



The Frederick Gunn School

SCHOOL PROFILE 2024-2025

THE SCHOOL

Located on 220 acres in Washington, Connecticut, The Frederick Gunn School is a coeducational, independent, college preparatory school for boarding and day students in grades 9-12 and post-graduate.

Our programs emphasize character, teamwork, and independent thinking, and our students become active citizens, prepared to change the world in the same entrepreneurial way as our founder, to be a force for good.

Frederick Gunn was an outdoorsman recognized as the founder of recreational camping in the United States, a courageous abolitionist, and pioneering educator. In 1850, he created a school and an enduring philosophy that encourages students to discover what they believe in and to stand up for it.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

330
STUDENTS

49%
GIRLS

77%
BOARDING

FROM
25
STATES

105
STUDENTS
IN CLASS
OF 2025

50%
BOYS

23%
DAY

FROM
22
COUNTRIES

1%
NON-BINARY

17%
DOMESTIC
STUDENTS OF
COLOR

20%
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

5:1
STUDENT
FACULTY
RATIO

The 2024-25 academic year consists of three terms (fall, winter and spring).

12
AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE

Our seven-block schedule includes half-day classes on Wednesdays, allowing for athletic and co-curricular programs every afternoon, optional arts blocks, and mandatory study hall each evening.

Classes meet three times per week/five days per week, for 65 minutes. There is a minimum of 180 class days.

DEI STATEMENT

In keeping with the tenets of our founder Frederick Gunn, who was himself a prominent abolitionist and progressive educator, The Frederick Gunn School seeks to provide a pluralistic learning environment for all inclusive of (but not limited to): culture, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, national origin, learning differences, physical difference, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic differences.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HEAD OF SCHOOL

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SCHOOL CODE

070825

ACCREDITATION

The Frederick Gunn School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

DISCIPLINE REPORTING POLICY

Gunn does not report disciplinary infractions. We expect our students to respond honestly to all discipline related application questions.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

[List for the classes of 2021-2024](#)

18 credits are required for a diploma.

REQUIREMENTS:

4 ENGLISH

Required every year

3 MATHEMATICS

Through Algebra II

1 VISUAL AND/OR PERFORMING ART

Three single-term
courses or one
full-year course

3 HISTORY

Including U.S. History

3 LAB SCIENCE

3 WORLD LANGUAGES

Through Level III

Beyond core coursework, all students complete coursework as part of the Center for Citizenship and Just Democracy's four-year citizenship curriculum, and choose one course per year during Highlander Term.

1 TERM OF PATHWAYS (as a freshman)

1 TERM OF CITIZEN GUNN (as a sophomore)

1 TERM OF THE DECLARATION (as a junior)

THE CIVIC CHANGEMAKERS PROJECT (30-hr service commitment as a senior)

GOOD CITIZENSHIP (civility and law-abiding behavior)

ADVANCED COURSES

AP English Literature and Composition

AP Spanish

AP French

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics

AP Computer Science

AP Biology

AP Environmental Studies

AP Chemistry

AP Physics 1

AP Physics 2

AP United States History

AP Economics

AP European History

AP Art & Design, 2D and 3D

Gunn Scholar is an endowed program that offers selected students opportunities to pursue a topic of their choosing in the Paula and George Krinsky Archives and Special Collections as part of a yearlong research project in their senior year. Scholars finalize the scope of their thesis, develop a written proposal and work diligently within the school's archives, exploring the mission and vision of Frederick W. Gunn through primary-source research and place-based learning. Less than 7% of the senior class are selected as Gunn Scholars each year.

In addition to AP courses, Gunn offers rigorous honors level courses that do not follow an AP curriculum. These courses include: English II Honors, Honors English: The Sociocritical Essay, Honors English: Literary Criticism and Craft, Honors English: Reading and Rhetoric, French II Honors, Spanish II Honors, Spanish III Honors, Algebra II Honors and Trigonometry, Biology, Honors Chemistry Honors, Modern World History Honors, Honors Philosophy Seminar, Honors Race in America: A Historical Timeline, Honors Race in America: A White boundaries and Social Policy, Honors Race in America: Identity Formation

*** Students must secure permission to take more than three AP courses within one academic year.**

GRADING SYSTEM

Gunn does not rank nor provide GPA

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

10% of the class is awarded this honor; 2-3% are inducted at the end of junior year, the remaining students just before graduation

HONOR ROLL

There are three levels of Honor Roll students may achieve:

DEAN'S LIST:

All grades at or above 90

HIGH HONOR ROLL:

All grades at or above 85

HONOR ROLL:

All grades at or above 80

CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

THE CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP AND JUST DEMOCRACY (CJD):

This four-year curriculum is based on the mission of the school. Through this program all students develop the learning and leadership skills needed to be active and responsible citizens, both locally and globally. We encourage students at every level to engage in topics and projects of interest that foster self-awareness and responsibility. The curriculum progresses each year, but has been developed to facilitate integration for students new to the School, and aims to teach character, stewardship, and civic engagement.

HIGHLANDER TERM:

Highlander Term provides students with the opportunity to step away from traditional classwork for approximately ten days and embrace a curriculum committed to intensive student learning. Each course is intentionally focused on one big question or idea.

HONORS IN OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP:

This selective program trains a small cohort of students to be effective leaders, moral thinkers, and engaged citizens through a curated set of experiences lasting up to three years of their time at Gunn. Students who graduate with this distinction have taken special seminars in outdoor leadership, earned certifications in outdoor skills, taken courses that emphasize environmental philosophy, and ecological awareness, and have participated in at least two significant outdoor leadership expeditions. Their experience is topped off with a capstone project that demonstrates their learning over the course of the program.