



Instructional Support Program: Overview of the ISP Summer Session!

Hello!

The Instructional Support Staff is very much looking forward to working with you and your student during the upcoming school year! You are receiving this letter due to your submission of an application for placement within the Instructional Support Program at DCHS.

As a means to best prepare your student for the rigors of their freshman year at DCHS, the ISP is requiring your student to complete the program's four week "ISP Summer Program". This course is designed specifically for incoming freshman students who have applied for placement within the Instructional Support Program. Our staff's summer program will be held on the dates and times included below:

<u>ISP Summer Session 2019</u>
Three full weeks of instruction, plus two additional days: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Monday, June 17th-Friday, June 21st● Monday, June 24th-Friday, June 28th● Thursday, August 1st & Friday, August 2nd● Monday, August 5th-Friday, August 9th
Students attend two classes during each day's session! <u>Class 1: 8:00-9:20</u> <u>Class 2: 9:30-10:50</u> Your student will be told upon his or her arrival on Monday, June 17th which classroom to report to for their first class!

As noted above, the course will include two individualized classes: a "**Skill Building**" class and a combined "**Literacy/Math Readiness**" class, both of which will work in conjunction to prepare students for the rigors of Divine Child High School.

The "**Skill Building**" course will focus on the following areas :

- iPad use
- Organizational skills & Metacognition
- Time management
- Note-taking strategies and study skills
- Test-taking strategies

Additionally, a primary focus of the class is the idea of "self-advocacy". At DCHS, students must embrace both their academic strengths and weaknesses as a means to identify the strategies that allow them to learn at their highest potential. Moreover, "self-advocacy" pertains to one's ability to be comfortable with both identifying areas within which

they struggle and communicating that information to others (teachers, classmates, etc.). Above all, the primary goal of the “Skill Building” class is to provide students with the resources and skills needed for them to be as independent and successful as possible upon entering high school.

The “**Literacy/Math Readiness**” class will allow students to explicitly learn and practice prerequisite skills that they will need to be able to be successful in these content areas during the school year. The primary focus of the “**Literacy**” portion of this class will be placed on the exploration and shared-reading of the students’ assigned summer reading novel. Additionally, students will be working to meet the following objectives:

- Develop their overall reading comprehension skills (they will be introduced to a variety of specific “close reading” strategies)
- Draft both a well-developed paragraph and a focused, theme-centered essay
- Develop their vocabulary skills through weekly vocabulary checks and quizzes

The “**Mathematics**” portion of this hybrid class will entail tailored instruction regarding the following four topics, each of which have been identified by members of the Mathematics department at DCHS as required prerequisite knowledge for all math courses:

- Understanding work with integers
- Understanding work with fractions
- Understanding and solving single-step and multistep equations for a given variable
- Understanding how to work with square roots

Additionally, within the mathematics component of this course, students will be working collaboratively through their assigned work within the online “Delta Math” program, thus ensuring that all assigned and required “summer math” work is completed and submitted both on time and in the correct way.

The purpose and function of the ISP Summer Session is twofold. The first function of this session is of great benefit to the Instructional Support Staff--through working with your students for an extended, four week period immediately prior to the school year, we will be able to accurately place them within the academic support tier that is most appropriate for them as a learner. Secondly and most importantly, the ISP Summer Session serves to help your student successfully begin their time at Divine Child High School. Our goal is to help ease your student’s transition into the high school environment and put them in the best position possible moving forward.

Please note that, although similar skills will be covered, this program is separate from the Summer Enrichment Program that DCHS offers for incoming freshmen. That being said, even if they were recommended for the courses, your student should not be enrolled in the Summer Enrichment Program for the Math and English courses. Instead, as an applicant to DC’s ISP, your student should be enrolled only in the ISP Summer Session (which includes the Skill Building class and the combined Literacy/Math class).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this class, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Brian Leslie. Again, our staff is very much looking forward to working with your students!

Sincerely,

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