

# THE GUNSTON SCHOOL • PROFILE 2019-2020

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## OUR MISSION:

The Gunston School offers an intellectually rigorous, highly personalized, and nurturing college preparatory educational experience. Valuing a healthy balance between mind and body, a strong sense of community, the creative process, and our connection to the Chesapeake Bay, Gunston strives to educate ethically and environmentally minded scholars, citizens, and leaders for our globalized society.

## ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

Admission to the Gunston School is selective and based on an applicant's previous school records, standardized testing, teacher recommendations, and a personal interview. Students enter Gunston as bright and energetic adolescents and graduate as intellectually and socially confident mature young adults ready to meet the demands of college with diligence and grace. Total enrollment for the 2019-2020 academic year stands at 210 students, 20 of whom are international students living with host families in the surrounding community.

## LOCATION AND HISTORY

Situated on 35-acres on the picturesque Corsica River in Centreville, Maryland, the Gunston School was founded by Sam and Mary Middleton in 1911. Their original Victorian home houses the school's administrative offices. Since its founding, the school has added numerous academic, communal, and athletic facilities in support of students' intellectual, social, and physical development.

## DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

### Chesapeake Bay Studies

Students complete a week-long Bay Studies experience each year. Bay Studies draws on both outside agencies such as Outward Bound and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as well as on Gunston's own faculty to explore the various components of life in and around the Chesapeake Bay including environmental studies, history, and social and cultural influences. Primarily experiential, Bay Studies incorporates field trips, analysis of primary sources, in depth study of specific topics, discussion, journal writing, lab work, and computer analysis.

### Gunston Writing Experience

*Junior Symposium:* In the fall, students select an author of focus and spend the balance of the school year reading five of the author's works and researching the author's life. From their reading, they devise an original thesis statement reflecting their synthesis of the author's works.

*Senior Paradigm Project:* Students complete a summative narrative of how their years at Gunston shaped their own 'language of values.' We ask students to create their own value model by examining key moments of insight in the areas of Experiences, People, and Knowledge.

### Waterfront Sports Program

One-third of students participate in crew or sailing. In 2016 crew placed 3rd in Maryland State Championships, semifinalists in SRAA National and raced in the prestigious Head of the Charles in Boston, Mass. In 2017, placed 3rd in Maryland State Championships and semi finalists in SRAA National Championship in New Jersey.

### Near Space Balloon Launch

The goal of this project is to use a helium-filled weather balloon to take cameras and scientific instruments to "near space," a region above the majority of the Earth's atmosphere that begins at 65,000 feet. Photos taken in near space show the blackness of space and resemble photos taken from orbit. Gunston plans to launch balloons each year, with the goal of reaching higher altitudes and adding more scientific instrumentation to investigate the properties of the stratosphere and the ozone layer.

### Senior Internships

Seniors who meet established criteria have the opportunity to work in an area of interest to them in lieu of taking final examinations. The program lasts approximately two weeks at the end of the senior year.

### Chesapeake Watershed Semester

Utilizing the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed as the foundation for an immersive, rigorous, and interdisciplinary curriculum, the Chesapeake Semester is a single-semester, place-based academic program for high school juniors and seniors. The program aims to cultivate reflective and confident students and leaders who can promote regional and global environmental sustainability through their understanding of scientific, social, cultural, and political systems.



### Headmaster

John A. Lewis IV • [jlewis@gunston.org](mailto:jlewis@gunston.org)

### Assistant Head of School

Christie B. Grabis • [cgrabis@gunston.org](mailto:cgrabis@gunston.org)

### Director of College Guidance

Kellee Webb • [kwebb@gunston.org](mailto:kwebb@gunston.org)

### Registrar

Kim Vess • [kvess@gunston.org](mailto:kvess@gunston.org)



**Accreditation and Membership**

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
- Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools
- National Association of Independent Schools
- The National Association for College Admission Counseling
- The College Board
- Potomac & Chesapeake Association of College Admission Counselors
- Maryland Green Schools
- Council for the Advancement and Support of Education

**PROGRAM:**

The Gunston School endorses a student-centered philosophy that encourages achievement and personal growth by emphasizing the balanced development of the whole student—intellectually, morally, culturally, and physically.

The academic requirements for graduation include a minimum of 24 credits across the following content areas:

- English 4 credits
- Foreign Language 3 credits 3 credits in Spanish or 2 credits in Spanish and two credits in a second World Language via a school approved online learning provider.
- History 3 credits including courses in United States History and American Government
- Math 3 credits including courses in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- Science 3 credits in laboratory science including courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Wellness
- Computer Science —.25 credit
- Art & Music 2 credits—.5 credit per year
- Athletics 2 credits—students must participate in two seasons of athletics per year
- Chesapeake Bay Studies 1 credit—students earn .25 credit each year through successful completion of the program
- Community Service: 15 hours for incoming seniors, 30 hours for incoming juniors, 45 hours for incoming freshmen and sophomores

Courses taken through an approved, accredited program are listed on the student’s Gunston transcript. Distinctions: **“High Honors”** is earned with an average of 93 or higher. **“Honors”** is earned with an average of 90 or higher.

**Disciplinary Reporting:** As an institutional member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), Gunston will disclose disciplinary infractions resulting in suspension or dismissal to colleges and universities to which the student applied.

**Advanced Placement Course Offerings:**

- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus AB & BC
- Chemistry
- Comparative Government
- Computer Science
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- European History
- Physics
- Spanish Language
- Statistics
- Studio Art
- US Government
- US History

**Honors Course Offerings:**

- Algebra I & II
- Biology
- British Literature
- Chemistry
- English 10, 11
- Geometry
- Literature
- Physics
- Post-Modern Lit.
- Pre-Calculus
- Spanish II, III, IV

**Grading Scale**

Grade Range	Point
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D+	68-69
D	63-67
D-	60-62
F	0-59

A student’s GPA is calculated from academic coursework and does not include fine arts/performing arts courses or athletics.

Gunston does not weight honors or AP courses.

Due to small class size and the selective nature of admissions, Gunston does not rank students.



**Adelphi University**

Agnes Scott College  
 Albright College  
 Allegheny College  
**American University**  
 Arcadia College  
**Arizona State University**  
 Art Institute of CA, Los Angeles  
**Auburn University**  
 Australian National University  
 Baldwin Wallace University  
 Bard College  
 Bates College  
 Becker College  
**Belmont University**  
 Bennington College  
 Berklee College of Music  
 Binghamton University  
 Birmingham-Southern College  
 Boston College  
**Boston University**  
 Bowdoin College  
**Bucknell University**  
 Brandeis University  
 Bridgewater College  
 Brunel University London  
**Bryant University**  
 Bryn Mawr College  
 CA College of the Arts  
 San Francisco  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
**Catawba University**  
 Catholic University of America  
**Central Michigan University**  
 Centre College  
**Champlain College**  
**Chesapeake College**  
**Christopher Newport University**  
 University of Cincinnati  
 Clark University  
 Clarkson University  
**Clemson University**  
 Cleveland State University  
**Coastal Carolina University**  
 Colby College  
**College of Charleston**  
**College of the Atlantic**  
 College of the Holy Cross  
**College of William and Mary**  
 College of Wooster  
**Colorado State University**  
 Cornell University  
 Curry College  
**Davidson College**  
 Davis & Elkins College  
**Delaware Valley University**  
 Denison University  
 DePaul University  
**Dickinson College**  
 Drew University  
**Drexel University**  
 Duke University  
 Duquesne University  
**East Carolina University**  
**Eckerd College**  
 Elmira College  
**Elon University**  
**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical**  
**Emerson College**  
**Emory University**  
 Fairleigh Dickinson University  
 Ferrum College

**Flagler College**

Florida Gulf Coast University  
**Florida Institute of Technology**  
 Fordham University  
**Fort Lewis College**  
**Franklin and Marshall College**  
**Frostburg State University**  
**Furman University**  
 Gardner-Webb University  
 Georgetown University  
**George Mason University**  
**George Washington University**  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Gettysburg College**  
 Grinnell College  
**Goucher College**  
**Guilford College**  
 Hampshire College  
**Hampden-Sydney College**  
 Haverford College  
**High Point University**  
 Hillsdale College  
**Hobart & William Smith Colleges**  
 Hofstra University  
 Hollins University  
 Hood College  
 Hult International Business  
 School San Francisco  
**Indiana University**  
 Iowa State University  
**Ithaca College**  
**Jacksonville University**  
**James Madison University**  
 Johns Hopkins University  
**Johnson and Wales University**  
**Juniata College**  
 Kenyon College  
**Lafayette College**  
 Lake Forest College  
**Lehigh University**  
 Lesley University  
 Lewis & Clark College  
 Liberty University  
 Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania  
**Long Island University, Brooklyn**  
 Longwood University  
 Louisiana State University  
**Loyola University of Maryland**  
**Lynchburg College**  
 Manhattan College  
**Marist College**  
 Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
 McDaniel College  
**Meredith College**  
**Messiah College**  
 Methodist University  
 Miami University, Oxford  
**Michigan State University**  
**Mount Holyoke College**  
**Mount St. Mary's University**  
 Misericordia University  
 Muhlenberg College  
 New England Culinary Institute  
**New York University**  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University  
 Occidental College  
 Ohio University  
 Ohio Wesleyan University  
 Oklahoma State University  
**Old Dominion University**  
**Otis College of Art & Design**

**Pace University**

**Palm Beach Atlantic University**  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**Point Park University**  
**Pratt Institute**  
 Providence College  
**Purdue University**  
 Queens University of Charlotte  
 Quinnipiac University  
**Randolph-Macon College**  
 Reed College  
**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**  
**Rhode Island School of Design**  
**Rhodes College**  
**Roanoke College**  
**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
 Roger Williams University  
**Rollins College**  
**Rutgers University**  
**Saint Joseph's University**  
 Saint Louis University  
**Saint Vincent College**  
**Salisbury University**  
**San Diego State University**  
 Sarah Lawrence College  
**Savannah College of Art & Design**  
**School of the Art Inst. of Chicago**  
 Seattle University  
**Seton Hall University**  
 Sewanee: The University of the South  
**Shenandoah University**  
**Skidmore College**  
 Smith College  
**Southern Methodist University**  
 Southern New Hampshire Univ  
**St. John's College**  
 St. John's University, Queens  
 St. Lawrence University  
**St. Mary's College of Maryland**  
 St. Michael's College  
 Stetson University  
**Stevens Institute of Technology**  
**Stevenson University**  
 Studio School Los Angeles  
 Suffolk University  
**SUNY Albany**  
 SUNY Binghamton  
**SUNY Maritime College**  
 SUNY Plattsburgh  
 SUNY Stony Brook University  
**Susquehanna University**  
**Swarthmore College**  
 Syracuse University  
**Temple University**  
**Texas Christian University**  
 The Citadel  
**The New School**  
**The George Washington University**  
 The Ohio State University  
 The University of Arizona  
 Thomas Jefferson University  
**Towson University**  
**Tufts University**  
**Tulane University**  
**Union College**  
 U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
 United States Military Academy  
 United States Coast Guard Academy  
**United States Naval Academy**  
**University of Alabama**  
**University of California, Davis**  
**University of California, Irvine**  
**U of California, Los Angeles**  
**Univer of California, San Diego**

**U of California, Santa Barbara**

Univer of California, Santa Cruz  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
 Univer of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
**University of Connecticut**  
**University of Delaware**  
**University of Denver**  
 Univer of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
**University of Iowa**  
**University of Kansas**  
 University of Kentucky  
**University of Lynchburg**  
**University of Maine**  
**University of Mary Washington**  
**U of Maryland, Baltimore County**  
**Univer of Maryland, College Park**  
 Univer of Maryland, Eastern Shore  
**University of Mass-Amherst**  
 University of Miami  
**University of Michigan**  
**University of Mississippi**  
 University of Montana-Missoula  
**University of Nebraska**  
 University of New Hampshire  
 University of New Haven  
**U of North Carolina, Asheville**  
 Univer of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
 UNC-School of the Arts  
**U of North Carolina, Wilmington**  
**University of Northern Colorado**  
 University of Notre Dame  
**University of Oregon**  
**University of Pennsylvania**  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Portland  
**University of Puget Sound**  
 University of Richmond  
**University of Rochester**  
 University of San Diego  
 University of Southern California  
 University of South Carolina  
 University of Sydney  
**University of Tampa**  
**Univer of Tennessee, Knoxville**  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Tulsa  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Virginia  
**University of Washington**  
 University of Wisconsin—Madison  
 University of Wyoming  
 Ursinus College  
 Villanova University  
**Virginia Commonwealth Univer**  
 Virginia Military Institute  
**Virginia Tech**  
 Virginia Wesleyan University  
**Wagner College**  
**Wake Forest University**  
 Washington & Jefferson College  
**Washington and Lee University**  
**Washington College**  
**Wesley College**  
**West Virginia University**  
 Western State Colorado University  
 Western Washington University  
 Wheaton College  
**Widener University**  
**Wilson College**  
 Wofford College  
**Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**York College of Pennsylvania**