



## DMHS High School 2021-22 Course Overview *Semester One*

### **CORE PROJECT CLASSES: Social Studies/English, and Science/Math**

#### **Overarching year's focus of study and action:**

The DMHS high school draws on relevant issues of our time to and surveys 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. For the first time, in 2021-2022 students will take integrated core project classes: Humanities/English and Science/Math.

#### **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.

#### **Honors Classes**

Students may take Honors level in any project class: The DMHS approach to honors work 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.

### **MATH**

#### **Montessori Integrated Math (Credit equivalent to Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus or Financial Algebra)**

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 Financial Algebra).**

Students who are 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. Students electing to join an accelerated cohort may also be eligible to earn Honors Math credit.

### **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, Michelle Mendoza**

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.

### **Advanced Spanish, Michelle Mendoza**

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.

### **Steel Drum Ensemble, Anders Benson**

WE. ARE. BACK!!! Even if you're new to music, we're looking for folks who want to be part of a musical group for multiple terms, mastering the variety of drums and percussion we have and playing beautiful music as a group. This class demands more of you during class time as there is little homework but we maximize practice/rehearsal time. We will perform what we learn as much as possible, culminating in a community performance at the end of the unit. Get ready for challenge and inspiration, this is going to be so awesome!

### **Painting & Mural Arts, Jessica Perry**

This course is intended to prepare students to work on a larger scale whether on canvas, wood or on a wall. Students will experiment with a variety of drawing, painting and decoupage techniques to prepare for such an undertaking. The objective of this course is for students to also develop an understanding about some of the social roles of art and the impact of murals in communities, based upon its historical and contemporary applications. At the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following:  
Demonstrate basic understanding of historical and contemporary techniques, terms and issues and

implementation of large scale artworks. Artists will find the balance between personal, group and the community vision. Be able to listen and then collaborate with individuals and communities to meet their artistic goals.

### **Culinary & MicroEcon, Anders Benson**

Whether you like to cook, create logos, design websites, photograph food, manage social media, or want to start a small business of your own, we'll learn about how to build a microbusiness together! In this elective we will continue to learn about running a small business (which you all created last year)! The core group will focus on making fresh pasta as a food business model (Dough Nation), while some students may begin their own businesses. We will explore all facets of this food and we will build a small food production system by which we create, advertise, coordinate, and sell this food to our community.

### **Fall Musical, Robin Yokel**

Students will rehearse and perform a musical, as in previous years (possibly "Beauty and the Beast"). The performance will be in December. Please sign up if you are interested in performing or working on tech. THERE ARE LIMITED TECH POSITIONS and unlimited acting positions. Please check with Robin if you have any questions!

### **Human Development, TBD**

Learn about your own stage of development within the developmental cycle of a human being, beginning at birth and including; relationships, sexual behavior, sexual health, society and culture. This elective will rely on the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Curriculum.

### **Book club, TBD**

Love to read? Want to get better through practice? This student-driven book club offers you the opportunity to read and discuss books that discuss issues that matter to you and the group. This elective will be a combination of reading aloud, listening to audiobook samples, seminars, and potentially film. Through sharing your thinking with this group, you will build a richer understanding of interpretation and perspective than from independent reading alone, but along the way will build strategies to enjoy reading.

### **Biotechnology, Cassie Hayter**

This elective offers multiple lab-based projects to better understand how scientists use hands-on research to understand the world. We will explore ways to use biotechnology in Biology, Earth Science and Physics. Lab projects can include: genetic engineering using bacteria, DNA sequencing your own genes, testing water quality (at school or a nearby water source), 3D printing prosthetics, and creating pinhole cameras.

### **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT:**

Concurrent Enrollment is offered both at CEC (Colorado Early College) and CCD (Community College of Denver). Please contact Jennifer Fenton ASAP to discuss concurrent enrollment options for Fall 2021!  
jennifer\_fenton@dpsk12.net

### **Concurrent enrollment:**

- Concurrent enrollment is available to 11th and 12th grade students who have demonstrated readiness via Accuplacer scores and/or advisor permission
- Each 11th and 12th grade student may take 1 concurrent enrollment course per semester, which will be paid for by DMHS *if* the student passes their course

- Students are encouraged to take concurrent enrollment classes that are not offered at DMHS to broaden their academic experiences
- Students taking concurrent enrollment classes must still maintain a full core class load at DMHS. For example, students taking English at CCD must still take the English project at DMHS.
- Students who choose to enroll in math classes at CCD do not need to also take math at DMHS, but they should be aware that once they are on the CCD math track, they cannot expect DMHS to offer further higher level math classes. For example, if a student takes advanced CCD math and then wants to take a subsequent math course at DMHS, they will be placed in Financial Algebra.
  - If a student has taken the highest level math class(es) offered by DMHS before their Senior year, they *may* qualify for an exception to the 1 concurrent enrollment class at a time policy.