

The Griffin Experience

An Upper Division Course Guide



2023-2024





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Dear Students and Parents,

We are proud to share our 2023 - 2024 course offerings. This guide includes course descriptions for grades 7 - 12. As a catalog, this defines the academic experience of each Griffin. We have also included clubs, athletics, and other activities so that the full experience of a Garden School student is illustrated in this course guide. Needless to say we are proud of our rich and dynamic offerings and excited to continue to see them grow over time as we explore innovative ways to further engage students and enrich their school experience.

Thank you,

Brad Battaglia, *Upper Division Head & Director of College Counseling*

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

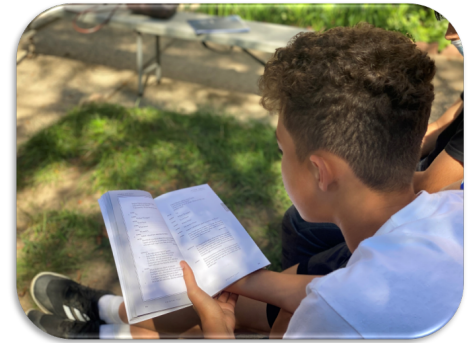
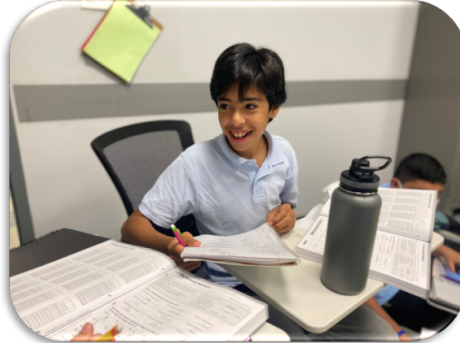


ENGLISH

All students take English Language Arts each year in Middle School. The goal of the English curriculum at Garden is to foster a love of reading and writing in our students and build the skills necessary to successfully complete close reading and analysis of literary texts in high school, college and beyond. We also aspire for all students to be excellent communicators in the written and spoken word.

"This is Why We Sing": Personal Narratives (7th) This course focuses on themes of memories and storytelling through the study of four texts: *Hadestown*, *The Last Cuentista*, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, and *The Magic Fish*. Students examine how memories shape our understanding of the past and inform our present. They analyze various forms of storytelling used by authors and the impact they have on the characters and readers. Additionally, students read and discuss Shakespeare's classic *Romeo and Juliet* in relation to the theme and examine how language and dramatic techniques shape story. Students engage in discussions, writing, and group projects to develop critical reading and analytical skills.

English 8 - World Voices (8th) In this class, students "put their fingerprints all over a text," by making text connections, annotating personal copies, preparing literary analysis, and engaging in speaking and listening exercises. The reading list is rich in content and representative of the identities and development of adolescent learners. Texts such as *The Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly, Rainer Maria Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*, Bryce Courtenay's *The Power of One*, short stories by Zora Neale Hurston, Karen Russell, Eudora Welty, *Myths from Ancient India, China, Greece, and Rome*, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, and more, will comprise our reading list.



** English 7/8 - Innovations, The City see next page for descriptions of these special interdisciplinary, cross-grade, block courses.*



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HISTORY

The History department at Garden offers a wide array of courses covering topics that range from Ancient to American History and AP World to Economics with many other courses in between. Below is the list of courses offered just to middle schoolers. Later on in the course guide you will find the high school offerings to get a sense of the full scope of how students engage with history at Garden School.

American History (7th) Throughout the year we explore the major events, people, and ideas that shaped the US from the colonial period to present day. Students learn about the early colonies, the Revolutionary War, the formation of the Constitution, the new nation, westward expansion, the Civil War, Reconstruction, industrialization and immigration, the World Wars, and key recent events. Through discussions, primary source readings, creative writing, and projects, students develop critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the complex and diverse history of the country.

World Cultures (8th) This course is designed to educate students about the various areas and cultures of the world. The class covers numerous themes such as geography, history, political science, as well as anthropology, philosophy, and religion. Here, students learn about the numerous issues that exist around the world, the conflict and progress that accompanies globalization and the way the global economy and culture is evolving. Importantly, this course veers away from the euro-centric model of history instruction and explicitly explores the histories of South America, Africa and Asia.

Innovations (7th & 8th) Throughout history, innovative ideas have transformed humanity. Whether the discovery of fire, the invention of the wheel or the creation of vaccines, humans have used skills to move society for better or worse. This class examines how innovations have changed the world. Students look at several periods of history such as the Middle Ages, Islamic Empire, The Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution to frame this exploration of Innovation. This is a humanities course where history and Language Arts overlap and novels reflect the historical periods.

The City (7th & 8th) Societies evolve and form cities. These cities have unique characteristics and reasons for development. Through this course we will examine the cities of Timbuktu, Jerusalem, Rome, St. Petersburg, Shanghai, Mumbai and Quito. This unique framing helps students explore world cultures through an urban lens. This is a humanities course where history and Language Arts cover the same topics and novels reflect the culture of the cities analyzed. Students will understand how literature can reflect historical themes.



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WORLD LANGUAGES

In Middle School, world languages are taken as a major subject with the same intensity and significance as a Math class. Going much deeper, connecting with culture, and building off the rich foundation they have from lower school, middle school languages set students on track to become fluent in a second or third language.

Spanish (7th) This is an introduction class to Spanish that develops speaking, reading, writing, and listening. It focuses on conversations, presenting information, and understanding information in real-world contexts. In addition to language skills, the class introduces basic information about the Spanish-speaking world, such as the countries where Spanish is an official language, the role of Spanish in the United States, and works of art that serve as cultural references.

French (7th) This is an introduction class to French that develops speaking, reading, writing, and listening. It focuses on conversations, presenting information, and understanding information in real-world contexts. In addition to language skills, the class introduces basic information about the French-speaking world, such as the countries where French is an official language, the role of French in the English language and in portions of North America and the United States, and works of art that serve as cultural references.

Spanish (8th) This is an introduction class that continues the work from Spanish 7 in developing interpersonal, presentation, and interpretive modes of communication. Students deepen both their language skills along with their cultural knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world through conversations, presentations, and authentic texts. This class prepares students for continuing into high school Spanish.

French (8th) This is an introduction class that continues the work from French 7 in developing interpersonal, presentation, and interpretive modes of communication. Students deepen both their language skills along with their cultural knowledge of the French-speaking world through conversations, presentations, and authentic texts. This class prepares students for continuing into high school French.



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MATH

Students complete Pre-Algebra I in Middle School at Garden, thus putting every student on track to take Calculus as a senior. Ours is a rigorous Mathematics program to say the least, but prepares graduates for success in high school, and across all academic disciplines in college.

Pre-Algebra (7th) In 7th grade, students learn a wide range of topics to prepare and equip them with the knowledge for Algebra I. They review the number system, operations year, equations and inequalities where they evaluate multi-step algebraic equations. Additionally, algebraic thinking is taught using equations, tables and graphs to build understanding of algebraic scenarios. By the end of the year, students are taught probability and geometry. In this course, students are challenged to utilize multiple strategies for arriving at solutions to real-world scenarios. Students learn to become strong-decision makers in order to solve tough problems.

Honors Pre-Algebra (7th) In the Honors course, students also cover a wide range of topics to be well prepared for an Algebra I curriculum. Working with operations, multi-step equations, algebraic expressions, inequalities, tables, graphs, probability, and a variety of strategies, students become fluent in the foundational language of algebra. This class moves quickly and students find the rigor of the course both challenging and rewarding. By the end of the class, students are well prepared for the demanding Algebra I curriculum that follows.

Algebra 1 (8th) In Algebra I, students will expand their understanding of linear equations, inequalities, and systems of linear equations and inequalities. They will not only use these representations to model relationships and constraints but also reason with them abstractly. Students will also study different categories of functions, such as linear functions, exponential functions, and quadratic functions. They will investigate these functions with real-world and mathematical contexts, and be able to model relationships, write, transform, graph, and solve equations.

Honors Algebra 1 (8th) In the Honors Algebra I course, students work at an ambitious pace to master a variety of topics and expand their understanding of linear equations, inequalities, and systems of linear equations and inequalities. They use these representations to model relationships and constraints and reason abstractly with them. Honors Algebra departs from the Algebra Curriculum as students work at a higher and more intensive level with regard to the volume and complexity of the problems they tackle. Students study linear, exponential, and quadratic functions. They investigate functions with real-world applications and model relationships, write, transform, graph, and solve equations.



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SCIENCE

Science is about investigation, exploration, and experimentation in Garden's Middle School. The two courses also prime students with the fundamentals required for high school Biology and Chemistry. Students learn about disciplinary reading, annotating and note taking in expository text, and how to digest, organize, and manage heavy content.

Life Science (7th) In Life Science, we study a range of topics from the basic structures of living things to systems of the human body. During the initial units, we study structures of animal and plant cells and move on to understanding genetics and heredity. During these units, students learn how to trace heredity traits and disease using pedigree charts. Later, students learn about animal behavior and the structure of human systems such as the lymphatic, cardiovascular, respiratory and excretory systems. Throughout the year, experiments and labs are incorporated into the curriculum as supplements to concepts being studied in the respective units.

Physical Science (8th) Physical Science engages students in the fundamental concepts of chemistry and math - what matter is made of, how it interacts with the world around it, and what laws govern interactions. Students learn about chemical reactions, the periodic table, the basics of mechanics, and waves. Students complete lab work to supplement concepts learned, including watching chemical reactions, a paper airplane competition, and building models of organic molecules. In the spring, students also complete the cross-grade, cross-discipline Rocketry project, in which they launch rockets and teach elementary school students at Garden about space.





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ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

ELECTIVES

Electives meet three times per week and allow students the chance to take something outside a traditional curriculum. Courses may change from year to year and students are encouraged to take multiple Electives during their high school years.

STEM Robotics & Engineering This innovative class meets in the Engineering Lab/Maker Space. The course focuses on three different main areas: 1) Coding in Python & Java; 2) 3D Printing & Design; 3) Engineering and Robotics. In small collaborative groups students create, design, and ideate bringing concepts to life using tools like 3D printers, turbines, and solar panels.

Instrumental Music Students in Instrumental Music work on a variety of instruments in a small group setting. Students, from beginners to advanced, may learn piano, strings, or other instruments of interest. This course covers notation, composition, instrumentation, and polishing pieces for performance if students are so inclined.

Global Music Students will learn about music and other aspects of culture of many Non-Western societies in this semester-long course. They will also gain insight into how these cultures influenced American and British popular styles. Students will have the opportunity to actively experience the music by playing guitars, bucket drums, and other instruments in Garden's music lab.

Theater & Improv Students will be guided through a range of physical exercises emphasizing relaxation, sensory awareness, concentration, and teamwork. These skills will be applied toward the group creation of a devised theater project, which will be shared with the wider school community by the end of the semester.

Intro to Fine Arts Students examine and discuss the art from a number of cultures across the ancient world. Using the techniques and imagery from these varied regions as inspiration, they create a variety of art projects. Students also connect with outside artists to better understand the themes and mediums that practicing artists are using in the field.

Intermediate Drawing & Painting In this course, students take their drawing and painting skills to the next level. In the studio, students explore a variety of mediums and themes. They learn how to expand both their creative expression as well as their technique.



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ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

ADVANCED TOPICS

Advanced Topic courses meet twice a week and provide students a chance to explore an area of interest not typically available during the course of a school day. Students are encouraged to take two separate Advanced Topic Courses during the academic year, one per semester, but if a student wishes to stay in a course they enjoyed, and space is available, they can continue.

African Current Events & Culture This elective course offers an objective view of Sub Saharan Africa in the modern world as well as the economic, social and political sphere in this continent. Students learn through hands-on projects and discussions. Emphasis will be put on the traditions and cultures in the region.

Mandarin This is an introductory course to Mandarin. Students receive instruction in all four aspects of the language (oral, listening, reading, and writing), during the early stages of their Chinese studies, but class time is devoted to acquiring basic oral and listening skills. Once students are more familiar with structural conventions, they are challenged with reading and writing materials that include unknown characters to develop skills under more authentic circumstances.

Study Skills Study skills is a semester class in which students practice using programs such as G Suite, Kahoot, Newsela, Quizlet and Ted Talks. Students participate in presentations and collaborative writing exercises so that they will become more proficient writers and presenters. Test taking strategies are also discussed and analyzed.

Fitness (7th/8th) Students in Fitness use the new student fitness center to learn proper techniques associated with cardiovascular exercise as well as weight training. In addition to using the fitness center, we will take walks around the community on occasion and play sports games as well.



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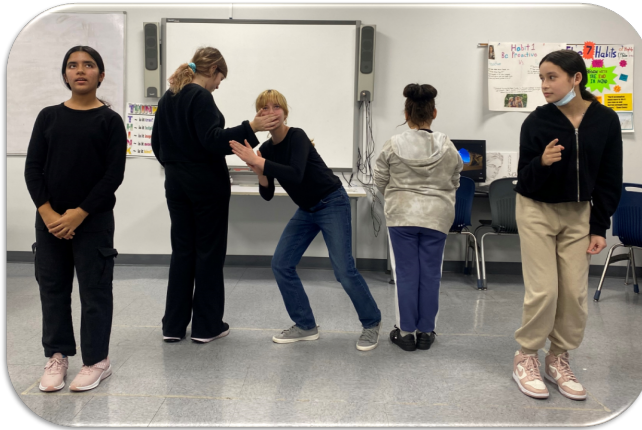


ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

Performance groups meet in school and, prior to shows, also meet outside of school hours. These classes are typically larger groups focused on preparing pieces for presentation on Garden's Millevoi Stage. These groups provide students with an opportunity to explore other areas of interest and collaborate across grade levels for the purpose of a collective production. These groups include:

- Middle School Choir
- High School Choir
- Middle School Instrumental Ensemble
- High School Instrumental Ensemble
- Fall Theater
- Spring Musical Theater





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HIGH SCHOOL



ENGLISH

All students complete four years of English in order to graduate from Garden School, with many seniors taking AP English. The goal of the English curriculum at Garden is to foster a love of reading and writing in our students and build the skills necessary to successfully complete close reading and analysis of literary texts in college and beyond. We also aspire for all graduates to be excellent communicators in the written and spoken word.

English Language Arts (9th) - *Coming of Age Literature* What is the journey of becoming and being especially as a teenager? In this core class for ninth graders, students explore literature from a variety of genres. From the plays of Shakespeare through contemporary novelists, poets and playwrights, students will analyze text and synthesize their ideas through classroom discussions and activities. Students will also develop their expository and creative writing skills. The common theme throughout the various styles of literature will be coming of age as presented by writers from different cultures and eras in history.

English Language Arts (10th) - *Science Fiction and Political Dystopia* The 10th Grade English class begins with a Sci-Fi unit which confronts not only the genre, but also the question of what it means to be human in a world becoming more mechanized. The course strives to hear the perspectives of writers from diverse backgrounds on this topic. Soft sci-fi will follow with works such as George Orwell's *1984* and its connection to the ideas in plays such as Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. We will also investigate Shakespeare's perspective on politics and the environment through *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

English Language Arts (10th/11th) - *Identities* In this core humanities class for students in the tenth and eleventh grades, our essential question is what forms identity. Using rigorous practices that "get students' fingerprints all over a text," we will develop core writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills adolescents need to be literate and informed in the twenty-first century. Texts such as Octavia E. Butler's *Kindred*, Jean Kwok's *Girl in Translation*, Kalisha Buckhannon's *Upstate*, and more will comprise our reading list.



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ENGLISH

English Language Arts (11th) *Striving for “The American Dream”* This course explores the topic, question and concept of “The American Dream.” Writers such as E.L. Doctorow in *Ragtime* and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s iconic, *The Great Gatsby* both grapple with the complexity of pursuing and striving for this dream amidst the harsh realities inflicted upon immigrants, and people who are not a part of the American elite. Further texts examined are *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, by Pearl Cleage and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry and the counter-cultural novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey.

Senior Literature Survey (12th) This core Senior-level English course serves as a survey of the literature, specifically how we use a critical lens to think about essential works by prominent past and present authors. We will hone our academic writing skills with weekly response papers that ask students to write about literature. Using *The Norton Anthology of Literature*, students will engage in college-style discussion and student-centered work that demands close readings to connect deeply to what is written on the page and the intentions of the author.

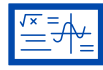
AP English Language and Composition (12th) This AP English course is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situations, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style. Students grow as writers by navigating a variety of analytical and persuasive nonfiction pieces and studying an array of genres from fiction, to poetry, drama, and more. This is a rigorous and intensive course that culminates in the AP Exam.





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HISTORY

The History department at Garden offers a wide array of courses that highlight ancient through modern civilizations and ideas. A recent move to AP World History has allowed for an expansive view that was once focused on Europe to a large degree at the exclusion of other societies and peoples. Other new courses, such as *Art History* and *Identities*, work to bridge the gap between History and English, helping us to cultivate historians who pull from multiple disciplines.

Ancient and Medieval History (9th) This is a core history course, and where every student's high school history journey at Garden begins. We start with prehistory and end with the death of feudalism in Europe. In between, we explore the building blocks of human civilization - from Egypt to Mesopotamia to Greece to Rome, our modern foundations are explored. Also explored are the things that make societies tick, including belief systems. The course ends in approximately the year 1250 CE.

Art History (Humanities 10th/11th) In this humanities class for students in the Tenth and Eleventh grades, we trace the history of the world using masterpieces of art to frame our discussion, analysis, and understanding of how humanity has developed — from the cave paintings of Lascaux to sculptures of a striding god, to images that framed the development of the Hudson River School in the United States, and surveys of important art movements such as iconography of the Middle Ages, Abstract Expressionism, and more.

AP World History (10th) The natural successor to Ancient and Medieval History, this is the class that truly makes history accessible. By the end of this course, students have seen their own story come to life. The course, sponsored by the College Board, runs from 1250 CE - Present, is presented in 9 Units chronologically and topically. The culmination is the taking of the AP exam. With year-long assessments mirroring the AP, students have a history of success here that is a point of pride for the department and the institution.

AP United States History (11th) The course spans all of U.S. history, and places America in the broader context of indigenous societies and our British inheritance/disavowal. The course runs from 1491 (including a study of indigenous America before European invasion) to Present. The course, sponsored by the College Board, is presented in 9 Units. The culmination of the course is the AP exam in May. With year-long assessments mirroring the AP, students have a history of success here that is a point of pride for Garden.



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HISTORY

Activism to Legislation (12th) Changes in a society and in government require the initiative and voice of the people. These many voices foster the development of social movements which lead to changes in government. In the US, it leads to new legislation and Constitutional amendments. This course will look at individuals whose actions and leadership led to dramatic improvements in society. Topics covered are African American history, Native American history, Women's rights movement, Immigration, LGBTQ, the movement to gain rights for people with disabilities, firearms in America, and Environmentalism.

Economics (12th) This course is a half-year senior Humanities elective. It is introductory by nature and covers both micro-economics and macro-economics. The course serves for some as a literal introduction to the world of money, finance, and commerce and how it affects the behavior of the American people since the United States economy is the primary framework used in this course. Students learn about everything from the Gold Standard to the Fed to NFTs and the general theories that drive the world's largest economy.

Humanity Through Conflict (12th) This is a half-year senior Humanities elective. It is a study in the triumph of the human experience in the face of the greatest adversity: war. We explore this throughout some of the finest novels ever written, including *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque and *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, among others. The course serves as a reminder that, no matter the nature of division, there is a humanity that guides us - even during war. In short, there is hope for us all.





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WORLD LANGUAGES

While many of our students pursue Spanish or French as their world language program, we also offer Mandarin in both the regular World Languages program, and as an Advanced Topic course available to all high school students. While we have fewer students currently enrolled in Mandarin courses, this offering grows relative to student demand.

Spanish (9th) This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the first two years of introductory level Spanish in the 7th and 8th grades. New tenses such as the Imperfect, the Future, and the Conditional are introduced along with a series of verbal structures and idiomatic expressions. The main objective is to emphasize the development of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through active class participation and cultural activities.

French (9th) French 9 is designed for students who have previous knowledge of the language. Grammar, conjugations, and oral skills are reinforced at this level. Students learn both the present and past tenses. Students are also exposed to Francophone literature. Students explore the culture and traditions of the Francophone world through weekly oral skill practice.

Spanish (10th) This course is designed for students who have successfully completed 9th Grade Spanish. The main objective is to strengthen student proficiency in all areas of language acquisition through an extensive review of the grammar learned in previous years. Furthermore, students will be introduced to short novels, which serve to reinforce grammatical concepts while enhancing a deeper appreciation for the culture.

French (10th) Students reinforce their knowledge of French grammar and conjugations through reading. They are presented with contemporary French literature. French and Francophone current affairs are at the center of their curriculum. They discuss economic, social and political issues relative to France.



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WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish (11th) This course is intended for students who have successfully completed 10th Grade Spanish. Students at this level are expected to feel comfortable with their command of the language, since this course will expose them to full-length novels. While there is a quick overview of grammatical concepts, the emphasis will be on written and verbal analyses of the works read in class.

French (11th) Students are mostly exposed to African literature of French-speaking countries, as well as the study of the history, cultures and geography of Francophone Africa, from colonialism to our present day. Students learn the structures of West African societies. Classes evolve through constant discussions and debating. Grammar and conjugations are reviewed through reading analysis.

Spanish (12th) This course is meant for students who wish to continue their study of Spanish and have achieved a high level of proficiency. During the year, students read challenging works of literature from traditional Latin American authors and contemporary writers from Spain. Students are expected (and heavily encouraged) to speak Spanish at all times within the classroom. Frequent assessment measures comprehension of the literature and projects based on the novels are assigned.

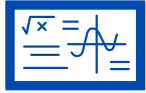
French (12th) This course is meant for students who wish to continue their study of French and have achieved a high level of proficiency. During the year, students are exposed to traditional works by influential French writers, such as André Gide, Albert Camus, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Students are expected (and heavily encouraged) to speak French at all times within the classroom. Frequent quizzes measure comprehension of literature and projects based on the novels are assigned.

Mandarin (9th-12th) This introductory course requires minimal or no prior knowledge of the language. Even though students will receive instruction in all four aspects of the language (oral, listening, reading, and writing) during the early stages of Chinese studies, class is devoted to acquiring basic oral and listening skills. Once students are familiar with structural conventions, they are challenged with reading and writing that includes some unknown characters in order to develop skills under more authentic circumstances.



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MATH

Students complete four years of mathematics at Garden School prior to graduation, with all seniors matriculating through at least Calculus I. This is a rigorous Mathematics program to say the least, but prepares graduates for success across all academic disciplines in college, especially business, engineering, mathematics, and computer science.

Geometry (9th) Here, students generate conjectures and observations, record definitions and theorems to help build formal proofs, and prove triangle congruence and similarity theorems. They derive volume formulas, study the effect of dilation on area and volume, connect to Algebraic ideas through coordinate Geometry, and use previous knowledge to build equations of circles, parabolas, parallel lines, perpendicular lines and analyze segment/angle relationships.

Honors Geometry (9th) In honors, students cover all the material as the course described above including conjectures and observations, definitions and theorems, and also basic proofs. They also derive volume formulas and study the effect of dilation on area and volume and connect ideas from algebra and geometry. In this class, they take Geometry further though, working on more sophisticated proofs and theorems building upon previously learned knowledge and new knowledge to deeply connect and build equations and analyze relationships between concepts.

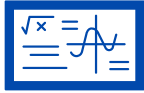
Algebra II & Trigonometry (10th) In Algebra II and Trig, students represent functions in a variety of ways through modeling to connect to polynomial graphs and expressions. Students do arithmetic on polynomials, rational functions, extended exponents, and rational exponents. Building on rational exponents, students return to exponential functions and use logarithms to solve for unknowns. They extend the understanding of transformation graphically and algebraically. Students work with the unit circle to make sense of trigonometric functions and use those functions to model periodic relationships.

Honors Algebra II & Trigonometry (10th) In honors, students move more quickly and go deeper, touching on PreCalculus concepts in Q4. Students use mathematical modeling to connect to polynomial graphs, expressions, and functions. They further explore polynomials and rational functions and extend exponent rules to include rational exponents. Building on those concepts, as they revisit earlier studies of exponential functions, they use logarithms to solve for unknowns, extend understanding of transformation graphically and algebraically, and use trigonometric functions to model relationships. Honors touches on early chapters of PreCalculus before finishing.



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MATH

Precalculus (11th) In Precalculus, students extend their knowledge of complex numbers to see they can be represented in the Cartesian plane and that operations with complex numbers have a geometric interpretation. Students draw connections to trigonometry and geometry by exploring the plane to express complex numbers in polar forms. In this class, students work with vectors and connect them to complex numbers. They also work with matrices and operations, exploring an algebraic system where multiplication is not commutative. They draw connections between matrices and transformations and use inverse matrices to represent and solve linear systems.

Honors Precalculus (11th) In the honors section of this class, students cover all the topics covered in the non-honors offering, but also begin to explore the early concepts in Calculus I. In the Precalculus curriculum, students explore complex numbers, the Cartesian plane and learn that operations with complex numbers have a geometric interpretation. They draw connections to trigonometry and geometry by exploring the plane to express complex numbers in polar forms, and work with vectors, matrices, and operations, exploring a more complex algebraic system. They draw connections between matrices and transformations and use inverse matrices to represent and solve linear systems. In the 4th quarter, they begin to tackle early Calculus concepts.

Calculus (12th) This course begins with a refresher on the final concepts learned in PreCalculus. Then the students explore Calculus concepts including limits and continuity, derivatives, definite integrals, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, and techniques of integration. Emphasis is placed on the exploration of real-world calculus applications. This is a truly challenging and demanding class where students are deeply immersed in process and always tackling complex equations that could fill a page.

AP Calculus (12th) AP Calculus AB is the high level and sophisticated study of limits, derivatives, definite and indefinite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students cover exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, and techniques of integration just as they do in the non-AP version of Calculus. However, consistent with AP philosophy, concepts go faster, deeper, and are expressed and analyzed geometrically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. In the AP section of Calculus there continues to be a focus on real-world applications of new concepts. In this challenging and demanding class, students are deeply immersed in the process of solving truly complex equations before sitting for the AP exam in May.



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SCIENCE

Students need to complete three years of natural science at Garden School in order to graduate, with two years of lab science work. That said, most Garden students take four years of science with at least three of those years including an extensive lab program.

Biology (9th) This is an extensive ninth grade biology course that covers a broad range of topics and builds upon the foundation from earlier study of Life Sciences. In this lab class, students expand their understanding of living organisms by performing laboratory exercises, doing research on current topics and participating in classroom discussions. The course consists of ten units: The Nature of Life; Ecology; Cells; Genetics; Evolution: Microorganisms and Fungi; Plants; Invertebrates; Chordates; The Human Body.

Chemistry (10th) This is a sophomore chemistry course. The goals of this lab class are to understand the composition of various substances found in nature and how they are able to react with one another, thus enabling students to be better able to comprehend the world around them. Topics covered in the course include: Matter and Energy; Atoms, Elements and Bonding; Periodicity; Chemical Reactions; Thermochemistry; Kinetic Theory; Oxidation-Reduction; Solubility; Solutions; Acids and Bases.

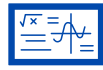
AP Biology (11th) This is an elective course with a prerequisite of at least a B- in both Biology and Chemistry. This in depth course deals with all aspects of living organisms. Extensive laboratory investigations are performed. The goal is to provide an opportunity for students to take a college-level course while still in high school. The units covered in the course include: The Chemistry of Life; The Cell; Genetics; Mechanisms of Evolution; The Evolutionary History of Biological Diversity; Plants: Form and Function; Animals; Form and Function; Ecology.

Astronomy (11th) This is an in-depth exploration of the Cosmos where students learn the fundamental physics forming our understanding of the universe and how we utilize tools and mathematics. They grapple with how science as a methodology is a human enterprise filled with misconceptions. Students explore the formation and evolution of our solar system and about astronomical objects found in the vastness beyond earth. The objective of this course is to prepare students for physics, college level science, and science literacy.



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SCIENCE

Physics (12th) The traditional high school level physics course is split into two major sections. The first deals with mechanics and motion -- how revolutionary thinkers (1500's-1700's) changed the way we view how things move and interact. The second section deals with how brilliant scientists (1800's) discovered electricity and magnetism, and related phenomena that transformed the world into our modern society. The class focuses on problem solving skills, applying mathematical knowledge to interesting problems illustrating how our everyday lives work, and shattering common misconceptions. There are many labs including one with ramps, egg drops, and our Van der Graaf generator.

Advanced Physics (12th) Advanced Physics is an accelerated course for those excelling in Science and Math. Students learn the fundamentals of physics from the scientists of the 1500's-1800's, but also explore modern physics, from 1900's to today, showing how counterintuitive the world is. They step into the shoes of James Maxwell, as he discovers the electromagnetic wave, only for Einstein to find later that it's also a particle. They plumb the details of quantum mechanics, and how the tiny scales of the world are completely different from the large. They learn about how time is relative not absolute, and how the universe is very different at large speeds.





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ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

ELECTIVES

Electives meet three times per week and allow students the chance to take something outside a traditional curriculum. Courses may change from year to year and students are encouraged to take multiple Electives during their high school years.

Theater Arts & Improv (9th-12th) Students are guided through a range of physical exercises emphasizing relaxation, sensory awareness, concentration, and teamwork. Skills are used to make three separate theater projects during the semester: one working alone, another created in pairs, then a final play collaboration presented as one united ensemble.

Robotics, Engineering and Coding (9th-12th) This innovative class meets in the Engineering Lab/Maker Space. The course focuses on three different main areas: 1) Coding in Python & Java; 2) 3D Printing & Design; 3) Engineering and Robotics. In small collaborative groups students create, design, and ideate bringing concepts to life using tools like 3D printers, turbines, and solar panels.

Instrumental Music (9th-12th) Students in Instrumental Music work on a variety of instruments in a small group setting. Students, from beginners to advanced, may learn piano, strings, or other instruments of interest. This course covers notation, composition, instrumentation, and polishing pieces for performance if students are so inclined.

Electronic Music Composition (9th-12th) Students will have the opportunity to engage their creative impulses in this semester-long course. They will create their own music using recordings of sounds of common objects, instruments, and audio editors while simultaneously being introduced to what others have done in producing music through electronic means.

Old Masters: Renaissance & Baroque Art (9th-12th) This studio art class is appropriate for beginners. Students will examine and discuss the art from a number of cultures across the ancient world. Using the techniques and imagery from these varied regions as inspiration, students create multiple art projects reflecting concepts of art like point and perspective, chiaroscuro, and representation.



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ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

ELECTIVES

Intermediate Drawing & Painting (9th-12th) In this course, students take their drawing and painting skills to the next level. In the studio, students explore a variety of mediums and themes. They learn how to expand both their creative expression as well as their technique. They are tasked with deeply exploring themes, integrating and combining techniques and trying new approaches.

Portfolio Advanced Art (9th-12th) Designed for students intending to apply for art school after graduation, Portfolio & Advanced Arts is a course that meets once a week for an extended session that revolves around the creation of fine art, the selection of pieces for one's portfolio and the development of style, strong habits and focus.

Media Arts (9th-12th) Students taking this course participate in digital illustration as well as digital photography and the editing of work using a suite of applications that can be utilized on either cameras or on a smartphone. Regular projects are assigned and students should be prepared to manage long-term projects and prepare for critique and display.





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ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

ADVANCED TOPICS

Advanced Topic courses meet twice a week and provide students a chance to explore an area of interest not typically available during the course of a school day. Students are encouraged to take two separate Advanced Topic Courses during the academic year, one per semester, but if a student wishes to stay in a course they enjoyed, and space is available, they can continue.

One Acts & Monologues (9th-12th) The Advanced Topics in English Elective examines one-act plays and monologues as well as collaborating with theater classes. Theater games are included as a means to develop the actor's instrument emphasizing voice production, articulation, and physical movement. The course culminates in a performance using one medium learned.

Statistics (9th-12th) Throughout this course, students will become familiar with data and throughout a series of projects, they learn basic statistics definitions. Students learn how to design, conduct, and present experiments. They describe, explore, and compare data, and learn basic probability rules. They learn estimation, sample size, and strategies for gathering and organizing information and data.

Forensics Lab (9th-12th) In Forensics, we will be introducing students to all of the basic Forensic Labs skills such as fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis and more. Students with an interest in forensic science as an area of study in college or as a future career should consider joining this class. Activities are meant to provide real world applications through hands-on projects.

Fitness (9th-12th) Unlike PE, meant for large groups, Fitness is a smaller program that places students in the fitness center to utilize the available Nautilus-type weight machines, free weights and treadmills. This course is meant for students who wish to engage in strenuous exercise and build strength and endurance with weight and cardio training.

Mandarin (9th-12th) Similar in nature to the main Mandarin program in the World Languages Department, this is an Advanced Topic course focused on the learning of language. Students who have signed up previously do so because they love the acquisition of language and hope to add onto studies of French or Spanish.



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ELECTIVES, ADVANCED TOPICS, & PERFORMANCE GROUPS

PERFORMANCE GROUPS

Performance groups meet in school and, prior to shows, also meet outside of school hours. These classes are typically larger groups focused on preparing pieces for presentation on Garden's Millevoi Stage. These groups provide students with an opportunity to explore other areas of interest and collaborate across grade levels for the purpose of a collective production. These groups include:

- **Middle School Choir**
- **High School Choir**
- **Middle School Instrumental Ensemble**
- **High School Instrumental Ensemble**
- **Fall Theater**
- **Spring Musical Theater**





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PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETIC TEAMS (7th-12th)

Physical Education (N-12) To provide maximum physical activity time within the class period, we focus on teaching skills and activities that transfer into physical activity outside of physical education class and motivate children to be physically active. We teach a range of different sports, and provide young people with an opportunity to develop and improve their social and physical skills. Beginning in 2023, Upper Division students may participate in regular athletic activities after school or outside of school as a means to replace Phys Ed credits. Speak to Mr. Battaglia for more details.

Athletic Teams Most students in Garden School's Upper Division participate in Junior Varsity or Varsity athletics each year. We encourage this participation as a way to stay active and build community beyond the classroom. We do not make cuts on any of our teams but do expect athletes to commit to the team they are representing by always attending practices and games. Please find below a listing of teams we currently have in the Upper Division.

Fall Teams

Soccer (Co-ed)
Women's Volleyball
Cross Country (Co-ed)

Winter Teams

Men's JV & Varsity
Basketball
Women's Varsity
Basketball
Swimming (Co-ed)

Spring Teams

Tennis (Co-ed)
Men's Volleyball
Women's Softball
Track & Field (Co-ed)
Triathlon (Co-ed)





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COLLEGE COUNSELING

What is the right college for my child and how will we find it? How will our family navigate the application process? These questions, along with those about cost, developing independence, and making the most of high school, are important elements of the college counseling program at Garden School. From families with a tradition of college attendance to those for whom the college process is new, college matriculation is a goal shared by every Garden School family. During your time at Garden, you will have easy access to the Director of College counseling and will be notified of regular meetings that occur to support your understanding of the college process and ways in which to engage with colleges and universities. While these steps occur even before a student enters the 11th grade, the formal college admissions process begins with Junior Year.

Middle School College Night. To help demystify our process and to make sure families and students understand the landscape and our approach, we host a college info night for MS families.

SAT Math Prep (10th / 11th) We offer 10th and 11th grade students a spring SAT Math course that meets several times per week, during school, free of charge. Taught by a member of the Math Department, the course provides expertise regarding question types, testing strategies and timing. More intensive, for fee SAT prep classes are also available after school and in the summer.

Junior Seminar (11th) Juniors begin the college process each January by meeting with our Director of College Counseling once per week to begin researching schools, writing essays, creating accounts and meeting with admissions professionals. This course includes a unit that utilizes the English department to assist in students writing personal and supplemental essays. This course also coincides with individual family meetings to create initial college lists for each student.

College Night (11th) Each winter, typically in February, we host an evening on campus to kick-off the college admissions process in earnest. All junior students and parents are invited to hear from admissions professionals about what they look for in college applicants and their applications. This event is highlighted by a question and answer period that helps take the mystery out of what to expect when your application is reviewed by a college or university. Past admissions professionals have visited Garden from the likes of Fordham University, CUNY, Union College and Syracuse University.



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COLLEGE COUNSELING

Senior Seminar (12th) Seniors meet with our Director of College Counseling once per week throughout the fall to prepare college applications. Students work on all aspects of applying and this important course also includes meeting with individual students and families to finalize plans.

Individual Family Meetings (12th) Seniors and their families meet with our Director of College regularly to discuss their plans, updates, and any changes to family or student goals as they navigate the process.

Senior Interview (12th) Colleges require a school letter of recommendation and we have found the best letters come from knowing each student. Meeting with rising seniors for one-on-one interviews is something we have been doing for years. The goal of each interview is to learn more about the student so as to craft a highly personal letter that gives colleges a true sense of how spectacular each senior is beyond their resume and grades.

Senior College Night (12th) Unlike the College Night program that occurs during the winter of a student's junior year, 12th Grade College Night focuses on the events of the Fall and what students and families should be doing and expecting leading up to the submission of college applications. We discuss procedures needed to request transcripts, recommendations, and financial aid.

Fall College Visits (12th) Each fall, roughly 50 college admissions professionals visit Garden School either in person, or since the onset of Covid 19, virtually. The counseling office schedules these visits and alerts students to the schedule of visitors throughout the Fall. Students who are interested in a college that visits Garden School should ABSOLUTELY attend such meetings, which are held either in the library or in Mr. Battaglia's counseling office.

Transition Planning (12th) Though we do our best to guide students gently through the process, Junior year can come with a lot of pressure and senior year can feel stressful with major decisions and transitions on the horizon. In conjunction with our School Counselor as well as outside organizations and professionals in the field, we talk openly and often about campus life, stress management, mental health, wellness, substances, and peer pressures in college,



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COLLEGE COUNSELING

Senior Internship / Senior Project

Seniors spend up to five weeks prior to graduation working on a special project of interest or in a supervised internship experience. The idea stemmed from conversations with seniors, who wished to take advantage of the time after AP (advanced placement) exams were completed to pursue projects or experiences aligned with their strong interests or passions. Since beginning Senior Project, students have interned in a range of professional settings from a veterinarian's office to an accounting firm, an organic farm, and with the NY Mets scouting department to name a few.

To engage in a senior internship or project, students prepare a proposal detailing the experience, note the organization with whom they plan to connect, and highlight a faculty mentor. Once completed, participating seniors present before a committee of faculty and administration, highlighting what they gained from the program and how it compares to what they envisioned from the outset. Students are also encouraged to see how they can take what they learned and apply it on the college campus they head to in the fall.

At Garden we believe in a comprehensive senior year that is rigorous, college preparatory and rewarding. By allowing seniors to participate in a program like this, we are offering something unique that allows our students a wonderful bridge to a possible major, career and/or passion.





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ADVISORY

Students and families at Garden School thrive from strong relationships with staff members. Research shows time and again that student outcomes are greater when bonds between the individual student, the family, and the school are stronger. The Advisory program was established to facilitate those solid connections through meaningful engagement throughout the school year. Garden School's Advisory program begins in 7th grade and continues throughout middle and high school. Advisors cycle through middle school with students and then a new Advisor cycles through high school with students.

The Advisor serves as a school based anchor for their advisee students. Advisors work with small groups of students and help them navigate school, set goals, track progress, think about their experience, access special programs and opportunities, and consider options for the future. Advisors also are a conduit for important communication with families and other team members throughout the year. While individual teachers care for and nurture students in their specific classes, the Advisor is a tether for a student to help pull it all together. Advisors build a family among their advisees.

Advisory meetings take place once a month with a focus on grade check ins, wellness check ins, to determine if there are any sports, clubs, or activities that could be of interest to an advisee, etc. In these regular meetings, students are also asked to self-evaluate their own performance as it pertains to academics, character, and community engagement. In addition to those standing meetings, Advisors often host the school counselor who joins the group to deliver content related to social, emotional, and physical health with topics ranging from leadership to healthy relationships; substances to stress management, and more.





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CLUBS & ACTIVITIES (7th-12th)

Clubs and extracurricular activities are extremely popular at Garden School. Each year new clubs are added and a club fair is held each fall to introduce offerings to new and returning students. It is possible to participate in multiple clubs at once and we feel such engagement is a key element to the Garden School education. Please find below a roster of available clubs for the 2023-24 academic year. If a Club does not exist contact Mr. Battaglia to start one.

- Chess Club
- Cupola Yearbook Club
- Diversity Club - Organization that raises awareness and appreciation of other cultures.
- French Club - Celebrating all things French.
- FTC Robotics - First Tech Challenge robotics program. Design, Build, Program & Operate.
- Garden Design Club - Garden Arts Club focused on beautifying the school and campus
- Garden School Student Council
- High School Debate - Member of the NYC BQCFL
- KEY Club - Community service based organization dedicated to events throughout the year.
- Model United Nations
- National Honor Society
- Radio Club - Organization that helps interested students earn their ham radio license.
- Sprinkles! - Organization that works in support of LGBTQIA students and their allies.





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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACADEMY

In 2002, Garden was the first school in NYC to host non-fluent international students in an English Language Academy. We continue to be one of the few day schools to offer an ELA program. Our students that began their Garden experience in our ELA program have been accepted to colleges and universities like Wake Forest, Julliard, UCLA, and Yale. Our ELA program has three components, Reading Comprehension, Writing and Verbal and a student is placed, based upon existing language proficiency, on one of four levels: Commanding, Expanding, Progressing, and Emerging.

Level 1: Commanding Students function fluently in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Their skills are equal to those of native English speakers at their appropriate grade level. These students have gained the skills necessary to participate in an English-speaking classroom. In the *Commanding Program*, ELA is not required, but reinforcement classes in Writing, Verbal and Reading Comprehension are available.

Level 2: Expanding Students are able to use skills at a higher level than intermediate students. Although their knowledge and use of English is at a more advanced level, these students make mistakes usually involving more subtle use of language and difficult levels of vocabulary and grammar. In the *Expanding Program*, the full ELA program is not required, but we may require reinforcement classes in Writing, Verbal and Reading Comprehension.

Level 3: Progressing Students have better English skills than students at the basic level. However, these students' skills are often not well developed and they make significant errors in the four skill areas. The *Progressing Program* requires the full ELA program. Students spend free periods assisting in K-Gr3 classrooms. They spend two weeks at Garden Summer Camp (or equivalent). They are required to participate in one club and/or sport per semester to engage with the community and practice emerging language skills.

Level 4: Emerging A student at the Emerging level needs supports and structures to improve their academic language skills. The *Emerging Program* requires the full ELA program. Students spend free periods assisting in K-Gr3 classrooms. They are required to attend Garden's five week Summer Intensive English Language Academy. They are required to participate in one club and/or sport per semester to engage with the community and practice emerging language skills.