



DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

February 2023

Dear Parents/Guardian of Incoming Ninth Grade Student – Class of 2027:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your student to Dana Hills High School – Home of the Dolphins! Today your son or daughter is bringing home with them the packet which initiates the course registration process for Grade 9. CUSD policy states that **all freshmen must take a minimum of six classes** which includes year-long courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education (athletics, pep squad, marching band and dance meet this requirement) and **one elective**. Additionally, Health is a required semester-long course paired with another semester-long elective. For more detailed information regarding course descriptions, graduation requirements and college admissions requirements please visit the Guidance tab on the DHHS website www.danahills.capousd.org.

Every student must request courses through the Student Portal. Directions on how to complete registration via the student portal are attached. When logging onto the Student Portal Account you will see that **your student has been pre-enrolled** in his/her freshman level academic core courses for English, Math, Science and Physical Education (including honors courses, if eligible). Placement in academic classes is done automatically according to district established criteria. Students may select Honors World History or AP World History if they have been pre-enrolled in English 1 Honors. If your student would like an alternate elective instead of Health, please add the selection on the student portal.

To complete the registration process your student will need to select their “elective(s)” via their student portal following the directions attached to this letter. Please note that the Student Portal will be open to complete the registration process from February 6, 2023 through March 3, 2023.

Freshman Schedule Options

All CUSD freshman are pre-enrolled in English, Mathematics, Science and PE 9 based on District criteria. Your courses will be listed in the Student Portal under “Classes” – “Course Request Entry”.

Option #1 - Standard College Preparatory	Option #2 - Alternate College Preparatory
1. English (District Placement)	1. English I Honors (District Placement)
2. Mathematics (District Placement)	2. Mathematics (District Placement)
3. Biology (District Placement)	3. Honors Biology (District Placement)
4. Physical Education 9	4. Physical Education 9
5. Health or Elective (Semester Classes)	5. Health or Elective (Semester Classes)
6. Elective (World Language or other elective – student choice)	6. Elective (World Language or other elective – student choice)
	7. Honors World History or AP World History

We look forward to working with you and your student. If you have questions or concerns regarding the Fall 2023 registration process, please contact your Middle School Counselor. The Dana Hills Guidance Team will be available to assist you beginning in May. Our office number is (949) 496-6666.

Sincerely,

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Assistant Principal

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Class of 2027 Course Offerings

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (4 semesters required for graduation)

All 9th graders will be placed into a PE Activities 9 class. Sports count toward your 4 semester requirement; however you must participate in try-outs and make the team. The sports listed below do not require try-outs. All other possible athletic teams will hold try-outs after the fall semester begins. You will be placed into PE Activities 9 until the coach informs Guidance staff that you have been selected for the team. At that time, your schedule will be changed to reflect the sport which may affect your academic schedule.

****Please note: SOCSA Dra/Mu/PE (an afterschool option) can only be selected if you choose another SOCSA course concurrently. ****

COURSE	COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/> 9471 PE Activities 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 3211 Athletic Football
<input type="checkbox"/> 3351 Athletic Wrestling – Boys	<input type="checkbox"/> 8421 SOCSA Dra/Mu/PE
<input type="checkbox"/> 3350 Athletic Wrestling – Girls	<input type="checkbox"/> 3141 Surf Class

ELECTIVE CHOICES

Students have the option of selecting one elective from the categories below:

WORLD LANGUAGES

College bound students will be required to take a minimum of two years in the same language (three years are recommended for the University of California and impacted campuses in the California State University system).

COURSE	COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1693 Spanish I (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1563 Spanish for Spanish Speakers I (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1703 Spanish II (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3033 Spanish for Spanish Speakers II (P) *for Dual-Immersion students
<input type="checkbox"/> 1573 French I (P)	

WORLD HISTORY

Students interested in AP World History or Honors World History should have at least an A- in English 8. Additional requirements may be used to determine student placement.

COURSE	COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/> 6513 AP World History (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6963 Honors World History (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> 7453 Honors World History TWI (P) *for Dual-Immersion students	

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

Students coming from CUSD: Math placement will be confirmed after 4th quarter and final exam grades are posted in June.
Students coming from outside CUSD: Math placement is contingent on matriculation test results.

COURSE	COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/> 2513 English I (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> +*2911 Health
<input type="checkbox"/> 6943 English I Honors (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> + U9042 College & Career (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> 3693 Biology (P)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6923 Honors Biology (P)	*graduation requirement + semester long course

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

COURSE	COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/> + 6402 Journalism	<input type="checkbox"/> I will be applying for ASU
<input type="checkbox"/> D9253 CCA Career & Tech Investigations (P)	+ semester long course

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

College bound students will be required to take a minimum of 1 year of Visual and Performing Arts (year long course). The VPA requirement does not need to be completed in your 9th grade year, but must be completed prior to graduation. You will have more VPA options beginning in the 10th grade. Courses that meet the UC/CSU VPA requirement are indicated by (P) – college prep.
 ** Please note: It is unnecessary to apply and interview for the SOCSA program in order to complete your VPA requirement. **

COURSE	COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/> 5801 SOCSA Marching Band earn PE credit	<input type="checkbox"/> SO639F SOCSA Dance audition required/earn PE credit
<input type="checkbox"/> SO603F SOCSA Concert Band (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> DH109F SOCSA Digital Photography (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> SO614F SOCSA String Orchestra (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> DH110F SOCSA Multimedia Design (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> SO316F SOCSA Commercial Music(P)	<input type="checkbox"/> SO550F SOCSA Drawing/Painting (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> SO624F SOCSA Concert/Show Choir (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> DU302F SOCSA Stagecraft Basics (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> SO627F SOCSA Madrigals/Mixed Choir (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> D2971 CCA Digital Media Arts (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> DU105F SOCSA Drama (P)	<input type="checkbox"/> DH201F CCA Sound Engineering (P)
<input type="checkbox"/> DU106F SOCSA Adv. Drama (P) audition required	<input type="checkbox"/> DH016F Publishing 1 / Newspaper Year 1 (F)
	<input type="checkbox"/> DH216F Publishing 1 / Honors Yearbook 1 (F)

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS (SOCSA)

Application and Audition are required

The mission of SOCSA is to provide an educational opportunity to those students who have chosen the arts as their occupational objective, plan to major in the visual or performing arts in college, or simply wish to enhance their arts education as much as possible during their high school years. The SOCSA information is available at: www.socsadhhs.org.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID places students in a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum while providing academic and emotional support and creating a team of students in which to practice the soft skills needed in the university setting. The AVID elective course emphasizes time-management and goal-setting skills, and builds effective habits via binder checks, academic Cornell notes, peer tutorial, and test preparation. Students commit to keeping a 3.0 GPA, 30 hours of community service, involvement in extracurricular activities, and taking all college entrance exams. Current AVID Middle School students must still fill out the AVID Application on the DHHS AVID website, and new AVID students must also schedule an entrance interview. For more information, refer to the Dana Hills website. danahills.capousd.org, Academics, drop down menu AVID.

☐ I will be applying to the AVID program.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL OCCUPATIONS ACADEMY (HMO)

Application and Interview are required

Students enrolled in HMO fulfill all the requirements of a high school diploma as well as college prep curriculum. English, science, math and lab components have been developed to provide a relevant application to the medical and health care professions. HMO students **do NOT take Health.** (In HMO, you will be required to take a year-long health science class in 10th grade.) Once students are admitted, HMO courses will be added to the schedule. The application and additional information can be found on the DHHS website listed under Academies.

☐ I will be applying to the HMO program.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I stay updated on what is happening at Dana Hills High School?

Answer: DHHS utilizes School Messenger. All students are linked to the District database. Parents of students registered to a specific school **should not** sign up for this service. No further action is required. Every year families will need to update their Parent Portal as part of the data confirmation part of registration. The contact information provided each school year will be used to send out important information. Important phone calls also go out from our administration, so having the most updated contact information is the key to keeping you as informed as possible. Lastly, we encourage both student and parents alike to follow us on our social media platforms. You can find us on Instagram and Twitter @DanaHSPrincipal and @dhhs_guidance.

How will I keep track of my child's progress?

Answer: Parents and students will create an account with Canvas. Canvas provides daily communication to the parent and student (both online and through daily email notifications) by showing current grades and assignments as well as missing assignments. By creating an account, you will have access to each teacher by email.

Do my child and I need to create separate Student and Parent Portal Accounts?

Answer: Absolutely. Every student **MUST** have an account in order to choose his/her courses throughout high school. Current CUSD 8th grade students should contact their middle school for the necessary information to create their account. Non-CUSD students will receive this information during enrollment. Parents must also have their own account to complete the registration process and receive the date confirmation for Walk-Through Registration.

How many classes does my student need to take their freshman year?

Answer: All freshman **MUST** be enrolled in at least 6 classes each semester. Please see our website for a full list of available courses for incoming freshman.

Can my student take honors courses?

Answer: Yes, we offer a variety of Honors courses for our students. Honors courses in Science, English, Math and Social Science have specific CUSD placement criteria. Prequalified incoming freshman have been placed in appropriate suggested Honors classes on their Student Portal. If your student was not automatically recommended to take an Honors course, he or she should continue to work hard the remainder of the year. Final 4th quarter grades will be taken into consideration. Questions about course placement can be addressed with your student's Middle School Counselor.

Can my child go into a higher-level math?

Answer: The district mandates the math placement for incoming 9th graders. The placement is based on 8th grade quarter grades for math and the final examination. A student who will be new to our district will be required to take a math placement test if they are trying to test into a class above Algebra 1. Contact the CUSD district office to register at (949) 234-9265.

How many AP classes do you offer to freshmen?

Answer: We have one AP class for 9th graders, which is AP World History. This class has no leveling options.



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Can my student take Health during the summer?

Answer: Most 9th grade students take a yearlong combination of a semester of Health and a semester of another elective. If a student wants to choose a different elective in lieu of the Health/Elective combo, he/she should select an elective course in their AERIES Student Portal during the course request window and speak to their Middle School Counselor to register for Health during summer. Please keep in mind students who do not get a spot in 2023 Summer School will still have plenty of opportunities to take the course.

Can we meet for a four year plan before school begins?

Answer: Students have an opportunity to develop a four-year plan during freshman year with their High School Counselor.

If my student took a world language in middle school, does he/she have to go into an advance level of that language as a freshman?

Answer: No. Typically students that received an A or a B in their language are recommended to continue on to the next level. If a student feels they would like to repeat the level in High School, they are more than welcome to do so. Some students choose to repeat the first year of language in 9th grade.

Do you have tutoring opportunities?

Answer: Yes, our after school tutorial program is available four days a week, Monday – Thursday. No sign-ups are required, walk-ins are welcome and all subjects and grade levels encouraged. Additionally, the Guidance office can provide a tutor list.

Can my student request a specific teacher or specific periods?

Answer: No, we do not honor teacher requests, teacher changes or period requests. A zero period may be granted to students with impacted schedules, and is based on availability and is not guaranteed.

Does my student have to try out for sports?

Answer: Yes, most sports require a tryout (with the exceptions of wrestling and football). Please visit www.danahillsathletics.com for information regarding sports programs, summer camps and tryouts. You can also contact the coach directly for further details or questions.

My student will be trying out for a sport second semester. Do they have to be in PE first semester?

Answer: Yes. All freshmen must be in either PE 9 or on an athletic sports team each semester.

My child attended a private school during 8th grade; when do we enroll?

Answer: The first step is to submit the Online Enrollment form. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/capousd.org/online-new-student-enrollment/>

You will receive an email from our Registrar once your information has been processed and received at our school site.

What is the process if my student is interested in applying for the SOCSA or HMO Academies?

Answer: The applications can be found at <https://danahills.capousd.org/Academies/DHHS-Academies> Students in HMO can also play sports. Guidance works to accommodate student athlete schedules. If a student is interested in participating in both academies, it is possible, but may require a zero period on the student's schedule. Students applying for School of Choice, must wait to apply until after approval of School of Choice. Additionally, students must attach a copy of their School of Choice acceptance letter to their application. The School of Choice window for the 2023-2024 school year is February 1, 2023 - March 3, 2023.