DEKALB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE CATALOG

2025-2026



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Graduation Requirements:

Every student graduating in Tennessee must follow the state requirements. Students planning on playing college sports need to check with the counselor about NCAA & graduation requirements.

Core Curriculum Requirements:		
English	4 Credits	
Math (Must include Alg 1, Alg 2, Geometry & 1 higher math)	4 Credits	
Science (Must include Bio I, Chemistry/Physics & Lab Science)	3 Credits	
Social Studies (Must include W. History/Geog, US History, Econ & Gov)	3 Credits	
Computer Science Foundations	1 credit	
Lifetime Wellness	1 Credit	
Personal Fitness	1/2 Credit	
Personal Finance	1/2 Credit	
Focus Area Classes	3 Credits	
Foreign Language (2 credits in same language)	2 Credits	
Fine Arts	1 Credit	
Total Credits Needed for Graduation:	22	

Sample Course Sequencing for 6-Year Plans:

Note: What follows are suggested sequences and reflect minimum requirements. Final Decisions on 9th grade English, Math, and Science placement should be based on grades earned in the 8th grade and on standardized testing scores.

On your 6-year plans, you need to list specifically which elective courses and focus area courses you wish to take. DO NOT Simplify WRITE "ELECTIVE" OR "FOCUS AREA COURSE." For example, if you would like to take Vocal Music as an elective, write "Vocal Music" in the elective spot. Students may take any course DCHS offers as an elective course provided they meet the prerequisite and grade level requirements (refer to course descriptions for this information). However, students who need courses for graduation requirements will be given the first opportunity to enroll in these courses.

Sample University Path Course Sequencing for 6-year Plans:		
Ninth Grade	Tenth Grade	
Regular or Honors English I (year- long)	Regular or Honors English II (year- long)	
H. Algebra I or Algebra I (year- long)	H. Geometry or Geometry (year-long)	
H. Physical Science or Physical Science (year-long)	H. Biology I or Biology I (year-long)	
Personal Fitness	World History/ Geography	
Wellness	Fine Art Elective	
Computer Science Foundations	Spanish I	
Elective from Focus Area	H. or regular Spanish II	
Two other Electives	Two Electives from Focus areas	

Eleventh Grade	Twelfth Grade
Regular, Honors or Dual Enrollment English III (year-long)	Regular, Honors, or Dual Enrollment English 1V
H. Algebra II or Algebra II (year-long)	Regular or Honors U.S. Government
H. Chemistry I or Chemistry I (year- long)	Regular or Honors Economics
U.S. History (year- long)	Applied Math Reasoning, Statistics or DE Math
Elective from Focus area	Personal Finance
Elective	Elective

Note: If taking a yearlong class	, students must pass both A & B sections for	
graduation purposes.		

Focus Area/ Program of Study:

Dual-enrollment and AP available for 09-12 grades

Program of Study - Math & Science Course offering: Any three additional Math, or Science classes above what is required for graduation.

Program of Study – Humanities Course offering: Any three additional English, Mythology, Foreign language or fine arts classes above what is required for graduation.

Program of Study – **Career and Technical Education** – Course offerings are listed in the DCHS Career and Technical Education Areas of Focus Document located on the DCHSTIGERS.COM website..

DCHS Courses:

Prerequisite = A course/requirement that must be taken/met before another course.

Concurrent = A course that must be taken either before or during another course.

Students can only sign up for courses that are on their grade level and courses for which they have met the prerequisite requirements.

ENGLISH:

ESL English / Grade Level 9-12 / prerequisite: Must be from a non-English language background. The ESL program is for students from non-English language backgrounds. This class may be taken for English credit up to 2 times. After 2 credits, students may take ESL English for elective credits.

English I A & B/ Grade Level 9 / Prerequisite: None English I consist of instruction in basic level-nine grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary as well as instruction in some literary terms. This course also includes a review of grammar and usage skills found on the English I state end-of-course exam, which is given to all ninth grade students.

Honors English I A & B/ Grade Level: 9 / Prerequisite: Placement should be based on grades earned in the 8th grade and on standardized testing scores. This English class is designed for college-bound students and offers a condensed curriculum which includes instruction in grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and literature (English and American). For composition, students are required to learn all sentence structures, which enable them to compose various types of paragraphs consisting of varied sentence beginnings and structures. These paragraphs are graded for content and for grammatical and mechanical errors. This course also includes a review of grammar and usage skills found on the English I state end-of-course exam, which is given to all ninth grade students.

English II A & B/ Grade Level: 10 / Prerequisite: English I or Honors English I

English 10 consists of instruction in basic level-ten grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary as well as instruction in literature. Students taking this course will take the state End of Course exam.

Honors English II A & B/ Grade Level: 10 / Prerequisite: Recommended Honors English I This English class is designed for college-bound students and offers a condensed curriculum, which includes instruction in grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and literature (English and American). For composition students are required to learn all sentence structures, which enable them to compose various types of paragraphs consisting of varied sentence beginnings and structures. These paragraphs are graded for content and for grammatical and mechanical errors. Students taking this course will take the End of Course exam.

English III A & B/ Grade Level: 11 / Prerequisites: Regular or Honors English I & II This English class emphasizes learning sentence structure, recognizing sentence fragments and run-on sentences, learning to write good paragraphs, writing book reports, and acquainting students with American literature

Honors English III A & B/ Grade Level: 11 / Prerequisites: Recommended Honors English I & II This is a course for college-bound students and is structured much like an introductory college English class. Students will become acquainted with the Harbrace College Handbook, write themes and correct them using the handbook, and will learn how to do appropriate outlines for research papers. Students will also study and write themes concerning American literature focusing on setting, characterization, comparison/contrast, persuasion, and narratives

English IV / Grade Level: 12 / Prerequisites: Regular or Honors English I, II, & III This course builds on the skills taught in preceding English classes including grammar, usage, mechanics, and practical application of writing skills. Students will also study British literature.

Honors English IV /Grade Level: 12 / Prerequisites: Recommended Honors English I, II, & IIIThis course builds on the writing and research processes taught in the preceding advanced English courses. It places an emphasis on writing, thinking, and reading on a variety of topics including British literature. This class also emphasizes critical, expository, and descriptive writing.

Yearbook A & B/ Grade Level: 10-12 / Prerequisite: Need Teacher Approval Yearbook is a learn-by-doing class in which students use the computer to design, edit, and produce the

yearbook. Class is year-long. Students must take A & B sections. Students are chosen by the yearbook advisor/teacher to take this class.

Bible History/ Grade Level: 9-12 / Prerequisite: None The purpose of this course is to enable students to acquire an understanding and appreciation of the Bible's major ideas, historical/geographical contexts, and literary forms. The course will include the study of the Bible in its historical, sociological, and cultural contexts, and its impact on later cultures, societies, and religions.

Honors Mythology/ Grade Level: 10-12 / Prerequisite: Need Teacher Approval This course is designed as a college class and will explore a sample of Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology. Using many sources, both written and visual, students will analyze the language and basis of mythology that many writers use to explain concepts and ideas in their own writings. Students will leave this course with an understanding of the difference between Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology, the historical context for the myths, and the use of evidence and discussion to

critically analyze the thought process behind the implementation of mythology.

Honors Creative Writing/ Grade Level: 10-12 / Prerequisite: Need Teacher Approval This course offers students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft.

Math:

Honors Algebra I A & B/ Grade Level 9: This course includes operations with rational numbers, equations, inequalities, graphing, polynomials, factoring, functions, radicals, and quadratics. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course. Placement should be based on grades earned in the 8th grade and on standardized testing scores.

Algebra I A & B/ Grade Level 9: This course includes operations with rational numbers, equations, inequalities, graphing, polynomials, factoring, functions, radicals, and quadratics. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Honors Algebra II A & B/ Grade Level 11/ Prerequisite: Algebra I: This study includes operations with rational numbers, equations, inequalities, graphing, polynomials, factoring, functions, radicals, and quadratics. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Algebra II A & B/ Grade Level: 11/ Prerequisite: Algebra I: This course covers the same material as the Algebra II - This study includes operations with rational numbers, equations,

inequalities, graphing, polynomials, factoring, functions, radicals, and quadratics. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Honors Geometry A & B/ Grade Level: 10 / Prerequisite: Algebra I: Geometry is a course that uses problem situations, physical models, and appropriate technology to investigate geometric concepts, relationships, and systems. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Geometry A & B/ Grade Level: 10 / Prerequisite: Algebra I: Geometry is a course that uses problem situations, physical models, and appropriate technology to investigate geometric concepts, relationships, and systems. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Honors Pre-Calculus / Grade Level: 11-12 / Prerequisites: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, For students wanting to take AP Calculus.

Honors Statistics A & B/ Grade Level 12: Statistics is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The major themes in Statistics include: interpreting categorical and quantitative data, conditional probability and other rules of probability, using probability to make decisions, and making inferences and justifying conclusions.

Statistics A & B/ Grade Level 12: Statistics is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The major themes in Statistics include: interpreting categorical and quantitative data, conditional probability and other rules of probability, using probability to make decisions, and making inferences and justifying conclusions.

Sails Math A & B/ Grade Level 12: Remedial math class for those students who score less than a 19 on the math section of the ACT. Meets remedial math requirements for students going onto post-secondary education.

Science:

Honors Biology I A & B/Grade Level: 10: Honors Biology I is a course that introduces students to the world of living things. The students explore the following: basic life processes at the molecular, cellular, systemic, organismal, and ecological levels of organization within the biosphere; interdependence and interactions within the environment to include relationships, behavior, and population dynamics; cultural and historical scientific contributions of men and women;

evidence that supports biological evolution; and current and emerging technologies. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Biology I A & B/Grade Level: 10/Prerequisite: None: Biology I is a course that introduces students to the world of living things. The students explore the following: basic life processes at the molecular, cellular, systemic, organismal, and ecological levels of organization within the biosphere; interdependence and interactions within the environment to include relationships, behavior, and population dynamics; cultural and historical scientific contributions of men and women; evidence that supports biological evolution; and current and emerging technologies. Students will take a state end-of-course exam during this course.

Physical Science A & B/Grade Level: 9/Prerequisite: Algebra I: Physical Science is a course that explores the relationship between matter and energy. The student will investigate the following: force and motion, structure and properties of matter, interactions of matter, and energy. **Honors Physical Science A & B/Grade Level:9/Prerequisite:Algebra I:** Physical Science is a course that explores the relationship between matter and energy. The student will investigate the following: force and motion, structure and properties of matter, interactions of matter, and energy. The student will investigate the following: force and motion, structure and properties of matter, interactions of matter, and energy. Prerequisites: A/B in Biology I.

Honors Biology II A & B/Grade Level:11-12/Prerequisite: A in Biology I

Biology II is a course that introduces students to major specialty areas of biology. The students explore the following: comparative anatomy, zoology, embryology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, and botany.

Honors Chemistry I A & B/Grade Level:11/Prerequisites: Physical Science and Algebra

I: Chemistry is a course that explores the properties of substances and the changes that substances undergo. The student will investigate the following: atomic structure, matter, energy, interactions of matter, properties of solutions, and acids and bases.

Chemistry I A & B/Grade Level:11/Prerequisites: Physical Science and Algebra I Chemistry is a course that explores the properties of substances and the changes that substances undergo. The student will investigate the following: atomic structure, matter, energy, interactions

of matter, properties of solutions, and acids and bases.

Honors Physics A & B/Grade Level: 10-12/Prerequisites: Algebra I, & Physical Science or Biology. Physics is a course that deals with the relationship between matter and energy and how they interact. The following major areas will be investigated: mechanics, thermodynamics, waves and sound, light and optics, electricity and magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics.

Social Studies:

World History/Geography/Grade Level:10-12/Prerequisite: None In World History, students study the history of humankind and geographical concepts with a more concentrated focus from the Renaissance to present day. The six social studies standards of essential content

knowledge and four process skills are integrated for instructional purposes. Students will utilize different methods that historians use to interpret the past, including points of view and historical context.

United States History A & B/Grade Level:11/Prerequisite: None In United States History, students study the history of the United States Reconstruction to the present. The six social studies standards of essential content knowledge and four process skills are integrated for instructional purposes. Students will utilize different methods that historians use to interpret the past, including points of view and historical context. Students must pass both A & B classes.

Economics/Grade Level:12

In Economics students study how people, businesses, and governments choose to use resources.

United States Government/Grade Level:12 This course focuses on the United States' founding principles and beliefs. Students will study the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels.

H. Economics/Grade Level:12 In Economics students study how people, businesses, and governments choose to use resources. Students will complete extra projects for the Honors credit.

H. United States Government/Grade Level:12 This course focuses on the United States' founding principles and beliefs. Students will study the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. Students will complete extra projects for the Honors credit.

Honors or Regular Personal Finance/grade Level 12/prerequisite: None This course first helps students develop a foundation in the fundamentals of personal finance. Students then have the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills gained to explore types of financing and investments, the stock market, and stock valuation. Students acquire an understanding and appreciation of the need for saving and investing. The capstone activity is the development of a diversified stock portfolio. Throughout the course students are presented with problem-solving situations for which they must apply academic and critical thinking skills.

Contemporary Issues/Grade Level 10-12/Prerequisite: None Contemporary Issues is devoted to studying the historical origins and development of domestic and foreign political and social problems that confront contemporary humanity.

Physical Education/Sports:

Lifetime Wellness/Grade Level:9/Prerequisite: None In lifetime wellness students spend 9 weeks in the classroom studying disease prevention, family life, reproduction, safety, first aid, nutrition, and substance use and abuse. Students spend the other 9 weeks in the gym focusing on personal fitness, fitness assessment, and physical activities.

Physical Education II/Grade Level 9-12/Prerequisite: None P.E. II is an advanced physical education class, which includes fitness tests, exercise & calisthenics, running, weightlifting, and individual/team sports. (May be taken multiple times for credit).

Football A & B/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Football Coach Students will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for this course each semester. Football players and managers can take this course during the fall & spring semesters. Students are required to attend practices and games.

Girls Basketball A & B/Grade Level:9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Basketball Coach. Students will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for this course each semester.

Basketball players and managers can take this course in the fall and spring semesters. Students are required to attend practices and games.

Boys Basketball A & B/Grade Level:9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Basketball Coach Students will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for this course each semester. Basketball players and managers can take this course in the fall and spring semesters. Students are required to attend practices and games.

Baseball/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Baseball Coach Students will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for this course each semester. Baseball players and managers can take this course in the fall and spring semesters. Students are required to attend practices and games.

Softball/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Softball Coach Students will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for this course each semester. Baseball players and managers can take this course in the fall and spring semesters. Students are required to attend practices and games.

Football Cheerleading/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Cheerleading Coach Students will receive a participation grade only.

Basketball Cheerleading/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Cheerleading Coach Students will receive a participation grade only.

Soccer, Tennis, Cross Country and Golf/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Coaches.

Volleyball/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Volleyball Coach

Foreign Languages:

Spanish I/Grade Level:10-12/Prerequisite: None. This course will introduce the student to a balanced curriculum of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Paired and cooperative-learning

opportunities and language-producing activities help students to begin linguistic skills. An overview of Hispanic countries is presented.

Honors Spanish II/Grade Level:10-12/Prerequisite: Spanish I. Spanish II further develops the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The basic structure of Spanish is used to personalize expression and broaden communication. Culture awareness is a primary emphasis.

Spanish II/Grade Level:10-12/Prerequisite: Spanish I. Spanish II further develops the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The basic structure of Spanish is used to personalize expression and broaden communication. Culture awareness is a primary emphasis.

Fine Arts:

Visual Art/Grade Level: 10-12/Prerequisite: None. This is an introductory course in visual art, which includes an introduction to the understanding and appreciation of art. This course also includes basic and intermediate instruction in basic drawing, still life, landscapes, seascapes, animals, and cartoons and instruction in the techniques and media of drawing including pencil, colored pencil, pen and ink, and pastels.

Instrumental Music/Grade Level:9-12/Prerequisite: Approval of Band Director

Students take instrumental music in both the fall and spring semesters. In the fall semester students will focus on rehearsing and performing a marching show. Instrumental Music is a course that provides musical performance and study for students in grades 9-12. The course is designed to develop proficiency in musical performance, an understanding of the art of music, and an appreciation of the creative and intrinsic values of music, which can result in a life-long avocation. Students are required to participate in after-school and evening practices and performances.

Music Appreciation/Grade Level: 10-12/Prerequisite: None. Music Appreciation is a course that seeks to give students in grades 9-12 experiences in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of vocal/choral music. The course will include instruction in proper vocal technique, musicianship skills, and the cultural and historical context of choral literature. The course will encourage self-expression through performance and creation of music.

Vocal Music I, II, III, & IV/Grade Level: 9-12/Prerequisite: None. This is a concert choir. This class will perform a concert toward the end of the semester. This is an applied music class. You will sing in this class.

Music Theory/Grade Level: 10-12/Prerequisite: None. An introduction to music notation, listening analytically, and writing music.

Electives:

Media Center Aide Grade Level: 11-12/Prerequisite: Media Center Approval

Teacher's Aide/Grade Level: 11-12/Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Office Aide/Grade Level: 11-12/Prerequisite: Office Approval

Dual Enrollment:

Dual Enrollment classes will have the following requirements beginning Fall 2024.

- 1. 3.0 GPA overall unweighted
- 2. 3.0 GPA in their focus area (Class taken)
- 3. Students must earn a minimum composite score of 19 on the **ACT or Mock ACT** in relevant subject areas:
 - a. DE Math courses require an ACT sub score of 19 in Math, 19 in Reading, and 18 in English. In order to take Math 1530 or Math 1710, students must have completed Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.
 - DE Science courses require an ACT sub score of 19 in Science, 19 in Math, 19 in Reading, and 18 in English. In order to take Chem 1110 or Chem 11120, students must have completed High School Chemistry.
 - c. DE English, History, Psychology, and Speech courses require an ACT sub score of 19 in Reading and 18 in English.
- 4. As an alternative to having the required ACT scores, students could also take the **Accuplacer** test through Motlow to be eligible for a DE course.
- 5. A very motivated student who cannot meet requirement 3 or 4 could be considered if they have a 4.0 average unweighted and a 16 for that ACT sub score.

Mock ACT and ACT prep classes:

We believe it is very important to expose students to the ACT test early on to prepare them to do their best their Junior and Senior year. All Juniors and Seniors are currently given the ACT at school (on a school day) at no charge to the student. All freshmen and sophomores are given a mock ACT test in the Spring (the same day the Juniors take the real test). Juniors are then scheduled into an ACT prep class their Junior year if they score a 19 or below on the mock ACT test. Our scheduling allows for most students to have multiple elective classes and we feel like this is an important one for our Juniors to take. Beginning in Fall 2024, the English and Reading portions of ACT prep will be administered through the Junior English course which will be a year-long course. The science and math portions will be quarter classes each (totaling one semester course). ACT Prep classes are mandatory if you score below a 19.

Tennessee AP Access for All:

Through AP Access for ALL, all advanced placement courses are available to every student enrolled in a participating school district. You can earn college credit & skip introductory college classes, save money, build college skills and confidence, and stand out to colleges. Listed below are the classes that are being offered through AP Access for All the Fall 2023 Semester. Go to https://tnapaccessforall.org for prerequisites and additional College Board information.

AP Art History *GREAT INTRODUCTORY AP COURSE* **AP Biology** AP Calculus AB **AP Calculus BC** AP Computer Science A **AP Environmental Science** AP Human Geography *GREAT INTRODUCTORY AP COURSE* AP Language & Composition **AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics** AP Physics 1 AP Psychology *GREAT INTRODUCTORY AP COURSE* AP Spanish Language and Culture **AP Statistics** AP US Government and Politics AP US History **AP Literature & Composition**

CAREER AND Technical Education:

Students will need to pick one area to focus in to meet the career Cluster Path graduation requirements. Courses must be taken in order.

Please see the Dekalb County High School Career and Technical Catalog on the DCHSTIGERS.COM homepage for descriptions of the CTE Focus area offered for the 2024–2025 school year.

Scholarship Information:

Tennessee Hope Scholarship

- Entering freshman must have a minimum of a 21 ACT (980 SAT) OR
- Overall unweighted minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA)
- Home School graduates minimum 21 ACT (980 SAT)
- GED Applications minimum 525 and 21 ACT (980 SAT)

All Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program Recipients Must:

- Have been a Tennessee resident for one year by September 1 of Senior year.
- Students must be admitted to and enrolled at least half time in an eligible Tennessee postsecondary institution no later than 16 months following graduation from high school, home school, or GED Program.
- Dependent children of U.S. military, Tennessee National Guard on active duty, or Department of Defense employees, who maintain Tennessee residency while stationed out-of-state are eligible.
- Apply with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. To receive a paper FAFSA, check with your high school or call the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) 1-800-342-1663 or (615) 741-1346. Applications must be received by September 1st for spring and summer semesters. Early application is recommended.
- Must be enrolled for at least 6 hours.

HOPE Scholars Must:

- Enroll in one of the Tennessee public colleges, universities, or private colleges eligible for scholarship money. A list of eligible schools can be found at www.collegepaystn.com
- Enroll within 16 months of high school graduation or completion of a home school or GED program.
- Home school students must have been enrolled in an accredited home school program for a minimum of two years prior to graduating.
- Tennessee resident's graduation from some out of state high schools may be eligible. For more information please visit the college pays website, www.collegepaystn.com

Scholastic Information:

Top Rank

- To be considered for Top Rank, students must earn a total of 10 honors, AP, or dual enrollment classes **AND**
- Have at least a 21 ACT composite score. Students must meet the 21 ACT composite requirements no later than the December of senior year ACT. DCHS ranks in early February.

Distinction

DCHS will recognize students on awards day as graduating with distinction if they have or are working on:

- 1. Earned a nationally recognized industry certification
- 2. Participated in at least one of the Governor's Schools
- 3. Participated in one of the state's All State Musical Organizations.
- 4. Been selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semifinalist
- 5. Attained a composite score of 31 or higher on the ACT
- 6. Attained a score of 3 or higher on at least two Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
- 7. Earned 12 or more semester hours of postsecondary (dual enrollment credit).

Honors

DCHS will recognize students on awards day as graduating with honors if they have met all ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by taking the ACT or SAT.

- English 18
- · Reading 22
- · Math 22
- · Science 23