explore history on a deeper level than the regular class. Honors students will be expected to deepen their exploration of each subject area beyond the regular expectations; regularly doing independent research projects and presenting their learning with their peers. Honors will also include higher level readings, and opportunities for greater critical engagement individually and as a cohort.

AP US History

Learn about the developments that have shaped U.S. history through the critical analysis of historical events and documents. AP U.S. history will follow the AP outlines and focus on preparation for the AP exam. Students need to be highly self-motivated to be successful in this course. The class will include checkpoints and assignments to set students up for their own deep exploration of U.S. history. Students should expect significant homework to accompany this course.

The course includes participation in all honors and regular humanities project work.

Concurrent Enrollment

Students have the opportunity to concurrently enroll at CCD for college level History and Social Science study as determined by the *Accuplacer* entrance test.

Teacher's Assistant (TA)

Please see description at the top of the document.

ENGLISH

US and World Literature

Study of Literature at DMHS dovetails with the year's History study while exploring developmentally appropriate skills and opportunities for creative and analytical expressions. Students focus on the fiction, non-fiction, memoir, and poetry of the eras currently studied in History. Writing forms for all other academic arenas are explored in depth in English lessons, deepening student exposure to writing genres through the workshop process.

The integrated literature study in the first semester will include exploration of philosophy and world religions, as well as key political writings. Authors and works may include Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Canasatego, The Federalist Papers, the Second Amendment, Elie Weisel, Arundhati Roy, Ishmael Beah, Karl Marx, and the Torah, Bible, and Qu'ran as literature.

Honors US and World Literature

The DMHS approach to honors work in the Humanities is to allow students to choose projects of exploration and inquiry that build on the existing integrated curriculum. Honors students engage in additional lessons and projects in conjunction with the standard course of study. Frequently, honors students adopt the role of guides, preparing for and leading lessons that deepen their own knowledge and that of their peers.

AP Literature

The DMHS approach to Advanced Placement in the Humanities is to give students the tools they need to build on the integrated curriculum in order to prepare for the Advanced Placement test. AP students engage in additional lessons and projects in conjunction with the standard course of study, as well as writing and testing exercises that are direct practice for the test. As in college, AP level work requires a significant amount of independent motivation and time, and students should consider that their success on the AP test will be a direct result of their own largely self-directed effort.

Concurrent Enrollment

Students have the opportunity to concurrently enroll at CCD for college level English study as determined by the *Accuplacer* entrance test.

Teacher's Assistant (TA)

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SCIENCE

Biology

Study of Science at DMHS is based in contemporary scientific problem solving--a relevant contemporary issue is introduced, students then dive into biological, chemical, and/or physics related inquiry in order to explore the arena in depth, and ultimately they propose a solution to the problem first introduced in front of experts in the field.

The study of biology in 2018-2019 will be via two projects, the first of which is Microbiology and Disease. Students will explore micro-biology by working on the question, [How can the threat of new and reemerging diseases and immune micro-organisms be reduced?](#) Together, we will explore key concepts in microbiology and biochemistry from cell structure and function to energy production and genetic transcription and translation that explain the nature and structures of life as we know it, including the relevant Next Generation Science Standards. As students internalize these ideas, together we will ask and answer, What is disease? What is health? How do different disease work in/on the body? How do different diseases work on a population level as epidemics or pandemics? What are some influential diseases throughout human history? The most dangerous? The most deadly? The most people affected? Students will apply this knowledge to investigating disease itself, the structures and functions of disease-causing organisms (bacteria, viruses), how diseases work in the body - on a cellular, genetic, organ, organism, and population level. We will conclude by taking action to reduce the threat of disease in some way: with PSAs, policy papers, hygiene stations, etc.

Honors Biology

The DMHS approach to honors work in the Sciences is to allow students to choose projects of exploration and inquiry that build on the existing integrated curriculum. Honors students engage in additional lessons and projects in conjunction with the standard course of study. Honors students also sometimes adopt the role of guides, preparing for and leading lessons that deepen their own knowledge and that of their peers.

AP Biology

Students are eligible to take AP Biology after taking regular Biology. The DMHS approach to Advanced Placement in the Sciences is to give students the tools they need to build on the integrated curriculum in order to prepare for the Advanced Placement test. AP Biology students will take AP Bio as an elective, ensuring that we have regular time together each week for additional lessons and projects in conjunction with the standard AP course of study, as well as writing, labs, and testing exercises that are direct practice for the test. As in college, AP level work requires a significant amount of independent motivation and time, and students should consider that their success on the AP test will be a direct result of their own largely self-directed effort.

Concurrent Enrollment

Students have the opportunity to concurrently enroll at CCD for college level Science study as determined by the *Accuplacer* entrance test.

Teacher's Assistant (TA)

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MATH

Montessori Integrated Math (Credit equivalent to Algebra 2 or Geometry)

Through an integration of the Montessori Mathematics for the Adolescent (12-18) curriculum and Philip Exeter math, the Montessori Integrated Math approach includes the application of diverse mathematical skills in order to solve real-world problems. Public school standards and requirements are met through an integrated, project-based approach in conjunction with seminar, targeted small group skills lessons and SAT preparation. The High School structure includes opportunities for integrated levels and grades, as well as discrete work to move students through the skills of Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Calculus.

Montessori Integrated Math (Honors) (Credit equivalent to Honors Algebra 2, Honors Geometry or Precalculus).

The DMHS approach to honors work in Math is to allow students to choose projects of exploration and inquiry that build on the existing integrated curriculum. Honors students engage in additional lessons and projects in conjunction with the standard course of study. Frequently, honors students adopt the role of guides, preparing for and leading lessons that deepen their own knowledge and that of their peers.

Financial Literacy--Academic Elective

Financial Literacy is the possession of the set of skills and knowledge that allows an individual to make informed and effective decisions with all of their **financial** resources. Planning and understanding your financial future is important, and it starts now. In this class, you will learn about creating a budget, credit scores/credit cards, savings accounts, and researching the various financial options that are out there for you.

Concurrent Enrollment

Students have the opportunity to concurrently enroll at CCD for college level Algebra I, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and/or Trigonometry as determined by the *Accuplacer* entrance test.

Teacher's Assistant (TA)

Please see description at the top of the document.

ELECTIVES

Teacher's Assistant (TA)

These positions are available for most electives. Please see description at the top of the document.

Spanish II

In Spanish II, the students will have the opportunity to improve their written, speaking and listening skills in the Spanish language. Students will explore the different Spanish vocabulary, the present tense, preterite tense and imperfect tense. Students will also explore aspects of the Spanish culture.

Spanish 3+ (flexible schedule)

The point of a language is communication. Whether that is informal conversation or understanding complex ideas. In this Spanish course we will build on the basic grammar and vocabulary skills students have already learned and use them to engage in conversation. The class will entail reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish, starting from student's ability levels. We will also take time to review basic grammar and learn more complex points of Spanish grammar.

Guest Chefs Event Class

This is the big time, chefs and event planners! Join us on an in-depth exploration of food with an established, local chef; they will work with us to put on some of the greatest dinner events this school has ever seen-- and we've seen some AMAZING work so far! We will cover some advanced knife skills, baking skills, and front-of-house skills as well as recipe testing and research. This is a class that culminates in one casual buffet and one top-notch dinner event that will be organized, planned, shopped for, cooked, and served by you amazing students! Menu planning, ticket sales, plate design, photography, 'restaurant' decor: we need to make it all happen! Families, friends, Denver chefs, and possibly journalists will be invited to these five-star events, so be ready to put on a bash that will have people talking for years! This class is not for the faint of heart but you will be glowing with pride by the end! See you in the kitchen!

Steel Drum Ensemble

In the steel drum ensemble elective, students will discover the technique and history of the steel drum, ultimately culminating in at least one performance of songs that we will learn over the course of the semester. Our course will begin with some background on the steel drum: its origins, its development, and its modern uses. This not only includes the steel drum pans but also the rhythmic percussion instruments, also known as the "Engine Room." We will also revisit some basic Montessori music lessons as well as more complex music theory later in the class. Our musical selections will be arranged by the class guide but will be chosen as much as possible by the students. Let's get these pans jamming!

Acrylic Painting Elective

In this elective students will work with acrylic colors and will explore the many ways to handle paint. Students will be given instruction on preparation of materials and specific painting techniques. Color theory, linear perspective, compositional structure, figure/ground relationships, visual perception, spatial concepts, and critical thinking skills will all be emphasized extensively. We will study and research major painting styles and movements in historical context. My hope is that students will use this global approach to develop a "critical eye" in evaluation of contemporary painting. Class time will mainly be studio time, but we will also engage in individual and group critique. Students can repeat this class if interested.

Theater

Fall semester, students will rehearse and perform a musical: either "Into the Woods" or "Little Shop of Horrors," based on discussions with students. Students are able to participate in multiple roles (actor, director, writer, tech).

Public Speaking

We will focus on Public Speaking for activism and adult life. We will prepare debates and speeches, work on impromptu public speaking such as political town halls, and work on interview skills. We will also perform improv to help students overcome stage fright and practice thinking on their feet.