

# GCDS Grades 9 – 12 Overview

	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
<b>STEM*</b>				
<u>Science</u>	Biology	Chemistry	<b>Course Offerings:</b> e.g., Physics; Environmental Science; Marine Biology; Advanced Biology; Advanced Chemistry; Advanced Physics	
	Advanced Research and Design ( <i>Open to 9th and 10th graders as a second science course by approval</i> )			
<u>Technology &amp; Engineering</u>	<b>Course Offerings:</b> e.g., Computer Science Principles; Principles of Engineering; Robotics; Flight Engineering, Drones, and Rocketry; Cybersecurity; Mobile App Design; Blockchain & FinTech; Business Technology; Machine Learning & AI; Data Science; Video Game Design; Ethics & Technology			
<u>Mathematics</u>	<b>Core Courses:</b> e.g., Algebra I, Geometry; Algebra II; Pre-Calculus; Calculus I; Calculus II; Probability and Statistics; Multivariable Calculus; Linear Algebra <b>Additional Course Offerings:</b> e.g., Mathematical Literacy in the Real World; Mathematics of Games			
	<b>*All core academic courses are offered for honors designation.</b>			
<b>Humanities*</b>				
<u>English</u>	<b>English 9:</b> Engaging with Identity and Community	<b>English 10:</b> Reading the American Experience	<b>Course Offerings:</b> e.g., American Literature; Poetry; Shakespeare; Modern Global Literature; Creative Writing; Literature & Law; Advanced Seminar in Literature	
<u>History</u>	<b>History 9:</b> Global History	<b>History 10:</b> United States & Its Role in the World	<b>Course Offerings:</b> e.g., Agency & Liberty; Introduction to Economics; Modern History; World Religions; Psychology; Principles of Business Management; Journalism	
	Advanced Social Sciences Research ( <i>Open to 9th and 10th graders as a second history course by approval</i> )			
<u>World Languages</u>	<b>Course Offerings:</b> e.g., Spanish I – V; French I – V; Latin I – V; Greek I – V; Mandarin I – V; Survey of Latin American and Spanish Readings; Contemporary Francophone Cultural and Social Issues; Nero’s Literary Enemies			
<u>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</u>	<b>Course Offerings:</b> e.g., Drawing & Painting; Ceramics; Architecture; 3D Design; Art & Fabrication; Fine Art Photography; Graphic Design; Printmaking; Art History; Drama; Comedy & Improv; Musical Theatre; Acting for the Camera; Theatrical Design & Stagecraft; Foundations in Music Theory; Music History; World Music; Electronic Music; Advanced Vocal Seminar; Concert Choir; A capella Ensemble; Concert Band; Jazz Ensemble; String Ensemble; Dance			
	<b>*All core academic courses are offered for honors designation.</b>			
<b>Co-Curriculars</b>				
<u>Athletics, Health &amp; Wellness</u>	GCDS offers a wide range of interscholastic sports, as well as dance and an array of lifelong fitness opportunities such as yoga, hiking, weight training. <b>Interscholastic sports offered for 2019–2020 include:</b> <b>Fall:</b> Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Football, Cross Country, Crew <b>Winter:</b> Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Squash, Hockey <b>Spring:</b> Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball, Crew, Tennis			
<b>Signature Learning Experiences</b>				
<u>Grade-Level Themes</u>	Organizing grade-level learning around key themes guides student growth in self-knowledge, leadership ability, and purpose.			
	<b>Identity:</b> Engaging with Self and Community	<b>Global Perspectives:</b> Systems and Intersections	<b>Leadership:</b> Expertise, Empathy & Purpose	<b>Stewardship:</b> Connecting Mission & Action
<u>Thesis Project</u>	All students are required to complete a thesis project by the end of their Junior Year. Thesis work is supported by Seminar, Intersession, Faculty Advisors, and advanced research courses.			
<u>Integrated Seminar, College Counseling &amp; Faculty Advising</u>	Across all four years, students meet in small group Seminar, a full-credit class whose curriculum supports the academic program, the Thesis Project, College Counseling, and Faculty Advising.			
<u>Intersession</u>	For three weeks in January students pursue—with increasing choice as they progress—a variety of courses, trips, internships, and/or projects where they produce original work, formally exhibited and defended in a Presentation of Learning.			
<u>Presentations of Learning</u>	At the end of each school year, students are required to present a portfolio of work from that year to an audience of faculty, classmates, and parents. This is an opportunity for students to reflect on their growth, provide evidence of their learning, and demonstrate mastery of skills.			
<u>School-Community Partnerships</u>	Through relationships with service and not-for-profit organizations, educational and academic institutions, professionals, businesses, and invited visiting scholars, GCDS bridges the divide between “school” and “the real world.”			