

AFTER EIGHT

GRADE EIGHT INFORMATION



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this booklet describing the curriculum and student life at Durham Christian High School. This booklet presents various aspects of the school program and school life at Durham Christian High School. It has been written in an attempt to answer questions of grade eight students and their parents. It includes the following:

- mission and vision statement
- levels of academic difficulty
- academic policies
- diploma requirements
- a list of courses offered by grade
- program overview and perspective
- a description of extra activities
- school organization and structure

Programs and courses of study are prepared so that students will encounter a curriculum which enables them to fulfil the mission and goals of our school. We endeavour to prepare students with skills, discernment, understanding, creativity, and confidence so that they are enabled to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Students and parents should read through the booklet thoroughly so that the choice of subjects may be done carefully. It is important that all of your questions are answered so that courses are selected which will enable you to be considered for programs in colleges or universities which will prepare you for the career you wish to pursue. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Through our curriculum, staff, and school life, we trust that, by God's grace, Durham Christian High School will be a place in which students are encouraged to live for Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Mr. Fred Spoelstra
Principal

DURHAM MISSION STATEMENT

Durham Christian High School strives to provide an excellent Christ-centred education which enables students to develop their sense of wonder at God's work, their awareness of humanity's role in culture, and their gifts for a life of service to God and others.

VISION OF THE SCHOOL

As board, staff, parents and supporting community, we recognize how much we depend on God's grace to:

- Provide an academic environment which;
 - is embedded in God's Word.
 - is creative, stimulating and interactive.
 - encourages special gifts and insights.
- Establishes a community which;
 - is conducive to learning
 - provides leadership and discipleship opportunities.
 - fosters respect and fairness.

In response, students will;

- Grow in their commitment to the Christian faith;
 - respecting themselves as image bearers of God.
 - understanding the complexity of God's work.
 - discerning good and evil in society.
- Develop their gifts;
 - acquiring solid academic knowledge.
 - gaining skills in areas such as technology, arts, science and humanities.
- Increase their desire to serve God and humanity;
 - displaying integrity in life.
 - demonstrating leadership and service.

PLANNING YOUR PROGRAMME OF STUDIES

HOW SHOULD I CHOOSE MY COURSES?

Every student has been provided with an Annual Education Plan (AEP). The AEP is designed to enable students and their parents to set goals and plan a high school program to meet those goals. On an annual basis, students will update their Annual Education Plan. It also serves as a reminder of the graduation requirements and helps ensure these requirements are being met. This process will be monitored by the guidance counsellor.

Choose a broadly based, balanced programme in order to be well versed in many areas of God's Kingdom, and to allow for a change of direction in your programme to support possible changes in career goals. Choose courses at the level of difficulty at which you can work effectively.

As you begin high school, seek advice from your grade eight teacher(s), elementary school principal, and from Ms. Dibbits, our guidance counsellor, or Mr. Spoelstra, our principal. The guidance department offers information on universities, colleges, and careers. Personal counselling and interest testing are also available.

To accommodate students with different levels of ability, most of the courses in grades nine and ten are offered at three levels of difficulty: the open, the academic, and the applied level. All students work toward the same diploma, the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). DCHS students also work towards the Durham Christian High School Diploma which has a number of additional requirements (see "What courses am I required to take").

The Credit System:

Like all secondary schools in the Durham Region, we follow the Ministry of Education Guidelines in using the credit system. The credit system is a means of promotion based on achievement in individual subjects rather than on overall achievement in a grade. Typically, a course is equivalent to a full credit. A full credit course involves 110 hours of instructional time plus home work. Thirty credits are required for graduation.

Grade Nine:

In grade nine and ten, the academic and applied level courses study the same core of essential concepts. This will allow a student some flexibility in selecting difficulty level. A student that has taken an applied level course in grade nine may enrol in a grade ten academic level. For example, if a student takes grade nine applied English they may take English at the academic level in grade ten if they take the transition course available during summer school. This is not true from grade ten to grade eleven. (see below for further explanation)

Applied Level:

Courses offered at the applied level of difficulty focus on the essential concepts of the discipline. Applied courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of the essential concepts while incorporating theoretical applications, as appropriate. Courses at this level qualify a student for entrance to apprenticeships and colleges of applied arts and technology, and some university and college degree programs.

Academic Level:

Courses offered at the academic level of difficulty focus on the essential concepts of the discipline plus additional related concepts. Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical, abstract applications of the essential concepts while incorporating practical applications as appropriate. Academic level courses prepare students for entrance to Christian colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions.

Open Level:

Courses offered at the open level will include courses such as Art, Physical Education and courses in technology. Open level courses will have one set of expectations for all students.

ARE THE LEVEL DISTINCTIONS THE SAME AT THE SENIOR LEVEL?

To provide adequate preparation for various post-secondary options the grade eleven and twelve courses are offered at varied levels and with differing content. For grade eleven and twelve the academic and applied terms are replaced with the categories as listed below.

University Preparation Courses:

These courses will be designed to include the knowledge and skills appropriate to meet the entrance requirements for university programs and degree programs at colleges.

College Preparation Courses:

These courses will be designed to include the knowledge and skills appropriate to meet the entrance requirements for community college programs.

University and College Preparation Courses:

These courses will be designed to meet the entrance requirements for both degree programs and community college programs.

Workplace Preparation Courses:

These courses will be designed to include the knowledge and the skills appropriate to meet the expectations of employers for direct entry to the workplace, and to training and apprenticeship programs.

Open Courses:

These courses will allow students to broaden their knowledge and skills in relation to a particular subject which may or may not be directly related to their post secondary goals, but which reflects their interests.

Transfer Courses:

Students wishing to change from one destination stream to another would be able to take a transfer course. These courses would be intended to "bridge the gap" between courses in the two streams. For example, a transfer course would be available for students if they wish to move from 11 College preparation math to grade 12 University Prep Math.

WHAT COURSES AM I REQUIRED TO TAKE?

To earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) a student must meet the requirements approved by the Ministry of Education. The requirements listed below reflect courses required for students who have enrolled in grade nine since September 1999. Diploma requirements for the OSSD:

- 4 credits in English
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 3 credits in Mathematics (including one senior level course)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in senior science or 9 - 12 technology
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography
- 1 credit in Canadian History
- 1 credit in Arts
- ½ credit in Civics
- ½ credit in Career Studies
- 1 credit in Physical and Health Education
- 1 additional credit in English or French or Native or Classical or International language, or Social Science, or Canadian and World Studies
- 1 credit in Arts, Physical Education, Art, Drama, Business Studies.

Note:

Under certain circumstances, the principal may waive diploma requirements for students. This may be applied if a student struggles with a particular subject. The student will be required to take additional courses in core areas to make up for the exempted course.

Durham Christian High School Diploma

To earn the Durham Christian High School Diploma, students must successfully complete the additional courses as listed below. By setting these requirements, Durham hopes to give students a solid knowledge of the Bible, a perspective on the past, present, and future life in society and a breadth of knowledge and skills with which to be a Christian in modern society. The courses required for the Durham Christian High School Diploma also fulfil requirements for the OSSD.

- .5 credit in Computer Studies in grade nine
- .5 credit in Biblical Studies in grade nine
- 1 credit of Religious Education (World Religions) in grade ten
- 1 credit in Media Awareness in grade eleven
- .5 credit in Biblical Studies in grades eleven
- 2 credits in social science courses in grades eleven and twelve

Credits Per Year

Students are able to take nine credits per year during the school day plus credited programs in Instrumental Music outside of the school day. A student takes four full credits each semester plus one full credit course which runs all year. Students in grades nine and ten are not permitted to take “spares”.

COURSES AVAILABLE AT D.C.H.S. FOR GRADES NINE AND TEN:

GRADE 9 COMPULSORY COURSES:

English	academic or applied
French	academic or applied
Canadian Geography	academic or applied
Mathematics	academic or applied
Physical and Health Education	open
Information Technology (half credit)	open
Science	academic or applied
Biblical Studies (half credit)	open
Art or music	open

GRADE 10 COMPULSORY COURSES

Religious Education	open
English	academic or applied
Canadian History	academic or applied
Mathematics	academic or applied
Physical and Health Education	open
Science	academic or applied
Civics (half credit)	open
Career Studies (half credit)	open

ADDITIONAL COURSES FOR GRADES NINE AND TEN:

Instrumental Music (Junior)	open
Instrumental Music (Senior)	open
French (10)	academic
Learning Strategies or Regional Geography	applied
Praise Group (Music Ensemble)	open
Drama	open
Studio Art (10)	open
Technical Design or Communications Tech. (Alternate years)	open

Notes:

1. Physical and Health Education is not taught as a coed class. For the sake of scheduling, it is possible that other courses in grades nine and ten will also be taught as single sex classes. Traditionally these courses include Canadian Geography and Canadian History.
2. Junior Band, Technical Design, Studio Art and Praise Team are available during the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday ninth period. There are some restrictions as determined by class size.
3. A student in grade ten can be considered for a senior level course as determined by the need of the student and the availability of certain courses.

WHAT COURSES DO GRADE NINE STUDENTS TAKE?

The following are short course descriptions for the grade nine academic program at Durham. A detailed outline of each course is available at the school office. Courses are full credit unless indicated otherwise.

ENGLISH

This language arts course attempts to introduce the perspective of the English Program with the specific objective of developing the student's reading, writing, speaking and listening ability. Basic English Skills is the workbook used as a basis of language study. Mythology, Drama, Short Stories, Poetry and Novels constitute the literature program.

FRENCH

There is an emphasis on all language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. The student is introduced to new vocabulary and a number of new verbs. The grammar emphasized is direct and indirect object pronouns and relative pronouns. The student is expected to speak French and present assignments in French.

ART (option)

This main focus of this course is to lead the student to an awareness and an appreciation of Art. Topics include: art in the students environment, art as a legitimate manner to serve God, art history and how to critique an art piece. Emphasis is placed on the student's becoming creatively active in experimenting with various types of art media.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (option)

Students are given the opportunity to develop their proficiency with an instrument through class instruction and home practice. This course is also available to students who wish to begin learning how to play a band instrument. An introductory course in instrumental music is available during Ninth Period. An advanced level instrumental music course is available before school twice per week and a jazz instrumental course meets once a week after school.

DRAMA (option) (offered during Ninth Period)

Students are encouraged to use their gifts in a variety of learning exercises involving acting. Students are involved in the production and presentation of plays for peer audiences. Throughout, this course stresses that dramatic communication is a uniquely human endeavour and a powerful means of expressing the image of God.

PRAISE TEAM (option)(offered during Ninth Period)

Students are invited to use their instrumental and vocal gifts in this group which gives leadership to the student body and school community in the area of worship. An interview and audition are required.

TECHNICAL DESIGN (option) (offered during Ninth Period)

An introduction to technical design including architecture, design and building construction. The emphasis is on mastering the skills necessary for work in the construction field.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This introductory course is designed to train the students in the skills of touch typing, typing personal letters, school projects and to introduce to the students the fundamental concepts of word processing. This course is designed to build confidence in students so that they feel able to use their computer skills for other school projects. As the student is introduced to the computer they will become aware of the computer's capabilities and limitations. This course is .5 credit.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY

Various geographical skills are taught, but all within the Canadian context. Where possible, comparisons are made with other countries, so that students gain an understanding and appreciation of their homeland.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education course in the ninth grade will introduce students to the basic rules and fundamentals of several main sports such as soccer, volleyball, touch football, basketball, track and field, and softball. Health topics include a look at sports and competition with the focus given to proper nutrition, pre-natal development and the muscular and skeletal systems.

SCIENCE

This course offers a hands-on approach to selected topics in the areas of biology (cells, plants, nutrition), physics (light and vision), and chemistry (matter, energy, atomic theory and chemical reactions). Activities include experimentation, projects, videos, and group presentations.

MATHEMATICS

This course includes the following topics: number sense (wholes, decimals, integers; powers and square roots; fractions and rationals; ratio, rate and per cent; statistics), algebra (patterns, equations, relations) analytical geometry (linear relations, slope) and geometry (measurement, constructions). Studies in math involve the numerical and spatial aspects of creation. The course also assists students to develop their skills in abstract reasoning and logic through problem-solving applications.

BIBLICAL STUDIES

This course focuses on developing the theological and relational dimensions of God in the context of facing some of the fundamental questions of the Christian faith. The course also deals with the history of the church, canon history, and introduces the topic of hermeneutics. This course is .5 credit.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

NOTE: This course is offered for those students who opt out of Core French

This course focuses on learning strategies to help students become better, more independent learners. Students will learn how to develop and apply literacy and numeracy skills, personal-management skills, and interpersonal and teamwork skills to improve their learning and achievement in school, the workplace, and the community. The course helps students build confidence and motivation to pursue opportunities for success in secondary school and beyond.

SENIOR LEVEL COURSES: for full details visit

<http://www.dchs.com/pdfdocs/programhandbook.pdf>

The following is the listing of courses offered annually for the senior grades:

Grade Eleven

Media Arts
English
History, World Civilizations
French
Mathematics
Biology
Religious Studies
Art
Communications Technology

Grade Twelve

English
Family Studies
History, Modern World Civilizations
French
Mathematics
Biology
Art
Communications Technology
Co-op

The following courses are offered to (grade eleven and twelve) senior students on an alternate year basis as they are grouped below.

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

Healthy Active Living Education
Recreation and Fitness Leadership

Family Studies
History, Canada's Role in the 21st Century

Accounting
Entrepreneurial Studies

Music
Challenge and Change
Canadian & World Issues

The following courses are offered each year to all students.

Praise and Worship Team
Senior Band
Jazz Band
Drama
Visual Arts

NOTES:

1. University entrance courses in Music, Art, and Drama are considered if there is sufficient enrolment. All courses require a minimum enrolment of eight students.
2. It is very important to be aware of which courses are required for admission to university and college programs. Questions in this regard should be directed to Ms. Dibbits.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE COURSES?

Should a student need to either change courses or adjust the level of difficulty at which the student is taking the course, the following guidelines will be observed:

1. Students may switch classes within the first twenty school days of the semester. Students who switch classes will be responsible for all of the work missed in the new course, and will be expected to write the exam for the whole course.
2. Level adjustments internal to a course (academic to applied) may occur up to one week after midterm marks are sent home. A ten percent adjustment will be made as the differential between levels of difficulty.
3. For all class switches or level adjustments, please see Ms. Dibbits. All changes require the permission of your parents/guardian.

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS OF EARNING CREDITS?

PEER SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP

A peer helping program is available to students. As peer helpers, students function as a teacher aid or as an academic tutor to individual or small groups of students. The goal is to provide the student with a coach or helper who can successfully help an individual or a small group of students improve their academic progress in a particular course. Peer helpers are senior students with positive academic, social and communication skills. Full or partial credit can be earned by participating peer helpers.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Co-operative education allows a student to develop a greater understanding of his/her own God-given talents and abilities and use these for service. It can help a student make more responsible decisions regarding further study and/or career options. Co-operative education is a program which allows the student to have the opportunity to earn a maximum of three high school credits through an "on-the-job" work experience.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES -- Independent Learning Centre:

This service is provided by the Ministry of Education. A variety of courses at different academic levels are offered for high school credit. Cost is \$190 per full credit course. A high level of self discipline and motivation is required for success. See Ms. Dibbits.

“ON-LINE” HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

The Trillium Board offers high school credit courses. A prerequisite Electronic Access course is required. See Ms. Dibbits for details.

SUMMER SCHOOL

All students are eligible to take additional course credits through the summer with your local Board of Education. New credit courses are offered for a duration of four to six

weeks, remedial courses take three weeks. Applications are usually due by the middle of June. See Ms. Dibbits.

MUSIC CERTIFICATES

Students may receive high school credit for music certificates earned. Generally, the student will need to earn grade VII Practical and Grade I Rudiments. Check with the guidance office for details.

YOUTH INTERNSHIP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

In grade ten students can apply for this program sponsored through Durham College. The program enrolls students in apprenticeship training. In grades eleven and twelve students attend school for their regular program requirements and for half days during one semester of each year attend the Durham College Skills Training Centre for skill specific training. See Ms. Dibbits for further information.

HOW DO I FIND OUT HOW I AM DOING?

REPORT CARDS AND TRANSCRIPTS

There will be two grading periods per semester with report cards distributed after each period. Parents can request interim reports at any time during the school year. Grade nine students and students new to the school will receive an interim report card at the end of September.

A transcript of marks listing successfully completed courses, their level of difficulty, the marks, and the credits will be supplied by the school at the request of the student or parent. The record of the students work is kept in the Ontario Student Record (OSR). Upon request, parents may view the contents of this file.

CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY?

Students who graduate from DCHS are advised to develop a planning process to determine which courses are needed for post secondary admission requirements. Each institution has specific requirements. Students are encouraged to arrange counselling interviews with the Guidance Office. Generally speaking, the following guidelines apply:

1. Apprenticeships: (tradeability.ca)
All students with a high school diploma are eligible to apply to any apprenticeship program. See Ms. Dibbits for information about apprenticeship programs.
2. Community Colleges: (ontariocolleges.ca)
Most community college programs accept graduating high school students with an OSSD with courses at the college preparation and college/university preparation level. Some skill specific programs have additional requirements, such as nursing (chemistry, biology), electronic engineering (math, physics). Check each college calendar.

3. Christian University/Colleges: (christiancollegementor.org/jesuscanada.com)
Students interested in obtaining a degree from a Christian College require courses at the university preparation level. Some courses at the college preparation level will be considered. If you apply to a college in the United States, such as Calvin or Dordt, an ACT admission test is also required.
4. Public Universities: (electronicinfo.ca)
University programs require that a student take courses at the university preparation level or some college/university preparation level. Pay attention to specific program requirements. Check each university calendar or with the Guidance Office.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY AT DURHAM?

- The school day at Durham begins at 8:40 and ends at 3:15.
- On Wednesday and Friday students have four classes. Classes are approximately 80 minutes in length.
- On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday students have five classes of approximately 75 minutes. The fifth class is Ninth Period during which students take drama, praise group, junior band, or technical design.
- Each day begins with home room, except for Fridays which begins with chapel. Each grade is divided into two or three groups and a home room teacher is assigned to stay with that group of students for four years. Home rooms meet for devotions, attendance, and announcements. Home room teachers will also serve as academic advisors for students.
- Many students participate in the credited Instrumental Music (band) program. Senior band meets twice each week before school. Many band students also participate in the jazz band which practices once each week after school.

WHAT EXTRA ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT DURHAM?

Along with the credited programs in instrumental music, students have the option of joining some of the many extra curricular programs that we offer. They include:

Sports teams in volleyball, soccer, badminton, and basketball are offered. We participate both in tournaments sponsored by the Christian High Schools in Ontario and in the Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association (LOSSA).

Each year we perform a play and perform and exhibit students work at our annual Arts Night. Throughout the year, students are involved in the publishing of the Yearbook.

Durham has a long, long tradition of ending the school year with a four day school Camp out at Algonquin Park.

Students in grade ten participate in Service Education Week. This includes a week of Service Education experiences in down town Toronto. These experiences are integrated into the subjects studied at school (Civics, World Religions, English, History).

The student council gives opportunity for student leadership through the sponsorship of many student activities throughout the year.

Various other clubs such as yearbook, athletic association, and intramurals give students opportunity to participate.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

When students register at Durham they receive booklets describing the full academic program and the policies and procedures that govern school life. If you would like copies of these booklets so that you can consult them in your decision making process, please call the school and we will gladly provide them to you.

If you would like to know more please call and, arrange to meet with the principal or visit the school during the school day. Be sure to visit other schools that you are considering during the school day. Talk to teachers and find out what high school life is all about. Talk to parents whose children attend Durham or have recently graduated from Durham.

Check out our website www.dchs.com under *news and publications* for more specific information:

- ▶ Program Handbook - more detailed academic information
- ▶ Parent Handbook - presented annually to parents
- ▶ Student Handbook - expectations for students (included in the student planner)
- ▶ After Eight Booklet

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