



OUR LADY  
*of*  
GOOD  
COUNSEL  
HIGH SCHOOL

*ACHIEVE  
BALANCE*

2023-24 VIEWBOOK



# *Founded with zeal.* **Driven to excel.**

Our school balances **two truths**:

- 1. Success is possible  
for every student.*
- 2. Every student  
should feel welcome  
and happy here.*

## Welcome to Our Lady of Good Counsel High School.

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School is a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive Catholic community that inspires students to excel, serve, and love. "In harmony, small things grow" is the motto of the Xaverian Brothers, and at Good Counsel students not only grow, but flourish.

As you walk the hallways and peek into classrooms, you find thoughtful and engaging students who are curious to learn and participate. Good Counsel's rigorous academics, combined with well-balanced support and encouragement, serves as the foundation for a successful four-year path to graduation. Here, all learners achieve and excel.

While that path leads to admission at top-ranked colleges and universities, it's the journey that forms each student with a purpose beyond. Our Xaverian core values are visible to all on a daily basis: Simplicity, Humility, Compassion, Zeal, and Trust. They appear on our walls, in our classrooms, on the playing field, and in our actions. At Good Counsel, they are not just words spoken, but truths lived. As a Catholic school, we believe that each of us is created by the love of God in God's image, which calls us to educate the whole person – spiritually, intellectually, and physically.

In our dynamic community, students form enduring personal relationships with each other – and with their teachers, coaches, and advisors. Our diversity is our strength, and the relationships formed here deepen the sense of belonging that our graduates carry with them well beyond their days at Good Counsel.

Follow the path to Good Counsel, and experience this extraordinary journey.

In harmony,

John J. Ciccone

President



# *51 beautiful acres. One focus.*

# You.

Our impressive campus won't be the only thing that makes an impression. While our facilities are outstanding, you will find our level of attention and devotion to our students is extraordinary.

Located in Olney, Maryland, a town ranked one of the best places to live in Maryland by Niche 2022, Good Counsel is easy to get to from anywhere in the region. We're just 3 miles north of the inter-county connector; 7 miles from the Glenmont Metro Station; and accessible via the RideOn bus (a free service for students), Red Line Metrorail, or Metro Bus. Additionally, we offer a private bus service for all students and encourage our families to carpool — just another way we foster community on and off campus.

It's one thing to read or flip through a booklet like this one — but it's another thing entirely to experience on a campus tour.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL

12 science and technology labs

150-seat chapel

State-of-the-art  
Performing Arts Center

Black Box theater

Dance studio

Library

Two indoor gyms

Turf field

Running track

Baseball field complete with hitting  
facilities and a new camera system

Softball field

Five practice fields

Two weight rooms



# The first thing we learn about is you, our student.

Our academic philosophy and curriculum are rooted in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Our belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God leads us to value the dignity and uniqueness of each individual. We put that belief into action by informing our approach to educating each and every student in their own way to maximize their potential.

By continually seeking to understand your needs as a student, we can place you in the appropriate courses to provide the proper level of rigor and support you need to maximize your growth academically, socially, and spiritually.

This level of personalized attention, combined with our academic and spiritual guidance, sets GC apart and helps prepare our graduates to succeed in college.

*We believe*  
**it's excellent to be good.**

Our spiritual foundation inspires us to serve and learn with zeal and calls us to aspire to excellence in all things. At GC, you will find that our faith, belief, and enthusiasm expand your potential tremendously. Whether we are practicing humility on a service trip in Appalachia, extending a hand to our biggest rivals no matter the outcome, or learning how to become engaged citizens with people of all faiths and backgrounds, **the brightest minds shine even brighter when they remain open to, and enlightened by, the ideas around them.**

**While 55% of GC students are Catholic, every student is welcome at GC.** Regardless of our individual beliefs and faith, there are two character traits we all share—enthusiasm for new learning and a burning desire to help others.



## Service Trips

*Serving others enthusiastically strengthens our humility.*

Our service trips will be a formative part of your GC experience. Opportunities include annual projects in impoverished communities domestically in Central Appalachia and Camden, New Jersey, as well as abroad in El Salvador.

Regardless of location, you'll get a firsthand opportunity to learn and help others through building houses, teaching lessons, and serving at local hospitals, orphanages, and daycares. In addition to the service component, you'll gain opportunities to be immersed in and gain an appreciation for the cultures and communities you are serving.

The aim of each trip is to serve, but oftentimes students are surprised to find how much they grow themselves through their service to others.

## Retreats

*Learning to understand others teaches us to understand ourselves.*

Taking part in the Retreat Program is a hallmark of the GC tradition. Retreats allow students to form bonds with their fellow classmates and grow in their faith as individuals through experiences outside the traditional classroom. Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Year Retreats are required, but many students find the experiences so impactful that they opt in to attend the Senior Year Retreat, too.



### Gabby Georges '24

For Gabby Georges' service trip to the Appalachian community in Cabell County, West Virginia, "Compassion" turned out to be the perfect Xaverian value to embody. Gabby and her fellow classmates built more than porches and foundations for the houses they worked on during the week they were in town. They also built relationships

with those they served and a greater understanding about how vastly different life can be for communities just hours away from our own campus. Together with her classmates, Gabby learned how the region's scarce resources for even the most basic of needs — like access to fresh food and clean water — served to strengthen

bonds between members of the community. While resources may be limited, the generations of families who call Appalachia home have developed an abundant sense of resilience and pride. The experience was so enlightening that Gabby looks forward to returning for a new service trip in McDowell County this summer.



## Our Founding

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The Xaverian Brothers are a group of ordinary people with an extraordinary devotion to spreading the word through efforts in education. Since the Brothers' founding in Belgium by Theodore James Ryken in 1839, teachers inspired by the Xaverian charism have provided the next generation with a distinctive Catholic education.



# Strong core beliefs inform open-minded thinking.



## Compassion

Our shared journey in life demands compassion. It inspires our actions, compelling us to feel what others feel, to aid them in dealing with situations, and to do everything in our power to improve their experience.



## Humility

You can be the smartest in the room and still have much to learn from others. Holding on to our humility regardless of our own limitations, giftedness, or growth allows us to continue to develop and better relate to all members of our community, creating a sense of unity.

Our Xaverian tradition is built on a framework of core values that inform our view of the world. This firm knowledge of who we are — centered on our beliefs in simplicity, humility, compassion, zeal, and trust — provides us with a strong foundation that allows us to continually grow and adapt to the world we live in without compromising our values.

These values inform how we interact with one another and our curriculum and they provide students with formative, lasting experiences that stay with them throughout life. Our values do not change, but rather they prepare us to adapt to an ever-changing world.

## Our Xaverian mission is to serve students.

Ever since our founding by the Xaverian Brothers as a Catholic school in 1958, our mission has been to provide young adults an outstanding college-preparatory education.

We strive to meet each and every one of our students with enthusiastic support and focus on them as individuals, providing the nurturing environment they deserve to grow into their best selves.

Our motto, “In harmony small things grow,” is just as true for every one of our graduates as it is for our institution itself. GC continues to grow and evolve into the best high school option for more than 1,200 of the region’s top students who seek to thrive in all dimensions of life.



## Trust

At various times we are called upon to have full faith in ourselves, one another, our teachers, and our founders.



## Zeal

This hallmark of Xaverian tradition encourages an enthusiastic spirit that becomes its own self-sustaining source of energy to engage and learn and grow. Our passion for a more abundant life proclaimed by Jesus inspires and shapes our community.



## Simplicity

Complexity often obscures a lack of substance. Pure truths are simple. Once understood, we strive to maintain simplicity by eliminating distractions in order to free the heart, the mind, and the soul to focus wholeheartedly on personal growth and learning.

Where lower student-  
to-faculty ratios provide

# greater focus on your needs.

GC measures up favorably to any school on key statistics such as number of students per instructor, programs, and classroom size, but here, students quickly find out the most important metrics are immeasurable.

**The focus and attention each GC student receives every day for four years helps students grow and flourish to their fullest potential.**

Our 1,200 students participate in classes where the average number of students is 20. And our 13-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio provides you with a sense of how much attention each student receives — but it's only part of the story.

When you consider how **88% of the teachers at GC hold doctoral or advanced degrees**, our student-to-faculty ratios are even more impressive.

Our sheer number of faculty with advanced degrees is one thing, but having the level of access to teachers that our students do and the flexibility to receive assistance from them during the day make those numbers really count.

**At GC, 100% of teachers have an open-door policy**, making themselves available for all students to ensure everyone can get the additional help they may need at any point in the day.

And on top of that willingness and enthusiasm our teachers bring to every lesson, GC's block scheduling also structures set time for extra help, attention, and support.

How does that matter to you? Well, if you're struggling to grasp a math concept or catching on to the rhythm of iambic pentameter (and, trust us, you probably will at some point), you can use any gaps in your schedule to get the help you need. So rather than missing your next audition for that part that could be the highlight of your semester, or that club activity you've been looking forward to all week, **you get to stay on course with your classes and pursue what you're passionate about.**





# Leading faculty and programming.

We continually seek to craft a curriculum that develops skills in areas students need to prepare for the rigors of college while also providing plenty of opportunities and support to pursue your own interests.

Every GC student starts with our core curriculum of required courses and from there you can elect to take part in a number of specialized courses and programs.

## Advanced Placement

Nineteen courses across all academic disciplines provide students seeking the pace and intellectual challenge of college-level coursework with the possibility of earning college credit while gaining an advanced understanding of a subject. **At GC, a majority of students scored a 3 or higher on their AP Exams.**

## College Preparatory Program

Preparing for college is an expected part of the GC experience and it starts from day one for all students. If you don't elect to join any other program, you will still gain exposure to essential content as you develop your skills needed to succeed on the path to getting accepted to colleges you apply to. Students receive the type of personalized attention and guidance throughout their four years that leads to our **100% reported college placement rate for a four-year college or university** (often including some of the top schools in the country). For the class of 2023, almost half (47%) enrolled in institutions ranked by US News as Top 100 National Universities or Top 50 Liberal Arts Colleges.

## International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

The most established program of its kind among all Catholic schools in our region, our IB Program distinguishes GC students for college consideration since it is globally recognized by top colleges and universities as one of the best available for highly motivated, high-achieving students.

The program consists of a two-year college preparatory course of study developing the whole student — intellectually, emotionally, and ethically.

With a core curriculum consisting of six subjects that are applied over three areas of focus, students learn how to learn by reflecting on the nature of knowledge itself, completing independent research, and partaking in a project that oftentimes involves an immersive community service aspect that enriches the lessons.

**Thirty-eight students in the IB Program were awarded 115 academic scholarships, totaling \$7.8 million, in 2023.**

## Ryken Studies Program

This college preparatory program is designed for highly motivated students diagnosed with mild learning differences. Named for the founder of the Xaverian Brothers, the Ryken Program uses varied teaching styles and strategies that focus on skill development in smaller group settings to assist students in their core courses. By junior year, most students move into the AP or IB Programs.

**Ryken Program students earned 122 academic scholarships, totaling \$6.3 million, in 2023.**

6

### core subject areas

Primary Language (World Literature and English language)

World Languages

Social Studies (including World Religions)

Experimental Sciences

Mathematics

Fine Arts or Electives



# Superior support and attention.

## STEM

This nationally recognized program introduces up to 40 students each year to engineering with its hands-on, project-based curriculum called Project Lead the Way.

**Good Counsel has been recognized as a “Distinguished Project Lead the Way School,” a distinction earned by only 2% of qualified schools nationally.**

### Program breakdown:

- **Year One — Introduction to Engineering Design:** This curriculum is exactly what it says, an introduction — to concepts, processes, software platforms, and teamwork. The perfect foundation to build upon.
- **Year Two — Principles of Engineering:** You’ll learn about the principles of physics and their importance to engineering and robotics.
- **Year Three — Electives:** Once you have your foundation covered, you can really take off with projects ranging from designing, developing, testing and producing aircraft and spacecraft to designing and constructing residential and commercial buildings.
- **Year Four — Engineering Design and Development:** You will complete a year-long capstone project involving prototyping, searching patents, and presenting to a panel of engineers.

**Twenty-three STEM students have earned 88 academic scholarships, totaling \$5.2 million, in 2023.**

PLTW is designed to expose students of varying abilities to STEM subjects. Therefore, acceptance to the STEM Program is independent from Honors math and science course placements.

## St. Mary’s Scholars

This program provides high-achieving students with a unified program of enrichment aimed at developing their abilities to draw and apply connections between academic lessons and the world outside the classroom. Each year, 50 ninth graders are invited into the program. Selection is made at the conclusion of the first semester of freshman year and takes into account a student’s GPA and the rigor of their coursework. To be considered, a student must be taking four or more Honors level classes during their freshman year.

## Xaverian Honors Program

For many students this program is the precursor to our Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs in their later years. Students get to dive into a subject they are passionate about while taking Honors courses, choosing from 50 classes covering just about every subject available.

## Global Programs

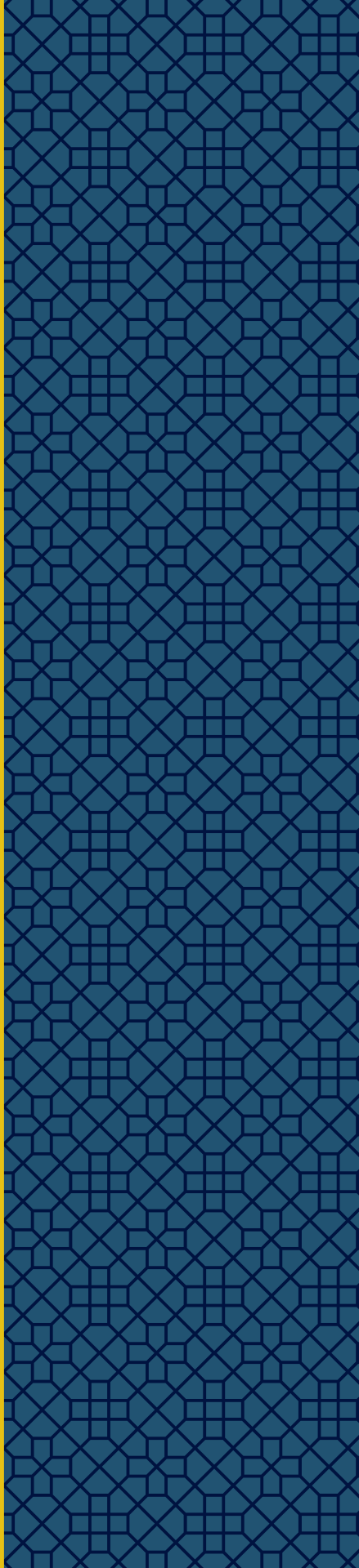
We welcome up to 20 international students each year who broaden our perspectives across the greater GC

community. Along with homestays, English Language Learner courses, and a “Global Buddies” program in which international students are paired with American students, participants also get to take part in our Model UN program hosted at prestigious institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, the University of Pennsylvania, USAID, and the US State Department.

Our location — just 45 minutes from the two major metropolitan cities of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, and three international airports — provides global students unparalleled access to our state’s and nation’s cultural, economic, and legislative epicenter. All this leads international students to success here, taking on leadership positions in student government, becoming star players on sports teams, and achieving perfect scores on AP exams. To date, **98% of our international students attend a US News Top 100 University in the United States.**

GC students seeking to travel abroad have access to partner schools all around the world through our Exchange Programs. Spain, France, Austria, and Australia all have existing exchange schools while we are also exploring partnerships with schools in the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and China.







*You enroll in more than a school.*

# You join a community.



You'd be surprised how much a simple "hi" means when you start out at a new school. Here at GC, you won't just receive one hello — you'll receive hundreds. It's part of our culture here to welcome everyone with kindness.

We put our values into practice, starting with the simplest gesture of kindness, greeting one another with open arms. From there, everything else stems.

You'll find a Catholic school that draws on its faith, tradition, and the scripture to support you in your pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

You'll find a community that is actively engaged and interested in helping you find your place.

A level of personalization that leads to bonds and connections that will remain a part of your life for decades to come, long after your four years of being a student here are over.

**This inclusivity and commitment to tailor our offerings to your needs is woven into the fabric of GC and leads to us all finding opportunities to improve in every direction we look.**

## *Feel comfortable to be your best.*

The reason students feel so welcome at GC is because we truly meet them where they are. It's another example of how our beliefs inform our actions.

We believe that every single student has a place and deserves the opportunity to fit in and feel comfortable to succeed and flourish. So we actively look to create harmony for students by providing them with the right blend of classes and extracurricular activities.

Along with our programming options, we prioritize inclusivity so you're comfortable sharing your ideas without hesitation to enrich our shared experience. **We're at our best when we feel comfortable and welcome.**

## *Whenever we see injustice in the world, our values call upon us to act.*

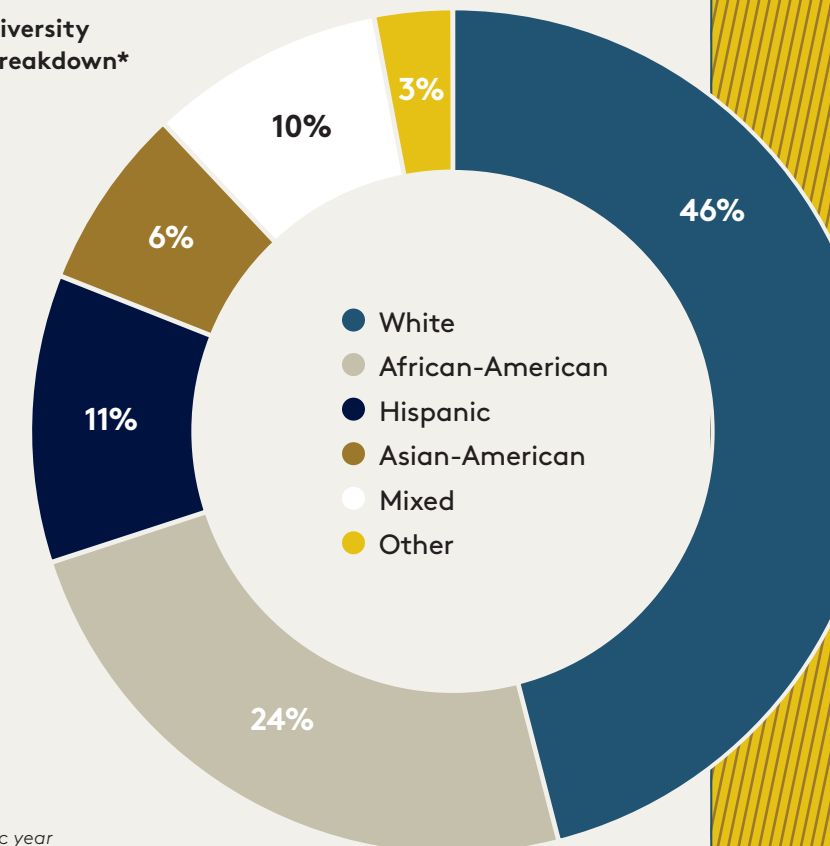
As a Catholic, Xaverian community of faith, we believe in equity and justice. Our value of compassion calls on us to walk with our brothers and sisters, to suffer when they are suffering, and seek ways to eliminate injustices. Our school mission inspires students to love all God's children and serve the poor and marginalized. We stand committed to consistently creating a loving community where each and every student feels seen and valued.

Through our Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), students have multiple opportunities to learn more about social justice issues and explore, affirm, and celebrate the diverse cultures represented in our school community.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in Action

Much of ODI's efforts are supported through the Social Justice and Inclusion Leaders (SJIL), a diverse group of student leaders charged with promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice throughout our school community. Their key responsibilities include planning student programming, attending conferences, and serving as peer mediators. Through their support, and our commitment to working with faculty, staff, students and our entire community, we hope to continue to foster an environment where every single human can be excellent.

Diversity Breakdown\*



\*9th through 12th classes for the 2023–2024 academic year

Well-rounded  
success.

300

total number of graduates

30<sup>K</sup>

collective community service hours  
with nonprofit organizations

100%

reported acceptance rate to a  
four-year college or university

3

National Merit Finalists

7

National African American  
Recognition Program scholars

1

National Hispanic Recognition  
Program scholar

65%

of GC 2023 graduates  
received four-year academic  
scholarship offers

\$133<sup>K</sup>

the average award  
per graduate

\$40<sup>M</sup>

in total scholarships  
was a school record

26

NCAA student-athletes  
who were offered

\$3.3<sup>M</sup>

in scholarships

168 graduates from the class of 2023 are attending the following US News Top 100 National Universities and Top 50 Liberal Arts Schools

Amherst College

Auburn University

Clemson University

Colgate University

Colorado School of Mines

Dartmouth College

Duke University

Elon University

Florida State University

Fordham University

Franklin & Marshall College

George Washington University

Georgetown University

Howard University

Indiana University Bloomington

Johns Hopkins University

Juniata College

Northwestern University

Penn State Berks

Pennsylvania State University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rutgers University

Spelman College

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Stony Brook University

Syracuse University

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tulane University

United States Military Academy

University of California–San Diego

University of California–Davis

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Delaware

University of Georgia

University of Maryland

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Michigan Ann Arbor

University of Notre Dame

University of Pittsburgh

University of Southern California

Vanderbilt University

Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Washington and Jefferson College

Washington College

William & Mary

Worcester Polytechnic Institute



*Here, impressive graduates*  
**excel as  
people.**

As impressive as the accolades are about our previous graduating class, what truly sets the GC experience apart is our mission to “excel, serve, and love” that shines through every GC student and faculty member. We are the best fit for high schoolers who thrive on achievement in all areas of life, and who know that strong, caring relationships are the way to get there.







*In harmony,  
small things grow.*





You'll find out how big our stage is

before you even set foot on it.



When the curtain went up for a recent production by our student theater group, the excitement and big-stage atmosphere made itself known before the first act began. The audience in our 650-seat theater erupted in anticipation of the show they were about to see, filling our cast's faces with wide smiles backstage.

Whether you're an aspiring actor, already a professional with gigs, or you're just involved for the love of it, the facilities and attention to detail of our arts program at GC rival professional productions. The enthusiasm and support you receive from your fellow castmates and instructors will make you feel at home up on stage, regardless of your talent level.

### Impressive Facilities

Our three-story, 26,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art space includes a 650-seat theater, set design and construction shop, dressing rooms, fully equipped orchestra pit, costume and properties shops, black box theater, dance studio, and arts education classroom.

### The Arts at GC

You'll have access to a robust arts program covering a wide range of courses and extracurricular activities with top-notch studio and performing spaces.

- Choral Music
- Dance
- Instrumental Music
- Performing Arts Center
- Theater
- Visual Arts

“  
*Instantly, the months of blood, sweat and tears which went into rehearsing parts, hitting marks, and delivering lines were swept away and all that remained was pure joy. At that moment everyone knew all the hard work was worth it.*

Valeria Morales, '23  
Cast member of *Once on This Island*





# Competing on the field



## *teaches us to win off of it.*

We keep a special reserve of energy for the end of the week, when the student section calls our names. School spirit pulses through our veins as our spirit teams hype us up to the beat of our marching band, but the spirit of the Xaverian Brothers is always in our hearts, guiding us in the stands and on the field.

With three out of every four students also earning the title “student-athlete,” school spirit is something we share in common.

GC’s more than 40 athletic teams compete in the esteemed Washington Catholic Athletic Conference, where they’re known to win championships. But the titles are just the beginning of the story. The lessons these teammates learned about self-respect, self-discipline, and self-esteem are the real win. **Plus, the NCAA athletes we graduated in 2023 won a total of \$3.3 million in scholarships.**

GC athletes win with dignity, accept defeat with grace, and excel in every aspect of the game — from skills to sportsmanship. We produce Olympic gold medalists and Super Bowl champions, coaches and mentors, and most of all, whole people who go on to understand the value of teamwork, no matter what they do. To us, that’s the meaning of “good game.”

*Competing at the highest level leads to succeeding at the highest levels long after the game has ended.*



# With school spirit like this, attending a game is just as fun as playing in one.

Having a top-tier athletics program comes with its perks. Your teams get to go up against some of the best talent in the nation while our athletes get to sharpen their skills against a roster full of talented players who are striving to be their best. But you also get to be a fan. Whether you play in a sport or not, all GC students come together to cheer for their fellow classmates who also compete at the highest levels.

## Not all our teams are varsity.

GC maintains a great well-rounded blend of academics, athletics, and social activities. With students having more than 50 clubs and organizations to participate in, it's no surprise that our sense of school spirit from the playing field spills over into after-school clubs you get to choose from. It's part of the zeal and enthusiasm you'll encounter throughout your GC experience that you'll come to know and love.

*It's one thing to have  
top-notch facilities.*

**It's a GC thing to make  
the most of them.**

Our two indoor gyms stretch across 18,258 square feet, providing plenty of open floor time so all sports have more flexibility in scheduling practices.

Having a turf field and running track means our gameday conditions are consistent all year round, regardless of how heavily they're used by our championship programs.

Most schools have a baseball field, ours comes with a hitting facility and state-of-the-art camera technology. Along with it are our five practice fields and two weight rooms, ensuring that every team has ample space to practice as hard as they want without getting in each other's way.



## Notable Alumni

We don't measure our program's success in scores or championships. We measure our program's success in champions. Whether that's seen with multiple Super Bowl or Bowl game rings, Olympic medals, or those of our alumni championing rights for players at the highest ranks.

**Josh Paschal '17**  
NFL Detroit Lions

**Lindsey Pulliam '17**  
WNBA

**Kyle Snyder '14**  
Olympic Gold Medalist

**Jack Conger '13**  
Olympic Gold Medalist

**Imani Dorsey '14**  
Former USWNT member

**Kendall Fuller '13**  
Super Bowl Champion

**Dorian O'Daniel '13**  
Super Bowl Champion

**Margaret Purce '13**  
Former USWNT member

**Stefon Diggs '12**  
NFL Pro Bowl Wide Receiver

**Blake Countess '11**  
Super Bowl Champion

**Jelani Jenkins '09**  
Former NFL Linebacker

**Roger Mason Jr. '99**  
Former NBA Player, Former Deputy Executive Director, National Basketball Players Association (NBPA)

**Chris Heck '88**  
President, Business Operations for the Aston Villa Football Club in the United Kingdom

**Marty Hurney '73**  
Executive Vice President of Football/Player Personnel, Washington Commanders



*Here you'll find  
the balance you need  
to succeed anywhere...*

In addition to earning Theater, Speech, and Xaverian Honors scholarships, Valeria Morales came to GC already as a professional actor. Her busy schedule in and out of school shines an interesting spotlight on just how supportive GC's community can be in finding the right balance for each and every student.

After completing her first three academic years in stellar fashion, as a senior Valeria returned to the stage alongside her classmates to perform in the GC production of *Once Upon This Island*. A rewarding performance that Valeria and her fellow castmates will remember for life. The Performing Arts Center's capacity crowd was on its feet even before the curtains went up.

Now, as an International Baccalaureate graduate, Valeria credits the flexibility and support shown by her teachers, the mentors in the theater program, and GC's administration for helping her balance her rigorous academic schedule with her seemingly endless list of extracurricular activities.

Valeria's story is proof of how GC is exemplifying the Xaverian Brothers motto "In harmony, small things grow." And how at GC you can find the balance that works for you to do everything you want to do on your way to preparing for college.

Valeria Morales '23



Jake Plainte '24



Having gone to middle school just down the road from Good Counsel, Jake Plainte grew up watching the GC baseball team hit balls in the practice fields. Now a senior at GC, Jake is the one stepping onto the mound as an accomplished pitcher for the Falcons with his sights set on earning a college roster spot.

"I'm fortunate enough to be playing a sport in college. My search for colleges started freshman year. I've been talking to coaches since then. I have an idea of the schools I want to go to and the schools that are interested in me."

Jake has some big plans for his future. He wants to go into Engineering or Business, and has committed to playing baseball at Brown University. The high difficulty and college-level material Jake has taken as part of his STEM, AP, and IB classes at GC means he has all his bases covered for college.

"The whole curriculum is based on getting you ready for college like it's a college prep school."

That middle school kid that would watch the Falcons running drills in their practice field may have never considered that he could play ball for an Ivy League college. But his story is a testament to GC's multidisciplinary approach to college preparation and how Jake is prepared for any challenge he may face.

*From waiting backstage  
to taking center stage,  
watching the team to leading it...*



*... Being the new face to being  
in every club.  
Shining on the diamond,  
and the grid.*

Imagine you leave all you've ever known to come to a new country — as a sophomore in high school. Su Lei Naing did just that.

Su is vivacious and self-possessed. You would never know that just a few short months ago, all of this — Good Counsel, her friends, and this country — were new to her. At first the transition wasn't easy, but she found the welcoming environment of Good Counsel helped her adjust.

Su is now a member of multiple clubs and extracurriculars: speech, archery, Global Buddies, Social Justice and Inclusion Leaders (SJIL), and the sub-committee for cultural appreciation.

And she's even creating her own club, the Asian Pacific Islander Association (APIA). She hopes this club will help create a space where people like her who want community within their identity can meet new people from their own culture and find a home.

Su tells other international students considering Good Counsel to not be nervous about coming to the school, as everyone is very welcoming and the experience here is a fun one. She advises incoming students to get involved and it'll only be a matter of time before you feel like you fit in.

Su Lei Naing '25



Mark Villanueva '22



Sometimes, following your passions leads to discovering entirely new ones altogether. For instance, Mark Villanueva was a starting middle infielder for the GC Falcons baseball team by day, but a chance encounter in art class led to him also serving as the team's social media manager by night.

The opportunities to make an impact with baseball outside the lines continued to be revealed to Mark in his GC Economics class where he learned about the business side of the sport he loves to play. In that class he gained insights about potential career paths in professional sports. Simultaneously, Mark's pursuit of graphic art in his Photoshop class led friends to suggest he apply his artistic skills to the baseball team's Instagram account.

That suggestion led to countless social posts and in addition to the team gaining a better social media presence, Mark gained real-life experiences that are opening up opportunities for his future. Now, Mark continues that balance as a student at Catholic University of America where he is pursuing a Business degree with a minor in Sports Management along with playing for the university's baseball team.





# Getting in is just the beginning. What you get out of GC is where it gets interesting.

With the college counseling and customized, personal guidance we provide to our students from day one, we pride ourselves on bringing the best out of the region's talent. But you don't need to take our word for it. Simply look to the decades-long track record of excellence that is on our invite list for high school reunions.



## Notable Alumni

GC boasts more than 13,000 alumni worldwide doing amazing things in business and life. Here are just a few of them.

**Dhonielle Clayton '01**  
New York Times  
Best-selling Author

**Katherine Liola '97**  
Founder & CEO of Concentric  
Wealth Management

**Rudy Cline-Thomas '96**  
Founder & Managing  
Partner of Mastry, Inc.

**Danny Lledo '96**  
Michelin Star Chef

**Dr. Suzie Miller '95**  
CEO of MDadmit

**Hilary Stauffer '95**  
Head of the Kyiv Hub,  
United Nations OCHA

**Rick Yune '89**  
Actor

**Mark Povinelli '89**  
Award-Winning Actor

**Tony Wells '82**  
Chief Media Officer  
at Verizon

**Rich Jeanneret '79**  
Vice Chair Emeritus, EY,  
Former Americas Operating  
Board Member and US  
Executive Member, EY

**Kevin Blackistone '77**  
*The Washington Post*  
Columnist, panelist of  
ESPN's Around The Horn

**John Berry '77**  
President of American  
Australian Association,  
former US Ambassador  
to Australia, former  
Director of Smithsonian  
National Zoo

It's great to have alumni go on to have success, but it's even better to connect our future GC graduates with our notable alumni through our new student-to-alumni mentorship program.



From our earliest days as students,  
we are told to pay attention.

*But does your school*

# pay attention to you?

It's one of the biggest things we hear from students — how for the first time in their lives, they weren't simply lumped in with all the other high-achievers and put on a generic fast-track to success.

At GC, we make a point of listening to the things you are excited about so we can connect you with the opportunities to experience and excel at them.

*Robotics? Basketball? Campus Ministry?  
How about all three and then some?*

We don't just want to prepare you for any of the best colleges in the country. We want to help you narrow down your list to the ones that are best for you. That's how you'll leave here, with the confidence to chase your dreams and the excellence to live up to them.

CHASE YOUR DREAMS. ACE  
DREAM SCHOOL. MARCH TO YOUR  
TEST. MARCH TO YOUR  
OWN BEAT. DISCOVER  
MINISTRY. PRACTICE GO  
SPORTSMANSHIP. PACK  
OUR LUGGAGE. GO ON  
MISSION TRIP. EXPAND  
OUR WORLDVIEW. FIN  
OUR MEDIUM. WIN OUR  
NEXT WCAC CHAMPION  
JAM OVER LUNCH. SHO  
PASSION. PERFOR

Learn how to apply.

# Discover how we can support you.

## Admission Criteria

Students must submit an online application along with the required application fee:

Application Fee	\$70
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Apply online at [olgchs.org/admissions/apply](https://olgchs.org/admissions/apply)

In addition to applying, students must also demonstrate appropriate ability on their High School Placement Test (HSPT\*), have a high level of achievement in seventh grade and first quarter of eighth grade, and demonstrate a sincere desire to attend GC. Students must also provide recommendations by teachers of two core subjects such as History, English, Math, or Science. Any additional recommendations over and above those two are considered but not required.

In addition to being recommended, students must also provide proof of satisfactory disciplinary and attendance history along with their middle school transcripts and take part in an in-person interview with a member of the Good Counsel community.

## Advisors are available from day one.

GC is a special school. Our advisors make sure your experience joining it is special, too. From day one you'll be paired with an advisor who will provide you with individualized attention to help you acclimate to life at GC and over your years at school here.

Your advisor will remain a constant throughout your journey from day one to graduation, ensuring you have a mentor available to provide advice and guidance every step of the way.

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

Good Counsel seeks to provide a quality college preparatory education at the most affordable rate possible. Our tuition is set annually by the Good Counsel Board of Directors each January. Tuition rates include daily lunch for students. Tuition does not cover the cost of books, uniforms, or extracurricular activities fees. However, every year some books are provided by the State of Maryland at no charge to every student. A registration fee is charged to all new students.

To offset some of these costs, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School is proud to offer a number of scholarship opportunities to our students.

### Presidential Scholarships \$20,000

*(\$5,000/year for four consecutive years)*  
Awarded to students who score the highest on the HSPT, display outstanding academic performance and commitment to extracurricular involvement. Students need not apply; Good Counsel awards this scholarship based on application components.

### Xaverian Leadership Scholarships \$8,000–\$12,000

*(\$2,000–\$3,000/year for four consecutive years)*  
Awarded to highest-achieving students who demonstrate leadership through extracurricular activities and commitment to serving others. Students need not apply; Good Counsel awards this scholarship based on application components.

### Fine Arts Scholarships \$10,000

*(\$2,500/year for four consecutive years)*  
A total of six fine arts scholarships in each category will be awarded to students who demonstrate notable achievement in art, theater, choral music, instrumental music, and visual arts.

Auditions for theater, choral, and instrumental music will be held in January 2024. The deadline for all auditions is January 26, 2024.

Visual Arts applicants will indicate interest for the visual art scholarship on the online application. Detailed information with links for digital portfolio submission and audition schedules will be emailed after the December 1, 2023 deadline.

### Speech and Debate Scholarships \$11,000–\$16,000

*(\$2,750–\$4,000/year for four consecutive years)*  
Scholarships are awarded to incoming freshman students who place first through sixth in the Speech and Debate competition held annually each March.

More scholarships can be found at [olgchs.org/scholarships](https://olgchs.org/scholarships).

### Fees\*\*

Application Fee	\$70
Registration Deposit	\$1,000

Good Counsel offers financial aid to qualified families to help reduce the total cost of tuition. We encourage all families interested in receiving financial aid, both new and returning, to complete the online tuition assistance application each year.

### Application and need-based financial aid (FACTS) application deadline

Friday, December 1, 2023

Good Counsel uses FACTS (Nelnet tuition services) for the collection and initial evaluation of financial data. FACTS does not decide whether financial aid will be given or how much to give. FACTS provides a need-based financial analysis service.

Learn more at [olgchs.org/admissions/tuition-fees-aid](https://olgchs.org/admissions/tuition-fees-aid).

## Application Timeline Important Dates

### Eighth Grade Shadow Visits

Monday, September 11, 2023 to  
Wednesday, November 29, 2023

### Sibling & Legacy Day

Friday, September 22, 2023

### Parent Information Night

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

### Open House

Sunday, October 22, 2023

### Campus Tours led by the Parents Association

November

### Application, need-based financial aid (FACTS) application, and scholarship deadline

Friday, December 1, 2023

### HSPT Exam (hosted at GC

and available nationwide)  
Saturday, December 2, 2023

### HSPT Exam (available nationwide)

Saturday, December 9, 2023

### Interviews

Saturday, January 6, 2024

### Admissions Decisions Mailed

Thursday, February 22, 2024

### Admissions Decisions Emailed

Friday, February 23, 2024

### Accepted Students Event

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

### Freshman Registration

Friday March 8, 2024

\* Please note that the HSPT is required of all students.  
\*\* These fees are nonrefundable.



# GC graduates *succeed all over the world.* *But before they do, they start here.*

*Take the first step to getting  
anywhere you want to go.*

## Shadow Visits

There is no closer thing to attending GC yourself as a freshman than attending GC yourself (for a day) as an eighth grader. Get paired up with a current student for a one-day visit where you get to become a Falcon for a day. Walk the halls, taste the food and have your questions answered in real time while you walk among students who could be your fellow classmates next year.

## Parent Information Night

This 90-minute session provides an overview of the GC experience for parents. With breakout sessions devoted to featured academic areas, you'll be sure to have any specific questions answered.

## Open House

So much about what sets the GC experience apart is how the community of fellow students, teachers, and coaches that surrounds you wants and helps you to succeed once you are here. There's no better way to get a sense for our welcoming, nurturing community than one Sunday in the fall when we open our doors for our Open House where you're welcomed with open arms into the school that could be your alma mater.

## Virtual Tour

Schedules being what they are, it's not always easy to get out to campus for an in-person tour. Our virtual tour provides a sense of the GC campus exclusively online — allowing you to look around and see the sights from the comfort of your own home. Visit [olgchs.org/admissions](http://olgchs.org/admissions) and take a virtual tour today.

After you get  
to know GC, the  
next step is to let  
us get to know  
you, by applying.

Where to apply

Eighth Graders  
[olgchs.org/admissions/apply](http://olgchs.org/admissions/apply)

# Before they had all the answers, they had a lot of questions themselves.

You can have all the talent and smarts in the world but it takes a lot of hard work and a nurturing environment to reach your full potential. That’s what GC provides. But don’t just take our word for it. **Hear from this group of students who were where you are now.**

They had a lot of questions themselves. Likely some of the same ones you’re wondering about today. Maybe even a few you haven’t quite thought of yet.

Hear directly from them. If there’s something they don’t cover, reach out and start a conversation to learn more about GC and how we can help you reach your full potential.

## Did you have any concerns before attending?

**Kate Egan:** I was really nervous that academically it was going to be a huge jump. But I feel like GC did a great job of easing us into the freshman year and not throwing a boatload of work at us. The teachers were always there to help me. And if I needed anything, I could go to any one of my teachers and I wasn’t scared once the year started. So I would definitely tell my eighth grade self to relax more and not be so scared that all the work would be on me because I would have help.

## Should I play a sport? Should I go to games?

**Lauren Hurt:** Yes. You absolutely should. Play in or attend every game you can. In the fall, being at the stadium on a Friday night, you will get no better version of GC and a GC student so that’s why I encourage it. Whether you’re on a team or in the

stands, you need to go to these events because the sense of community and the sense of togetherness that we have at them is just awesome, and you need to be there and experience that. That’s why I’d say you should do it. It’s not that you need to be athletic, or into sports, it’s more for the community aspect.

## How was it applying for you and your parents? Did you get support you needed along the way?

**Valeria Morales:** My mother had this notion that she wanted me to go to GC. Most students talk about having a first choice. GC was my only choice. I wasn’t too heavily involved, but I know my mom had a lot of help during the application process because it’s a lot of paperwork and there is a lot of reading involved and English is not her first language. She received a lot of help and guidance and people were open to answer any questions she had.

## Can I make my own club?

**Kate Egan:** Yes, you can make your own club. My fellow classmate started the Bridge Club at GC, which I am part of, and together we are helping to support families in need in Zimbabwe.

**Su Lei Naing:** I’m creating a club called the Asian Pacific Islander Association (APIA). When I first came to GC, I was looking for clubs to join, and there was no Asian club. There was a specific Filipino club but nothing for a wider diversity of Asian students. Even if it’s just this little club — I want them to feel like they fit in. Like they’re comfortable. They can meet people from their own culture with the same language, background.

## Is the food good?

**Lauren Hurt:** The food is really good. I talk to my friends at other schools and they complain about their food and how they have to pay for it. Our food is good and we don’t have to pay for it here. **I’ve never seen anyone bring a lunchbox to this school.** Today we had Philly cheesesteaks, waffle fries, pierogies, rice — there’s always a salad bar, there’s always a sandwich bar, there’s always fruit. And then, some of the seniors got Italian ice outside for those of us that were involved in Campus Ministries. And that’s just a typical Thursday.

## What’s the day-to-day atmosphere like at GC?

**Hilda Diaz:** I went to an Open House, and I got to perform there in middle school with my choir. And everyone was so welcoming and that’s what it’s like every day here. It’s like a home here. Everyone is so kind and they find ways to help you. Your teachers always look to find a way to help you understand the material. Everyone just wants you to succeed. And that’s an environment I love and feel comfortable in.

**Lauren Hurt:** The thing about GC that I really liked was the sense of community and how welcoming they were. You could tell everyone was happy to be here.

I really liked how welcomed I felt on my eighth grade tour and I wanted to be one of those students who holds the door open for future eighth graders, so I joined Campus Ministries and now I get to return the favor.

**Jake Plainte:** Whenever I talk with students who are considering GC, a lot of times they have questions about the day-to-day here and what it’s like academically.

For anyone who is curious about the social environment and how it is here academically, a shadow day is a great opportunity to get a true sense of what it’s like here day-to-day. For students who are looking to be in the STEM program, it’s great for them to come in and see how we have a beautiful STEM lab with 3D printers and everything you could imagine.

And for students to get a chance to see all of that firsthand is great. You get a sense for more than just

the facilities when you come for the day because you also see how you’ll interact with your teachers and your peers, and you get a sense for the community we have here.

## What’s the schedule like? Is it easy to get extra help if you need it?

**Kate Egan:** There’s a lot of flexibility in the schedule. If you need help, you can either go through your guidance counselor to email your teachers for help or go straight to your teachers to get help. I just ask them at the end of class when they’re free and if they have first lunch or second lunch. Since lunch is so long, I can eat and then I have an extra 45 minutes to an hour to go get help. And most of the time they’re sitting in their classroom or they’re in their resource room, and I can just go get help from them and they’re always open to help. Math is usually the busiest, but our teacher always makes sure she gets around to help everyone.

## How rigorous are the academics?

**Valeria Morales:** The International Baccalaureate Program has taught me how much life can be easier if you manage your time and your work. I’m already feeling the effects of this self-paced structure. I’m very grateful that I’m learning that now rather than in college when it might matter a little bit more.

**Jake Plainte:** I’d agree with that, the academics are rigorous but high school at Good Counsel can be as easy as you make it on yourself.

Finding the right answers for yourself starts with asking the right questions. If you have more, reach out to us today to start the conversation and learn about all that GC offers.

**Ms. Maria Nichols ’04**  
Executive Director of Enrollment Management  
mnichols@olgchs.org, 240-283-3235



