



2023-2024
Program of Studies

GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

Our Mission*

George Stevens Academy is a town academy on the coast of Maine. Founded in 1852, we are the high school for nearly all students from the seven towns in our rural community. We also enroll private-pay day and boarding students from around the world. Our students' interests, talents, and aspirations reflect the diversity of the communities from which they come.

GSA provides a comprehensive and challenging education for all students, for those who will build futures in surrounding communities and for those who will make lives elsewhere in the world. Our many academic and experiential programs foster a love of knowledge, inspire creativity, instill self-confidence, encourage good character, and prepare each graduate for a purposeful life in a changing world. *(Approved by the Board of Trustees on April 25, 2019)*

Our Vision**

- We will be a vibrant learning community that proudly reflects the diversity of students from our surrounding towns, as well as those from elsewhere in the world, enabling them to thrive now and in the future.
- We will provide all GSA students with an education that helps them pursue whatever jobs and career paths they choose, so that when they succeed, they and their communities will be the better for it.
- We recognize that a GSA education is not just a matter of cultivating intellectual and creative strengths but also requires caring for students' physical and emotional needs. Everything we do will be stamped with this conviction.
- We will be seen as a community resource, in the belief that schools and their communities make each other stronger. We will expand school-community partnerships and real-world learning opportunities that engage students and community members in shared activities and projects for the benefit of both.
- We will have a safe, attractive, functional, and cost-efficient facility that supports our current programming well and has the flexibility to adapt to changing needs in the future.
- We will be financially sustainable, with the resources we need to maintain GSA's facilities and provide for every GSA student's needs. We will grow our endowment, meet more ambitious annual GSA Fund goals, and benefit from the support of sending towns that recognize the indispensable value of a strong high school in their community.

**Our mission says who we are and what we do.*

***Our vision sets out our broad goals for the future. We are well on our way to accomplishing some of these, others will take longer, but all are attainable with community support.*

January 2023

Dear George Stevens Academy students and parents,

Students are the heart of a school, and the curriculum is the heart of what students and teachers do together at school. The Program of Studies describes the curriculum GSA has developed to prepare students for many aspects of life after high school.

There are many different goals for a curriculum. Sometimes we learn because it satisfies our curiosity, or is self-fulfilling, or expands who we are. Sometimes we learn because it prepares us for later education, or for a career, or to be good citizens of our community. All of these aspects of learning are found within the curriculum at GSA.

Our curriculum has both breadth and depth. There is a set of common knowledge and experience that all students, and all people, should have. All students should know something about, among other things, American literature, the creative arts, biology, mathematics, and world history, so all students take courses in these areas. But students are also individuals, and we make sure that our curriculum allows for individuality and depth of study; students can follow their unique interests by pursuing multiple courses in an area of expertise or broaden their experience by sampling from our wide array of electives.

GSA offers many ways for students to individualize some of their learning beyond the curriculum listed in the Program of Studies: Alternative Courses, Independent Study (ISIP), AP4ME, and links to college and online course opportunities through GSA. Students can find out more about these opportunities through their advisor, who will be their guide through their years at GSA.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stearns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Stearns

Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE DIPLOMA

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves throughout their years at GSA by taking an ambitious course of study to prepare themselves well for their futures. Faculty advisors and the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction are available to help students plan their schedules.

The George Stevens Academy diploma is conferred upon students who have satisfactorily met the requirements described below. Participation in the graduation ceremony is reserved for students who have met all graduation requirements at the time of graduation.

Minimum Credit & Distribution Requirements

- 4 credits of English (must include Senior English or AP English Language and Composition)
- 3 credits of mathematics (must include two credits of algebra or higher level analytic math courses plus one credit of geometry)
- 3 credits of science
- 3 credits of social science (must include U.S. history)
- 1 credit of physical education
- 1 credit of visual and performing arts
- ½ credit of health
- 6½ credits of electives
- Ninth-Grade Seminar (up to ½ credit)
- Advisory (¼ credit per year)

Total (prorated for students who enter after 9th grade)

Class of 2024: 22.5 credits, 25 hours community service

Class of 2025: 22.75 credits, 50 hours community service

Class of 2026 (and following): 23 credits, 100 hours of community service

Minimum Course Load

All students are required to carry a minimum of three (3) academic courses each quarter.

Honors Course Policies

Honors courses challenge students to pursue a subject more deeply, more intensively, and more rigorously. Honors course enrollment policies are as follows:

- New students will discuss the appropriateness of taking an honors course with the admissions officer as they register for classes.
- A student enrolled in an honors course at GSA must achieve a final grade of 80 or better in order to enroll in the next level honors course in that department unless an alternative non-honors course is unavailable.
- A student who earns a final grade of 90 or better in a standard-level course, or who has an average of 87 for the course AND a 90 for the second quarter, may enroll in the honors level in the next appropriate course in that department.

Courses Requiring the Approval of the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

The Dean of Curriculum and Instruction must approve in advance Alternative Courses and courses taken for credit outside George Stevens Academy.

For more details about academic policies, consult the Student-Parent Handbook.

COURSE SELECTION AND POST-GRADUATE PLANNING

As you think about what courses to choose each year, it may be helpful to know what colleges expect when students apply for admission. GSA's curriculum is designed to prepare students for a very broad range of colleges, from the most selective four-year institutions to two-year community colleges and programs that offer specialized training for particular careers. Following is a general guide to the recommendations of colleges in each category, but each student's situation is unique, so it is important to have a personalized conversation with our college and career counselor regarding your aspirations and course planning. Keep in mind that these guidelines represent the basic academic requirements for colleges in each category. Students should also take courses in the arts and technology, and participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, such as sports, theater, community service, or student government.

Most selective colleges

These schools include the Ivy League schools, liberal arts colleges such as Bowdoin, Colby, Colgate, Middlebury, Smith, and Williams, and public universities such as the University of Virginia, University of North Carolina, and the flagship schools of the University of California system, such as UCLA and UC Berkeley. Applicants should pursue the most challenging courses in every subject area, including

- 4 credits of English, including AP English Literature and AP English Language and Composition;
- 4 credits of math, preferably including an AP course;
- 3-4 credits of social studies, including AP U.S. history;
- 3-4 credits of science, including honors or AP biology, chemistry, and physics;
- 3-4 credits of the same foreign language at the honors level.

Very selective colleges

Colleges in this group include such popular schools as Boston University, Skidmore College, Connecticut College, University of Rochester, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Successful applicants pursue a challenging program of honors or AP courses in most subjects, including

- 4 credits of English, including AP English Literature and AP English Language and Composition;
- 4 credits of math, including Precalculus;
- 3-4 credits of social studies, including at least one honors or AP course;
- 3-4 credits of science, including honors courses in biology and chemistry;
- 3 credits of the same foreign language, preferably at the honors level.

Selective colleges/Less selective colleges

Colleges in the selective group include Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Vermont, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Clark University, and Wheaton College. Less selective colleges include the University of Maine, Husson University, and University of New England. Students hoping to attend schools in either category should take the following, including honors or AP courses in some subjects:

- 4 credits of English;
- 3 credits of math, including two years of algebra and one of geometry;
- 3 credits of social studies, including U.S. History;
- 2-3 credits of science, including biology and chemistry;
- 2-3 credits of the same foreign language.

Community colleges or certificate programs

Community colleges offer a broad range of two-year programs leading to an associate's degree or a certificate in a specific skill or profession. They typically require the following:

- 4 credits of English;
- 3 credits of math, including two years of algebra and one of geometry;
- 3 credits of social studies;
- 2-3 credits of science, preferably including biology and chemistry;
- 2 credits of the same foreign language.

Entering the workforce or the military

Some GSA students choose not to apply to college as seniors, instead seeking other opportunities. Those students should usually follow a program in their first years of high school that will prepare them for some post-secondary education, in case that is the choice they do make, either directly after graduation, or later. So these students should plan their courses around the requirements of selective colleges or community colleges or certificate programs.

Additionally, however, they should consider taking many of the elective courses at GSA that directly prepare students for adult life or the workforce. Depending on the students' plans, these include:

- Social Studies: Economics, Street Law, Psychology, Current Affairs
- Math: Personal Finance, Advanced Math Topics
- Science: Ocean Studies, The Maine Environment, Forensics, Anatomy and Physiology
- Physical Education: EEOL (Outdoor Leadership), Advanced Fitness
- Visual and Performing Arts: Photography, Earthworks, Culinary Arts
- Technology: Drafting, Architectural Design, Woodworking, Advanced Engines, Design and Engineering Technology, Robotics, Digital Fabrication, Welding

Career Counseling

Students who wish to pursue professions that don't require a college degree—those who want to become boatbuilders or chefs, for instance, or police officers, skilled welders, carpenters, engine mechanics, hair stylists, postal clerks, retail supervisors, food service professionals, and so on—are provided the same personalized guidance as they research and apply for appropriate training programs and job opportunities. GSA's annual Independent Study and Internship Program (ISIP) gives all juniors and seniors the option to shadow working professionals in an area of personal interest, and often helps them chart the path to their own future careers. Students who plan to work after graduation can get help with writing a resumé and preparing for job interviews, and should they decide sometime after graduation to apply to college, the same array of services is available to them as GSA alumni.

ENGLISH

Graduation requirements: four credits of high school English, including Senior English or AP English Language and Composition

Core courses:

9th grade	Introduction to Literature Honors, Introduction to Literature, or Freshman English Foundations
10th grade	Sophomore English Honors, or Sophomore English plus a topics course, or Sophomore English Foundations
11th grade	AP English Literature, or Junior English or Junior English Foundations plus a topics course
12th grade	AP English Language and Composition or Senior English

Topics courses:

The World of New Media	Journalism	Public Speaking
Reading Across the Curriculum	The Art of Theatre	The Utopian/Dystopian Genre
Creative Writing		

- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may take an extra topics course as an elective. Taking an extra topics course does not apply that credit toward English requirements in future years.

English for Speakers of Other Languages:

GSA offers four levels of instruction representing two years of English study. The curriculum is divided into two course sequences (Language and Fluency) in recognition that English learners are often at different levels of achievement in the two areas. Having both course sequences also provides more intensive English study for students taking both courses.

ESOL or English Language I-IV	Level determined by placement test.
ESOL or English Fluency I-IV	Level determined by placement test.

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
110	Introduction to Literature	9	1	
111	Freshman English Foundations	9	1	
115	Introduction to Literature Honors	9	1	
121	Sophomore English	10	½	9th-grade English
122	Sophomore English Foundations	10	1	9th-grade English
125	Sophomore English Honors	10	1	9th-grade English
129	Junior English Foundations	11	½	10th-grade English
131	Junior English	11	½	10th-grade English
135	AP English Literature	11	1	10th-grade English
136	AP English Language and Composition	12	1	11th-grade English
140	Senior English	12	1	11th-grade English
173	Creative Writing	10-12	½	9th-grade English
157	The Art of Theatre	10-12	½	9th-grade English
151	Journalism	10-12	½	9th-grade English
155	Reading Across the Curriculum	10-12	½	9th-grade English
158	The World of New Media	10-12	½	9th-grade English
159	The Utopian/Dystopian Genre	10-12	½	9th-grade English
175	Public Speaking	10-12	½	9th-grade English
189	ESOL Language I	9-11	½	placement test
190	English Language II	9-11	½	placement test
201	English Language III	9-11	½	placement test
203	English Language IV	9-12	½	placement test
193	ESOL Fluency I	9-11	½	placement test
195	English Fluency II	9-11	½	placement test
205	English Fluency III	9-11	½	placement test
207	English Fluency IV	9-12	½	placement test

110 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE, 9 (1 credit)

This dynamic introductory course is delivered in two parts and develops reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and listening skills using drama and poetry, as well as fictional and nonfictional literary works. Writing assignments tend to be expository-analytical responses (paragraphs and essays) to text, but also include other modes of writing such as journaling, generating original poetry, and various forms of creative expression. The oral component of this course is ongoing, developed through brief presentations, reading aloud, active participation in class discussions, and through mini-performances. Students also work on the fundamentals of grammar.

111 FRESHMAN ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS, 9 (1 credit)

This course is strongly recommended for entering students who would benefit from remediation in reading and/or writing skills prior to admittance to standard English courses. Reading and writing instruction focuses on the development of skills such as reading for details, finding the main idea, using context clues, making inferences, building vocabulary, and learning sentence and essay structure. The primary goal for each student at course completion is a gain of two or more years in reading comprehension level. Readings are selected each year based on student reading levels, and, as possible, based on student interest.

115 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE HONORS, 9 (1 credit)

This dynamic introductory course is delivered in two parts and develops reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and listening skills using drama and poetry, as well as fictional and nonfictional literary works. Writing assignments tend to be expository-analytical responses (paragraphs and essays) to text, but also include other modes of writing, such as journaling, generating original poetry, and various forms of creative expression. The oral component of this course is ongoing, developed through brief presentations, reading aloud, active participation in class discussions, and through mini-performances. Students also work on the fundamentals of grammar.

121 SOPHOMORE ENGLISH: Heroes and Villains through Genres and Time, 10 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Freshman English Foundations, or Introduction to Literature Honors

This is a reading-intensive course in which students sharpen their critical and analytical reading, writing, speaking, and thinking skills through an exploration of the epic tradition of heroes and villains, primarily in the Western world, as they appear in various genres (mystery, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, satire, etc.). Students will learn a variety of literary elements while discovering modern ties to ancient characters and the social changes that created them. Texts will vary from year to year but may include excerpts from or whole texts of *The Maze Runner*, *The Hunger Games*, *Harry Potter*, *Richard III*, *Beowulf*, *The Iliad*, *The Greek Myths*, *The Graveyard Book*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *American Gods*, *The Hobbit*, *And Then There Were None*, *Dracula*, etc.

122 SOPHOMORE ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Freshman English Foundations

This course is designed to provide targeted intervention in reading and writing skills. Reading instruction focuses on the continued development of skills such as reading for details, finding the main idea, using context clues, and making inferences. The course provides both individualized and group instruction in directed reading, paragraph and essay writing, vocabulary development, and basic grammar. Readings are selected each year based on student reading levels, and, as possible, based on student interest.

125 SOPHOMORE ENGLISH HONORS: British Literature, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature Honors or Introduction to Literature

This is a reading- and writing-intensive course in which students sharpen their critical and analytical reading, writing, speaking, and thinking skills through an exploration of classic British texts from the Saxon era to the late 20th Century. Although this honors course shares some texts and skill development activities with Sophomore English, the difficulty of the reading materials and topics covered, the amount of homework assigned, and the expectations as to the quality of that homework become significantly more challenging as the year continues. Throughout the course, students receive extensive practice in the analysis and interpretation of literary elements, passages, and philosophical ideas. Ideas include

the nature of good and evil, the role of society in shaping the portrayal of individual characters, and how authors communicate with their readers through a text. Attention is also given to developing vocabulary, practicing grammar, and enhancing students' persuasive writing and speaking abilities. Additionally, the course is designed to increase reading confidence and enjoyment. Students read full-text versions or excerpts from works that may include *Beowulf*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Tragedy of Richard III*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Frankenstein*, *Heart of Darkness*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, *Children of Men*, and others.

129 JUNIOR ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS, 11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Sophomore English or Sophomore English Foundations

This quarter-long course is designed for juniors whose reading and/or writing skills are still developing and would continue to benefit from targeted skill practice prior to taking college prep Senior English. Intensive and tailored skill development occurs through readings in fiction and nonfiction materials, both short and long.

131 JUNIOR ENGLISH: American Literature, 11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Sophomore English, Sophomore English Foundations, or Sophomore English Honors

This course covers a wide range of American literature, exploring concepts that have shaped American thought and discourse since its revolution through the study of American literature and rhetoric. There will be a strong focus on modern American literature, and marginalized voices. Texts will include foundational U.S. documents such as *Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address* and *The Declaration of Independence*, essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, as well as poetry by Langston Hughes and Walt Whitman. Students will read full-length works from the 20th and 21st centuries as well as a music as poetry unit that will look at the American Dream through the eyes of modern artists. These texts will help you gather evidence to incorporate in writing speeches, performances, and presentations about the American Dream, what it means to be an American, the freedom of speech, the role of media in a democracy, and literary movements like Transcendentalism and the Harlem Renaissance.

135 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Sophomore English Honors or Sophomore English

Note: Teacher-specified summer reading and writing unit is required.

"I am human; therefore, nothing human can be alien to me" (Terence). In this course, students engage with literature as a means of engaging with the world around them. Rather than approaching a book only as some sort of cipher with a single answer hidden inside it, we can also use it as a lens to see in new and exciting ways. Literature—from short fiction to novels to plays to poetry—invites us to experience someone else's life and perspective and, in doing so, learn more about ourselves. This is a college-level course aligned with the national AP curriculum requirements. Students in this course should expect to read and write, both in class and for homework, daily. Writing varies both in labor and in type, from brief in-class brainstorms to extensively revised investigative essays to creative assignments. In this course, students develop their own critically-informed opinions, and engage in the arduous task of asking the right questions. Discussion and writing is always student-centered, so students become more autonomous in their learning experience. The current booklist, subject to regular change, includes *100 Years of Solitude*, *The Shipping News*, *Their Eyes Are Watching God*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Song of Achilles*. Students are required to take the AP exam; funding to cover the cost of the exam is available for every student who needs it.

136 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION, 12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Literature and Composition or Junior English

Note: Teacher-assigned summer reading and writing is required.

This college-level course, aligned with the national AP curriculum requirements, is designed to invite the student into the rhetorical conversation: the interplay among the subject, the audience, and the author's purpose. Through both formal and informal written reflections and analyses of diverse prose styles and genres, the student participates in this interaction. From close reading, lively discussion, and writing in narrative, personal, expository, and argument modes, students develop the critical-thinking, speaking, and writing skills necessary to delineate a cogent and cohesive position on any topic. The coursework includes a college essay, classics of modern fiction, and Senior Thesis. A significant amount of time is devoted to preparing for the AP exam, which all students are expected to take.

140 SENIOR ENGLISH: World Literature/Rhetoric, 12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Literature or Junior English

This course challenges students to improve their written and oral communication skills, while strengthening their ability to understand and analyze literature in a variety of genres. The senior English literature and composition course is specially designed to push all the students' skills and increase their knowledge of literature and writing. The literary works included in this course will cover a range of genres (i.e. novels, non-fiction, poetry, and short stories), styles and themes. These texts will help students gather evidence to incorporate in writing, speeches, performances, and presentations as students gain an appreciation and deep understanding of the texts as well as a broader perspective on literature and their individual voice and perspective within the world.

173 CREATIVE WRITING, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

Every one of us has a story to tell. Creative Writing provides an opportunity for students to tell those stories. Students explore daily writing prompts and wordplay and then work on developing ideas into well-crafted pieces of writing. As a group, we learn to provide useful feedback to other writers as we workshop each other's rough drafts. The objective is to improve our capabilities as writers and as editors. Genres include poems, stories, and short nonfiction pieces. Frequent discussion of published authors provide effective models. We focus on the elements of fiction, the relationship of creative nonfiction to fiction, story structure, poetic forms, and methods of revision and editing. Texts include the following: *Creative Writer's Handbook*, *Handbook of Poetic Forms*, flash fiction, sudden fiction, and *What If? Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers*.

157 THE ART OF THEATRE: Acting and Analysis of the Stage and Screen, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

For over 4,000 years, theatre has served to challenge, entertain, unite, and above all, instruct the world in what it means to be human. In this hands-on course, students explore and learn to analyze the fundamentals of theatre, with a focus on acting, for both stage and screen. This course includes a heavy amount of performance work and a study of scenes/full works of famous plays and films from multiple genres and time periods. No previous theatre experience is necessary to take this course.

151 JOURNALISM, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

This course focuses on writing the kind of hard news and feature stories commonly found in newspapers and magazines. Students learn how these forms of writing differ considerably from typical academic writing; develop a sense of what is and isn't legitimate news; and actively engage in the writing process,

including prewriting, interviewing, drafting, and finalizing. For inspiration and models of journalistic craft, we refer frequently to area newspapers and magazines, as well as to journalists working on the regional and national stages. We might visit a working newsroom to see how it functions, and we might have guest appearances by working journalists.

155 READING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

This reading-intensive course is designed to help students of all reading levels deepen and broaden their interpretations of a variety of texts, old and new, fictional and nonfictional, literary and visual. Students develop skills of analysis, vocabulary building, and logical reasoning through an exploration of a multitude of concepts, not only from literature, but also from history, sociology, psychology, science, drama, philosophy, and cryptography. Additionally, students continue to develop their written and oral communication skills through persuasive writing and research assignments, in-class discussions, small presentations, and hands-on activities. Texts may include *The Wave*, *Anthem*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Animal Farm*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Down River*, "The Lottery," "The Ledge," "The Veldt," *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, *The Hungry Ocean*, *Into Thin Air*, *Guts*, *Watch on the Rhine*, *Crime and Punishment*, dialogues of Plato, and more.

158 THE WORLD OF NEW MEDIA, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

Storytelling is a process as old as human language. In many ways, it changes every day. In other ways, it remains completely the same. In this course, students engage a critical lens toward what is referred to as "new media," that is, the storytelling that goes on in our digital, connected world. We begin with a historical overview of how storytelling has evolved and changed, as well as how many original facets of storytelling have remained stable. Students then take and apply this knowledge of storytelling to examining podcasts, YouTube, video-gaming, Tik-Tok, and other social media platforms. Using a similar toolkit as they use to analyze fiction or poetry, students unpack, deconstruct, and examine the way stories are being told in today's culture. Ultimately, the question being asked of students in this course is why do humans tell stories?

159 THE UTOPIAN/DYSTOPIAN GENRE, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

This course is an introduction to literature through the lens of "utopia," or the desire for a different, better way of being. Through exploring short stories, novels, poetry, songs, advertisements, films, TV shows, the news, social media, and our own experiences, we critically examine the blurry line between utopia & dystopia: when/how/why various utopian impulses (such as happiness, progress, technological advancement, efficiency, stability) that are intended to improve society can go (and have gone) terribly awry. Themes include family, the individual and society, good and evil, gender, faith, and "the human heart in conflict with itself." Essays and exams based on readings and film.

175 PUBLIC SPEAKING, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Literature Honors, or Freshman English Foundations

Do you like to speak your mind? Do you want to win the argument when someone says, "You don't know what you're talking about"? This course is designed to help students gain confidence in their public speaking skills. Skills such as eye contact, pace, volume, use of time, and logic are clear, measurable, and easy to learn with enough practice. Jump-start your qualifications for finding a job, for furthering your education, and for building confidence in your ability to connect with an audience. Students write

and present introductory, informative, persuasive, impromptu, special tribute, and demonstration speeches. The course also addresses the creation and use of visual aids, and it reviews important job interviewing skills. Bring what you know and learn what you don't about the art of public speaking.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL): PLACEMENT AND PROMOTION PROCEDURES

Initial placement: in-house placement tests are administered to all students for whom English is a second language. Students are placed into these courses based on their scores on these tests. Students who successfully complete a course advance to the next level.

189 ESOL LANGUAGE I, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: placement

This course provides a thorough overview and practice of basic reading and writing skills. Sentence and paragraph structure is practiced through weekly writing and revision of description, narration, plot summary, comparison/contrastive, and character compositions. Reading skills are strengthened through speed-reading as well as shared reading and discussion of works such as Native American and international folktales, selected fiction, and nonfiction. Confidence and creative writing experience is gained through weekly free-writes, portfolio presentations, and peer assessments. Ongoing vocabulary acquisition with pronunciation is central. Study skills and time management are part of the course to help students balance extracurricular activities and the time needed for academic reading and writing. The extensive reading program has included the following titles: *The Giver*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and *Holes*.

190 ENGLISH LANGUAGE II, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: ESOL Language I or placement

This course focuses on developing intermediate academic reading and writing skills by studying vocabulary as well as reading and writing strategies and structures. The course includes a thorough understanding of basic research skills. Emphasis is placed on independent revision skills and a solid understanding of fundamental conventions and mechanics through practice. Students focus on increasing reading comprehension through topic and main idea challenges in a wide variety of texts. Students move from strong paragraph writing to essays covering cause and effect, personal narrative (college essay ideas), comparative/contrastive writing, and literary analysis of a variety of short stories. Reading is central to the course, both in and out of class, with presentations, discussions, and projects that lead students to deeper levels of comprehension. Readings may include the following titles: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; *The Crossover*; *Love that Dog*; and *The Pearl*.

201 ENGLISH LANGUAGE III, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: English Language II or placement

This course includes practice with language mechanics and conventions as students write an essay each week in a variety of styles with emphasis on argumentation, debate, and research in preparation for Senior Debate, an integral part of the academic program at GSA. Annotation, proper citation, and critical reading skills, as well as methods of avoiding plagiarism, are key elements of the reading-and-reacting essay on a current controversial topic. Discussion, presentation, and in-class reading responses have focused on the following titles: *Things Fall Apart*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and *The Hobbit*.

203 ENGLISH LANGUAGE IV, 9-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: English Language III or placement

This course explores critical reading and thinking through literary analysis of a wide range of short stories and articles as well as TOEFL, IELTS, and SAT reading and writing challenges. Students work on college essays and goals, complex sentence structure, analogy, and advanced SAT vocabulary. Research skills are required and practiced. Texts used have included *Maus I*, *Maus II*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *American Born Chinese*. This course may be of interest and benefit to high school students who want to strengthen their core skills, gain study skills, increase knowledge of grammar, and experience cross-cultural connections through academic discussions.

193 ESOL FLUENCY I, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: placement

This course focuses on the development of general listening, speaking, and grammar skills through listening for details and information, taking dictation, making demonstrations, practicing pronunciation, and studying the parts of speech and how they are combined.

195 ENGLISH FLUENCY II, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: ESOL Fluency I or placement

This course thoroughly reviews the basic mechanics and conventions of the English language with regular presentations and out-in-the-field experience. Along with pronunciation and speaking practice, students conduct interviews, present demonstrations, design surveys and report results, as well as discuss a wide range of topics (current events, technology, the environment) in order to gain the confidence and skill to be actively engaged in their academic classes and community.

205 ENGLISH FLUENCY III, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: English Fluency II or placement

This listening and speaking course places a heavy emphasis on language use, grammar, sentence diagramming, and verb usage, combined with research presentation and lively and productive weekly discussion leading.

207 ENGLISH FLUENCY IV, 9-11 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: English Fluency III or placement

This is a demanding listening and speaking course with an advanced grammar intensive, multimedia research presentation, weekly discussion-leading, and a range of speaking activities such as cross-cultural groups, student and faculty presenters and panels, TED Talks, and field events. This course would be of benefit to a high school student interested in increased experience in listening and discussion leading, research and presentation, cross-cultural exchange, and advanced grammar.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Graduation requirements: three credits of high school social studies, including one cred. of U.S. History

Core courses: offered at foundations through honors levels

ISOS (9th grade) → World History (10th grade) → U.S. History (11th grade)

Elective courses for juniors and seniors

21st Century: America in the World (one credit course for seniors)	
Philosophy	Economics
History of Modern Feminism	Psychology
Civics	Street Law
Current Affairs	Classical Western Civilization

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
210	Introduction to Social Science	9	1	
215	Introduction to Social Science Honors	9	1	
271	Social Studies Foundations	9-10	1	
220	World History	10	1	ISOS or Foundations
225	World History Honors	10	1	ISOS
230	U.S. History	11	1	World History or Foundations
235	U.S. History Honors	11	1	World History
231	U.S. History Foundations	11	1	World History or Foundations
265	AP U.S. History	11	1	World History
251	21st Century: America in the World	12	1	U.S. History
213	History of Modern Feminism	11-12	½	
246	Street Law	11-12	½	
248	Psychology	11-12	½	
250	Philosophy	11-12	½	
252	Civics	11-12	½	
266	Economics	11-12	½	
269	Current Affairs	10-12	½	

210 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCE, 9 (1 credit)

This ninth-grade social studies course introduces students to the main disciplines and skills of the GSA social studies program. Students study the subdisciplines of government, economics, history, and geography through topics and case studies drawn mostly from the United States but also from other countries. Social studies students and citizens must have a body of knowledge, but more importantly, must use that knowledge for the purpose of developing and articulating opinions. Students learn to discern patterns in information, investigate the accuracy of information, arguments, and sources, and develop and debate opinions about social studies issues. Students learn more about using readings, maps, charts, and graphs to extract and analyze information. Students develop their writing skills within the social studies, especially argumentative and persuasive writing.

215 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCE HONORS, 9 (1 credit)

This ninth-grade social studies course introduces students to the main disciplines and skills of the GSA social studies program. Students study the subdisciplines of government, economics, history, and geography through topics and case studies drawn mostly from the United States but also from other countries. Social studies students and citizens must have a body of knowledge, but more importantly, must use that knowledge for the purpose of developing and articulating opinions. Students learn to discern patterns in information, investigate the accuracy of information, arguments, and sources, and develop and debate opinions about social studies issues. Students learn more about using readings, maps, charts, and graphs to extract and analyze information. Students develop their writing skills within the social studies, especially argumentative and persuasive writing.

271 SOCIAL STUDIES FOUNDATIONS, 9 and/or 10 (1 credit)

Note: May be taken in both the 9th and 10th grades with teacher permission

The subject matter of this joint ninth- and tenth-grade social studies course alternates every other year. Students can take this course in either or both years as a foundations-level alternative to ISOS and to World History. Students learn about government, economics, history, and geography through topics and case studies drawn both from the United States and from other countries. Social studies students and citizens must have a body of knowledge, but more importantly, must use that knowledge for the purpose of developing and articulating opinions. As a foundations-level course, there is special focus on working with students on their reading and writing skills in the social studies. Students also learn to investigate the accuracy of information, arguments, and sources, and to develop and debate opinions about social studies issues.

220 WORLD HISTORY, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Social Science, Introduction to Social Science Honors, or Social Studies Foundations

This course introduces students to eight important themes in history: power and authority, religious and ethical systems, revolution, interaction with the environment, economics, cultural interaction, empire building, and science and technology. These themes are explored globally from antiquity to modern times. Students develop organizational skills, note-taking skills from lecture, video, and books, as well as critical-thinking skills. There are written assignments, chances for independent research, group projects, homework, and checks for comprehension that are test- and quiz-based.

225 WORLD HISTORY HONORS, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Social Science or Introduction to Social Science Honors

This course introduces students to eight important themes in history: power and authority, religious and ethical systems, revolution, interaction with the environment, economics, cultural interaction, empire building, and science and technology. These themes are explored globally from antiquity to modern times. Students develop organizational skills; note-taking skills from lecture, video, and books; as well as critical-thinking skills. There are written assignments, chances for independent research, group projects, homework, and checks for comprehension that are test- and quiz-based. Students in this course should be prepared for significant homework, especially reading, and significant class discussion.

230 U.S. HISTORY, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History, World History Honors, or Social Studies Foundations

This course deals with the development of American ideals and institutions through the study of major events and personalities of American history from colonization to the modern era. The course provides a perspective on the relationship between the past and contemporary issues. Students learn how to think like a historian by analyzing primary and secondary sources to justify their perspectives. The focus is on critical thinking.

235 U.S. HISTORY HONORS, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History or World History Honors

This course deals with the development of American society, ideals, and institutions through an intensive study of the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States. The course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with materials and problems in US history. Students learn to assess a variety of historical materials—their relevance to a particular problem, their reliability and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course also emphasizes historical research and writing.

231 U.S. HISTORY FOUNDATIONS, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History or Social Studies Foundations

The subject matter of this course is a thematic study of United States history from the colonial era to modern times. Special focus is placed on significant study of local and Maine history. Students continue to develop their analytical skills when processing information and are guided towards understanding the importance of source investigation and alternative voices on common themes. Students continue to develop reading, writing, and oral presentation skills to best prepare them to be active local citizens. This course focuses on in-class assignments to determine mastery of content.

265 AP U.S. HISTORY, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History or World History Honors

This course deals with the development of American society, ideals, and institutions through an intensive study of the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States. The course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with materials and problems in U.S. history. Students learn to assess a variety of historical materials—their relevance to a particular problem, their reliability and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. In preparation, summer reading and writing are required. Students who enroll in this class should be seeking a college-level history experience; they also are required to take the AP exam in May.

251 THE 21ST CENTURY: America in the World, 12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: U.S. History

In this course we will explore American 21st century: American history, but also with a special focus on the US' setting in the world. We will study key political, economic and social events and processes in the country and world we live in. The course will be structured by themes built around key topics such as 9/11 and its impact, environmental topics, presidential elections, issues of race and gender, the Constitution, technological change, relations with China, etc. The primary student outcome of the course will be for students to develop their ability to learn about US and world events and to communicate persuasive opinions about those events. With only a quarter century to study, we can dig deep, and students will have the opportunity to do individualized learning about events and topics that are meaningful to them. The course can either be taken at the honors level or the standard level, with major activities and assessments structured at different levels of challenge to meet various student needs.

213 HISTORY OF MODERN FEMINISM, 11-12 (½ credit)

This course explores the struggles, fights, and experiences of feminists across the globe during the last few centuries. We explore issues that women have wrestled with for ages: the call for equality in education, the desire for universal suffrage, the mix of fierce indignation and deep scientific research in the early environmentalist movement, the rallying cry for equal pay and reproductive rights, and today's global perspective on sexual politics and human empathy. Our goal is to gain an understanding of how feminism has evolved over time. Students are evaluated through their written responses to assigned texts, active participation during classroom discussion, homework completion, and performance on several tests.

246 STREET LAW, 11-12 (½ credit)

This course examines various aspects of your legal rights and responsibilities as citizens. Topics include law and values, civil liberties, and criminal law. We also learn about careers in criminal justice, such as a CSI detective or a police officer, through guest speakers. Students are evaluated through tests, reports, case studies, worksheets, and class participation, and are expected to participate actively in class debates.

248 PSYCHOLOGY, 11-12 (½ credit)

This course introduces students to some of the major areas of psychology. Students explore the nature of psychology: Is it objective and scientific? What are the different approaches to psychology? Students are introduced to some of the main topic areas of psychology: consciousness, learning, intelligence, abnormal psychology, personality, and gender. The coursework and grading emphasizes developing and arguing opinions based on fact and analysis. Students may take this course because of interest in a related career (psychology, medical careers, advertising) or out of personal interest.

250 PHILOSOPHY, 11-12 (½ credit)

Ethics is the branch of philosophy that aims to answer the question, "How should I live?" Once we take this question seriously, many other difficult, but fascinating, questions emerge: "How do I know what is right?" and "Is right for me the same as right for others?" "What are human rights?" "What happens when rights conflict?" "Do I have to tolerate opinions and behaviors that religious conviction tells me are wrong?" "Do religious beliefs or cultural norms justify offensive or harmful behavior?" "Is it ever right to impose my beliefs and code of conduct on others?" "How do we decide how to treat the unborn? the mentally incompetent? the very young? the very old? the dying? criminals? terrorists?" "Do animals have rights?" "Do I have a moral duty to protect the environment?" In this course, we notice the sorts of problems we begin to encounter when we try to answer these questions; consider several historically important theoretical ethical frameworks; and study in depth several "live" ethical issues, such as assisted suicide, abortion, famine, animal rights, offense to others, and bioethics.

252 CIVICS, 11-12 (½ credit)

Civics is the study of citizenship and government. The focus of this course is to prepare students to become active, thoughtful, and informed citizens. Students learn about the historical development of our government and political systems; the United States Constitution; federal, state, and local government structures; the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and media literacy. Students are evaluated through quizzes, tests, homework, class participation, and online simulations.

266 ECONOMICS, 11-12 (½ credit)

Economics is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of macro and microeconomics. Students learn about the economic factors that affect local businesses and citizens; in particular, students learn how interest rates, inflation, tax policy, and supply and demand factors impact their lives and affect local businesses. Students learn to think critically and creatively about current economic issues facing America and the world today while interacting with a variety of materials to further their understanding. This course is designed for students who may have a future operating their own business, but should also be valuable to students who might study it further in college.

269 CURRENT AFFAIRS, 10-12 (½ credit)

The course provides an overall understanding of the importance of daily events and demonstrates to students how these events affect their day-to-day lives. This course includes examination and spirited discussion of international, national, state, and local issues with the intent of interpreting their significance. Topics could include education, race, energy, environmental protection, free speech, gun rights, and health care. During election years, this course also focuses on the electoral process, examining selected presidential campaigns, analyzing candidates, issues, tactics, political cartoons, and campaign commercials. Daily use of a variety of news media helps place current affairs within a historical perspective as well as consider their current context and future implications.

MATHEMATICS

Graduation requirements: three credits of high school math, including (or qualifying out of) two credits of algebra, plus geometry

Core courses: offered at foundations through honors levels

Algebra I → Algebra II → Geometry (or Lab Geometry)

- Students not ready for Algebra must take Pre-Algebra first.
- Some students take Algebra II Honors and Geometry Honors in the same year in order to be able to take Calculus in 12th grade.

Beyond the core courses:

Precalculus Honors	semester	Students planning to take math in college
Personal Finance	quarter	Useful for all students
Advanced Math Topics	semester	College-bound seniors not taking Precalculus
AP Statistics	semester	Strong math students interested in business or economics, sciences, nursing, or social sciences
AP Calculus AB	semester	Students interested in science, engineering, economics or business
AP Calculus BC	quarter	Take in addition to AP Calculus AB

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
313	Pre-Algebra	9	1	
310	Algebra I	9-10	1	
314	Algebra I Foundations	9-10	1	
315	Algebra I Honors	9-10	1	
320	Geometry	10-12	1	Algebra I
323	Lab Geometry	11-12	1	Algebra
325	Geometry Honors	9-12	1	Algebra I
329	Algebra II Foundations	10-12	1	Alg. I or Alg. I Foundations
330	Algebra II	9-12	1	Algebra I
335	Algebra II Honors	9-12	1	Algebra I
377	Personal Finance	10-12	½	
358	Precalculus Honors	11-12	1	Algebra II, Geometry
355	AP Statistics	11-12	1	Algebra II
365	AP Calculus AB	11-12	1	Precalculus A and B
374	AP Calculus BC	11-12	½	Corequisite: AP Calculus AB
359	Senior Math	12	1	Algebra II, Geometry

313 PRE-ALGEBRA, 9 (1 credit)

Students who do not have a solid arithmetic background are strongly encouraged to take this course before taking algebra. The course starts with the basics: understanding numbers, place value, and operations, and working with increasingly complicated arithmetic expressions. From there, students make the transition to fundamental algebra topics, including signed numbers, solving equations, graphing, ratios, proportions, and percentages.

310 ALGEBRA I, 9-10 (1 credit)

This course is the first installment of a traditional sequence in college-prep math. Topics include properties of the real number system, solution of linear and quadratic equations, functions, graphing, laws of exponents, polynomials, probability, and proportions. There is no formal prerequisite for this course, but a strong pre-algebra background is necessary.

314 ALGEBRA I FOUNDATIONS, 9-10 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra and permission of the Math Department

The Algebra I Foundations-Algebra II Foundations sequence is designed to give students a working knowledge of algebra. The sequence does not contain enough content to satisfy the mathematics admissions requirement of many colleges. This is the first year of a sequence of courses that continues with Algebra II Foundations and Lab Geometry. It is designed for students who have completed a pre-algebra course at GSA or another high school but who may not be ready for the fast pace of Algebra I. There is no formal prerequisite for this course, but a strong background in arithmetic is necessary. This course emphasizes the algebra skills necessary for community colleges and technical schools.

315 ALGEBRA I HONORS, 9-10 (1 credit)

Algebra I Honors covers much of the same material as Algebra I, but at a faster pace and in considerably more depth. The course is suitable for students of high mathematical ability who are planning to go into a technical field or who wish to study mathematics for its own sake. There is no formal prerequisite for this course, but a strong pre-algebra background and solid study habits are necessary.

320 GEOMETRY, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra I Honors

Strongly recommended: Students should have completed or be currently enrolled in Algebra II or Algebra II Honors

Geometry is concerned with the measurement of and relations between lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. Students explore basic spatial relationships and study the notion of proof. This course includes a significant amount of analytic geometry and intensive use of algebra.

323 LAB GEOMETRY, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: a second-year algebra course and permission of the Math Department

This course is designed to give students a working knowledge of geometry. It does not contain enough content to satisfy the mathematics admissions requirement of many colleges. This course is divided into two parts: one taught by a technology teacher and one by a mathematics teacher. In the more hands-on part of the course, students work on real-world projects in a workshop setting and are exposed to community resources to see geometric principles applied. Course topics include, but are not limited to, angles, parallel lines, area, volume, and trigonometry.

325 GEOMETRY HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Algebra I or Algebra I Honors

Strongly recommended: Students should have completed or be currently enrolled in Algebra II or Algebra II Honors

Students explore basic spatial relationships and study the notion of proof. This course covers much the same material as Geometry but in greater depth and with greater emphasis on proof. Geometry Honors includes a significant amount of analytic geometry and intensive use of algebra. Students in this course should have already taken or should be taking a second-year algebra course.

329 ALGEBRA II FOUNDATIONS, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Algebra I or Algebra I Foundations and permission of the Math Department

The Algebra I Foundations-Algebra II Foundations sequence is designed to give students a working knowledge of algebra. The sequence does not contain enough content to satisfy the mathematics admissions requirement of many colleges. Students should take Algebra II Foundations in the year immediately following their Algebra I class. This course is a continuation of Algebra I Foundations. Topics include the solution of quadratic equations, the solution of systems of linear equations, and basic statistics and data analysis. This course emphasizes the algebra skills necessary for community colleges and technical schools.

330 ALGEBRA II, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Note: (1) Students should take Algebra II in the year immediately following their Algebra I class. (2) The Math Department recommends that sophomores not take geometry and Algebra II in the same year unless they intend to take math in both their junior and senior years.

After a review of Algebra I, students explore transformations, systems of equations, complex numbers, fractional exponents, rational expressions, basic probability and statistics, and logarithmic and exponential functions.

335 ALGEBRA II HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Note: (1) Students should take Algebra II in the year immediately following their Algebra I class. (2) The Math Department recommends that sophomores not take geometry and second-year algebra in the same year unless they intend to take math in both their junior and senior years.

After a review of Algebra I, students explore transformations, systems of equations, complex numbers, fractional exponents, rational expressions, basic probability and statistics, logarithmic and exponential functions, and sequences and series. The pace of the course and the depth of coverage are more intense than in Algebra II.

377 PERSONAL FINANCE, 10-12 (½ credit)

This course covers interest, banking, credit card debt, mortgages, budgeting, and other topics involving the handling of money. This highly practical course teaches finance skills that every student will need to deal with in life after high school.

358 PRECALCULUS HONORS, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra II, Geometry (can be taken concurrently)

Precalculus is a class for students intending to take calculus in high school or later in college. Topics include properties and graphs for diverse functions, solving systems of linear equations, sequences and series, a review of exponential functions, logarithms, and imaginary numbers, and trigonometry.

355 AP STATISTICS, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This honors class is a rigorous, college-level introduction to statistics. The four major areas covered are exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. The course syllabus is aligned with the nationally recognized standards of the College Board Advanced Placement program. Students are expected to take the College Board AP Statistics exam in May.

365 AP CALCULUS AB, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Precalculus Honors

This is a rigorous, college-level course equivalent to about a semester of calculus at most colleges. The syllabus is aligned with the nationally recognized standards of the College Board Advanced Placement program. All students are expected to take the College Board AP Calculus AB exam in May. Fluency in algebra and trigonometry is essential, and students are required to do preparatory homework during the summer preceding the course. Major topics include differentiation and integration of algebraic and transcendental functions.

374 AP CALCULUS BC, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: Permission of the math department or co-registration in AP Calculus AB is required.

This is a rigorous, college-level introduction to calculus equivalent to a full year of calculus at most colleges. The course moves very rapidly. The syllabus is aligned with the nationally recognized standards of the College Board Advanced Placement program. All students are expected to take the College Board AP Calculus BC exam in May. Fluency in algebra and trigonometry is essential, and students are required to do preparatory homework during the summer preceding the course. Major topics expand on the work done in AP Calculus AB, and include sequences and series, as well as polar equations.

359 SENIOR MATH, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra II and Geometry

This course is an elective for upperclassmen who have completed the math requirements for graduation and want to take an additional math class; in particular, senior math accommodates those for whom precalculus might be too rigorous. The curriculum includes extended algebra, elementary statistics, and basic trigonometry, with the opportunity to delve into topics requested by the class.

SCIENCE

Graduation requirements: three credits of high school science

Core courses: offered at foundations through honors levels

Earth Systems (9th) → Biology (10th) → Chemistry (11th) → Science Elective (12th)

Elective courses:

In the junior and senior year, students are encouraged to take additional elective science courses. The science elective courses are:

Full-credit courses		Half-credit courses	
AP Biology	11th-12th	Astronomy	11th-12th
AP Environmental Science	11th-12th	Forensics	10th-12th
Marine Ecology Research Honors	11th-12th	The Maine Environment A	10th-12th
Integrated Physical Science Foundations (foundations alt. to chemistry and physics)	11th-12th	The Maine Environment B	
Physics Physics Honors	12th	Anatomy and Physiology	10th-12th

Though Ocean Studies includes many science concepts, it is a broader, interdisciplinary course. As such, its course description is now found in the Signature Programs section (p. 39).

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
400	Exploring Earth Systems	9	1	
401	Earth Systems Foundations	9	1	
405	Exploring Earth Systems Honors	9	1	Corequisite: Alg. I Honors
420	Biology	10	1	Earth Systems
425	Biology Honors	10	1	Earth Systems
452	Biology Foundations	10	1	Earth Systems
442	Chemistry	11	1	Biology and Algebra I
445	Chemistry Honors	11	1	Biology and Algebra I
473	Integrated Physical Science Foundations	11-12	1	Biology
474	Physics	12	1	Algebra II
475	Physics Honors	12	1	Biology and Algebra II
436	Forensics	10-12	½	Earth Systems
480	Anatomy & Physiology	10-12	½	Earth Systems
458	The Maine Environment A	10-12	½	Earth Systems
459	The Maine Environment B	10-12	½	Earth Systems
470	Astronomy	11-12	½	Biology
465	AP Environmental Science	11-12	1	Biology
428	AP Biology	11-12	1	Chemistry
485	Marine Ecology Research Honors	11-12	1	Biology

400 EXPLORING EARTH SYSTEMS, 9 (1 credit)

This ninth-grade science course explores interactions between the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. This course integrates chemistry, physics, biology, and earth science while investigating issues of relevance to everyone. Lab work, fieldwork, and analysis of data are important course components.

401 EARTH SYSTEMS FOUNDATIONS, 9 (1 credit)

This ninth-grade course is designed to strengthen basic skills and stimulate interest in the sciences through an exploration of interactions between the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Lab work, fieldwork, and analysis of data are important course components.

405 EXPLORING EARTH SYSTEMS HONORS, 9 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in or have completed Algebra I

This challenging ninth-grade science course is an exploration of interactions between the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. This course integrates chemistry, physics, biology, and earth science while investigating issues of relevance to everyone. Lab work, fieldwork, and analysis of data are important course components. Students may be required to conduct independent research. Exploring Earth Systems Honors goes into greater detail in each topic and is more math-intensive than Exploring Earth Systems.

420 BIOLOGY, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Exploring Earth Systems or Exploring Earth Systems Honors, or Earth Systems Foundations with teacher recommendation

This course is designed to provide students with a survey of the science of biology, covering ecology, evolution, and cell biology, including photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and genetics. Lab work reinforces classroom study. Emphasized skills include reading for understanding of content, data organization and analysis, use of lab equipment, use of the internet for scientific research, and scientific reasoning.

425 BIOLOGY HONORS, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Exploring Earth Systems or Exploring Earth Systems Honors

This course is designed to provide students with a survey of the science of biology. Areas of study include ecology, the cell, photosynthesis, cellular respiration and division, reproduction, heredity, evolution, and classification of organisms from each of the phyla. Biology Honors students are expected to complete a research presentation and additional readings, as well as to read at an independent level and to be personally responsible for their work planning and budgeting of time. Biology Honors goes into greater detail on each of the topics than Biology. Lab work is coordinated with and reinforces classroom study.

452 BIOLOGY FOUNDATIONS, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Earth Systems Foundations or teacher recommendation

This course explores the basic principles of biology, such as taxonomy and the diversity of life, cells, genetics, anatomy and physiology, cycles of matter, ecology, and evolution. Students are encouraged to examine real-world issues as they relate to biological concepts. Lab investigations are an important part of this course.

442 CHEMISTRY, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology or Biology Honors, and Algebra I

This is a laboratory and math-intensive course for any student with an interest in chemistry. Students should be comfortable with Algebra and problem-solving. Students learn the principles of chemistry through a mixture of laboratory, discussion, team-learning, and lecture formats. Topics covered include atomic structure, the states of matter, chemical names and formulas, chemical reactions, stoichiometry,

the nature of energy, gas laws, electron structure and bonding, solution chemistry, and acids and bases. Laboratory investigations reinforce material covered in the class. Student evaluation is based primarily upon reports, group work, quizzes, and tests.

445 CHEMISTRY HONORS, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra I

This is a laboratory problem-solving course for honors students with a serious interest in chemistry. Students enrolled in this course should be very comfortable with algebra. This course is faster paced and covers more content than Chemistry. Students in this course learn the principles of chemistry through a mixture of laboratory, discussion, and lecture formats. Topics covered include atomic structure, chemical names and formulas, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, the states of matter, gas laws, electron structure and bonding, solution chemistry, reaction rates and equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, and organic chemistry. Laboratory investigations and reports review and reinforce material covered in the class. Student evaluation is based primarily upon reports, group projects, quizzes, and tests.

473 INTEGRATED PHYSICAL SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology

This laboratory course is a foundations alternative to chemistry and physics. It provides students with broad-based, hands-on learning experience in the various disciplines of physical science. The course centers on geology, meteorology, physics, and astronomy. Although there is some mathematics, the emphasis of the course is on the application of knowledge to solve problems and investigate scientific principles.

474 PHYSICS, 12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology or Biology Honors, and Algebra I

This is a math-intensive, problem-solving course for any student with a serious interest in mathematical problem-solving and the physical sciences. Students learn from a combination of lectures, reading, labs, and problem-solving. Topics to be discussed include concepts of mechanics including motion, forces, momentum, energy and energy transfer, as well as heat, light, electricity and magnetism, relativity, and quantum theory.

475 PHYSICS HONORS, 12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology or Biology Honors, and Algebra I

This is a math-intensive, problem-solving course for any student with a serious interest in mathematical problem-solving and the physical sciences. This course covers more content and goes at a faster pace than Physics. For example, vector operations in Physics is limited to simpler cases, while in Physics Honors, trigonometry is required. Students learn from a combination of lectures, reading, labs, and problem-solving. Topics to be discussed include concepts of mechanics including motion, forces, momentum, energy and energy transfer, as well as heat, light, electricity and magnetism, relativity, and quantum theory.

436 FORENSICS, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite or corequisite: Earth Systems

Forensics may be taken in the fall and/or spring semester(s). It incorporate skills acquired in biology, chemistry, and physics while learning techniques used by FBI and local police crime scene technicians. Topics covered may include the history of forensics, crime scene analysis, physical evidence, famous cases, hair and fiber analysis, fingerprinting, DNA, foot and tire prints, fingerprinting, chemical detection, blood analysis and patterns, ballistics, handwriting analysis, facial reconstruction, anatomy, and fire and accident reconstruction. Along with hands-on labs skills, students solve mock crimes, requiring students to think, analyze, and imagine possible scenarios. Students are required to work individually on research projects and in teams when analyzing mock crime scenes.

480 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite or corequisite: Earth Systems

This course is designed for anyone curious about the human body. We study most of the human body systems including muscular, nervous, skeletal, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, and urinary. The course emphasizes lab work, and often you are the lab subject! The class is good preparation for anyone interested in a healthcare profession. *Note: We dissect vertebrate specimens.*

458 THE MAINE ENVIRONMENT A, 10-12 (½ credit)

459 THE MAINE ENVIRONMENT B, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite or corequisite: Earth Systems

In this course, students study natural history and gain an appreciation for the Maine environment. We explore all aspects of the natural world from the land to the sea and from the trees to the soil. The curriculum follows the four seasons we experience in Maine, and each season, we explore which natural resources are harvested or managed (from deer hunting to forestry conservation). We consider the impact of climate change and how human modification of the environment is influencing the population dynamics of different species, such as deer, moose, ticks, scallops, white pine trees, salmon, bears, turkeys, and woodpeckers. We explore how scientific studies inform current fishing and hunting laws. We bring in experts such as forestry ecologists, game wardens, freshwater fish biologists, state lawmakers, and local land trust managers. Overall, we learn how science-based research can be used to protect and preserve the rich natural resources of our Pine Tree State for future generations of Mainers to enjoy.

470 ASTRONOMY, 11-12 (1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology

This course exposes students to the practices and methods of one of the physical sciences, astronomy. Students learn concepts of modern astronomy, conduct observations through sky simulations, do laboratory and field investigations, work collaboratively, use scientific methods, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem-solving. The course covers the following topics: discovering the night sky; gravitation and the motions of the planets; light, color, and telescopes; our star, the sun; the solar system, including both the terrestrial planets and the Jovian planets; moons; comets and asteroids; the lives of stars, galaxies, and cosmology; and exoplanets, astrobiology, and space exploration.

465 AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology

This rigorous interdisciplinary course explores the interconnections between the physical environment and living organisms, the impact of human activities on our planet, and our choices for the future. Topics covered include population dynamics, pollution, climate change, renewable and nonrenewable resources, risk assessment, and solutions to environmental problems. Labs and field activities are designed to encourage students to critically observe environmental systems, develop and conduct well-designed experiments, and analyze and interpret data.

428 AP BIOLOGY, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite or corequisite: Chemistry

This college-level biology course covers the same areas of study as the basic biology courses. Students in this course are prepared for the AP Biology exam and are expected to take it.

485 MARINE ECOLOGY RESEARCH HONORS, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite or corequisite: Biology

This course is about marine ecology, which is the study of the interaction between organisms and their environment. It is intended for science-oriented students who have an interest in the ocean environment and want to learn how to conduct marine research. Students learn different research methods and techniques, and there is an opportunity to conduct independent research projects to gain a better understanding of the full scientific process. The class takes advantage of our coastal campus and bases our work at field sites close to school. Investigation of the biological and physical factors that influence different habitats is the target of study, from the critters that control the rocky shore, to the open ocean dynamics that influence planktonic communities. Students also conduct interviews with marine scientists from around the U.S. and visit at least one marine research facility in Maine.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Graduation recommendation: all students take two to four credits of one world language.

Spanish	Four levels of Spanish Honors and three levels of Spanish are offered. Students in Spanish III who earn a 90% or above may advance to Spanish IV Honors.
French	Four levels of French Honors and two levels of French are offered. Students in French II who earn a 90% or above may advance to French III Honors.

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
512	Spanish I	9-12	1	
505	Spanish I Honors	9-12	1	
522	Spanish II	9-12	1	Spanish I
575	Spanish II Honors	9-12	1	Spanish I
532	Spanish III	9-12	1	Spanish II
585	Spanish III Honors	9-12	1	Spanish II
595	Spanish IV Honors	9-12	1	Spanish III
510	French I	9-12	1	
515	French I Honors	9-12	1	
520	French II	9-12	1	French I
525	French II Honors	9-12	1	French I
535	French III Honors	9-12	1	French II
555	French IV Honors	9-12	1	French III Honors

512 SPANISH I, 9-12 (1 credit)

This introductory class in the Spanish language is designed to encompass all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course moves at a gentle pace to provide for additional practice and for building confidence for students who have little to no exposure to the study of foreign languages. The emphasis is placed on developing basic communication skills on a variety of themes. Vocabulary acquisition, the mechanics of speaking, reasoning skills (grammar), and listening comprehension are given special focus. An introduction to the Hispanic culture and basic geography of Spanish speaking countries is also presented. Spanish films supplement the program. The primary texts for this course are *Buen Viaje I* and *Exprésate I*.

505 SPANISH I HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Spanish I Honors contains the same elements as the Spanish I program but moves at an accelerated pace for the motivated language learner.

522 SPANISH II, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish I, Spanish I Honors, or qualifying grade on a placement test

Spanish II builds upon the acquired skills of Spanish I. The emphasis is placed on vocabulary and grammar building as well as on developing fluency via oral and written communication on a variety of themes. Grammar instruction and practice is given special focus, especially the use of the verb and pronoun system. There is a heightened cultural awareness about the Spanish world. The primary texts for this course are *Buen Viaje I* and *Exprésate I*. Videos and authentic realia supplement the program.

575 SPANISH II HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish I, Spanish I Honors, or qualifying grade on a placement test

Spanish II Honors contains the same elements as the Spanish II program but moves at an accelerated rate.

532 SPANISH III, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish II, Spanish II Honors, or qualifying grade on a placement test

The class is conducted primarily in Spanish and students are encouraged to communicate in the target language in order to move towards communication proficiency. Students work towards conversational competency on practical themes, and on achieving command of the verb and pronoun system. The technique of translation is introduced by using online media sources such as news outlets to talk in Spanish about current events. Spanish films supplement the program. The primary textbook is *Exprésate 2* and for intensive reading, *Susana y Javier* is used.

585 SPANISH III HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish II, Spanish II Honors, or qualifying grade on a placement test

Spanish III Honors contains the same elements as the Spanish III program but moves at an accelerated rate.

595 SPANISH IV HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish III, Spanish III Honors, or qualifying grade on a placement test

This class is conducted primarily in Spanish to encourage proficiency in all foreign language skills. Students continue to work towards conversational competency on practical themes, and achieving command of the verb and pronoun system. Research and translation skills are practiced using online media sources such as news outlets to talk in Spanish about current events. Spanish literature is introduced with the juvenile novel *Antes de ser libres* by Julia Alvarez. Students practice intense reading and work on literary analysis through daily, in-class discussions. Films such as *En el tiempo de Las Mariposas (In The Time of the Butterflies)* which supplements the novel, are also part of the program. The primary textbook used is *Exprésate 2*. Completion of this four-year sequence will fulfill the language requirements and recommendations of all colleges and universities.

510 FRENCH I, 9-12 (1 credit)

This course is designed to encompass the four areas of language learning: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, with an emphasis on orally directed questions and answers, paired activities, and small group work. The textbook, *Bon Voyage*, is used as a resource. The material is covered with much repetition and includes poetry and songs. Students acquire a strong vocabulary base to build on. They learn how to conjugate regular and irregular verbs in the present tense and how to form the near future tenses. They also are introduced to the simple past and imperative tenses. They study the articles and learn how to make simple sentences and perfect their pronunciation skills. They also learn about Francophone culture.

515 FRENCH I HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

This course uses and encompasses the same skills as French I but moves at an accelerated rate for the motivated language student. This course requires attention to details and strong note-taking skills. The *Bon Voyage 1* textbook is used as a resource.

520 FRENCH II, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: French I, French I Honors, or qualifying grade on placement test

This is a continuation of French I, focusing primarily on building a basic French vocabulary and familiarity with simple grammatical structures while continuing to explore Francophone cultures around the world. The *Bon Voyage 1* textbook is used as a resource.

525 FRENCH II HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: French I, French I Honors, or qualifying grade on a placement test

This course continues to examine the language and culture of the French-speaking world. It is faster paced for the motivated language learner. This course requires good listening and note-taking skills. The *Bon Voyage 1* textbook is used as a resource.

535 FRENCH III HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: French II, French II Honors (recommended), or qualifying grade on a placement test

The focus of this course is to provide the fundamentals of French grammar as well as an introduction to French literature. Throughout the year, the students learn the major tenses and grammatical constructions that have not already been covered in their previous two years of study. They also are introduced to *Le Petit Nicolas*, a French song and poem, and they begin writing short compositions.

555 FRENCH IV HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: French III Honors or qualifying grade on a placement test

This course focuses on speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The textbooks *Bon Voyage 2* and *Tresors du Temps* are used as resources, in addition to articles from *Le Monde* and listening to French and Francophone radio stations. Students have a comprehensive grammar review, more complex syntax, and advanced reading material. Excerpts from *Le Petit Nicolas* with its humorous short stories and *Le Petit Prince* with its lovely images also provide plenty of opportunity for the motivated student to get acquainted with the many expressions and idioms of the French language. Completion of this four-year sequence fulfills the language requirements and recommendations of all colleges and universities.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Graduation requirement: one visual and performing arts credit

Visual Arts	Art I or Art I Honors is a prerequisite for later courses; students then progress to more advanced courses, including Art II Honors, Painting A and B, Printmaking, Book Arts A and B, Drawing A and B, AP Drawing, AP 2-D Art and Design, and 2D Animation
Music	Band (offered all four years), Honors Jazz Combo (by audition), Music Prod., Steel Band I-IV
Arts in other areas	Photo, Adobe Photoshop, 2D Computer Illustration, 3D Computer Modeling, Culinary Arts, Design and Engineering Tech, Architectural Design, Earthworks A and B, Dance I-IV

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
951	Art I	9-12	1	
945	Art I Honors	9-12	1	
955	Art II Honors	10-12	1	Art I
956	<i>Drawing A (fall) - not offered 2023-24</i>	10-12	½	Art I
957	<i>Drawing B (spring) - not offered 2023-24</i>	10-12	½	Art I
953	Painting A (fall)	10-12	½	Art I
954	Painting B (spring)	10-12	½	Art I
943	Printmaking	10-12	1	Art I
944	<i>Book Arts A - not offered 2023-2024</i>	10-12	½	Art I
946	<i>Book Arts B - not offered 2023-2024</i>	10-12	½	Art I
935	AP Drawing	11-12	1	2-3 art credits and permission
937	AP 2-D Art and Design	11-12	1	2-3 art credits and permission
950	Photography I	10-12	½	
9501	Photography II	10-12	½	Photography I
960	Adobe Photoshop	10-12	½	
67	2D Animation	10-12	½	Art I or teacher permission
66	3D Computer Modeling	10-12	½	2D Computer Illustration
9400	Earthworks A	9-12	½	
9420	Earthworks B	9-12	½	
842	Architectural Design	11-12	½	Drafting or Art I
852	Design and Engineering Technology	9-12	½	Introduction to Technology
958	Band	9-12	1	
966	Music Production	9-12	½	
964	Jazz Combo Honors	9-12	1	by audition
9620	Steel Band I	9-12	½	
9630	Steel Band II	9-12	½	
9650	Steel Band III	9-12	½	
9651	Steel Band IV	9-12	½	
980	Dance I	9-12	½	Physical Education
982	Dance II	10-12	½	
983	Dance III	10-12	½	
984	Dance IV	10-12	½	
1183	Culinary Arts	11-12	½	Students must be 16 or older.

951 ART I, 9-12 (1 credit)

This is the first in a series of courses in art education. Students are introduced to the elements of design (line, shape, form, space, texture, value, and color) and the principles of organization (balance, repetition, harmony, emphasis, sequence, and perspective) with the intent of building skills and increasing artistic appreciation. In-class projects emphasize techniques and provide students with varied tasks for solving problems, while introducing them to a variety of media. Students are required to keep a sketchbook for weekly assignments. Major assignments are followed by class critiques, enabling students to participate in the assessment of their own work as well as that of others. Projects may vary from year to year.

945 ART I HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

This course is for students who have a strong interest in the arts and who plan to take an AP studio course during their junior/senior year in high school, as well as for any student who plans to study art in college and will need to create a comprehensive portfolio. It is followed by Art II Honors. Art I Honors introduces students to the elements of design and the principles of organization through a series of in-class projects with the intent of building skills and increasing artistic appreciation. In-class projects emphasize techniques and provide students with varied tasks for solving visual problems while introducing them to a variety of media. Topics in art history and works of specific artists are examined. Major assignments have specific deadlines and may be followed by class critiques and exams. Students are required to keep a sketchbook for weekly assignments.

955 ART II HONORS, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Art I

Students in Art II Honors work both two- and three-dimensionally, to help potentially prepare for a comprehensive AP studio art curriculum either their junior or senior year. Working at a more intensified pace to specific deadlines and written assignment requirements, students are expected to take the design elements to the next level. Some of the assignments include a large still life in oils, cut paper self-portraits, and intricate wire and paper sculptures, among others. Required weekly sketchbook assignments are in mixed-media sketchbooks, with the assignment sheets given at the beginning of the quarter so that students can plan ahead. This course is for students who are serious about their commitment to the arts.

956 DRAWING A, 10-12 (½ credit) - not offered 2023-2024

957 DRAWING B, 10-12 (½ credit) - not offered 2023-2024

Prerequisite: Art I

In Drawing A, students explore techniques using various types of media (graphite, charcoal, ink, etc.) and expand their experience in different types of mark making, value, and color. Drawing B builds upon learned mark-making skills as students explore figurative work. In both semesters, students develop complex compositions, where they establish dimension as well as depict detail. Assignments are given to develop specific skills, while also allowing for individual expression. Sketchbook assignments are given in conjunction with in-class assignments. It is highly recommended that prospective students have a clear interest in drawing. Students do not need to take Drawing A in order to take Drawing B.

953 PAINTING A, 10-12, (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Art I

Painting A focuses on learning various painting techniques using watercolor, gouache, and ink. Students learn basic painting techniques, including different brushes and how to create realistic and abstract imagery from observation and imagination. Students learn about various artists across cultures and time periods to complete a variety of in-class projects. There is a final exam in the form of a final project.

954 PAINTING B, 10-12, (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Art I

Painting B focuses on various painting techniques using acrylics, oils, and mixed media. Students begin with a brief review of color theory and fundamental color exercises. Basic painting techniques and brush overview are taught for students to create technically accurate paintings based on realistic and abstract imagery. An examination of contemporary and historical paintings aids students in developing their own artistic voice and style. Students are required to keep a sketchbook for weekly assignments. There is a final exam in the form of a final project.

943 PRINTMAKING, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Art I

Printmaking provides students with the opportunity to sample different techniques of printing, such as monotype, intaglio, relief, lithography, and screen printing. For some techniques, students are expected to create series or editions, while for others, there is more emphasis on spontaneous experimentation. Different projects require students to work in black/brown inks and in full color. Students should have a strong interest in drawing and be prepared to work on a project for several weeks. Students are expected to keep a small binder containing all in-class handouts, readings, and preliminary sketches of their work. A midterm project and final exam are given.

944 BOOK ARTS A, 10-12 (½ credit) - not offered 2023-2024

Prerequisite: Art I

This bookbinding course focuses on book structures including but not limited to sewn flatback, pamphlet, accordion, copic, and tunnel books. The anatomy of the book is looked at, as well as the function and relationship between cover, endpages, and the body. Students learn the techniques to make these structures and then are encouraged to write and/or draw in them. Students acquaint themselves with different types of paper, simple printmaking techniques, and alternative and sustainable book materials. The class culminates with the creation of an alternate structure of the student's design and construction.

946 BOOK ARTS B, 10-12 (½ credit) - not offered 2023-2024

Prerequisite: Art I

This bookbinding course focuses on the transformation of the book into art form. The book is freed from its more traditional role as a container of information and instead is viewed as an art object. This section delves into the realm of paper art and architecture with the teaching of simple pop-up techniques as well as the sculptural transformation of the case/cover. Students acquaint themselves with different types of paper, simple printmaking techniques, and alternative and sustainable book materials. The class culminates with the creation of an alternate structure of the student's design and construction. Taking Book Arts A is encouraged but not a prerequisite of Book Arts B.

935 AP DRAWING, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: 2-3 art credits and teacher permission

AP Drawing is a college-level studio art course intended for highly self-motivated individuals to create a comprehensive portfolio containing elements from the disciplines of drawing, painting, and printmaking. The centerpiece of this course is the portfolio that consists of two sections: the Sustained Investigation and Selected Works. The Sustained Investigation requires students to submit 15 digital images and writing that documents their inquiry-guided investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision. The Selected Works section consists of 5 completed art pieces that demonstrate skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas. Students complete mandatory summer homework to prepare the portfolio for the fall semester. The course relies heavily on in-class written and art assignments, group critiques, student-teacher conferences, as well as homework in the form of a visual journal. All students enrolled in the class are required to take the AP exam as part of the course curriculum.

937 AP 2-D ART AND DESIGN, 11-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: 2-3 art credits and teacher permission

AP 2-D Art and Design is college-level studio art course intended for highly self-motivated individuals to create a comprehensive portfolio that addresses the elements and principles of design. Students may work in a variety of media including, but not limited to, the following: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, mixed media, digital media, graphic design, photography, collage, fashion design, etc. The centerpiece of this course is the development of a portfolio that consists of two sections: the Sustained Investigation and Selected Works. The Sustained Investigation requires students to submit 15 digital images and writing that documents their inquiry-guided investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision. The Selected Works section consists of 5 completed art pieces that demonstrate skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas. Students complete mandatory summer homework to prepare the portfolio for the fall semester. The course relies heavily on in-class written and art assignments, group critiques, and student-teacher conferences, as well as homework in the form of a visual journal. All students enrolled in the class are required to take the AP exam as part of the course curriculum.

950 PHOTOGRAPHY I, 10-12 (½ credit)**9501 PHOTOGRAPHY II, 10-12 (½ credit)**

Photography I and II are a general introduction to digital photography. Familiarity with the digital camera and its functions, lighting, and an understanding of what makes a good photograph are emphasized. Students learn to critique photographs of others as well as their own. Students must have access to a reliable digital camera. Students without their own cameras are loaned one by the school.

960 ADOBE PHOTOSHOP, 10-12 (½ credit)

Students explore digital photographic workflow with an emphasis placed on using post-capture, photo manipulation software, mainly Adobe Photoshop, to perfect their photographic statements. Students who have had Photography refine their best images to create portfolio prints. Critique of their own work and the works of others is a focus. Students must have access to a reliable digital camera to complete assignments. Students without their own cameras are loaned one by the school.

67 2D ANIMATION, 10-12 (½ credit)

This course will teach the history and conventions of 2D animation through the framework of Adobe Animate. We will explore animation's limitless storytelling and world-building potential by creating naturalistic, character-driven animations that draw upon the unique imaginative perspective of each student. Instructions will provide a solid foundation of both frame-by-frame and automated animation techniques, and students will become confident visual creators with the ability to execute complex narrative ideas from start to finish.

66 3D COMPUTER MODELING, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: 2D Computer Illustration and Animation

This introductory course allows students to create illustrations that can then be modeled or animated in 3D. This course utilizes animation software that allows students to visualize, plan, and model in three-dimensional space, as well as explore its animation capabilities. Students create, animate, texture, and light 3D objects and scenes.

9400 EARTHWORKS A (fall), 9-12, (½ credit)**9420 EARTHWORKS B (spring), 9-12, (½ credit)**

Earthworks courses use natural materials to design artistic and functional pieces. Earthworks A concentrates on jewelry and making pieces out of wood and other natural materials. Earthworks B focuses on blacksmithing and pottery. Earthworks A is not a prerequisite for taking Earthworks B. Each course meets half of the visual and performing arts requirement.

842 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Drafting or Art I

This course gives students a basic understanding of good house design. Each student develops a full set of house plans and builds a scale model from their plans. This course meets half of the visual and performing arts requirement.

852 DESIGN & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, 9-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

This course meets half of the visual and performing arts requirement and introduces students to the principles of design used in the construction, manufacturing, and communication areas of technology. Students use problem-solving techniques that help them understand how to sketch, draw, form, and shape materials. Students learn how to use cutting, welding, and forming machines and tools to design model cars, boats, rockets, sleds, and other similar products.

958 BAND, 9-12 (1 credit)

The George Stevens Academy Band performs at a variety of events during the school year. Activities include concerts in the fall, winter, and spring, as well as performances at elementary schools, parades, basketball games, district and state music festivals, various school activities, and community events. Music selections vary from rock to classical, and rehearsals provide challenges and enjoyment in the

making of music. Other music ensembles, to which inclusion into the Band may lead, are the Jazz Band (selected through yearly spring auditions, which are also open to incoming freshmen), jazz combos, and the Honors Combo (both of which require annual auditions), and the Holiday Angels (a group of student musicians who perform seasonal music in December).

966 MUSIC PRODUCTION, 9-12 (½ credit)

From modern jazz to trap to metalcore, contemporary music is inseparable from the technology used to produce it. Modern musicians are expected to work with digital and analog technology to record, produce, and disseminate their work. In Music Production, we explore these processes through use of a digital audio workstation (DAW) and USB MIDI keyboards (keyboards will be provided). Students will ultimately apply their knowledge by creating an original recording in Ableton or GarageBand.

964 JAZZ COMBO HONORS, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: By audition (spring prior to the school year)

Honors Jazz Combo focuses on the study and performance of jazz in its various styles, such as swing, Latin, African, funk, Calypso, jazz-rock, and the ballad. Past Jazz Honors Combos have achieved many awards, winning first, second, or third placement at the Maine State Jazz Festival year after year. The Honors Combo is also asked to perform at many school, community, and prestigious state events. Being a member of the Honors Combo requires a high level of commitment from its members. Many of the former members have majored in music and become successful musicians. Each member of the combo plays in the Jazz Band.

9620 STEEL BAND I, 9-12 (½ credit)

9630 STEEL BAND II, 9-12 (½ credit)

9650 STEEL BAND III, 9-12 (½ credit)

9651 STEEL BAND IV, 9-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: students must pass the preceding level, or teacher permission

Island music and the steel drum are a vital part of the history and culture of the Caribbean and are important newcomers on the world music scene. Students learn to play “pan”—the steel drum family of instruments—and perform as an ensemble. While prior musical experience is certainly an asset, it is not a prerequisite; the instruments are relatively easy to learn to play. The primary objective of the course is to make music, with instruction in basic music notation, rhythm, harmony, and four-part arranging, and discussion of the construction and cultural background of pans. Each course meets half of the visual and performing arts requirement.

980 DANCE I, 9-12 (½ credit)

982 DANCE II, 10-12 (½ credit)

983 DANCE III, 10-12 (½ credit)

984 DANCE IV, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: 1 semester of Physical Education. Students must pass the preceding level or have teacher permission.

Dance courses are open to all students regardless of prior experience. Athletic students with little artistic inclination, artistic students with little athletic inclination, and everyone in between are encouraged to enroll. In a safe, supportive community, we learn the key elements of dance, with an emphasis on building strength, flexibility, coordination, and creative expression. We also explore the history, vocabulary, body politics, and gender roles of dance.

1183 CULINARY ARTS, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Students must be 16 years old

Culinary Arts is a quarter-long, hands-on course introducing students to the basics of kitchen work and culinary technique using a variety of teaching methods and experiences. Students learn the art of food preparation, presentation, and service. Lessons include knife skills, menu planning, basic purchasing, nutrition, careers in food service, and other topics pertaining to the hospitality industry.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Similar to our computer curriculum, GSA's technology curriculum provides personal and life skills in a variety of areas of interest and develops students' skills to the point of preparing them for more advanced technical training programs.

Engines	Engine Technology, Advanced Engines
Woodworking	Woodworking I & II, Advanced Woodworking, Home Repair and Maintenance, Boatbuilding
Engineering and Drafting	Drafting, Architectural Design, Pre-Engineering
Technology	Introduction to Technology, Introduction to Metals, Metals II, Design and Engineering Technology, Digital Fabrication
Welding	Welding I, Welding II, Mig Welding, Tig Welding

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
811	Woodworking I	9-12	½	
830	Woodworking II	9-12	½	Woodworking I
843	Advanced Woodworking	11-12	½	Wood II and teacher permission
837	<i>Boatbuilding - not offered 2023-2024</i>	9-12	½	
840	Home Repair and Maintenance	10-12	½	
841	Drafting	9-12	½	
842	Architectural Design	11-12	½	Drafting or Art I
844	Pre-Engineering	11-12	½	Drafting (or as corequisite)
865	Digital Fabrication	9-12	½	
863	Introduction to Metals	9-12	½	
868	Metals II	10-12	½	Introduction to Metals
850	Introduction to Technology	9-12	½	
852	Design and Engineering Technology	9-12	½	Introduction to Technology
856	Engine Technology	10-12	½	
864	Advanced Engines	10-12	½	Engine Tech or permission
866	<i>Welding I - not offered 2023-2024</i>	9-12	1	
867	<i>Welding II - not offered 2023-2024</i>	9-12	1	Welding I
868	Mig Welding	9-12	1	
869	Tig Welding	9-12	1	Intro to Tech, Intro to Metals, or any welding course

811 WOODWORKING I, 9-12 (½ credit)

This course covers the safe use and care of hand and power tools. Students make assigned projects in wood with emphasis on accuracy, safety, and finished quality. Woodworking I can be followed by Woodworking II.

830 WOODWORKING II, 9-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Woodworking I

This course is a continuation of Woodworking I with much more emphasis placed on the design, construction, and completion of assigned projects. Safety and housekeeping are stressed. Students pay for project materials not found in the shop. Woodworking II can be followed by Advanced Woodworking with permission of the instructor.

843 ADVANCED WOODWORKING, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Woodworking II or teacher permission

This is a contract course. Students who enroll design and construct their own project. Emphasis is placed on good design principles, quality of workmanship, and proper work habits. Students must pay for their own supplies not found in the shop.

837 BOATBUILDING, 9-12 (½ credit) - not offered 2023-2024

This is a hands-on class. Noise and sawdust are made, screws are driven, wood sawn and shaped, parts carefully fitted, epoxy strategically applied, and all are finished well. Students work in small teams to build either a 14-foot fisherman's rowing/outboard skiff or a 12-foot racing/training sailboat, each built using modern wooden boat construction materials and techniques. In this class, students learn by doing, discover how to work together, acquire critically useful tool skills and techniques, and learn about the math, science, engineering, and art in boat design and construction.

840 HOME REPAIR & MAINTENANCE, 10-12 (½ credit)

This course provides students with the basic information needed to safely use hand tools, power tools, some machines, and assorted building materials. This program gives students hands-on activities to learn about repairs and maintenance necessary in the areas of cutting tools, plumbing, electrical wiring, masonry, painting, and finishing.

841 DRAFTING, 9-12 (½ credit)

This course introduces students to the basic use of the tools used to design any product made by mankind. They learn how to set up basic lettering used in any graphic communication, develop pictorial drawings, pattern development, multi-view drawings, and dimensioning. Architectural Design may follow this course.

842 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Drafting or Art I

This course gives students a basic understanding of good house design. Each student develops a full set of house plans and builds a scale model from their plans. This course meets half of the visual and performing arts requirement.

844 PRE-ENGINEERING, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Drafting, or as corequisite

In this course, students learn to apply principles of engineering, science, math, and technology to solve complex, real-world problems. Students focus on the process of defining and solving a problem. They learn how to apply STEM knowledge and skills to problems they are presented, while designing and testing the solution with hands-on experience. Students are introduced to the engineering design process. They work both as individuals and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems. The course exercises higher-order thinking skills by using technology to solve problems. All students use an engineering notebook to document and preserve their work. Students study the use of materials, such as steel, concrete, soil, and masonry. This course exposes students to various fields of engineering and should be taken by any student who has an interest in the engineering fields.

865 DIGITAL FABRICATION, 9-12 (½ credit)

Imagine a physical object and then digitally design and create it in two or three dimensions. This course is taught by a GSA teacher in the Idea Studio fabrication space at BHCS during a normal GSA class

period. Students use 2D and 3D digital design techniques to create objects using a 3D printer, laser cutter/engraver, CNC precision milling machines, electronic circuit production, molding/casting, vinyl cutter, and manual and power hand tools. A wide array of materials are available, including wood, plastics, polystyrene, metals, silicone, clay, and leather.

863 INTRODUCTION TO METALS, 9-12 (½ credit)

This class gives students an introduction to hand and power tools associated with metalworking and fabrication. Layout of projects, welding, sharpening drill bits, and micrometer use are some of the areas covered.

868 METALS II, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Metals

Metals II will take the skills learned in Introduction to Metals and expand on them. Students will fabricate projects that are more complicated and involved than anything they have built so far. Each student will receive training on every machine or tool needed to complete the project. The projects built in the class will aim to expand the student's abilities on the use of the following machines and tools: welding equipment, machining parts on a lathe, bending equipment, milling machine operations, manual shear, drill press, and plasma cutter. As with all the metal working classes, shop safety and cleanliness will be stressed.

850 INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY, 9-12 (½ credit)

This course acquaints students with our ever-changing technology in the processes centered around communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and energy and power systems. Students work to design and build model cars, rockets, and other similar products.

852 DESIGN & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, 9-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

This course meets half of the visual and performing arts requirement and introduces students to the principles of design used in construction, manufacturing, and communication areas of technology. Students use problem-solving techniques to help them understand how to sketch, draw, form, and shape materials. Students will also learn how to make modifications to their designs and complete a reliable and working product.

856 ENGINE TECHNOLOGY, 10-12 (½ credit)

This course acquaints students with the basic principles involved in external and internal combustion engines. Students learn how each system of an engine operates. Through labs, they learn about two- and four-cycle engine principles, carburetion, ignition, cooling, lubrication, and overhaul, as well as how vehicles using gasoline, diesel, propane, jet, turbine, rotary, and rocket engines basically operate.

864 ADVANCED ENGINES, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Engine Tech or teacher permission

This course covers maintenance, efficiency, and performance of diesel engines.

GSA WELDING SEQUENCE

GSA offers a four-course welding sequence over a two-year rotation. Mig Welding and Tig Welding will be offered in 2023-2024; Welding I and Welding II will then be offered again in 2024-2025, and so forth. Welding I and Welding II teach techniques and procedures needed for passing structural

welding certification tests; students who take GSA welding courses, especially two or more courses, are well-prepared for post-secondary employment or further work in related fields at technical colleges or engineering programs. However, many students find it valuable to take single or multiple courses for their own personal interest.

866 WELDING I, 9-12 (1 credit) - not offered 2023-2024

In this course, students learn to perform all types of oxyacetylene cutting, brazing, and welding, as well as basic shielded metal arc welding (stick welding) techniques and procedures. They learn basic welding procedures to start preparing for welding certification tests. They learn proper safety procedures, proper metal preparation, and how to make good quality welds in various welding positions. Heat distortion and warpage, and how to minimize both, are taught as well. This course also introduces students to reading and understanding weld symbols on blueprints.

867 WELDING II, 9-12 (1 credit) - not offered 2023-2024

Prerequisite: Welding I

Students continue to learn shielded metal arc welding techniques and procedures. Uphill, overhead, and out-of-position welding are covered. Jobsite safety is stressed as well. Students continue to learn and use welding symbols and blueprints that are relevant to what is used in the welding industry. This class also introduces students to part layout, preparation, and fabricating using geometry to figure angles and shapes.

868 MIG WELDING, 9-12 (1 credit)

Students perform all types of gas metal arc welding (mig welding). They learn about basic mig as well as structural flux core mig welding. Students weld in all positions, flat, horizontal, overhead, vertical up and vertical down, using mig welding. Students use welding symbols and blueprints commonly used in the welding industry. Students are taught how to cut a fit pipe together using geometry. As always, shop and jobsite safety are stressed. Students also are introduced to gas tungsten arc welding (tig welding). There is an opportunity in this class for art students to make metal artwork.

869 TIG WELDING, 9-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: *Intro to Tech, Intro to Metals, or any welding course*

Students learn to weld steel, stainless steel, and aluminum using the gas tungsten arc welding (tig welding) method. All types of welding joints and positions are performed in this class. Students learn how to keep parts square and/or straight while welding. There is a great demand for talented tig welders. Aluminum bike frames, aluminum oil delivery tankers, marine fabrication, and stainless steel pipe lines are just some of the many jobs that involve this method of welding.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

GSA's pedagogical approach to the computer curriculum is to offer a wide range of exploratory courses that develop students' interest and skills in the ways computers are used in personal life, society, and the workplace.

Robotics	Computer Programming in Java
Video Technology	3D Computer Modeling

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
51	Computer Programming in Java	9-12	½	
52	Video Technology	9-12	½	
59	Robotics	9-12	½	
65	2D Computer Illustration	10-12	½	Art I or permission
66	3D Computer Modeling	10-12	½	2D Computer Illustration

51 COMPUTER PROGRAMMING IN JAVA, 9-12 (½ credit)

Computer programming involves the understanding of programming language concepts and how they are applied to problem-solving. Programming equips students with skills, which involve more than the syntax of a programming language. Computer programs are a form of communication. When developing program solutions, students consider clarity of expression, program maintenance, ease of debugging, program extension, reliability, utility and validity. These concepts are taught by learning to program in Java, an object-oriented programming language and currently the language being used for AP programming at the high school level.

52 VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, 9-12 (½ credit)

Video is probably the most universally known of all visual media and is an integral component of many technology applications. Video creation is not only instructional and analytical, but also artistic. The course covers all stages of video creation, distribution, and evaluation. Students learn video basics (camera handling, lighting) as well as pre-production (story generation, script writing, storyboarding), production (casting, direction, filming) and post-production (editing, titling, audio, effects).

59 ROBOTICS, 9-12 (½ credit)

This class uses robots to cover the fundamentals of problem-solving, mechanical design, and computer programming. A robot is an embedded system of software and hardware. Programming and building robots applies science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts. This course introduces the fundamental concepts of programming and robotics.

65 2D COMPUTER ILLUSTRATION, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Art I or teacher permission

This introductory course allows students to translate analog art skills into digital media by using digital tools to produce, manipulate, and animate original 2D artwork. The course utilizes vector graphics software for creating a wide variety of 2D graphics, such as illustrations, cartoons, icons, logos, diagrams, maps, posters and web graphics. Students learn proportion, perspective, lighting, storytelling, expression, and how basic shapes, symbols, gradients, fill colors, symbols, Bezier curves, and text can be combined to create artwork.

66 3D COMPUTER MODELING, 10-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: 2D Computer Illustration

This introductory course allows students to create illustrations that can then be modeled or animated in 3D. This course utilizes animation software that allows students to visualize, plan, and model in three-dimensional space, as well as explore its animation capabilities. Students create, animate, texture, and light 3D objects and scenes.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health	required, usually taken in 9th grade
Wellness	elective, 11th or 12th grade
Physical Education	Physical Education (semester): can be taken four times for credit Advanced Fitness, Dance I, and EEOL can all be taken for PE credit (prerequisite: one PE course)

Course #	Course Title	Grade Level	Credits	Prerequisites
980	Dance I	9-12	½	Physical Education
995	Advanced Fitness Training	11-12	½	Physical Education
997	Experiential Ed. and Outdoor Leadership	11-12	½	Physical Education
998	Health	9-12	½	
999	Physical Education	9-12	½	
996	Wellness	11-12	½	Health

980 DANCE I, 9-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: one semester of Physical Education

Dance courses are open to all students regardless of prior experience. Athletic students with little artistic inclination, artistic students with little athletic inclination, and everyone in between are encouraged to enroll. In a safe, supportive community, we learn the key elements of dance, with an emphasis on building strength, flexibility, coordination, and creative expression. We also explore the history, vocabulary, body politics, and gender roles of dance.

995 ADVANCED FITNESS TRAINING, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: two semesters of Physical Education

This course is designed for students to explore different methods of fitness training for athletics. The class stresses the importance of a year-round fitness program to enhance performance and reduce chance of athletic injury. The course covers flexibility, speed, aerobic, anaerobic, core body, and strength training. In consultation with the instructor, students design a program with short- and long-term fitness goals. Students are graded on participation, a daily journal to keep record of short- and long-term goals, body composition, height, weight, and daily workouts.

997 EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION & OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: one semester of Physical Education

This course is designed to enrich the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of students by experiencing a wide range of content areas and opportunities within the Blue Hill Peninsula, Acadia National Park, and the state of Maine. Through class instruction, student journals, guest speakers, group projects, and field trips, students develop skills in leadership, communication, trust-building, group problem-solving, and decision-making.

998 HEALTH, 9-12 (½ credit)

This course is designed to help students achieve overall physical, mental, and social well-being. Classes offer up-to-date information in six interrelated content areas: health and the mind; personal healthcare; the life cycle; the role of drugs; disease; and health and society. In each area, the class stresses the active role of the individual and provides, whenever possible, practical techniques that students can use to achieve positive changes.

999 PHYSICAL EDUCATION, 9-12, (½ credit)

Students are introduced to activities such as archery, pickleball, volleyball, aerobics, indoor soccer, floor hockey, tennis, aerobics, and weightlifting. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to a wide variety of activities in an enjoyable atmosphere to benefit them beyond high school. Students are required to enroll in and receive a passing grade in Physical Education for at least two quarters for one credit. Students may take PE up to four quarters for a maximum of two credits.

996 WELLNESS, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisite: Health

This advanced health class explores wellness through personal experience and growth, and through classroom study of important health topics. The goals of the course are for students to increase their own wellness, to learn in depth about key aspects of health, and to find joy (!) in every day. Students are expected to participate in activities and document their participation in various ways including class discussion and journaling. Note: Some topics may be difficult to discuss with a whole class. There are alternate ways to participate when a subject becomes difficult to explore publicly. Topics we explore and experience: mindfulness, meditation, benefits of outdoor exercise, as well as advanced health experiences in the biology of addiction and addiction treatment, nutrition, understanding of gender/sexuality, and more as time and interest allow. There are opportunities for students to select topics to study.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

1205 OCEAN STUDIES, 10-12 (1 credit)

Prerequisite: By teacher permission, may be taken up to three times

Ocean Studies is an interdisciplinary course that explores the many facets of the ocean ecosystem, from local to global scales. This course is for students who are interested in marine-related careers and prefer a hands-on approach to learning. Students learn basic navigation and seamanship skills and have the opportunity to participate in scientific research. Our coursework is embedded in our local fishing community so that the work is relevant and timely. We work with fishermen and other community members to understand the current issues in the fishery and use creative problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to develop an understanding of how to sustain local fisheries, as well as promote ocean health. Students also participate in a variety of field trips ranging from excursions in our coastal ecosystem to regional organizations to meet scientists or policy makers who influence fishery regulations. Students present their work at the Fishermen's Forum and also at the Eastern Maine Skippers Program year-end event.

INDEPENDENT STUDY AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (ISIP)

This is an opportunity for juniors and seniors to design their own learning experience and earn one-half elective credit. Students are responsible for determining an area of study that may include exposure to a potential career, development of a talent or interest, travel with an academic focus, or exploration of an area completely unknown. Students begin planning for ISIP in October, creating a completed proposal by January. During the two-week ISIP period, immediately after February break, students participate in their 60-hour project and then demonstrate their achievement at the ISIP Exhibition in March. All juniors and seniors are required to pursue an ISIP project each year.

NINTH-GRADE SEMINAR

Ninth-Grade Seminar is designed to help students successfully transition to the high school learning environment. The Ninth-Grade Seminar teacher provides students with the support and resources needed to handle the academic rigors of GSA and beyond. Daily classes combine short, focused, academic lessons with guided independent study time, tutoring, and daily monitoring of grades in all of their courses. Throughout the year, students learn the skills needed to self-advocate, manage time and stress, think critically, collaborate with peers, and become stronger, independent learners. Students will take one quarter of Ninth-Grade Seminar in the fall semester and one quarter in the spring semester. Ninth-Grade Seminar is graded pass/ fail and each quarter earns ¼ credit.

THE LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center provides services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP). This can mean different things for different students:

- Students are taught in a one-on-one setting in an area of need as identified by their team;
- Students use the Learning Center as a guided study hall where they get assistance completing work;
- Students, who have identified accommodations, come to the Learning Center where the accommodations are provided;
- The Learning Center also provides Ed Tech support in regular classes when the team decides that the regular classroom is the best place for the student to achieve the goals of the IEP.

RISE (ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE, SELF-ADVOCACY, AND EMPOWERMENT)

The RISE program at George Stevens Academy provides a learning environment to students whose academic, social, emotional, or behavioral needs require highly supportive and supervised special education services throughout the school day. The program fosters enhanced support for students with special needs in the mainstreamed classrooms and in a nurturing classroom experience with one-to-one specially designed instruction. The RISE program has found great success by embracing a culture that embodies opportunity to feel a part of a community. The program promotes independence in academic growth, life skills, social/emotional skills and executive functioning skills. Our program supports our students as they become more empowered to make healthy choices in their school experiences and guides them towards being active participants in their communities now and into their future. Our students are given opportunities to practice life skills and are supported and guided as they discover their career interests. Our RISE program educators guide our students through their academic years by providing support in finding effective tools and strategies to feel successful. Ongoing communication with students' families, special service providers, and the education team is key in ensuring that students are provided with the support necessary for their growth, development and post-secondary transition plans.

ADAPTIVE COURSES: ENGLISH, MATH, SOCIAL STUDIES, AND SCIENCE

Adaptive classes are offered for credit, when appropriate, for students with IEPs. These are offered on an individual basis and are IEP-driven. These classes count towards graduation goals as well as credits in the core areas of study. When possible, this curriculum parallels the topics taught in the regular education curriculum. When possible, students spend a significant amount of course time in the regular curriculum class. Teaching is done in units of study that are appropriate to the student's level. Students are evaluated through tests, reports, worksheets, and hands-on activities. Focus is on development of basic skills in the area of study as well as a solid foundation in reading, vocabulary, writing, and comprehension.

ALTERNATIVE COURSES

GSA students may take courses through other educational institutions or may design their own Alternative Course (AC). Credit varies depending on the course or program. The most common institutions GSA students have taken courses through are Brigham Young University (online high school courses), AP4ME (online AP courses that are not offered at GSA), Virtual High School (online high school courses), and ExplorEC (University of Maine early college online courses), and the Maine Community College System's On Campus program. Students who design their own Alternative Course create a curriculum they want to follow and work with a mentor who guides their independent study. Alternative Courses can also consist of interning with local organizations in healthcare, business, or other areas. Students can learn more about taking courses through other institutions or designing their own Alternative Course by meeting with the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction.