Welcome to Upper School!

Rising 9th Grade Information:
The Course Request Process for New Families

THE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL *of* DALLAS

WELCOME

Rebecca Brady
Chief Academic Officer

Heather Cernoch
Ninth Grade Class
Dean

AGENDA

3:30-4:30:
1. *Course Request Information*

2. *Graduation Requirements; 9th Grade Requirements*

3. *Placement Testing*

4. *Focus on Sequence in Mathematics and World Language*

5. *Grading and GPAs*

6. *General Recommendations about Balance and Rigor*

7. *A Discussion of Several Common Schedule Scenarios*

8. *Helpful Contacts*

9. *Questions*

10. *College Guidance Presentation*

4:30-5:00:
11. *Student Panel with ESD Ambassadors*

ESD's Getting Ready Page

https://www.esdallas.org/academics/getting-ready-2024-25/upper-school

COURSE REQUEST PROCESS

1. **Explore** the Course Selection Materials.

2. **Meet with 9th Grade Dean and Chief Academic Officer**. Students fill out course request form and turn in today.

3. **Course requests** input into our scheduling system.

   Biology, World Language, and Math placement depend on end of year performance and placement test results.

Upper School Graduation Requirements

Classical & Modern Languages	3 units	3 units in the same language; at least 2 units taken in Upper School and through level 3 of a language
Computational Thinking	½ unit	PEP or AP Comp Sci Principles, AP Comp Sci A
English	4 units	English I, II, III, IV required
Fine Arts	1 unit	½ credit must be performance-based or hands-on
Health Science	½ unit	Complete freshman or sophomore year
History and Social Science	3 units	World Cultures (½), World History, US History, US Government (½)
Mathematics	3 units	Through Algebra II
Community Activity Credit	8 trimester units	2 units per year of Upper School
Religion	1 unit	½ credit for World Cultures + ½ for a junior/senior elective
Science	3 unit	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics required

Graduation Requirements - Possible Waivers

4 years of Journalism = **waiver of ½ credit fine arts and ½ credit computational thinking**

4 years of the same discipline of Fine Arts = **waiver of ½ credit computational thinking**

4 years of Engineering Design and Programming = **waiver of ½ credit fine arts**

Waivers must be discussed and approved by CAO.

Placement test info

- Who needs to take a placement test?
  - Math
    - In Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1 with plans to take Algebra 1 - no
    - In Algebra 1 with plans to take Geometry - no
    - In Algebra 1 with plans to take Summer Geometry, then Algebra 2 - yes
    - In Geometry with plans to take Algebra 2 - no
    - **Any honors level math placement desired - yes**
  - Language
    - Plans to take level 1 of a Language: Spanish, French, Arabic, Latin, Chinese - no
    - Any honors level language placement or level 2 and above placement - yes
  - Honors Biology placement test is online in Schoology - you will indicate your interest on sign up form
- Placement test dates:
  - Saturday, April 27 9:00 am - 11:00 am (tests are about 1 hour each)
  - Saturday, May 11 9:00 am - 11:00 am
  - Contact department chairs to set up another time

NINTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

Required:

- Math
- English I
- Language
- Biology
- World Cultures
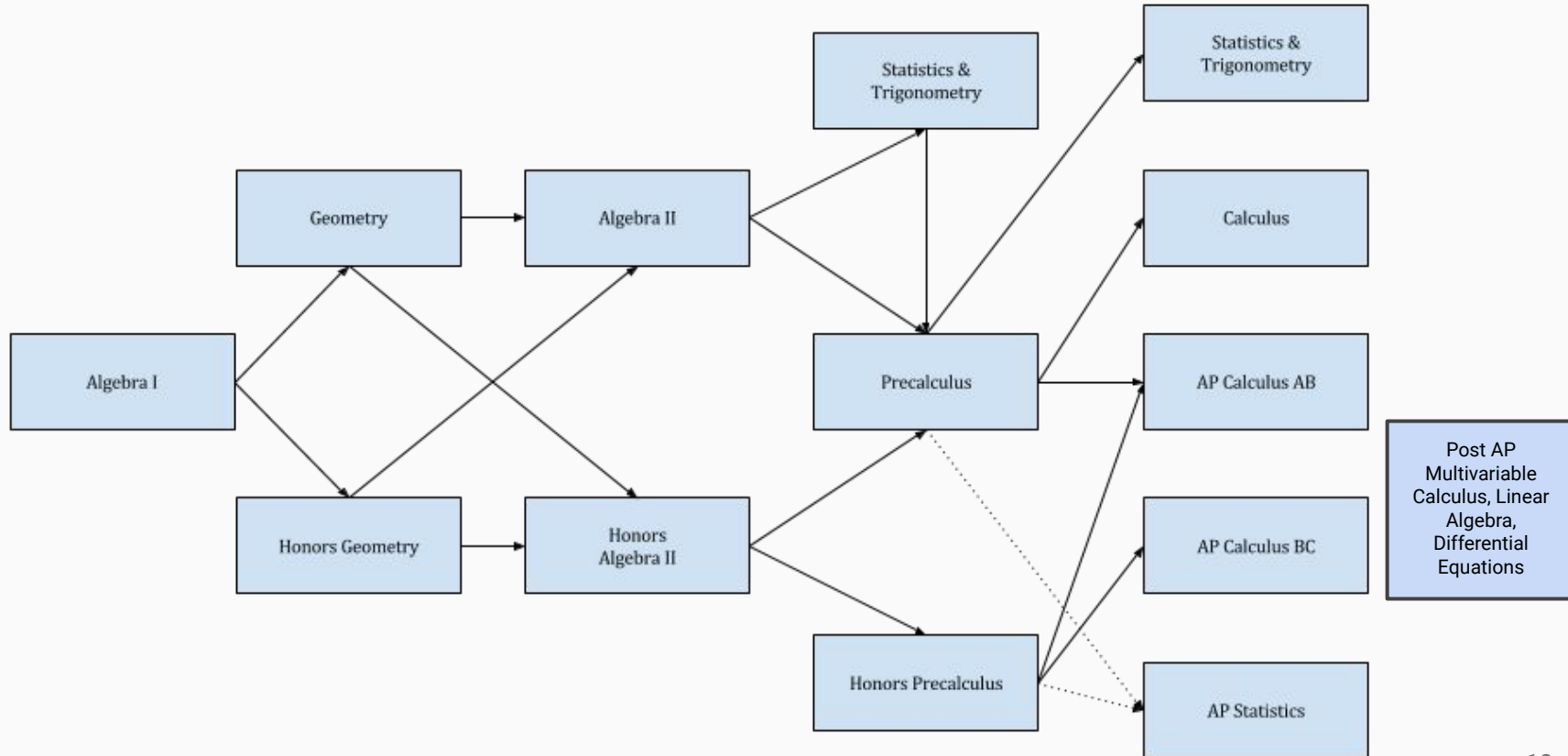- Community Activity
- Elective
- Elective or Study Hall

Electives:

- Health (½ credit required)
- Fine Arts (1 credit required, one-half must be "hands on")
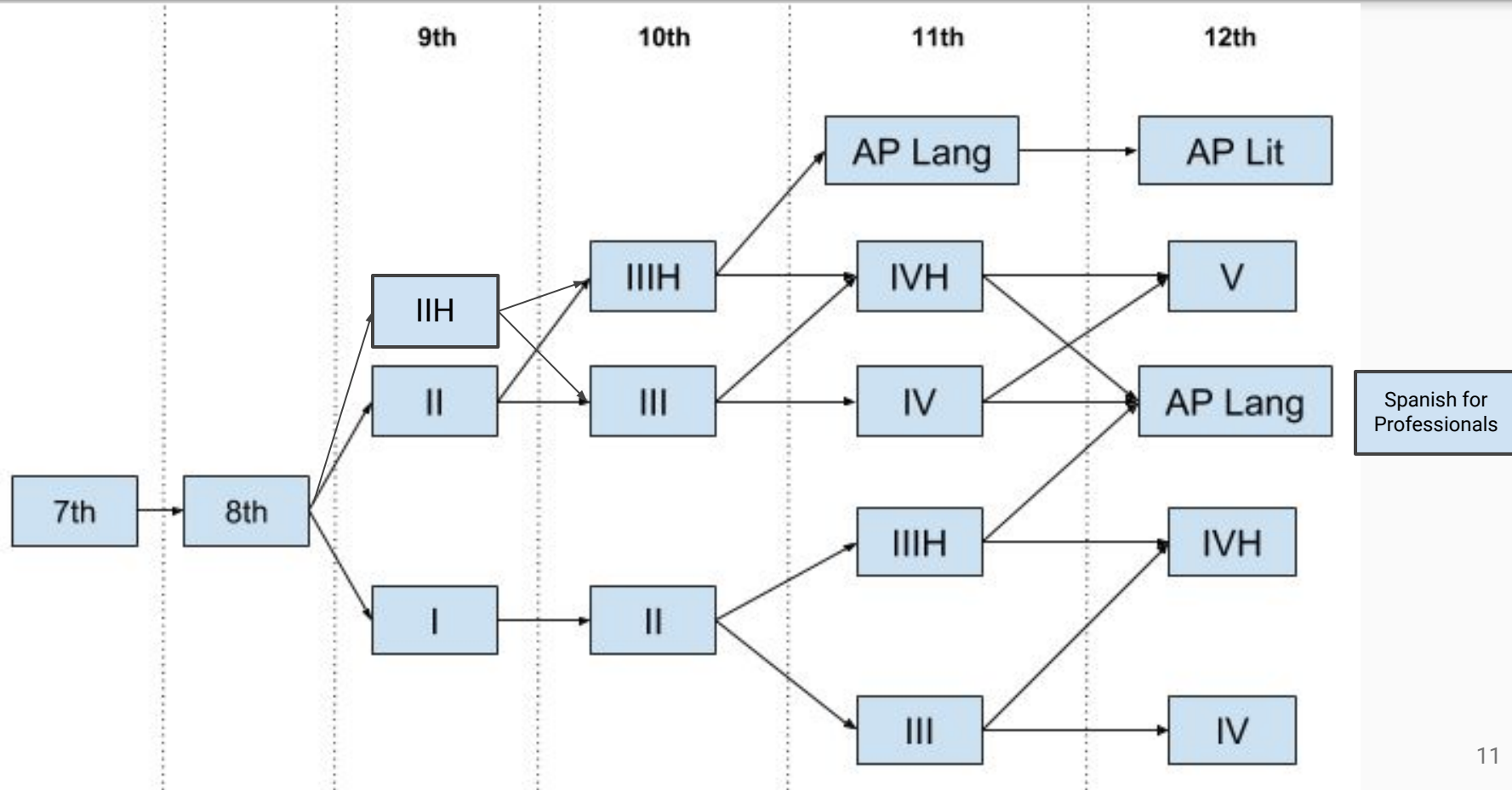- Computational Thinking* (½ credit required)
- Journalism I

*Rising 9th graders who are slated for at least Honors Geometry in 9th have an option of applying to take AP Computer Science Principles. lenac@esdallas.org

If not slated for Honors Geometry in 9th, students could take Principles of Engineering with Programming (PEP), also offered over the summer, and then enroll into APCSP if desired.

MATH SEQUENCE

SECOND LANGUAGE (SPANISH) PATHWAYS

All 9th graders take English I and World Cultures.

In the spring of 9th grade, students can apply to take Honors English II and/or AP World History during their sophomore year.

Community Activity Credit Options

Graduation requirement = 8 trimesters

2 trimesters in 9th

2 trimesters in 10th

2 trimesters in 11th

2 trimester in 12th

Meet the Coaches

FALL:
Boys: Cross Country, Football, Crew, Theatre Production - Play, Theatre Production - Tech, Pickleball (lottery), Robotics
Girls: Cross Country, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Cheerleading, Crew, Theatre Production - Play, Theatre Production - Tech, Pickleball (lottery), Robotics

WINTER:
Boys: Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling, Swimming, Mountain Biking, Theatre Production - Musical, Theater Production - Tech
Girls: Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Wrestling, Mountain Biking, Theatre Production - Musical, Theatre Production - Tech

SPRING:
Boys: Crew, Golf, Tennis, Track, Baseball, Lacrosse, Yoga
Girls: Crew, Golf, Tennis, Track, Softball, Lacrosse, Yoga

COURSE SELECTION FORM

Fall Term			Spring Term		
Dept.	*Course Name*	*Code*	*Dept.*	*Course Name*	*Code*
English	Freshman English	**150**	English	Freshman English	**150**
Math			Math		
His/Rel	World Cultures	**309**	His/Rel	World Cultures	**309**
Science	Biology: Reg. (410)/ Honors (422)		Science	Biology: Reg. (410)/ Honors (422)	
Language			Language		

Sports/Physical Education:

_____ _____ _____

fall   winter   spring

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take at least one introductory fine art to increase options sophomore year.
- Consider Health next (also offered in the summer, recommended after 9th grade).
- Take computational thinking (Principles of Engineering with Programming) if you want to advance in that area.
- Consider at least one study hall during a semester when sports or other significant periods of commitment take up after-school hours.

Upper School Grading Reports

The academic year is divided into **two semesters**. Semester examinations are given prior to the Christmas holiday and at the end of the second semester. Check Points, approximately four weeks apart, provide an evaluation of the student's academic performance and alert parents to opportunities to review their student's progress. Additional information is provided on Schoology.

Semester grades are the official grades of record for graduation credit. Letter grades are recorded on the student's transcript at the end of each semester and reported through Veracross. For classes which require a semester exam, that exam will count for 20% of the student's final grade, with the other 80% coming from the semester course work.

Cumulative Grade Point Average
The cumulative grade point average earned at ESD is calculated using semester grades for courses taken at ESD only. Grades for all courses taken at ESD will be averaged into the GPA. Grades for Upper School courses that are repeated due to failure are included on a student's transcript in addition to the original grade; they do not replace the original grade. The higher earned grade of a class repeated due to failure will be calculated into the GPA, and the lower grade will be dropped. For transcript purposes, ESD calculates the ESD GPA into a 4.0 scale.

GPA Calculations

Letter Grade	Numerical Value	Grade Point
A+	97 - 100	4.3
A	93 - 96	4.0
A-	90 - 92	3.7
B+	87 - 89	3.3
B	83 - 86	3.0
B-	80 - 82	2.7
C+	77 - 79	2.3
C	73 - 76	2.0
C-	70 - 72	1.7
D+	67 - 69	1.3
D	65 - 66	1.0
F	Below 65	0

Weighting of Honors and Advanced Placement Courses
Honors courses are weighted one-half quality point higher and Advanced Placement courses are weighted one quality point higher than the grade earned.

Sample Schedule Scenarios

STUDENT WITH ONE SPORT

FALL

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Health
Study Hall (during sport)
Community Activity:
Fall Sport (football, cheer, etc.)

Community Activity:
 None

SPRING

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Principles of Engineering (PEP)
Photography

Community Activity: Yoga

STUDENT WITH THREE SPORTS

FALL

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Health or Computer Science
Study Hall
Community Activity:

Fall Sport   Community Activity:

Winter Sport

SPRING

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Fine Arts
Study Hall
Community Activity:

Spring Sport

STUDENT IN JOURNALISM

FALL

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Journalism
Study Hall
Community Activity:

Fall Sport

Community Activity:

Mountain Biking

SPRING

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Journalism
Fine Art or Health
Community Activity:

None

STUDENT WHO LOVES THE ARTS
...and took Health in summer school

FALL

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Choir / Orchestra / Band / Theatre / Studio Art
Study Hall
Community Activity: Community Activity:

Fall Play   Winter Musical

SPRING

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Choir Orchestra / Band / Theatre / Studio Art
Additional Fine Art
Community Activity:

None

TO SUMMER SCHOOL OR NOT TO SUMMER SCHOOL?

It is not a requirement.

Attending summer school is *not* required to meet graduation requirements; however, summer school can increase future course options. We recommend taking summer school AFTER 9th grade.

For the student who aspires to . . .

- take four years of fine arts, or
- take journalism all four years, or
- take computer science all four years, or
- take a study hall every semester all four years, or
- exceed graduation requirements across the core subjects.

Most popular options for 9th and 10th graders:
Geometry, Health, Engineering, Chemistry

Click here to view our summer school course offerings.

Determining readiness for the student who wants to do it all

Up for a challenge?

Have very good study and time management skills?

Discuss how they're doing openly with their parents?

Willing to seek out teachers for guidance?

Other commitments?

2 YEAR PLAN WORKSHEET

9th Grade

Fall Term	Spring Term
English I	English I
Math _____	Math _____
World Cultures	World Cultures
Biology or Honors Bio	Biology or Honors Bio
Language _____	Language _____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PE: f _____ w _____ s _____

Summer School prior to 10th grade:

10th Grade

Fall Term	Spring Term
English II or Honors	English II or Honors
Math _____	Math _____
World History or AP	World History or AP
Chemistry or Honors Chem	Chemistry or Honors Chem
Language _____	Language _____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PE: f _____ w _____ s _____

Summer School prior to 11th grade:

Upper School Daily Schedule

	US Day 1	US Day 2	US Day 3	US Day 4	US Day 5	US Day 6	US Day 7	
Before School Testing 7:15-8:45 am in C205								
9:00- 10:00 am	A	E	C	B	F	D	C	9:00- 10:00 am
10:05-11:05 am	B	F	D	C	A	E	D	10:05-11:05 am
11:10-12:10 pm	M	M	E	M	M	F	M	11:10-12:10 pm
12:15-12:35 pm	Chapel							12:15-12:35 pm
12:35-12:50 pm	Mini-Flex							12:35-12:50 pm
12:50-1:25 pm	Lunch							12:50-1:25 pm
1:30-2:30 pm	C	A	F	D	B	A	E	1:30-2:30 pm
2:35-3:00 pm	Big Flex/Advisory							2:35-3:00 pm
3:05-4:00 pm	D	B	A	E	C	B	F	3:05-4:00 pm
After School Testing 4:15-6:30 pm in C205								

Learning Accommodations

[Ashley Beck](#)

US Learning Support Counselor

If you currently receive accommodations, please reach out to [Ashley Beck](#) before school starts to ensure a plan is in place. If you would like to know more information about student support at ESD, click [here](#).

Computer Recommendations

[ESD's Bring Your Own Device guidelines](#) - also on getting ready pages

Community Service

Grade Level Service Projects
Each grade level at ESD is required to complete an annual service project. Activities for these projects may vary and will often occur during advisory, special programming days, and occasional weekends for seniors. Active participation in all grade level community service activities associated with the class service project is required. Attendance at scheduled service trips associated with the class service project is required.

Additionally, ninth graders begin work on their first 25 hours of community service, which are due at the end of tenth grade. Grade Level Service Projects do <u>not</u> count toward these hours.

Contacts

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