



Rising to 10th grade

Course Registration Information for 9th Grade Families

March 7th, 2024

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9th Grade Challenges

- Time management
- Elevated academic expectations
- Recalibration of necessary effort and habits
- Social reshuffling
- Pressure of the unknown: “what matters?”



Ideal Focus: Growth

- Strong foundation of knowledge and skills
- Comfort with feedback
- Confidence in challenging situations
- Awareness of limits, ability to ask for help
- Understanding of strengths and interests
- Capacity to **add** to a community and to be collaborative





How to choose what comes next:

- **Interests**
- Options based on qualifications
- Time
- Maturity, responsibility, and challenges
- End-goals



What does your child love?

- The Arts?
- Math?
- Science?
- Languages?
- History and Social Science?
- English?
- The idea of doing IB?
- The idea of going to a certain college or university?
- Traveling abroad?



How to choose what comes next?

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What *are* the options?

1. Math → College Prep Math/Honors Math
2. 9th Grade English → 10th grade English
3. 9th grade History → Modern World History/Hon. Modern World History
4. 9th grade Science: Inquiries → Biology
Biology → Chemistry/Honors Chemistry
5. Modern or Classical Language → next level/honors next level
6. Art or elective
7. Studyhall

What are your student's interests
and strengths?



CHARLOTTE COUNTRY DAY UPPER SCHOOL

2023-24

Academic Policies and Course Guide

Total Index of Courses by Department

English

Full Year Courses:

English 9: Foundations in English I
English 10: Foundations in English II
English 11: American Literature
IB English 11
AP English 11: Language & Composition
AP English 12: Literature & Composition
IB English 12

Semester Courses:

English 12 Seminars including
Collaborative Storytelling
Creative Writing
Classical Mythology
Philosophy, Faith, and Fiction
Writers Who Paint

English as a Second Language

Full Year Courses:

Intermediate ESL
Advanced ESL
ESL American History
ESL World History

Mathematics

Full Year Courses:

Algebra I
Geometry
Honors Geometry
Algebra II
Honors Algebra II
Honors Algebra II/Precalculus
Algebra III/Trigonometry
Dynamic Math
Pre-calculus
Honors Pre-calculus
Introduction to Calculus & Statistics
AP Statistics
Advanced AP Statistics with R and R Studio
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
IB Applications of Mathematics

Physical Science Full Year Courses:

Chemistry I
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
IB Chemistry (SL)
Physics I
Honors Physics
AP Physics

Physical Science Semester Courses:

Astronomy: Solar System
Astronomy: Cosmology
Organic Chemistry
Honors Principles of Engineering
IB Chemistry (HL)

Science Research:

Physical Computational
Biochemistry

History & Social Studies

Full Year Courses:

Ninth Grade History
Modern World History
Honors Modern World History
IB World History
United States History
AP United States History
IB History of the Americas
AP Psychology
IB Psychology
AP Human Geography
IB Information Technology
in a Global Society
AP European History
AP US/Comparative Government & Politics

Semester Courses:

Adolescent Brains & Behavior
African American History
Education for Social Justice
Latin American and Haitian Studies
Principles of Economics
IB Theory of Knowledge

Fine Arts

Choral Music Full Year Courses:

Chamber Choir
Honors Chamber Choir
Concert Choir

Choral Music Semester Courses:

A Cappella Ensemble

Instrumental Music Full Year Courses:

Symphonic (formerly Concert) Band
Honors Symphonic Band
String Orchestra
Honors String Orchestra

Music Theory & Production Semester Courses:

Digital Music Studio

Theatre Arts Semester Courses

Production Concepts
Acting/Directing I
Acting/Directing II
Theater Workshop
Improvisation

Visual Arts Full Year Course:

Yearbook

Visual Arts Semester Courses:

2-D Art I, II, III, IV
Design I, II, III, IV
Digital Animation and Film Production
Sculpture I, II, III, IV
Special Topics in Visual Arts

Full Year AP and IB Art Courses:

AP Music Theory
IB Music I & II (SL)
AP Studio Art
IB Art I & II (SL, HL)
AP Studio: Design/ Photography
AP Studio: Sculpture
AP Art History
IB Theater Arts (SL, HL)

Technology & Computer Science

Full Year Courses:

AP Computer Science A
Computer Science B

Options based on qualifications*

*qualifications and updated course catalogue will be posted 3/18 on Bucsnet

2023-24 HONORS/AP/ADVANCED COURSES

Average is determined at the March Mid-term progress report.

Teachers and advisors should be carefully consulted for their recommendations.

Department	To enter:	Minimum qualifying grade average:	Additional requirement (if any):
ENGLISH	AP English 11	87 in English 10	
	AP English 12	87 in English 11 or 80 in AP English 11	
	Honors Algebra II	90 in Geometry; 83 in Hon. Geometry	Departmental approval with recommendation from instructor
	Honors Geometry	90 in Algebra I	Departmental approval with recommendation from instructor
	Honors Precalculus	90 in Algebra II or 83 in Hon. Alg. II	
	Honors Algebra II/Precalculus	Successful completion of Honors Geometry in 9 th grade AND department recommendation	This course is only available to 10 th graders. Entry to this course is limited to those recommended by faculty and is not designated by a grade cut-off.



How to choose what comes next?

- Interests
- Options based on qualifications
- **Time**
- **Maturity, responsibility, and challenges**
- End-goals

Time – where does it come from?

7:30 – leave for school

8:00 – 9:05 – First Period class

9:05 – 9:35 – meet with advisor/club/teacher

9:35 – 10:40 – Second Period class

10:45 – 11:50 – Third Period Class

11:50 – 1:00 – Lunch/Free/Club meeting/Meet with
Teacher

1:00 – 2:05 – Fourth Period Class

2:10 – 3:15 – Fifth Period Class

3:30 – 5:30 – Theater/Athletics/Job

6:00 – arrive home

6:30 – eat dinner

7:30 – Begin Homework...

7:30am – 5:30pm = 10 hours

7:30pm – ?

Homework can vary from 0–60 minutes per class, depending upon the level, subject, and assignment. Consider your child's organizational skills, interests, challenges, and other commitments when choosing from available courses.

Sample 10th grade schedule

	Monday (1)	Tuesday (2)	Wednesday (3)	Thursday (4)	Friday (5)	Monday (6)	Tuesday (7)
8-9:05	English 10	Chemistry	French III Honors	Studyhall	Sculpture II	Modern World History	Algebra II
9:05-9:35	1 st Flex	1 st Flex	1 st Flex	<i>Advisory</i>	1 st Flex	1 st Flex	1 st Flex
9:35-10:40	Studyhall	Sculpture II	Modern World History	Algebra II	English 10	Chemistry	French III Honors
10:45-11:50	Algebra II	English 10	Chemistry	French III Honors	Studyhall	Sculpture II	Modern World History
11:50-12:15	2 nd Flex	2 nd Flex	2 nd Flex	2 nd Flex	2 nd Flex	2 nd Flex	2 nd Flex
12:15-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-2:05	French III Honors	Studyhall	Sculpture II	Modern World History	Algebra II	English 10	Chemistry
2:10-3:15	Modern World History	Algebra II	English 10	Chemistry	French III Honors	Studyhall	Sculpture II



Consider the end goals: Senior Year

- Advanced levels of specific subjects (e.g., an Art portfolio? Organic Chemistry?)
- Room for great electives (Podcasting? Social Justice? Piano lessons?)
- Picking up a second language (Spanish *and* Chinese?)
- Doubling up in a History, Science, or Math course (AP Bio *and* Anatomy? Ancient Empires *and* AP Euro? AP Stats *and* Advanced Math Topics?)
- Focusing on activities outside of Country Day (jobs, volunteer work, travel teams)
- Importance of extra-curricular experiences (Mock Trial, musical, athletics, Model UN)



And the other end goal: College

- All Country Day courses are designed for college preparation.
- Admissions committees want to see pursued interests, growth, and *appropriate* strength of schedule with success.
- Remember that strengths in the arts, athletics, community work, etc. are important, too. Who would you want on your campus?
- College counselors will be assigned to every student in spring of 9th grade, and students and parents will be introduced to Scoir.
- College counselors will guest teach classes in Freshman Seminar in April.
- Please consider all of the factors for a happy, healthy child in your home!

College Counseling – Sophomore Focus

- October 2024 – PreACT.
- October 2024 – Financial Aid Information Night at Providence Day School.
- College counselors visit grade level meetings and advisories.
- College counselors will meet with sophomore students individually 2nd semester.
- Jan/Feb 2025 – Athletic Recruiting and the College Process Information Night at CCDS.
- April 2025 – Case Studies at Charlotte Latin School.
- Visit college campuses while traveling – explore local colleges and universities.



- Current **classroom teachers** will include the course recommendation for 2024-25 in the comments on the next report card (4/3)
- **Advisors** will meet with each of their advisees to go over the recommendations on April 4th and 5th
- **Students** have access to the Course Catalogue 3/18; an informational PowerPoint will be provided in advisory
- Advisors will meet with **families** on April 8th, in person or via online meeting

(Students are welcome to be a part of that conversation)

What is the
course
selection
process?



Final Steps

- Advisors will complete the course registration
- Advisors can provide copies of the courses the student is registered to take
- **Summer reading** assignments will be posted by course online
- Staffing and scheduling begins!
- If grades change (up or down) by the end of the year, options may change
 - If a higher-level course becomes an option, the student must initiate the change with their advisor
 - If a grade drops, the current teacher may request the student's registration changes
- **Schedules become available in July, along with access to book lists online**

