



**DBCS**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**2023-2024**

**Denbigh Baptist Christian School**  
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# Course Descriptions 2023-2024

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This booklet is not meant to supersede the “DBCS Student Handbook”, where academic policies and procedures are officially addressed. It is meant simply to provide a quick review of salient components of the DBCS curriculum in order to aid parents and students when they are selecting courses for the coming year.

## High School Grade Placement

### High School Credits

High school credits are issued on a semester basis, with .5 credits representing one semester’s work for one period per day. The high school utilizes a seven period day. Classes meet for 18 weeks (2 quarters) or 36 weeks (four quarters) depending upon the course. Classes are passed or failed by semester. Students are promoted or retained in the previous grade’s homeroom based upon the number of credits earned.

The classification is as follows:

Class	Credits Earned
Sophomore	4
Junior	10
Senior	16

### GPA

A student’s GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. The class rank is obtained using a weighted GPA. If a course is taken twice, both grades are counted in determining rank and GPA. However, no more than one credit per course can be earned, with the exception of Choir and Elective P.E.

### Grading Scale

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade Verbal Equivalent Grade Point
90-100	A Excellent 4.0
80-89	B Good 3.0
70-79	C Average 2.0
60 -69	D Minimum Pass 1.0
0-59	F Failure 0

While numerical percentage grades appear on the transcript, letter grades are used to calculate the grade point average that is used in class ranking.

**Class Weighting**

<b>Class</b>	<b>4.0 Scale</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>4.0 Scale</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>4.0 Scale</b>
AP Calculus	+1.0	Anatomy	+5	Spanish 3	+5
AP Statistics	+1.0	Genetics	+5	HonEng 9	+5
AP Precalculus	+5	Physics	+5	HonEng 10	+5
Adv Algebra 2	+5	Chemistry	+5	HonEng 11	+5
College Alg	+5	Forensics	+5	HonEng 12	+5
Dual Enrollment	+1.0			AP Eng 12	+1.0

**Sports Internship/Teacher Assistant**

Sports interns and teacher assistants are assessed quarterly using the 10 point grading scale.

**Student Support**

Student Support provided daily during a class period is a Credit/No Credit course for high school students.

For a more comprehensive discussion of academic policies and procedures, please see the **Academics** section of the DBCS Student Handbook

**Denbigh Baptist Christian School  
Diploma Comparison**

**Grade 9**

<b>General Diploma</b>	<b>Advanced Diploma</b>
Bible	Bible
English 9	English 9
World History	World History
Physical Science	Physical Science
Algebra I, IA, IB, or Geometry	Algebra I, IA, IB, or Geometry
Physical Education/Health	Physical Education/Health
Spanish I, II, or Elective or Study Hall	Spanish I, II, or Elective

**Grade 10**

<b>General Diploma</b>	<b>Advanced Diploma</b>
Bible	Bible
English 10 or Honors English 10	English 10 or Honors English 10
Biology	Biology
Algebra I, Geometry, Alg.2/Alg2Adv.	Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 2 Adv.
Physical Education 10 Elective Elective or Study Hall	Physical Education 10 Spanish I, II, or III Elective

**Grade 11**

<b>General Diploma</b>	<b>Advanced Diploma</b>
Bible	Bible
English 11 or Honors English 11	English 11 or Honors English 11
U.S. History	U.S. History
Math or Science Elective	Science Elective
Elective	Spanish II or III
Elective	Math Class if Algebra 2 not completed
Elective or Study Hall	Elective or Study Hall

## Grade 12

<b>General Diploma</b>	Advanced Diploma
Christian Worldview	Christian Worldview
English 12, Hon. English 12, or AP English 12	English 12, Hon. English 12, or AP English 12
U.S. Government or Hon. U.S. Government	U.S. Government or Hon. U.S. Government
Elective	Math or Science Elective
Elective	Spanish III
Elective or Study Hall	Elective
Elective or Study Hall	Elective or Study Hall

**Minimum total credits: 22**

**Minimum total credits: 25**

### Assumptions Made in these Tables

1. All courses are passed the first time around
2. Algebra I is completed in the ninth grade
3. The Advanced Diploma ALSO requires a 3.0 GPA
4. No foreign language is required to GRADUATE from DBCS, but three years ARE required for the Advanced Diploma
5. The general Diploma requires 2 years of math, 2 years of science, and one additional year of either one. The Advanced Diploma requires 3 years of math through Algebra 2, and 3 years of science, one of which must be chosen from Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Genetics, or AP Biology, plus a fourth credit in either math OR science.

### Bible Courses

***One class in Bible is required every year a student is enrolled at DBCS. A failed Bible class must be made up during the summer, prior to the next school year.***

***In the interest of putting our faith into action, a certain number of community service hours are required each quarter. The parameters for such are outlined at the beginning of each school year, and are included on the syllabus of the course.***

#### **Bible 9-11** Grades 9-11 (Required)

*Prerequisite: freshman, sophomore, or junior standing*

Bible classes are taught on a rotating basis using the Bob Jones series "Biblical Truths" The courses are topical, not sequential. A different course is taught each year to all freshman, sophomore, and junior Bible classes. This allows for maximum flexibility in other areas of our schedule.

#### **Bible 12 Christian Worldview** (Required)

*Prerequisite: senior standing*

The foundational course, *Understanding the Times*, published by Summit Ministries, presents students with the various philosophies they are likely to encounter once they graduate from DBCS, and the biblical responses to such.

#### **Biblical Leadership** (Elective)

*Prerequisite: sophomore, junior, or senior standing*

This course is designed to equip students with Bible knowledge, Christian character, and servant leadership skills.

## English Courses

**English is required every year, either the standard course, the honors course, or the AP course. A failed English class must be repeated in summer school before the next year, as these classes are sequential, and it is assumed that the student has attained the necessary skills from the previous year's class to tackle new material**

**English department electives, such as Creative Writing, Speech and Drama, or Yearbook, do NOT substitute for the grade-level English class.**

**Please note that summer reading is required for ALL of our English classes. The reading list will be available online.**

## Class Sequences for English

1. **Honors English begins in the ninth grade**
2. **Students with grades of 90 or above may advance to an Honors section.**
3. **AP English 12 is by invitation only. Generally, those students have a minimum grade of 93 in Honors English 11, and are perceived to be ready for college level work in English.**

## Required English Courses

### **English 9: Composition and Literature (Required)**

*Prerequisite: freshman standing*

English 9 is a study of literature, along with the skills and mechanics of composition. The traditional literary genres, including short fiction, poetry, the novel, and drama are examined. Paragraph and essay construction, as well as reading and research skills are continued. A research paper is required.

### **Honors English 9 (Required)**

*Prerequisite: freshman standing, a 90 or better average in English 8 and recommendation of the instructor*

Honors English 9 is an introduction to the different genres of literature, including short stories, poetry, plays, and novels, with an emphasis on western masterpieces. Grammar and writing skills are reinforced through direct instruction and writing assignments.

### **English 10/Honors English 10: World Literature (Required)**

*Prerequisite: successful completion of English 9 Honors: Successful completion of English 9 with a grade of 90 or better, and recommendation of instructor*

English 10 is an introduction to various world literatures ranging from ancient to contemporary works. Classical, western, and non-western masterpieces are emphasized. Writing and composition skills are reinforced.

### **English 11: American Literature (Required)**

*Prerequisite: successful completion of English 10 or Honors English 10*

English 11 is a chronological survey of American literature with continued development of composition skills. A research project is required.

### **Honors English 11: American Literature (Required)**

*Prerequisite: a grade of 90 or better in either English 10 or Honors English 10, and recommendation of instructor*

Honors English 11 is an in-depth survey of American literature which emphasizes literary analysis and essay construction. A literary research paper is required.

**English 12: British Literature** (Required)

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11 and senior standing*

English 12 is a chronological survey of British Literature, along with continued refinement of students' composition and writing skills. A research paper is required.

**AP English Literature and Composition** (Required)

*Prerequisite: Honors English 11, senior standing, and permission of instructor*

AP English Literature and Composition is designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to the introductory year of college literature. Students are engaged in reading a wide variety of books and poetry of British and American authors, with an emphasis on critical analysis to help them strengthen and deepen their understanding of the ways different writers use language to provide meaning and pleasure to their readers.

**Elective English Courses****Creative Writing I** (Grades 10-12)

*Prerequisite: sophomore standing and a C or better in the previous year's English class.*

Creative Writing introduces students to the art of forming sketches, plays, short stories, and poems. Students journal, read outstanding examples of creative writing, practice reading original work aloud, and develop a working portfolio. *This class is offered if and only if there is sufficient demand and staff.*

**Creative Writing II** (Grades 10-12)

*Prerequisite: completion of Creative Writing I and recommendation of instructor*

Creative Writing II is a continuation of Creative Writing I. It is for the student who is serious about writing. *This class is offered if and only if there is sufficient demand and staff.*

**Speech** (Grades 10-12)

*Prerequisite: C or better in the previous year's English class*

The Speech and Dramatic Interpretation class is a combination class as the two subjects are so closely related. In order to present drama properly, it is important to first know the basics of public speaking. Speech is an integral part of the dramatic process. Projection, eye contact, volume, pitch, etc., all play a part of both speech and drama; they go hand-in-hand. The topics of speeches are made to be both fun and educational. Speeches include those of introduction, demonstration, persuasion, narration, and information. It also includes reading children's books to the class with character voices. Works of oral interpretation are also covered in Speech class along with informal speaking each Friday using the "one minute box" format, which hones creative skills and the ability to think fast! *This class is offered if and only if there is sufficient demand and staffing.*

**Drama** (Grades 10-12)

*Prerequisite: C or better in the previous year's English class*

Drama class moves from the "alone" of speech to the "group" of drama while preparing for the spring musical. This class combines musical and dramatic skills. The basics of drama and staging are covered in class. Students try out for parts, learn choreography, music, and lines, build sets and scenery, and learn of make-up and costuming. Ultimately we work toward a spring performance of the school musical. *This class is offered if and only if there is sufficient demand and staffing.*

**Yearbook** (Grades 11 and 12)

*Prerequisite: permission of instructor*

Students participate in the production of the DBCS yearbook, The Musket. This includes layout, copy, and elements of desktop publishing.



### Social Studies Courses

**DBCS requires three years of social studies for graduation: World Geography, World History, US History, and US Government. World history is generally taken in the ninth grade, US History in the eleventh, and US Government in the twelfth.**

#### **World Geography** (Grades 8-12)

Students will focus on the study of the world's peoples, places, and environments, with an emphasis on world regions.

#### **World History** (Grade 9)

*Prerequisite: freshman standing*

A survey of world history from ancient civilizations through modern times.

#### **US History 11** (Required)

*Prerequisite: junior standing*

A survey of the history of the United States from colonization through the end of the twentieth century.

#### **US Government** (Required)

*Prerequisite: senior standing*

A survey of the government of the United States with an emphasis on the United States Constitution.

### Foreign Language Courses

**Most colleges prefer three years of a single foreign language, or two years of two foreign languages. Please notice below the grade requirements to progress from one level of Spanish to the next. If a student makes a passing grade that isn't sufficient to warrant promotion to the next level, the student will still receive credit for the course. If the student repeats the course, the better grade will be averaged into the GPA, but only one year of credit will be awarded.**

Grades Required to Progress to the Next Level

Spanish 1	A minimum grade of "C" in English 8
Spanish 2	A minimum grade of "C" in Spanish I
Spanish 3	A minimum grade of "C" in Spanish II

#### **Spanish 1** (Grades 9-11)

*Prerequisite, C or better in English 8 or tenth grade standing*

Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and the diversity of the Spanish speaking world. Emphasis is placed on oral communication and cultural awareness supplemented by grammar and vocabulary. Students learn to read and express themselves in writing.

#### **Spanish 2** (Grades 9 – 12)

*Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish 1*

Spanish 2 is a continuation of methods used in Spanish 1. Emphasis is placed on improving oral proficiency through an in-depth study of grammar and vocabulary. Reading and writing skills are reinforced. Cultural awareness is expanded.

#### **Spanish 3** (Grades 10 – 12)

*Prerequisite: B or better in Spanish 2*

Spanish 3 is a continuation of Spanish 2, with increased emphasis on proficiency in all areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Cultural material is expanded to include reading classic literary works, and about contemporary problems.

## Fine Arts Courses

### Art

**Formal education in art is necessary for students considering careers in Studio Art, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Architecture, and Art Education. (No, it isn't all done on computers!) Skill in artistic endeavors will enhance the quality of life for the student throughout his/her life, whether or not it is his/her primary vocation!**

#### **Art 1 (Grades 9 -12)**

*Prerequisite: freshman standing and a desire to work hard*

Vocabulary, tests, sketch books, and an art criticism paper are all part of this course. Art 1 is an introductory course that surveys many processes, tools, and techniques used in studio art. The elements and principles of art are taught through a variety of these processes, such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. European Art History from 1300-1600, as well as art criticism and aesthetics are surveyed.

#### **Art 2 (Grades 10 -12)**

*Prerequisite: C or better in Art 1, and a desire to work even harder*

Art 2 continues the study of the elements and principles of design through more expressive techniques, employing balance, unity rhythm, and proportion. The study of Art History focuses on the eighteenth century and the Hudson River School. Skills in art criticism and aesthetics are refined.

#### **Art 3 (Grades 11- 12)**

*Prerequisite: B or better in Art 2*

This class groups the students who are more interested in pursuing an art career or developing a portfolio. Students continue their study of painting, printmaking, drawing, and sculpture. This course gives students more choice in media and subject matter, and requires more independent work. Students will study and write a paper on one major artist in whom they have interest.

#### **Advanced Studio Art (Drawing)**

*Prerequisite: Art 2, permission of instructor, and conference with parents*

There are three parts to the portfolio the student constructs for this class:

Quality: Five exceptional pieces of work

Breadth – Twelve pieces of work using various media in the drawing field

Concentration – Twelve pieces all interconnected by a theme

The achievement of a drawing portfolio is for the self-motivated and self-directed who are able to stick to a schedule and not put work off until the last minute.

This “course” is for the very artistically talented and creative who are thinking about majoring in an art field. This is for independent students with the art teacher acting more as a coach and guide.

A meeting of the prospective student and his/her parents with the art teacher is a must. It is preferred that this meeting be held during the last quarter of the year before this course is undertaken.

***All of our art classes seek to glorify God by teaching students to use their gifts in the visual arts to express truth and/or beauty.***

## Music

As with art, music can enhance the student's quality of life throughout his/her life. Any student planning to major in music at the collegiate level should be skilled in reading music, and be familiar with the keyboard. Ear training, as is taught in our choir classes, is also a huge asset, as well as the invaluable experience gained by performing in an ensemble setting.

### Choir

*Prerequisite: Ability to carry a tune, and a desire to work hard in order to glorify God with your vocal talent, and to represent our school well.*

This is a performance based class providing the students a variety of music ministry venues through local concerts and tours. The students will study ear-training and sight-singing as a means to improve their vocal skills. Grades are based on tests and participation in performances. Concert attire is required, and is purchased by the student.

## Mathematics Courses

Most colleges require a *minimum* of three years of college preparatory mathematics. College preparatory mathematics is defined as Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra 2. More mathematics is required for students planning to pursue careers in mathematics, science, (including pre-med, pre-dental, and pre-vet) engineering, business, behavioral science and economics.

### Common Mathematics Sequences

Course Taken	Next Course
Algebra I	Geometry or Algebra 2
Geometry	Algebra 2 or Adv Algebra 2
Algebra 2	College Algebra or Geometry
Adv Algebra 2/College Algebra	AP Precalculus or AP Statistics
Precalculus	AP Calculus

### Algebra I (Grade 9) (Required)

*Prerequisite: freshman standing and successful completion of a pre-algebra class.*

This course covers elementary algebra including simple equations, polynomials, quadratic equations, graphic linear equations, and solving systems for linear equations, quadratic relations and functions, radicals; giving the student techniques to solve everyday problems.

### Algebra IA (Grade 9) (Required)

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra IA or equivalent*

This course is the first half of the course described above. More time is spent on each concept, and more examples are used in order to enhance the student's mastery of the second half of elementary algebra.

### Algebra IB (Grade 9) (Required)

*Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra IA or equivalent*

This course is the second half of the course described above. More time is spent on each concept, and more examples are used in order to enhance the student's mastery of the second half of elementary algebra.

**Consumer Math** (Grades 9-12)

*Prerequisite: freshman standing and successful completion of a pre-algebra class.*

This course includes a survey of basic financial practices and computations that correlate to business and personal money management. Students will apply mathematical skills in real-life situations and problems. This course is offered as a one semester course following personal finance.

**Personal Finance** (Grades 10-12)

*Prerequisite: sophomore standing and successful completion of an algebra I class.*

This course covers essential personal finance principles like how to budget, save, avoid debt, invest, and how to be a wise consumer. *This class is offered if and only if there is sufficient demand and staffing. It is a one semester course.*

**Geometry** (Grades 9-12) (Required)

*Prerequisite: Satisfactory grade in Algebra I or IB*

Geometry is a deductive study of Euclidean Geometry. It is primarily plane geometry with some introduction to space and coordinate geometry. Basic geometric definitions, measurements and analytic proofs are included.

**Algebra 2** (Grades 10-12) (Required if 3<sup>rd</sup> science class not taken)

*Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Algebra I or Geometry*

Algebra 2 is a one-year study of intermediate algebra. The course includes a review of elementary algebra. New topics studied are polynomial and rational functions, proper order matrices, quadratic equations, polynomial and rational functions, logarithms and exponential functions, complex numbers and sequences and series.

**Algebra 2/Trig** (Grades 10-12) (Required if 3<sup>rd</sup> science class not taken)

*Prerequisite: A or B in Algebra I and Geometry, and teacher recommendation*

Algebra 2 Advanced is a course for students capable of successfully mastering the material of Algebra 2 and Trigonometry in one year. It moves!

**College Algebra**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Advanced, all with grades of C or better* This course includes one semester of trigonometry and one semester of PreCalculus.

**AP Precalculus**

*Prerequisite: B in Algebra 2 Advanced or College Algebra*

Pre-Calculus presents topics in college algebra, matrices and determinants, and algebraic, exponential and logarithmic functions. Pre-Calculus II presents topics in trigonometry, analytic geometry, and sequences and series.

**AP Statistics\***

*Prerequisite: Algebra 2/Trig*

This course presents an overview of statistics, including descriptive statistics, elementary probability, probability distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing, and correlation and regression.

**AP Calculus AB\***

*Prerequisite: B or better in Precalculus*

This course presents the calculus of algebraic and trigonometric functions, including the study of limits and continuity, derivatives, differentials, and an introduction to integration which includes definite and indefinite integrals. Analytic geometry is integrated into this course as are applications of the derivative and definite integral.

## Physical Education/Health Courses

All freshmen and sophomores are expected to take Physical Education 9 and Physical Education 10 in their first and second years of high school with one exception. Students who plan to take music or art classes for four years may take direct study courses for health and maintain a log physical activity.

Tenth grade physical education class affords sophomore students the *opportunity* to take Driver's Education during one quarter. Should students choose not to avail themselves of that opportunity, they will remain in a physical education class for that quarter.

### Physical Education 9 (Required)

*Prerequisite: 9<sup>th</sup> grade standing*

Physical Education is required for all freshmen. Physical education and classroom instruction in health related topics alternate weekly. A P.E. uniform, available through the school, is required for participation in physical education activities.

### Physical Education 10/ First Aid/Driver's Education (Required)

*Prerequisite: 10<sup>th</sup> grade standing*

The classroom portion of Driver's Education is offered once during the year, depending upon demand. The other three quarters alternate two quarters of physical education with one quarter of classroom instruction in Basic Red Cross First Aid. *Students who elect **not** to take Driver's Education in tenth grade will remain in a physical education class for that quarter.*

### Physical Education Elective (Grades 11 and 12)

*Prerequisite: 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade standing*

This class further gives students an opportunity to work out daily at Planet Fitness. PF membership is required; students are graded on the number of days attended.

## Science Courses

### Common Science Class Sequences

Class From	Class To
Physical Science	Biology
Biology	Anatomy
Biology & Algebra 2*	Chemistry
Chemistry & AP Precalculus**	Physics

*\*Algebra 2 may be taken as a co-requisite, if absolutely necessary. It is definitely not preferred.*

*\*\*Algebra 2 Advanced absolute minimum prerequisite, with Pre-Calculus as a co-requisite can be allowed. It will be very difficult, however.*

### Physical Science (Grade 9) Required

*Prerequisite: Ninth grade standing*

This is an introductory survey course of basic chemical and physical principles with emphasis on the relationships between science and math, as well as the importance of science in everyday life. This course includes a laboratory.

### **Biology (Grade 10)**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of physical science*

This course is a survey of cellular biology, unicellular, and multicellular organisms. Students refine microscope and dissection techniques introduced in Life Science, 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Anatomy and Physiology (Grades 11 and 12)**

*Prerequisite: A "C" or better in Biology*

A comprehensive coverage of human anatomy and physiology. Study of body parts and how they function. *Offered every other year (2023-2024 offered).*

### **Chemistry (Grades 11 and 12)**

*Prerequisite: Physical Science, Algebra 2*

This course surveys a full range of basic chemical concepts. Laboratory skills in handling equipment, using chemical techniques, and data analysis are developed in concert with lecture topics. This course begins with a survey of matter and its combination. The atomic model is investigated and related to the periodic table. The first semester concludes as topics of bonding, formulas, and reactions are related. Second semester delves into specific topical areas, such as gasses, liquids, solids, acids, bases, salts, and reaction energy.

### **Forensics (Grades 11-12)**

*Prerequisite: A "C" or better in Biology*

Forensics is the application of scientific principles and laboratory techniques to help solve a crime or mystery. Chemistry is not a prerequisite. *Offered every other year (2023-2024 not offered).*

### **Physics (Grade 12)**

*Prerequisite: Physical Science and Algebra 2/Trig, minimum. Pre-Calculus is much preferred, and needs to be taken as a co-requisite at the very least. Calculus is the preferred co-requisite.*

This is a non-calculus based course intended for seniors due to the heavy mathematics content of the course. Topics include mechanics, thermal energy, electric and magnetic fields, optics, quantum and nuclear physics.

## **Career Education**

### **Teacher Assistant**

Do you enjoy working with children? Are you considering a career in elementary education/child development? For one class period per day, you assist with one or two elementary/early childhood classes under the direct supervision of an elementary/early childhood teacher. Activities and duties would vary with the class. If interested, talk to Mr. Fletcher about becoming an elementary/early childhood teacher assistant.

### **Dual Enrollment Courses**

DACS does not arrange dual enrollment courses for students. Typically, dual enrollment courses are taken through Liberty University, Cedarville University, or Regent University. Students wishing to take dual enrollment courses should get prior approval before registering for the course.

### **Additional Points**

*If a class is designated "will be offered if there is sufficient demand and/or personnel", and your student is interested in taking that class, it will be listed on his/her registration form. At that time, a second choice class will also be listed, in case the first choice class is not offered.*

*Course schedules, that is, the order in which your student will actually take classes will be available just prior to school opening for the year. Eligibility for a class that requires a certain grade will be based on the final report card.*