

Frequently Asked Questions

We understand that choosing a school can be a daunting task and there will be a lot of questions. Please use this section to find the answers to some frequently asked questions about Denver Christian Schools. This will give you a good starting point but if there are other questions unanswered we would be delighted to answer any further questions personally. Click [HERE](#) to request some additional information about Denver Christian Schools.

Why should I send my child to a Christian School?

We believe that education must be done within the context of our Christian faith and commitment. God places special responsibilities on us as parents which can be met only through a Christian education. Because our young sons and daughters are gifts from the Lord, we must proceed in faith to educate and prepare them to live the Christian life under God, with others, in the world.

In Christian schools students learn to see the world through the lens of the Bible. In Christian schools students learn that they are uniquely gifted by God to serve Him, and they learn to listen for God's direction in the use of these gifts. It is here where the groundwork is laid for God to use later in their lives to extend his kingdom. All parents have dreams for the next generation and Christian schools can help these dreams come true, to see the world through the lens of the Bible and to do God's work in His world. It's a grand view and a great task. God's children deserve nothing less!

Related Information: [Christian Schools International](#)

Does Denver Christian Schools offer a good education?

YES! In fact, Denver Christian Schools has a long history of providing excellent academic, athletic, and fine arts programs. As a result, our students are top performers year after year. Denver Christian Schools offers a challenging, nurturing Christian environment that focuses on solid academic foundations, combined with high student and parent involvement.

What makes a "good education" for my child?

Recent studies have shown that a good education for a child is not determined by how fancy the school facilities are, by how much money is spent per student, or even by how many AP courses are offered. Studies are confirming that a small school environment often invites key factors for success:

- Strong personal bonds
- Parent involvement
- Simplicity and focus
- Instructional quality
- Enjoyable teacher working conditions and job satisfaction
- Built-in accountability... promoting a culture of caring and rigor marked by hard work, high aspirations and an expectation that all will succeed.

In this environment, "...teachers expected more from their students because they knew them better and cared about what happened to them. Although a variety of factors affect student achievement, the greatest factor was the reduction of anonymity - going to a school where someone knows you and your name. Being known by your teachers and peers makes a difference."

(source: www.education-world.com/a_issues/issues108.shtml)

Related Information:

[Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

[Education World Magazine](#)

Where are the campuses of Denver Christian Schools located?

The Denver Christian High School and the Central Offices are located at 2135 South Pearl Street in Denver, Colorado, 80210. Denver Christian Schools also has two Pre - 8th Grade campuses. The DCS Van Dellen Campus is located in Denver, near I-25 and Colorado Boulevard at 4200 East Warren Street. The DCS Highlands Ranch Campus is located in Highlands Ranch, near C-470 and University Boulevard, at 1733 East Dad Clark Drive.

A free daily shuttle bus service is provided from Highlands Ranch campus to the High School campus and to the Van Dellen Campus

What is a "Reformed" vision? What does "teaching from the Reformed Perspective" mean?

The word "Reformed" comes from the Protestant Reformation and the "Reformers" who followed. Four themes distinguish the Reformed perspective:

- The first theme is that God is sovereign. Everything belongs to God, including all we do, all of culture, all of creation, every moment of history. Nothing exists apart from God.
- A second theme is that the Bible must be the basis for all human activity. For both teachers and students learning what the Bible says is a transforming activity, one which should cause us to be more closely attuned to the will of God daily.
- A third important theme stressed at DCS is seeing everything, but especially human history in a sin-salvation-service framework. God's perfect creation was thoroughly corrupted by sin. To redeem the creation, God the Father sent Jesus Christ as Savior to defeat Satan and sin and to restore God's Kingdom. Christians in response are called to lives of service to assist in the restoration and transformation of the world.
- A final theme, which has characterized DCS, is the Covenant. Just as God made a promise or covenant to Abraham to be not only his God but also the God of succeeding generation, the Reformed tradition sees Christianity from a community and generational perspective. It is the responsibility of believers to assist in the training of the children of fellow believers. This is the root of Christian education. An ongoing concern for training the children of Christian parents motivates the staff at DCS, even when the child himself does not display Christian behavior or a mature Christian faith.

Do I have to attend a certain church in order to attend Denver Christian Schools?

No. Denver Christian Schools has families from more than 150 different Christian congregations! DCS emphasizes the importance and the power of church, home, and school working together to shape a student's life.

Click here to see a [list of local churches represented by the DCS community](#).

Why does Denver Christian Schools test students who apply for admission?

DCS offers a rigorous educational program that values academic excellence. Our students come from a variety of educational backgrounds, including public schools, home schools, and other Christian schools. We test incoming students in order to ensure that Denver Christian Schools is an appropriate educational setting for your child. The assessments also help our teachers to understand your child's instructional needs.

What kind of test is used to assess students for admission?

DCS uses the Achievement portion of the Woodcock-Johnson III as our primary entrance testing instrument.

What is the Woodcock-Johnson III?

The Woodcock-Johnson III (WJ-III) is a current, nationally-normed test that allows us to assess skills and knowledge in several academic areas. Two assessment instruments make up the WJ-III: the Test of Cognitive Abilities and the Test of Academic Achievement. Together, these assessment instruments provide a comprehensive set of test for measuring intellectual abilities and academic achievement. We have selected fifteen sub-tests for the Achievement portion that measures four curricular areas: reading, mathematics, written language, and academic knowledge.

How long does the admissions testing take?

The test is individually administered and generally can be completed within a 2-2½ hour time frame. Most portions of the test are untimed, allowing each student to work at his/her own pace.

Who does the admissions testing?

DCS Support Services teachers will conduct the testing. All of our Support Services personnel have received advanced training in psycho-educational assessment and are familiar with the academic requirements of our schools.

What is the fee for admissions testing?

The WJ-III Achievement test fee is \$100 per student. If obtained through a private, professional examiner, a comparable assessment would cost \$400-\$500.

How are the results of the admissions testing reported?

Test results are given first to the school principal, who contacts the parents. A full written summary of the test scores, indicating strengths and weaknesses, will be provided for the parents. Upon admission, test results are also shared with the classroom teacher(s).

What happens if the admissions testing reveals a significant area of concern?

The examiner will make a recommendation for further testing and/or a specific educational intervention. The WJ-III Test of Cognitive Abilities may be recommended as a follow-up, to identify areas of learning that need intervention. At the completion of the testing, a determination will be made whether or not Denver Christian Schools can meet the needs of the student. (An additional fee of \$25/hour (\$100 minimum) will be charged for the WJ-III Cognitive Assessment.)

Does Denver Christian High School offer Advanced Placement courses?

Yes, we offer several AP courses each semester, such as Calculus, Chemistry, Physics. In addition, many students are able to take additional AP tests after completing standard curriculum courses and/or honors level courses at Denver Christian High School. Teachers assist students who are interested in additional AP testing and can help direct them in additional preparation.

As a small high school, DCS does not have, in most cases, a sufficiently large population of students to justify offering courses that are specifically "designated" AP courses and that would serve only students who want to earn AP credit. However, students who are looking for extra challenge can choose among eight different advanced/honors (5.0) courses, including courses in English, science, and mathematics. Advanced students who are interested are also encouraged to take courses for college credit at the University of Denver. In addition, as part of Denver Christian Schools, we have access to Christian Schools International Online High School courses. (For more information, go to [CSI website](#).)

Why aren't more AP classes offered at DCHS?

As Christian educators, we believe strongly that learning is about more than gathering facts, however important and useful those facts are. Instead, learning includes discussing how facts fit together into a conceptual whole, considering how information is and can be used and misused, and becoming aware of the philosophical and ethical implications of new information, ideas, and technologies. Most AP course outlines, because of their heavy emphasis on factual content, do not leave time for these types of discussions to take place in the classroom. Because of this, most disciplines have decided not to structure their honors (5.0) courses as actual AP courses (which have to meet College Board audits of content), but instead to design them so that they also include significant time devoted to broader issues related to what it means to live as a Christian in today's world.

Students gain college credit not by taking AP courses, but by scoring well on the AP examinations given in May of each year. Students may take these exams even if they have not taken a so-called "AP course" in a particular subject. In fact, many DCS students do so each year. For example, in May 2005, 27 Denver Christian Schools students took 38 AP exams. Almost half (45%) of the grades that students earned on these exams were the highest possible score (5), while an impressive 86% of the grades were a 3 or higher (at many colleges and universities a 3 is sufficient to earn college credit in that subject). In May, 2006, DCS students took 71 AP exams with an extraordinary 90% passing with a grade of 3 or higher!

What is the tuition at Denver Christian Schools?

Please visit the [Tuition & Fees](#) website page or [Contact Us](#) for more information.

Does Denver Christian Schools offer tuition assistance or financial aid?

Yes. Denver Christian Schools administers over \$1,000,000 every year and more than 30% of DCS families receive some sort of assistance or discount. Several forms of assistance are available. Please contact [Sean Monroe](#) in our Business Office to discuss available options or visit the [Aid & Scholarship](#) website page.

What is the process to enroll my child at Denver Christian Schools?

The enrollment process typically includes completion of several application and recommendation forms, receipt of transcripts, completion of a family interview, and the completion of entrance testing. For further information, please visit the Admissions pages for each campus.

Does Denver Christian Schools accept international students?

Denver Christian Schools has had the privilege of teaching students from many backgrounds, including international students. Due to variations in English proficiency and previous educational background of

prospective foreign students, and because we want to make sure the student placement is appropriate, please note the following:

- Before an F-1 visa I-20 form can be issued for a high school applicant, the foreign student must have taken the Secondary Level English Proficiency (SLEP) test. A minimum score of 50 will be needed for a student to be considered for enrollment at DCHS.
- Foreign students who are subsequently admitted will then be administered a complete Woodcock Johnson, (WJ-III) during their first semester of attendance. The results of this test may impact future placement and enrollment of the student.
- Denver Christian Schools does not currently provide ESL courses.

What are Denver Christian Schools' standardized test scores and what is its national ranking percentile?

Denver Christian Schools consistently ranks extremely high as measured by national standardized tests. Please visit the Achievement pages for each campus:

[High School Achievement](#) | [Van Dellen Achievement](#) | [Highlands Ranch Achievement](#)

What is the student/teacher ratio at Denver Christian Schools?

This varies a little from class to class, but we strive to keep student/teacher ratios as low as possible so that we can maximize the value of our educational experience.

What percentage of students from Denver Christian Schools attend college after graduation?

With little variation year to year, 99% of our students obtain their high school diploma. The percentage of graduates who immediately attend college after graduation is greater than 94%.

Does Denver Christian Schools offer accelerated classes in elementary and middle school levels?

In general, students who demonstrate the ability and desire to do advanced work are handled on an individual basis for appropriate subjects. In the middle school years, specific testing is done to place students in appropriate English, math, and science courses that will prepare them for high school-level studies. In middle and high school, again, students with the ability and desire to do advanced work are handled on an individual basis appropriate for their goals. Especially at the high school level, Denver Christian Schools has often worked with the University of Denver to offer advanced opportunities for students.

Does Denver Christian Schools offer foreign language courses in elementary and middle school levels?

Foreign language is offered at the elementary and middle school level. Foreign language is not a major focus at these ages since the focus in elementary and middle school levels is preparation for middle and high school, creating a firm foundation for college readiness.

Most colleges only recognize foreign language classes taken at the high school level in their admissions policies. Three years of Spanish study at DCHS will fulfill most college foreign language requirements.

Does Denver Christian Schools utilize volunteers?

YES! DCS loves all of its many dedicated, gifted and generous volunteers! There are many opportunities to serve DCS, from helping with Hot Lunch once in a while, to manning the chains at the football games, to helping teachers in the classroom, to fundraising, DCS encourages everyone to get involved! This is just an extension of helping to teach our children to use the gifts God has given to us to transform the world around us and build His Kingdom. Just ask your nearest Parent Association member, Auxiliary volunteer, teacher, or DCS supporter for ways you might be able to get involved!

Does Denver Christian Schools require students to wear uniforms?

DCS believes that students' dress reveals much about their attitude toward God, respect for themselves and for their peers. DCS is committed to teaching students discernment concerning the type of dress they choose, so DCS provides some specific dress-code guidelines, and, at the same time, allows flexibility and choice. Parental support and involvement in the dress code guidelines is essential as we strive to glorify God through all of our choices.

Does Denver Christian Schools require service hours of each student?

DCS is committed to teaching students about stewardship and providing guidance and opportunities as they make choices in service to God. DCS is deeply committed to teaching and demonstrating the importance of service to God in all we do. To reach that goal, service projects are a frequent part of student life. From sports teams' coat drives, to National Honor Society service projects for the homeless, to many DCS families involved in mission trips, you will find service to God an integral part of DCS.

Does Denver Christian Schools allow students to participate in more than one sport or activity?

Yes! In fact, this is a frequent occurrence at DCS! Students are encouraged to participate as much as possible. Although, we do our best not to schedule various activities at the same time, if they do overlap or have occasional schedule conflicts, the students and faculty work together for workable solutions.

If I don't play sports, what other activities are offered at Denver Christian Schools?

There are many opportunities to get involved at DCS! Leadership activities include Student Council, National Honor Society, Yearbook, and more. The Fine Arts programs at DCS are exceptional! From Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Chamber Singers, to drama productions, there are many opportunities to participate in various activities.

What kind of lunch program is provided at Denver Christian Schools?

Each campus provides a 'Hot Lunch' program that provides frequent lunches at minimal cost. Please see each campus' webpage for the current schedule.

What high school athletics are offered at Denver Christian Schools?

DCS offers the following sports programs:

Fall: Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, Football, Boys Golf

Winter: Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball

Spring: Girls Track, Boys Track, Baseball, Girls Soccer, Girls Golf

An informal Winter Weightlifting program is also available.

Spirit Squad (Fall, Winter) is also available.

What middle school athletics are offered at Denver Christian Schools?

DCS strives to provide as many organized sports as possible, given the availability of similar programs in other schools. This typically includes Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Volleyball, and Track.

Participation and development are foremost at this level as we encourage middle school-aged children to participate and even try a sport they may not have tried before. Many children participate in middle school sports as well as more competitive club sports at this age.

What if I play lacrosse or softball, or a sport not offered at Denver Christian Schools?

If a sport is not offered at DCS, a student can participate in that sport in the public school system. Many DCS students have participated and even lettered in sports such as lacrosse, softball, tennis, wrestling, and others, as part of a public school team.

What are the recent State athletic appearances for Denver Christian Schools?

2007 State Boys Soccer Champions

2006 State Boys Basketball Champions

2006 State Girls Basketball Runner-up

2006 State Boys Soccer 4th Place

2006 State Girls Track 2nd Place

2005 State Boys Basketball Champions

2005 State Girls Soccer Runner-up

2004 State Girls Soccer Champions

2003 State Football Champions

When is the first day of school?

Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and High School starts in August

Preschool starts on September 5 or 6, depending on program enrollment.

Please see our school Calendar for more information on schedules.

What is the school calendar (events, days off, etc.)?

Please visit the general school Calendar page.

Do you provide transportation to and from school?

General bus service is not available. However, the majority of DCS families carpool together in order to minimize drive time. This works out well for most families. In addition, there is a free daily shuttle that runs to and from the Highlands Ranch campus and the High School campus.

Please see the Transportation page for more information.

Does Denver Christian Schools offer any summer programs?

Although DCS does not offer a summer curriculum, there are several sports camps held at the school. In addition, many students attend camps outside of Denver Christian Schools. Please visit the campus web pages in springtime for more information on summer programs and schedules. Sports camps include:

- Katte's basketball camp
- Life's a Ball soccer camp
- Dig It volleyball camp
- Informal football workouts
- Open gym

Some other highly recommended activities that were enjoyed by DCS students during recent summers include:

- DU Lamont School of Music Jazz Camp
- Volunteer at Swedish Medical Center
- Volunteer at Johnson Center
- Various church camps
- Camp Counselor or Camp Helper at Calvin Camp
- DCHS Summer Baseball Team