



THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

2019–20 ACADEMIC PROFILE

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SCHOOL MISSION

We believe that intellectual development, love of learning, and strength of character are complementary, and equally essential, educational goals. With a firm commitment to our core values and a rigorous academic program, we prepare students to lead lives of purpose, achievement, and generosity of spirit.

THE SCHOOL

- Founded in 1904 in Washington, DC
- K-12; co-ed
- Upper School added in 1987
- Accredited by Virginia Association of Independent Schools
- Enrollment K-12, 1050; Upper School, 454
- 170 full and part-time faculty
- 71% of faculty have advanced degrees
- Students receiving financial aid: 21%
- Students of color: 38%
- Senior class enrollment: 111
- Graduates attending four-year colleges: 99%
- Upper School average class size: 15
- Class of 2020 National Merit Semi-finalists: 7
- Class of 2020 National Merit Commended Students: 25

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- All courses are highly rigorous and college preparatory.
- All Upper School students take at least five academic courses each semester.
- The school year consists of two semesters.
- Each year-long course is worth one credit.
- The Potomac School does not rank students or provide a GPA.
- Honors, AP, and Advanced enrollment is based upon departmental approval.
- Due to the structure of the curriculum, very few students take AP or Advanced courses prior to 11th grade.

COURSE NOMENCLATURE CHANGES

Please note important changes to our transcript for 2019-2020:

- In an effort to streamline and clarify courses that are accelerated, Potomac faculty and administration made the decision in 2019 to rename all courses that are taught at an honors or advanced level. While these courses were previously denoted on the transcript with an (H) under 'level' prior to 2019-2020, many courses carried different names depending upon department. Former names included accelerated, advanced, or honors. In the case of honors science courses, the course name did not contain 'honors' at all (e.g., Physics: Mathematical Models and Chemistry: Quantitative Analysis).
- The Math department has three levels: Honors, Extended, and Regular—former names were Accelerated (H), Advanced, and Regular.

Changes for 2019-2020 academic year:

- Any course taught at the honors level now has Honors in the name.
- Advanced is reserved for courses that are taught at the equivalent of a college level.
- Beginning with the 2022–23 academic year, the Potomac School will no longer subscribe to the AP curriculum. The highest level of course work will be designated as "Advanced."

*Please note that at Potomac, English and History do not offer an honors level in grades 9 and 10. In 11th grade, students have a choice of AP English Literature and AP US History in addition to the regular level. While the 12th grade English, history, and science electives are not designated as honors courses, they are taught at a level commensurate with work done after the completion of 11th grade work.

POTOMAC OFFERS

25 courses at the Honors level:

Honors Algebra 2	Honors Latin 2, 3, 4
Honors Art History	Honors Physics
Honors Biology	Honors Precalculus
Honors Chemistry	Honors SERC 10 Chem & Physics
Honors Concert Band	Honors SERC 11 Research
Honors French 2, 3, 4, 5	Honors SERC 12 Documentation & Presentation
Honors Geometry	
Honors GPAC 10	
Honors GPAC 11	
Honors Handbells	Honors Spanish 2, 3, 4, 5

19 courses at the AP level:

AP Biology	AP Music Theory
AP Calculus AB	AP Physics C (Electricity and Magnetism)
AP Calculus BC	AP Physics C (Mechanical)
AP Chemistry	AP Spanish Language and Culture AP
AP Comparative Government and Politics	AP Spanish Literature and Culture
AP Computer Science A	AP Statistics
AP English Literature	AP US Government and Politics
AP French Language and Culture	AP US History
AP Latin	
AP Macroeconomics	
AP Microeconomics	

9 courses at the Advanced level (college-level equivalent)

Advanced Chinese I	Advanced Topics in Math 1
Advanced Chinese II	
Advanced Chinese III	Advanced Topics in Math 2
Advanced French Literature	Advanced Humanities
Advanced Mechatronics	Advanced Zero Robotics

CONCENTRATION PROGRAMS

Potomac offers three concentration programs for students who are interested in intensive study in a particular discipline. Students in the GPAC and SERC concentrations design and conduct original research projects. All three programs have required courses; VPAC includes after-school and/or extracurricular commitments and SERC requires summer work between 11th and 12th grades. The number of students admitted to these programs is limited, and admission is competitive.

- Global Perspectives and Citizenship Program (GPAC): 13 students in the Class of 2020
- Science & Engineering Research Center (SERC): 8 students in the Class of 2020
- Visual and Performing Arts Concentration (VPAC): 8 students in the Class of 2020

MOVING BEYOND THE AP

In the summer of 2018, Potomac announced that it would begin a five-year process of moving beyond the Advanced Placement curriculum. We made this decision as part of our ongoing curriculum review, and in the interest of offering our students the most relevant and enriching education possible.

During the past year, our Upper School faculty and administration began the work of developing rigorous course options that will offer students interdisciplinary learning experiences and opportunities for independent work. As a result, two new courses will be introduced this fall. *Advanced Mechatronics* will combine aspects of mechanical, electrical, and software engineering in a project-based, problem-solving format. *Advanced Humanities Seminar: Critiquing American Icons* will combine study in history and English as students read primary sources, conduct research, and participate in field trips to explore the political and social currents that shaped America in the 1950s and '60s. Both courses will be open to seniors and will be comparable to college-level offerings. Going forward, Potomac faculty will continue to develop challenging advanced courses that address student interests and build critical skills.

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

The Potomac School is now partnering with Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of independent schools that enables its members to offer their students online courses that address particular academic interests and may be outside the scope of their curricula. GOA has 80 member schools and currently offers approximately 50 rigorous online courses in a wide range of academic disciplines. Taught by faculty from the member schools, GOA classes bring together students from across the U.S. and around the world, creating an academic experience shaped by shared interests and multiple perspectives. We are piloting the GOA program with seniors this year and are excited that 18 have already registered for online courses in a variety of disciplines. Potomac credit will be awarded upon successful completion of these courses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

21 credits, including successful completion of

- English (4 years)
- History (3 years: 2 world history and 1 US history)
- Mathematics (3 years, including geometry and algebra 2)
- Science (3 years: biology, chemistry, and physics)
- World Languages (3 years of the same language)
- Arts (3 semesters in 2 different areas: visual art, music, or theater. Distribution requirement waived for 4-year participants in a music ensemble group or VPAC)
- Non-academic requirements (9 of 12 seasons of athletics/activities)

2020 STANDARDIZED TEST RANGES

ACT (67 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMPOSITE	30-35	32.4

SAT (52 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMBINED	1350-1500	1414
EBRW	650-740	702
MATH	690-770	712

Subject Test Scores	MEAN
Chemistry	741
English Literature	669
French	576
Math Level I	605
Math Level II	740
Physics	659
Spanish	688
US History	684
World History	720

2019 AP SCORES

- 201 students sat for 542 exams in 20 subjects.
- 77% of our students earned a 4 or 5.
- 93% earned a 3 or better.

The Potomac School is a founding member of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS) and a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and complies with the Code of Ethics and Professional Practices.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST 2016-2019

American University
 Amherst College (4)
 Baylor University
 Boston College (5)
 Boston University (4)
 Bowdoin College
 Brandeis University
 Brown University (3)
 Bucknell University (7)
 California Institute of Technology (2)
 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
 Carleton College (2)
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Claremont McKenna College (2)
 Clemson University (6)
 Colby College (6)
 Colgate University (6)
 College of Charleston (2)
 College of William & Mary (25)
 College of Wooster
 Colorado School of Mines
 Colorado College
 Columbia University (5)
 Connecticut College (4)
 Cornell University (7)
 Dartmouth College (7)
 Davidson College
 Denison University
 Drexel University
 Duke University (7)
 Elon University (5)
 Emerson College (2)
 Emory University (6)
 Florida State University
 Fordham University (3)
 Franklin & Marshall College (2)
 Furman University
 George Mason University (2)
 Georgetown University (6)
 Georgia Institute of Technology (3)
 Gettysburg College
 Hamilton College (4)
 Harvard University (9)
 Haverford College (2)
 High Point University (2)
 Indiana University (6)
 Ithaca College (2)
 James Madison University (4)
 Johns Hopkins University
 Kenyon College (4)
 Lehigh University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 McGill University
 Middlebury College (5)
 Moore College of Art & Design
 New York University (4)
 Northeastern University (4)
 Northern Virginia Community College
 Northwestern University (6)
 Oberlin College
 Occidental College
 Pennsylvania State University (2)
 Pratt Institute
 Princeton University (3)
 Purdue University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (3)
 Rhode Island School of Design (2)
 Rice University (2)
 Santa Clara University (4)
 Sarah Lawrence College
 Sewanee: University of the South (2)
 Southern Methodist University
 Spelman College
 St. John's University- NY (8)
 St. Lawrence University
 St. Olaf College (2)
 Stanford University (5)
 Stevenson University
 Swarthmore College
 Syracuse University (4)
 The Catholic University of America (2)
 The George Washington University (2)
 The New School
 Trinity College (2)
 Tufts University (9)
 Tulane University (10)
 United States Naval Academy
 University College London
 University of Alabama (2)
 University of California, Berkeley (3)
 University of California, Los Angeles (4)
 University of Chicago (13)
 University of Colorado, Boulder (2)
 University of Denver
 University of Edinburgh
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Maryland, College Park (3)
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan (9)
 University of Notre Dame (7)
 University of Pennsylvania (6)
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Richmond (4)
 University of Rochester
 University of San Diego
 University of South Carolina (2)
 University of Southern California (4)
 University of St. Andrews (2)
 University of Vermont (3)
 University of Virginia (26)
 University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)
 Vanderbilt University
 Vassar College
 Villanova University (3)
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia Tech (7)
 Wake Forest University (14)
 Washington & Lee University (3)
 Washington University in St. Louis (8)
 Wellesley College (3)
 Wesleyan University (4)
 Widener University
 Williams College (5)
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 Xavier University
 Yale University (4)