



HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION PACKET

DAYSPRING ACADEMY AND HIGH SCHOOL



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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 11 grade curriculum covers American History in their 11 grade package -- but many public-school students have earned American History by the end of the 10 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 electives 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, Basic Computer Skills minimum composite

ACT/SAT Score 16

10 electives

Highly Recommended: Foreign Language, Chemistry, 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.

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.

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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 Senior Package 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 driver's license office and send it to DSA office for a signature. This is 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 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.alalabor.state.al.us/CHILD_LABOR.htm

Graduation Ceremony

DaySpring does not offer graduation services but may post on the website about available resources.

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. Fees are listed on the transcript Request Forms on the website.

If you do not pay the fees and I receive a RSR from the new school, 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.

Please be aware there is up to 2 weeks processing time for all transcripts.

If a child is unenrolled and then a parent wants to re-enroll there will be a \$28 charge for that child even if the family is still enrolled.

To request a transcript, please go to our website and print the appropriate form from the forms page.

Transcripts for Graduating Seniors

A transcript is prepared as part of the Senior Packages for our graduating seniors, but these are not automatically prepared and must be requested using the Transcript Request Forms (the 2nd part of the SP 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 Transcript Request included at the end of this packet.

****DaySpring reserves the right to request credit validation in the form of our choosing to be completed/submitted upon request.**

High School Transcript Request

Information is supplied for both Graduating Senior transcripts and Transfer transcripts at the high school level. Please carefully read 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, and it is the parent/guardians responsibility to keep records. Any public school records sent to DSA will be forwarded to the parent/guardian for safekeeping.
2. If a child transfers to the public school before graduation, official transcripts will be made and sent to the parent along with any requested previous records. We will no longer send records directly to the public schools or other church schools. Fees are applicable.
3. Parents are responsible for knowing all requirements, both state and local, for a child re-entering the public school from a non-accredited school.
4. 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.
5. All fees will be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent. A 2 week notice is advised- we do not offer rush processing.

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Transcript Fees -- effective June 2025:

\$70 + \$20 for each year past actual graduation date. (For pre-2014 grads who did not opt for transcript at time of grad- Must send copy of diploma with request)

\$50 – High school transcript (Non-Graduating)

\$18 – pre college admissions transcript- enclose envelope stamped and addressed to college.

\$0 – Transcript for ins/ssi- transcript will be sent to business

3.5% Service Fee for PayPal payments added to total.

Summer Break

Please stay up to date with DSA discord announcements. We announce when admin will be on summer breaks on the DSA Discord server. If Transcripts Request forms are received during our break, or if waiting for check to clear delays completion, the transcript will not be sent out until after our summer break. 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 the 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 use ACH debit/PayPal or send a money order for faster service.

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 reach out.

****DaySpring reserves the right to request credit validation in the form of our choosing to be completed/submitted upon request.**

Graduating Senior Packages

*****Senior Packages are required of all graduating students. Payment is due by November 30th of Graduating Year. LATE FEES APPLY AFTER NOV. 30TH.*****

Senior Packages are \$100 and include: Padded Diploma Cover embossed with school name, 1 Standard Diploma, 1 certified transcript, and 2 certified & sealed 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 6 months or more after graduation date will not be processed without incurring fees.

Graduating Senior Transcript Policies

1. The school closes each year for summer break. (Check the DSA Discord server for announcements.) Please do not expect a transcript during the summer break.
2. Transcripts will not be prepared if information is left off request.
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.

SAMPLE -----SAMPLE-----SAMPLE -----SAMPLE

Subject	Class/Course Title	Grade	Credit		Total
ENGLISH	English 9	B	1.0		4.0
	English 10	A	1.0		
	English 11	B	1.0		
	English 12	A	1.0		
HISTORY	U.S. History I	A	1.0		4.5
	U.S. History II	B	1.0		
	Ancient Civilizations	A	1.0		
	U.S. Government	A	0.5		
	World History	A	1.0		
SCIENCE	Biology	A	1.0		4.0
	Physical Science	B	1.0		
	Agri-Science	B	1.0		
	Chemistry	B	1.0		
MATH	Pre-Algebra	B	1.0		4.0
	Algebra I	A	1.0		
	Algebra II	A	1.0		
	Consumer Math	B	1.0		
ELECTIVES	Wilderness Survival	A	0.5		6.0
	Music / Piano I	A	1.0		
	Physical Education I	B	0.5		
	Photography	A	1.0		
	Bible I	A	0.5		
	Art History	A	1.0		
	Health	A	0.5		
	Art	B	1.0		
TOTAL					22.5

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Standard Diploma Requirements	Academic Diploma Requirements	College Prep Diploma Requirements
<u>4</u> English (minimum 3) <u>4</u> Math (minimum 3) <u>4</u> Science (minimum 3) <u>4.5</u> History (minimum 3) <u>6</u> Additional Credits <u>22.5</u> TOTAL CREDITS (minimum 22)	_____ English (minimum 4) _____ Algebra 1 credit (required) _____ Math (3 in addition to Alg I) _____ Biology credit (required) _____ Science (3 in addition to Bio.) _____ U.S. History credit (required) _____ World History credit (required) _____ History (2 in addition to above) _____ Additional Credits _____ TOTAL CREDITS (minimum 24)	_____ English (minimum 4) _____ Algebra 1 credit (required) _____ Algebra 2 credit (required) _____ Geometry credit (required) _____ Math (1 in addition to above) _____ Biology credit (required) _____ Chemistry credit (highly recommended) _____ Science (2 or 3 in addition to above; total of 4 science credits required.) _____ U.S. History credit (required) _____ World History credit (required) _____ History (2 in addition to above) _____ Foreign Language (highly recommended) _____ Basic Computer Skills (highly recommended) _____ Additional Credits _____ Act Score (minimum 16 required) _____ Date of Act Test _____ TOTAL CREDITS (minimum 26)

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Senior Package Request

This is the first step for graduation. Send in this page filled out w/appropriate fee(s) by November 30th of the graduating school term (i.e. if you student will be graduating in 2026, this will need to be sent in by Nov 30, 2025. This allows me time to have the covers available for the graduating year.) Late fee of \$25 will apply if sent after Nov. 30th.

*****Senior Packages are required of all graduating students. Payment is due by November 30th of Graduating Year.*****

Senior Package is \$100 and includes: Padded Diploma Cover embossed with school name, 1 Standard Diploma, 1 certified transcript, and 2 certified & sealed transcripts.

Send To:

DaySpring High School
Attn: Senior Package
1302 Madison Park Dr,
Madison, AL 35758

Or email: transcripts@dsacademy.org

() \$100-Senior Package
() \$25 – Late fee after Nov. 30th.
() 3.5% Service Fee when using Paypal

_____ Total Fee () ACH debit () PayPal: dayspringacademy@yandex.com () MO () Check

Date: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____
**** Please list both parents' names, if applicable.**

Student Name: _____
**** Please list students' name as it will appear on Diploma.**

Student DOB: _____ Date of enrollment with DSA: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Expected date of graduation: _____

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Senior Package Transcript

This is the second step for graduation. Send this paperwork to me once the student has completed all coursework and you have set the graduation date. Once received, I can put together the Package and send it to you.

Date of Request: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Student Name: _____

Student DOB: _____ Date of enrollment with DSA: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ e-mail: _____

Diploma Program: _____

(complete worksheet, page 2): () Standard () Academic () Advanced College Prep

Subject	Class/Course Title	Grade	Credit		Total
ENGLISH					
HISTORY					
SCIENCE					

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MATH					
ELECTIVES					

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

Certification

I certify that the above report of credits earned is a true and correct report.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____