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Dayton Christian School Announces Healthcare Pathway *Program meets student interest and local healthcare market demand*

Miamisburg, OH – Dayton Christian School is excited to announce the launch of its high school Healthcare Pathway, set to begin in the 2026–2027 school year.

The Healthcare Pathway is a structured roadmap designed for all students in Grades 9-12. It offers flexible options and outcomes based on each student's goals after graduation. Students can choose to engage with as much or as little of the pathway as they wish – whether to prepare for immediate entry into the healthcare field or to explore if healthcare is the right career choice for them.

Educational pathways are a new concept for DCS with its STEAM Pathway introduced to students for the 2025-2026 school year. The Healthcare Pathway was chosen after a series of surveys and data reviews revealed strong interest among parents and students in the healthcare field mirroring a strong demand in the local healthcare job market.

“When we surveyed families, healthcare was the number one field they wanted to see offered,” said Matt Baker, M.Ed., Head of School. “It soon became clear that not only is there growing interest in these careers, but there is also a strong and sustained demand across a wide range of healthcare professions.”

Far from being limited to future doctors and nurses, the new pathway will expose students to the breadth of opportunities in healthcare. Courses will include foundational subjects such as basic medical terminology, careers in healthcare, body systems, and a capstone nursing assistant program, offering students a strong academic core while preparing them for certifications.

“This program gives students the opportunity to graduate with the training needed to enter the healthcare workforce immediately, even while they pursue further education,” Baker said. “It’s a tangible way to connect what students are learning in the classroom to what they feel called to do in life.”

DCS is applying to become an approved Ohio Nurse Aide testing site, which will allow students to test for certification directly on campus. Infrastructure updates to support the program are underway, with a new dedicated healthcare classroom to be outfitted with sinks, medical equipment, and necessary utilities. The school anticipates investing close to \$100,000 to get it off the ground.

The Healthcare Pathway will provide a critical opportunity to reclaim the study of medicine and science through a Biblical lens.

"It's important that our students see the healthcare field not as a conflict with faith, but as a reflection of God's incredible design," Baker said. "We want them to see how their work can bring healing and hope to others, and how faith and science are not at odds, but deeply connected."

The program was designed with the help of an experienced healthcare educator with over 20 years of experience in health occupations instruction. This individual will join the DCS faculty in 2026-2027 and provide leadership over the pathway to ensure curriculum meets industry standards while remaining rooted in Dayton Christian's mission. The school plans to announce this educator in Spring 2026.

The healthcare field is not completely new to DCS or its students. The school launched a certified nursing assistant (CNA) class in 2022 with more than 30 students completing it and employable in local healthcare organizations. Senior Miah Curtner was one of these students and now works at a local hospital up to 16 hours a week during the school year and 40 hours a week during summer break.

"I've had an interest in healthcare for a while, but the CNA course helped to validate it for me," said Curtner, who has plans to become a labor and delivery nurse. "It also set me up to enter the healthcare field before I even graduated, providing a way to make money and gain experience while pursuing my degree."

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ABOUT DAYTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: Dayton Christian School is an interdenominational Christian school in Miamisburg, Ohio that serves more than 1,300 students in Grades PreK-12. It is the largest private school in the Greater Dayton area. To learn more about Dayton Christian School, please contact us at 937-291-7201 or visit www.daytonchristian.com.