

DaySpring Academy and High School

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High School Information Packet

High School Level -- When to Begin

Children can begin to earn high school credits as soon as they are ready for high school level work, when the public school system might consider them 7th or 8th grade, or even advanced 6th grade level with advanced reading skills. Public school middle grades are often a sort of holding ground where a lot of review is done while children mature and get used to changing classes, jumping up and down in cheerleading skirts, "hanging out" and "going with." On the other hand, children in a family learning situation who are not being distracted with the conflicts of plunging into adult-type relationships while simultaneously bored with review can pursue successfully what would be public high-school level work.

Since there has sometimes been some confusion over what such statements about earning high school credits at the "7th" or "8th grade" level mean, here are a few things to keep in mind.

Electives are especially suitable areas for earning high school credits at younger ages. There is virtually no difference in learning photography at age 13 and learning photography at age 17.

You cannot take public school credits earned in the 7th and 8th grade and decide to count them as high school credits.

If you use a graded level book entitled something on the order of "8th Grade Language Arts", it is not feasible to think that can be used as a high school credit. Develop your own Language Arts course instead, combining perhaps a grammar or vocabulary workbook with some classical literature and a research paper.

One possibility is starting high school level subject content and stretching it over more than a year. For example, a pre-Algebra course stretched over two years, starting at "7th grade" level, could be used as one high school credit.

Government School vs Homeschool -- the High School Level

Even at the high school level, homeschool is *not* government school -- but as a matter of practical application, you must begin to consider eduspeak terms invented by the government system for the government system. Regardless of your approach or method, a transcript is required for a diploma, which means translating learning experiences into subjects, grades and credits must become part of your thinking at some point.

Evaluating Past High School Records

Past school records are more important when high school credits are involved. Verify that you know which credits and how many have been earned at any previous government school experience. Keep in mind that in order to earn a diploma from DaySpring, the final transcript must meet the individual credit requirements for the specific diploma programs, and do some planning based on what has been earned and what is needed.

Remember that you, as the parent, can determine when credits were earned. If the student began home education mid-year and had a failing grade, *you* make the judgment as to what is necessary to finish earning a credit. There are times when the actual work in the subject may have indicated learning, but the student has been penalized for missing homework, missed classes (especially when there have been ongoing disagreements over discipline, etc.), or excessive absences due to sickness. Sometimes just plain boredom or unhappiness in the situation has affected motivation and output, but not mastery of the subject. If your student *knows* the subject, do a little review in the area and give the credit when you are satisfied.

The above also applies when home education does not begin in mid-year, but the previous semester or year had the same situations. Do some review, evaluate their mastery of the subject, and grant the credit when you are satisfied that it is earned. Do NOT penalize the student for arbitrary requirements of a system that has failed to meet their needs.

Before ordering any high school packaged "grade level" curriculum, be sure you compare the content with any credits already earned. For example, Alpha Omega 11th grade curriculum covers American History in their 11th grade package -- but many public school students have earned American History by the end of the 10th grade.

High School Information

High school students will be working towards a diploma from DSA. There are many ways to earn credits

1. Traditional Textbook
2. Portfolio credits
3. Essay Credits or Research
4. Life Experiences and work/apprentice opportunities

DSA Diploma Requirements

Standard Diploma

English/History/Math/Science -- 3 credits each
Technical/Work/Life Skills -- 10 elective credits

TOTAL: 22 credits

Academic Diploma

Math/History/Science/English -- 4 credits each
Required Subjects: Algebra 1, Biology, US History, and World History
8 electives

TOTAL: 24 credits

Advanced College Prep

Math/Science/History/English -- 4 credits each
Required Subjects: Alg1, Alg2, Geometry, Biology, US and World History, minimum composite ACT/SAT Score 16
10 electives
Highly Recommended: Foreign Language, Chemistry, Basic Computer Skills, Literature

TOTAL: 26 credits

List of Electives (not a complete list)

Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, Consumer Math, Business Math, Drafting, CAD, Elementary Statistics, Accounting, General Math, Basic Math, Grammar, Composition, Business English, Vocabulary, Creative Writing, Literature, World History, Ancient Civilizations, Religion, Bible, Geography, Social Studies, Sociology, Economics, Government, Military History, European History, Aviation History, America History, Earth Science, Biology Pathology, Anatomy Physical Science, General Science, Anatomy, nutrition, Child Care, Parenting Skills, Home Ec, Sewing, Culinary Studies, Maternal Studies, Human Behavior, Criminal Justice, Ecology, Psychology, Chemistry, Word Processing, Computer Programming, SAT/ACT Prep, Wilderness Survival, Environment Study, Photography, Native American Studies, Fine Arts, Music Theory, Music Classes, Theater, Speech, Financial Management, CPR/First Aid, PE, Sign language, Latin Studies, Woodworking, Automotive, Volunteering, Shop, and participation in choirs, bands, sports teams clubs and organizations.

Other Opportunities

UAB has an excellent high school program. Work can be done online, correspondence, satellite and internet. Please call them for a catalog of subjects and costs. 205 348 9278. Most community colleges also have dual enrollment programs available.

High School Handbook

DSA offers a complete and in depth book on High School Information. The book is \$20 and will be a great benefit to you. Contact me for info.

Accreditation

Many times parents ask if we are accredited. We are not ---and we are not seeking to be accredited. We are a church school, which places us free of state regulation that has plagued the government school system. An accreditation requires information about class size, subjects taught by certain experts, a number of fire exits, and a lot of things home educators do not encounter since we are not mass educating. Since we support the parents' right to educate their child, we do not want the government telling us how to set up our school or how to evaluate a child's learning.

There are programs available to home educators to enroll in an accrediting program, but since they are not on the list of "approved" agencies by the State BOE, it has little benefit. Also, a parent can use an accredited correspondence school in conjunction with a church school.

We are also not a private school, which again is regulated by the state. We are a church school working under the church school law. Please read the law to help educate yourself on this very important aspect of home education.

College Entrance

In order for a student to enroll in a Jr/Community College from non-accredited schools such as DSA, the following are options:

1. A diploma and an ACT score of 16 composite or a SAT Test. (Alabama Colleges want an ACT); or
2. A diploma and an Alabama Exit Exam Score; or
3. A GED score; or
4. Take the ASSET test for the Ability to Benefit program and pass.

To get a transcript for a graduating senior, you must send me grades/subjects/credits for each year. Even if you turned in forms in previous years, I will need new copies to make sure my records have all credits due to the student. Please keep excellent records of all work.

Please use the High School Transcript Request included in this packet.

This form can also be downloaded and printed from www.dsacademy.org/forms.html.

Remember to request the graduating senior's transcript in a timely manner in order to avoid transcript fees. Fees will apply if requested after 10 months, and may be a fee after 6 months, depending on the situation. These fees will be determined by the amount of time and work needed to prepare a transcript after this period of time.

Drivers License/ Permit Info:

Please obtain a school exclusion form from your local drivers license office and send to DSA office for a signature. This is a form DL-193.

A few offices have offered, instead, a Home School Affidavit. We are, by law, a church school. Do *not* use the Home School Affidavit.

On a few occasions, people have been told that they need to get this form from the school. Apparently some offices have become so accustomed to having public schools hand them out that they are suffering from a memory loss that the schools originally obtained them from *them*. Please tell them that the Department of Public Safety says they can be picked up from the driver license offices.

Work Permits and Information:

Work permits can be obtained from your local board of education office. If a potential employer tells you to "get it from your school" it is because most public high schools have issuing officers also; however, permits can be obtained and issued from all city and county boards of education all year round.

For ages 15 and under, send to DaySpring for signature in the "School Record" section.

If you need detailed information on the laws and regulations for minors under the age of 19, it can be obtained from the Alabama Department of Labor, 334-242-3460, or on the internet at http://www.alabor.state.al.us/CHILD_LABOR.htm

Graduation Ceremony

DaySpring Academy/High School holds a cap and gown graduation ceremony at the end of May each year. Fees vary according to best prices obtained each year for the caps, gowns and diplomas.

These ceremonies require a great deal of prior time and planning. Please be sure to watch the newsletters for notices pertaining to participation so that you can submit the required information in time.

Transcript information (using the High School Transcript Request at the end of this packet) must be submitted prior to the issuing of diplomas at this ceremony.

If you do not intend to participate in this ceremony, transcript and diplomas should be requested in a timely manner so that these can be properly prepared and all of the information needed is recent and on-hand. Transcripts requested after many months will incur fees, the amount to be determined by the situation.

TRANSCRIPTS *What are these and who needs them*

A transcript is a form that lists all the subjects and grades a student has earned, and for high school students, the amount of credit earned. This form follows a student to a new school or to a college. Transcripts are optional as progress reports are also optional. Since we encourage home education through high school, a transcript will be prepared for a graduating senior who needs them for college for no additional charge.

DSA is not accredited and no guarantee is being made that the government schools will accept subjects/credits the student has finished without possible testing. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure student is meeting requirements for re-entry into public school or entry into college. Colleges can have additional requirements for a non accredited school diploma.

Transcripts for Transferring Students

A student going back into public school or transferring to a private/church school, either in state or out, will need a transcript of all work accomplished during their enrollment with DSA.

We will create a transcript using the grades the parents send to us and will send the transcript to the parent, not the new school. There is a charge of \$20 if ordered at the end of the school year from May 15th to June 30th. After that the transcript will be \$40. This additional fee is because in July we will be processing new enrollees and would like all students who are transferring out of DSA to have their paperwork completed by July 1. If you do not pay the fees and give me 2 weeks notice, I will not send a transcript but only previous schools paperwork and a letter from DSA stating no work is validated or recorded.

Please help the transition to go smoothly by abiding by these guidelines.

(If you do not give me 2 weeks notice and need a transcript immediately, add \$10 per student)

If a child is unenrolled and then a parent wants to re-enroll there will be a \$25 charge for that child even if the family is still enrolled.

To request a transcript, you must submit the High School Transcript Request included at the end of this packet.

Transcripts for Graduating Seniors

A transcript is prepared at no fee for graduating seniors, but these are not automatically prepared and must be requested using the High School Transcript Request Forms. To get a transcript for a graduating senior, you must send me copies of each high school year with grades/subjects/credits. Even if you turned in forms in previous years, I will need new copies to make sure my records have all credits due to the student. Please keep excellent copies of all work.

To request a transcript, you must submit the High School Transcript Request included at the end of this packet.

High School Transcript Request DaySpring Academy/High School

Information is supplied for both Graduating Senior transcripts and Transfer transcripts at the high school level. Please read carefully the information under the heading that applies to your request, plus the information under the heading "ALL Transcripts."

Transfer Transcripts

The following policies have been in effect since July 2002, announced both in the newsletters and in enrollment packets following that date.

Excerpt from **DaySpring Academy-- Official Statement on Public school and Education**

If you think your child will be returning to the government system at any point, you are still welcome to enroll with DSA. We support your right to make all decisions regarding the parenting of your child, including the placement in the government school setting; however, it has always been **the parent's responsibility**, not DSA's, to know the particular requirements of the State, your county of enrollment, and the school with which you wish to enroll/reenroll. We suggest the following if re-enrollment is a possibility:

1. Contact the Alabama State Board of Education. Ask for a written copy of their policies pertaining to students enrolling/reenrolling in or transferring from non-accredited schools to the public schools in Alabama.
2. Go to your county superintendent's office, as well as the school in which you intend to reenroll your child, and inquire as to whether they follow the state guidelines or if they have their own policies regarding the same. Get their policy in writing and signed by someone in authority.

DSA Recommendations For Parents Regarding Students Returning to Public School

It is up to each parent to personally research options when interacting with your local public schools and gathering information pertaining to possible future reenrollment. We hope the DSA policies listed below will help you to make a more fully informed decision:

1. All records held by DSA belong to the parent/guardian of the student. Any public school records sent to DSA will be held in file until the parents request them, in writing, and send proper postage to cover the mailing fees.(\$5)
2. An official transcript will be made when the child graduates from DSA. It will be sent to whomever the parent requests (colleges, the military, or employers). A diploma is also provided.
3. If a child transfers to the public school before graduation, official transcripts will be made and sent to the parent along with all previous records. We will no longer send records directly to the public schools or other church schools. Fees are applicable.
4. Parents are responsible for knowing all requirements, both state and local, for a child re-entering the public school from a non accredited school.
5. A student must complete a full 6 weeks of work and parents must turn in all progress and attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has less than this amount of time with DSA or does not turn in any reports, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified.
6. All fees will be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent. A 2 week notice is advised- a transcript needed immediately before the 2 week notice will have an extra \$10 fee added.

Transfer Transcript Fees and Policies -- effective April, 2004

Transcript Fees

1. Requested (postmarked) June 30th- May 14th -- \$40 per student
Add \$10 for Rush requests -- Transcript mailed within two weeks of receipt of Transcript Request Form or check clearing, whichever is later.
2. Leaving DSA at the end of the school year and requested (postmarked) May 15th to June 30th -- \$20 per student.
Add \$10 for Rush requests -- Transcript mailed within two weeks of receipt of Transcript Request Form or check clearing, whichever is later. This Rush option is not available after June 15th.

Summer Break

The School is closed from July 1st to July 30th for summer break. If Transcripts Request forms are received after June 15th, or waiting for check to clear delays completion, the transcript will not be sent out until August. Please do not expect a transcript during the summer break.

Other Information

Transcripts will not be prepared without the information requested on this form. Separate forms required for each child. Include a SASE for return of transcript to you.

If fee is not included, and any previous fees incurred have not been paid, transcripts will not be mailed out.

Checks will need to clear first, so send a money order for faster service.

Graduating Senior Transcripts

Transcripts are not supplied without the Transcript Request Information. Please request a transcript as soon as possible following or just prior to graduation. First transcript requests made after ten months will not be processed without incurring fees; the amount of the fee will depend on the situation. It is also possible, depending on the situation, that fees may be incurred after six months.

Graduating Senior Transcript Fees

There are no fees for the first graduating senior transcript. Additional transcript requests, \$5.00 each.

Graduating Senior Transcript Policies

1. The School is closed from July 1st to July 30th for summer break. Please do not expect a transcript during the summer break.
2. Transcripts will not be prepared without the information requested on this form.
3. Please request a transcript as soon as possible following or just prior to graduation. First transcript requests made after ten months will not be processed without incurring fees; the amount of the fee will depend on the situation. It is also possible, depending on the situation, that fees may be incurred after six months.

ALL Transcripts

Transcript Considerations

In general, list the courses in the order completed.

Please try to remember how a college admissions officer or other public school official would view these. Make your subject listing clear and feasible from the standpoint of what the public school official (or college admissions officer) is accustomed to seeing and needs for evaluation for public school placement or college.

Avoid "double listing" of subjects. Extensive courses of study *can* be more than one credit but the subject listing should not contain the same subject name twice. Some examples:

If the student earned four Bible credits, do not list each one as "Bible," but differentiate them in some way, i.e. Bible I, Bible II, Bible III or Old Testament Study, New Testament Study, Study of the Prophets.

For two Auto Mechanics courses, use some type of classification, i.e. Basic Auto Mechanics and Advanced Auto Mechanics.

U.S. History and American History should not be listed as two separate credits. This has sometimes happened when an extensive course of study was used. These should be differentiated in some way, i.e., American History through 1860, and American History 1860 through today; or American History and U.S. Government.

English credits -- vocabulary, grammar, literature, spelling -- are generally best combined to read English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12.

Math credits -- these must be described according to course content and the general description "Math" or "Math 9th grade" is not acceptable on a high school level.

Completing per the sample will allow you to tell at a glance which diploma program the student has completed.

Remember, these are *guidelines*, not hard and fast rules. If you have questions, please get the information together as completely as possible and then call.

Sections to be Completed

All three sections must be completed for Graduating Senior Transcripts:

1. Transcript Request Information
2. Diploma Program Worksheet
3. Certification

Two sections must be completed for Transfer Transcripts:

1. Transcript Request Information
2. Certification

| Subject | Grade | Credit | English | Math | Science | History | Elective |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| English 9 | B | 1.0 | 1.0 | | | | |
| Consumer Math | A | 1.0 | | 1.0 | | | |
| Physical Science | B | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| World History | A | 1.0 | | | | 1.0 | |
| Art | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| Physical Education I | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| Bible I | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| English 10 | B | 1.0 | 1.0 | | | | |
| Pre-Algebra | A | 1.0 | | 1.0 | | | |
| American History | A | 1.0 | | | | 1.0 | |
| Photography | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| Health | A | 0.5 | | | 0.5 | | |
| Agri-Science | A | 0.5 | | | 0.5 | | |
| Music / Piano I | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| Art History | B | 0.5 | | | | | 0.5 |
| English 11 | B | 1.0 | 1.0 | | | | |
| Algebra I | B | 1.0 | | 1.0 | | | |
| Biology | A | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| U.S. Government | B | 0.5 | | | | 0.5 | |
| Physical Education II | B | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| Wilderness Survival | A | 0.5 | | | | | 0.5 |
| Ancient Civilizations | A | 0.5 | | | | 0.5 | |
| American Literature | A | 1.0 | 1.0 | | | | |
| Music / Piano II | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| World Religions | A | 1.0 | | | | | 1.0 |
| Total | | 22.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 9.0 |

| Standard Diploma Requirements | Academic Diploma Requirements | College Prep Diploma Requirements |
|---|---|---|
| <u>4</u> English (minimum 3) <u>3</u> Math (minimum 3) <u>3</u> Science (minimum 3) <u>3</u> History (minimum 3) <u>9</u> Additional Credits <u>22</u> TOTAL CREDITS (minimum 22) | <u> </u> English (minimum 4) <u> </u> Algebra 1 credit (required) <u> </u> Math (3 in addition to Alg I) <u> </u> Biology credit (required) <u> </u> Science (3 in addition to Bio.) <u> </u> U.S. History credit (required) <u> </u> World History credit (required) <u> </u> History (2 in addition to above) <u> </u> Additional Credits <u> </u> TOTAL CREDITS (minimum 24) | <u> </u> English (minimum 4) <u> </u> Algebra 1 credit (required) <u> </u> Algebra 2 credit (required) <u> </u> Geometry credit (required) <u> </u> Math (1 in addition to above) <u> </u> Biology credit (required) <u> </u> Chemistry credit (highly recommended) <u> </u> Science (2 or 3 in addition to above; total of 4 science credits required.) <u> </u> U.S. History credit (required) <u> </u> World History credit (required) <u> </u> History (2 in addition to above) <u> </u> Foreign Language (highly recommended) <u> </u> Basic Computer Skills (highly recommended) <u> </u> Additional Credits <u> </u> Act Score (minimum 16 required) <u> </u> Date of Act Test <u> </u> TOTAL CREDITS (minimum 26) |

