

Gaston Day School



Course Catalog 2017-2018



Table of Contents

Requirements for Graduation	2
Gaston Day School Course Offerings 2017-2018	4
Course Placement Policy	5
Course Types	5
Course Descriptions	
English	7
Mathematics	10
Science	13
Social Studies	16
World Languages	18
Fine Arts	20
Physical Education	22
Electives	23
Senior Project	25



Requirements for Graduation

The requirements for graduation from Gaston Day School are designed to prepare students for success in a competitive college environment. The requirements apply to students in grades 9-12. Middle School students who take Upper School-level courses must take additional higher level courses in Upper School to complete unit requirements in each subject area. To graduate from Gaston Day School, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 24 credits with a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average, including the required courses in each discipline.

Gaston Day School's award of diploma is conditional upon completion of all required coursework with appropriate GPA, satisfaction of all financial obligations and compliance with school policies.

Advisors, counselors, faculty, and administrators will make every effort to inform students concerning the requirements for graduation, but students themselves are ultimately responsible for being acquainted with regulations and procedures as stated in the Family Handbook and other official school publications. For these reasons, it is important for students to be familiar with these publications and to remain informed throughout their education. Below is an outline of the credits required for graduation by Gaston Day School.

English (4.0 credits)

Students must successfully complete at least four English courses to graduate. All Gaston Day students must enroll in an English 9, English 10 and two higher level English classes to graduate. English Language Learner (ELL) courses fulfill English credits for international students who need additional English language support.

Mathematics (4.0 credits)

Students must successfully complete at least four mathematics courses to graduate. All Gaston Day students must enroll in an Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one or more higher level math class to graduate.

Sciences (3.0 credits)

Students must successfully complete at least three science classes to graduate. All Gaston Day students must enroll in a Biology, Chemistry and one or more higher level science class to graduate.



Social Studies (3.0 credits)

Students must successfully complete at least three social studies classes to graduate. All Gaston Day students must enroll in World History, United States History, as well as Government and Economics to graduate.

World Languages (Successful completion through Level III)

Students must successfully complete through Level III in French or Spanish to graduate.

Fine Arts (2.0 credits)

Students must successfully complete at least two fine arts classes to graduate.

Physical Education (1.0 credit)

Students must successfully complete Health and Physical Education to graduate.

Senior Project (0.25 credit)

Students in grade 12 are also required to complete a 40-hour project/internship.

Gaston Day School students must also complete a community service requirement of 25 hours per year in grades 9-12. At least 5 of the required hours must be completed in service to Gaston Day School, with at least 5 of the required hours completed in service to a community not affiliated with the school. Students not meeting the community service requirement will have their failure to meet the obligation clearly documented on their official transcript.



Gaston Day School Course Offerings 2017-2018

<p><u>English</u> English ELL English 9 English 9 Honors English 10 English 10 Honors American Literature American Literature Honors AP English Language and Composition AP English Literature and Composition</p> <p><u>Mathematics</u> Algebra I Geometry Geometry Honors Algebra II Algebra II Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Advanced Functions and Models Statistics Honors AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC</p> <p><u>Science</u> Biology Biology Honors Chemistry Chemistry Honors Environmental Science Physics Honors AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics II: Algebra-Based</p> <p><u>Social Studies</u> World History World History Honors United States History United States History Honors Government and Economics Government and Economics Honors AP United States Government and Politics AP United States History</p> <p><u>World Languages</u> French I French II French III French IV Honors Spanish I Spanish II Spanish III Spanish IV Honors</p>	<p><u>Fine Arts</u> Band I, II, III, and IV Concert Choir I, II, III, and IV Drama I, II, III, and IV Visual Art I Visual Art II Visual Art III Visual Art IV Visual Art IV Honors</p> <p><u>Physical Education</u> Physical Education (.5 credit) Health (.5 credit) Strength and Conditioning I, II, and III</p> <p><u>Electives</u> America: 1945 to Present Honors Cinema Studies Computer Science Honors Creative Writing Honors Engineering Design Honors Forensic Science Music Appreciation Personal Finance Physics of Technical Theater Speech and Debate Yearbook I and II</p> <p><u>Senior Project</u> Senior Project (.25 credit)</p> <p>*All courses are 1.0 credit unless otherwise designated.</p>
---	--

To educate our students and prepare them for academic success and responsible, productive lives.



Course Placement Policy

A current teacher's recommended course placement for a student is the most important factor in determining a student's placement for the following year. The teacher bases his/her recommendation on a knowledge of all aspects of a student's performance in class-- exams/tests/quizzes, homework, projects, participation, conduct, study habits and more. No one knows the student's potential for academic success at the next level better than the current teacher. The following guidelines are used to help teachers determine the appropriate course placement for each student. If students or parents have any questions or concerns about a teacher's course recommendation, they are encouraged to set up a meeting with the teacher.

The Director of College Placement will meet yearly with each student to review and discuss the recommendations of the teachers in building each student's schedule. The Director of College Placement will ensure that the student's schedule reflects appropriate academic rigor with the student's overall academic and extracurricular commitments, academic performance and previous standardized test scores. The Director of College Placement works with each student to ensure he/she will meet all graduation requirements and is on track for college success.

Course Types

College Preparatory Classes

College Preparatory classes are designed to prepare students for the content mastery and rigor of the next College Preparatory course in the department's sequence. Therefore, students who are currently successful in a College Preparatory course will be recommended for the next College Preparatory course in the sequence. Students with a strong A in a College Preparatory course may be recommended for the next class at an Honors-level based on many factors, including overall academic and extracurricular commitments and scores on various assessments (ERBs, PSAT, course examinations, etc). College Preparatory courses are not expected to prepare students for an Advanced Placement curriculum.

Honors Classes

Honors classes are designed to prepare students for the content mastery and rigor of the next Honors class in the department's sequence. Students who earn a grade of 85 or higher in an Honors-level course are best placed in the next Honors-level course in a department's sequence. Students who excel at the Honors level (typically determined by earning a grade of A) may be recommended for an AP course in sequence based on many factors, including overall academic and extracurricular commitments and scores on various assessments (ERBs, PSAT, course examinations, etc). Students with a grade of 80-84 in an Honors class may be successful in the next Honors-level class, though they may also benefit from moving to the next College Preparatory course in the sequence, based on a variety of circumstances evaluated by the instructor and the Director of College Placement. Students with grades below an 80 in an

To educate our students and prepare them for academic success and responsible, productive lives.



Honors course typically are best served by placement in the next College Preparatory course in the sequence.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement classes are designed for students who have excelled (typically demonstrated by earning an A) in an Honors curriculum. In departments with multiple AP courses in a sequence, successful completion of the previous AP course with a grade of 85 or higher typically indicates a likelihood of success in the next AP-level course in sequence. Students in an AP course who earn a grade of 80-84 may be successful in the next AP-level class, though they may also benefit from moving to an Honors course, based on a variety of circumstances evaluated by the instructor and Director of College Placement. Students with grades below an 80 in an AP course typically are best served by placement in the next non-AP course in the sequence.

Students desiring to enroll in one or more AP courses may indicate their desire to do so during preliminary registration. Preliminary registration does not ensure automatic placement. All placement is subject to review of above-stated criteria and final approval by the Head of Middle and Upper Schools. Gaston Day School limits the number of AP courses a student may take to one AP class in tenth grade and three AP classes in eleventh and twelfth grades. Gaston Day School regards three AP classes in eleventh and twelfth grades as the most rigorous course of study. Any student wishing to enroll in additional AP classes must receive approval from the Head of Middle and Upper Schools.

Students desiring to enroll in an online AP class must have a minimum average of 90% in the prospective department's Honors curriculum and must receive approval from their current teacher.

Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam in respective subjects.



Course Descriptions

English

English ELL

Students discover how to use and extend their grammar and communication skills more consciously and effectively for academic purposes. Curriculum parallels English 9 and English 10 while allowing differentiation specific to students' unique needs as they enter their first year in high school. This class is offered to students for whom English is a second language.

English 9

Students develop and use higher-level thinking skills, manage and prioritize homework and classwork, and analyze and respond to a variety of fiction, drama, and poetry. Reading comprehension, writing, grammar, vocabulary, public speaking, and the application of literary terminology are emphasized throughout the year. Authors include William Shakespeare, Ayn Rand, Langston Hughes, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

English 9 Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in English 8 and ERB test scores in the top 50th percentile of independent school norms for reading and writing skills.

Students develop and use higher-level thinking skills, manage and prioritize homework and classwork, and analyze and respond to a variety of fiction, drama, and poetry. Reading comprehension, writing, grammar, vocabulary, public speaking, and the application of literary terminology are emphasized throughout the year. Authors include William Shakespeare, Ayn Rand, Langston Hughes, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assessments, reading, and writing assignments.

English 10

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9 or ELL English.

Students conduct an in-depth study of fiction, drama, and poetry from a variety of world authors and historical periods. Reading comprehension, writing, grammar, vocabulary, public speaking, and critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year. Authors include William Shakespeare, Sophocles, and Orson Scott Card.



English 10 Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in English 9 -or- 85% in English 9 Honors.

Students conduct an in-depth study of fiction, drama, and poetry from a variety of world authors and historical periods. Reading comprehension, writing, grammar, vocabulary, public speaking, and critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year. Authors include William Shakespeare, Sophocles, and Orson Scott Card. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assessments, reading, and writing assignments.

American Literature

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10 or ELL English.

Students explore the literary, historical, and social development of literature from Native American works prior to 1750 to the present. Students will write multiple critical papers, learn research techniques, and complete objective and subjective tests and other assessments. Authors include Philip K. Dick, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and others.

American Literature Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in English 10 or British Literature -or- 85% in English 10 Honors or British Literature Honors.

Students explore the literary, historical, and social development of literature from Native American works prior to 1750 to the present, including an additional novel for honors students. Students will write multiple critical papers, learn research techniques, serve as discussion leaders, and complete rigorous written tests and other assessments. Authors include Philip K. Dick, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and others. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assessments, reading, and writing assignments.

AP English Language and Composition

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in English 10 Honors or 95% in British Literature Honors and score within the 90th national user group percentile of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section on the PSAT.

Students learn the fundamentals of rhetorical theory and critical analysis while focusing on the study of nonfiction prose-style works and writing extensively in a variety of modes. Authors include Zora Neale Hurston, Mary Roach, Stephen Greenblatt, Jonathan Swift, and Lysias. All students are expected to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.



AP English Literature and Composition

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 80% in AP English Language and Composition -or- 95% in British Literature Honors and score within the 90th national user group percentile of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section on the PSAT.

Students deepen their understanding of the fundamentals of rhetorical theory and critical analysis while completing studies on fiction, poetry, and drama spanning five centuries of work. Authors include William Shakespeare, John Keats, Emily Brontë, William Faulkner, Margaret Atwood, and Natasha Trethewey. All students are expected to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam in May.



Mathematics

Algebra I

Students learn to apply and master algebraic skills essential for all proceeding math classes. An in-depth study of variable expressions, graphing polynomials, factoring, data analysis, and systems of equations is adapted. Students will also develop and implement various reasoning skills to model real-world applications in the context of Algebra.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.

Students focus on relationships between shapes, visualization, and logical reasoning. Detailed studies of coordinate geometry, plane geometry (explorations of lines, angles, planes, circles, triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons), solid geometry (surface area and volume), and trigonometry will be completed throughout the year.

Geometry Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Algebra I -or- 85% in Algebra I Honors.

Students focus on relationships between shapes, visualization, and logical reasoning. Detailed studies of coordinate geometry, plane geometry (explorations of lines, angles, planes, circles, triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons), solid geometry (surface area and volume), and trigonometry will be completed throughout the year. Additional focus on divergent thinking patterns (moving from a specific case to a generalization) with an emphasis on logical reasoning and proof will be required.

Algebra II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.

Students will learn how to solve systems of equations, graph polynomial functions, solve polynomial equations, and understand logarithmic and exponential functions. Advanced algebraic studies in this class will challenge students to adapt graphing and functional analysis skills, solve higher level order equations, and work with matrices.

Algebra II Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Geometry or Algebra I -or- 85% in Geometry Honors or Algebra I Honors.

Students will learn how to solve systems of equations, graph polynomial functions, solve polynomial equations, and understand logarithmic and exponential functions. Advanced algebraic studies in this class will challenge students to adapt graphing and functional analysis skills, solve higher level order equations, and work with matrices. Greater depth of understanding will be required through increased expectations on assessments and assignments.



Pre-Calculus Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Algebra II -or- 85% in Algebra II Honors.

Students will master the fundamental concepts of algebra, trigonometry and analytical geometry, learn to foreshadow the bases of calculus, and illustrate how algebra and trigonometry can be used to model real-life problems. Topics of focus include functions and graphs, polynomials, powers, rational functions, exponential, logistic and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytic trigonometry, vectors, parametric equations, polar equations, systems and matrices, analytic geometry in multiple dimensions, and discrete mathematics.

Advanced Functions and Models

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II.

Students will study relationships, functions, graphs, trigonometry, advanced functions and graphing, and some discrete mathematical topics. Upon understanding, students will apply these concepts to many real world issues in the fields of construction, meteorology, medicine, physics, and acoustics. Modeled behaviors will be conducted with the purpose of predicting future events.

Statistics Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Algebra II -or- 85% in Algebra II Honors.

Students are introduced to the principles of statistical reasoning while preparing them for life in the twenty-first century through the use of real world examples. Students will learn how to ask thoughtful questions, properly analyze data and use critical thinking skills to draw appropriate conclusions while recognizing inappropriate conclusions drawn by others.

AP Calculus AB

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in Precalculus Honors and score within the 92nd national user group percentile of the Math section on the PSAT.

Students develop an understanding for the concepts of calculus while experiencing its methods and applications. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The connections among these representations are also important. The four main topics are limits, continuity, derivatives, and integrals. All students are expected to take the AP Calculus AB exam in May.



AP Calculus BC

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 80% in AP Calculus AB.

Students develop an understanding for the concepts of calculus while experiencing its methods and applications. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The connections among these representations are also important. The four main topics are limits, derivatives, integrals, and series. All students are expected to take the AP Calculus BC exam in May.



Science

Biology

Students learn the concepts, techniques and information of the four major perspectives of biology: molecular, cellular, organismal and population. Laboratory exercises reinforce class material while focusing students on skills of observation, data collection and organization, experimental methods, and analysis.

Biology Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in Science 8.

Students learn the concepts, techniques and information of the four major perspectives of biology: molecular, cellular, organismal and population. Laboratory exercises reinforce class material while focusing students on skills of observation, data collection and organization, experimental methods, and analysis. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assignments, labs, and faster lesson pace.

Chemistry

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and minimum average of 80% in Algebra I -or- co-enrollment in Algebra II.

Students investigate the composition of matter and the changes it undergoes. Experiments and activities are used to introduce concepts including the structure of atoms and chemical compounds, relationships among elements on the periodic table, chemical and physical transformations, and the measurement and calculations of chemical quantities. Laboratory work provides hands-on experiences that reinforce the concepts and theories presented in class.

Chemistry Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Biology and Algebra I -or- 85% in Biology Honors.

Students investigate the composition of matter and the changes it undergoes. Experiments and activities are used to introduce concepts including the structure of atoms and chemical compounds, relationships among elements on the periodic table, chemical and physical transformations, and the measurement and calculations of chemical quantities. Laboratory work provides hands-on experiences that reinforce the concepts and theories presented in class. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assignments, pace of lessons and the inclusion of units on inorganic, physical and organic chemistry.



Environmental Science

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology.

Students study the interdependent society-nature relationships and contemporary environmental issues affecting life today. Critical thinking skills will focus on exploring Earth's systems and their interwoven dependencies. Students will communicate their ideas in both written and verbal formats. Hands-on activities, laboratories, observations and action projects will provide text-to-self connections to the student's life.

Physics Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 85% in Chemistry Honors and Algebra II Honors.

Students explore the concepts of physics while strengthening their understanding of the macroscopic world around them. Topics include Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion), work, energy and power, mechanical waves and sound, and simple circuits. Laboratory work will provide hands-on experiences that reinforce concepts and theories presented in class.

AP Biology

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in Biology Honors and score within the 90th national user group percentile of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section on the PSAT -or- minimum average of 90% in Chemistry Honors.

Students learn about the four major themes of biology, evolution, energy, information, and systems interactions, through direct instruction, class discussion, laboratory exercises, and fieldwork. Students are expected to complete a summer assignment package covering five chapters of the textbook. All students are expected to take the AP Biology exam in May.



AP Chemistry

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in Chemistry Honors and Algebra II Honors.

Students investigate advanced topics in inorganic, physical and organic chemistry through inquiry-based laboratories, in-depth calculations, and readings. All students are expected to take the AP Chemistry exam in May.

AP Physics II: Algebra-Based

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in Physics Honors and a minimum average of 90% in Pre-Calculus Honors.

Students continue to build skills from AP Physics I: Algebra-Based through direct instruction, hands on experiments, and formal laboratories. New topics of fluids, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, physical and geometric optics, and quantum, atomic and nuclear physics will be explored throughout the year. All students are expected to take the AP Physics II: Algebra-Based exam in May.



Social Studies

World History

Students will explore broad themes and specific case studies in world history from the Renaissance up to the present while developing historical thinking skills. Discussion, research, debate, and critical writing will allow students to analyze and understand major events and individuals that form the foundation of the modern world.

World History Honors

Prerequisite: A minimum average of 90% in History 8.

Students will explore broad themes and specific case studies in world history from the Renaissance up to present while developing historical thinking skills. Discussion, research, debate, and critical writing will help students to analyze and understand major events and individuals that form the foundation of the modern world. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assessments, reading, and writing assignments.

United States History

Students study the American narrative from Spanish exploration to the present day. Emphasis is placed on interpretation of documents and analytical writing skills to create an interactive experience in the classroom.

United States History Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in World History -or- 85% in World History Honors.

Students study the American narrative from Spanish exploration to the present day. Emphasis is placed on interpretation of documents and analytical writing skills to create an interactive experience in the classroom. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assessments, reading, and writing assignments.

Government and Economics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History or United States History.

Students explore the critical institutions, procedures and concepts that make up the American governmental and economic systems. Students will develop interest and expertise on current events and fundamental principles of American society through critical thinking, writing and data analysis.



Government and Economics Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in United States History and successful completion of World History -or- 85% in United States History Honors.

Students explore the critical institutions, procedures and concepts that make up the American governmental and economic systems. Students will develop interest and expertise on current events and fundamental principles of American society through critical thinking, writing and data analysis. Greater depth of understanding will be measured through increased expectations on assessments, reading, and writing assignments.

AP United States Government and Politics

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in United States History Honors -or- 80% in AP United States History.

Students will explore the institutions and principles that shape public policy, public opinion, and government decision making. All students are expected to take the AP United States Government and Politics exam in May.

AP United States History

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in United States History Honors and score within the 90th national user group percentile of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section on the PSAT.

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the social, political, and economic undercurrents in American history while utilizing critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. All students are expected to take the AP United States History exam in May.



World Languages

French I

Students are introduced to structure of the French language while learning to read, write and converse in everyday French. Curriculum is focused on building strong vocabulary and grammar. Students will also develop a cultural context for the French language along with an appreciation for the difference between life in France and the United States. This class is conducted primarily in French.

French II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I.

Students continue to develop their French language skills while conducting an extensive study of the vocabulary. Content includes an introduction to most of the French verb tenses and complex grammatical structures. A continued appreciation for the differences between life in Francophone countries and the United States is promoted through cultural scenarios. This class is conducted predominantly in French.

French III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French II.

Students begin to perfect their use of advanced grammatical concepts while continuing to expand their vocabulary. Students also learn extensively about the history and culture of Francophone countries. An emphasis is placed on reading and writing longer texts in the French language in preparation for French IV. This class is conducted predominantly in French.

French IV Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in French III.

Students focus on reading and discussing important literature written by prominent Francophone writers. Students continue to perfect their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. This course encourages students to develop their communication skills through round-table discussions. This class is conducted predominantly in French.

Spanish I

Students are introduced to the structure of the Spanish language while learning to read, write and converse in everyday Spanish. Curriculum is focused on building strong vocabulary and grammar. Students will also develop a cultural context for the Spanish language along with an appreciation for the difference between life in Spanish-speaking countries and the United States is emphasized. This class is conducted primarily in Spanish.



Spanish II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I.

Students continue to develop their Spanish language skills while conducting an extensive study of the vocabulary. Content includes an introduction to most of the Spanish verb tenses and complex grammatical structures. A continued appreciation for the differences between life in Spanish-speaking countries and the United States is promoted through cultural scenarios. This class is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

Spanish III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II.

Students begin to perfect their use of advanced grammatical concepts while continuing to expand their vocabulary. Students also learn extensively about the history and culture of Spain and Latin American countries. An emphasis is placed on reading and writing longer texts in the Spanish language in preparation for Spanish IV. This class is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

Spanish IV Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 90% in Spanish III.

Students focus on reading and discussing important literature written by prominent Latin American and Spanish writers. Students continue to perfect their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. This course encourages students to develop their communication skills through round-table discussions. This class is conducted predominantly in Spanish.



Fine Arts

Band I, II, III, and IV

Prerequisite: Two years of experience with an instrument before entering Band I.

Successful completion of previous level of Band.

Students will develop musically while preparing for mandatory concerts, the Gaston Day graduation ceremony and an adjudication. Students have the opportunity to perform in the school pep band, jazz band, pit orchestra and various other ensembles. Advanced students may participate in all-district, all-state, Winthrop University Invitational and other honors bands. Band instruments are available for purchase or rent.

Concert Choir I, II, III, and IV

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous level of Concert Choir.

Students will develop their vocal articulation through individual and group voice lessons, reading music, and the study of basic music theory. Songs learned range from pop and Broadway to spirituals, folk songs and classical pieces. Concert Choir requires participation in two concerts, a mass choir festival and an adjudication. Chorus attire is required for performances and is available for purchase.

Drama I, II, III, and IV

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous level of Drama.

Students will explore the world of theatre from an acting perspective as well as a technical aspect (behind the scenes) while putting together a production from the ground up. Focus will be placed on improvisation, musical theatre and jobs or roles held in production during the year. All students will be required to work on the spring and fall productions.

Visual Art I

Students will learn the fundamental principals of design and the elements of art through projects, demonstrations, writing and critiques. Art history will be integrated into many of the projects.

Visual Art II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Visual Art I.

Students will explore the techniques learned in Art I to a greater depth through student driven projects. Student projects will focus on breadth, utilizing a variety of mediums, subjects and techniques.



Visual Art III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Visual Art II.

Students will conduct an in depth study across various mediums, subjects, and techniques while creating a portfolio consisting of eight pieces and an artist statement. Portfolios will be showcased through a student built website designed by each individual to display their artwork.

Visual Art IV

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Visual Art III.

Students will master the concepts, composition and execution of their creative ideas while building a senior portfolio consisting of eight pieces in a concentration and an artist statement. Portfolios will be showcased through individual websites built in Visual Art III.

Visual Art IV Honors

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Visual Art III and a portfolio of ten breadth pieces.

Students will master the concepts, composition and execution of their creative ideas while building a senior portfolio of twelve concentration pieces, two breadth pieces and an artist statement. Portfolios will be showcased through individual websites built in Visual Art III.



Physical Education

Physical Education (.5 credit)

Students will improve their fitness level while developing the skills and habits necessary for a lifetime of activity. Activities will provide opportunities to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness while increasing their knowledge of fitness concepts. Areas of study will include muscular strength and endurance, team sports, recreational games, yoga, and cardiorespiratory endurance. This class is required in the ninth grade and is graded pass/fail.

Health (.5 credit)

Students will explore the effect of health behaviors on an individual's quality of life, emphasizing health as a lifetime commitment through the analysis of individual factors and decision making that promotes good health and disease prevention. Areas of focus include general health and wellness, nutrition, exercise, drug and alcohol abuse, and sexual education. This class is required in the ninth grade and is graded pass/fail. Students may take Health online during the summer.

Strength and Conditioning I, II, and III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous level of Strength and Conditioning.

Students will study a variety of exercises, lifts, and techniques designed to maximize their total fitness, strength and agility. Circuit training, weightlifting, flexibility, fitness and agility topics will all be taught, enhancing each student's understanding of human anatomy and biomechanics. Additional projects tracking nutrition and exercise habits or designing workout schedules will be required of higher level classes.



Electives

America: 1945 to Present Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in United States History -or- 85% in United States History Honors.

Students explore American history in the context of the post-World War II era, examining how domestic and foreign policy shaped society. Students will gain experience with modern and traditional research methods through the completion of several unit projects.

Cinema Studies

Students will explore films from around the world and across all genres starting with the dawn of motion picture. Development of critical knowledge on filming, including camera movements, mise en scene, and cinematic periods, will remain a focus throughout the year while students write film reviews and develop a web presence as modern film critics.

Computer Science Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Algebra II -or- 85% in Algebra II Honors.

Students will learn how a computer translates 1s and 0s into useful code and be exposed to a variety of higher level programming languages including Python and Java. Throughout the year, students will learn proper coding syntax and style, write programs to solve specific problems, and ultimately program Arduino micro controllers.

Creative Writing Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 80% in AP English Language and Composition -or- minimum average of 85% in British Literature Honors.

Students focus on the process of writing (from invention to publication, including intensive revision) while compiling a creative writing portfolio that showcases their growth and best work from the year. Students are responsible for serving as editors for Gaston Day's literary publication, *Blutopia*, and hosting and participating in Gaston Day's poetry slam, Sparks of Madness.

Engineering Design Honors

Prerequisite: Minimum average of 95% in Algebra II -or- 85% in Algebra II Honors.

Student will learn the engineering design process while working with applications in fields such as environmental studies, physics, biology, chemistry, and architecture. Collaboration between peers will help students recognize and define engineering problems while designing, constructing, and presenting solutions based on real life evidence and research. Students will experiment, test and survey to improve the effectiveness of their solutions.



Forensic Science

Students will collect, identify and analyze crime scene evidence, placing emphasis on methods that link a suspect, victim and crime scene together. Laboratory exercises will include fingerprinting, handwriting analysis, ballistics, blood typing, hair and fiber examination, and DNA analysis. Case studies and current events will be explored throughout each unit.

Music Appreciation

Students will learn about the evolution of music through classroom listening and discussion. Time periods studied will range from music's origins to modern day hits.

Personal Finance

Students will learn the decision-making and goal setting skills necessary for successful financial management. Through the use of collaborative projects and class wide discussions, students will learn topics such as budgeting, credit, simple and compound interest, debt, careers, payroll, benefits, and more. Students will make choices and plan for short and long term goals. They will reevaluate their assignments in order to improve and see the impact of their choices so that they are better able to make informed decisions on financial issues outside of school.

Physics of Technical Theater

Students will obtain a strong understanding of physics and engineering via hands on projects in the theater department. Units will include shop safety, use of hand and power tools, wood construction, lighting, electricity, rigging, and sound. Emphasis will be on the physical properties and engineering concepts of each unit.

Speech and Debate

Students will be introduced to the format, logic and skill sets associated with various forms of public speaking and debate. Participation in prepared and impromptu speaking events along with engagement in multiple forms of debate on questions of policy, ethics and philosophy is required. Students will apply public speaking skills to a series of modern and historical government simulations during the second semester.

Yearbook I and II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of previous level of Yearbook.

Students will improve research, writing, interviewing, and editing skills as well as their ability to judge a final product objectively while creating Gaston Day's yearbook. Yearbook staff will take and edit photographs, write articles and captions, and create layouts that capture the highlights of student life. Students are responsible for selling advertisements in order to fund the yearbook and must adhere to strict deadlines.



Senior Project

Senior Project

Students will complete an approved internship, research, or community service project of no less than 40 hours. The focus of each project should be on either personal development in preparation for a future professional career or advancing one of Gaston Day's core values. Students will be required to document and report on their project throughout the year.