



DMHS High School 2019-20 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

World 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.

Honors World History

Honors history 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 World History (only available for Juniors and Seniors)

Learn about the developments that have shaped World history through the critical analysis of historical events and documents. AP World 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 World history. 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.

The course includes participation in all honors and regular history 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.

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 Language and Composition (only available for Juniors and Seniors)

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)

Please see description at the top of the document.

SCIENCE

Chemistry

Study of Science at DMHS begins with applied, contemporary scientific problem solving. Content learning happens in the context of solving real-world problems: students examine real issues through the lens of chemistry, including becoming literate in the periodic table and understanding properties of matter, energy, their reactions and transformations. Students will participate in hands-on lab inquiry and problem-solving in

order to explore the issues that most interest them in depth, and conclude by proposing a solution to the problem in front of experts in the field.

Honors Chemistry

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. Frequently, honors students adopt the role of guides, preparing for and leading lessons that deepen their own knowledge and that of their peers.

AP Chemistry

Students are eligible to take AP Biology and Chemistry after taking regular Biology and Chemistry. 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 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 Science study as determined by the *Accuplacer* entrance test.

Teacher's Assistant (TA)

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MATH

Montessori Integrated Math (Credit equivalent to Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus or Probability and Statistics)

Through an integration of the Montessori Mathematics for the Adolescent (12-18) curriculum, 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 Pre-Calculus. Students who completed Pre-Calculus can take Probability and Statistics.

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

Students who currently in the honor cohort will be automatically enrolled in the next honor cohorts. Please talk to your advisors/guide to see how to join an honors cohort.

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.

Advanced Academic Achievement 109 AAA (Concurrent Enrollment with Community College of Denver)

This is a college level course offered in our school and taught by our staff. Students choose to enroll this course will need to register as a student at Community College of Denver (CCD). In this course, students will examine theories and practices associated with successful learning to enhance college success. Recommended for new and returning students, this course study areas including education and career planning, effective communication, personal management, critical and creative thinking, development of community and awareness of diversity, leadership, and techniques for successful academic performance. Students who successfully meet CCD requirements after the course will earn 3 college credit hours. Please contact the high school counselor if you are interested. jennifer_fenton@dpsk12.net

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.

Food Justice

This elective is continuing to evolve as YOU decide what our school and greater community needs in the way of food! We'll be deciding what we can do to help educate, learn, provide food, and work on projects to help our communities increase their health and wellness through what they eat. Last year we helped execute events, took on a catering series, and wrote a food guide for our graduating seniors! The possibilities are endless and can include fundraising dinners, food distribution, volunteering with local organizations, investigating the possibility of a food truck, and so much more! Spring semester will also feature an organization called "An Ounce of Nutrition" partnering with us to help us get more projects off the ground!

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 music theory and the steel drum's origins, development, and modern use. This not only includes the steel drum pans but also the rhythmic percussion instruments, also known as the "Engine Room." We are also beginning to develop a samba drumline component in coordination with the farm school! Our musical selections will be arranged by Anders but will be chosen as much as possible by the students. The guitar students may also join the steel drum students to jam together! Please talk with Anders to get a sense of how easy or difficult this class will be for you.

Guitar/Ukulele

In the guitar lessons, students will learn basic music theory, guitar chords, and different ways to play guitar such as strumming and fingerstyle. The lessons will be taught with both larger group and in a one on one setting. Students will have the opportunities to explore acoustic, classic, and electronic guitars. Although it is a guitar lesson, if students have a strong will in learning ukulele, they are also available. There will be teacher's assistant and students who learned guitars before to support. The guitar students may also join the steel drum students to jam together. Join us to be the next Taylor Swift, Shawn Mendes or you know, The Eagles if you will!

Ultimate Frisbee/Fitness

The spirit of Ultimate perfectly fits the Montessori philosophy and our school mission as it combines strategy, sportsmanship and acceptance of responsibility for one's own behavior. Students who select this course will need to be willing to join the DMHS Ultimate team, represent our school to play in the fall and spring league around 8 games per season, and the state tournament. It is not just an elective, you will be a member of the team. Students also will have the opportunities to practice basketball and other fitness activities after the the Frisbee state tournament.

Painting 1 Elective

In this elective class 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. Class time will mainly be studio time, but we will also engage in individual and group critique.

Painting 2 Elective

In this elective students will build on their Painting 1 studies. Students will research major painting styles and movements in historical context and create paintings in response. 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.

Creativity Practicum

What is creativity? It's the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. In this elective, studio time will be a mixture of group and individual creative play + a long-term self-selected project.

Theater

Fall semester, students will rehearse and perform a musical (TBD in the Fall between "Mamma Mia," "Footloose," "Oliver," and "The Addams Family Musical"). Students are able to participate in multiple roles (actor, asst. director, tech, production/marketing).

Financial Literacy

Being financially literate can be defined as the possession of the set of skills and knowledge that allows an individual to make informed and effective decisions now and in the future while using all of their financial resources. Students will learn all about how to be a financially responsible adult by practicing budgeting, investing and entrepreneurial skills.

Human Development

The human development elective will open students to their own stage of development within the context of the entire developmental cycle of a human being, beginning at birth. This elective will rely on the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Curriculum, known as OWLS, which is a secular curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Church that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. The program hinges around the shared values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, and inclusivity. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in the areas of human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. This elective will also incorporate information around drug and alcohol prevention and intervention as it relates to human development and behavior. Students will be introduced to characteristics of adolescent brain development, as well as body/mind connection activities, such as mindfulness and physical activities.