

Welcome to Upper School!

Rising 9th Grade Information:
The Course Request Process

THE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL *of* DALLAS

WELCOME



Rebecca Brady
Chief Academic Officer



Heather Cernoch
Ninth Grade Class
Dean

AGENDA

1. *The Course Request Process*
2. *Placement testing for Honors*
3. *Graduation Requirements; 9th Grade Requirements*
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 Scenarios*
8. *Helpful Contacts*
9. *Questions*

COURSE REQUEST PROCESS

1. **Explore** the Course Selection Materials, including the [2024-2025 US Course Guide](#) (linked in Resources, on the [Getting Ready](#) page, and the [US Academics](#) page)
2. **Discussions and deliberations:** students, parents, advisors. Students fill out course request form with advisors on conference day.
3. After family conferences on **February 28**, advisors will **input course selections** into our scheduling system.

Note...final math placement may depend on end of year results, input the sequential course for now.

The screenshot shows the ESD Canvas LMS interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ESD logo and tabs for COURSES, GROUPS, RESOURCES, and TOOLS. The main content area is titled 'Class of 2028' and 'Resources'. On the left, a sidebar contains 'Group Options' (Updates, Discussions, Albums, Members (137)), 'Resources', 'Conferences', and an 'Access Code' (MQGC-FSV7-FDBV8) with a 'Reset' button. The main Resources list includes:

- Course Selection Information - 2024-25**
 - 2024-2025 Course Catalog
 - Extra Copy of Course Selection Worksheet
 - Course Codes
 - Grade level slideshowsAdded by You · Jan 31, 2024
- Honors Biology Application Form**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GtB4BfbURHwQYgdDCPrhGTOWRjvk0z4SuT-L2OxfvBing>
Added by Scott Goetsch · Dec 19, 2023
- Veracross Portal Link**
accounts.veracross.com/esdallas/portals/login
Added by Meg Fahrenbrook · Apr 22, 2021
- Winter Exam schedule and room list**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1c4DRV0sHhZaleEElhc4pw0gTza9R5EUIYa0DlwQuSTring>
Added by Scott Goetsch · Dec 18, 2023

Placement Testing Dates

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Fri. Feb 2 | Email from Classical & Modern Languages teacher with invitation to apply for honors (Spanish, French, Latin) |
| Thurs. Feb 15 | Rising 9th Science (Honors Bio) during MS flex. Note - Application form due Feb 8 |
| Fri. Feb 16 | Rising 9th Classical & Modern Language placement testing during Latin and French classes |
| Mon. Feb 19 | Rising 9th CML placement testing during Spanish classes |

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	$\frac{1}{2}$ unit	PEP, AP Comp Sci Principles, AP Comp Sci A
English	4 units	English I, II, III, IV required
Fine Arts	1 unit	$\frac{1}{2}$ credit must be performance-based or hands-on
Health Science	$\frac{1}{2}$ unit	Complete freshman or sophomore year
History and Social Science	3 units	World Cultures ($\frac{1}{2}$), World History, US History, US Government ($\frac{1}{2}$)
Mathematics	3 units	Through Algebra II
Community Activity Credit	8 trimester units	2 units per year of Upper School
Religion	1 unit	$\frac{1}{2}$ credit for World Cultures + $\frac{1}{2}$ for a junior/senior elective
Science	3 unit	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics required

From PE to “Community Activity Credits”

- Replaces after school PE credit
- Community Activity Credits will be scheduled on a trimester system (fall, winter, spring)
- Credit requirement is 2 trimesters per school year
- The following activities count to accrue Community Activity Credit:
 - ESD sports teams (JV or Varsity level)
 - Cast of the play
 - Cast of the musical
 - Tech for the play
 - Tech for the musical
 - Approved off-campus athletic competitions (approved by Athletic Director)
 - Dance, Mountain Biking, Yoga (offered one per trimester)
- Community Activity Credits will be graded on a pass/fail system and will be added to the transcript

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, not until after 9th grade.

NINTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

Required:

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

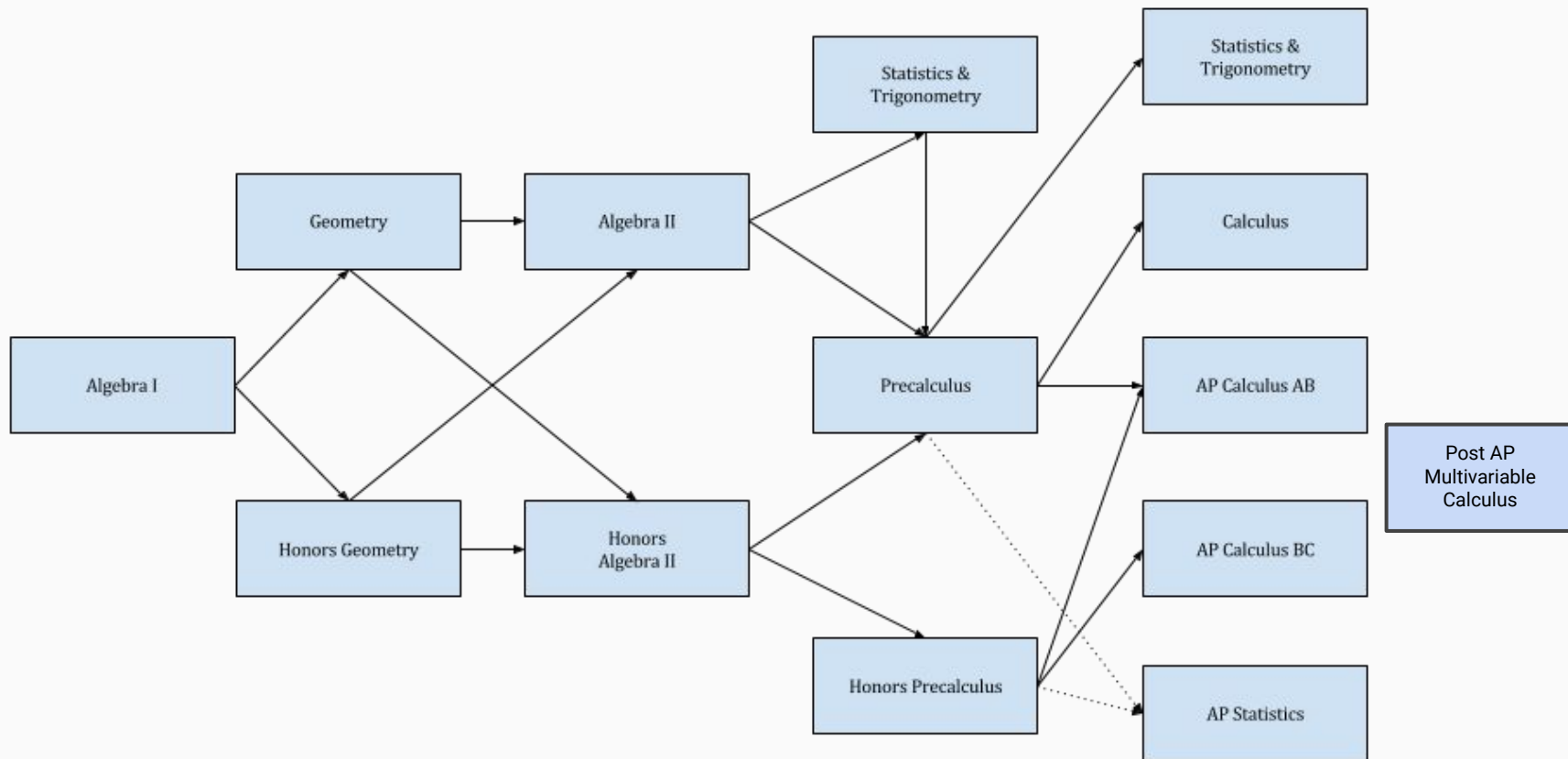
Electives:

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

*Rising 9th graders who are slated for at least Honors Geometry in 9th or have taken advanced computer science courses in MS and have approval from Ms. Nutter have an option of applying to take AP Computer Science Principles.

If not, students could take Principles of Engineering with Programming (PEP), also offered over the summer, and then enroll into APCSP if desired. If taking PEP in the summer, select APCSP₉ on course request form.

MATH SEQUENCE



Math Placement Guidelines

Alg 1, grade below 75% or below 80% with low test average - Alg 1 recommended

Alg 1, grade above 80% - Geometry recommended

Alg 1, grade above 93%, 90%+ on midterm, 85%+ on placement test - H Geometry

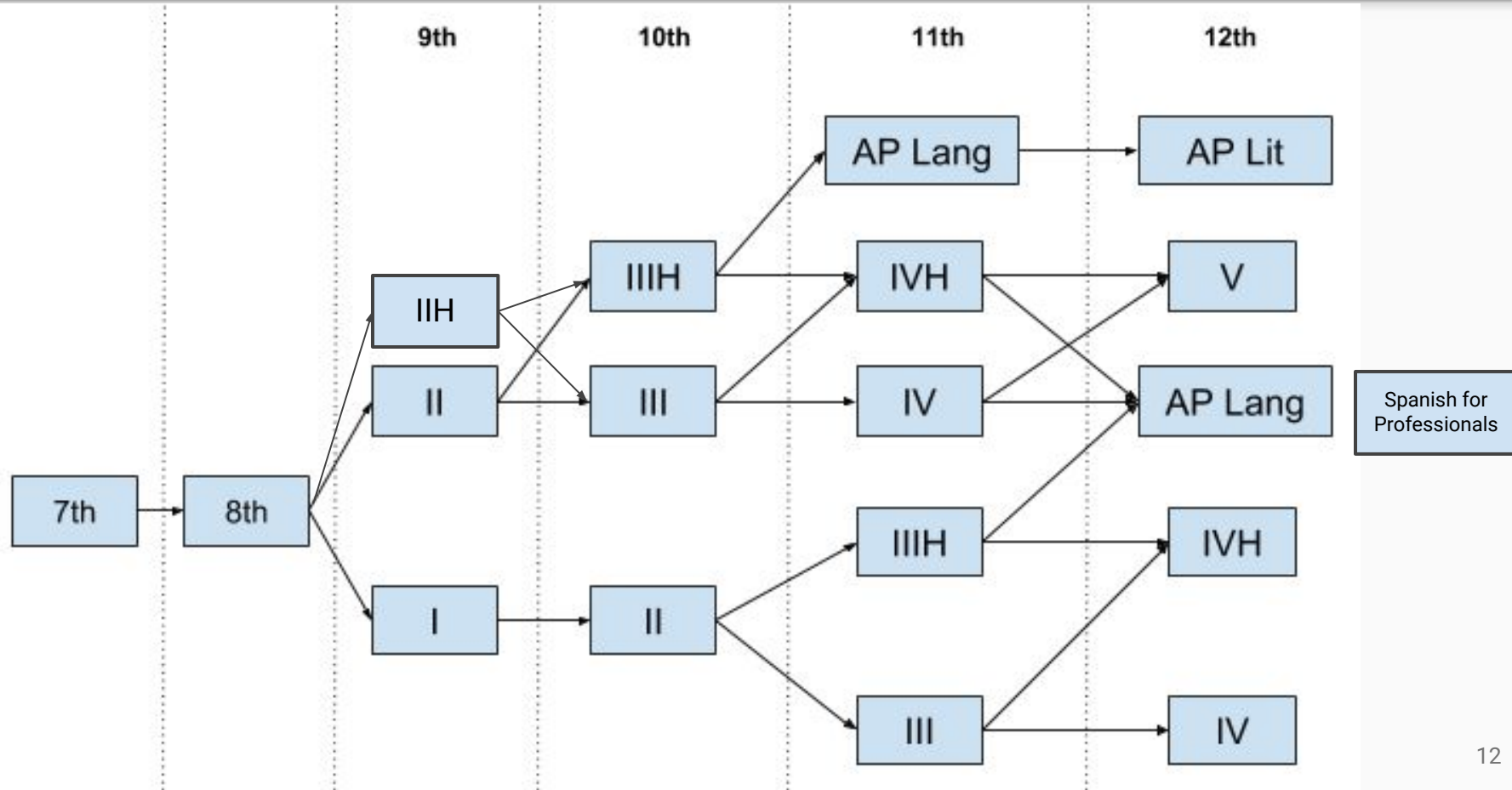
H Alg 1, grade below 80%, Geometry recommended

H Alg 1, grade above 80% - H Geometry recommended

H Geom, grade above 80% - H Alg 2 recommended

H Geom, grade below 80% - Alg 2 recommended

SECOND LANGUAGE (SPANISH) PATHWAYS



ENGLISH AND HISTORY 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

FALL:

Men: Cross Country, Football, Crew, Theatre Production - Play, Theatre Production - Tech, Dance

Women: Cross Country, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Cheerleading, Crew, Theatre Production - Play, Theatre Production - Tech, Dance

WINTER:

Men: Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling, Swimming, Mountain Biking, Theatre Production - Musical, Theater Production - Tech

Women: Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Wrestling, Mountain Biking, Theatre Production - Musical, Theatre Production - Tech

SPRING:

Men: Crew, Golf, Tennis, Track, Baseball, Lacrosse, Yoga

Women: Crew, Golf, Tennis, Track, Softball, Lacrosse, Yoga

COURSE SELECTION FORM

FALL TERM			SPRING TERM		
<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Code</i>
English	Freshman English (English I)	150	English	Freshman English (English I)	150
Math			Math		
History/ Religion	World Cultures	309	History/ Religion	World Cultures	309
Science	Biology: Reg. (410)/ Honors (422)		Science	Biology: Reg. (410)/ Honors (422)	
Language			Language		
Elective			Elective		
Elective			Elective		

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CREDITS (2 required)

Fall Activity and Code	Winter Activity and Code	Spring Activity and Code

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.
 - All ninth graders who register for a study hall in the fall will have a PROCTORED study hall. Students with class averages above 80 at the end of the fall semester can have the privilege of an UNPROCTORED study hall in the spring.
 - Interim check periods: Students can be placed back into proctored study hall based on grades.

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 Activities:

Fall Sport (football, cheer, etc.)

No Winter Sport

SPRING

English

Math

Biology

World Cultures

Language

Computer

Art

Community Activities:

Yoga

STUDENT WITH THREE SPORTS

FALL

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

Community Activities:

Fall Sport

SPRING

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Fine Arts
Study Hall

Community Activities:

Spring Sport

Community Activities:

Winter Sport

STUDENT IN JOURNALISM

FALL

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Journalism
Study Hall

Community Activities:

Fall Sport

SPRING

English
Math
Biology
World Cultures
Language
Journalism
Fine Art or Health

No Activity After School

Community Activities:

Mountain Biking

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 Activities:

Fall Play

Community Activities:

Winter Musical

SPRING

English

Math

Biology

World Cultures

Language

Choir / Orchestra / Band / Theatre / Studio Art

Additional Fine Art

Community Activities:

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.

Or you just have a lot of time on your hands and need something constructive and structured.

Click [here](#) to view our summer school course offerings (coming mid-February).

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:

SCHOOLGY and PLACEMENT TESTS

- Schoology is ESD's learning management system for teachers, students and parents to have access to course materials and updated grades, comments and more.



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



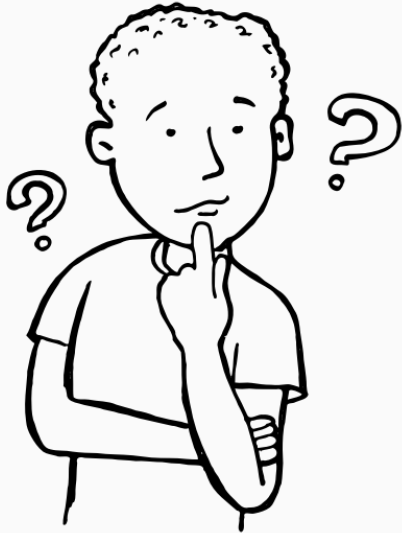
[Ashley Beck](#)

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](#).

NEXT STEPS

- Discussions about options and interests
- Meeting with advisor during conferences



Community Service

All ninth graders begin work on their first 25 hours of community service, which are due at the end of tenth grade.

Computer Recommendations

[ESD's Bring Your Own Device guidelines](#)

Contacts

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