



Bob Whelan, *Head of School* - bwhelan@gfacademy.org

Rachel Boyer, *Director of College Counseling* - rboyer@gfacademy.org

David Olins, *Senior Associate Director of College Counseling* - dolins@gfacademy.org

Jordan Studevan, *Associate Director of College Counseling* - jstudevan@gfacademy.org

Jennifer Shairer, *Office Manager* - jshairer@gfacademy.org

Telephone (203) 256-7513 Fax (203) 256-7566 CEEB Code: 070915



GFA has a total enrollment of 762 students PreK-12.



GFA students represent 36 towns and cities across Connecticut and New York State.

ACADEMICS

GFA requires a minimum of 20 credits of academic work for graduation including: English (4); Mathematics (3); World Languages (3); History and Global Studies (2); Science (2); Arts (1); May Term (1 each in 2018-2019 and 2021-2022). Each year, students take a minimum of 5 full-credit courses and a maximum of 6.5 (7 credits are permitted for students in music ensembles). **Juniors and seniors may not exceed 5 credits per year in English, Science, Mathematics, History and Global Studies, and World Languages, but may add Inquiries, Advanced Inquiries, and Global Online Academy courses to those 5 core courses.**

BEYOND THE AP: In 2020-2021, GFA chose to phase out AP courses. Students graduating in 2022 were the final class to utilize the AP Curriculum. In 2020, AP courses were replaced by Advanced Courses and a new student-centered inquiry-focused curriculum featuring Inquiries and Advanced Inquiries.

Inquiries deepen a student's understanding of a subject or facilitate the development of skills beyond what is possible in the rest of the curriculum. Students partner with a faculty mentor alongside a small cohort of peers to write substantial research papers, explore a topic in greater depth than in traditional courses, learn a new skill, or gain knowledge about a topic that is not covered in the curriculum. These 0.5 credit courses are typically available beginning in the 11th grade.

Advanced Inquiries, available only to 12th graders, represent the highest level of academic rigor at GFA. They generate the highest level of understanding, demand the greatest skill, and offer the most latitude for students to exercise their agency and follow their curiosity. In these courses, students will chart their own paths of inquiry, present their findings to the GFA community, and produce an original piece of work. Students may enroll in only one Advanced Inquiry in their senior year.

DISCIPLINE REPORTING

If asked, GFA will report disciplinary violations that result in suspensions, whether related to academic or behavioral misconduct. A single infraction that occurs in the freshman or sophomore year is not reported.

HONORS, HIGH HONORS, AND HEAD OF SCHOOL

Honor Roll is achieved with a minimum B+ average. High Honor Roll requires a minimum A- average. Head of School Distinction is a faculty-nominated honor awarded each semester to students who demonstrate commitment to academic excellence through their leadership in class and their role as catalysts in class discussion. Selected students model qualities such as intellectual courage or initiative, willingness to hear or offer alternative points of view, and enthusiasm for learning for its own sake.

LEARNING IN THE WORLD

GFA students can participate in several off-campus study programs in the United States and overseas for a year, a semester, or even a summer. Recently, students have attended School Year Abroad (SYA), High Mountain Institute (HMI), The Island School, Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki, The Mountain School, and The School for Ethics and Global Leadership (SEGL). GFA is also a member of Global Online Academy (GOA). GOA courses are interactive, instructional, and experiential. All GOA courses have synchronous and asynchronous components.

ARTS

GFA views the arts as a fundamental component of a demanding curriculum. The Performing Arts and Visual Arts departments offer a full, four-year curriculum culminating in Advanced Inquiries. Students regularly participate in concert performances, recitals, musicals, and plays. They also represent GFA in All-Region, All-State, and national performance ensembles.

ATHLETICS

GFA has a vibrant athletics program that offers 50 activities, including interscholastic sports, independent studies, and fitness classes. Freshmen and sophomores are required to participate in three athletic seasons while juniors and seniors must participate in two.

MARKING SYSTEM

GFA uses an unweighted grading scale. Upper School courses completed prior to ninth grade are included in a student's total credits, but are not calculated into the cumulative GPA.

A+ 4.33	B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	D+ 1.33
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00
A- 3.67	B- 2.67	C- 1.67	D- 0.67
			F 0.00

CLASS OF 2023 TESTING

SAT (55 test takers)		ACT (28 test takers)
EBRW	Math	Mean: 30
Mean: 665	Mean: 658	Median: 28
Median: 680	Median: 660	

UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSCRIPT

In moving beyond the AP, GFA adopted a numbering system to represent courses on student transcripts. Courses move in sequence from the 100-800 level, which represent a student's progression through each department's curriculum.

- 100 or 200 - Introductory courses typically taken prior to or in 9th grade
- 300-500 - Intermediate courses
- 600 - Advanced courses - equivalent to first year college offerings
- 700 - Advanced courses - equivalent to coursework taken after the first year of college
- 800 - Reserved for Advanced Inquiries

GFA's rigorous courses are mostly taught at the Honors-level, indicated by a -50 in the course number. Advanced courses are labeled as 650-level, and Advanced Inquiries are represented by an 850 course number.

GPA DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2024 (91 STUDENTS)

As a matter of policy, students are not ranked. The GPA distribution is based on cumulative GPA at the conclusion of junior year. The highest unweighted cumulative GPA for the Class of 2023 is 4.26.

4.22 & above - 4	3.88-3.78 - 12	3.44-3.34 - 4
4.21-4.11 - 10	3.77-3.67 - 12	3.33-3.23 - 5
4.10-4.00 - 15	3.66-3.56 - 11	3.22 & below - 4
3.99-3.89 - 10	3.55-3.45 - 4	

AVAILABLE COURSES - CLASS OF 2024

SUBJECT	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English Graduation requirement: 4 credits	ENG250: Many Forms/ Voices	ENG450: World Literature *ENG750: Inquiry -Creat. Writ/Lit. Studies	ENG650: English II *ENG750: Inquiry -Creat. Writ/Lit. Studies	ENG650: Electives *ENG550: Reading Inquiry *English 750: Inquiry -Creat. Writ/Lit. Studies *ENG850: Advanced Inquiry: Creative Writing
Mathematics Graduation requirement: 3 credits	MATH100: Algebra 1 MATH200: Geometry MATH250: Geometry MATH300: Algebra 2 & Trigonometry MATH350: Algebra 2 & Trigonometry	MATH200: Geometry MATH300: Algebra 2 & Trigonometry MATH350: Algebra 2 & Trigonometry MATH400: Pre-Calculus MATH450: Pre-Calculus *MATH550: Inquiry -Intro to Investing -Probability & Combinatorics	MATH300: Algebra 2 & Trigonometry MATH400: Pre-Calculus MATH450: Pre-Calculus MATH550: Fundamentals of Calculus MATH550: Fundamentals of Prob/Stat MATH650: Advanced Calculus AB MATH650: Advanced Statistics MATH650: Advanced Calculus BC MATH550: Inquiry -Intro to Investing -Probability & Combinatorics	MATH400: Precalculus MATH450: Precalculus MATH550: Fundamentals of Calculus MATH550: Fundamentals of Prob/Stat MATH650: Advanced Calculus AB MATH650: Advanced Statistics MATH650: Advanced Calculus BC MATH750: Multivariable Calculus *MATH550: Inquiry -Intro to Investing *MATH850: Advanced Inquiry
History & Global Studies Graduation requirement: 2 credits - World History - US History	HGS250: A Brief History of Humankind	HGS250: World History HGS450: United States History HGS650: Electives *HGS750: Inquiry -Constitutional Law	HGS450: United States History HGS650: Electives *HGS700: Reading Inquiry *HGS750 Research Inquiry -American History -Art History -Art History -Constitutional Law -European History	HGS650: Electives *HGS700: Reading Inquiry *HGS750: Research Inquiry -American History -Art History *HGS750: Inquiry: Constitutional Law *HGS850: Advanced Inquiry -Global Thesis -Research in History
Science Graduation requirement: 2 credits - Biology - Chemistry	SCI250: Biology	SCI250: Biology SCI400: Chemistry SCI450: Chemistry SCI500: Physics SCI550: Marine Science: Local SCI550: Marine Science: Global SCI650: Advanced Biology *SCI550: Inquiry -Research & Experimental Design *SCI650: Inquiry -Human Ecology. & Sustainability	SCI450: Chemistry SCI500: Physics SCI550: Physics SCI550: Marine Science: Local SCI550: Marine Science: Global SCI650: Advanced Env. Science SCI650: Advanced Biology SCI650: Advanced Chemistry SCI650: Advanced Physics: Mechanics SCI650: Advanced Physics: Mechanics *SCI550: Inquiry -Research & Experimental Design *SCI650: Inquiry -Human Ecology. & Sustainability -Science Research 1 *SCI750: Inquiry -Human Ecology. & Sustainability	SCI500: Physics SCI550: Marine Science: Local SCI550: Marine Science: Global SCI550: Physics SCI650: Advanced Env. Science SCI650: Advanced Biology SCI650: Advanced Chemistry SCI650: Advanced Physics: Mechanics SCI750: Advanced Physics: Elec. & Magnnet. *SCI550: Inquiry -Research & Experimental Design *SCI650: Inquiry -Human Ecology. & Sustainability *SCI750: Inquiry -Human Ecology. & Sustainability *SCI850: Advanced Inquiry -Human Ecology & Sustainability -Science Research & Experimental Design
World Languages Graduation requirement: 3 credits	FRE250: French 2 FRE350: French 3 LAT150: Latin 1 LAT250: Latin 2 MAN150: Mandarin 1 MAN250: Mandarin 2 MAN350: Mandarin 3 SPA150: Spanish 1 SPA250: Spanish 2	FRE350: French 3 FRE550: French 5 LAT150: Latin 1 LAT250: Latin 2 LAT350: Latin 3 MAN250: Mandarin 2 MAN350: Mandarin 3 MAN450: Mandarin 4 MAN650: Advanced Mandarin Chinese SPA150: Spanish 1 SPA200: Spanish 2 SPA250: Spanish 2 SPA350: Spanish 3 SPA450: Spanish 4	FRE450: French 4 FRE650: Advanced French LAT150: Latin 1 LAT250: Latin 2 LAT350: Latin 3 LAT450: Latin 4 MAN350: Mandarin 3 MAN450: Mandarin 4 MAN650: Advanced Mandarin Chinese MAN750: Advanced Elective in Mandarin SPA150: Spanish 1 SPA250: Spanish 2 SPA350: Spanish 3 SPA450: Spanish 4 SPA550: Spanish 5 SPA650: Advanced Spanish SPA750: Society, Economics & Politics SPA750: Creative Expression in Spanish	FRE650: Advanced French LAT450: Latin 4 MAN450: Mandarin 4 MAN650: Advanced Mandarin MAN750: Advanced Topics in Mandarin MAN750: Advanced Topics in Mandarin II SPA350: Spanish 3 SPA450: Spanish 4 SPA550: Spanish 5 SPA650: Advanced Spanish SPA750: Cultural Phenomena SPA750: Literature and Film

Computer Science, Engineering, and Design:

CSED250: Introduction to Computational Thinking
CSED450: Intermediate Engineering
CSED450: Intermediate Computer Science
CSED550: Architecture
CSED650: Design Thinking for Engineers
CSED650: Robotics
CSED650: Advanced Computer Science
CSED750: Data Structures
CSED750: Game Design & Development
CSED850: Advanced Inquiry: Computer Science, Engineering & Design

Fine & Performing Arts:

ART250: Introduction to Visual Arts
ART450: Intermediate Studio Art
ART450: Intermediate Photography
ART450: Intermediate Video Production
ART550: Inquiry: Visual Arts
ART550: Inquiry: Ceramics
ART650: Advanced Art & Design
ART650: Advanced Video Production
ART750: Advanced Art & Design
ART850: Advanced Inquiry: Visual Arts
Concert Choir
Chamber Orchestra
Wind Ensemble
MUS250: Music Technology
MUS250: Music Theory
MUS550: Jazz & Blues
MUS650: Advanced Music Theory
MUS750: Inquiry: Composing & Arranging
MUS750: Inquiry: Music Performance
MUS850: Advanced Inquiry: Music
THE250: Introduction to Theater Design
THE450: Intermediate Theatre
THE550: Broadway & Beyond
THE650: Advanced Theater
THE750: Inquiry: Theater & Design
THE850: Advanced Inquiry: Theater