



THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

2021–22 ACADEMIC PROFILE

1301 Potomac School Road
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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, 1,066; Upper School, 462
- 182 full and part-time faculty
- 71% of faculty have advanced degrees
- Students receiving financial aid: 20%
- Students of color: 42%
- Senior class enrollment: 108
- Graduates attending four-year colleges: 100%
- Upper School average class size: 15
- Class of 2022 National Merit Semi-finalists: 8
- Class of 2022 National Merit Commended Students: 34

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.
- 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.
- 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 either AP U.S. History or Advanced U.S. 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.
- The Potomac School does not rank students or provide a GPA.

COURSE NOMENCLATURE CHANGES (as of 2019-20)

- 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 denoted on the transcript with an (H) under 'level' prior to 2019–20, many courses carried different names depending upon department. Former names included accelerated, advanced, and 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.

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 2022
- Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC): 11 students in the Class of 2022
- Visual and Performing Arts Concentration (VPAC): 7 students in the Class of 2022 – 1 Music, 1 Studio Art, 5 Theatre

POTOMAC COURSE OFFERINGS

26 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: Chemistry & Physics
Honors Concert Band	Honors SERC: Science & Engineering
Honors French 2, 3, 4	Honors SERC 11: Research
Honors Geometry	Honors SERC 12: Documentation & Presentation
Honors GPAC: Global Studies	
Honors GPAC: Research	
Honors Greek	
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
AP Calculus BC	AP Physics: Electricity & Magnetism
AP Chemistry	AP Spanish Language & Culture
AP Comparative Government & Politics	AP Spanish Literature & Culture
AP Computer Science A	AP Statistics
AP English Literature	AP U.S. Government & Politics
AP French Language & Culture	AP U.S. History
AP Latin	
AP Macroeconomics	
AP Microeconomics	

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

Advanced Chinese I	Advanced Humanities
Advanced Chinese II	Advanced Computer Science: Python
Advanced Francophone Literature	Advanced Organic Chemistry
Advanced Mechatronics	Advanced United States History
Advanced Linear Algebra	
Advanced Multivariable Calculus	

MOVING BEYOND THE AP

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.” 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.

Over the past two years, 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. Potomac faculty continue to develop challenging advanced courses that address student interests and build critical skills.

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

The Potomac School partners 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. Potomac credit is 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 U.S. 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 theatre. Distribution requirement waived for 4-year participants in a music ensemble group or VPAC)
- Non-academic requirements (9 of 12 seasons of athletics/activities)

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.

2021–22 STANDARDIZED TEST RANGES

ACT (44 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMPOSITE	29-34	31.3

SAT (68 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMBINED	1375-1505	1439
EBRW	670-750	709
MATH	690-780	730

AP SCORES

- 89 members of the Class of 2022 sat for 221 exams in 15 subjects in May 2021.
- 80% of them earned a 4 or 5.
- 95% earned a 3 or better.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST 2018-2021

American University (2)	Indiana University (7)	Tufts University (8)
Amherst College (4)	Ithaca College (2)	Tulane University (12)
Auburn University	James Madison University (4)	United States Naval Academy
Barnard College	Johns Hopkins University	University of California, Berkeley (2)
Bentley University	Kenyon College (2)	University of California, Davis
Berklee College of Music	Lehigh University (3)	University of California, Los Angeles (3)
Boston College (9)	Manhattan College	University of California, Santa Cruz
Boston University (7)	Marymount University	University of Chicago (9)
Bowdoin College (2)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)	University of Colorado, Boulder
Brown University (5)	McGill University	University of Denver (3)
Bucknell University (8)	Michigan State University	University of Edinburgh (2)
California Institute of Technology	Middlebury College (2)	University of Florida
Carleton College	Moore College of Art & Design	University of Georgia (2)
Carnegie Mellon University	New York University (8)	University of Mary Washington
Case Western Reserve University	Northeastern University (6)	University of Maryland, College Park (3)
Claremont McKenna College	Northern Virginia Community College	University of Miami
Clemson University (5)	Northwestern University (7)	University of Michigan (9)
Colby College (3)	Oberlin College	University of Northern Colorado
Colgate University (6)	Occidental College	University of Notre Dame (5)
College of Charleston	Old Dominion University	University of Pennsylvania (9)
College of William & Mary (22)	Pennsylvania State University (3)	University of Pittsburgh
College of Wooster	Pitzer College	University of Richmond (3)
Colorado College (2)	Pomona College (2)	University of Rochester (2)
Columbia University (4)	Pratt Institute	University of San Diego
Connecticut College (2)	Princeton University (4)	University of South Carolina (2)
Cornell University (3)	Purdue University	University of Southern California (3)
Dartmouth College (8)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (3)	University of St. Andrews (4)
Davidson College (2)	Rhode Island School of Design (2)	University of Virginia (30)
Drexel University (2)	Rice University (4)	University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)
Duke University (7)	Saint Anselm College	Vanderbilt University (3)
Elon University (2)	Santa Clara University (6)	Vassar College (2)
Emerson College (2)	Sarah Lawrence College	Villanova University
Emory University (4)	Skidmore College (2)	Virginia Commonwealth University
Fordham University (3)	Southern Methodist University (5)	Virginia Tech (5)
Franklin & Marshall College (3)	Spelman College	Wake Forest University (15)
George Mason University	St. Lawrence University	Washington & Lee University (8)
Georgetown University (9)	St. Olaf College	Washington University in St. Louis (8)
Georgia Institute of Technology (2)	Stanford University (8)	Wesleyan University (3)
Hamilton College (4)	Stevenson University	Widener University
Harvard University (12)	Syracuse University (5)	Williams College (5)
Haverford College	Texas Christian University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (2)
High Point University	The Catholic University of America (2)	Xavier University
Imperial College London	Trinity College, Dublin (3)	Yale University (3)