

GSSP 2025 – Course Descriptions - Tentative

LANGUAGE ARTS / HUMANITIES

Reconstructive Language

For this course, each student will be tested for an assessment of language skills at the start of the program to ensure proper placement.

Reconstructive Language (R.L.) is a dynamic, multisensory, phonics-based language program designed to help students that have difficulty with reading rate, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Peter Gow, the founder of The Gow School, developed the program in conjunction with Dr. Samuel T. Orton. Similar to Orton-Gillingham, R.L. is a phonics-based approach to teaching language. Students in R.L. are instructed in a highly researched and proven method that is the cornerstone of The Gow School's educational programming. R.L. has been successful in remediating students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia or other language-based learning differences since the 1920's.

Organization and Study Skills I (approx. grades 3-6)

Organization and Study Skills I assists students in building the basic academic skills needed to organize, store, and recall information. Students will learn how to take notes efficiently, research and organize information, organize a notebook, and plan, organize, and produce various types of projects. Students will also learn to interpret charts, graphs, tables, and pictures. They will also learn how to study effectively for a variety of tests. This course is recommended for students up to 6th grade.

Organization and Study Skills II (approx. grades 7+)

Organization and Study Skills II further develops the skills needed to organize, store, and recall information accurately. Students will learn to interpret charts, graphs, tables, and pictures. They may take notes using a variety of methods, research and organize information, organize a notebook, write essays using information found through research, improve reading comprehension, and study for different types of tests. These skills are taught in the context of an inquiry into several major themes and current events. This course is recommended for students in grades 7+.

Writing Process Level I

Writing I focuses on grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph organization and development. Writing I uses a multisensory, process driven approach to writing based on The Gow School's Constructive Writing Program. The class focuses on basic grammar beginning with parts of speech and moves through paragraph development. Students in Writing I will write in a variety of genres which may include brief personal narratives, assigned journal writing topics, and free writing activities. All writing assignments are designed to reinforce concepts and writing strategies covered in class. Students in Writing Process I are responsible for daily written work.

Writing Process Level II

Writing II teaches and reinforces the writing process. The class uses a multisensory, process driven approach to writing based on The Gow School's Constructive Writing Program. After reviewing grammar and sentence structure, students in Writing II will learn writing strategies that will allow them to plan, organize, write, revise, and produce final drafts of paragraphs and/or essays. Students in Writing II will write a variety of genres such as narrative, informative, analytical, and persuasive writing assignments. Students are responsible for daily written work as well as a completed portfolio of written work at the end of the Summer Program.

GSSP 2025 – Course Descriptions - Tentative

Writing Process Level III

Writing Process Level III students use elements of Constructive Writing to engage in a process driven approach to writing that may include brainstorming, planning, organizing, drafting, revising, and publishing articles for inclusion in the Summer Program student authored newspaper, *The Summer Sun*. Students may also engage in writing short stories, memoirs, and poetry that may be incorporated into the newspaper publications. Students in Writing III produce multiple editions of the newspaper to be shared with parents, counselors, and GSSP staff.

Summer Reading Workshop

This course is intended to assist each student to read for comprehension. Students will work to develop various reading comprehension strategies such as multiple readings, summarization, annotation, and other note taking strategies. In addition, students are to focus on summer reading for pleasure and/or to meet school requirements. The course requires students to keep a journal and discuss selections with their peers and the teacher. Projects, book reports, and journals requested by the student's winter school will be incorporated into the class on an individualized basis.

Handwriting

The handwriting course is designed to help students understand and develop their cursive and manuscript writing skills. Students will learn to correctly identify written letters and work on correct letter formation. Students will also learn about line awareness, capitalization, and spacing when composing written language. If applicable and appropriate, the course may also provide students with multisensory opportunities to work on note taking strategies.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Videography

Videography students are responsible for brainstorming, writing, producing and editing various video productions. Students will write storyboards to facilitate the script writing process, create set designs, learn and implement various videotaping techniques, and use advanced video editing processes to complete their video projects. Videography projects may include productions about the themes of the week; interviews of GSSP teachers, staff, or students; and/or original movie or book reviews. Productions may include other academically appropriate projects.

Photography

Photography will teach students how to properly use and maintain a digital camera. Students in Photography will learn about subject matter and composition. Students will also experiment with aperture, shutter speed, and a variety of lenses and artistic/photographic techniques. Students will learn to process their images using *Adobe Photoshop*. The students will be given weekly critiques to help improve their work.

Introduction to Coding and Computing

Introduction to Coding and Computing will introduce students to aspects of computer design, programming, abstraction, and hardware. This course gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. There is some flexibility in the course to allow both experienced and inexperienced students the opportunity to extend their skills. Programming languages offered include: *Scratch*, *Blockly*, *Python 3*, *Sonic Pi*, *Java*, and more. Students will also build and work with a Raspberry Pi computer.

GSSP 2025 – Course Descriptions - Tentative

Experimental Science

In Experimental Science, students learn using the scientific method. Students formulate hypotheses and create valid experiments with which to test them. Students gather and interpret data based on observations and then report on the results of their experiments based on inferences and conclusions from their data using inductive and deductive reasoning, mathematical modeling and scientific research. Students will use the Constructive Writing process, unique to The Gow School, to help write their laboratory reports. It is recommended that students taking Experimental Science have a basic understanding of sentence structure and paragraph organization and development.

Robotics

In Robotics, students are asked to use their mathematics, computer, and mechanical backgrounds and apply them to a team-oriented task. The goal of the class is to create a robot which will perform a task, such as finding an object to place in a container, navigate a maze, or fight another robot. Students will have to organize as a team to create their robot. It is recommended that students taking Robotics have some computer experience and that they are secure in their understanding of mathematical operations.

MATHEMATICS

Students will be tested for assessment of math skills at the start of the program to ensure proper placement.

Math I (Elementary Math – approx. grades 3-5)

Math I reinforces and remediates the student's basic mathematical skills. Students use manipulative devices (Base Ten Blocks, Fraction Tiles, etc.) to achieve understanding. Some of the topics covered are operations on whole numbers, basic fractions, decimals, and word problems.

Math II (Intermediate Math – approx. grades 6-7)

Math II reinforces and remediates the students' intermediate level mathematical skills. Instructional methods include the use of manipulatives and multisensory techniques. Some of the topics include percent problems, graphing, multiple level division, multiplication, and multistep word problems.

Math III (Pre-Algebra – approx. grades 8-9)

Math III reinforces and remediates the student's pre-algebraic and early algebraic skills with the emphasis placed on examining unusual or interesting problems. Students learn to operate on rational and signed numbers, graph on coordinate planes, determine the graphs of straight lines, observe data in an intuitive way and draw conclusions from the data, solve linear equations, identify and classify geometric shapes, and evaluate expressions with a variety of components.

Math IV (Algebra and Intro Geometry – approx. grades 10+)

Math IV reinforces and remediates the student's algebraic and geometrical skills. The students are introduced to the use of technology as a tool for solving problems. Students learn to manipulate and factor polynomials, graph parabolas, circles, and other conic sections; solve a variety of equations by graphing or by traditional algorithmic methods, and make persuasive arguments based on quantitative or mathematical evidence. The methods and content are largely based on the individual student's needs.

GSSP 2025 – Course Descriptions - Tentative

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Drama and Theater

Drama and Theater is for students who want to improve their ability to act in plays, speak clearly in front of audiences, and to better understand the roles of music and movement in theater. Students learn and perform roles in several dramatic scenes in front of the entire camp. Students also learn to accept constructive criticism and to critique the performances of others.

Studio Art

In Studio Art, the students utilize a variety of media to improve their technical and creative abilities through the production of realistic, abstract, and non-objective art. Some projects include drawing a variety of objects using pencils, charcoal, oil pastels, and pen and ink; realistic and abstract painting using acrylic paint and scientific color mixing; sculpting a ceramic piece based on a researched artifact; and constructing a collage that inspires socio-political awareness.