

Frequently Asked Questions

Course Selection

Q: How does the school closure due to the Covid-19 virus impact my ability to enroll in classes for next school year?

The school closures have resulted in the cancellation of our 8th Grade Family Night and both Parent Drop-in Sessions with counselors. These unique opportunities for our incoming 9th graders to visit our campus, hear from our teachers, and ask questions about our courses will likely not be rescheduled this school year. Students are encouraged to reach out to their 8th grade teachers and counselors via email with questions or concerns about appropriate course selection for next year. Additionally please use the Del Norte CRF packet of resources given to students along with their CRF. The packet of information, in addition to other useful resources, can be found on our counseling website, under the Course Request - Incoming 9th tab.

Please make sure to have your classes selected electronically by Sunday, April 5th; Del Norte counseling will be reviewing course selections made electronically and reaching out to students with any course selection questions.

As a result of the school closures, it will be even more important than ever for students and parents to use the resources available to them on the DNHS Counseling website at: <https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Schools/HS/DNHS/Counseling/Course-Request-Incoming-9th-Grade>

Q: When completing the course request form (CRF) do I select 15 classes for the entire school year?

Yes, you are required to select 15 courses. Del Norte has three trimesters and each trimester can have a maximum of five classes.

Q: Are incoming 9th grade students required to select a course from every category on their CRF?

Freshman students are required to select English, Math, and ENS (Exercise and Nutritional Science). Most 9th grade students also take a science and World Language course.

If the student struggled in Language Arts in 8th grade we would advise them to wait on their World Language until 10th grade.

Depending on the students overall course selection, the student may or may not have room for one or more fine art or elective classes, or off roll.

Q: What happens if we have selected more than 15 courses?

Unfortunately students cannot select more or less than 15 courses. If there are more than 15 selected the student and parent/guardian will need to determine which class(es) the student will plan to take in future school years.

Q: What is off roll and is that included in the 15 course selection?

Students can select either period 1 or period 5 off roll for one or more trimesters. If a student selects off roll period 1 – they do not have a period 1 class and their school day begins at the start of period 2. If a student selects period 5 off roll their school day is over at the end of period 4. Yes off roll is included in the 15 course selection.

Some students take off roll because they are student-athletes and feel the decrease in classes may help them do better overall. There are students who have heavy out of school commitments and need the extra time in their day. Other students may feel four classes will be more manageable.

As long as a student is consistently passing their classes with C or better they can take one off roll each trimester, all four years. A student needs to complete 230 credits to graduate. If a student never takes off roll they graduate with 300 credits. If they take off roll every trimester all four years they graduate with 240 credits, still 10 credits over required 230 credits.

Q: Can a student take fewer World Language courses that are listed on the CRF?

Spanish: Yes, if a student has room for one or two trimesters of Spanish they can select those classes within a sequence listed. We recommend students plan to consistently take Spanish each trimester if possible. The consistency will help them retain the language better.

Chinese: Yes students can take fewer than the three course sequence listed on the CRF, however since we have fewer sections of Chinese the student will likely have large gaps in the coursework. Chinese 1, 4, 7 are offered trimester 1. Chinese 2, 5, 8 are offered trimester 2. Chinese 3, 6, 9 are offered trimester 3. If a student chooses to take Chinese 1-2 in 9th grade, they will not be able to get back into Chinese 3 until the end of 10th grade.

Q: What is ENS and is it required for freshmen?

ENS is Exercise and Nutritional Science and a yearlong requirement for all freshmen. It fills 3 of the 15 courses for 9th grade.

In trimester 1 (ENS 1) - students spend every other day in the classroom learning health, and on opposite days they are participating in physical education (PE). Upon passing ENS 1 students earn 5 Health credits. In trimester 2 (ENS 2) - students spend class time the same as ENS 1, half health and half PE. Students earn 5 PE credits for ENS 2. In trimester 3 (ENS 3) - students participate in PE the entire trimester and earn 5 PE credits.

Band students can select Marching PE / ENS 2-1. Tall Flags/Dance Props students select Marching PE Tall Flags / ENS 2-1.

Q: Is Concert Band a yearlong course and is Marching PE required to be taken with it?

Concert Band is a 3 trimesters/yearlong commitment. Students interested in Concert Band need to select Concert Band 1-2-2, which will count as 3 of their 15 courses for 9th grade. Marching PE is not required but for students who plan to take Marching PE with Concert Band they need to select Marching PE / ENS 2-1 option on the back side of the CRF, under the ENS section.

Q: On the left column of the CRF it lists UC/CSU a-g subjects. What does that mean?

The University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) categorize their admission requirements with the letters a-g. You can find detailed information here: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/subject-requirement-a-g.html>

Q: In high school, how many courses are students required to take in the Electives "G" area? And do these classes fulfill the UC/CSU "g" requirement?

PUSD requires 85 elective credits to be completed to graduate. Students typically fill this by taking academic classes beyond the minimum required for graduation (i.e. PUSD requires two years math to graduate, all other math taken fills elective credits) in addition to one or more elective classes.

UC/CSU "g" elective category can be met by either taking a class in the "g" category on the CRF, or going beyond the minimum required in any of the "a-f" categories. For instance; 3 years math required and the 4th year math would meet "g", another example two years lab science required and a 3rd year lab science meets "g" elective. Some students never take a class from the "g" category on the CRF and they meet college and graduation requirements.

Q: If I am taking Spanish 1-2 in 8th grade can I take Spanish 3-4 in 9th grade? And do colleges consider the Spanish 1-2 completed in 8th grade as one year of World Language completed?

Yes, if Spanish 1-2 is going well and you have a solid B grade or higher you can select Spanish 3-4 for 9th grade. Spanish 3-4 will be the 2nd year of your World Language. Many colleges recommend students take three years of World Language, so in your case you should consider selecting Spanish 3-4-5 for 9th grade and then Spanish 6 in 10th grade. That would meet three years of World Language because colleges include Spanish 1-2 completed in 8th grade as year one, even though the course will not be on your high school transcript.

Sometimes students who take Spanish 1-2 in 8th grade decide to repeat Spanish 2 in 9th grade, to build a solid foundation of the language before moving onto the second year (Spanish 3-4). In this case the student would select Spanish 2-3-4 on their 9th grade CRF.

Q: If I am taking Integrated Math 1a-b in 8th grade can I move onto Integrated Math 2a-b in 9th grade?

Yes, if Integrated Math 1a-b is going well and you have a solid B grade or higher you can select Integrated Math 2a-b / Trigonometry on your 9th grade CRF. Most colleges require three or more years of math completed in high school. The Math 1a-b completed in 8th grade will count as one year even though it will not be on your Del Norte transcript.

If your grade is lower than a B we recommend you select Integrated Math 1a-b / 2a on your CRF. By repeating Math 1a-b you will build a stronger foundation of integrated math and likely do better in next levels of math at Del Norte.

Q: For the Math course sequences, what does AFA mean? How is it that some tracks don't have AFA as part of the course sequence?

Advanced Function Analysis. AFA is an advanced high school math class that comes after Integrated Math 1, 2 and 3, and before AP math classes. Some of our students prefer to go from the integrated math right into AP college level classes, while other students may choose to take AFA before going into college level math. AFA is not required but is considered a 4th year advanced college prep math.

Q: Does PUSD have a volunteer/community service requirement and how much is needed for college admissions?

PUSD does not have a volunteer service hours requirement to graduate. Some colleges/universities applications ask if the student has volunteer hours from high school, which can add value to the student's application. There is no magic number to how many volunteer hours are recommended and varies depending on each student's other extracurricular involvement. Students should keep a log of their volunteer hours done in high school, so it is easily available in senior year when completing college applications. We have a log sheet on our counseling website, under the *College Planning* tab, or students can create their own.

Q: How should I complete my CRF if I want to choose a course not listed on the CRF?

The 9th grade CRF is carefully created with course options our teachers, counselors and administrators feel are the appropriate fit for 9th grade students. **It is our recommendation that 9th grade students ONLY CHOOSE courses that are listed on the 9th grade CRF.** If a student chooses a course offered at Del Norte that is not on the 9th grade CRF, the student should review department recommendations on coursework completion prior to taking the course. A parent/guardian should attach a signed and dated note to the CRF with an explanation of the family's plan for their student to prepare for the course. Any course requested that is not on the 9th grade CRF will be considered if space is available, which may not be finalized until the end of registration in August. Some courses are only available to specific grades and will not be available for 9th grade. The student should provide a copy of evidence of their completed (summer) preparatory coursework to Del Norte counseling by 9th grade registration in August.

Q: How do I get approval to take a summer course outside of PUSD?

Please see information on DNHS Counseling website, under the *Outside PUSD Courses* tab.

<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Schools/HS/DNHS/Counseling/Outside-PUSD-Courses>