

Didsbury High School

***Explore,
Achieve, Excel***



DIDSBURY HIGH SCHOOL
Grade 9
2020-2021 Program
Course Information

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Welcome to Grade 9 at DHS

One of our most important goals at Didsbury High School is to create an atmosphere where students and parents feel welcome. We understand that scholastic achievement is best attained in an atmosphere that is supportive, caring, comfortable, and where all students have a sense of belonging. Student involvement and input is important in creating and sustaining this environment. It is also influenced through a partnership between home and schools, and we recognize the importance of parents as part of our school community.

In grade 9, students will spend time on determining their learning style, strengths and weaknesses. Besides being enrolled in core courses, each grade 9 student will also be enrolled in a High School Preparation course working at improving their reading and comprehension skills. As we begin to prepare students for earning a high school diploma, Course planning is an important step in reaching your educational goals.

Careful consideration should be given to the following:

- High School Diploma Requirements
- Interests and past performance in school
- Plans for the future (employment and future education)
- Relationships between individual courses and goals
- Prerequisite requirements

One of the first steps for the grade 9 student is choosing option courses for the 2020-2021 year. Parents are required to sign and return forms as soon as possible.

The course descriptions in this booklet are brief. Subject teachers can provide more information regarding course content and prerequisite requirements.

We look forward to meeting our new students and their parents. We want to make the transition from middle school to high school as smooth as possible. Students or parents are encouraged to call the school at 403-335-3356 if they have any questions.

Alberta High School Diploma Requirements

The Alberta High School Diploma is an official document issued by the Department of Education (each April, September and November) certifying that the holder has completed a prescribed program of instruction under the direction and supervision of Alberta Learning.

The diploma does not necessarily grant admission to the post-secondary institutions. Students should be aware that there are a variety of entrance requirements for post-secondary institutions and that they should plan their programs accordingly. Further information on specific post secondary entrance requirements is available from the school guidance department.

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, a student must:

- Earn a minimum of 100 credits
- Meet the standards and complete the following courses:
 - English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2
 - Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2
 - Math 20-1, 20-2, or 20-3
 - Science 24 or Biology 20 or Chemistry 20 or Physics 20
 - Physical Education 10
 - CALM
- Meet the standards and complete the following:
 - 10 credits in any combination from:
 - Career & Technology Studies (CTS)
 - Physical Education 20 and/or 30
 - Fine Arts or Second Languages or
 - Locally developed/acquired and authorized courses in CTS, Fine Arts or Second Languages
 - 10 credits in any 30-level courses (including locally developed/acquired and authorized courses) in addition to English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2 and Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2

Academic Guidance Department

Mr. Dick and Mrs. Doiron are the Guidance Department at Didsbury High School. Their role is to provide assistance to the students of DHS in the areas of program and course selection, course changes, planning for post-secondary education, scholarships, study and work skills, and occupation interest inventories. You may make an appointment to see either Mr. Dick or Mrs. Doiron if you require assistance with schedules.

Bell Schedule

Doors open	8:00 am
Warning bell	8:31 am
Period 1	8:35 – 9:42 am
Break	9:42 – 9:46 am
Period 2	9:46 – 10:53 am
Break	10:53 – 10:57 am
Period 3	10:57 – 12:04 pm
Lunch break	12:04 – 12:52 pm
Warning bell	12:52 – 12:56 pm
Period 4	12:56– 2:03 pm
Break	2:03 – 2:07 pm
Period 5	2:07 - 3:14 pm
Dismissal	3:14 pm

Attendance

Regular attendance is the primary determiner in a student's success in class, as it affects marks and sets good habits. When a student cannot attend school, parents should call and notify the school of their son/daughter's absence. The school can be contacted at any time, and messages may be left on the answering machine at 403-335-3356.

A student who is absent from school without the prior approval of the parent or school administration will be considered truant. Truancy may result in suspension. No student will be excused from exams for reasons other than illness, unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher.

Leaving the School

Students are to sign out at the office when leaving the school for any reason, other than during lunch break. The office will contact home for confirmation.

Lateness

Lateness interferes with the effective operation of the school. We encourage punctuality as a courtesy to both staff and fellow students and as a good training for the future. Students late for class are dealt with using the DHS Attendance Policy.



Conduct

Our expectation is that interactions between teachers and their students be polite, positive, courteous and respectful in nature. Students are reminded of the School Act which states "A Student shall conduct himself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct"

- Be diligent in pursuing his studies
- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education and other services
- Comply with the rules of the school
- Account to his/her teachers for his/her conduct
- Respect the rights of others

Consequences for not following the code may result in:

1. detention at lunch or before/after school
2. suspension from extra curricular activities
3. out of school suspension (max 5 days)
4. expulsion from school

Parents will be contacted with each consequence.

For more details on student conduct, please refer to the DHS Student Handbook for more information on our expectations.

Smoking/Vaping

Students are not allowed to smoke or vape at DHS or within the boundaries of the school perimeter.

Suspension will result from violation of this rule.

Course Information

Teachers will supply students with a detailed course outline at the start of the semester. This will include core objectives, course content, and evaluation procedures and mark weighting.

It is very important for students to fully understand how marks will be awarded for the courses that they are taking.

Report Cards

Student reports are issued twice for semester courses and four times for full year courses. Parents are advised to check on their students progress often through their Powerschool portal. Parent/teacher interviews are held after the first reporting period of each semester. Parents are encouraged to contact the school at any time to arrange for an interview with teachers.

Appeal Procedures

A student or parent has the right to appeal the final mark granted in a course. The letter should outline on what basis the appeal is being made. The initial appeal should be made to the teacher involved through a personal interview.

If the student or parent is still not satisfied, an appeal must be made to the principal in writing within five days of receiving a final mark.

Should a student not be satisfied with the outcome of an appeal made to the principal, the student may request a hearing from an appeal committee appointed by the Superintendent of Schools.



Student Awards

In the fall of the next school year the qualifying honour roll students will be presented with a School Honour Roll Pin and certificate at Awards Night.

Students with an 80% average on the subjects or credits stipulated below will qualify for the honour roll.

Grade 9: the top four core subjects and one option.

Grade 10, 11,12 – the top 25 credits similar to the Rutherford requirements.

Student Dress

Dress is generally a matter for parent and student discretion. Students should dress as though they are going to their place of employment.

In particular, clothing and accessories showing offensive slogans, sayings, pictures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs and violence on clothing are prohibited and will not be allowed in the school.

School Locks

The school supplies locks for the students at a cost of \$2.00 per year. Lockers must be locked to prevent theft and damage to personal belongings. All students are required to have a school lock. If the lock is defective it will be replaced free of charge.

Telephone

A student phone is available for student use in the foyer.

It is the policy of the school not to call students out of class to receive a phone call except under emergency conditions.

Littering

It is expected that the school building and surrounding yard shall be maintained free of litter by students, as garbage disposal units are provided in the classroom, hallways, foyers and outside for their use. Students may be required to assist in keeping the building and grounds clean.

Required Course Descriptions

English Language Arts (ELA) 9

English Language Arts Grade 9 students examine ideas, experiences and information from points of view that differ from their own. Students will discuss how different people take away different meanings from the same material, understanding that each individual's knowledge and experience affect their way of interpreting information. Using different sources of information, students will continue to develop their own opinions and impressions on various topics.

Grade 9 English Language Arts will write an Alberta Education PAT exam.

Mathematics (Math) 9

The objectives of Math 9 are as follows:

- understand powers with integral bases and whole number exponents
- compare and order fractions and decimals
- add, subtract, multiply and divide positive and negative fractions and decimals
- determine square roots of positive rational numbers that are perfect squares
- estimate square roots of positive numbers that are non-perfect squares
- interpolate or extrapolate from the graph of a linear relation to solve problems
- add and subtract polynomials
- multiply and divide a polynomial by a monomial
- solve problems involving surface area of composite 3-D objects

Math 9 will write an Alberta Education PAT exam.

Required Course Descriptions

Science 9

Science 9 students will begin to unravel the significance of DNA in genetics—including its role in determining traits like hair colour—and they'll identify the scientific and technological advancements that led to human exploration of the moon and beyond! They will be energized as they problem-solve and experiment with electricity and evaluate the benefits and impacts of energy use. Students will continue to develop as a scientist as they conduct and analyze chemical reactions and apply their understanding of chemistry to the world around them. Students will be introduced to 5 major concepts; Biological diversity, Matter and Chemical Changes, Environmental Chemistry, Electrical Principles and Technology, and Space exploration.

Science 9 will write an Alberta Education PAT exam.

Social Studies 9

Social Studies 9 students will discover the important influences that government and economics have on our lives. They'll focus on the rights, roles and responsibilities of citizens in decision-making processes and in the Canadian justice system. Students will also explore issues related to immigration and consider the impact of economic decisions on the quality of life experienced in Canada and in the United States.

Social Studies 9 will write an Alberta Education PAT exam.



Complementary Course Descriptions

Computers 9

Computers 9 students will develop knowledge and skills relating to Information Processing and Communication Technologies. The topics covered in this course will provide background knowledge and skills for not only the Information Processing and Communication Technology courses offered at the senior high level, but also in any course which requires digital citizenship, knowledge in Google applications and web/graphic design.

Home Economics 9

Home Economics 9 contains two units: Fashion Studies and Foods. Students engaging in CTF challenges or tasks, alternate between the processes of planning, creating, appraising and communicating. In Fashion Studies the student will complete a garment that can be worn by a person, such as sweat pants, sweatshirt, boxer shorts, vests, simple skirts or pajamas. The Foods unit combines theory and lab work. Foods will focus on safety, nutrition and basic cooking skills.

Literacy 9 (High School Prep)

The aim of this course is to prepare Grade 9 students for High School and provide further aid and instruction in all strands of literacy. Some of the concepts covered are:

- explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences
- comprehend literature and other texts in oral, print, visual and multimedia forms and respond personally, critically and creatively
- develop an understanding and appreciation of a wide range of language use
- create text through writing, speaking, listening, reading, viewing and representing
- improve literacy skills necessary in a variety of curricular high school subject areas

Complementary Course Descriptions

Physical Education (PE) 9

PE 9 students will participate in games, gymnastics, individual physical activities and activities outside of school, such as aquatics and outdoor pursuits. Through active and safe participation, they will understand what an active lifestyle involves and how their physical and emotional health will benefit from physical activity. Students will also discover how positive interactions, through fair play, leadership and teamwork, make physical activity more fun and productive.

Shop 9

Shop 9 provides students the opportunity to learn to use practical tools and explore how to design and produce projects made with wood or metal from start to finish. With a focus on safely using woodworking tools, students will leave the course having used a wide variety of hand and power tools. Skills which they will use, sharpen and hone for the rest of their lives.



Optional Course Descriptions

Band 9 (Concert Band)

Prerequisite: Grade 8 music or the ability to play instruments.

This course allows you to study music as part of a group. Three areas will be emphasized—the development of the individual's performing and music reading abilities, techniques of ensemble playing (intonation, blend, balance, phrasing, etc.) and the exploration and performance of a wide spectrum of musical literature. Students in this class form the DHS Grade 9 Concert Band.

Jazz Band 9

The Grade 9 Jazz Ensemble is an extra-curricular ensemble whose purpose is to develop the students' ability to perform in the Jazz idiom. Although this group meets outside of the school timetable it still maintains an active performance and festival schedule throughout the year. Students with prior experience playing Jazz and those new to the style are welcome to participate, but you must be enrolled in Band 9 in order to do so. Sign up for Grade 9 Jazz happens during the first week of Band classes and rehearsals will start by the middle of September.



Optional Course Descriptions

Film & Media Part A

Film and Media Studies 9 focuses on how film and TV shows are created. The course focuses on script writing, storyboarding, and the creation of stories. Students will learn different basic photography techniques to build their understanding of how film and media is created. Topics include claymation, scriptwriting, storyboarding, and still photography.

Film & Media Part B

Building on what students learned in Part A, focus will shift to the history, art, techniques and criticism of film production. Students will gain practical experience in creating films of their own and exploring careers in film and media.



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