



Georgetown Day School is a Washington, DC PreK–12 independent school with an enrollment of **1,119** students, a city campus, and a comprehensive, innovative curriculum. Founded in 1945 as the first integrated school in Washington, DC, GDS maintains a diverse student body, **50%** of whom identify as students of color, as well as a diverse faculty and Board. The High School is college preparatory, sending **99%** of its graduates to colleges and universities throughout the world. The financial aid budget for the 2026–27 school year totals \$10.5 million, shared among **24%** of the student body.



GDS Class of 2026



100+

Activities

150+

Courses



531

High School Enrollment

119

Senior Class Size



**2026-27
Academic
Year**

Fall Semester Ends:
January 22, 2027

Spring Semester Ends:
June 11, 2027

Graduation:
June 13, 2027

Head of School
Tori Jueds

High School Principal
Chris Levy



Georgetown Day School does not rank students or compute a grade point average. Letter grades in the High School are issued twice a year within a semester system.



OFFICE OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

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THE CURRICULUM

A GDS education engages students with real-world problems, places them at the center of their learning, teaches them to collaborate across difference, empowers them to connect with resources, challenges them to think critically and creatively, and prepares them to be active citizens of the world. GDS supports students in exploring programs of study that develop a deep appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences as equally valuable disciplines that offer various perspectives on the world.

- All seniors write a 10–15 page critical essay on an author or topic of their choice as the culmination of their study in literature and writing.
- The high school math curriculum is one of the most advanced programs among independent schools in the area, including coursework beyond

college-level calculus to linear algebra, number theory, multivariable calculus, and discrete mathematics.

- Typically starting no earlier than junior year, students may choose from a wide array of advanced courses, including Upper Level (UL) offerings.
- GDS does not offer any Advanced Placement courses. UL courses represent the most challenging level of coursework offered at GDS, where students examine the material at the highest levels with sustained intellectual independence.



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

MINIMESTER

Since 2018, GDS has offered Minimester, a three-day intensive program in which students have an opportunity for an immersive, experiential learning experience without the confines of traditional schooling. Selected courses include: Exploring Reproductive Justice, Prisoners and Their World, Sabermetrics, Unplugged in the Wilderness, and The Neuroscience of Implicit Bias.

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

GDS supports a cohort of students each year who participate and design social science research studies to address an issue that they identify in their community. Two previous topics students have studied were 1) the politics of space and 2) socioeconomic status and sports.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The department offers courses that prioritize and prize project based learning, inquiry-based instruction, expanded technology integration, and interdisciplinary teaching.

9TH GRADE SEMINAR

The 9th Grade Seminar is a flagship social justice course that serves as a launching point for a GDS High School education. The goal of the course is to gain greater insight into our complex and layered identities while creating a space to ask and learn about the identities and perspectives of others. The class consists mostly of interactive activities and student-led conversations which help us begin to examine the various components of our individual and shared identities.

SENIOR QUEST

All seniors participate in a month-long Quest, or investigation, in which they apply their curiosity, talents, interests, skills, and knowledge to a question, task, creation, or issue of relevance to the student in particular as well as to a significant constituency outside of the GDS community. Quests call for teamwork, a multi-disciplinary approach, community involvement, demonstrable social value, and presentation and communication skills.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

DEI

GDS encourages respect for identity and cultivates awareness of the multiple perspectives, beliefs, experiences, and backgrounds reflected in our diverse community. The High School offers affinity groups, curriculum, programming, and a social justice teach-in day as opportunities for students to engage in principles of practice grounded in equity, inclusion, and social justice.

VOLUNTEER

Continually aware of the reasons for its founding, GDS inculcates in its students a concern for the world around them. Although many GDS students volunteer far more extensively, all students must complete at least 60 hours of direct community service.

GDS POLICY & ADVOCACY

A summer opportunity for students to learn about pressing social justice issues by working with advocates, engaging in direct conversation with policymakers, traveling to “ground zero” cities where the focus issue is most prevalent, and building relationships with individuals at the heart of the issue. Policy Institute tracks have included: AI in a Human World, Body and Choice: Who’s in Charge?, and Life Resettled: The Immigrant Experience.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

GDS High School students experience meaningful educational experiences in real-world work settings during the summer before their senior year. Through the Internship Program, passionate students stimulate their career ambitions while supporting the day-to-day work of a host organization in a field of interest.

Among the more than 100 activities offered, major pursuits include:

ACADEMIC TEAMS

Debate, Harvard Model Congress, History Bowl, History Speakers Series, It's Academic, Math Team, Model UN, Quiz Bowl, Robotics

AFFINITY GROUPS

Adoptee, Asian American Affinity (Triple A), Asian Male Affinity, Black Men United (BMU), Black Student Union, Body Image, Crowns, Female Asian Meetinghouse (FAM), First Gen, FMG, Fusion, Gradient, HOLA, Indigenous Student Alliance, Infinity, Jewish Student Coalition (JSC), Middle Eastern/Arab Affinity, Muslim Student Association, Reimagined Families, South Asian Affinity Group, SPECTRUM, Young Men of Color, Young Women of Color

ATHLETICS

Baseball, Basketball, Crew, Cross Country, Golf, Lacrosse, Rock Climbing (club), Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling

PUBLICATIONS

Augur Bit (Student Newspaper), Grasslands (Literary), Yearbook

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Buddy Program, Community Leadership Corps, English Mentoring, Friendship Terrace Volunteers, Math Mentoring, Peer Health Mentor

STUDENT STAFF COUNCIL

DANCE & MUSIC

A Capella, Chamber Choir, Chorus, Fata Morgana (Dance Troupe), Jazz Band

THEATER

Cabaret, Fall Play, Spring Musical, Theater Lab, Winter One-Acts



COLLEGE APPLICATION POLICY

GDS students are permitted to apply to no more than 10 to 12 colleges and universities. On average, students apply to seven institutions. This policy ensures that our students make thoughtful choices; it also communicates to colleges and universities that every application they receive from a GDS student is serious.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING STATEMENT

Our students will respond honestly to any application questions regarding disciplinary status. Any change of status that occurs after an application has been submitted will be reported as required by the student.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE – THE CLASSES OF 2023, 2024, 2025, AND 2026 ATTEND THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:

Agnes Scott College
Alfred University
American University
Amherst College
Barnard College
Bates College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bowie State University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Carleton College
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Colby College
Colgate University
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Elon University
Emory University
Fairfield University
Fayetteville State University
Florida Atlantic University
Fordham University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Grinnell College

Harvard University
Haverford College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Juniata College
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Louisiana State University
Macalester College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Middlebury College
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Muhlenberg College
New York University
North Carolina A & T State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Oxford College of Emory University
Penn State University, Harrisburg
Penn State University, University Park
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Santa Monica College

Scripps College
Skidmore College
Smith College
Spelman College
St. John's College, Santa Fe
St. John's University
St. Lawrence University
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
The Ohio State University
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Union College
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of the South
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Wheaton College (MA)
William & Mary
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University

INTERNATIONAL ATTENDANCE

John Cabot University
King's College London
McGill University
University of British Columbia
University of Cambridge
University of Glasgow
University of Oxford
University of St Andrews
University of the Arts London
University of Toronto

*The GDS Class of 2026 attends 83 different colleges and universities.

CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

While we list the minimum requirements for graduation below, most students go beyond these requirements to engage deeply with courses offered and to explore their academic interests.

Upper Level (UL) courses represent the most challenging level of coursework offered at GDS. Typically, beginning in junior year, students may select UL coursework to further challenge themselves in areas of strong interest.

A student enrolled in three UL courses in any given year is taking the most demanding curriculum available based on scheduling and sequencing of courses.

Math levels: Geometry is divided into two levels, and Algebra II, Precalculus, and Calculus into three levels.

The Extended and Honors levels are accelerated, include

minimal amounts of review, and move steadily through the topics. While all sections include significant problem-solving, Extended sections often approach new topics through applications and projects, while Honors sections delve more deeply into the theoretical underpinnings of topics and proof and are more abstract. Demonstrated mastery of previous course material, greater time commitment for homework and reflection, and increased independent thinking are all essential.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

If a junior or senior has a particular interest in a subject that is not covered in our curriculum, they may apply to complete an Independent Study (IS). An IS course is the equivalent of a regular academic course with the same level of rigor expected.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

4 years of grade-level English
3 years of History and Social Sciences
3 successive years of Math
3 years of Science
2 successive years of World Languages
1 year of Performing Arts
1 year of Studio Arts
2 years of Physical Education/Health
Ninth Grade Seminar

ENGLISH

English 9

English 10

English 11

English 12

Junior and Senior Literature electives

(offered as one semester or full year):

UL Contemporary Literature and Art in Conversation*

UL Contemporary Literature, Culture, and Theory

UL Creative Writing

UL Encountering Monstrosity

UL Philosophy and Literature*

HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ninth Grade:

History 9: Communities and Change

Tenth grade:

African, Asian, European, Latin American,
or World History

– May also be taken as an elective course

Eleventh Grade:

U.S. History; U.S. Gender History; U.S. Immigration
History; U.S. Political History; or **UL U.S. History**

History Electives:

American Politics and Culture After World War II

Comparative Religious Studies

Contemporary Issues*

Cultural Anthropology

From Freedom Rides to Floyd: Civil Rights in America

Introduction to Economics

World War II

UL African-American Studies

UL American Government

UL Europe Between the Wars

UL Global Human Rights

UL Global Peace and Conflict

UL Historical Research Seminar:

Race, Place, and Real Estate

UL International Relations

UL Law and Constitutional Rights

UL Topics in Contemporary Psychology

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Geometry

Geometry Extended

Algebra II

Algebra II Extended

Algebra II Honors

Precalculus

Precalculus Extended

Precalculus Honors

Calculus

Statistical Analysis and Applications

UL Advanced Statistics I:

The Mathematics of Statistics*

UL Advanced Statistics II:

Applications of Data Analysis*

UL Honors Statistics I

UL Honors Statistics II

UL Calculus Extended

UL Calculus Honors

UL Differential Equations

UL Linear Algebra I

UL Mathematics Seminar

UL Multivariable Calculus

UL Statistical Analysis and Applications

UL The Mathematics of Statistics*

SCIENCE

Anatomy, Health, and Social Justice

Astronomy & Astrophysics

Biology 9

Chemistry I

Chemistry I Extended

Chemistry II

Environmental Science: Applied Research

Forensic Science

Game Theory

Genetics and Evolutionary Biology

Neuroscience

Physics

Physics I Extended

UL Cellular and Molecular Biology+

UL Chemistry II+

UL Electricity and Magnetism

UL Environmental Science:

Analysis of Science and Policy+

UL Modern Physics & Quantum Mechanics

UL Physics I+

UL Research in Biology

UL Waves and Optics

WORLD LANGUAGES

Foundations I in Chinese

Foundations II in Chinese

Chinese Language and Culture

Chinese Language and Culture II

Advanced Topics in Chinese Studies

UL Advanced Topics in Chinese Studies II

Foundations I in French

Foundations II in French

French Language and Culture

Introduction to French Literature

Advanced French Language and Culture

UL Francophone Literature and Culture

Foundations I in Latin

Foundations II in Latin

Latin Language and Culture

Introduction to Latin Literature

Foundations in Spanish

Integrations in Spanish

Applications in Spanish

Spanish Language and Culture

Introduction to Art and Activism in Spanish

Introduction to Literature and Film in Spanish

Advanced Topics of the Spanish-Speaking World

UL Literature and Culture in the

Spanish-Speaking World

ARTS, PERFORMING

Acting I: An Introduction to Acting

Acting II: Advanced Introduction to Acting

Chamber Choir

Contemporary Modern Dance I, II

GDS Singers

Jazz and Creative Music Chamber Ensemble (II-III)

Jazz Improvisation and Creative Music Lab (Intro Level)

Theater Production

UL Jazz I, II

UL TOLV: Advanced Choral Ensemble

ARTS, STUDIO

Foundations in Ceramics and Sculpture

Foundations in Digital Film and Animation*

Foundations in Digital Media and Graphic Design

Foundations in Digital Photography

Foundations in Drawing and Painting

Advanced Ceramics and Sculpture

Advanced Drawing and Painting

Advanced Digital Photography

UL Ceramics and Sculpture Workshop

UL Master Studio: Interdisciplinary Workshop (I-II)

INNOVATION & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Foundations in Creative Engineering

Foundations in Entrepreneurship

Foundations in Programming

Music Production and Audio Engineering

Advanced Coding for Artificial Intelligence

Advanced Coding for Video Games*

UL Coding for Social Impact

UL Data Structures and Algorithms

UL Youth Participatory Action Research

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education I/Health

Physical Education II/Health

DIVERSITY & EQUITY

Ninth Grade Seminar

INDEPENDENT STUDY

+ denotes double period class * not offered in 2026-27