

# DCHS COURSE CATALOG

## 2024-2025 School Year

### English Courses

#### **Course Name: English I & Accelerated English I**

Description: Reading, writing, grammar conventions, vocabulary, works from both America & Britain.

#### **Course name: Gifted English I**

Prerequisite: Gifted Ruling, Pass 8th Grade English

Brief course description: Gifted English I exceeds expectations for other English classes while also meeting the needs of the gifted student. This class will not only prepare the students for AP courses in the future, but also for the state test in English II, ACT, and PSAT. The course enhances the students' reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills in a variety of assessment methods as described in the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards.

#### **Course name: Comp Reading**

Description: Important things to know about the course/teaching style: Students have numerous opportunities to facilitate their own learning from choices in reading to self-generated research questions. Group work is the predominant style of learning. Comp Reading is a semester-long, supplementary class for students who would like to improve their reading and grammar skills in the Fall semester before entering 10th grade English in the Spring.

#### **Course Name: English II & Accelerated English II**

Prerequisite: English I

Description: The purpose of the course is to provide explicit instruction of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness standards to enhance the four modes of English: reading, writing, speaking, listening. In order to meet graduation requirements, students must pass the English II class and the Mississippi State test. Students can expect a cooperative and collaborative classroom focused on the standards.

**Course Name: Accelerated English II**

Prerequisite: English I and 90 or above average in English I

Description: This course is taught at an accelerated pace and has a 1.05 weight. The purpose of the course is to provide explicit instruction of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness standards to enhance the four modes of English: reading, writing, speaking, listening. In order to meet graduation requirements, students must pass the English II class and the Mississippi State test. Students can expect a cooperative and collaborative classroom focused on the standards.

**Course name: Gifted English II**

Prerequisite: Gifted Ruling, Pass 9th Grade Gifted English

Description: English 10 is a state tested course focused on reading and writing.

**Course Name: English III**

Prerequisite: English I and English II

Description: American Literature- Use American authors to strengthen critical thinking and argumentative skill through vocabulary and textural evidence. Also, focus on the English and reading portion of the ACT to improve scores.

Expectations: Assignment deadlines are not flexible and oral participation is mandatory. Both collaborative and cooperative group work will be utilized.

**Course Name: English IV**

Prerequisite: English I, English II, and English III

Description: An in-depth course in reading, analyzing, and writing about literature both fiction and nonfiction. This course prepares students for the rigor of college classes.

**Course Name: Advanced Placement English Language & Composition**

Prerequisite: English I, English II (Juniors only)

Description: College level course focused on rhetoric and argument. AP course designed to prepare students to take the AP Lang exam to earn college credit.

**Course Name: Advanced Placement Literature**

Prerequisite: English I, English II, English III

Description: AP Literature is a college level course that focuses on AP test strategies and test preparation. Much time is spent reading, writing, and testing on works of fiction.

Expectations: Students are expected to complete all assignments by due dates, participate in intellectually engaging approaches to material while seeking a better understanding, fully participate in class discussions as both an active listener and active speaker, respect a variety of viewpoints with literary interpretations, continually strive to improve skills in reading demanding literature and analyzing literature in both timed and out of class essays, participate in various AP practice exams throughout the semester, and take the AP literature and Composition Exam.

**Course Name: Oral Communication**

Description: Students are taught how to communicate in front of others by conducting presentations, speeches, and participating in-group games/projects.

Expectations: This is a speech course, so students will be required to conduct one speech a week. Students will be taught and shown how to get out of their comfort zone.

**Dual Credit Comp I**

Prerequisite: ACT subscore of 17 in English. 3.0 GPA

There is a fee associated with this course.

Description: Composition I is a required college course that focuses on learning the necessary skills for college writing and then applying them by completing academic essays. This course follows the Northwest Community College English department curriculum, calendar, and grading and attendance policies. Students will earn three hours of college credit in English from Northwest if they earn a 70/C or better final average in the course.

Expectations: Students are expected to complete and turn in all assignments by the deadline on the due date. All assignments, including essays, are completed during class time. Daily writing will be sent to the teacher for feedback. All essays will be completed in stages with planning, rough draft, and final draft. Students will receive feedback on their rough drafts and be given the opportunity to correct their papers before turning in the final draft for a grade. Students are expected to be present each day in class and meet Northwest's official attendance policy. The final exam is required for all students.

**Dual Credit Comp II**

Prerequisite: Comp I, ACT subscore 17 in English, 3.0 GPA

There is a fee associated with this course.

Description: Composition II is also a required college course, and this course builds on the skills learned in Composition I. Composition II focuses on learning skills to conduct research on the Northwest library databases and how to complete research writing assignments. The entire course concludes with a major research project that will be presented to the class. This course follows the Northwest Community College English department curriculum, calendar, and grading and attendance policies. Students may earn three hours college credit in English from Northwest if they earn a 70/C or better final average in the course.

Expectations: Students are expected to complete and turn in all assignments by the deadline on the due date. All assignments, including essays, are expected to be completed during class time. Daily writing will be sent to the teacher for feedback. All essays will be completed in stages with planning, rough draft, and final draft. Students will receive feedback on their rough drafts and be given the opportunity to correct their papers before turning in the final draft for a grade. At the end of the final research paper, students will present their research to the class. Students are expected to be present each day in class and meet Northwest's official attendance policy. The final exam is required for all students.

**Math Courses****Course Name: Year Long Algebra (Foundations/Algebra I)**

Prerequisite: 8th Grade Math: Skills that are listed on the 2016 Mississippi College and Career readiness standards for mathematics listed on the MDE website.

Description: The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades and to prepare them for Algebra II standards.

Expectations: The Algebra curriculum is taught over the span of two semesters and is state tested at the end of the 2nd semester. The student will receive two math credits for the course if they maintain a 65 average or higher\* at the end of each semester. To meet graduation requirements students must pass both the class and the state test.

\*If a student does not maintain a 65 average at the end of the semester the student will have to repeat the course.

**Course Name: Algebra I**

Prerequisite: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Final Average

Description: Students will review key vocabulary concepts associated with linear functions. Students will compare and contrast linear functions and quadratic functions. Students will be introduced to the parent function of a quadratic function and the function  $y = -x^2$ .

**Course Name: Geometry**

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Description: Intensive study into the relationship of angles pertaining to several shapes. We also study shapes and their application in the real world. Additionally, we look into the properties and relations of points, lines, surfaces, solids, and higher dimensional analogs.

**Course Name: Algebra II**

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

Description: In Algebra II, a one-credit course, students build on their work with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, to extend their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions.

Expectations: It's important that students have a strong Algebra I foundation (prior knowledge) in order to be successful in Algebra II.

**Course Name: Algebra III**

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (preferably with a B or higher)

Description: Algebra III is a one-credit semester course. Algebra III is a fast pace rigorous course. Topics covered in Algebra III include items from the domains of Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra II.

Expectations: This course will require discipline from the student. Students will be guided to be mathematically proficient students with the ability to use problem-solving skills to analyze and explore problems and make conjectures to effectively communicate their arguments and reasoning. I aim to challenge students to think beyond their limits!

**Course Name: Calculus**

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Algebra III

Description: The major focus is on differential and integral calculus. Focusing on the mathematics of change. Very high-level math skills needed.

**Course Name: AP Calculus**

Prerequisite: Algebra III (Calculus is recommended)

Description: An in-depth analysis of the behavior of functions. This course content spans from the beginning of differential calculus to area and volumes of integral calculus.

**Course Name: Dual Credit College Algebra (MAT 1313)**

Prerequisite: Must meet District requirements to take Dual Credit/Enrollment courses; Algebra 2; ACT Math score of 19

Description: (9- weeks) This course includes the study of inequalities; functions; linear and quadratic equations, and their graphs; rational, radical, and higher-order equations; polynomial and rational functions; logarithmic and exponential equations.

Although this is a 9-weeks class, students will earn 1 full high school math credit with 1.10 (AP) weight in their GPA. They will also earn 3 college credits through Northwest Community College. Credits earned at NWCC are guaranteed transferable to all public Mississippi Colleges and Universities. You will need to consult Colleges and Universities individually to determine how the credit will be applied toward the student's chosen major.

There is a fee charged by NWCC for the course. DCHS provides access to the textbook.

If students take BOTH Dual Credit College Algebra and Dual Credit Trigonometry, then they will not need to take Algebra 3 before taking Physics or Calculus. Both Dual Credit math classes can/should be taken in one semester.

**Course Name: Dual Credit Trigonometry (MAT 1323)**

Prerequisite: Must meet District requirements to take Dual Credit/Enrollment courses; Algebra 2; ACT Math score of 20 or "C" or higher in Dual Credit College Algebra. Recommend: College Algebra or Algebra 3 before

Description: (9- weeks) This course includes trigonometric

Functions and their graphs; trigonometric identities; trigonometric equations; radian measurement; solutions of right and oblique triangles; inverse trigonometric functions; applications.

Expectations: Although this is a 9-weeks class, students will earn 1 full high school math credit with 1.10 (AP) weight in their GPA. They will also earn 3 college credits through Northwest Community College. Credits earned at NWCC are guaranteed transferable to all public Mississippi Colleges and Universities. You will need to consult Colleges and Universities individually to determine how the credit will be applied toward the student's chosen major.

There is a fee charged by NWCC for the course. DCHS provides access to the textbook.

If students take BOTH Dual Credit College Algebra and Dual Credit Trigonometry, then they will not need to take Algebra 3 before taking Physics or Calculus. Both Dual Credit math classes can/should be taken in one semester.

**Course Name: AP Statistics**

Prerequisite: Must have strong Algebra 2 grades and doing well in English. Strongly Recommend: Either Dual Credit College Alg & Trig or Algebra 3

Description: The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding.

Expectations: This course is strongly based on application with an emphasis on explaining results of computations in context of real world problems. There is a lot of reading and writing required in this course.

The AP Exam is given in May. There is a fee attached. Currently all public Mississippi Colleges and Universities will accept credit for this course if the student earns at least a 3 on the AP Exam.

## Sciences Courses

### **Course Name: Foundations of Biology**

Pre-requisite: Grade 9

Foundations of Biology, a one-credit course, is a research and inquiry-based course designed to give students the basic knowledge needed prior to attempting the rigorous Biology course required for graduation. This course is NOT a required prerequisite for Biology. However, if selected as a science elective, Foundations of Biology should not be taken after the successful completion of Biology. Concepts covered in this course include the history of biology and its impacts on society, the chemistry of life, organization and energy in living systems, the molecular basis of heredity, biological evolution, and ecological principals.

### **Course Name: Biology**

Pre-requisite: Grades 9-10

Description: Biology, a one-credit course, is a laboratory-based course that is designed to build a life science foundation emphasizing patterns, processes, and interactions among organisms. Students are expected to master conceptual understandings based on both individual investigations and the investigations conducted by others. Individual learning experiences are used to support claims and engage in evidence-based arguments. In this way, students explore the organization of life; the interdependence between organisms and their environment; the chemical composition of life; the role of DNA, RNA, and protein in cellular structure and function; inheritance; and evolution. Local resources coupled with external resources, including evidence-based literature, will be used to extend and increase the complexity of these core ideas.

### **Course Name: Environmental Science**

Pre-requisite: Grades 11-12

Description: Environmental science, a one-half credit course, is a laboratory- or field-based course that explores ways in which the environment shapes living communities. Human sustainability and environmental balance are emphasized. Laboratory activities, research, the use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course, which also emphasizes a student centered and collaborative classroom environment.

### **Course Name: Marine & Aquatic Science I & Marine & Aquatic Science II**

Pre-requisite: It is recommended that Marine and Aquatic Science I and II be taken after the successful completion of Biology. Grades 11-12

Description: Marine and Aquatic Science I, a one-half credit course, and Marine and Aquatic Science II, a one-half credit course, are laboratory-based courses that investigate the biodiversity of salt water and freshwater organisms, including their interactions with the physical and chemical environment. Science and engineering practices, cross-cutting concepts, nature of science, and technology are incorporated into the standards. Special emphases relating to human impacts and career opportunities are integral components of this course. Marine and Aquatic Science I must be taken before Marine and Aquatic Science II.

**Course Name: Genetics**

Pre-requisite: It is recommended that Genetics be taken after successful completion of Biology. Grades 11-12.

Description: Genetics, a one-half credit course, is a laboratory-based course that explores the principles of classical and molecular genetics. The structure and function relationship of DNA forms the foundation for the study of DNA inheritance, RNA and protein production, and the resulting phenotypes in organisms. Classical Mendelian genetics is explored to analyze patterns of inheritance and genetic variability within populations. Multiple applications of biotechnology are investigated to address a variety of problems in modern society.

**Course Name: Human Anatomy & Physiology**

Pre-requisite: It is recommended that Human Anatomy and Physiology be taken after successful completion of Biology. Grades 10-12.

Description: Human Anatomy and Physiology, a one-credit course, is a laboratory-based course that investigates the structures and functions of the human body. Core content emphasizes the structure and function of cells, tissues, and organs; organization of the human body and its biochemical composition; the skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, digestive, respiratory, cardiovascular, integumentary, immune, urinary, and reproductive systems; and the impact of diseases on certain systems. Laboratory activities, research, the use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

**Course Name: Zoology I (Invertebrate)**

Pre-requisite: It is recommended that Zoology I and Zoology II be taken after the successful completion of Biology. Grades 11-12

Description: Zoology I, a one-half credit course, and Zoology II, a one-half credit course, are laboratory-based courses that survey the nine major phyla of the Kingdom Animalia. Morphology, taxonomy, anatomy, and physiology are investigated. Comparative studies are addressed during laboratory observations and dissections. Laboratory activities, research, the

use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

**Course Name: Chemistry**

Pre-requisite: For students with an 85/ above in Algebra I, Geometry is the pre-requisite. For students with an 84/below in Algebra I, Algebra 2 is the pre-requisite.

Description: Chemistry, a one-credit course, is an elective and should be a rigorous course to prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, integrated STEM activities, and mathematics. Chemistry explores empirical concepts central to all areas of science. These concepts should be explored in-depth using both quantitative and qualitative analysis, computational and experimental rigor, and the use of inquiry-based methods of teaching. To accomplish a level of sophistication and depth, chemistry teachers should extend concepts mastered by students in earlier grades. Cornerstone objectives of chemistry that must be addressed and readdressed throughout the course are dimensional analysis, naming compounds, balancing equations, and stoichiometry. To be successful in Chemistry, it is recommended that students have completed Algebra I (Integrated Math I) and be enrolled in an upper-level math course. The nature of science refers to the foundational concepts that govern the way scientists formulate explanations about the natural world to increase the depth of understanding based on evidence, logic, and innovation. These concepts are expected to appear throughout the course. As a laboratory-based course, students are expected to utilize the science and engineering practices to design and conduct investigations using appropriate equipment, measurement (SI units), and safety procedures. Students should also design data tables and draw conclusions using mathematical computations and/or graphical analysis. It is recommended that students should actively engage in inquiry activities, laboratory experiences, and scientific research (projects) for a minimum of 30% of class time.

Expectations: Required Lab Fee - \$10. Chemistry I is not a required course unless you plan to attend a 4-year university. Chemistry I does qualify as an additional science course above Biology I.

**Course Name: AP Chemistry**

Prerequisite or recommended course (if any) – For students with 85 or above in Chemistry I, Physics preferably AP Physics II

Description – This AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college. For most students, the course enables them to undertake, as a freshman, second year work in the chemistry sequence at their institution or to register in courses in other fields where general chemistry is a prerequisite. This course is structured around the six big ideas provided by the College Board. [CR2] A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work that scientists engage in, with learning objectives that combine content with inquiry and

reasoning skills. AP Chemistry is open to all students who have completed a year of chemistry and who wish to take part in a rigorous and academically challenging course.

Expectation: AP Chemistry Exam - \$94, Required Lab Fee - \$20, AP Chemistry is designed for students pursuing a STEM career. Students will receive 'Winter Work' over the Christmas holiday. Students should spend at least 5-7 hours a week outside of class. AP Chemistry students will perform a minimum of 10 lab activities that require a typed post lab, which could be submitted to College Board and/or the college/university they plan to attend. It is not uncommon for an 'A' student to suddenly begin making Bs or Cs. Students do not have to make As to do very well on the AP Exam

**Course Name: Physical Science**

Pre requisite: Completed Algebra I or taking concurrently

Description: Physical Science provides opportunities for students to develop and communicate a basic understanding of physics and chemistry through lab-based activities, integrated STEM activities, inquiry, suitable mathematical expressions, and concept exploration. The Physical Science course will prepare students for the transition to other science course and to become informed citizens of a modern world that is constantly changing.

**Course Name: Zoology II (Vertebrate)**

Prerequisite: Biology

Description: Zoology II is a one-half credit course that is laboratory-based, and surveys the phylum Chordata of the Kingdom Animalia. Morphology, taxonomy, anatomy, and physiology are investigated. Comparative studies are addressed during laboratory observations and dissections. Laboratory activities, research, the use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

Expectations: This is not the class for you if you cannot handle dissections. Students will be required to show mastery of various topics with oral presentations.

**Course Name: Physics**

Description: Physics, a **one-credit course**, provides opportunities for students to develop and communicate an understanding of matter and energy through lab-based activities, integrated STEM activities, mathematical expressions, and concept exploration. Concepts covered in this course include kinematics, dynamics, energy, mechanical and electromagnetic waves, and electricity. Laboratory activities, uses of technology, effective communication of results, and research of contemporary scientific theories through various methods are integral components of this course. Science as inquiry is an integral part of the framework, placing emphasis on developing the ability to ask questions, observe, experiment, measure, problem solve, gather

data, and communicate findings. Inquiry is not an isolated unit of instruction and must be embedded throughout the content strands. All Physics laboratories need to be well equipped with the materials and apparatuses necessary to allow students to have meaningful experiences in the laboratory. To be successful in Physics, it is recommended that students have completed Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (Integrated Math I, II, II), and be enrolled in an upper-level math course.

**Course Name: AP Physics**

Prerequisite: You should have completed a geometry course and be concurrently taking Algebra II or an equivalent course.

Description: The AP Physics I course is designed to stand in the place of the Physics 101 offered at universities and colleges. The content taught in this course as well as the expectations of this course are the same as those found in colleges across the nation. In May, students are encouraged to take an AP exam to demonstrate their collegiate knowledge of physics. The AP 1.1 weight is applied only to the averages of those students who take this test. Passing this exam can provide students with 3 hours of college credit in the physics disciplines. Students are also encouraged to submit their lab notebooks from this course to their universities to earn an additional 1 hour of laboratory credit.

Expectations: \$91- AP Exam (Charged by the College Board) \*Price subject to change  
\$15- Lab Fee

**Course Name: AP Physics II**

Prerequisite: You should have completed AP Physics 1 or a comparable introductory physics course and should have taken or be concurrently taking pre-calculus or an equivalent course.

Description: The AP Physics II course is designed to stand in the place of the Physics 102 offered at universities and colleges. The content taught in this course as well as the expectations of this course are the same as those found in colleges across the nation. In May, students are encouraged to take an AP exam to demonstrate their collegiate knowledge of physics. Passing this exam can provide students with 3 hours of college credit in the physics disciplines. Students are also encouraged to submit their lab notebooks from this course to their universities to earn an additional 1 hour of laboratory credit.

**Social Studies Courses**

**Course Name: Economics**

Description: This course is used to introduce economics and to develop a critical understanding of the ideas that are the foundation of economics. This course establishes a framework of basic economic theory, which can be extended and applied to future learning. Instruction facilitates

an appreciation of economic forces in shaping the world in which we live. This course is required for High School graduation.

**Course Name: Mississippi Studies**

Description: The content will include the geographic, historic, economic, political, and social events that have contributed to the state's development.

**Course Name: World History**

Description: This course is designed to provide high school students with the skills and knowledge necessary to examine and analyze world history. In order to accomplish this goal, you will be required to complete extensive reading assignments, various outside projects, and regular examinations. You will not only be required to process large amounts of information, but you will also analyze and interpret this historical data so that you will be able to make valid arguments and clearly present evidence to support these arguments in several forms.

Expectations: In order to successfully accommodate each individual student's learning style we will cover world history topics in a number of different ways. They will each be discussed through lectures with guided notes. We will also analyze important events through the use of document-based questions. This will require critical thinking while reading and answering questions on primary and secondary sources. Historical documentaries as well as video clips with guided analysis will also be implemented in order to further the understanding of the lesson.

**Course Name: AP World History**

Description: AP World History is the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university world history course. In class, students will investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and process from 8000 BCE- present days.

Expectations: AP World History is a college level course that will require effort in and outside of class. The goal is to gain 3-6 college course hours. As well as to develop the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historian: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparison; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, continuity and change over time; developing historical arguments.

**Course Name: U. S. History**

Description: History is the study of the past. In this class we study U.S. History from reconstruction to modern times. Studying the later history of the U.S. teaches about how our nation emerged as a world power.

Expectations: This course is state tested and students must pass the test and course to graduate. Critical thinking skills are used to analyze our nation's history.

**Course Name: AP U. S. History**

Description: The AP US History course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in US history. Students will develop the skills necessary to interpret historical documents and evaluate various historical perspectives in order to present reasoning and evidence clearly. AP US History is a college level course, thus requiring the reading ability and maturity to complete work independently and in a timely manner. Thus, students who find history compelling and who enjoy reading, writing, and discussing historical facts may take interest in this course.

Expectations: Students must prepare, making themselves familiar with the reading and vocabulary, as well as completing any written homework assigned. Students should plan to spend between 2-3 hours a week on reading and assignments in preparation for class. Class time is structured around a variety of small group and individual skill-based lessons, short lectures, quizzes, and multiple choice/essay tests.

**Course Name: U.S. Government**

Description: U.S. Government is a nine-week study of government & politics at the national level. This course is required for high school graduation.

**Course Name: AP U.S. Government& Politics**

Description: AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain and understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behavior. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

Expectations: AP U.S. Government & Politics is a college level course. It requires discipline & dedication. Students must be able to read and understand college-level text. Students must be able to write grammatically correct, complete sentences at or above grade level in order to complete required essays.

**Course Name: Psychology**

Prerequisite: Biology is recommended

Description: This course focuses on individual human behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphases will be placed on how the brain works, altered states of consciousness, the impact of social groups on individuals, and psychological disorders.

Expectations: This course requires advanced reading and critical thinking skills. Subject matter is covered that might be difficult for certain students who have experienced traumatic life events or who suffer from certain mental disorders.

**Foreign Language Courses****Course Name: English as a Second Language**

Description: This is a yearlong class for English Language Learners. The focus is on Las Links Standards in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The goal is to produce English proficiency, which will be evaluated by the English Language Proficiency Test in the spring of each year.

**Course Name: Latin I**

Description: This course introduces students to the Latin language and ancient Roman culture. Students will learn to read, write, speak, and comprehend beginner Latin. The Latin vocabulary will focus on Latin roots and derivatives found in the English language. Students will examine the culture, mythology, and history of ancient Rome and its influences on today's world.

**Course Name: Latin II**

Prerequisite: Latin I

Description: This course continues the study of the Latin language and ancient Roman culture. Students will expand their knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar with a continued focus on Latin roots and derivatives in the English language. Students will read, write, speak, and comprehend Latin. Students will examine additional aspects of ancient Roman culture, mythology, and history and its influences on today's world.

**Course Name: Spanish I**

Description: This course is designed to have students begin their experience with the Spanish language & culture. Students will learn to communicate in everyday situations with an emphasis on vocabulary & grammar structures needed for effective communication. The culture, contributions, and geography of Spanish speaking countries will also be studied with open minds.

Expectations: This course is treated like a college level course and students need to be present, engaged, and practicing the language to benefit and retain the language.

**Course Name: Spanish II**

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Description: Spanish II is a course designed to have students continue & deepen their experience with the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Students will learn to communicate in everyday situations with emphasis on vocabulary & grammar structures that are needed for effective communications. The culture, contributions, and geography of Spanish speaking countries will also be studied with open minds.

**Business Electives**

**Course Name: Accounting I**

Description: Accounting is an essential aspect of every business institution and organization. As future workers, small business owners, and entrepreneurs, students who understand basic accounting principles will be able to more knowledgeably manage their companies' financial resources. As citizens, future parents, and investors, these students will be better prepared to make the economic decisions that will positively impact their communications and make financial decisions that will affect their own economic futures.

Accounting will allow students to learn accounting terminology, principles, and procedures as they relate to a single proprietorship, a partnership, and a corporation. The study of accounting will prepare students for accounting careers and for personal use, as well as provide opportunities for further study.

**Course Name: Personal Finance**

Description: Personal Finance allows students to explore personal financial decision-making. Students improve their skills in money management, record keeping, booking, and investing. This is a lecture-based course where both group work and individual work will be expected. Computer driven assignments are used.

**Course Name: Law Related Ed**

Description: Law Education describes in detail the body of such rules concerned with a particular subject or derived from a particular source of law. It details and describes the supreme legislative body of our state and nation, as distinguished from the constitution. It also talks about the profession that deals with law and legal procedure to practice law. We also talk

about the 3 Branches of government and Civil Rights Law. We cover a broad set of facts about the Law and Government yet only go into detail about certain subjects.

## **Art Electives**

### **Course Name: Intro to Theatre**

Description: Offers a variety of activities and performance projects to assist students in learning basic theatre terminology and skills. Curriculum includes brief history of theatre lesson as well as storytelling, improv, pantomime, creating characters, and sets /props.

### **Course Name: Theatre II**

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre

Description: Introduction exercises to bond group. History of theatre along with 5 person/5 minute skit exercises.

**Course Name: Advanced Theatre** - Students can be invited to Advanced Theatre by taking the intro to theatre class at any point during high school or auditioning for the school musical. Depending on their stage presence, knowledge, attitude, and availability they will then be invited to be in theatre the next school year.

### **Course Name: Music General**

Description: General music is a class that discusses the elemental components of music and the importance of this essential human aesthetic. During this 9-week course will take students on a journey of music around the world starting in the Mediterranean and ending on the African continent. The history of Western music is the primary focus taking students from the earliest recorded history in ancient Greece and the world of Muses through modern and popular music.

This course requires students to complete two projects that are centered on music composition using loops and completing a music taxonomy chart of their musical world.

Students who are interested and curious about music will leave this class with a newfound respect and appreciation for what they listen to every day of their lives.

### **Course Name: Music Theory**

Description: This is a 9 weeks course that covers all aspects of music including reading and writing music, music genres, and music history

**Course Name: Choir**

Description: This is a yearlong course that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history.

Important things parents should know about your course or teaching style.

Expectations: Students in choir are expected to participate in multiple performances outside of school as a major part of their grade.

**Course Name: Drawing**

Description: A 9 weeks course that explores the basic skills of drawing through various projects using dry mediums.

Expectations: There is a \$10.00 class fee for consumable supplies.

**Course Name: Painting**

Description: A 9-weeks course that explores the history of painting and the basic skills of painting through various projects using traditional paint mediums. (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Expectations: There is a \$20.00 class fee for consumable supplies.

**Course Name: Ceramics**

Eligibility: Course is restricted to 11th and 12th graders.

Description: A 9-weeks course that explores the basic hand-building skills of ceramics through various projects using clay.

Expectations: There is a \$20.00 class fee for consumable supplies

**Course Name: Gifted Art I**

Prerequisite: Tryout Mandatory - See Ms. Rutherford for more info.

Description: A semester class that provides an overview of drawing, design, and sculpture techniques and processes. Preparatory class for Advanced Placement Art.

Expectations: There is a \$40.00 class fee for consumable supplies.

**Name: Gifted AP Art Studio Drawing**

Prerequisite: Gifted Art I – See Ms. Rutherford for more info.

Description: Develops and explores drawing techniques and methods by creating a portfolio of high-quality art pieces. The course is rigorous and time-consuming.

Expectations: There is a \$40.00 class fee for consumable supplies as well as a fee for the Advanced Placement exam.

**Course Name: Gifted AP Art Studio 2-D Design**

Prerequisite: Gifted Art Studio Drawing (Tryout Mandatory) – See Ms. Rutherford for more info.

Description: Explores the elements and principles of art through a variety of processes by developing a portfolio of high-quality art pieces. The course is rigorous and time consuming.

Expectations: There is a \$40.00 class fee for consumable supplies as well as a fee for the Advanced Placement exam.

**Course Name: Gifted AP Art Studio 3-D Design**

Prerequisite: Gifted Art Studio 2-D Design (Tryout Mandatory) – See Ms. Rutherford for more info.

Description: Explores the elements and principles of art through a variety of processes by developing a portfolio of high-quality art pieces. The course is rigorous and time consuming.

Expectations: There is a \$40.00 class fee for consumable supplies as well as a fee for the Advanced Placement exam.

**General Electives****Course Name: Child Development**

Description: Child development is the study of the physical, emotional, and social growth of children from birth to adolescents.

Expectations: Instead of charging a lab fee, the students will be asked to bring in items throughout the term.

**Course Name: Driver Education**

Prerequisite: Valid Mississippi Driver's License or Permit Required to sign up for course.

Description: The goal of the Driver Education program at DeSoto Central High School is to provide students with the information necessary to develop an understanding of the safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles. The course content emphasizes the personal and social implications that are pertinent to the safe and efficient operation of a motor vehicle. This can only be accomplished through the development of prospective drivers who have the necessary knowledge, habits, skills, and attitude to become good drivers. Students will be engaged in a variety of tasks to prepare them in navigating our roadways.

**Course Name: ACT Prep**

Description: This course consists of repeated test taking drill. In it students will be taught several test-taking strategies and test vocabulary. This course requires a great deal of reading and writing. It is not designed to teach the actual coursework.

**Course Name: Creative Writing**

Description: This is a 9 week course for students who love writing as a form of expression and who possibly have the intent to one day be published. In this class, students will practice writing techniques, read examples of successful and unsuccessful literature, and workshop their writings to help them improve. At the end of the semester, we will briefly discuss how to begin a novel and how to write a formal query letter to publishers.:

**Course Name: Drug Education/ Safety Education**

Description: These two courses enlighten the students on the consequences of making bad decisions in life.

**Course Name: Employability Skills**

Description: This is a fast-paced course designed to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for the workforce including: analyzing aptitudes & interests necessary for making career choices, developing professional communication skills, developing a professional image, job seeking skills, and obtaining the necessary education skills.

**Course Name: Family Dynamics**

Description: Family dynamics is a course that develops skills related to personal, family, and social issues.

**Course Name: Health**

Description: Contemporary health education curriculum addresses the physical, mental, and social dimensions of health. The curriculum includes making healthy choices, mental health, Family and social health, Human development, Nutrition and fitness, Preventing diseases, sexual abstinence.

**Course Name: Local Culture**

Description: Students will learn about DeSoto County and our surrounding areas from the history to modern day politics, cultures, music, etc.

Expectations: This class requires written papers, participation in projects/ speaking in front of the class and taking notes.

**Course Name: Nutrition & Wellness**

Description: The study of kitchen and food safety, table etiquette, diet and exercise, food preservation, global cuisine, and careers in nutrition and wellness.

Expectations: There is a \$20 required lab fee.

**Course Name: Physical Education**

Description: This course provides an overview of fitness concepts. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Individual fitness activities/games, Group fitness activities/games and Team sports.

Expectation: Students must earn their P.E. credit/grade through participation, working well with their classmates and being respectful at all times. Dressing out is encouraged but not mandatory. Effort and A+ attitude are what matter most.

**Course Name: Introduction to Travel and Tourism**

Course that studies the economic and cultural impacts of the tourism industry at the local, national, and international levels.

**Course Name: Jobs for MS Grads**

Studies the industries and career pathways available to MS high school graduates, and the routes high school students need to take in order to achieve their preferred options.

**Course Name: African American Studies**

Examine African culture throughout history. Students will identify the social, political, and economic influences and contributions of African Americans.

**Course Name: College and Career Readiness**

The Mississippi College and Career Readiness course (CCR) was developed to support the vision and mission of the Mississippi Department of Education that all students who graduate from high school are prepared for college, career, and active citizenship. The CCR course curriculum outlines the knowledge secondary students should obtain and the types of skills relevant for a successful transition to postsecondary and the workforce.

<https://www.mdek12.org/ese/College-and-Career-Readiness>

**Course Name: Human Geography AP**

Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use. There is a few associated with the course.

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-human-geography>

**Course Name: Strategies for Success**

Explores strategies students can use to be successful in high school. From effective study habits and note-taking techniques, to school and community involvement, this course seeks to be an all-encompassing look at how a student can make the most of their high school experience.

**Course Name: Cyber Foundations**

Cyber Foundations is an innovative instructional program that prepares students to effectively use technology in learning, communication, life, and introduces them to the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills used in computing which is impacting every career field. Students in Cyber Foundations complete study in interpersonal and self-directional skills, basic technology operation, technology concepts, ethical issues in technology, keyboarding, technology communication tools, technology resource tools, multimedia presentation applications, word processing applications, spreadsheet applications, problem solving, web development, and block-based programming.

**Course Name: AP Computer Science**

AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course. Students cultivate their understanding of coding through analyzing, writing, and testing code as they

explore concepts like modularity, variables, and control structures. There is a fee associated with this course.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-computer-science-a>

### **Course Name: High Tech Video Production: (Approval required)**

Jag TV (High Tech Video Production) is a fun, creative broadcast media class that positively supports DeSoto Central in many ways. Students will learn how to report the news and engage viewers. Each week a Jag TV episode is produced, edited, and shared. Other activities are done during class throughout the semester, such as player and coach interviews, monthly award feature stories, and club and sports promotional videos. For the past five years, Jag TV has entered contest submissions for Mississippi Scholastic Press Association Best of Mississippi Contest. Being part of an effective team is a necessity for all students because there is a lot of collaboration.

#### **Requirements:**

- Good discipline record (nothing higher than level 1 offenses and no more than two level 1 offenses)
- Must attend school regularly
- Self-motivated
- Responsible
- Able to work well with others and be part of a team
- Must be able to work 10 after school events (can drive yourself, ride with a friend, or ride the bus)

### **Course Name: Work Based Learning ( Approval Required)**

- **What is it?**
  - Work-Based Learning is a year-long program that provides the opportunity for students with employment in the businesses and industries in our area to earn high school credit for going to work. Basically, you go to work and earn money and high school graduation credits.
- **Requirement**
  - Student must be employed
- **Who can apply?**
  - Upcoming Seniors and Juniors
- **Credits**
  - Students can earn from 0.5 - 2.0 credits
  - Replaces the College and Career Readiness Course
- **Application Process**
  - Complete the interest form

- Teacher meeting and recommendation
- Paperwork must be completed

See Michelle Carter or Marty Parks for more information

**Course Name: Sociology**

An examination of the study of sociology. The course will guide students in understanding how human behaviors influence society as a whole. Also, the influence collective human behaviors has on groups such as government, social institutions and communities. Students will also learn about commonly used theories used in the field of sociology.

**Course Name: Personal Leadership (See Ms. Wooley for an application)**

Leadership is open to juniors and seniors (preferably with work release or 4<sup>th</sup> block sport) who will travel off campus during 3rd block to mentor and spend time with students from the middle school and elementary schools. This is a big brother/big sister approach for young students. You must provide your own transportation.