



**9th-11th Grade Course Catalog  
School Year 2022-2023**

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## Graduation Requirements

### Girls Global Academy Public Charter School Graduation Requirements

Girls Global Academy Public Charter School (“Girls Global Academy PCS”) will meet standard graduation requirements set by District of Columbia Public Schools. Girls Global Academy PCS offers International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in the student’s regular schedule. All Girls Global Academy students will have the same promotion requirements. If a student is recommended for retention, the Success team, led by the College and Career Readiness Counselor, will review and revise the Personalized Learning Plan, meet with the parent/guardian and student, and articulate the path forward for credit recovery which may include summer school sessions.

Students in Washington, D.C. are required to take at least 2.0 credits of their 24.0 credits in college level or career preparation approved courses to include IB, AP, and CTE courses. Girls Global Academy students will meet the community service requirement of 100 hours through service learning during LEADership academy and out of school service projects. Paid experiences **do not** count for service learning. Students at Girls Global Academy PCS will participate in a variety of service learning experiences each year they are enrolled.

**Credits:** A minimum of 25.5 credits must be obtained as a student at Girls Global Academy PCS. Please see the breakdown below.

#### Girls Global Academy PCS Graduation Requirements

<b>English</b> 4 credits	1 credit in English 9* 1 credit in English 10* 1 credit in English 11* 1 credit in English 12*
<b>Mathematics</b> 4 credits	1 credit in Algebra 1* 1 credit in Geometry* 1 credit in Algebra II* 1 credit in upper level course*
<b>Social Studies</b> 4 credits	1 credit in World History I* 1 credit in World History II* 1 credit in US History* .5 credit in US Government* .5 credit District of Columbia History* .5 credit Women’s Studies  IB Psychology HL, AP World History, AP US History, AP US Government can replace same name non AP/IB course
<b>Science</b>	1 credit in Biology*

4 credits  3 credits in lab sciences and 1 additional science course	1 credit in Chemistry 1 credit in Environmental Science 1 credit in Physics  IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL, AP Biology can replace same name non AP/IB course
<b>Physical Education and Health</b> 1.5 credits	.5 credit Physical Education I* .5 credit Physical Education II* .5 credit in Health*  Physical education credit can be earned through a school sanctioned sports program
<b>Fine Arts</b> 1 credit	.5 credit in Art A/B* .5 credit in Music*  IB Art HL can replace same name non AP/IB course
<b>Pathways and CTE options</b>  2 credits  3 total credits for qualifying courses in the chosen engineering or business pathway for the Certificate	1 credit Engineering* 1 credit Business*  Courses that count towards Engineering* Credits: Engineering Design, Environmental Sustainability, Civil Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Design and Development  Courses that count toward Business* Credits: Principles of Business, Principles of Marketing & Principles of Finance, Principles of Management & Business Strategies
<b>World Languages</b> 2 credits	1 credit in World Language 1 1 credit in World Language 2
<b>Electives</b> 3 credits	Any elective course listed will count as an elective. Credits earned over the minimum requirements will count toward elective
<b>Service Learning</b>	100 hours
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	25.5

\*indicates required course for graduation

GGA will admit new grade 11 students; however, these students may not qualify for the pathways certificate as a result of their entry grade. The grade 9 pathway coursework (Engineering Essentials and Leadership & Wealth Management) will be waived for grade 11 transfer students. Girls Global Academy will provide students with the pathways course progression in order to qualify for the CTE certificate option as a transfer student. Students enrolled in grade 11 as a transfer student will choose a Pathway, either Engineering or Business and be placed in the required course (Principles of Engineering or Principles of Business and Business Economics). Students will take as many courses as possible in the Engineering or Business pathway prior to graduation. The placement in multiple pathways courses during grade 12 is dependent on a student's unique scheduling needs. Grade 11 transfer students will also be given a world language placement exam if there are no transferring world language credits to determine scheduling needs. Students that enroll in grade 9 with advanced world language credits will be enrolled in advanced language courses.

GGA will **not** admit new grade 12 students, as they would not have the requisite Career Pathways and IB coursework needed for graduation. Transferring students must present their grade transcript at the time of enrollment. Upon review of transfer student transcripts, GGA will honor the credits that have been earned by students from other schools for the same course. Thereafter, the GGA grading policy and graduation requirements are followed. Credit recovery will be offered to students who have not received a credit in core subject areas of English, Math, Science, and Biology. Credit recovery will not be for first-attempt credits.

Students may apply for a waiver to these graduation requirements, particularly in the event that they are transferring from another school. Waivers will be granted at the administration's discretion, only with significant cause, and with an eye toward preserving as much of the full GGA graduation requirements for each student as possible.

In particular, transfer students may apply for a waiver from Pathways courses. Waivers for Pathways courses will be granted only if completion of the Pathways/CTE courses impedes a student's ability to complete other graduation requirements.

GGA will **not** grant waivers for 11th grade IB coursework, so any transferring 12th grader must be able to transfer sufficient IB course credits to meet these graduation requirements.

## CORE COURSES

### ENGLISH

<b>English Language Arts 1 - 9th Grade   1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement</b>
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English Language Arts 9 is an exploration of genres through a diverse group of classic and contemporary writers represented from around the globe. Through novels, poems, stories, and plays, students learn more about their own personal identity and the identity of others. Critical reading/literary analysis is balanced with open-ended engaging projects which are both essential to supporting students in college and career readiness standards.
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<b>English Language Arts 2 - 10th Grade   1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement</b>
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English Language Arts 10 is an exploration of genres through a diverse group of classic and contemporary writers represented from around the globe. Through novels, poems, stories, and plays, students learn more about their own personal identity and the identity of others. Critical reading/literary analysis is balanced with open-ended engaging projects which are both essential to supporting students in college and career readiness standards.
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- Must have passed English I

<b>English Language Arts 3 - 11th Grade   1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement</b>
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English Language Arts 11 is an exploration of genres through a diverse group of classic and contemporary writers represented from around the globe. Through novels, poems, stories, and plays, students learn more about their own personal identity and the identity of others. Critical reading/literary analysis is balanced with open-ended engaging projects which are both essential to supporting students in college and career readiness standards.
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- Must have passed English I and English II

<b>IB Language A - Language and Literature   1 Credit, 1 Year</b>
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The language A: language and literature course aims at studying the complex and dynamic
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nature of language and exploring both its practical and aesthetic dimensions. The course will explore the crucial role language plays in communication, reflecting experience and shaping the world, and the roles of individuals themselves as producers of language. Throughout the course, students will explore the various ways in which language choices, text types, literary forms and contextual elements all affect meaning.

- Must have passed English I and English II

## MATHEMATICS

### **Algebra I |**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

This course will focus on topics such as writing, solving and graphing linear equations, inequalities, absolute values, and systems of linear equations, inequalities and absolute values. Students will also work with multiple representations of linear and exponential functions with a review of exponents, including exponential growth and decay. Operations on polynomials will be studied along with factoring and solving, particularly with quadratics. Transformations of quadratic equations and their graphs, and solving for zeros will be emphasized.

### **Geometry |**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Students have learned how to use algebraic functions to describe various situations in addition to learning skills that help with the usage of algebraic expressions to solve problems. In Geometry, students will continue to use their algebraic skills and apply them to geometric problems. Geometry is the branch of mathematics that deals with the shape and size of objects that we find all around us. As students study geometry, they will discover and use relationships among geometric shapes.

### **Algebra II |**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

This class focuses on representation and modeling, algorithms, and reasoning and communication. Students will learn how to explore functions in more depth, deal with exponential functions, take quadratics to the next step, work with linear systems and matrices, work with logarithms and inverse functions, apply more knowledge to polynomial functions



and their properties, identify circular functions, apply trigonometric function properties and work with conics. Probability and statistics will also be addressed.

- Must have already passed Algebra I

### **Pre-Calculus |**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

This class focuses on representation and modeling, algorithms, and reasoning and communication. Students will learn how to explore functions in more depth, deal with exponential functions, take quadratics to the next step, work with linear systems and matrices, work with logarithms and inverse functions, apply more knowledge to polynomial functions and their properties, identify circular functions, apply trigonometric function properties and work with conics. Probability and statistics will also be addressed.

- Must have already passed Algebra I, Algebra II

## **SCIENCE**

### **Biology |**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

The Biology course focuses on scientific inquiry, engineering, and STEM practices through phenomena and problems that are presented in the form of an essential question to answer at the end of each unit. Students explore what this problem looks like in another part of the world while engaging a similar problem in the local context through science labs and case studies. Topics studied include the nature of life, ecology, cells, genetics, evolution, and biodiversity.

### **Chemistry |**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Chemistry 1 provides students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking skills as they acquire a better understanding of the chemical nature of our world. Students investigate the composition, properties, and reactions of matter. The approach is inductive, mathematical, and conceptual. Laboratory experiments and subsequent classroom analysis are integral components of the course.

- Must have passed Biology

**Environmental Science |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Course outcomes focus on scientific inquiry, the physical world, the living environment, resource conservation, human impact on the environment, as well as legal and civic responsibility. Students will focus on data collection and analysis through laboratory experiences and field work, including descriptive and comparative studies. Through a variety of learning experiences to include career education opportunities, students will gain foundational scientific process skills and environmental literacy to engage the community and provide diverse points of view about the management of natural resources.

- Must have passed Biology and Chemistry

**International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems and Societies |  
1 Credit, 1 Year**

ESS is firmly grounded in both a scientific exploration of environmental systems in their structure and function, and in the exploration of cultural, economic, ethical, political and social interactions of societies with the environment. As a result of studying this course, students will become equipped with the ability to recognize and evaluate the impact of our complex system of societies on the natural world.

- Must have passed Biology and Chemistry

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**World History I |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

The World History course engages students through stories and eventful times to conduct historical investigation and analysis of both primary and secondary sources. Students are challenged to think more deeply about personal, national, and global identity by assuming roles, participating in decision trees, and simulations to develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening proficiencies.

**World History II |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

The World History course explores multiple perspectives in history and their impact. Thematic concepts show students why history matters today. Writing, reading, and vocabulary, critical thinking, and note-taking instruction help students understand world history and ensure content mastery for all learners.

- Must have passed World History I

**Advanced Placement (AP) World History |  
1 Credit, 1 Year**

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

- Must have passed World History 9

**WORLD LANGUAGES: 2 Credits, Required for Graduation**

Girls Global will do its best to accommodate students and ensure continuity with world languages students may have started prior to their attendance at Girls Global.

**Spanish One | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Spanish One course immerses students in authentic cultural experiences through engaging theme-based learning to include culture, health, technology, and travel. Reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency are emphasized to support students in language proficiency to communicate about themselves and their world.

**Spanish Two | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Spanish two course continues to immerse students in authentic cultural experiences through engaging theme-based learning on engaging topics. There is a continued emphasis on reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency are emphasized to support students in language proficiency to communicate about themselves and their world.

- Must have passed Spanish One

**Spanish Three | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Spanish two course continues to immerse students in authentic cultural experiences through engaging theme-based learning on engaging topics. There is a continued emphasis on reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency are emphasized to support students in language proficiency to communicate about themselves and their world.

- Must have passed Spanish Two

**Chinese One | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Mandarin One course immerses students in authentic cultural experiences through engaging theme-based learning to include culture, health, technology, and travel. Reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency are emphasized to support students in language proficiency to communicate about themselves and their world.

**Chinese Two | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Chinese two course continues to immerse students in authentic cultural experiences through engaging theme-based learning on engaging topics. There is a continued emphasis on reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency are emphasized to support students in language proficiency to communicate about themselves and their world.

- Must have passed Chinese One

**Chinese Three | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Chinese three is designed for students who have had at least two years of Chinese study.

Students use their knowledge base of words and phrases to start constructing more complex writings through the use of a variety of texts with the goal of successfully navigating daily life.

- Must have passed Chinese Two

### **Chinese Four and Five | 1 Credit Each, 1 Year**

This course focuses on applying Chinese language and cultural skills in real-world situations, and exploring a variety of topics in Chinese history, geography, music and arts, literature, daily life, and national and global issues. Students use teamwork, group online seminars, one-on-one conferences with the teacher, and a variety of engaging activities and experiential projects to meet individual needs. Students gain the high language proficiency and cultural competency to compare, examine, evaluate and solve conflicts successfully. ([OneSchoolHouse](#))

- Must have passed Chinese Three

### **International Baccalaureate World Language Exploration (Language Development) | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

Language development ensures that all students have access to a language programme that will assist and further their understanding of the wider world. The ability to communicate in more than one language is essential to the IB's concept of an international education. Language development encourages students to improve their proficiency in a language other than their best language. Students choose what language they will self-study and develop a portfolio based on their learnings of the student's language of choice with facilitator support. Students will finalize their portfolios and prepare for demonstrations of learning.

## **PATHWAYS**

### **ENGINEERING**

#### **Engineering Essentials | 1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Engineering Essentials is a brand new course designed as a first-exposure experience to inspire students of all backgrounds to explore the breadth of engineering-related career opportunities. Throughout the course, students explore global engineering challenges and sustainability goals, the impact of engineering, and the variety of career paths available to them.

**Intro to Engineering Design |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement (if declared Pathway)**

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects like designing a new toy or improving an existing product.

- Must have passed Engineering Essentials

**Civil Engineering |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement (if declared Pathway)**

Students learn important aspects of building and site design and development, and then they apply what they know to design a commercial building.

- Must have passed Engineering Essentials

## **BUSINESS**

**Wealth Management |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

This project-based financial literacy and investment course develops student understanding and skills in such areas as personal finance, types of investment, the stock market, and stock valuation. Students acquire an understanding and appreciation of the need for personal financial management and investing. To encourage immediate implementation of financial literacy and investment skills, Wealth Management utilizes an on-going investment project for course delivery and reinforcement.

**Principles of Business & Economics |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement (if declared Pathway)**

Principles of Business and Economics, a project-based business course, develops student understanding and skills in such areas as business law, economics, financial analysis, human resources management, information management, marketing, operations, entrepreneurship, operations, professional development and strategic management. Students engage projects like analysis reports, investigations in the local business community, and decision matrices.

- Must have passed Wealth Management

**Principles of Marketing and Finance |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement (if declared Pathway)**

This project-based business course develops student understanding and skills in such areas as channel management, marketing-information management, market planning, and etc in addition to emphasizing accounting, cash flow, and finance with an emphasis on-decision-making. Current technology will be used to acquire information and to complete the projects. Throughout the course, students are presented problem-solving situations for which they must apply academic and critical-thinking skills. Formal reflection is an on-going component of the course.

- Must have passed Principles of Business & Economics

**SPECIALIZED LEARNING**

**Specific Learning Support | Multiple Credits, 1 Year**

This space is designed to support individual student needs based on IEP goals and/or 504 plans. The SLS classroom provides a safe and structured space for both individual and group learning with numerous physical and digital resources to support student social and emotional learning and growth. Students have access to general education curricula and programming with appropriately rigorous modifications and adaptations.

**Content Based English as a Second Language | Multiple Credits, 1 Year**

The academic content areas of English Language Arts, social studies, science, and mathematics are used as a vehicle for language learning to ensure that students master academic content and performance standards. Instruction is primarily in English, although native language support is provided when necessary and when possible. These classes are taught by ESL-certified teachers using a pull-out, push-in, or inclusion approach.

## ELECTIVES

### **Art 1 | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Art will follow a historical timeline that studies the progression and application of the visual arts from ancient era to present day. Course content will introduce and develop skills and knowledge in the areas of art history, art criticism, design concepts, art production, and art careers. Experimentation with materials, understanding the principles and elements of art through research, and designing original artwork will be an integral part of this course.

### **Art 2 | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

Art will follow a historical timeline that studies the progression and application of the visual arts from ancient era to present day. Course content will introduce and develop skills and knowledge in the areas of art history, art criticism, design concepts, art production, and art careers. Experimentation with materials, understanding the principles and elements of art through research, and designing original artwork will be an integral part of this course.

### **IB Art | 1 Credit, 1 Year**

The Visual Arts course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries. It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media.

### **Music- Choir | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

This music course offers students an opportunity to acquire a fundamental choral experience. Students are trained to demonstrate correct breathing, tone quality, voice blending diction, and interpretation of music notation. Aural recognition of basic voice categories is developed and three- and four-part harmonies are emphasized; using appropriate choral techniques for artistic performance is stressed. Students may participate in the city-wide adjudicated choral festival.



**Music- Beginners Piano | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

This music course is designed to introduce a group of students to basic music fundamentals and history through piano skill development. Students learn familiarization with the keyboard, left and right hand coordination, note reading skills, scales, basic piano literature, and the history of music through the piano.

**Physical Education | ½ Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Curriculum is designed to engage high school students specifically using conceptual knowledge and high engagement activities that connect to the real world. Role-playing, decision-making, leadership, creation, and communication are embedded through character education to develop transferable personal and professional skills with the option to become Spark Fitness Instructor Certification.

**Health Education | ½ Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

The Health Education course is designed to assist students in developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors to make wise decisions related to their personal health. Students study a variety of health topics to include community health, mental and emotional wellness, safety, nutrition, injury prevention, and sexual health. Students will have a clear understanding of how overall wellness is a part of their personal right and responsibility.

**Advanced PE | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

This course guides students through an in-depth examination of the effects of exercise on the body. Students learn how to exercise efficiently and properly, while participating in physical activities and applying principles they've learned. Basic anatomy, biomechanics, physiology, and sports nutrition are all integral parts of this course. Throughout this course students participate in a weekly fitness program involving elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility. This course will also cover CPR/AED certification.

- Must have passed physical education

**Sports Management | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

This Sports Management I course will provide a foundation in the principles of sports management. Students will learn the basic organizational and business structure of the sport, fitness, and leisure industries, and explore future trends and career opportunities for sport

management personnel within various segments of the sports industry. Students will be able to describe managerial concepts and processes as they relate to the sport management industry.

- Must have passed physical education

### **Student Leadership | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

Student leadership combines experiential and project-based learning to empower students to make a difference at their school, in the community, and world.

Student leadership supports the Girls Global Academy mission and vision of schools through the development of creative programming that contribute to a positive school climate and foster both academic and social-emotional growth.

### **Yearbook | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

This course is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in graphic design, photography, writing, and editing. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills to include writing a copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

### **Independent Study Academic Success | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

Academic Success Center is an opportunity for students to work independently on self-management, organizational and executive functioning skills, review of assignments and concepts, and work completion. Students practice applying the skills and strategies learned from academic courses.

### **LEADership Academy | ½ Elective Credit, 1 Year**

LEADership Academy is the experiential learning component where students learn about important community issues, engage with people around the community issues, take action through awareness, service, advocacy, and/or philanthropy, and demonstrate impact through student-driven service-learning projects.

### **International Baccalaureate CP Personal Professional Skills | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

Personal and professional skills is designed for students to develop attitudes, skills and strategies to be applied to personal and professional situations and contexts now and in the future. In this course the emphasis is on transferable skills development for college and career as these are transferable and can be applied in a range of situations.

**International Baccalaureate CP Service Learning | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

Service learning is the development and application of knowledge and skills towards meeting an identified and authentic community need. In this research-based approach, students often undertake service initiatives related to topics studied previously in their academic disciplines, utilizing skills, understandings and values developed in these studies.

**Advisory 1 | .5 Elective Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Advisory is an opportunity for students to explore academic, social, and college/career topics in safe and brave spaces with a smaller cohort of students. Facilitated by an instructional staff member, the focus is on positive student to student and student to adult relationships developed through discussions, activities, and mini-projects.

**Advisory 2 | .5 Elective Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Advisory is an opportunity for students to explore academic, social, and college/career topics in safe and brave spaces with a smaller cohort of students. Facilitated by an instructional staff member, the focus is on positive student to student and student to adult relationships developed through discussions, activities, and mini-projects. Year two's focus is on preparation for external opportunities like observationships

**Advisory 3 | .5 Elective Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

Advisory is an opportunity for students to explore academic, social, and college/career topics in safe and brave spaces with a smaller cohort of students. Facilitated by an instructional staff member, the focus is on positive student to student and student to adult relationships developed

through discussions, activities, and mini-projects. Year three's focus is on preparation for external opportunities like service and international mindedness.

## COLLEGE and CAREER READINESS

### **Character Development | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

The 9th grade character development curriculum is aimed at building student social, emotional and academic stamina as they make the switch from middle grades to high school. This year supports students in determining the Girls Global Academy Pathway choice of Engineering or Business through exploration and analysis. Students are introduced to the text **7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens** (7H) in addition to studying and learning skills that are essential for success in high school.

### **Interpersonal Communication | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

The 10th grade interpersonal communication curriculum provides students with the skills to build social capital. The focus is how students want to represent themselves to the world and what artifacts they use to do so.

### **Experiential Learning | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

The 11th grade experiential learning class prepares students for their entry to the post-secondary world. With a focus on service, this course gives students opportunities to complete service hours in the community in the first half of the year. In the second half of the year students update their resumes, learn how to write cover letters and start to ask instructors for letters of recommendation. The course ends with personal statement writing, where students focus on essays for post secondary schools, which they will use in early fall to begin to apply to colleges, trade schools, etc.