



JUNIOR YEAR: MOVING TOWARD MASTERY

Course Selection for Current Sophomores
Spring 2026

Junior Year: Moving Toward Mastery

Community Commitment

Confidence

Independence

Intellectual Investment

Leadership

Self-advocacy

Self-awareness

Opportunity for Choice

- Advanced study in specific areas of interest:
 - Visual Arts
 - Performing Arts (theater and music)
 - Core academics
- Variety of College Prep courses
- Honors Courses
- AP Courses
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program

International Baccalaureate Program



What is IB?

- Two-year program for juniors and seniors
- Like liberal arts for high school
- Key aspects of Country Day's IB program:
 - academic rigor
 - Global mindedness
 - personal growth
 - community
- IB learner profile traits: inquirer, knowledgeable, thinker, communicator, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced, reflective

The value of an IB Education

- Learning focused on process and product
- Close, supportive community
- Chance to earn the IB Diploma
- People love it!
- Excellent college preparation
- Recent matriculations of IB graduates:

UNC-Chapel Hill

Davidson College

Elon University

Kenyon College

University of Vermont

Wake Forest University

Appalachian State
University

Duke University

University of Virginia

University of Georgia

Emory University

University of St. Andrews

Typical IB Student Schedule

many more possibilities exist, including courses outside of IB

	Junior Year	Senior Year
1	IB English 11	IB English 12
2	French, Spanish, Latin, or Chinese (multiple levels)	French, Spanish, Latin, or Chinese (multiple levels)
3	IB World History	IB History of the Americas
4	IB Biology or IB Chemistry	IB Biology or IB Chemistry (if not completed junior year)
5	Calculus or Precalculus	IB Math (multiple levels)
6	Theory of Knowledge	IB "elective" such as Digital Society, Psychology, or second science
7	Free Period	Free Period

Typical IB Student Schedule

If pursuing fine arts in IB

	Junior Year	Senior Year
1	IB English 11	IB English 12
2	French, Spanish, Latin, or Chinese (multiple levels)	French, Spanish, Latin, or Chinese (multiple levels)
3	IB World History	IB History of the Americas
4	IB Visual Art or Theatre	IB Visual Art or Theatre
5	Calculus or Precalculus	IB Math (multiple levels)
6	Theory of Knowledge	IB Biology or IB Chemistry
7	Free Period	Free Period

IB Application Process

- All sophomores received an email with the application and process details
- Applications due 2/23
- Decisions released on or around March 27
- Students have until course registration deadline (mid-April) to commit



AP, HONORS, AND COLLEGE PREP COURSES

College Prep Courses

- All courses at CD are preparation for college-level work
- College Prep available in every subject and non-departmental electives
 - Adolescent Psychology and Behavior
 - African American History
 - Anatomy and Physiology
 - Exploring Computer Science
 - Intro to Piano
 - Public Speaking
 - Supersonic: percussion ensemble
 - And others!

Advanced Courses

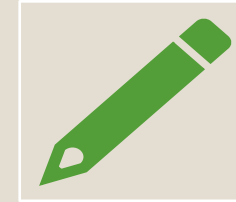
- 27 Honors and 23 AP courses offered this year
- All subjects offer Honors and/or AP courses (examples):
 - AP Computer Science
 - AP Art History
 - Honors Engineering
 - Organic Chemistry
 - AP English Language
 - Honors Chinese
 - AP Stats with R
- **Purpose is to provide *extra* challenge to those who want and need it in areas of strength and interest**
- **Speed and breadth/depth of content is often significantly different**



***Must qualify* to take Honors and AP courses**



Qualifying grades for 2025-26 are in the student planner and may change for 2026-27



Current teacher communicates qualification and recommendation on Midterm grade report

Advanced Courses

Note: Qualifying for an advanced course in more than one discipline does not necessarily mean a student should enroll in multiple advanced courses

Sample Qualifications (2025-26 year)

Honors Engineering	87 in Physics I <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Physics	
AP Physics	90 in Physics I <u>or</u> 85 in Hon. Physics	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> AP Calculus or IB Calculus (previous or concurrent)
AP Biology	90 in current <i>full-year</i> science course <u>or</u> 85 in Hon./83 in AP	Prerequisites: Biology I <u>and</u> Chem I/Hon. Chemistry *less than 87 in Bio 1 requires departmental approval
AP Environmental	90 in current <i>full-year</i> science course <u>or</u> 85 in Hon./83 in AP	Prerequisites: Biology I <u>and</u> Chem I/Hon. Chemistry *less than 87 in Bio 1 requires departmental approval
AP Chemistry	90 in Chemistry I <u>or</u> 85 in Hon. Chemistry	Minimum math requirement: Precalculus (previous or concurrent)

Qualifications are provided to students and advisors and will be included in the 2026-27 Course Catalogue.

How to choose?



Think about strengths and challenges



Consider amount of time in the day



Prioritize physical and emotional health

Time	Activity
8-9:05	English 11
9:05-9:35	Meet with club to plan event
9:35-10:40	French IV
10:45-11:50	US History
11:50-1:00	Lunch, meet with teacher
1:00-2:05	Honors Pre-Calc
2:10-3:15	Honors Physics
3:30-5:30	Practice
5:30-6:30	Commute, eat dinner
	Homework/Review

Possible Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
8-9:05	AP English Language
9:05-9:35	Meet with club to plan event
9:35-10:40	Honors Chinese III
10:45-11:50	AP US History
11:50-1:00	Lunch, meet with teacher
1:00-2:05	AP Calc BC
2:10-3:15	Honors Chamber Choir
3:30-6:00	Practice
6:00-7:30	Commute, eat dinner
	Homework/Review

Possible Daily Schedule

Sample Pages from Course Catalogue on Bucsnet (2026-27 available after March break)

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English Literature & Language	9
English as a Second Language (ESL)	11
Mathematics	12
Science, <i>Life Sciences</i>	15
Science, <i>Physical Sciences</i>	17
Science Research.	18
History & Social Studies	19
Modern & Classical Languages, <i>Chinese</i>	22
Modern & Classical Languages, <i>French</i>	23
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AP PSYCHOLOGY (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in the previous yearlong English, History, or AP Biology grades

This advanced survey of introductory psychology familiarizes students with the basic concepts in the scientific study of human behavior. Particular emphasis is placed on the most current neurobiological findings as well as the important roles of learning, memory, and consciousness in psychological processes. Students are expected to sit the AP Psychology exam. **Open to grades 11-12, with preference given to seniors.**

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (full year)

Prerequisite: Qualification based on grades in the previous yearlong history course

This advanced course introduces students to the study of patterns and processes that impact the way humans understand, use, and change their surroundings. Students use geographic models, methods, and tools to examine human organization (social, political, and economic) and its global and regional effects. Students learn to use maps and various types of data (demographic, economic, political, etc.) to examine spatial patterns and analyze the ever-changing interactions among people and places. Students are expected to sit the AP Human Geography exam. **Open to grades 10-12, with preference given to upperclassmen.**

government, implementation of public policies, and key figures in charge of making and implementing policies in the United States. The course prepares students for the Advanced Placement US Government exam. **Open to grades 11-12, with preference given to seniors.**

IB HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS HL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

IB Digital Society SL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information. *This course is open to non-IB students.*

IB PSYCHOLOGY SL (full year)

Please see the IB section of the course catalog for more information.

Course Selection Timeline



New Course Catalogue available mid-March on Bucsnet



April 8th and 9th Advisors meet with Advisees to go over teacher recommendations and course selection (Midterm report card)



April 13th Parents and Advisors have individual meetings to discuss course selection



Students must maintain Honors/AP qualifying grade and work ethic throughout the year



Students who qualify for Honors/AP by the end of the year must talk to their advisor to enroll in the honors/AP course and discuss time implications

College Counseling

Case Studies

(in partnership with Charlotte Latin & Providence Day)

Saturday, April 25

Charlotte Country Day School

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Registration begins March 1

**College Counselors will reach out to students
to schedule 1:1 meetings in late March.**



College Counseling Programming for Juniors

- College Admissions Representatives – Over 120 visit campus in fall.
- Financial Aid Information Night – Early October.
- College Night for Junior Families - November.
- ACT/SAT - Juniors begin testing in fall/winter.
- Juniors and Parents/Caregivers begin individual meetings with college counselors in January.
- College Counseling Junior Seminar.

Centering Questions

- What has been revealed in 9th and 10th grade?
- What are your child's strengths and interests?
- What are the challenges?
- What are important time commitments outside of the school day?

Thank you for joining us!