



THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

2026–27 ACADEMIC PROFILE

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SCHOOL MISSION

At The Potomac School, we believe that intellectual development, love of learning, and strength of character are complementary, and equally essential, educational goals. With a firm commitment to our core values and a rigorous academic program, we prepare students to lead lives of purpose, achievement, and generosity of spirit.

THE SCHOOL

- Founded in 1904 in Washington, DC
- K-12; co-ed
- Upper School was added in 1987
- Accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools
- Enrollment K-12, 1,064; Upper School, 470
- 180 full and part-time faculty
- 74% of faculty have advanced degrees
- Students receiving financial aid: 22.4%
- Students of color: 45%
- Senior class enrollment: 122
- Graduates attending four-year colleges: 100%
- Upper School average class size: 15
- Class of 2027 National Merit Semi-finalists: 7
- Class of 2027 National Merit Commended Students: 30

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- All courses are highly rigorous and college preparatory.
- All Upper School students take at least five academic courses each semester.
- The school year consists of two semesters.
- Each year-long course is worth one credit.
- Honors and Advanced enrollment is based upon departmental approval.
- Due to the structure of the curriculum, very few students take Advanced courses prior to 11th grade.
- The Potomac School does not rank students or provide a GPA.
- At Potomac, English and history do not offer an Honors level in grades 9 and 10. In 11th grade, students have a choice of College Prep or Honors English and Advanced U.S. History, in addition to the College Prep level. In 12th grade, students have the opportunity to take electives, some of which are taught at the Advanced level.
- Potomac classes follow a six-day rolling rotation with classes meeting every other day for 75 minutes.

UNDERSTANDING COURSE NOMENCLATURE

- Potomac offers four course levels: College Prep, Accelerated (math only), Honors, and Advanced. College Prep courses are designed to help students build the important skills that will prepare them for future college studies. Accelerated courses (math only) offer an additional layer of challenge while still focusing on foundational skills and are designated with “Acc” on the transcript. Honors courses offer the highest level of challenge in a given course sequence and are designated with “Hon” on the transcript. Advanced courses are taught at the level of a college class and are designated with “Adv” on the transcript.
- The Math Department has four levels: Advanced, Honors, Accelerated, and College Prep. Honors is the highest level for Algebra and Geometry. Former names were Extended, (H), Advanced, and Regular.

CONCENTRATION PROGRAMS

Potomac offers four concentration programs for students who are interested in intensive study in a particular discipline. Students in the EFEB, GPAC, and SERC concentrations design and conduct original research projects. All four programs have required courses; VPAC includes after-school and/or co-curricular commitments, and the SERC and EFEB concentrations require summer work between 11th and 12th grades. The number of students admitted to GPAC, SERC, and VPAC is limited, and admission to these programs is competitive.

- Global Perspectives and Citizenship Program (GPAC): 11 students in the Class of 2027
- Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC): 11 students in the Class of 2027
- Visual and Performing Arts Concentration (VPAC): 4 students in the Class of 2027 –1 Music, 3 Studio Art, and 0 Theater
- Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Business (EFEB): 37 students in the Class of 2027

POTOMAC HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSE OFFERINGS

30 courses at the Honors level

Honors Algebra 2	Honors Handbells Ensemble
Honors Art History	Honors Latin 2, 3, 4
Honors Biology	Honors Physics
Honors Classics: Introduction to Homeric Greek	Honors Precalculus
Honors Chemistry	Honors Rhetorical Analysis
Honors Chinese 2, 3, 4	Honors SERC 10: Integrated Chemistry and Physics
Honors Concert Band/Jazz Band	Honors SERC 10: Topics in Science and Engineering
Honors English 11	Honors Spanish 2, 3, 4
Honors French 2, 3, 4	Honors Spanish: Food, Culture, and Society in Latin America
Honors Geometry	Honors Spanish: Latino Studies
Honors GPAC 10: Global Studies	Honors Theatre Production

42 courses at the Advanced level (college-level equivalent)

Advanced AI-pocalypse Now: Literacy, Identity, and Power in the Modern World	Advanced Linear Algebra
Advanced Biology	Advanced Lyric Poetry
Advanced Calculus 1	Advanced Macroeconomics
Advanced Calculus 1 and 2	Advanced Masterpieces of British Women's Literature
Advanced Chemistry	Advanced Mechatronics
Advanced Chinese 1, 2	Advanced Microeconomics
Advanced Comparative Politics: Power and Politics in the 21st Century	Advanced Minds on the Edge: Representing Troubled Psyches in Literature
Advanced Computer Science	Advanced Organic Chemistry
Advanced Ethics	Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism
Advanced Existentialism: Living a Meaningful Life	Advanced Physics: Mechanics
Advanced Film Studies	Advanced Population Ecology and Global Change
Advanced French: Francophone Literature	Advanced Probability and Statistics
Advanced French: Francophone Literature 2	Advanced Python Applications
Advanced French: Global Challenges and the Francophone World	Advanced Python Programming
Advanced GPAC 11: Research	Advanced SERC 11: Independent Research
Advanced GPAC 12: Documentation and Presentation	Advanced SERC 12: Documentation & Presentation
Advanced Humanities Seminar: World War I, "The Waste Land," and the Aftermath	Advanced Spanish Language & Culture
Advanced Humanities: Thesis	Advanced Spanish Literature A: Pícaros, Donjuanes and Quijotes: Archetypes of Spanish Golden Age Literature
Advanced Investments in Financial Markets	Advanced Spanish Literature B: Identity and Reality in Spanish and Latin American Contemporary Literature
Advanced Latin: <i>Vergil's Aeneid</i> & <i>Caesar's De Bellis Gallicis</i>	Advanced United States History
	Advanced U.S. Government & Politics

2026–27 STANDARDIZED TEST RANGES

ACT (38 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMPOSITE	31-34	32

SAT (90 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMBINED	1320-1520	1412
EBRW	660-750	700
MATH	660-780	712

AP SCORES

- 68 members of the Class of 2027 took 154 exams in 21 subjects in May 2026.
- 80% earned a 4 or 5.
- 97% earned a 3 or better.

MOVING BEYOND THE AP

Beginning with the 2022–23 academic year, The Potomac School no longer subscribes to the AP curriculum. The highest level of coursework is designated as “Advanced.” We made this decision as part of our ongoing curriculum review and in the interest of offering our students the most relevant and enriching education possible.

Our Upper School faculty and administration have developed rigorous course options that offer students interdisciplinary learning experiences and opportunities for independent work. Potomac faculty continue to develop challenging advanced courses that address student interests and build critical skills.

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

The Potomac School partners with Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of independent schools that enables its members to offer their students online courses that address particular academic interests and may be outside the scope of their curricula. GOA has over 150 member schools and currently offers approximately 42 rigorous online courses available to Potomac students in a wide range of academic disciplines. Taught by faculty from the member schools, GOA classes bring together students from across the U.S. and around the world, creating an academic experience shaped by shared interests and multiple perspectives. Potomac credit is awarded upon successful completion of these courses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

21 credits, including successful completion of

- English (4 years)
- History (3 years: 2 world history and 1 U.S. history)
- Mathematics (3 years, including geometry and algebra 2)
- Science (3 years: biology, chemistry, and physics)
- World Languages (3 years of the same language)
- Arts (3 semesters in 2 different areas: visual art, music, or theatre or four semesters of art in the same area. Semesters may be consecutive but are not required to be.)
- Non-academic requirements (8 of 12 seasons of athletics/activities)

The Potomac School is a founding member of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS) and a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and complies with the Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST 2023-2026

Amherst College (2)	Indiana University (Bloomington) (5)	Syracuse University (7)
Auburn University (6)	James Madison University (4)	Texas Christian University (3)
Bard College	Johns Hopkins University	Trinity College (2)
Barnard College (3)	Kenyon College (2)	Tufts University (5)
Bates College (4)	Lafayette College (3)	Tulane University (6)
Boston College (7)	Lehigh University (2)	United States Naval Academy (7)
Boston University (4)	Loyola Marymount University	University of Arizona
Bowdoin College (2)	Marymount University (2)	University of California (Berkeley) (3)
Brown University (8)	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	University of California (Los Angeles) (3)
Bucknell University (3)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)	University of California (San Diego)
Carleton College	Merrimack College	University of California (Santa Barbara)
Carnegie Mellon University (2)	Michigan State University (4)	University of Chicago (8)
Case Western Reserve University (2)	Middlebury College (7)	University of Colorado (Boulder)
Christopher Newport University (2)	Missouri University of Science and Technology	University of Delaware
Clemson University (2)	Morehouse College	University of Georgia (2)
Colby College (10)	New York University (9)	University of Maine
Colgate University (9)	Northeastern University (5)	University of Maryland (5)
College of Charleston	Northwestern University (8)	University of Massachusetts (Boston)
College of the Holy Cross	Oberlin College	University of Miami (6)
Columbia University (4)	Penn State University (7)	University of Michigan (6)
Cornell University (4)	Pepperdine University	University of Montana
Dartmouth College (12)	Pitzer College	University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
Davidson College (3)	Pomona College (2)	University of Oxford (2)
Denison University (2)	Princeton University (3)	University of Pennsylvania (4)
Dickinson College (2)	Providence College	University of Richmond (6)
Duke University (11)	Purdue University (5)	University of South Carolina
East Carolina University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Southern California (7)
Elon University (2)	Rice University	University of Texas
Emory University (7)	Roanoke College	University of Toronto
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (2)	Rutgers University	University of Virginia (27)
Florida State University	Saint Francis University	University of Wisconsin (5)
Franklin and Marshall College	San Diego State University	Vanderbilt University (6)
George Mason University (3)	Santa Clara University (2)	Villanova University
George Washington University (4)	Santa Fe College	Virginia Tech (9)
Georgetown University (8)	Savannah College of Art and Design (2)	Wake Forest University (11)
Georgia Tech (2)	Skidmore College	Washington and Lee University (4)
Gettysburg College	Smith College	Washington University in St. Louis (7)
Grinnell College	Southern Methodist University (3)	Wellesley College
Hamilton College (3)	Spelman College (4)	Wesleyan University (2)
Hampden-Sydney College	St. Lawrence University	William & Mary (14)
Harvard University (10)	Stanford University (5)	Williams College (7)
Haverford College (2)	Stevenson University	Xavier University
High Point University	Swarthmore College (3)	Yale University (3)
Howard University (3)		