

The Chesapeake Public Schools' Pre-DP Academy

Students can find that they are not prepared for the rigors of an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program; therefore, Oscar F. Smith High School offers Chesapeake Public Schools' Pre-DP courses for accepted ninth and tenth graders in preparation for the Diploma Program.

Accepted candidates in Grade 9 take intensified courses in English, world history, geometry or algebra II/trigonometry, biology, and Spanish II or French II. Note: Accepted candidates who have not already earned one credit in one of these languages may take Spanish I or French I during the first term of ninth grade, but it is strongly recommended that students begin study of the language prior to ninth grade.

Accepted candidates who have not taken Algebra I prior to ninth grade will be required to take Algebra I in summer school before the tenth grade. Chesapeake Public Schools' Pre-DP tenth graders take intensified courses in English, Spanish III or French III, U.S. Government (AP), chemistry, and algebra II/trigonometry or math analysis. All Chesapeake Public Schools' Pre-DP courses have required summer assignments.

CPS Pre-DP Course Descriptions

CPS Pre-DP English 9

Course Description: Students study language and classics in world literature, explore literary criticism, and complete a documented literary research paper. The course emphasizes precision in the use of language, both orally and in writing, and the use of standard grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students must complete summer reading assignments and read independently throughout the course.

CPS Pre-DP English 10 (11031) State Code IB1140

Course Description: Students study American literature, engage in comparative literary analysis, and compose a documented literary research paper. Students are expected to gain mastery of the writing process with careful attention to organization, writing style, correct grammar, usage and mechanics. Students must complete summer reading

CPS Pre-DP French 2 or CPS Pre-DP Spanish 2

Course Description: In CPS Pre-DP French 2 or Spanish 2, students develop skill in understanding and speaking the language. Areas of emphasis in the course are reading for comprehension, writing for expression and reinforcement, and gaining insights into the culture of the countries where the language is spoken. Evidence of language mastery is displayed through interactive conversation, written assessments and oral presentations in the target language. A summer assignment is required.

CPS Pre-DP French 3 or CPS Pre-DP Spanish 3

Course Description: In CPS Pre-DP French 3 or Spanish 3, students continue to develop competency in the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through meaningful communication and extensive practice. Increasingly, the language is used as the sole medium of communication in the classroom. The culture of the countries where the language is spoken continues to be stressed. For assessment purposes, students continue display language mastery through oral and written assessments using IB-level rubrics in order to prepare them for IB Language B requirements. Summer reading assignments may be required.

CPS Pre-DP World History 1 and 2

Course Description: In this two-term course, students study world history and geography at an accelerated pace with an emphasis on European history from the Middle Ages to the present. Students develop skills in historical analysis and research, essay writing, and discussion. Students also use the processes of conceptual and critical thinking to analyze document-based questions (DBQ's) using primary sources. Students take the Virginia end-of-course Standards of Learning test for World History from 1000 A.D. to the present and have the option of taking the Advanced Placement European History examination. Summer assignments are required.

CPS Pre-DP U.S. Government and Politics

Course Description: This course provides a critical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret American politics (local, state, and national levels) and the analysis of specific case studies familiarizing the student with various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that make up

the American political reality. Students have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement United States Government examination at the end of the course. Summer assignments are required.

CPS Pre-DP Biology

Course Description: In this course, students explore the characteristics, structure, function and interaction of living things. The course emphasizes the role of the scientist as well as the social, ethical and economic implications of biology and technology. Students develop experimental design skills through inquiry-based laboratory investigations and compose formal laboratory reports. Lab experience may also involve plant and animal dissection. Specific course topics include basic biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics and biotechnology, theories of evolution, ecology and the environment, the five kingdoms of living things including viruses, and animal anatomy and physiology. A summer assignment is required. This course has an end-of-course Standards of Learning test.

CPS Pre-DP Chemistry

Course Description: The aim of this course is to develop a foundation of chemical concepts and principles for understanding the structure and properties of matter.

Students develop investigative skills in order to solve problems and to understand the interrelationships among the basic concepts of modern chemistry. Specific topics include chemical reactions, bonding, acids, bases, and salts, atomic structure, kinetic theory and gasses, electron arrangement, oxidation and reduction, and organic chemistry. Students develop an understanding of the moral, ethical, social, economic, and environmental implications of using science and technology in a global context. Students have experience working with open-ended labs, data-based questions, and IB assessment formats. A summer assignment is required.

CPS Pre-DP Geometry

Course Description: Students learn the principles of geometry and are rigorously required to demonstrate logical, step-by-step problem-solving techniques in preparation for IB assessments. Additional topics include introduction to truth tables, negation, quantifiers, the laws of sines and cosines, three-dimensional coordinates, and vectors and matrices. Emphasis is also placed on symbolic logic and geometric probability. A

summer assignment is required. This course has an end-of-course Standards of Learning test.

CPS Pre-DP Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Course Description: This course combines all of the traditional Algebra 2 and Trigonometry objectives with additional topics including probability and statistics. Emphasis is placed on matrices, functions, graphing, conic sections, trigonometry, and real-world application of mathematics principles. Students demonstrate proficiency in solving problems using algebraic and graphic methods and a graphing calculator. A summer assignment is required.

CPS Pre-DP Mathematical Analysis

Course Description: This course extends students' knowledge of mathematical functions, introduces them to another mode of mathematical reasoning, and prepares them for the study of calculus. Students utilize graphing utilities, calculator-based labs, probes, computers, and advanced software to enhance their ability to use technological tools for investigation and exploration and to make connections to the real world. Additional topics include significant figures and scientific notation as well as systems of linear and quadratic equations. A summer assignment is required.