



INSIDE THE

# CLASSROOM

Eager, engaged, and curious, Greenwich Academy Upper School girls are **consummate learners.** Coordination with our brother school, Brunswick, gives them access to over 200 courses on both campuses. Classes tend to be small and intimate, most numbering between 10 and 15. It's not unusual for a student, particularly when she reaches higher levels in a subject, to be in a class of fewer than eight.

## FACULTY

Of all our resources, by far our most valuable is our faculty. Experts in their fields, most of our teachers hold advanced degrees and routinely engage in professional development to keep their content relevant and engaging. Just as importantly, they are compassionate, dynamic, and committed to innovation. They are accessible outside the classroom and invested in their students' success. The majority of alums cite the faculty—both the experience learning from them and the personal bonds forged with them—as one of their favorite aspects of a GA education.

## SCHEDULE

GA girls begin their days at 7:45 AM and end by 2:40 PM. Classes are on a seven-day rotating schedule, with seven course slots in each girl's schedule (one a free block) and five periods a day. Classes run between 50 minutes and an hour to allow for work on projects and science labs. Students have 10 minutes between classes—ample time to travel between GA and Brunswick's buildings on North Maple and Maher Avenues. Girls quickly get into a rhythm with their schedules, using a planner to stay organized.

Time is built into the schedule to allow for assemblies and celebrations, and several times a year the schedule is adjusted further, as in the case of visiting authors and speakers, our annual science and social justice symposium, school traditions, and class trips.

## COORDINATION

For 50 years, Greenwich Academy and Brunswick, our all-boys brother school, have cross-enrolled Upper School classes. That means that GA students have boys in most of their classes (and vice versa), and will take classes at GA and across the street at Brunswick's Upper School campus. Where we believe it makes a positive difference, we keep classes single sex, as in the case of math and computer science. Ultimately, coordination with Brunswick means that GA students have the benefits of a school that focuses on their development and needs as young women, but also introduces them to new classmates and exposes them to coeducation in preparation for life beyond graduation.

## CLASSES

The breadth of course offerings at GA and Brunswick is remarkable: 200 courses in twice as many sections. Students can take both survey courses offering broad overviews (like Modern World History or American Literature) and classes that drill deeply (like Behavioral Economics, Modern Middle East, and Genetics). Students can also take an expedition course culminating in a field trip domestically or abroad, as in the case of our Honors Civil Rights Seminar and Honors Biology. Ninety-six percent of students get their first choice of courses when they enroll, which means girls seldom have to wait to pursue new interests, and can also take those interests far over the course of high school.



## HONORS & ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

Intrinsic in GA girls is a desire to be challenged. One way our students fulfill this desire is by taking Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. With over ninety to choose from, they are always popular options—not to mention experiences of which students are proud and fond.

Each Advanced Placement course shares a standard college-level curriculum outlined by the College Board and entails a comprehensive test in the spring administered nation-wide. The AP curriculum, however, is not wholly prescribed; as long as they cover general content and cultivate certain skills, teachers have the freedom to plan lessons according to their priorities, strengths and particular students. Although some colleges accept AP credits, more often GA students take these courses for their rigor, comprehensiveness, and for the opportunity to demonstrate the depth of their understanding in a broad national context. We have observed a correlation, too, between the AP courses a student takes and the subjects she pursues in college.

## SEMINAR COURSES

What if a student tackles practically every advanced Honors and AP course available to her in a discipline? What if she's eager and prepared to do more sophisticated college level work? Then she can opt to take a seminar course. In these, small groups of students work under the guidance of teachers to learn skill sets typically taught in college. These classes sometimes draw from, or are taught remotely by, college professors. Some of these options include:

- Honors Humanities and Social Science Research Seminar
- Honors Engineering and Computer Science Seminar
- Honors Science Research
- Honors English Seminar on Literature
- Honors French Seminar
- Honors Latin Studies
- Stanford Advanced Mathematics