

# Getting Ready to Register for High School

What should you know before you choose classes?

2024-2025

# Who can help with this?

- School Counselors are ready to help you get ALL of your questions answered as you decide which course options might be best for you.
- Some teachers may also make recommendations based on interests you've shown and how you're doing in classes right now.
- Family members can help make good recommendations, too. They can help you get connected with a counselor and may be able to help you decide on your course choices for next year, too!

\*Remember that we want you to try new things, take some courses you already know you'll enjoy, and challenge yourself. HOWEVER, it's also incredibly important to remember that you need to be able to survive the course combinations you choose. **Think about how much of a time and energy commitment each course may be, other commitments you have, and whether or not you'll have time to do your best in your chosen courses and also have enough time for all the other important things in your life!** (Family, friends, work, extracurricular activities, relaxing, reading for fun, hobbies, sleep, exercise, etc. are all part of staying physically and mentally healthy!)



# Duluth Denfeld High School Counselors

218-336-8830

## Lauren Mattson

9th Grade  
x2022

[lauren.mattson@isd709.org](mailto:lauren.mattson@isd709.org)

## Geri Saari

Grades 10+, Last Names A-He,  
x3336

[geraldine.saari@isd709.org](mailto:geraldine.saari@isd709.org)

For information and forms or  
to set up an appointment or  
call back, contact:

## Dena Walczynski-Filipovic

Counseling Office Clerical  
and Denfeld Registrar

[dena.walczynski-filipovic@isd709.org](mailto:dena.walczynski-filipovic@isd709.org)

## Leah Hamm

Grades 10+, Last Names Hi-Q,  
x2264

[leah.hamm-digatono@isd709.org](mailto:leah.hamm-digatono@isd709.org)

## Jessica Anderson

Grades 10+, Last Names R-Z,  
x1923

[jessica.anderson@isd709.org](mailto:jessica.anderson@isd709.org)



# Duluth East High School Counselors

218-336-8845

## Jamie Savre

Last Names A-C  
x2154

[jamie.savre@isd709.org](mailto:jamie.savre@isd709.org)

## Jessica Forsman

Last Names D-G  
x2041

[jessica.forsman@isd709.org](mailto:jessica.forsman@isd709.org)

## Alaina Attia

Last Names H-L  
x2148

[alaina.attia@isd709.org](mailto:alaina.attia@isd709.org)

## Dave Bergan

Last Names M-R  
x1345

[david.bergan@isd709.org](mailto:david.bergan@isd709.org)

## Laura Horton

Last Names S-Z  
x1121

[laura.horton@isd709.org](mailto:laura.horton@isd709.org)

For information and forms or  
to set up an appointment or  
call back, contact:

## Jen LaBelle

Counseling Office Clerical  
and East Registrar

[jennifer.labelle@isd709.org](mailto:jennifer.labelle@isd709.org)

# Academic Excellence Online and Area Learning Center Counselor

218-336-8756

**Paula Williams**

X1288

[paula.williams@isd709.org](mailto:paula.williams@isd709.org)

For information and forms or to set up  
an appointment or call back, contact:

**Valarie Wagenbach**

Office Support Specialist

[valarie.wagenbach@isd709.org](mailto:valarie.wagenbach@isd709.org)



---

# Grade Point Average

Your grades will follow you through to the end of high school. They are averaged together at the end of each semester to make your GPA.

A = 4.0 B = 3.0 C = 2.0 D = 1.0 F = 0

Each semester, on its own, you'll get a single-semester GPA calculation.  
This is only calculated to recognize Honor Roll students for that semester only.

Each semester, your CUMULATIVE GPA, will be re-calculated with your new grades. This CUMULATIVE GPA follows you all the way through to graduation.

GPA MATTERS! Do your best. It can help you open up additional possibilities after high school. Don't give up! You can keep improving even if you have a rough semester or year. See your counselor if you need help or have questions!

# Options to Receive High School Credit

## Honors

- These are more challenging courses, often with a higher homework load. If you've struggled with homework, or topics in this area, take the regular course.
- You will have to sign a commitment agreement and will have to stick with it!

## CITS = College In The Schools

- College level courses taught by your own high school teachers.
- Not open to 9th grade students.

## PSEO= Post Secondary Options

- Allows high school juniors and seniors to take college course at a college. Taught by college instructor.

## Articulated Credit

- Some CTE Courses offer articulated credit.
- Articulated credits are high school courses approved to to earn technical or Community college credits
- Taught in high school
- Contact your high school counselor for more information.

## AP = Advanced Placement

- These courses are very challenging, often with higher homework workload.
- AP Courses help you earn high school and college credit if you take and AP exam at the end of the course AND earn a score of at least three (3) on a scale of 1-5.
- These courses are offered in high school and taught by high school teachers.

## Prerequisite

- This can mean there are courses you must pass, an application process, or other requirements you must have before you can take this one

## CTE = Career and Technical Education

- These are hands-on classes that offer exposure to different career fields. You'll build skills, can earn certifications and credentials, go on field trips, and more! We recommend trying multiple CTE courses as you go through high school. If you find an area you are really interested in, keep taking courses in that program!

## AEO - Academic Excellence Online

- Duluth Public Schools Online School that stove to meet the unique needs of today's online learners and help students and families receive support in the virtual classroom.

**Other options: CLEP and MN Bilingual Seals (see course catalog)**

# Types of Courses and Credit Value

## Year Long - One Period

- Most required courses, some electives, meet one period/day all year.
- Register for BOTH course numbers.
- Usually worth 1.0 credit

## Semester Long - One Period

- Most required courses, some electives, meet one period/day one semester.
- Register for one course number.
- Usually worth 0.5 credits

## Zero Hour Classes

- NOT GUARANTEED
- Before period 1
- Requires own transportation
- Opportunities include small group musics (audition required), Health, and sometimes others often for 10th graders who need extra room for Health during the day
- Usually worth 0.5 or 1.0 credits (depending if semester long or year long course)

## Zero Credit Classes

- Study Hall
- Teacher Helper (11th and 12th only)
- Early Release (Senior Year Only)
- Late Start (Senior Year Only)

## Year Long - Two Period Block

- Career and Technical education classes that are usually shared between Denfeld and East
- Construction (East), Auto (Denfeld)
- Counts as 2.0 credits

## Semester Long - Two Period Block

- Career and Technical education classes that are usually shared between Denfeld and East
- Greenhouse (East), some Foods (both sites), Healthcare Occupations (both sites)
- Counts as 1.0 credit

## “Placeholders” not EHS/DHS courses

- You'll see these on your schedule when you have enrolled in a course NOT with a teacher in a classroom at East or Denfeld
- Includes leaving space if you're taking an AEO (or other online classes)
- Includes PSEO (attend classes at UMD, CSS, LSC, an online college, etc.)
- \*Homeschooled partial day is left blank (only East or Denfeld courses show)
- Possible high school credits earned- consult with your counselor



# Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2025 and beyond

You'll have to earn a total of 22.5 credits to graduate from Duluth Public Schools. Check with your counselor for the best choice for you.

- 4.0 Credits of English Language Arts
  - 1.0 credit English 9
  - 1.0 credit English 10
  - 1.0 credit English 11
  - 1.0 credit English Electives
- 3.5 Credits of Social Studies
  - .5 credit Civics in Global Society
  - 1.0 credit United States History
  - 1.0 credit World History or International Studies
  - .5 credit Economics
  - .5 credit American Government and Politics
- 1.0 Credits of Arts, which may include:
  - Visual Art
  - Media Arts and Graphic Arts
  - Music
- 3.0 Credits of Math
  - 1.0 credit Intermediate Algebra
  - 1.0 credit Geometry
  - 1.0 credit Algebra 2
- 3.0 Credits of Science
  - 1.0 credit Earth Science
  - 1.0 credit Biology
  - 1.0 credit Chemistry, Physics, or Aerospace Physics
- 1.0 Credits Health and Physical Education
  - .5 credit Health
  - .5 credit Physical Education
- 7.0 Credits of Additional Electives
  - Choose elective courses from any required subject or from additional content areas

# What if I change my mind?

- When you register for classes, we build the schedule based on those requests. This means we hire teachers based on those requests, too.
- Schedule changes are only made for a few select reasons:
  1. There is a gap in the student's schedule and/or the student is registered for two classes in the same hour.
  2. The student didn't register for a class required for graduation.
  3. There was an error and a student was placed in a class that was not requested.
  4. The student is scheduled for the same class twice.
  5. The student failed a class and needs to repeat the course
- Schedules will NOT be changed for the following reasons:
  1. The student is trying to re-arrange their schedule to be with friends or a different lunch.
  2. The student is requesting a different teacher (unless the student failed a class with that teacher previously).
  3. The student is trying to re-arrange for early release or late start (seniors only).
  4. The student changed their mind about what was requested at registration.

*See course catalog for complete details.*