



**GIRLS**  
**GLOBAL**  

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**ACADEMY**

# **Student & Family Handbook**

## **2024-2025**

***Fostering Pathways to Lead and Learn***

733 8th St NW  
Washington D.C. 20001  
202-600-4822  
[girlsglobalacademy.org](http://girlsglobalacademy.org)

# Girls Global Academy Student and Family Handbook

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## Introduction: Who We Are

*Welcome to Girls Global Academy Public Charter School's community!* We are honored that you are joining us for your high school education and journey.

We are excited for the year of exploration and opportunities for our students. As a unique and essential member of the Girls Global Academy community, students that attend Girls Global Academy will be prepared to meet the challenges of a college education and are on a path to be an active and productive member of our global community.

Girls Global Academy appreciates the value and importance of our community of students and families—who are our partners in education.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to Girls Global Academy, and provide the policy and structure to create a positive, accountable, and productive school environment that every member of our school community deserves. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GGA and what to expect during your time here.



*Mission: Fostering Pathways to Lead and Learn*

*Lead:* We want our students to be exposed to a breadth of insights and opportunities as they seek to build and follow their dreams. Students at GGA experience the value of collaboration, as leadership in today's world is filled with working with others.





*Learn:* We believe learning should be challenging, meaningful, and joyful—which we strive to make part of every lesson, discussion and interaction that students have.

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## Part I: Our Pillars

Our four pillars of *sisterhood, scholarship, service and safety* guide everything that we do at Girls Global Academy. Our pillars are integrated into the values and vision of our school; our aim is that each member of our community truly feels that the actions we take are in line with our motto “*because you matter*” along with our four pillars.

<p><b><i>Sisterhood</i></b></p>  <p><i>A community of girls that celebrate and support each other</i></p>	<p><b><i>Scholarship</i></b></p>  <p><i>Academically challenging in preparation for post-secondary opportunities</i></p>
<p><b><i>Service</i></b></p>  <p><i>Sustained involvement in community development</i></p>	<p><b><i>Safety</i></b></p>  <p><i>A place where girls can just be well</i></p>

## Part II: A Note from the Co-Founders

At Girls Global Academy, we take the safety and education of our students and staff as an important responsibility.

Girls Global Academy is a community of dedicated innovators who believe girls matter. Through our daily work, each member of the GGA community believes in the mission and commits to actions that equip the next generation of leaders to navigate the world with confidence and compassion to succeed in any path they may choose. Our approach to education will allow girls to develop strong voices that inspire change. Our decisions are guided by the standards set forth in our values. Our culture is driven by our values and our philosophy. We have a community oriented culture, and the foundation of our culture is centered on our values.

We believe students and families are our partners in education; trusting relationships foster learning and open communication; learning should be challenging, meaningful, and joyful; community members are valuable and contribute to the success of the school; and growth promotes lifelong learning. We uphold a relentless focus on a welcoming, safe, and culturally-responsive environment for our staff, students and families.



Girls Global Academy is authorized to offer the [Career-Related Program](#) as an International Baccalaureate World School. “Career-related programme students will access a broad, flexible education which will give them knowledge, practical training, intellectual engagement, and international-mindedness, while developing higher-order cognitive skills and academic behaviors that will enhance their employability and dramatically alter their world view.”  
—Dr Siva Kumari, IB Director General 2014

The mission of Girls Global Academy is: **fostering pathways to lead and learn**. All GGA graduates will attain the mindsets, behaviors, competencies and skills to ensure success in college and career.

Our Motto is *Because You Matter* and our GGA Student and Family Handbook has important information about student programming, responsibilities, and policies of the school. One of our guiding principles is to create a school where every individual feels welcomed and valued. Your commitment to the core values of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and safety is critical to making GGA a community asset.

Together We Thrive,

*Karen Venable Croft, Executive Director*

*Shayne Swift, Director of Programs and Community Engagement*

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# Part III: Information for the School Year

## School Year 2024-2025 Calendar

<b>Girls Global Academy</b>						
<b>2023-2024 School Calendar</b>						
<b>August 2023</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
<b>September 2023</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>October 2023</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
<b>November 2023</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
<b>December 2023</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27*	28*	29*	30
31						
<b>January 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
<b>February 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19*	20*	21*	22*	23*	24
25	26	27	28	29		
<b>March 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
<b>April 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
<b>May 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>June 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
<b>July 2024</b>						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# School Year 2024-2025 Calendar of events

-  First and Last Day of School
-  Holiday - School Closed for students and 10-month employees
-  Staff Professional Development (No School for Students)
-  Report Card Distribution
-  Instructional Day
-  Student Led Conference
-  Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)
-  End of Quarter
-  New Student Orientation

<b>Aug 17-25</b>	Planning/Development Days	<b>Jan 22</b>	End of Quarter 2
<b>Aug 25</b>	New Student Orientation	<b>Feb 19-23</b>	February Break
<b>Aug 28</b>	First Day of School for Students	<b>March 15</b>	Student Led Conference #2
<b>Sept 22</b>	Student Led Conference #1	<b>April 2</b>	End of Quarter 3
<b>Nov 1</b>	End of Quarter 1	<b>April 15-19</b>	Spring Break
<b>Nov 22-24</b>	Thanksgiving Break	<b>Jun 12</b>	End Quarter 4
<b>Dec 22 - Jan 1</b>	Winter Break	<b>Jun 12</b>	Last Day of School for Students

End of Quarter 1 - November 1st (45 instructional days)  
 End of Quarter 2 - January 22nd (45 instructional days)  
 End of Quarter 3 - April 2nd (45 instructional days)  
 End of Quarter 4 - June 12th (45 instructional days)

Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri - School Start Time | 8:15 AM  
 Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri - School End Time | 3:30 PM  
 Wed. - School Start Time | 8:15 AM  
 Wed. - School End Time | 1:00 PM

**180 Total Days of School**

Updated 8.28.23



# Family Engagement Calendar

## School Year 2024 - 2025

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>
<b>August</b>	25 Student Orientation & Family Block Party 28 First Day of School	<b>January</b>	11 12th Grade Parent Meeting 16 Parent Workshop 18 Parent Org Meeting 24 Parent Engagement Day
<b>September</b>	08 Senior Pictures 19 Parent Workshop 21 Parent Org Meeting Family Engagement 22 Day: Student Led Conferences Back to School Open House	<b>February</b>	05 Report Card Distribution 06 Athletics Event  07 Quarter 2 Honor Roll  Assembly & Breakfast  15 Parent Org Meeting 27 Parent Workshop
<b>October</b>	06 Athletics Event 12 Commitment Ceremony 17 Parent Workshop 19 Parent Org Meeting 23 Athletics Event 11th Grade Parent 24 Meeting	<b>March</b>	15 Student Led Conferences 12th Grade Parent Meeting 19 Parent Workshop 21 Parent Org Meeting
<b>November</b>	01 Student Picture Day 14 Financial Aid Workshop 15 Report Card Distribution 16 Family Engagement Day Parent Org Meeting 21 Parent Workshop 29 Quarter 1 Honor Roll Assembly & Breakfast	<b>April</b>	23 Report Card Distribution Parent Workshop 25 Parent Org Meeting
<b>December</b>	Make Up: Senior 06 Pictures Make Up: Student 13 Pictures 19 Parent Workshop	<b>May</b>	01 Quarter 3 Honor Roll Assembly & Breakfast 11 Mother's Day Brunch 16 Parent Workshop 21 Parent Workshop
		<b>June</b>	01 Father's Day Brunch  04 End of Year Awards Ceremony 12 Last Day of School 26 Report Cards Mailed

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**Operating Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

SY24-25 - M, T, Th, F Schedule		
Class Period	Start Time	End Time
Morning Arrival & Breakfast	7:45	8:12
Period 1	8:15	9:07
Period 2	9:10	10:02
Period 3	10:05	10:57
Period 4 Advisory & Lunch A	11:00	11:52
Period 5 Advisory & Lunch B	11:55	12:45
Period 6	12:48	1:40
Period 7	1:43	2:35
Period 8	2:38	3:30
Afternoon Dismissal	3:30	3:45

**Operating Schedule: Wednesday**

SY23-24- W Early Release Schedule			
Class Period	Start Time	End Time	
Morning Arrival & Breakfast	7:45	8:12	
Community Meeting	8:15	8:45	
Career/Tech Block 1	8:50	10:00	
Art Block 2	10:05	11:15	
Office Hour Block 9th & 10th	11:20	12:30	Lunch B 12:30 - 1:00
Office Hour/IB/CCR Block 11th & 12th	11:50	1:00	Lunch A 11:15 - 11:45
Afternoon Dismissal	1:00	1:15	

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## **Admissions Policy**

Girls Global Academy uses the MySchoolDC common application lottery process to have families apply to Girls Global Academy. The process allows all girls in the District of Columbia who are interested in attending GGA the opportunity to do so. GGA will neither discriminate nor conduct aptitude or achievement tests for enrollment.

## **Lottery Preferences**

Girls Global Academy offers “Sibling Offered” preference for a student whose sibling is matched in the lottery or offered a seat from the waitlist. This preference allows siblings to attend Girls Global Academy at the same time. If the sibling is offered a space at the school and does not enroll at Girls Global Academy, or enrolls later at another school, the “Sibling Offered” preference may be removed for all siblings that applied to Girls Global Academy.

The second lottery preference Girls Global Academy offers is “Children of Staff”. This preference is for children of staff members who apply to Girls Global Academy. As there is no place on the application to indicate eligibility, Enrollment Office staff will notify My School DC directly if there are applicants that are eligible for Children of Staff preference.

[Girls Global Academy My School DC Profile](#)

[Learn More about Enrollment](#)

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# Section I: Sisterhood Pillar



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## Section I: Sisterhood Pillar

### Part I: Advisory and Community Meetings

As the cornerstone value on which Girls Global Academy is founded, we define sisterhood as a welcoming and supportive community; honoring and respecting the connections between one another, bringing greater focus to concerns girls grapple with, and collaboratively exploring the possibilities of what can be. True global sisterhood is about discussing the universal struggles of womanhood and learning that takedown culture (girl vs. girl) doesn't have to be the default. Girls and their voices matter at GGA and we strive to elevate all students' potential through a shared language that celebrates identity, encourages truth-speaking, and enables a student to write their own narrative of the future.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Advisory	Advisory	Community Meetings	Advisory	Advisory

#### What does Advisory look like at Girls Global?

Advisory is an opportunity for students to explore academic, social, and college/career topics in safe and comfortable 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 that develop through discussions, activities, and mini-projects.

#### Subjects for advisory include (but not limited to) the following:

- Sisterhood Bonding
- Reviewing Expectations Matrix
- Mental Wellness
- Global Citizenship
- Growth Mindset
- Digital Citizenship
- Future-Ready Skills
- Graduation Requirements
- Academic Supports

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- Book Study

### **What does an advisor do at Girls Global?**

Because your student will see their advisor at the beginning of each school day, the advisor is the first point of contact with the school once the year begins. You can contact your student's advisor to check on student progress. Your student's advisor will facilitate the subjects listed above in advisory cohorts, support the advisory cohort with leading community meetings, and support your student with facilitating student-led conferences at Girls Global Academy.

Your student's advisor is your first point of contact for your student since the advisor is the first person your student sees Monday-Friday.

### **How is advisory graded?**

Advisors will score students based on the rubric below. Students should arrive on time to advisory, participate in all activities, and be open to ways they can improve themselves using our four pillars. Students will also self-assess at both the Fall and Spring Student-Led conferences and share reflections with their families.

THE TRAILBLAZERS WAY -RUBRIC

	Emerging → Seldom	Developing → Sometimes	Proficient → Often	Exemplary - Almost Always
<b>Sisterhood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communicates</b> with others by using their preferred names &amp; pronouns</li> <li>• <b>Cares for &amp; supports</b> others by using positive, affirming language.</li> <li>• <b>Repairs</b> harmful behaviors by admitting fault &amp; restoring relationships by apologizing</li> <li>• <b>Celebrates</b> the accomplishments of others by giving kudos &amp; shout outs</li> <li>• <b>Reflects</b> on relationships with others by self- evaluating strengths &amp; areas of growth</li> </ul>			
<b>Scholarship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborates</b> with peers by actively listening to others ideas &amp; perspectives with an <b>open-mind</b></li> <li>• <b>Cites</b> and uses reliable, varied sources used in research &amp; submits original work</li> <li>• <b>Takes risks</b> by participating in class even when unsure of accuracy &amp; correctness</li> <li>• <b>Uses</b> a growth mindset to push through challenges with assignments</li> <li>• <b>Organizes</b> for success by using resources &amp; tools available</li> </ul>			
<b>Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Investigates</b> meaningful issues in the <b>local &amp; global context by</b> conducting <b>research using reliable, varied sources</b></li> <li>• <b>Plans for</b> action by creating timelines, dividing work with the team, &amp; developing measurements of success</li> <li>• <b>Acts</b> on plans by leveraging resources, documenting experiences, &amp; checking back on the plan &amp; the vision</li> <li>• <b>Reflects</b> on service by evaluating strengths &amp; weaknesses, &amp; how differences are made within yourself &amp; community</li> <li>• <b>Advocates</b> for issues by sharing &amp; <b>celebrating</b> highlights, <b>impacts</b> made, &amp; how the project can be sustained.</li> </ul>			
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Self-manages</b> emotions, thoughts, behaviors by using stress management strategies &amp; techniques</li> <li>• Makes <b>caring</b> &amp; constructive choices about <b>personal behavior</b> by <b>evaluating</b> the consequences of one's actions</li> <li>• <b>Maintains</b> healthy relationships by resolving conflict constructively, asking others for help, &amp; setting boundaries</li> <li>• <b>Empathizes</b> with others who are different by recognizing their strengths &amp; <b>listening to others perspectives.</b></li> <li>• <b>Understands</b> one's own <b>culture</b> &amp; their impact on others by <b>evaluating</b> how one shows up in a space.</li> </ul>			

**What do Community Meetings look like at Girls Global?:**

At Girls Global Academy, we believe that voice and choice happens in a variety of settings and will be a hallmark of our Wednesday Community Meetings. Community Meetings at Girls Global Academy are student-led and provide an opportunity for all stakeholders (students, staff, parents, and community members) to come together to do the following:

- Greetings and fellowship
- Positive Affirmations
- Mindful Movement
- Team-building Activities
- Community Learning
- Important Announcements

\*\*Student groups will take turns in their advisory cohorts leading the meetings with the support of their advisor as a facilitator and guide.

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## **Part II: School Culture Overview**

In order for Girls Global to achieve both our vision and mission for our students to become active, global changemakers, our team understands how critical it is to establish a rigorous, safe, and supportive school culture. This is accomplished through our advisory cohorts, weekly whole school community meetings, curriculum and courses, and Enrichment Wednesday.

Sisterhood icon: Our girls understand that while they may not be related by blood, the bond that they create at GGA will last a lifetime. Regardless of differences, GGA students understand that every girl has unique potential and abilities that are celebrated by everyone. In times of distress and challenge, GGA students can count on each other, the staff, and the community to uplift them.

Our girls know that a growth mindset approach is key to academic success and that deficit mindsets are detrimental. At GGA learning from ‘failure’ and mistakes are encouraged. Continued improvement through multiple iterations is important emphasizing both the learning journey and its outcomes.

”Because YOU matter” is about more than ourselves. We live in a global world and ripple effects have both small and large impacts. Our girls will develop a “roll up our sleeves” approach to making change using compassion and understanding of both themselves and others.

From day one, girls are exposed to the vision and values of school, emphasizing the purpose - "because we matter". While there are clear academic and behavioral expectations set, it is clear that students see assignments and classroom spaces as opportunities to learn and take risks. Teachers establish relationships with students, not for academic reasons alone, but to push girls to achieve their personal bests.

## **Part III: Positive Behavior Systems & Restorative Practices**

As part of our mission to empower students to make healthy and responsible choices, we are adopting the PBIS system to encourage positive behavior and restorative practices for making amends when harm has been done.



## **What is PBIS?**

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention Systems and is an “implementation framework for increasing effectiveness of efforts to promote respectful, responsible, and safe teaching and learning environments.” PBIS is a research-based practice that gives positive acknowledgements for behavior, and includes a social emotional learning component and provides consistent expectations across the school.

Our expectations matrix is based on our four pillars of Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service, and Safety. Our expectations matrix (virtual; hybrid; on-campus) will be taught and reviewed throughout the school year.

## **What are Restorative Practices?**

“Restorative Practices is a set of philosophies and approaches to building community and responding to harm with roots in indigenous traditions.” Students who commit a behavior infraction apologize to their classmates (and often teachers, families or other community members), explain their actions, and listen to feedback and observations about how their behavior affected others. Restorative practices include restorative circles which support repairing harm. The circles could be whole class or small circles with just the parties involved.

We believe that these circles may have a preventative use as well—students can see how their actions affect others and will be less likely to repeat the same poor choices and/or will be less likely to commit the behavior infraction themselves. Restorative practices also build the skill of apologizing, making amends, listening, accountability and empathy, positive behaviors that may enable students to think twice before they commit

a negative behavior. The focus is on building relationships and community, and on creating positive change. Restorative practices allow students to be reflective (engendering self-awareness), make responsible choices, and think about how individual behavior affects others and the community as a whole (social awareness). Students feel that they are part of a supportive community (a sisterhood) that they would not want to “let down.” Restorative practices also serve as a healing process and to re-integrate students into the community.

## **Part IV: Athletics Program**

### **GGA Academic Eligibility**

Students must have passed 70% of available courses from the previous term AND must be enrolled in 100% of a full schedule during their current term to be academically eligible through the PCSAA. GGA offers academic pathways for our students to earn credits toward graduation.

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The grade point average equivalency must equal at least 2.0 at the end of each quarter for the academic year to be considered eligible for athletics.

### **Codes of Conduct**

During Competition, it is the responsibility of all competing team's athletic directors and coaches to maintain a safe and organized sideline. Unauthorized individuals, including students (non-team members), parents, and children shall not be on sideline or playing area before, during, or after a competition. Student team managers are considered a part of the team, but only a maximum of two (2) student managers may be present on the sideline before, during, and after the contest. Furthermore, student team managers must wear team uniform polo shirts to identify them as a team manager.

### **Student Handbook Violations**

Disregard or repeated violation of Girls Global Academy Student Handbook will be considered a violation of the Athletic Code and will result in progressive disciplinary action up to and including complete removal from GGA Athletics. Any and all violations of MTSS during the school day will result in a subsequent disciplinary action.

For more information: [Official GGA Athletics Handbook](#)

## **Part V: The Trailblazer Way: Code of Conduct Policy**

The International Baccalaureate Organization's approaches to teaching and learning include both proactive and responsive approaches to student development and discipline. As Girls Global Academy is an International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme school and we employ Positive Behavior Systems and Restorative Practices to encourage prosocial behavior, community building, and alignment with IB principles. In general, our proactive positive approach incorporates a shared vision of expectations. We view undesirable behavior as a teachable moment and a learning opportunity. Our discipline policy is aligned to the Student Fair Access Amendment to School Act of 2018.

Families (parents, guardians and legal custodians) are critical partners in both creating and maintaining a safe and supportive school environment. Families have the right to and are responsible for:

- Collaborating with Girls Global to develop a shared vision of a safe and supportive school environment
- Being informed of Girls Global school-wide expectations

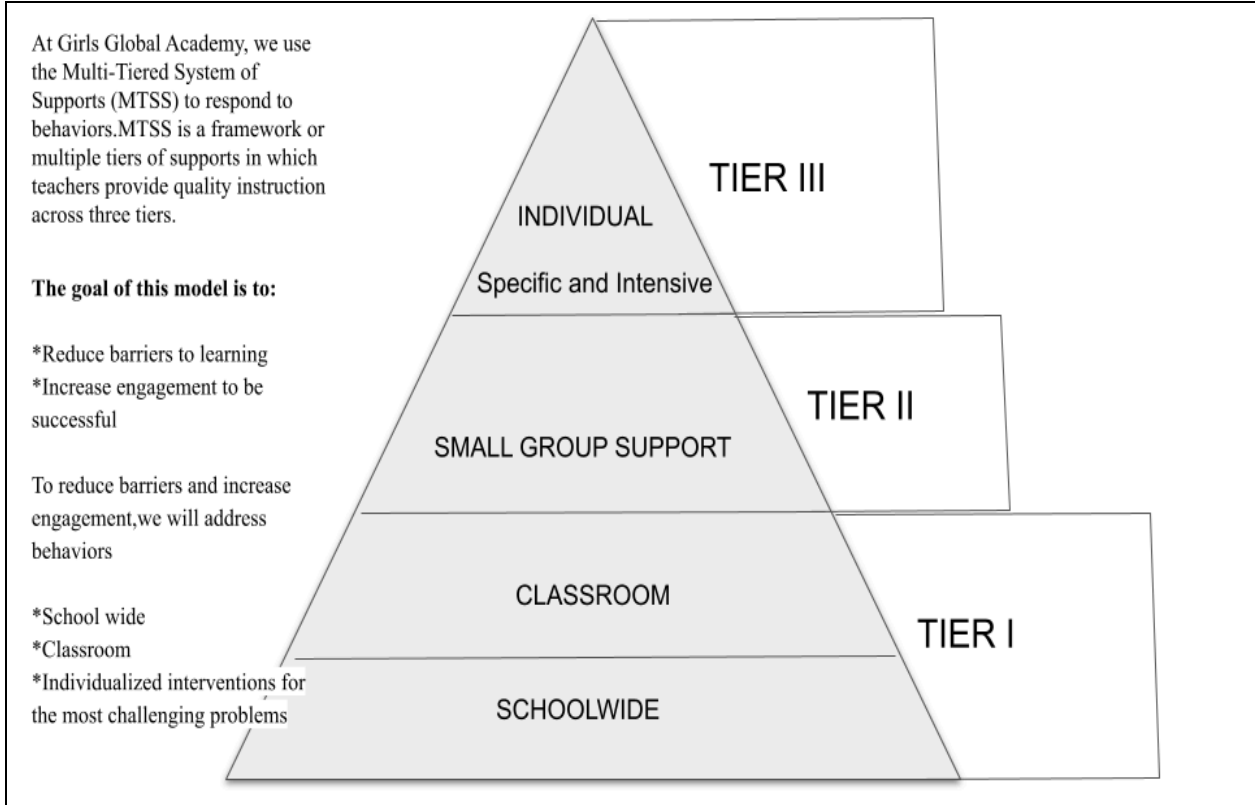
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- Communicating in a timely and respectful manner with Girls Global staff if concerns arise
- Informing Girls Global staff about undesired behaviors that may present themselves at home and at school
- Encouraging their student to adhere to Girls Global school-wide expectations
- Supporting their student in taking responsibility for behaviors that do not adhere to Girls Global school-wide expectations
- Encouraging their student to speak up if any concerns arise

At Girls Global Academy our goal is to use a proactive, preventative and responsive restorative approach to prosocial behavior. At GGA, it is the expectation that students maintain high standards of behavior. It is the expectation that students will learn and model self-discipline and have a ready to learn conduct. If a student is not responsive to the interventions and there is an escalation in frequency, intensity and duration, our goal is to reduce behaviors, increase engagement and provide skill-building and develop SEL Competencies. All GGA staff will do this by:

- Providing structure in our settings for success schoolwide.
- Teaching trailblazers the expectations in those settings.
- Monitoring and reteaching student behavior in these settings.
- Interacting positively with students and families.
- Reteaching behavior calmly, consistently, and in the moment in the setting in which the infraction occurred.



**The Trailblazer Way**

<p><b>Sisterhood</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Communicates</b> with others by using their preferred names &amp; pronouns</li> <li>● <b>Cares for &amp; supports</b> others by using positive, affirming language.</li> <li>● <b>Repairs</b> harmful behaviors by admitting fault &amp; restoring relationships by apologizing</li> <li>● <b>Celebrates</b> the accomplishments of others by giving kudos &amp; shout outs</li> <li>● <b>Reflects</b> on relationships with others by self- evaluating strengths &amp; areas of growth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scholarship</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Collaborates</b> with peers by actively listening to others ideas &amp; perspectives with an <b>open-mind</b></li> <li>● <b>Cites</b> and uses reliable, varied sources used in research &amp; submits original</li> </ul>

	<p>work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Takes risks</b> by participating in class even when unsure of accuracy &amp; correctness</li> <li>● <b>Uses</b> a growth mindset to push through challenges with assignments</li> <li>● <b>Organizes</b> for success by using resources &amp; tools available</li> </ul>
<b>Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Investigates</b> meaningful issues in the <b>local &amp; global context by</b> conducting <b>research using reliable, varied sources</b></li> <li>● <b>Plans for</b> action by creating timelines, dividing work with the team, &amp; developing measurements of success</li> <li>● <b>Acts</b> on plans by leveraging resources, documenting experiences, &amp; checking back on the plan &amp; the vision</li> <li>● <b>Reflects</b> on service by evaluating strengths &amp; weaknesses, &amp; how differences are made within yourself &amp; community</li> <li>● <b>Advocates</b> for issues by sharing &amp; <b>celebrating</b> highlights, <b>impacts</b> made, &amp; how the project can be sustained.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Self-manages</b> emotions, thoughts, behaviors by using stress management strategies &amp; techniques</li> <li>● Makes <b>caring</b> &amp; constructive choices about <b>personal behavior</b> by <b>evaluating</b> the consequences of one's actions</li> <li>● <b>Maintains</b> healthy relationships by resolving conflict constructively, asking others for help, &amp; setting boundaries</li> <li>● <b>Empathizes</b> with others who are different by recognizing their strengths &amp; <b>listening to others perspectives.</b></li> <li>● <b>Understands</b> one's own <b>culture</b> &amp; their impact on others by <b>evaluating</b> how one shows up in a space.</li> </ul>

**The Girls Global Academy Expectations for Students**

At all times students are expected to:

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- Be respectful to staff and other students;
- Treat school and personal property with respect and care;
- Follow the GGA Way by wearing school uniform;
- Respond to and follow staff instructions the first time;
- Use appropriate language in all GGA spaces;
- Model Trailblazer behaviors using the Trailblazer Way;
- Avoid behaviors that bring physical, mental, and emotional harm to others

### **Equitable Implementation of Behavior Policies**

GGA will regularly analyze data to ensure that behavior policies and practices are implemented equitably, in particular for at-risk students and students in specialized groups such as ELs and SWD. If necessary, we will adjust our procedures and policies and hold professional development for staff.

Girls Global Academy will utilize suspension and expulsion as a disciplinary measure for repeated and/or serious incidents that fail to meet stated Girls Global expectations for a safe and supportive environment or fall under the definitions and descriptions below.

Girls Global Academy has adopted the terms outlined in [The District of Columbia Student Discipline Guide: A Guide for Students, Families, and School Staff](#) published by the Office of the Student Advocate, the DC Office of the Ombudsman, and [Every Student Every Day](#).

Suspension is defined as the denial of the right of a student to attend Girls Global Academy, including all classes and school activities, for a defined period of time **not to exceed ten school days**.

Girls Global Academy will ensure that students who serve suspension are accommodated in the following ways:

- The student continues to earn credit toward promotion and graduation requirements.
- The student continues to receive assignments for the duration of the suspension.
- The student communicates with school personnel about school work (as needed for the student).
- The student makes up missed school work during the suspension (including assessments).

Girls Global Academy will ensure that students are welcomed back to the school community. While family accompaniment is not required for re-admission, a conversation is highly encouraged to ensure the family that their student is welcomed back through a restorative

process. This meeting would be facilitated by the Dean of Students, Restorative Intervention Specialist, and/ or the Administrative Designee.

### **Students with Disabilities**

GGA's policy ensures that students with disabilities are disciplined in a consistent manner and adhere to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). Parents of all special education students will be informed of their rights, including their rights regarding discipline procedures.

In cases where a student's disability impacts their behavior, we will ensure that appropriate and required interventions have been implemented prior to disciplinary action. This policy is applicable to any student who has entered the Child Find or other intervention process specifically related to behavior. For students with disabilities, Girls Global will conduct a Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) to review a student's evaluation, student observations, parent input, and the contents of an IEP or 504.

For students who have an IEP or 504 plan (or currently in the eligibility process), Girls Global Academy must determine if the behavior presented during the incident is a manifestation of a student's disability. If the behavior is determined as a manifestation, then the Special Education Coordinator will schedule a meeting with relevant staff to develop or revise a behavior intervention plan for the student.

**Informing parents of rights.** GGA families will be provided written notice of their rights and procedural safeguards any time they are notified of decisions regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of their student with a disability under IDEA or Section 504. A Prior Written Notice will also be provided when there is intent to initiate, change, or refuse the identification, placement, or change in services of a student with an IEP. All notices will be written in a language that is understandable to the general public and in the native language of the parent or other modes of communication that are not a written language. In addition to providing copies of the procedural safeguards and the GGA Child Find policies and procedures, all documents will be available in the main office and posted to the GGA website.

### **Discipline Guidelines**

The decision to institute discipline or a suspension at Girls Global Academy can be made by a School Administrator (Executive Director, Principal, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Dean of Students or other Administrator Designee) without the recommendation of the student's teacher or other school employee. The administrator issuing the suspension will

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determine the number of days a student will serve a suspension based on the severity of the behavior and any previous behaviors of the same category. The suspension is effective immediately unless otherwise stated by the School Administrator or the Administrator Designee.

Disciplinary decisions to recommend a student for disciplinary hearing will be made by the School Administration (Executive Director, Principal, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Dean of Students or other Administrator Designee) without the recommendation of the student's teacher or other school employee. The administrator will consider the severity of the behavior, any violation of discipline contracts and the discipline tier chart when recommending a student for disciplinary hearing. All students recommended for a disciplinary hearing will have a Discipline Hearing Conference. The Discipline Review Committee will make final decisions concerning expulsions.

In order to provide equitable and transparent attention to suspensions, all families have the right to initiate a challenge for discipline that is recorded in the student's official school records and the family or student follows the process for challenging information that is a part of the student's official school record. If the appeal is successful then the suspension or expulsion is expunged from the student's school records.

**Scope of disciplinary action:**

GGA reserves the right to hold students accountable for actions that take place during the school day and on the way to and from school. GGA also reserves the right to hold students accountable for actions that directly impact the teaching, learning and safety in the building, including but not limited to, social media incidents.

**Girls Global Academy Discipline Response Levels**

**Level 1:** Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences

**Level 2:** Minor consequences up to suspension for maximum of three days

**Level 3:** Suspension between four and five days

**Level 4:** Suspension between six to 10 days

**Level 5:** Suspension for more than 10 consecutive days ( Discipline Hearing Required)

**Level 6:** Recommendation for expulsion

**Disciplinary Responses**



Our school wide policies and procedures are developed and implemented to maintain a learning environment that is optimum for learning. Our Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) Framework will provide students and staff with the structure to proactively and responsively support students. When there are infractions we will rely on our MTSS system and procedures accompanying our discipline chart to provide the best restorative consequences. The behavior tiers, levels and categories were developed to support identifying the behavior of the school community and to provide responses that encompasses and promote social-emotional competencies.

### **Suspensions**

Short-term suspension (5 days or less) decisions are made by the Dean of Students or other Administrative Designee without the recommendation of the student's teacher or other school employee. The Dean of Students or the Administrative Designee will determine the number of days a student will serve a suspension based on the severity of the behavior and any previous behaviors of the same category. The suspension is effective immediately unless otherwise stated by the Dean of Students or the Administrative Designee.

Disciplinary action that removes the student from their usual education setting. A suspension cannot exceed 10 consecutive days. Short term (5 days or less) and long term (6 or more days) suspension decisions are appropriate when tiered interventions are unsuccessful, previous behavior of the same category, or when the severity of the behavior warrants temporary removal from Girls Global Academy campus. All students being considered for a suspension or expulsion have the right to be informed of the infraction and the opportunity to be heard before a final decision for a suspension or expulsion is made.

### **Suspension Cap at 20 Days**

Girls Global Academy recognizes that a student cannot be suspended from school for more than 20 cumulative school days in a school year unless the Executive Director provides written justification to the student and their family or if the student's behavior resulted in an emergency removal.

### **Due Process for Suspensions (6 days or more)**

#### **Suspension**

- Prior to a suspension, the Dean of Students or other School Administrator, 1) meets with the student; 2) informs student, verbally or in writing, what they are accused of, 3) provides all information that the school has that the student engaged in the behavior; 4) gives student the opportunity to be heard, to give their account of the incident and to explain their behavior before a final decision is made about issuing a suspension

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- The Dean of Students or other school administrator will review all information and promptly provide in writing a notice of discipline action detailing the reason for the suspension and the length of the out-of-school suspension. If the student has a disability defined in IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act the school will conduct a Manifestation Determination Review
- The Dean of Students or other school administration can notify the family of the student under 18 years old, via a call or email in addition to the written notification of a suspension. The family of the suspended student will pick up the student from the school
- A notice will be given directly to the student if they are an emancipated youth or over 18 years old

### **Long-term suspension or Expulsion**

- Prior to a suspension, the Dean of Students or other School Administrator, 1) meets with the student; 2) informs student, verbally or in writing, what they are accused of, 3) provides all information that the school has that the student engaged in the behavior; 4) gives student the opportunity to be heard, to give their account of the incident and to explain their behavior before a final decision is made about issuing a suspension
- The Dean of Students or other school administrator will review all information and promptly provide in writing a notice of discipline action detailing the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension or pending expulsion. If the student has a disability defined in IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act the school will conduct a Manifestation Determination Review
- Only the Principal may make the decision for suspensions exceeding ten days or expulsion
- The Dean of Student or other school administration can notify the family of the student under 18 years old, via a call or email in addition to the written notification of a suspension. The family of the suspended student will pick up the student from the school
- If there is a pending expulsion, the student will be assigned a 10 day suspension pending the results of the investigation
- As needed, the Dean of Students or other School Administrator will conduct an investigation within 3 business days of the incident and account for the student behavior and gather any pertinent information. A School Administrator will issue a written notice to the family with the explanation for a long-term suspension or expulsion
- After completion of the investigation, if needed, the date and location for the Discipline Hearing Conference will be set within 10 days
- Notices and procedures will be translated into the family primary language

### Discipline Hearing Committee

Any student involved in a very serious discipline incident (outlined in the Girls Global Academy Discipline Chart below) may be eligible for long-term suspension or expulsion. IDEA discipline provisions are observed in cases regarding students with disabilities. The Girls Global Academy Judiciary Committee meeting will be held prior to a long-term suspension or expulsion determination. The Committee comprises at least three school faculty, relevant staff members, the student and the family. Students may be represented by counsel or other persons.

If a student is recommended for a Discipline Hearing Conference, the student and the student's family are invited to share all pertinent information about their experience at Girls Global Academy. All School Discipline Hearing Conference meetings will be led by the Principal or Designee. Decisions involving long-term suspensions and/or expulsions will be made in writing within ten days of the School Discipline Hearing conference. All Discipline Hearing Committee meetings will follow the same process and are closed to the public.

- A clear outline of the agenda and meeting expectations sent to the family within **48 hours** of the scheduled meeting.
- A presentation of statements and evidence concerning the behavior and the incident by Girls Global Academy staff.
- An opportunity for the student, their family (and their representation) to share evidence concerning the incident.
- An opportunity for Girls Global Academy staff, the student, and family to share statements of support on behalf of the student.
- Review the Girls Global Academy Discipline Chart
- Notify the student and family of the decision within two days and a written notice will be delivered via mail within three school days of the decision.
- Expulsion decisions are applied from the designated date for the remaining school year
- Expelled students are ineligible for re-enrollment for the following school year and ineligible to re-enroll in Girls Global Academy

### **Appeal**

Families have the right to appeal a suspension or expulsion decision to the Executive Director. The family will have 5 school days of receiving the notice of suspension or expulsion to appeal the decision. The family will call the school at 202-600-4822 to request an appeal meeting with the Executive Director. After the meeting with the student and family, the Executive Director will determine to uphold the suspension or expulsion.

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## Girls Global Academy Discipline Response Chart

Category Tier'd Infraction	Behavior Description (not limited to)	Schools Response	Tier Level of Support
<b>A</b> Behaviors that impedes on learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excessive disruption and noise in the classroom</li> <li>● Interfering with learning in the classroom</li> <li>● Interfering with learning outside of the classroom</li> <li>● Academic Dishonesty</li> <li>● Verbal altercation that does not result in a physical altercation</li> <li>● Direct profanity at peers or adults in the classroom or common areas</li> <li>● Running in the classroom that can cause harm to students or teacher</li> <li>● Refusal to comply with reasonable instructions in a calm and polite way (Level 1 response only )</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences with family contact</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> Minor consequences up to suspension for maximum of three days with referral</p>	<p><b>Tier I</b> <b>Tier II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assigned task PBIS/Deanslist</li> <li>● Class meetings</li> <li>● Student Accountability</li> <li>● Reflection</li> <li>● Restorative Circle- Micro Circle</li> <li>● CARE services/ Counseling- Push In</li> <li>● Mindful Minute</li> </ul>

Category Tier'd Infraction	Behavior Description (not limited to)	Schools Response	Tier Level of Support
<b>B</b> Behaviors that impedes with the daily operations of school procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continued inappropriate cell phone violation</li> <li>● Horseplay</li> <li>● Unauthorized use of a building elevator or accessibility device</li> <li>● Vandalism, graffiti or damage to school property</li> <li>● Failure to report to assign classes or disciplinary settings while on school</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> Minor consequences up Family engagement and "Improvement Plan" days (repeated behavior - ex: more than 3x per week)</p>	<p><b>Tier I</b> <b>Tier II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detention</li> <li>● Short term out of school suspension (1-3days</li> <li>● In-school suspension(1-2days)</li> <li>● Student check in/out</li> <li>● Mediation</li> <li>● Mandated to attend a club, workshop, sisterhood event-</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>property</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of technology/ internet policy</li> <li>• Leaving the building without permission</li> <li>• Body parts that are exposed: lewd or indecent shown purposely</li> <li>• Trespassing including “No Student Zones”</li> <li>• Setting off alarms</li> <li>• Drugs: Possession drug paraphernalia or look-alike drugs</li> <li>• Any threat of physical injury or attempt to bomb or the building</li> <li>• Engaging and creating risk to injury to others ( inciting a fight)</li> <li>• Bullying/Cyberbullying (that impacts the student’s engagement in school or attendance)- <b>1st incident</b></li> <li>• Throwing an object that can cause a disturbance, injury or property damage</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted Sister Circle</li> <li>• Dean Classroom Support</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> <li>• Referral to Care Team (from Teacher)</li> <li>• School-Community service projects (individual)</li> </ul>
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Category Tier'd Infraction	Behavior Description (not limited to)	Schools Response	Tier Level of Support
<p><b>C</b></p> <p>Behaviors that create negative relationships between two or more people that does not result in a physical altercation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullying/Cyberbullying (that impacts the student’s engagement in school or attendance)</li> <li>• Teasing, taunting, engaging in a verbal confrontation, verbally inciting a fight</li> <li>• Inappropriate physical contact that is sexual in nature</li> <li>• Posting, distributing, displaying or sharing material, including</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level 1:</b> Classroom supports, interventions, or minor consequences</p> <p><b>Level 2:</b> Minor consequences up to suspension</p>	<p><b>Tier I</b> <b>Tier II</b> <b>Tier III</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan</li> <li>• Further disciplinary action ( long term suspension or recommendation for</li> </ul>

	<p>electronically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Committing sexual, racial, or any form of harassment or intimidation verbal or on social media</li> <li>● Using vulgar language or gestures</li> <li>● Drugs: Possession /Being under the influence/using/distributing</li> <li>● Possession, using, or distributing of unlawful drugs including (marijuana, prescription pills, paraphernalia, etc)</li> <li>● Using slurs based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or another basis prohibited by law</li> <li>● Hazing</li> <li>● Fighting/rioting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical violence between students or another person with no injury</li> <li>Group Fight (more than 6 students)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Weapon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possession of a firearm/destructive device</li> <li>Using any weapon to threaten or attempt to injure a student, staff, or others in the school building</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bullying/cyberbully: After intervention increased intervention increased actions after Agreements and Support Plan</li> <li>● Stealing property or money with or without using force and weapons</li> </ul>	<p><b>Level 3:</b> Suspension between four and five days</p> <p><b>Level 4:</b> Suspension between six to 10 days</p> <p><b>Level 5:</b> Suspension for more than 10 consecutive days ( Discipline Hearing Required)</p> <p><b>Level 6:</b> Recommendation for expulsion</p>	<p>expulsion) by GGA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Non-participation in school-sponsored activities</li> <li>● Nontraditional education placement</li> <li>● No-trespassing order</li> <li>● Out-of-school suspension (OSS)</li> <li>● Referral to appropriate community-based agency, mental health service, substance abuse counseling services etc...</li> </ul>
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## Part VI: Electronics and Technology Policy

Girls Global Academy is committed to providing a safe learning environment. Students are responsible for participating in behaviors that promote safety in all learning environments including but not limited to face-to-face and virtual. Repeated misconduct and escalated behaviors may result in additional responses according to the Girls Global Academy Code of Student Conduct.

### Technology Expectations

- Students know, use, and keep private their GGA username and password.
- Follow the Girls Global Academy Technology Policy.
- Use technology for accessing academic content as assigned.
- Take care of the technology assigned, keeping it free from damage.
- Be respectful to students and adults.

### Electronic Devices

All electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, iPads, speakers, headsets, air pods, headphones, smart watches or any portable electronic devices) must be monitored by the student and will be the student's responsibility as students enter the building. **All electronic devices** will be collected, marked, bagged and put away in a safe location before students transition to advisory, and will be redistributed at the end of the day. Girls Global Academy in no way accepts any responsibility for and **will not** replace any damaged, lost, or stolen devices **and will not investigate** theft or lost devices that were not collected by a Girls Global staff at the beginning of the day. **Students are prohibited** from use of headphones in the building unless it is authorized by the Dean of Students. We encourage students to leave any Apple or smartwatches at home.

Technology can be a resourceful tool for learning, engagement, and communication; however, personal technology can also be a distraction from learning. While at Girls Global Academy, students will learn how to engage with technology appropriately and improve their digital literacy skills. This means being able to monitor technology use and ensure that it is used only for academic and professional purposes while at school. **Students will not, at any time, be allowed to have their phones in classes for any reason.** Phones and any other personal devices outside of The Girls Global Academy laptop will be collected, marked, bagged and put away in a safe location before students transition to advisory, and will be redistributed at the end of the day. If a phone is found on the student's person the dean will confiscate the phone and return it at the end of the day, and contact the parent. If it becomes a pattern, the dean will confiscate the phone,

return it at the end of the day, and contact the parent to schedule a meeting with the student and parent to make a technology plan. These meetings must be scheduled before 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

GGA may decide to collect cell phones at any time during the school year.

### **Phone Collection: Morning Routine**

- Trailblazers swipe in the lobby.
- Come into the cafeteria.
- Place their phones/technology in their cases
- Place in the correct bin by last name.

At 8:30AM all phone storage cabinets will be locked and rolled into designated area.

Students who are tardy will have their phones collected by the office. The main office will ensure that the students phone is placed in the correct bin.

### **Phone Collection: Afternoon Routine**

- The storage cabinets are rolled back in the same locations from the morning routine.
- As students are being dismissed they will be picking up their phones from the correct last name bin.
- Students put their bins back in the correct last name bin for the next day.
- Once all phones have been redistributed the storage bin will be reorganized and ready for the next day.

## **Part VII: Girls Global Academy School Norms**

Every Trailblazer is expected to begin conducting themselves in a way that is appropriate for college and the professional world. In order to uphold an orderly learning environment, Trailblazers will be held to the following expectations every day at Girls Global Academy:

### **Classroom Norms:**

- Arrive on time, prepared to begin on time.
- Enter the room in an orderly manner, be seated, and begin on the assigned task.
- Be respectful of yourself, your classmates and your teacher.
- Be engaged and on-task throughout the class period.

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- All assignments should be completed and submitted on time.
- If you are asked to leave the classroom, do so calmly and follow the direction of the teacher; any questions about the situation may be directed to the Dean of Students or administrators in the building.
- Clean up your work space and exit the classroom calmly after the teacher dismisses you.
- Adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines, if applicable.
- We value celebration of all members of our community.

### **Hallways and Stairwells Norms:**

- Move calmly. Do not run as it may endanger yourself or others
- Report to all assigned classes
- Quiet conversation is acceptable; loud, boisterous conversation is not.
- Discard trash in containers provided
- Be aware of traffic flow. Do not stand in groups as hallways are narrow and social distancing is required
- We engage in appropriate physical manner in the halls. Horseplay, altercations, and public displays of affection (PDA is not permitted ).
- We use language that is appropriate for school.
- Adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines, if applicable

### **Cafeteria Norms**

Breakfast and lunch are served at designated times in the cafeteria. Trailblazers who use the cafeteria must abide by the guidelines listed below.

- Treat all food service staff, cafeteria supervisors, and fellow trailblazers with courtesy and respect. Trailblazers are to walk in the cafeteria.
- The line in the cafeteria must be orderly at all times.
- Do not order food from outside the cafeteria.
- Consume all food and drink in the cafeteria
- Keep dining spaces clean and neat upon scholar exit.
- Remain seated after they have received their lunch. They should only move around to throw away their lunch trays or to use the restroom. Trailblazers must exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
- Adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines, if applicable

## **Field Trip Dress Code**

Trailblazers must adhere to the Girls Global Academy Dress Code when attending field trips unless otherwise specified by the Director of Programs and Community Engagement.

### **Jewelry and make-up**

- Earrings are permitted
- If body piercings are either distracting or potentially hazardous to school activities, trailblazers will be required to remove them during school hours.
- Any distracting or potentially offensive wrist wear is prohibited.

### **Distracting Clothing**

- Clothing or jewelry that is determined by any teacher or staff member as being a disruption from the learning progression is not permitted.
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# Section II: Scholarship



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## Section II: Scholarship

### Part I: Academic Overview

When the GGA team selected standards, the most important factor was that the standards align with our philosophy and approach to teaching and learning, and exemplify both our *mission and vision*. The standards must also connect with the four pillars of *sisterhood, scholarship, service, and safety*, and emphasize the *global* community. Most importantly, we want to make all educational materials *accessible* to all learners, take an *inquiry* stance in our approach, and be *culturally responsive* to the demographic of the students we serve.

For that reason, Girls Global Academy has adopted the following to prepare our students for both college and career:

- [Common Core State Standards](#)
- [International Baccalaureate](#)
- [Advanced Placement](#)
- Career and Technical Standards for:
  - [Engineering Pathway](#)
  - [Business Pathway](#)

### Part II: 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.

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**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**

\*indicates required course for graduation

<p align="center"><b>English</b> 4 credits</p>	<p>1 credit in English 9* 1 credit in English 10* 1 credit in English 11* 1 credit in English 12*</p>
<p align="center"><b>Mathematics</b> 4 credits</p>	<p>1 credit in Algebra 1* 1 credit in Geometry* 1 credit in Algebra II* 1 credit in upper level course*</p>
<p align="center"><b>Social Studies</b> 4 credits</p>	<p>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</p> <p>IB Psychology HL, AP World History, AP US History, AP US Government can replace same name non AP/IB course</p>
<p align="center"><b>Science</b> 4 credits</p> <p align="center">3 credits in lab sciences and 1 additional science course</p>	<p>1 credit in Biology* 1 credit in Chemistry 1 credit in Environmental Science 1 credit in Physics</p> <p>IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL, AP Biology can replace same name non AP/IB course</p>
<p align="center"><b>Physical Education and Health</b> 1.5 credits</p>	<p>.5 credit Physical Education I* .5 credit Physical Education II* .5 credit in Health*</p> <p>Physical education credit can be earned through a school sanctioned sports program</p>
<p align="center"><b>Fine Arts</b> 1 credit</p>	<p>.5 credit in Art A/B* .5 credit in Music*</p> <p>IB Art HL can replace same name non AP/IB</p>

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	course
<p><b>Pathways and CTE options</b></p> <p>2 credits</p> <p>3 total credits for qualifying courses in the chosen engineering or business pathway for the Certificate</p>	<p>1 credit Engineering*</p> <p>1 credit Business*</p> <p>Courses that count towards Engineering* Credits: Engineering Design, Environmental Sustainability, Civil Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Design and Development</p> <p>Courses that count toward Business* Credits: Principles of Business, Principles of Marketing &amp; Principles of Finance, Principles of Management &amp; Business Strategies</p>
<p><b>World Languages</b></p> <p>2 credits</p>	<p>1 credit in World Language 1</p> <p>1 credit in World Language 2</p>
<p><b>Electives</b></p> <p>3 credits</p>	<p>Any elective course listed will count as an elective. Credits earned over the minimum requirements will count toward elective</p>
<p><b>Service Learning</b></p>	<p>100 hours</p>
<p><b>Total Credit Hours</b></p>	<p>25.5</p>

### Part III: Promotion Requirements

The mission of Girls Global Academy (GGA) is to provide pathways to lead and learn. The ultimate pathway is to prepare girls to graduate from Girls Global Academy and succeed in the career path of their choice. This begins with academic success and building social and emotional skills starting in grade 9. To ensure success, GGA has high expectations and all expectations are grounded in academic mastery.

A rigorous academic program will be combined with monitoring, active support, and feedback. GGA has designed a school schedule that is prepared for students who will need academic support and may be at risk for retention. The Coordinators, in consultation with the student advisors, will take an active role in coordinating and communicating with families about their student's progress and in creating personal learning plans with students.

Consistently monitoring student progress towards mastery is combined with curriculum aligned assessments and evaluation of student achievement across all subject areas and grade levels. There are opportunities during the school day for students to receive supplemental academic support, and improve demonstration of mastery by revising substantial pieces of work like essays and projects. Students will be at risk of retention if they do not meet the promotion requirements. All promotion requirements apply to all students enrolled at GGA. The promotion requirements for GGA are the following:

1. Students must earn an average score of a 3 in core academic classes. The core academic course includes English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Pathways.
2. Students must pass the required number of core courses each year.
3. Students that have 10 or more unexcused absences in a course are eligible for failing that course.
4. Complete the credit requirements each year.

Entering Grade	Minimum Credits Needed	Required Credits for Promotion
10	6	1 English, 1 Mathematics, 1 Social Studies, 1 Science, and two credits in other subjects
11	13	2 English, 2 Mathematics, 2 Social Studies, 2 Science, at least 5 credits in other subjects
12	18	3 English, 3 Mathematics, 3 Social Studies, 3 Science, 1 credit in World Language, and at 5 least credits in other subjects

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. GGA will give students a schedule that will prepare them for promotion to the next grade. After admitting students, the GGA grading scale for course work applies. In order for a transfer student to be considered a senior: 18 credits must be earned, three years of high school must be successfully completed, and the student must be enrolled in the required courses needed for graduation. We believe that all students can complete high-quality grade level work. Students who have passed their classes with a 3 or better are promoted to the next grade level. If a student has failed one class, they will do credit recovery, summer school, or a blended learning model.

Students who are failing two or more of their core subject area classes are in danger of retention and will be required to attend the academic resource class. Grade Level teams will monitor students' progress through our MTSS process. Students who enter below grade level will be provided the requisite support elements to include academic resource class, small group instruction, differentiated instruction, summer school, and credit recovery options (described above). Students who decide to enroll in GGA after grade 9 must complete all required courses. GGA will provide opportunities for students in grade 9 or grade 10 to earn credits to ensure they graduate on time. The opportunities will not disrupt the scheduled daily course work. We will work with the student to create the education plan with goals to ensure their path for promotion and graduation is intact. If students are performing below the average score of 3, we will reach out to parents/guardians to discuss all options including retention.

## **Part IV: SY 24-25 Course Catalog**

### **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> 4 credits  3 credits in lab sciences and 1 additional science course	1 credit in Biology* 1 credit in Chemistry 1 credit in Environmental Science 1 credit in Earth Sciences  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	1 credit Engineering* 1 credit Business*  Courses that count towards Engineering*

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3 total credits for qualifying courses in the chosen engineering or business pathway for the Certificate	Credits: Introduction to Engineering Design, Environmental Sustainability, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Design and Development  Courses that count toward Business* Credits: Principles of Business and Economics, Principles of Marketing & 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.

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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

**IB Language A, Year 1 - Language and Literature |  
1 Credit, 1 Year (Replaces English Language Arts 3 - 11th Grade)**

The language A: language and literature course aims at studying the complex and dynamic 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

**English Language Arts 4 - 12th Grade |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

English Language Arts 12 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.

- Must have passed English I, English II, English III or IB Language A - Language and Literature

**IB Language A, Year 2 - Language and Literature |  
1 Credit, 1 Year (Replaces English Language Arts 4 - 12th Grade)**

The language A: language and literature course aims at studying the complex and dynamic 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 IB Language A, Year 1 - Language and Literature

**Reading and Writing Concepts I, II, III, IV**  
**1 Credit, 1 Year, IEP Certificate of Completion Requirement**

This course provides students with reading and writing materials that are appropriately aligned to their cognitive abilities. The course uses adaptive learning curricula and provides students the space to develop their critical thinking skills necessary for independent daily living tasks.

This course is designed for students on an IEP Certificate of Completion track.

**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, Fulfills Upper Level Math 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

**College Algebra****1 Credit, 1 Year, Fulfills Upper Level Math Graduation Requirement**

This course provides students with practical mathematics instruction and covers concepts appropriately aligned to their cognitive abilities. The course uses adaptive learning curricula and provides students the space to develop their critical thinking skills for practical mathematics applications.

This course is designed for students on an IEP Certificate of Completion track.

**Concepts of Mathematics I, II, III, IV****1 Credit, 1 Year, IEP Certificate of Completion Requirement**

This course provides students with practical mathematics instruction and covers concepts appropriately aligned to their cognitive abilities. The course uses adaptive learning curricula and provides students the space to develop their critical thinking skills for practical mathematics applications.

This course is designed for students on an IEP Certificate of Completion track.

## 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

### **Earth Sciences | 1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement**

The Earth and Space Science course is a course focusing on the study of space, geologic structures and forces, the waters on our planet, and the atmospheric forces that shape our world. Students will explore the Earth's spheres including the geosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and the cycles of the Earth such as the water and carbon cycle.



Students will learn about scientific inquiry, geologic time, space exploration, the solar system, and the universe.

- Must have passed Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science OR IB Environmental Systems and Societies, Year 1

**IB Environmental Systems and Societies, Year 1 of 2 |  
1 Credit, 1 Year (Replaces Environmental Science- 11th Grade)**

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

**IB Environmental Systems and Societies, Year 2 of 2 |  
1 Credit, 1 Year (Replaces Earth Sciences - 12th Grade)**

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 IB Environmental Systems and Societies, Year 1

**Concepts of Science I, II, III, IV  
1 Credit, 1 Year, IEP Certificate of Completion Requirement**

This course provides students with instruction about scientific inquiry, physical and life science topics, and the human and environment relationship appropriately aligned to their cognitive abilities. The course uses adaptive learning curricula and provides students the space to develop their critical thinking skills for understanding the world around them.

This course is designed for students on an IEP Certificate of Completion track.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

<b>World History I   1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement</b>
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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.
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<b>World History II   1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement</b>
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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.
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- Must have passed World History I

<b>US History   1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement</b>
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American History provides students with the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the chronological development of the American people and government by examining the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that have affected the rise and growth of the nation. Content covered includes, but is not limited to: an understanding of geographic-historic and time-space relationship, changes and trends in American culture through the centuries, the Civil War as the solution to the secession issue, the technological and urban transformation of the country, and American foreign political development.
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- Must have passed World History I and World History II

**US Government |****.5 Credit, 1 Semester, Graduation Requirement**

Students will examine fundamental constitutional principles; the organization of government at the federal, state, and local level; the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; the policy-making process; and the American economic system.

- Must have passed World History I, World History II, US History

**History of the District of Columbia |****.5 Credit, 1 Semester, Graduation Requirement**

This social science course examines the major events in Washington, DC's history, particularly in relation to the students' past learning of American history. Students will study the creation of Washington, DC and the subsequent historical developments of the capital city of the United States. Students will also study major influences, including slavery, war, emancipation, Reconstruction, urbanization, civil rights, and home rule.

- Must have passed World History I, World History II, US History

**Concepts of Social Studies I, II, III, IV****1 Credit, 1 Year, IEP Certificate of Completion Requirement**

This course provides students with instruction about current events, history, and concepts of geography appropriately aligned to their cognitive abilities. The course uses adaptive learning curricula and provides students the space to develop their critical thinking skills for accessing information about history and current events as they relate to students' lives.

This course is designed for students on an IEP Certificate of Completion track.

## **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.

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**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)  
(Year 1 of 2) | 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.

**International Baccalaureate World Language Exploration (Language Development)  
(Year 2 of 2) | 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 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.

**Environmental Sustainability |  
1 Credit, 1 Year, Graduation Requirement (if declared Pathway)**

Environmental Sustainability (ES) is a high school-level specialization course in PLTW Engineering. In ES, students investigate and design solutions to solve real-world challenges related to clean drinking water, a stable food supply, and renewable energy. Students are introduced to environmental issues and use the engineering design process to research and design potential solutions. Utilizing the activity-, project-, problem-based (APB) teaching and learning pedagogy, students transition from completing structured activities to solving open-ended projects and problems that require them to develop planning, documentation, communication, and other professional skills

## **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.

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

This project-based business course furthers student understanding of management, management functions, and business success. In the second portion of the course, students pull together everything they have learned through a Capstone project to plan, organize, staff, direct, and control business activities.



## 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.

### **Transition Topics**

#### **1 Credit, 1 Year, IEP Certificate of Completion Requirement**

This course provides students with a space to explore post-secondary educational opportunities and life skills. Topics may include personal finance, independent daily living skills, research skills, college applications and related skills, and career training. The course uses project-based learning to further student understanding of topics. Students may focus on topics of interest, in conjunction with IEP transition planning goals.

This course is designed for students on an IEP Certificate of Completion track.

## 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 Visual Art, Year 1 | 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.

### **IB Visual Art, Year 2 | 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.

**IB Visual Art, Year 1&2 | 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

**Physical Education Pupil Instructor Program | 1 Elective Credit, 1 Year**

The PEPI, Physical Education Pupil Instructor Program is an elective class for Juniors and Seniors who have an interest in working with children in various careers. You may be considering owning your own Daycare, you may want to manage a YMCA or perhaps you want to own a Gymnastic/Acro Facility to promote gymnastics. You may be interested in numerous possibilities of health care options with children - pediatric nurse, doctor, teacher and the list goes on. Students will be in the field, gym and classroom teaching depending upon the weather. This course is an introduction to what a PE teacher teaches along with lesson plans, preparation, and class expectations will have you prepared for your experiences. You will be working with Milestones Enrichment Center 3 to 4 days a week. On the 5th day, you will be in classroom planning and working with your co-teachers, planning for the next week of P.E.P.I. classes. You will be confident as you enter these classrooms, and the experiences will be life changing.

**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.

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**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.

## Part V: Grading Policy

A growth mindset is especially critical for high schoolers as work is more challenging and grades potentially have an impact on a student’s future. For students to engage in rigorous 21st century work, they must have the ability to persevere and work hard—to commit themselves to academic conscientiousness and complete their studies, even when presented with challenges. They must not say “I can’t do this” but instead, “I can’t do this *yet*.”

Girls Global Academy will adopt the International Baccalaureate grade descriptors. These are on a scale of 1-7 with a 3 or higher as a passing grade. The specific course descriptors for each individual course using the 1-7 grading scale can be found [here](#).

The general grade descriptors for all courses are here for reference:

Grade	<b>General International Baccalaureate Descriptor for <u>every course</u></b>
7	The student demonstrates excellent content knowledge and understanding, conceptual and contextual awareness and critical, reflective thinking. Highly effective research, investigation and technical skills are evident, as is the ability to analyze, evaluate and synthesize qualitative and quantitative evidence, knowledge and concepts to reach valid conclusions or solve problems. In collaborative exercises, the student works very well with others, ethically and responsibly, and with perseverance. Responses are highly insightful, accurate, clear, concise, convincing, logically structured, with sufficient detail, precise use of appropriate terminology and with appropriate attention to purpose and audience. Responses are creative, make very effective use of well-selected examples, demonstrate awareness of alternative points of view and provide clear evidence of intercultural understanding.
6	The student demonstrates very good content knowledge and understanding, conceptual and contextual awareness and critical, reflective thinking. Competent research, investigation and technical skills are evident, as is the ability to analyze, evaluate and synthesize evidence, knowledge and concepts. In collaborative exercises, the student works well with others, ethically and responsibly, and with perseverance. Responses are mainly accurate, clear, concise, convincing, logically structured, with sufficient detail, using consistent terminology and with appropriate attention to purpose and audience. Responses show creativity, make effective use of examples, demonstrate awareness of alternative points of view and provide evidence of intercultural understanding.



5	<p>The student demonstrates sound content knowledge and understanding, good conceptual and contextual awareness and evidence of critical, reflective thinking. Research, investigation and technical skills are evident and sometimes well developed. Analytical ability is evident, although responses may at times be more descriptive than evaluative. In collaborative investigations, the student generally works well with others, ethically and responsibly, and with perseverance. Responses are generally accurate, clear, logically structured and coherent, with mainly relevant material, using suitable terminology, and are sometimes well developed. Responses show reasonable creativity, use of examples, awareness of the audience and evidence of intercultural understanding.</p>
4	<p>The student demonstrates, with some gaps, secure content knowledge and understanding, some conceptual and contextual awareness and some evidence of critical thinking. Research, investigation and technical skills are evident, but not thoroughly developed. Analysis is generally valid, but more descriptive than evaluative. The student solves basic or routine problems, but with limited ability to deal with new or difficult situations. In collaborative exercises, the student works within a team and generally approaches investigations ethically and responsibly, but requires supervision. Responses are mostly accurate and clear with little irrelevant material. There is some ability to logically structure responses with adequate coherence and use of appropriate terminology. Responses sometimes show creativity, and include some awareness of audience and evidence of intercultural understanding</p>
3	<p>The student demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of the content, with limited evidence of conceptual and contextual awareness. Research and/ or investigation is evident, but remains undeveloped. There is some ability to comprehend and solve problems. Collaborative investigations are approached ethically and responsibly, but require close supervision. Responses are only sometimes valid and appropriately detailed. There is some expression of ideas and organization of work and basic use of appropriate terminology, but arguments are rarely convincing. Responses lack clarity and some material is repeated or irrelevant. There is limited creativity, awareness of context or audience and limited evidence of intercultural understanding.</p>
2	<p>The student demonstrates little knowledge or understanding of the content, with weak comprehension of concepts and context and little evidence of application. Evidence of research and/or investigation is only superficial. There is little ability to comprehend and solve problems. Responses are rarely accurate or valid. There is some attempt to express ideas, use terminology appropriate to the subject and organize work, but the response is rarely convincing. There is very little creativity, awareness of context or audience and little evidence of intercultural understanding.</p>
1	<p>The student demonstrates very rudimentary knowledge or understanding of the content, with very weak comprehension of concepts and context. Ability to</p>

	comprehend and solve problems or to express ideas is not evident. Responses are rarely accurate or valid. Organization is lacking to the point that responses are confusing. Responses demonstrate very little to no appreciation of context or audience, inappropriate or inadequate use of terminology, and little to no intercultural understanding.
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Below is a breakdown of the Girls Global grading policy. Advisory is graded and Service-Learning is “graded” through the number of service-hours a student earns per year. To learn more about the difference between formative and summative assessments and assessments in general, please click the link here: [Girls Global Assessments](#)

Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
50% of the grade for a course Two formative assessments per week	50% of the grade for a course Two to four summative assessments each quarter
Formative Assessments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classwork &amp; Homework Assignments</li> <li>● Polls</li> <li>● Think~Pair~Share</li> <li>● Exit Tickets</li> <li>● Journals</li> <li>● SMART Starts</li> <li>● Diagrams/Illustrations</li> <li>● Summaries</li> <li>● What~How~Why</li> <li>● Temperature Check</li> <li>● Videos and Photos</li> <li>● Reflections</li> <li>● Responding to the Essential Question</li> <li>● Question &amp; Answer</li> </ul>	Summative Assessments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unit Exams/ Chapter tests</li> <li>● EOY assessment</li> <li>● Presentations</li> <li>● Essays</li> <li>● Research Projects</li> <li>● Socratic Seminars (only after there is pre-support and practice)</li> <li>● End Product Project</li> <li>● Rubric scoring for a final product</li> <li>● Website Development</li> <li>● Blogs</li> <li>● Podcasts</li> <li>● Debate/Mock trial (only after there is pre-work with support and practice)</li> <li>● Presidential tests - Physical assessments (Physical Education)</li> </ul>

**Make-up work**

Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up required work. They will need to make up the work within the same number of days as the length of the excused absence. *See our attendance policy about what constitutes an excused absence.*

## **Notification Requirements**

If a student is going to be absent, a note or email should be sent to the attendance email [attendance@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:attendance@girlsglobalacademy.org) including date(s) of absence, reason for absence, and a contact number to verify the absence. The note or email of absence must be submitted within 72 hours of the absence. *A phone call to the main office **does not** constitute verification of an excused absence. Verification must be in writing.*

A staff member from the operations team will email the appropriate staff members about the absence and carbon copy (cc) both the parent and student on the email.

The student should do the following to get their work:

- Check Google Classroom and review missed assignment(s)
- Contact your teacher(s) with any questions you may have
- Verify due date of the missed assignment(s)

## **What happens when work is submitted late?**

- Students will not receive full credit for late assignments
- Students should notify the teacher in advance if unable to submit an assignment on time
- The highest grade a student can receive on a late assignment is 3.

## **Redo and Resubmission of Summative Assessments**

If a student earns a grade of 3 or below on a summative assessment, then the student has the option to redo and *resubmit the work after first reviewing the initial submission with the teacher to obtain feedback and support.* Students must resubmit the summative assessment on the new date provided by the teacher. All work for a quarter must be resubmitted five (5) school days prior to the final day of school in order to give instructional staff ample time to review and grade the work. The goal is to keep the higher grade for the assessment.

## **Homework Policy**

Girls Global's overall philosophy on homework is derived from years of teaching practice in classrooms and from research about the benefits of homework. Our staff should ask themselves the following questions prior to assigning homework:

From *Ditch that Homework*:

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- Does it increase a student's love of learning?
- Does it significantly increase learning?
- Does it stimulate student's interest in the subject and make them want to delve deeper?
- Are students able to complete the assignment without help?
- Is it differentiated for ability and interest?
- If students didn't have to do it, would they want to do it anyway?
- Is the assignment fair to all students?

When homework is assigned, students should have the following:

- Ample opportunity to complete it.
- Explicit directions on what to do, how to do it, and why they are doing it.
- Explicit directions on when, how and where to submit it.

*Homework should take no more than 90 minutes per night.*

### **Assignment Recovery**

**Support Saturdays** support students in self-efficacy, skills-development, and overall grade point averages increase from student usage. Students are supported in small groups by Girls Global instructors to get caught up on work for which they may have fallen behind.

### **Credit Recovery**

Girls Global Academy offers summer school opportunities for students that need to extend their school year. The Summer Learning Credit Recovery School is a five week extended school year for students that need to recover core classes in order to be promoted to the next grade and boost cumulative grade point averages (GPA).

Summer Learning Credit Recovery School is for students who did not pass core courses that are required for graduation.

**Attendance:** During the 5 week period, students may not miss more than two half days. High School classes require seat hours and missing classes means the student has not met the number of seat hours needed to recover the class.

**Credit Recovery Eligibility:** Students who have previously failed a credit-bearing course (final grade of a 2 or below) or receive a final grade of I this school year for courses that are

being offered under Summer Extended Learning. Families of students who are recovering credit receive weekly updates on progress while in summer credit recovery and are invited to Google classroom to receive weekly summaries.

**Face to Face Program Location & Contact**

- Summer School Program Manager
- Girls Global Academy

**Online Asynchronous Location & Contact**

- Asynchronous Summer School Facilitator
- Girls Global Academy-Google Classroom

**Transfer Credit for Credit Recovery**

Girls Global Academy accepts credit recovery credits from students in grades 9 - 11 that did not earn a final passing grade. Students may take classes from a credit bearing institution including:

- Girls Global Academy Summer School
- District of Columbia Public School Summer School
- An accredited school that offers summer school

All Girls Global Academy students must enroll in an equivalent course from the Girls Global Academy course catalog and meet the graduation requirement. All students must receive prior approval from the Principal prior to enrolling in a course outside of Girls Global Academy Summer School. After a credit recovery course approval, students are responsible for enrolling in approved courses at approved institutions.

To earn credit recovery credits, a student must meet all of the requirements in a credit recovery course and earn a score of a 3 on the IB grading scale or a numeric equivalent of 60% or better.

All credit recovery grades will be reviewed for each individual by the administrative team and credit recovery courses that do not meet the requirements will not be accepted.

## Recovery Options

Assignment Recovery	Credit Recovery	Accelerated Learning
<p><b>Support Saturdays</b> support students in self-efficacy, skills-development, and overall grade point averages increase from student usage.</p>	<p><b>Credit recovery</b> is for students that need to extend their school year. The Summer Learning Credit Recovery School is an extended school year for students that need to recover core classes in order to be promoted to the next gradeboost cumulative grade point averages (GPA). Our promotion policy explains what is required to be considered a 10th grade student.</p>	<p><b>Asynchronous options</b> available for students who either want to get ahead and take an additional class or for students who are undercredited and need to recover multiple classes.</p>

### Assessments Overview

Girls Global uses a combination of assessments to ensure students are on track to reach mastery with both content and social and emotional skills. We ensure that all of our academic assessments are rigorous and aligned to both national and international standards. ***Our assessment system identifies where students may need additional help so that Girls Global staff can develop responsive plans of intervention and support.*** Modifications and accommodations are designed to ensure that all students, including students with disabilities and English Learners, can access the assessments. Below is an overview of the different types of assessments students and families can expect.

## INTERIM ASSESSMENT

### What is an interim assessment?

- An interim assessment is an assessment that Girls Global will use to evaluate where a student is with their learning progress and to predict how a student might perform on future assessments.

**What does the interim assessment measure?**

- Girls Global interim assessments measure each students' reading, writing, mathematics, and science progress to gauge a student's college and career readiness.

**How do I receive information about my student's performance on the interim assessments?**

- Girls Global staff will provide students and their families with access to interim assessment data through a printed hard copy.

**FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

**What is a formative assessment?**

- A formative assessment is an assessment that Girls Global staff will use to determine student progress on a unit, lesson, skill, or concept.

**What does the formative assessment measure?**

- The formative assessment measures a student's comprehension of what has been taught and is a tool teachers use to identify next steps in teaching. An example of a formative assessment would be an *exit ticket*.

**How do I receive information about my student's performance on the formative assessments?**

- Formative Assessments will be logged in our student information system through PowerSchool. Students and their families have access to PowerSchool to see how a student is performing in classes prior to a summative assessment, and prior to the end of a quarter.

## SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### What is a summative assessment?

- A summative assessment is an assessment used to evaluate a student's learning over time and occurs at the end of a learning period.

### What does the summative assessment measure?

- A summative assessment measures whether or not a student has learned what was expected over a period of time and is a longer assessment and contributes to a significant portion of a student's grade. An example of a summative assessment is a *project*.

### How do I receive information about my student's performance on the summative assessments?

- Summative assessments will be logged in our student information system through PowerSchool. Students and their families have access to PowerSchool to see how a student performed at the end of a learning period.

## STATE ASSESSMENT

### What is a state assessment?

- A state assessment is an assessment that measures a student's knowledge, skills, and competencies against the determined state standards.
  - *\*State assessments are a form of summative assessment.*

### What does the state assessment measure?



- The District of Columbia has chosen the assessments listed above to measure achievement in specific subject areas to determine a student's college and career readiness as expressed by the Common Core Standards.

**How do I receive information about my student's performance on the state assessments?**

- State assessment results are mailed to the residence of the student from the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE).

**CTE ASSESSMENT**

**What is a CTE assessment?**

- CTE stands for Career and Technical Education assessment. Students are assessed for industry credentials.

**What do the CTE's measure?**

- Career and technical assessments measure a student's preparedness and understanding of a career field.

**How do I receive information about my student's performance on the CTE assessments?**

- Girls Global will either send a hard copy through the U.S. Postal Service or via in-person pick up once scores are released.

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL ASSESSMENTS

### **What is a SEL assessment?**

- A social emotional assessment is a tool to identify the critical mindsets students bring to school that determine future successes.

### **What do the SEL assessments measure?**

- SEL assessments measure a student's social, emotional, and behavioral development to identify both areas of strength and areas needing improvement.

### **How do I receive information about my student's performance on the SEL assessments?**

- SEL assessment results will be available to families via in-person pick up.

## **Part VI: Student-Led Conferences & Demonstrations of Learning**

### **Student Led Conferences**

To support our students in college and career readiness, student-led conferences are an empowering practice for students themselves to use both qualitative (observations; images; symbols) and quantitative (counted; measured; expressed in numbers) data to document and demonstrate their progress. Students take ownership of their learning and also get to practice personal and professional skills in a low stakes environment with people they already know (teachers and families). Student-led conferences also support communication between Girls Global and families and students are provided the space to conduct self-reflection throughout the school year. At the initial conference, students present the progress they have made thus far by leading the discussion, comment on the work samples and demonstrations of learning they have chosen, and set goals 1-2 overarching goals for the school year. During the conference, students will discuss sources of pride and areas of growth for them. Students will prepare for their conferences in advisory, share progress with teachers and families during the conference, and get

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support from both teachers and families on reaching their goals. [Please see the calendar](#) for the dates of student-led conferences (in-person or remote).

### **Demonstrations of Learning**

Demonstrations of learning are opportunities for students to show what they know based on learning standards and objectives and can take a variety of forms. Examples could include artwork, documentaries, science experiments, essays, and presentations. Demonstrations of learning encourage and empower students both academically and personally/professionally because students present, explain, defend, and evaluate their own work. [Please see the calendar](#) for the dates of demonstrations of learning (in-person or remote).

## **Part VII: Academic Honesty Policy**

At Girls Global Academy, academic honesty is a cornerstone of our school community. Through our pillars of Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service, and Safety, we encourage our students to be lifelong learners who are governed by honesty and integrity. The policies and procedures in this document are informed by the Girls Global mission and vision that support our students in pathways to lead and learn who aspire to be leaders of change for global benefit.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is upheld by all members of the GGA Community and a choice to act in an honest and ethical manner through our teaching, learning and assessment practices. Academic integrity at Girls Global Academy is rooted in the IB learner profile that expects all IB learners to be Principled, “to act with integrity and honesty... take responsibility for our actions and their consequences” (IB Learner Profile, IBO, 2017).

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is defined as behaviors and actions that provide a student with an unfair advantage over their peers. Plagiarism is defined “as the representation, intentionally or unintentionally, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgement.” Presenting the ideas of others as your own may include lack of proper citations, copying works of art visually, orally or digitally, and not acknowledging the original author.

Collusion is defined as work that shows close similarity or when students copy the work of a peer.

### **Academic Misconduct May Include:**

- Presenting the ideas of others as your own
- Allowing a peer to copy your work
- Referencing unauthorized materials during an exam or test
- Communicating with peers during an exam
- Misconduct during examination
- Removing exam materials from the examination room
- Entering the exam room with unauthorized materials
- Taking examination papers
- Other infractions that compromise the integrity of the assessment and exam materials

### **IB Coordinator Responsibilities**

The IB Coordinator ensures fidelity to IB Standards and Practices and ensures compliance to IBCP regulations.

- Provide the IB publication Academic integrity to all staff, students, and families to ensure consistent communication of academic integrity expectations to staff, students, and families
- Manages and monitors the academic report incidents of misconduct and maladministration
- Provide overview of plagiarism checker program to students and families

### **Staff Responsibilities**

All staff share the responsibility of upholding academic integrity by reinforcing our pillars of Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service and Safety by teaching appropriate research skills, understanding and presenting authentic work, and upholding the academic honesty policy as it relates to their students at Girls Global Academy.

Best practices from the GGA staff include the following:

- Provide advice and guidance to students
- Provide instruction and support in research skills to students
- Provide specific guidelines for students to follow in their subject area
- Provide models and exemplars of appropriate research skills
- Provide self-management and supporting structures to students to complete work in a timely manner
- Provide formative assessments and checks to monitor student progress on assignments
- Model the appropriate procedures in teacher-generated documents

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- Provide overview of plagiarism checker program to students and families
- Use [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)

### **Student Responsibilities:**

### **Homework Assignments**

You are welcome to work with other students on your assignments, but you must (a) list the names of anyone you work with on your assignment, and (b) write up your own solutions to assignments, based on your own understanding of the material. Some students find it helps to take a half hour break between any work you do with other students, and the time you spend actually writing up your own responses to assignments.

### **Class/Study Notes**

You may work with others to develop your subject notes and study notes, however, it is in a student's best interest to be very actively involved in the creation of their own notes. The process of writing study notes helps students learn and recall the material; and is therefore likely to contribute to the academic outcomes a student wants to achieve.

### **Research**

Research should be crafted and written in the student's original voice. Students are encouraged to talk with their classmates about their ideas, but should be working independently on any outlining and content. If you need further assistance with research, then please contact your teacher to schedule office hours. In addition, you are required to cite all sources you used when conducting research. Citations include both direct quotations and instances where you use someone else's ideas. "Sources" include papers, journals, books, conversations, interviews, online media, etc. If the thought did not originate with the student, then the student should provide a source for the information. See your teachers for citing sources and the appropriate format (as it is subject dependent). \*\*When in doubt, just cite sources anyway. Students may also refer to IBO's Effective Citing & Referencing publication.

### **Additional Resources for support**

- Purdue OWL: Research and Citation Sources
- Citation Machine: <https://www.citationmachine.net/>
- Easy Bib: <https://www.easybib.com/>
- Speak up

Notify a staff member when there is knowledge that a peer has participated in academic dishonesty.

## **Families' Responsibilities**

- Encourage your student to ask for help from their teachers
- Encourage your student to check the learning management system for explanations and clarifications of assignments
- Encourage your student to ask teachers about helpful resources students can use for support
- Encourage your student to submit their original work for all assignments and assessments that reflect their skills and abilities

## **Process for investigations**

All teachers use turnitin to check for plagiarism and collusion for any written essays, papers, and projects.

If a staff member suspects that academic dishonesty has taken place, the following actions are taken:

- Report the infraction to the IBCP coordinator
- The GGA Code of Student conduct will be followed in order to determine the consequences for academic dishonesty
- Consequences for academic misconduct will utilize the IB Penalty matrices (IB Academic Integrity, 2019, pgs 33- 45) and can include a range from a warning letter to the student, receiving no score on the work, not submitting the work to IB, no grade notification on the students IB transcript, dependent upon the severity of the infraction.
- The IB Coordinator is responsible for the investigation of work submitted to the IB that is either not authentic or plagiarized.

\*\*Please refer to the Girls Global Academy discipline policy to read more about our response to academic dishonesty.

\*\*This policy was written during charter authorization by the co-founders of Girls Global Academy following the process for developing school policies from IB's Career-related Programme: From Principles to Practice and reviewed by a Girls Global Academy Board Member.

\*\*This policy is reviewed annually during August teacher professional development for any changes, deletions, and/or additions.

\*\*Adapted from United Nations International School Policy

## **Part VIII: Child Find and Support for Students with Disabilities**

### **What is Child Find?**

Local Education Agencies must have procedures in place in order to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities residing in the District who are in need of special education and related services, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

As such, Girls Global Academy takes a proactive approach to assessing all students and monitoring for signs of progress, or lack thereof, that may be indicative of deficits in student performance that require an evaluation for special education services. We use a Response to Intervention approach that allows for a robust cache of Tier 2 services meant to give access to quality research-based interventions to any students who have demonstrated evidence of struggling with the grade level academic and functional expectations outlined in our general education curriculum. Students who have received appropriate Tier 2 and who fail to make expected progress accordingly, may qualify for special education services, and should be referred for a special education evaluation.

### **Introduction to Child Find**

Under the IDEA, Girls Global Academy is responsible for conducting continuous efforts intended to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities between the ages of three (3) and twenty-two (22) years of age enrolled in Girls Global Academy, including children with disabilities who are homeless, children who are in the custody of the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) or committed to the District of Columbia Youth Rehabilitation Services Agency (DYRS), children who are making progress grade to grade, and highly mobile children, who are in need of special education and related services. These duties are called Child Find responsibilities. This policy establishes procedures for fulfilling Child Find responsibilities at Girls Global Academy, and applies to all children enrolled in Girls Global Academy and all staff employed by Girls Global Academy. Girls Global Academy staff is expected to know and act in accordance with the requirements and procedures established by this policy. Girls Global Academy trains staff on an annual basis to ensure staff understand and execute Child Find responsibilities.

## **Points of Contact**

Parents are encouraged to speak with any Girls Global Academy staff if they have concerns about their child. Parents and other stakeholders should contact one of the following Girls Global Academy staff to discuss Child Find, the referral process, and the availability of special education programming at Girls Global Academy:

Molly Green - Special Education Coordinator; [mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org)

Olivia Laguerre - School Social Worker; [olaguerre@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:olaguerre@girlsglobalacademy.org)

Shamira O'Neal - Principal & Director of Academics; [soneal@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:soneal@girlsglobalacademy.org)

## **Target Populations**

This policy and Girls Global Academy Child Find efforts apply to children between the ages of three (3) and twenty-two (22) years of age enrolled in Girls Global Academy. However, Girls Global Academy currently only serves students in DC who are enrolled in grades 9-12, those students serve as our target population including children who are:

- Homeless;
- In the custody of the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency;
- Committed to the District of Columbia Youth Rehabilitation Services Agency;
- Making progress grade to grade; and
- Highly mobile children.

## **Outreach Efforts**

To ensure the local and school communities are aware of the availability of special education and related services for eligible children with disabilities and the methods for requesting such services, Girls Global Academy provides public notice through a variety of methods:

- Girls Global Academy provides information to parents and the school community at school events such as parent-teacher conferences, back-to-school events, summer enrollment events, etc.
- Girls Global Academy publishes information and relevant dates in school manuals, calendars, and on its website.
- Brochures regarding special education services are available for parents and the public in the front office.

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## **Coordination with Non-educational District Agencies**

To ensure coordination with appropriate District agencies to facilitate the identification, location, and evaluation of children with disabilities enrolled in Girls Global Academy, Girls Global Academy maintains contacts with the following District agencies:

- The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
- Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Girls Global Academy conducts meetings as needed with representatives of the above agencies to ensure open and cooperative lines of communication regarding Girls Global Academy's Child Find, referral, and initial evaluation processes and procedures, as well as continuously updating agencies of changes in appropriate points of contact.

Girls Global Academy may establish agreements with other entities responsible for administering various education, health, and social service programs to children from birth through age 22. Those agencies include, but are not limited to: District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS).

## **Parent Engagement**

Parents may obtain information about the availability of special education and related services through this policy, information posted on our website at [girlsglobalacademy.org](http://girlsglobalacademy.org), or by contacting Molly Green at [mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org). Girls Global Academy also maintains written materials for parents, which can be found at the school's front office. Girls Global Academy staff is required to provide information to parents upon request and at parent-teacher conferences.

## **Referral Process**

A referral is documentation provided by the child's parent, or other referral source, which clearly states why it is thought that the child may have a disability. Girls Global Academy is required to complete an initial evaluation and determine if a child is a child with a disability eligible for special education and related services under IDEA within 60 days of receipt of parental consent. Girls Global Academy is required to contact the parent to set up an appointment to review the referral process and get consent within 30 days of the referral.

*The 60-day requirement does not apply if:*

- The parent fails or refuses to respond to a request for consent for the evaluation;

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- The parent of the child repeatedly fails or refuses to produce the child for the evaluation; or
- The child enrolls in another LEA prior to the determination of eligibility.

If a parent or community member would like to request an initial evaluation to determine if a child is in need of special education and related services, please contact Molly Green at [mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org). All Girls Global Academy staff must accept an oral or written referral for initial evaluation. Upon receiving an oral referral, Girls Global Academy staff must assist any outside referral source in documenting the referral in writing, and must document the date of the referral within three (3) business days of receipt. If the staff member documenting the initial parent referral is not Molly Green at [mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org) then that staff member must bring the written referral to Shayne Swift at [shayne@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:shayne@girlsglobalacademy.org) immediately (within in the next 4 hours) either in person or by email.

Girls Global Academy accepts referrals for initial evaluation from the following persons:

- A student's parent;
- The student, provided that educational rights have transferred to the student;
- Employees of Girls Global Academy who has knowledge of the student; and
- Employees of another LEA or OSSE, who have knowledge of the student.

Girls Global Academy maintains regular contact with community-based referral sources, and works to collaborate with community-based service providers to provide information on the availability of special education and related services and the means through which parents or organizations may submit a referral.

After Girls Global Academy has received a referral, Girls Global Academy must make reasonable efforts to obtain parental consent for an initial evaluation within 30 days of the referral, which includes attempting to contact the parent at least three (3) times on three (3) different dates using at least two (2) modalities. Reasonable efforts must begin no later than 10 business days from the referral date. Girls Global Academy shall conduct an analysis of existing data on the student to determine if additional assessments are necessary. Existing data that may be considered may include but is not limited to teacher observations, classroom assessments, schoolwide screenings and assessments, state assessments, student grades and records, parent reports, health records, or data from other interventions. Girls Global Academy will provide the parent of a child suspected of having a disability with information about the nature of any additionally required assessment.

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## **Screenings and Response to Interventions**

Girls Global Academy implements a comprehensive screening process to determine if a child should be referred for an evaluation. Screenings utilize assessments and tools that are generally applied across the entire student population. Parental consent is not required for Girls Global Academy to conduct a uniform, school-wide screening. A screening conducted by a Girls Global Academy teacher or specialist to determine appropriate instructional strategies for curriculum implementation does not constitute an evaluation for eligibility for special education and related services and does not require parental consent.

At all grade levels, school staff use interim assessments, classroom data, attendance, behavioral records, and other data to determine if students require additional interventions through the Girls Global Academy Response to Intervention (RtI) efforts.

Girls Global Academy screenings and Response to Intervention (RtI) efforts must not delay the initial evaluation of a student who may be a child with a disability in need of special education and related services.

## **Parent Procedural Safeguards and Rights**

Parents' legal rights during the Child Find process are defined by IDEA and District of Columbia law. In the event of a disagreement, parents may pursue dispute resolution and due process rights, including mediation, due process complaints, or state complaints. Parents can learn more about their rights under IDEA by referring to the Part B Procedural Safeguards located on [OSSE's website](#) or by contacting Molly Green at [mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:mgreen@girlsglobalacademy.org) to obtain a copy of their procedural safeguards.

## **Data Reporting**

In accordance with District of Columbia law, Girls Global Academy counts and reports the number of children with disabilities receiving special education and related services annually on October 5 or the date set for the annual pupil count required by D.C. Official Code § 38-2906.

The ability of Girls Global Academy to share personal information about a child shall be governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC §1232g, 34 CFR Part 99.

## **Part IX: Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities**

### **IDEA Part B Notice of Procedural Safeguards**

As a parent, you have rights known as procedural safeguards that apply to every aspect of the special education process. Federal and state laws and regulations outline the procedural safeguards that are designed to ensure that children with disabilities with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This document serves as your procedural safeguards notice and will help you understand specific rights available to you and your child through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and District of Columbia laws regarding special education.

[Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities\\_English](#)

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# Section III: Service



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## Section III: Service

### Part I: What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is used as an instructional strategy to address existing course goals and objectives through meaningful, real-world engagement. GGA staff have the latitude to develop meaningful projects that align with and across course goals and objectives.

#### Service-Learning & Special Populations

Service-learning supports EL students in English Language Development through a meaningful and purposeful contextual lens and enhances social interactions with their peers and the larger community. EL students may also get the opportunity to leverage both their primary and second languages during projects. Special Education students will participate in service-learning in the least restrictive environment with support based on IEP, and 504 accommodations and modifications. This approach provides case managers with additional data points to develop goals for individualized education plans and post-secondary transition plans.

#### GGA Commitment to Service-Learning

Girls Global Academy is committed to supporting students in the facilitation of their own learning through service-learning as an interdisciplinary, skills-based, authentic approach. GGA believes that the most effective service-learning requires a co-curricular (experiences that are connected to or mirror the academic curriculum) approach balancing service as a part of both academic coursework during the school day and experiential learning outside of the classroom. Service-Learning as an instructional tool will follow the same scaffolding structure below:

#### Benefits of Service-Learning

- Students are more likely to engage in their local communities when engagement in community is fostered at school.
- Students are more likely to excel academically when service-learning is utilized as an instructional strategy.
- Students who participate in service-learning see improved health outcomes.

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- Students develop invaluable personal and professional skills through service-learning.
- Students develop empathy and understanding of others through service-learning.
- Students have a competitive edge when they have engaged in service-learning over time as it demonstrates commitment.
- Students are eligible for a variety of scholarships and programs as a result of meaningful service-learning.

## **Part II: LEAD Model**

The LEAD model is a four-step process that students can use to lead a meaningful service project in their community. The LEAD model will be implemented through both academics and experiences.

*The first step is to learn about an important issue in your community.*

You can do this by finding academic research online, going to the library, doing a Google news search, or conducting a community audit. Before you get started, it is important to establish baseline questions to help you learn more about yourself and the issue that you would like to address. For example:

- What is the issue you are focusing on and who is affected by this issue?
- How do you ascertain that it is a genuine community need?
- How have other people addressed this issue?
- What community assets can be used to address this issue?
- What skill sets need to be developed to address the need?
- What skills do you have that could be used to make an impact?

*The second step is to engage with other people in your community.*

At this point, you should have a basic knowledge of the issue you would like to address. Meet with friends, family, classmates, and colleagues who care about the issue and/or can provide feedback. Share what you have learned and learn from your peers. Discuss next steps. For example:

- Who else is working on this issue? Can you collaborate with them?
- In what ways could you address this issue?
- How will you communicate with other stakeholders?

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- How will you incorporate multiple viewpoints about the issue?
- How will you define and measure your impact? Are your peers interested in helping you address this issue? If yes, what skills do they have that could help you?

Identify a subject matter expert or mentor who can provide constructive feedback. Share what you have learned, the specific action or actions you would like to take, the time it will take, what resources you will need, and the metrics you would use to measure impact.

*The third step is to take action “ASAP”: You can do this through:*

- Awareness – Share information and teach others to positively change people’s behaviors. Examples include encouraging seat belt use and safe driving, recycling, healthy eating, discouraging smoking, bullying, and teaching families how to be prepared for disasters.
- Service – Use creativity, time, and talent to meet a need in the community. Examples include tutoring, planting trees, improving school buildings, clearing beaches and parks, distributing food or serving meals, and teaching senior citizens how to use technology.
- Advocacy – Speaking out, joining others, and persuading policy makers to change regulations and laws. Examples include rallies, marches, protests, meeting with elected officials, speaking at public forums or civic meetings, voter education, candidate engagement, organizing petitions, and online advocacy.
- Philanthropy – Collect and donate financial and in-kind support. Examples include raising money for hurricane disaster relief, clean water wells, mosquito nets, or for research to treat and cure diseases, food drives and supply drives, and collecting books for children.

The final step is to demonstrate the impact that your project has made in the community and the growth that you have made as an individual. Demonstrations can take the form of performances through the arts which include skits, poems, songs, displays, and photos. Additional examples include:

- Creating websites, videos, and slide presentations with before/after pictures.
- Presenting to a group of people (e.g., school board, city council) to showcase the quantitative and/or qualitative impact you made in your community.
- Share your results with local media and/or write a blog or article for your local or school newspaper.
- Teach another group of youth or community members what you learned from your project.
- Host a gathering or symposium to share your results and thank everyone for their contributions.

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- Discuss ways that you can sustain your project including giving other students an opportunity to serve or to take on a leadership role.  
LEAD Model and the Global Goals
- The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by world leaders in 2015. What makes them unique is they are a call to action for all countries to participate in a global partnership to eradicate issues like global warming, poverty, and gender inequity. The Global Goals call on governments, the private sector, NGOs, and “ordinary” citizens to work collaboratively to solve these issues. These issues are urgent as they impact our students’ futures. Girls Global students need an understanding of the issues, a stake in working on the solutions, and a voice in advocating for how we tackle the issues in both their local and global communities.
- Research on the adolescent brain has shown that at this age, the brain is in a stage of development where more risks are taken. What better time to support our students in healthy risk-taking by posing issues as problems to be solved, and allowing them to propose bold solutions?

### **Part III: Student Engagement in Service-Learning**

All students who attend Girls Global Academy are required to successfully complete four service-learning projects that are integrated into the curriculum. Upon completion of the projects, a student will have fulfilled 40 of the 100 service-hours required by the District of Columbia’s Board of Education.

Grade	Hours Equivalent
9	10
10	10
11	10
12	10

Students have additional opportunities to complete 60 hours of service-learning through Wednesday LEADership Academy, dedicated Days of Service, and independent service hours (see below).

## **Part IV: Classroom Service-Learning**

Service-learning takes place in a variety of settings at Girls Global Academy. Service-learning instruction is facilitated by all content teachers based on course content, objectives, and standards.

Classroom teachers can help students select an appropriate project, integrate the project into the curriculum, walk them through the LEAD mode, provide them time management guidance, and introduce them to potential partners. The teacher also monitors student activities, and facilitates students' reflection.

GGA staff will have access to the service-learning toolkit for the development and facilitation of service-learning projects. The school will maintain an electronic repository of service-projects. Staff will be provided with dedicated time to work on service-learning projects through the service-learning toolkit, weekly collaborative planning, Wednesday professional developments, and dedicated professional development days.

Types of service that may be conducted through the co-curricular approach include the following with the use of ASAP:

- Awareness – Share information and teach others to positively change people's behaviors. Examples include encouraging seat belt use and safe driving, recycling, healthy eating, discouraging smoking, bullying, and teaching families how to be prepared for disasters.
- Service – Use creativity, time, and talent to meet a need in the community. Examples include tutoring, planting trees, improving school buildings, clearing beaches and parks, distributing food or serving meals, and teaching senior citizens how to use technology.
- Advocacy – Speaking out, joining others, and persuading policy makers to change policies and laws. Examples include rallies, marches, protests, meeting with elected officials, speaking at public forums or civic meetings, voter education, candidate engagement, organizing petitions, and online advocacy.
- Philanthropy – Collect and donate financial and in-kind support. Examples include raising money for hurricane disaster relief, clean water wells, mosquito nets, or for research to treat and cure diseases, food drives and supply drives, and collecting books for children.

Girls Global will continue to vigorously pursue community partnerships that guide our service-learning programming to meet both local and global needs. Our initial partnerships include the following organizations:

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Organization Name	Owns
Youth Service America	Coaching; Professional Development; Technical Assistance
LearnServe	LEADership Academy on Wednesdays

**Part V: Enrollment & Transfer Policies**

When students enroll in or transfer to GGA, enrollment staff will make families aware of the 100 service-hour minimum to graduate from a District of Columbia high school. Students who have accumulated service-hours prior to enrollment and/or transfer to GGA will be required to provide documentation of previously completed service-hours. All previously completed and documented hours shall apply to the 100 service-hour graduation requirement. Student records will be reviewed and documentation of past service is filed with the student’s school records. During new student orientation, GGA

culture of service documents will be reviewed with both the student and parent/guardian. No exemptions for service-learning shall be granted, including for second semester seniors.

Students who withdraw, transfer, or graduate from GGA will have all of the hours of completion documented in the GGA student information system and included on report cards, transcripts, and in their student records. In addition, periodic audits will be conducted throughout the school year by the advisory teacher and the college and career counselor as a part of scheduled updates for student personal learning plans. Contact information for the Director of Culture is available to the new students and their parents/guardians to discuss any questions or concerns about service-learning hours.

If a (9th/10th grade) transfer student enrolls at Girls Global and has already completed all required service-hours for graduation, then the school must identify an internship opportunity for the student to enroll in on Wednesdays in lieu of LEADership Academy, or participate in LEADership Academy with their cohort.

Students will document their service-learning projects through the use of an e-portfolio. The portfolio will include a variety of forms of documentation such as ongoing reflections, videos,

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photos, planning processes, research notes, interviews, and observations. The portfolio can serve as part of a curriculum vitae for a student applying for an internship, job, apprenticeship, and college admissions.

## **Part VI: Connections**

Service-learning and Social-Emotional Learning are complementary to one another as they both promote positive youth development. Social-emotional learning provides students with the necessary competencies and service-learning provides authentic opportunities to practice those competencies. We believe that the combination of these elements of school culture service-learning create an environment where students are positive and eager to participate in school sponsored activities and programs to better the school and community at large.

Service-learning is a part of GGA's strategic plan and incorporates policies to ensure students meet the District of Columbia's graduation requirement (see OSSE 2203.3F). Girls Global Academy students understand that service is conducted under organizations that meet 501(c)(3) status.

- Students cannot receive monetary compensation for the service.
- Service-Learning during school hours must have prior approval.
- Students cannot be the recipient of service and earn hours at the same time.

### **Student Leadership**

Student leadership is integral to GGA service-learning projects. In the 9th and 10th grades, service-learning facilitators will provide gradual release by ensuring that students understand the mechanics of a quality service project during the first quarter through an exploration of the Global Goals. In the second and third quarters, students take ownership of different facets of the project. In the 11th and 12th grades, students will execute their own projects with supervisor approval and check-ins.

Dedicated Days of Service; GGA may host Day of Service events (opportunities for independent hours).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9/11 Day of Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MLK Day of Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Global Youth Service Day</p>
<p>Honoring this moment in our nation’s history by serving in your community helps transform 9/11 into a day of unity, empathy, and service as an enduring and positive tribute to those lost and injured on 9/11, and the many who heeded the call to service in response to the attacks, including first responders, recovery workers, volunteers and members of our military.</p>	<p>Legislation signed in 1983 marked the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a federal holiday. In 1994, Congress designated Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that leads service and volunteering, with leading this effort. Each year, on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is observed as a "day on, not a day off." The MLK Day of Service is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."</p>	<p>Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrates and mobilizes millions of young people who improve their communities through service. GYSD is the largest service event in the world and the only one dedicated to the contributions that children and youth make 365 days of the year. GYSD is celebrated each year in more than 135 countries, with young people working together and in conjunction with schools, youth organizations, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations, national service programs, government agencies, and adult mentors– to address the world’s most critical issues and change their communities.</p>

**Part VII: Service-Learning Documentation**

Students are required to document their community service hours by submitting a signed, complete [this activity verification](#) and [service learning form](#) to earn community service hours that count towards the graduation requirement.

Please contact Danika Robison, GGA’s service-learning coordinator, [drobison@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:drobison@girlsglobalacademy.org) or 202-600-4822 for additional information regarding earning community service hours.

# Section IV: Safety



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## **Section IV: Safety**

### **Part I: Attendance Policy and Procedures**

#### **Attendance Matters!**

Attendance Matters at Girls Global Academy. All students are expected to attend school and class all day, every day, every period that school is open and in session. Daily attendance is paramount to uphold our scholarship pillar and continuity of learning. Girls Global Academy's safety pillar compels us to know where students are and when they are in or out of school as a part of ensuring school and student safety.

#### **Attendance Procedures**

Attendance will be recorded for each student during each class period and/or learning environment. Our first period of learning begins at 8:15 am - 8:45 am. Girls Global Academy values safety and an alert will be made for students who have been marked absent, have not provided notice to the attendance coordinator, or have not arrived, by 9:00 am. The alert will be sent to the family member of record.

#### **Tardy**

Arriving at school on time is important. Students who have not arrived by 8:15 am are marked tardy. Students who are late to class will be marked as tardy for that class if they arrive in class five (5) or more minutes after the official start of the period.

Students enter their scheduled course regardless of what time they arrive. Teachers will make every effort to make late arriving students feel welcomed. If a student attends a portion of the class, they will be considered present and tardy.

#### **Excused Absences**

Absences are excused for the following reasons:

- Illness of the student (a doctor's note is required for a student absent five or more days)
- Medical or dental appointments for the student
- Death in the student's immediate family

- Exclusion by direction of the authorities of the District of Columbia, due to quarantine, contagious disease, infection, infestation, or other condition requiring separation from other students for medical or health reasons
- Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding, or court-ordered activity, as a party to the action or under subpoena
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Religious event celebration outside of a religious holiday (up to five cumulative days)
- Absences to allow students to visit their parent who is in the military, immediately before, during, or after deployment
- College visits for students in 9th – 12th grades (up to three cumulative days)
- Absences of expectant or parenting students for a time period specified by their doctor and any accommodations mandated by law
- Illness of a child for parenting students (a doctor’s note for the student’s child is required when the student is absent five or more days)
- Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- An emergency or other circumstance approved by the GGA Principal
- Participation in a GGA event such as field trips, or study abroad travel during the regular school day
- Participation in GGA-sponsored athletic events during regular school class hours

### **Notification Requirements**

If a student is going to be absent a note or email should be sent to the attendance email [attendance@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:attendance@girlsglobalacademy.org) including date(s) of absence, reason for absence, contact number to verify the absence. The note or email of absence must be submitted within 72 hours of the absence. *A call to the main office does not constitute verification of an excused absence.*

If a student is absent due to illness for five or more days, accompanying documentation is required to excuse the absence. Acceptable documentation includes:

- Explanation of the student’s absence submitted by a doctor or staff of a relevant agency, on official doctor’s office/agency letterhead and signed by a relevant official
- Medical or dental absences must be submitted on official doctor/dentist office stationery or form
- Student’s required presence at judicial proceeding must be documented by a document from the court stating the need for the student’s presence on all the relevant dates
- Funeral programs may be accepted as appropriate documentation to excuse absences due to a death in the student’s immediate family.

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## **Make up work policy\***

Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up required work. They will need to make up the work within the same number of days as the length of the excused absence.

1. Submit an absence note with accompanying documentation to [attendance@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:attendance@girlsglobalacademy.org) or the student can bring in the note with documentation to the main office attendance coordinator.
2. Students with unexcused absences may be required to make up work using out-of-school time such as after school.

\*Considerations for adjustment to make-up work policy will be made based on documentation provided and adherence to guidelines or provisions under FAPE, ADA, and FERPA guidelines within an appropriate timeline.

## **Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility**

Students must be present during the day to participate in athletic and extracurricular activities on that day. For sports games on weekends, students must be present the academic day prior. The athletic coordinator may establish additional attendance criteria for participation in sports activities.

## **Unexcused Absences**

Any absence, including an absence from any portion of the school day, without a valid excuse is marked as an unexcused absence.

## **Tuancy**

Students who have multiple unexcused absences within a school year will receive the following notifications and actions from Girls Global Academy:

- 1 Day of Unexcused Absence: Parent/Guardian will be contacted.
- 3 Days of Unexcused Absences: Parent/Guardian will receive an Unexcused Absence Letter.
- 5 Days of Unexcused Absences: Parent/Guardian will receive an Unexcused Absence Letter. In addition the student will be referred to school staff who support attendance interventions.
- 7 Days of Unexcused Absences: Parent/Guardian will receive a Metropolitan Police Department Warning Letter. Attendance Student Support Staff will continue to work with the family on interventions.

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- 10 Unexcused Absences: Parent/Guardian will be notified that the student is now considered *chronically truant* and that GGA is required to report this truancy to local agencies including Child Family Services (CFSA), OSSE, and DC PCSB. Attendance Student Support Staff will continue to work with the family on interventions.
- 15 Unexcused Absences: For students aged 14 – 17, GGA will refer the student to the Court Social Services Division. Attendance Student Support Staff will continue to work with the family on interventions.
- 20 Consecutive Unexcused Absences: The student is eligible for withdrawal. If a student registered in school is absent 20 days in a row without an excuse, they may be withdrawn due to nonattendance.
- More than 30 Unexcused Absences: Secondary students may receive a failing grade.

### **Distance Learning Attendance Policy**

In the event of school in a virtual setting, attendance requirements still apply, though how attendance is checked is altered. Students will be required to login and be present in a virtual classroom via a learning management system (LMS). To ensure attendance, students may be required to show their face on a webcam, unless excused by a specific students' action plan.

### **Additional Policy Requirements**

Girls Global Academy's Attendance Policy is aligned, compliant, and accountable to all local regulatory agencies' policies which are subject to change.

### **Immunization Attendance Policy**

District law and regulations require all schools in the District of Columbia to verify student compliance with the immunization requirements as part of enrollment and attendance. For questions contact [nurse@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:nurse@girlsglobalacademy.org) If a student is not compliant, the school must immediately notify the parent, guardian, or adult student in writing of the missing immunization(s). If the student does not come into compliance within a 20-school day period, the school must remove the student from attendance until the immunization certification is secured by the school. Students are expected to participate in virtual learning activities and complete assignments. This includes the COVID-19 vaccination with a booster for students 12 years or older.

## **DC PCSB Reporting Policy**

The DC Public Charter School Board requires GGA to report and take action on students' absences and chronic truancy.

## **OSSE Requirements for Reporting**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education requires GGA to report attendance and attendance interventions of students. They also regulate how student's daily attendance rates are calculated based on percentage of period level attendance. DC law requires educational institutions to notify OSSE, within two business days, of the 10th unexcused absence of any minor student. OSSE is then required to provide the student's parent with a truancy prevention resource guide that covers certain topics, if the parent has not already received the truancy prevention resources before the 10th unexcused absence.

## **Part II: Uniform and Dress Code Policy**

The scholar Dress Code policy at Girls Global Academy is that ALL trailblazers are expected to wear the required Dress Code (*pants, shorts or skirts and Girls Global Academy shirt* every day, unless otherwise indicated. Students must wear a top that has a GGA Logo at all times.

### **Students have a choice of any of these option(s) that have our GGA logo:**

- GGA Polo Shirt - Dark Purple or Black
- GGA T-Shirt - Dark Purple and Green Athletic Shirt
- GGA White Short or Long Sleeve Dress Shirt
- GGA Sweatshirt
- GGA Student Designed Hoodie
- GGA Zip Up Fleece Sweater

Our goal is to provide simple guidelines to ensure students are ready and prepared for school and represent GGA in the community. We reserve the right to adjust this dress code to ensure our attention is focused on what matters - your student's education. We will also expect students to dress professionally when they represent GGA in the community.

### **Bottoms**

All types and colors of bottoms are allowed including pants, skirts, and shorts, with some exceptions. To maintain a professional learning environment, the following items are prohibited:

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- No sleepwear of any kind
- No leggings of any kind
- Biker shorts may only be worn underneath shorts/skirts/pants. Biker shorts worn without a covering are not permitted

### **Expectations**

- Jeans are acceptable, no extreme cutouts/tears
- Shorts and skirts must be longer than mid-thigh
- Uniform shirts are not to be torn or styled in a way that shows the midriff

### **Shoes**

You choose! All shoes are allowed, with the exception of some shoes for safety:

- No open toe or open heel shoes
- No flip-flops or slides
- No slippers or house shoes
- Crocs acceptable!

### **Head Coverings**

- Decorative head coverings, hijabs, wraps, and bandanas *are allowed*
- Hats, bonnets, do-rags, and other sleepwear *are prohibited*

### **PE and Athletics Uniform**

- GGA Athletic Shorts (students can wear black leggings under shorts during PE)
- GGA Athletics T-Shirt (GGA Provides all students with a physical education uniform)

### **Uniform and Dress Code FAQs**

#### **Where can I get uniforms?**

GGA has contracted with a uniform vendor Risse Brothers. All uniforms are available for purchase online <https://www.rissebrothers.com/> and can be shipped to your home. In addition, uniforms can be purchased in person at their facility: 9700 Martin Luther King Jr Highway Suite B, Lanham, MD 20706. (301) 220-1985

#### **Why does GGA not have a more restrictive uniform and dress code?**

GGA's uniform and dress code aims to follow best practices, is informed by the research, and is intended to allow our school community to focus on their education. In 2018 the National Women's Law Center commissioned a report of Washington D.C. 's dress code titled: [Dress Coded: Black girls, bodies, and](#)

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[bias in Washington D.C. Schools](#). This report tells us that most schools have overly strict dress code rules, focus on what's wrong with girls' bodies, and are based on race and sex based stereotypes. Therefore GGA strives to be different when it comes to uniform and dress code that focus more on education, and allows girls to make choices for themselves.

### **How did GGA decide on this uniform and dress code policy?**

GGA's co-founders believe that it is important to engage parents and students about what the uniform should look like at GGA. We had conversations with families and students early in the process, solicited feedback from all school community members through a survey, and finally proposed a version of this policy for enrolled parents, families, and students. Through this feedback process the policy was refined and improved and will continue to be refined as GGA grows and learns more from its families and students.

### **Can I as a parent (or family) limit what my student wears?**

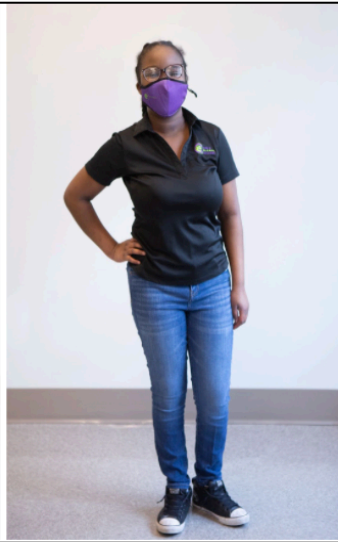
Families are encouraged to have conversations and make family based decisions on what you think is appropriate for school. Some families prefer to limit the color and types of pants, while others prioritize choice. GGA encourages families and students to talk about how clothing can impact your identity and the perception others have of you.

### **How will the dress code be enforced?**

Students will be checked for the dress code as they enter the building and in their advisory first period. See *Discipline Policy* for additional information.

### **What if I forget my uniform?**

All it takes to be in uniform is a uniform top. GGA recommends you keep an extra uniform top in your locker just in case. But if you need a shirt we will have extra shirts available to borrow. If you are wearing an item that is out of dress code, you may be required to call a parent/family member to bring the needed item to school.



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## **Part III: Technology Policy**

Girls Global Academy provides a 1-to-1 technology program to foster a rich learning environment, access to ideas and content from our global world, and to allow for development of skills with technology, communication, and research.

Students and staff are required to use technology responsibly, including chromebooks and other devices. This policy provides guidelines on appropriate and safe use, consequences for violations of this policy, and an agreement that must be signed to have access to the equipment. Students will be provided training on using technology and the internet safely.

Technology provided may be used outside of school. Students, families and staff acknowledge this equipment is on loan and is property of Girls Global Academy and must be returned when asked. School equipment and internet access should

only be used for educational purposes. Girls Global Academy reserves the right to limit or restrict, without notice, any individual's use of these systems, and to inspect, copy, remove or delete any content that represents unauthorized use of this technology.

### **Access: Devices**

Chromebooks/ laptops will be issued to each student/ staff with a charger. This device is the property of Girls Global Academy but is the responsibility of the student/staff to protect from breakage or loss. Students may be provided an additional device for access to the internet at home. This device is the property of Girls Global Academy but is the responsibility of the student to protect from breakage or loss.

### **Access: Internet**

Students/staff will be granted access to the internet network of Girls Global Academy to participate in school lessons and activities on their school owned devices. Personal devices will not be permitted to access the schools internet network.

### **Access: Email**

Students/Staff will be provided a school based email address for exclusive use for school related purposes.

## **Acceptable Use**

Technology is for the sole use of accessing academic content as assigned and determined by teachers and staff at Girls Global Academy. Students/staff are expected to follow the terms and conditions outlined below at all times.

## **Maintenance of Devices**

Girls Global Academy is responsible for general maintenance and tech support on all school-owned equipment, but students/ families are expected to follow standards of care with issued equipment. Students/ Families are also expected to notify school staff if they discover damage to tech equipment.

## **Care for Devices**

- Only use a clean, soft cloth to clean the screen, no cleansers of any type
- Make sure hands are clean before using
- Cords and cables must be inserted carefully to prevent damage
- Devices must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not the property of GGA
- The devices have sufficient padding to protect from normal treatment, but that does not mean it is indestructible
- Do not bump the device against lockers, walls, floors, etc. as it will eventually break the screen
- Keep away from food and drink
- Document any software/hardware issues to your teacher as soon as possible
- Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes

## **Internet Safety**

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Girls Global Academy filters internet content accessed using the school network. This filtering extends to home use on Chromebooks via GoGuardian monitoring. All activity is monitored. Parental/Family supervision is strongly advised while the school equipment is being used at home.

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Any suspected security problem on the Internet shall be reported immediately to the Director of Operations. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems shall be denied access to the Internet.

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## **Activities Strictly Prohibited**

Students/Staff are prohibited from using school technology for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose. This includes unlawful internet use. Whether on school property or at home, users must adhere to this policy and will be accountable for content accessed and downloaded off campus and brought into the school network. Inappropriate, unauthorized, and illegal use of the internet or school network services and applications may result in the cancellation of privileges and appropriate disciplinary action taken.

### **The activities listed below are not permitted:**

- Damaging or modifying computers, computer systems, or computer networks, including the use of external hard drives or other electronic storage devices
- Sending, viewing or displaying offensive messages or pictures (including, but not limited to, pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material, sexual comments, and jokes or images that would violate school policies)
- Technology devices may NOT be used for instant messaging, iMessage, FaceTime, or visiting chat rooms or non-school social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. unless access has been specifically approved by GGA.
- Using obscene or offensive language, threatening, bullying, harassing, insulting or attacking others or otherwise intended to demean recipients, including sending spamming emails
- Employing the network for commercial purposes, financial gain, or fraud
- Violating copyright laws or trying to pass off material copied from the Internet as your own (see Academic Honesty Policy)
- Using others' passwords or disclosing your password to an unauthorized person
- Using provided internet access or network to share personal information about yourself or someone else, such as name, phone number, address or photo, without permission from a staff member and parent/guardian
- Misrepresentation of Girls Global Academy
- Uploading, downloading, or copying software without the authorization of a staff member
- Illegal installation or transmission of copyrighted materials
- Bypassing the GGA web filter through a web proxy
- Vandalizing (any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, software or data, including, but not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses or computer programs that can infiltrate computer systems and/or damage software components) school equipment
- Exchanging devices with another student

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- Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver or background photo  
Violations

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use shall result in a cancellation of those privileges and may result in disciplinary or legal action by the administration, faculty, or staff.

### **Breakage**

*Students/ Families may be held financially responsible for intentional damage to equipment, or damage that results from neglect of equipment, or loss.* Responsibility includes the cost of replacement or repair for damaged or missing equipment. *Approximate Replacement Costs that may be billed:*

Loss of Chromebook: \$350 Loss of Internet Device: \$250 Damaged Screen: \$150 Damaged Keyboard: \$100 Lost Charger: \$30

### **Girls Global Academy Technology Agreement**

The use of the GGA technology resources is a privilege, not a right. The privilege of using the technology resources provided by GGA is not transferable or extendible by students to people or groups outside the district and terminates when a student is no longer enrolled at the issuing school. This policy is provided to make all users aware of the responsibilities associated with efficient, ethical, and lawful use of technology resources. If a student/staff violates this policy, privileges may be terminated, access to the school's technology resources may be denied, and the appropriate disciplinary action shall be applied. The GGA Discipline Policy shall be applied to student infractions.

By using school technology, I agree to:

- Be responsible in my use of devices
- Take responsibility to take good care of my device(s)
- Let GGA staff know if my device does not work
- Be safe in how I access the internet
- Only use the internet for school purposes
- Be polite and use appropriate language
- Not disclose my or other students' personal information
- Understand that the equipment that I am borrowing is the property of GGA. In the event that the equipment is lost or damaged, I understand that I may be responsible for the cost of replacement or repair.

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Students and families are responsible for reading the Girls Global Academy technology policy and signing the technology agreement, in which students are issued their technology at the beginning of each school year.

### **Internet Safety Tips for Families**

Learn the basics of internet safety!

Children use a variety of online services, and each of these services can have different safety concerns. However, there are some basic tips which you can employ no matter how your children use the Internet:

- Keep the computer in a high-traffic area of your home.
- Establish limits for which online sites children may visit and for how long.
- Remember that Internet technology can be mobile, so make sure to monitor cell phones, gaming devices, and laptops.
- Surf the Internet with your children and let them show you what they like to do online.
- Know who is connecting with your children online and set rules for social networking, instant messaging, e-mailing, online gaming, and using webcams.
- Continually dialogue with your children about online safety.

Start a discussion with your child:

- What are your favorite things to do online?
- What is personal information? Why should you keep it private?
- What could you do to be safer online?
- What would you do if anyone online asked to meet you face-to-face?
- Besides me, who do you feel that you can talk to if you are in a scary or uncomfortable situation?
- If you're curious to learn about things, what do you do? Who do you ask about that information?

Check out these resources from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

<http://www.netismartz.org/TipSheets>

<http://www.netismartz.org/InternetSafety>

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## Part IV: Arrival and Dismissal

### Morning Routines

School Hours are from 8:15 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open for all students at 7:45 AM; students will enter in the main entryway on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and swipe in. Students will walk downstairs to the cafeteria, in uniform (removing headphones, hats, etc.), turning in all electronic devices. Upon entry, all students and visitors are subject to search by metal detector wand if necessary.

After entry, students will have the option to eat breakfast inside the cafeteria, visit their lockers, and prepare for the school day. Students must be in Advisory before 8:15 AM to be marked present for the school day.

### Arrival

- Students *arrive* between 7:45 am and 8:15 am
- Students will not be allowed to enter the building prior to 7:45 am
- Trailblazers begin the process of getting their phones/technology collected and kept in a safe place by a GGA staff.
- Students arriving after 8:15 am will be considered tardy
- All students arriving after 8:15 am must report to the Main Office for a tardy pass to class and will not be allowed in class without a pass.

### Dismissal

- Students *leave* between 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm
- **Early Dismissal/Pick-Ups:** The school must be notified before 2:45pm of an early dismissal for all students.
  - The school will contact the family member on the authorized contacts for any early dismissal
  - Written communication is sent to the school justifying the reason for the early dismissal and the transportation that will be used for the early dismissal (car, bus, metro, walk, etc.)
  - All students that sign themselves out from the school must have documentation to justify an early dismissal and permission from the authorized contact
  - Students are not permitted to leave the school premises without written and verbal confirmation from the approved family/guardian in the school contact records
- Students will NOT be allowed to leave the premises with anyone who is not authorized to pick them up. Parents/guardians send an email and call the main office to add someone

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new to their student's authorized pick-up list. Any adult who picks up a student will need to show photo identification to sign the student out before leaving the building.

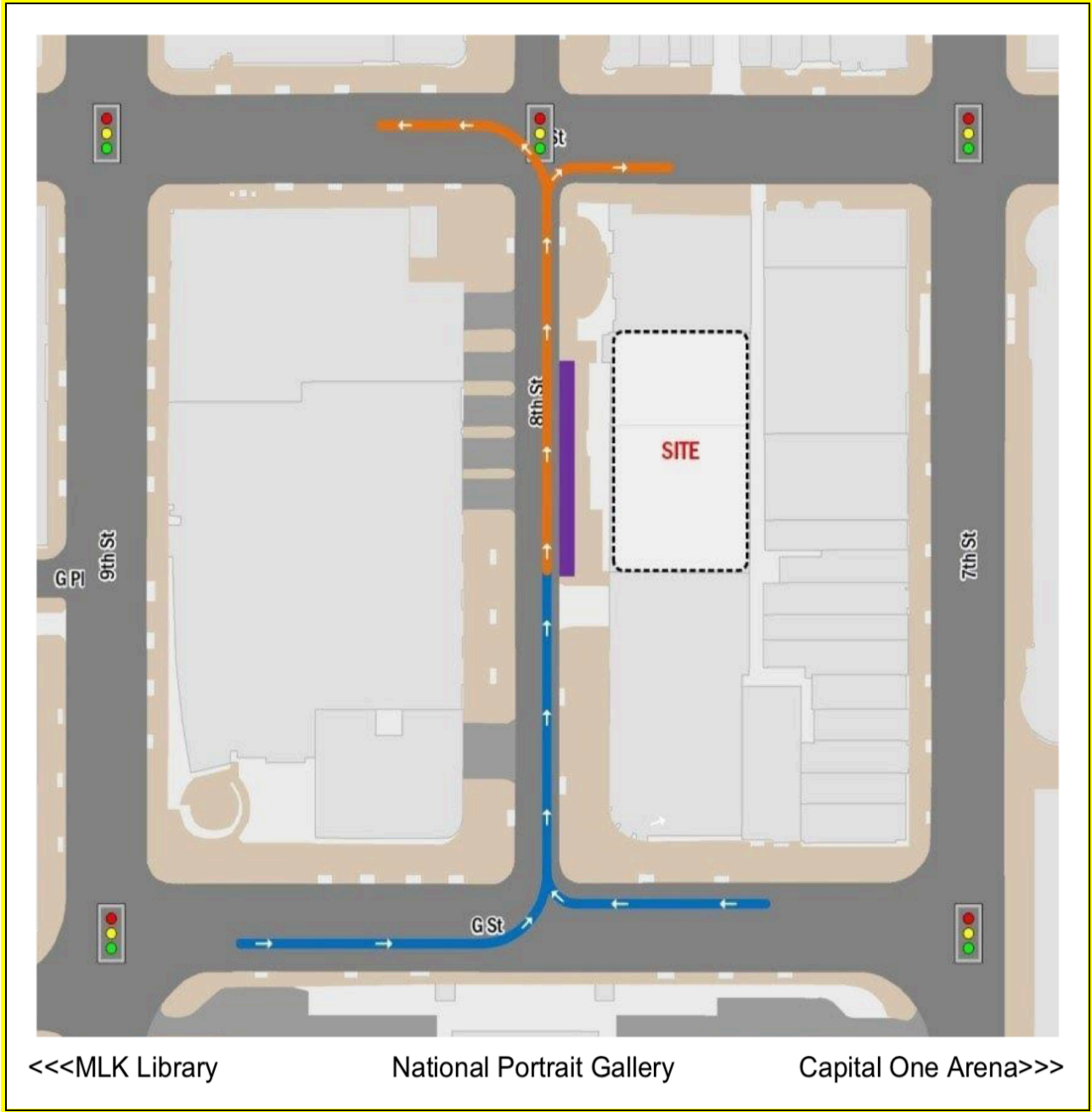
- If students are staying for tutoring or clubs, they must be in the cafeteria by 3:45 pm. No horseplay, yelling, or running while exiting the building. GGA staff will be in the hallways to assist in the dismissal process.
- Students who have sports practice or club meetings must go directly to their designated location and be in place by 3:45 pm.
- Once students leave the building, they *are not permitted* to return to campus.

### **Drop off and pick up Routines**

The school will continue to contact the family members listed on the school contact sheets to approve any early dismissal. In the absence of any verbal permission provided from a contact on file, students wishing to sign themselves out from school will be asked to present documentation in the form of a medical appointment card or similar evidence to justify an early dismissal. Absent such evidence or verbal permission from a person on file, the student will not be permitted to leave school early and doing so may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the rules set forth in this Handbook.

- The school will contact the family listed in the approved contacts for any early dismissal
- Written communication is sent to the school justifying the reason for the early dismissal and the transportation that will be used for the early dismissal (car, bus, metro, walk, etc.)
- All students that sign themselves out from the school must have documentation to justify an early dismissal
- Students are not permitted to leave the school premises without written and verbal confirmation from the approved family/guardian in the school contact records

Please note - to ensure student safety and prevent congestion on 8th street in front of the building - we ask families to start from G Street (either direction), where the National Portrait Gallery is, and drive north on 8th Street toward H Street. This will allow families to utilize the stop light at the intersection of H and 8 and exit the area in a safe manner.



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## **Part V: Food Policy**

All students have access to breakfast and lunch every day.

Food Services are provided by an external vendor 'Genuine Foods', which is used by many local charter schools.

- Breakfast is served between 7:45 am and 8:15 am. Students may be provided extended breakfast in line with local regulations.
- Lunch is served between 11:15 am and 12:00 noon
- Students choosing to bring their own packed lunch may do so. GGA is a closed campus and therefore does not allow students to leave the building for lunch. In addition, outside food is not permitted into the building from fast food restaurants or other local restaurants, even if parents or families drop it off.

GGA intends to participate in the Community Eligibility Program as a part of the National School Lunch Program to be able to provide free lunch to all families, but this application is pending final approval. Families may be asked to complete and submit a Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) Application annually so that the school remains in compliance with Federal and local requirements.

### **Food Allergies**

We are a peanut and treenut free zone. Please do not bring these items to the school. They are not permitted to be consumed in the building.

GGA will make every effort to provide accommodations to students requiring alternative nutrition in line with the NSLP. Families are asked to inform GGA as a part of the enrollment process. If accommodation needs change, please notify the main office immediately. GGA reserves the right to make additional restrictions to allow food based on student safety requirements.

## **Part VI: Health Policy**

### **Health Forms and Records**

All students must provide the following forms or their enrollment may be revoked:

- [Universal Health Certificate](#)
- [Oral Health Certificate](#)

If you need additional Information on immunizations please visit:

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- [DC Health Immunization Requirements](#)
- [HPV Opt-Out Forms](#)

*Forms are available in other languages at [DC Health](#).*

Information on finding a doctor, getting assistance for school related health needs, other FAQs, visit [DC Health's School Services Program](#).

## **Medications**

All students must have Doctor's orders and all necessary forms on file before medications may be administered. An adult must bring the medication to the Health Office in the original prescription container. Due to safety concerns, a student may not carry any medication except where explicitly stated in the health orders, such as an inhaler.

The school nurse maintains medical records on each student. We must have immunization records and emergency contact information for each student. Guardians should inform us immediately of any special health problems or concerns. If a student becomes ill during the day, he will be given immediate attention. If she cannot return to class, her guardian will be called to come pick her up immediately.

## **Over the Counter Medications**

GGA employees cannot provide over the counter medications to students without a medical professional's written instructions.

## **Sports**

Students interested in sports team participation must have a current physical and proper paperwork to "self-administer" any needed medications during the sporting season.

## **Stay Home Policy**

GGA asks that parents and guardians keep a student home who exhibits one or more of the following symptoms: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, severe coughing, and a rash or hives of unknown origin. A student may not return to school until they are free from vomiting, diarrhea, or fever for 24 hours, or a doctor's note has been provided if requested. We require that an antibiotic that has been prescribed for any contagious illness be in the student's system for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. Health Office staff will provide communication to parents of injuries and illnesses that occur during the day by phone call or a note home. We ask that parents and guardians keep the school updated with working phone numbers so they may be reached, especially in case of an emergency.

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## **Emergency Preparedness**

GGA has staff that are trained in CPR. We also maintain AED machines and staff training in their use during emergencies. 911 will be called for all medical emergencies.

## **Safety Procedures**

Full emergency procedures and protocols are shared only upon request from the Director of Operations in the main office to ensure the safety of our procedures themselves. Here, we have provided an outline of the procedures in place.

## **School Security**

- Where possible, GGA doors are always locked from the exterior of the building and locked from the inside to ensure the space remains secure for our students, while maintaining allowable emergency egress.
- GGA contracted with outside security personnel to provide additional supervision during entry and exit times.
- GGA reserves the right to conduct search and seizure on an as-needed basis. We do not have daily metal detector screenings, but will periodically conduct bag and locker searches as needed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students.

### **Guest Policy**

- GGA allows guests to visit the building, including parents and families, provided they are not interrupting instructional time. Parents and guardians may shadow their student(s) with advanced notice.
- All guests will be required to sign in--a process that includes scanning a valid photo ID which provides a quick background check service to ensure the safety of our school community. Without a valid school ID, you will not be permitted to enter the building.
- If a parent or guardian would like to meet with a teacher, principal, SPED Coordinator, or other school staff - they must make an appointment through the main office or with the person they are visiting. Those without an appointment may not be able to meet with the person they wish to see at that time.
- Those guests or volunteers who are in the building for more than 10 hours per week will be required to be fingerprinted.

## **Emergency Drills**

GGA conducts regular emergency drills to ensure preparedness of students and staff during actual emergencies. This includes:

- Fire Drills - all people are required to evacuate the building and go to the corner of 8th and H street, if the drill is extended beyond a few minutes, or there is inclement weather, we will go to the courtyard of the Portrait Gallery. Students are not permitted to leave the supervision of the assigned teacher without being signed out by an authorized contact.
- Lockdown drills - all personnel are required to follow procedures and stay in place and out of sight until released by school or police authorities.

## **Part VII: Search & Seizure Policy**

Girls Global Academy may use metal detectors or other detection devices to ensure school safety. Girls Global school personnel may search anything on school property such as lockers, and personal belongings. ***Unauthorized items and/or items that threaten the safety of others will be seized and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.*** Personal property of a random group of trailblazers can be searched with reasonable suspicion or if the group of trailblazer searched is chosen at random. Searches of a trailblazer themselves may also be done with reasonable suspicion. The search must be done by a staff member who is the same sex as the trailblazer and there must always be a second staff member present as a witness. Trailblazers and parents are responsible for checking clothing, book bags, purses and all trailblazer personal possessions for illegal and unauthorized items before entering the school safety zone.

## **Part VIII: Bullying Prevention Policy**

Girls Global Academy expects students to treat one another in accordance with the values of the school and contribute to a positive and joyful culture. Acts of bullying interrupt and disrupt the learning experience for our school community. GGA aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and equitable environment and all members are encouraged to report incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The bullying policy is intended to describe how the school will identify, prevent, and respond to bullying, to work with students and families to remedy situations, and to connect students with services as needed.

## **Bullying Defined**

Bullying means any severe, pervasive, or persistent act or conduct whether physical, electronic, or verbal that:

1. May be based on a youth's actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, intellectual ability, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, place or residence or business, or any other distinguishing characteristic, or on a youth's association with a person, or group with any person, with one or more of the actual or perceived foregoing characteristics; and
2. Can reasonably be predicted to:
  - Place the youth in reasonable fear of physical harm to their person or property;
  - Cause a substantial detrimental effect on the youth's physical or mental health;
  - Substantially interfere with the youth's academic performance or attendance; or
  - Substantially interfere with the youth's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by an agency, educational institution, or grantee.

Cyberbullying is defined as any bullying done through electronic means which meets the definition of bullying above, including, but not limited to, social media, electronic mail (email), texting or tweeting.

Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

## **Bullying is prohibited**

Bullying is prohibited on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at school sponsored or school related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds, on or off a school bus or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school, at any transit stop at which youth wait to be transported to the school or an event sponsored by the school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school.

Bullying is also prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school related through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school, if the act or acts in question create a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringe on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a youth, volunteer or staff member who reports bullying, provides information about an act of bullying, or witnesses an act of bullying is also prohibited.

Administrators will make expectations clear to students and staff that bullying will not be tolerated and will be the grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and dismissal for students. Retaliation against anyone who reports bullying, provides information about an act of bullying, or witnesses an act of bullying is also prohibited.

### **Proactive approaches for bullying prevention**

- Create and promote a school wide culture of positive behavioral intervention and supports
- School-wide bullying prevention campaigns, code of conduct assemblies, positive behavior support program
- Investigate all reports of bullying
- Resources and support for all individuals involved in bullying

### **Investigating Instances of bullying**

Girls Global Academy will investigate and address all incidents of bullying that school personnel know or reasonably should have known are occurring. Incidents of bullying will be promptly investigated by [title of individual responsible for investigations] or a designee. If the investigation reveals that bullying occurred, Girls Global Academy will take prompt and effective steps to end the bullying, eliminate its effects and prevent it from recurring.

Prior to the investigation of an incident, the Principal will take steps to ensure the safety of the alleged victim referenced in a reported bullying incident. Once an investigation is concluded, further steps will be taken as needed to assure the continued safety of the victim from additional incidents of bullying or retaliation.

## **Reporting Instances of Bullying**

All staff members are required to report any bullying they witness or are made aware of. Staff members should immediately record all such incidents in accordance with school procedures for reporting behavior incidents and notify the:

, Dean of Students  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
[@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:@girlsglobalacademy.org)  
202-600-4822  
733 8th St NW Washington, DC 20001  
[Submit Form](#)

Any student who believes that they have been the target of bullying or who is aware of bullying is strongly encouraged to promptly report the matter orally or in writing to the:

, Dean of Students  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
[@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:@girlsglobalacademy.org)  
202-600-4822  
733 8th St NW Washington, DC 20001

Incidents of bullying can be reported to another administrator, or to any other faculty or staff member or member of Girls Global Academy with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Also, any student who is subject to retaliation in violation of this policy or who knows of another student who has been subject to retaliation is urged to report it as soon as possible.

A parent who witnesses or becomes aware of bullying /retaliation is strongly urged to promptly notify the:

, Dean of Students  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
[@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:@girlsglobalacademy.org)  
202-600-4822  
733 8th St NW Washington, DC 20001

## **Anonymous Reporting**

Reports made by students, parents, and community members may be made anonymously, although no formal response will be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report. However, such a report may trigger an investigation.

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## **Bystander Policy**

Students are expected to report rumors of bullying, planned bullying, as well as bullying actually observed. Students who watch and laugh, but do not report what they have witnessed, are considered bystanders and will be treated as participants.

## **Investigation Procedures**

The Dean of Students will be responsible for investigating reports of bullying and can be contacted at 202-60-4822 or [@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:@girlsglobalacademy.org). If an incident of bullying or retaliation is reported, the Dean of Students will respond quickly and appropriately to investigate and intervene. Complaints or reports of bullying/retaliation will be investigated in an adequate, reliable and impartial manner. Each investigation will include, as necessary, interviewing witnesses, obtaining documents and allowing the complainant and accused to present evidence.

Investigations will be initiated within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint. During that time, the Principal will also take the following steps:

- Create a written record of the complaint, which will also be included in the final determination letter;
- Take appropriate action to protect, to the extent possible, the safety of the alleged target, which may include contacting relevant parties, intercepting the target or alleged perpetrator if information is received regarding a pending act of bullying or retaliation, and ascertaining the presence of teachers or other employees at a location that has been identified as the site of a pending act of bullying or retaliation;
- Inform the target, alleged perpetrator, and if applicable, witnesses, of the alleged incident and of the initiation of the investigation;
- Make a good-faith attempt to inform the parents or guardians of the target about the alleged incident and any planned investigation, if the target is less than eighteen (18) years of age and if the contact information for the parents or guardians is available or can be requested. If the [title of individual responsible for investigations] determines that informing the parents or guardians may cause harm to, or endanger the health or well-being of the target, the [title of individual responsible for investigations] shall document facts giving rise to such determination, and document the decision not to inform in writing;
- Make a good-faith attempt to inform the parents or guardians of the alleged perpetrator about the alleged incident and any planned investigation, if the alleged perpetrator is less than eighteen (18) years of age. If the [title of individual responsible for investigations] determines that informing the parents or guardians may cause harm to, or endanger the

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health or well-being of, alleged perpetrator, as the case may be, the [title of individual responsible for investigations] shall document facts giving rise to such determination, and document the decision not to inform in writing; and

- Take into account whether the individuals involved have disabilities and whether there are resulting protections or considerations that must be included in the investigation.

Within thirty (30) days of receiving a report of bullying, the Principal will conduct the investigation and respond to the parents of the students involved in writing, summarizing the course and outcome of the investigation and identifying an appropriate resolution. The written determination will also include the following:

- A description of the incident(s) including the names of individuals involved and behaviors alleged, location of occurrence(s) and whether or not bullying occurred;
- Whether the incident was based on a trait that is covered in the Human Rights Act (as listed in the definition of bullying); and
- The actions that were taken as a result of the findings.

If it is determined that bullying has occurred, appropriate corrective and remedial action will be taken. Girls Global Academy will make determinations as to whether a reported incident constitutes bullying based on all of the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Girls Global Academy will use a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not that bullying occurred) when resolving complaints.

Steps will be taken as necessary to protect suspected victims of bullying during the course of the investigation process. Girls Global Academy will make every effort to protect confidentiality during the course of the investigation. However, if the Dean of Students learns during the course of the investigation that the reported incident involves criminal activity, the Dean of Students shall communicate such information to the appropriate enforcement agency. If the reported incident or statements during the investigation indicate credible and imminent threat of harm or criminal activity, the Dean of Students and Principal shall immediately report such information to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and to the Principal. The individual responsible for conducting the investigation will be responsible for making determinations about confidentiality.

Girls Global Academy will take steps to provide the complainant and accused with periodic updates on the status of the investigation. Once a determination has been made, Girls Global Academy will notify the complainant and accused about the outcome of the investigation, the result of any school disciplinary proceeding that results and the appeal process. [title of individual responsible for investigations] will determine if parents or guardians should be informed prior to or after the investigation of the incident.

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Girls Global Academy may notify appropriate law enforcement agencies if school staff determine that the behavior cannot be safely and appropriately handled through school-based disciplinary action. Law enforcement agencies will be notified if mandatory reporting requirements are triggered.

### **Responses to bullying**

- Verbal redirects
- Student Conference with Dean of Students
- Principal and student conference
- Parent / guardian contact
- Parent conference
- Restoration
- Mediation
- Behavior Plan
- Referral for services
- Out of school suspension
- Restorative support upon re-entry

### **Sanctions and Remedies for Bullying**

Girls Global Academy takes a tiered approach to responding to inappropriate behavior. The same approach will be taken when responding to bullying. Girls Global Academy's levels of discipline are designed to (a) appropriately correct the bullying behavior; (b) prevent another occurrence of bullying or retaliation; (c) protect the target of bullying; and are flexible and can be varied in method and severity based on: (i) nature of the incident; (ii) developmental age of the person committing the act at issue, and; (iii) any history of problem behavior from the person committing the act at issue. The Dean of Students will confer with the Principal to determine what disciplinary consequences are appropriate.

### **Appeals**

Any party who is not satisfied with the outcome of the initial investigation and response from Girls Global Academy may appeal in writing to the Principal. Appeals must be made within 30 days of the conclusion of the initial investigation. The secondary investigation shall be completed within 30 days of receipt of an appeal, unless: (1) circumstances require additional time to complete a thorough investigation; (2) the higher-level authority sets forth those circumstances in writing; (3) the additional time is not to exceed 15 days. After completing the secondary investigation, the Principal shall notify the parties in writing of the results of the



investigation and of the party's ability to seek additional redress under the DC Human Rights Act.

## **Part IX: Sexual Harassment Policy**

### **Sexual Harassment Prohibited**

Sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence are strictly prohibited on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at school sponsored or school related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds, on or off school bus or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school.

Sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence are also prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school, if the act or acts in question create a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringe on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a youth, volunteer or staff member who reports sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence, provides information about any such acts, witnesses any such acts, or who testifies, assists, participates or refuses to participate in an investigation, proceeding or hearing is also prohibited.

Administrators will make expectations clear to students and staff that sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence will not be tolerated and will be the grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension and dismissal for students.

### **Title IX Coordinator**

The individual designated to coordinate the school's response to reports or complaints of sexual harassment, sexual assault and dating violence and for overseeing the school's compliance with Title IX as it relates to students is:

, School Social Workers  
202-600-4822

## Definitions

*Complainant:* means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Formal complaint:* means a document filed by a complainant, complainant's parent/guardian or by the Title IX coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the recipient investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

*Respondent:* means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Sexual harassment:* is defined differently in local and Federal law. will consider both definitions in determining whether sexual harassment occurred.

The District of Columbia School Safety Omnibus Amendment Act ("School Safety Act") defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome or uninvited sexual advances, sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, stalking, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that can be reasonable predicted to:

- A. Place the victim in reasonable fear of physical harm to his or her person;
- B. Cause a substantial detrimental effect to the victim's physical or mental health;
- C. Substantially interfere with the victim's academic performance or attendance at school; or
- D. Substantially interfere with the victim's ability to participate in, or benefit from, the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") defines sexual harassment as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or

3. “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v)<sup>1</sup>, “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)<sup>2</sup>, “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)<sup>3</sup>, or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)<sup>4</sup>.

*Sexual assault* is defined differently in local and Federal law. Girls Global Academy will consider both definitions in determining whether sexual assault occurred.

*Title IX defines sexual assault* as an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

*District of Columbia law defines sexual assault* as any of the following offenses:

- A. First degree sexual abuse (DC Code 22-3002) - engaging in or causing another person to engage in or submit to a sexual act<sup>5</sup> in the following manner:
  - a. By using force<sup>6</sup> against that other person;
  - b. By threatening or placing that other person in reasonable fear that any person will be subjected to death, bodily injury<sup>7</sup>, or kidnapping;

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<sup>1</sup> An offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

<sup>2</sup> Violence committed by a person—

(A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and  
(B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship.

(ii) The type of relationship.

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

<sup>3</sup> Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

<sup>4</sup> Means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

(A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or

(B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

<sup>5</sup> “Sexual act” means:

(A) The penetration, however slight, of the anus or vulva of another by a penis;

(B) Contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vulva, or the mouth and the anus; or

(C) The penetration, however slight, of the anus or vulva by a hand or finger or by any object, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

(D) The emission of semen is not required for the purposes of subparagraphs (A)-(C) of this paragraph.

<sup>6</sup> “Force” means the use or threatened use of a weapon; the use of such physical strength or violence as is sufficient to overcome, restrain, or injure a person; or the use of a threat of harm sufficient to coerce or compel submission by the victim.

<sup>7</sup> “Bodily injury” means injury involving loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty, or physical disfigurement, disease, sickness, or injury involving significant pain.

- c. After rendering that other person unconscious; or
  - d. After administering to that other person by force or threat of force, or without the knowledge or permission of that other person, a drug, intoxicant, or other similar substance that substantially impairs the ability of that other person to appraise or control his or her conduct.
- B. Second degree sexual abuse (DC Code 22-3003) - engaging in or causing another person to engage in or submit to a sexual act in the following manner:
- a. By threatening or placing that other person in reasonable fear (other than by threatening or placing that other person in reasonable fear that any person will be subjected to death, bodily injury, or kidnapping); or
  - b. Where the person knows or has reason to know that the other person is:
    - i. Incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct;
    - ii. Incapable of declining participation in that sexual act; or
    - iii. Incapable of communicating unwillingness to engage in that sexual act.
- C. Third degree sexual abuse (DC Code 22-3004) – engaging in or causing sexual contact<sup>8</sup> with or by another person in the following manner:
- a. By using force against that other person;
  - b. By threatening or placing that other person in reasonable fear that any person will be subjected to death, bodily injury, or kidnapping;
  - c. After rendering that person unconscious; or
  - d. After administering to that person by force or threat of force, or without the knowledge or permission of that other person, a drug, intoxicant, or similar substance that substantially impairs the ability of that other person to appraise or control his or her conduct.
- D. Fourth degree sexual abuse (DC Code 22-3005) - engaging in or causing sexual contact with or by another person in the following manner:
- a. By threatening or placing that other person in reasonable fear (other than by threatening or placing that other person in reasonable fear that any person will be subjected to death, bodily injury, or kidnapping); or
  - b. Where the person knows or has reason to know that the other person is:
    - i. Incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct;
    - ii. Incapable of declining participation in that sexual contact; or
    - iii. Incapable of communicating unwillingness to engage in that sexual contact.

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<sup>8</sup> "Sexual contact" means the touching with any clothed or unclothed body part or any object, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

- E. Misdemeanor sexual abuse (DC Code 22-3006) - engaging in a sexual act or sexual contact with another person and who should have knowledge or reason to know that the act was committed without that other person's permission
- F. Attempts to commit sexual offenses (DC Code 22-3018) - attempting to commit any of the above offenses.

*Dating violence* is defined differently in local and Federal law. Girls Global Academy will consider both definitions in determining whether dating violence occurred.

*District of Columbia law defines dating violence* as abusive or coercive behavior where a dating partner uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, emotional, economic, technological, or sexual abuse to exert power or control over a current or former dating partner<sup>9</sup>.

*Title IX defines dating violence* as violence committed by a person—

(A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship.

(ii) The type of relationship.

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

*Retaliation* is intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX.

*Supportive measures* means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the recipient's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing

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<sup>9</sup> "Dating partner" means any person who is involved in a relationship with another person that is primarily characterized by social interaction of a sexual, romantic, or intimate nature, whether casual, serious, or long-term.

locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

## **Response to Reports**

Any individual may report sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence – reports do not have to be made by the victim. Such reports can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by email, using the contact information listed for the Title IX coordinator or by any other means that result in the Title IX coordinator receiving the report.

All staff members are required to report any sexual harassment, sexual assault, or dating violence they witness or are made aware of. Staff members should immediately record all such incidents in accordance with school procedures and notify the Title IX Coordinator or other administrator on duty.

Any student who believes that they have been the target of sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence or who is aware of such acts is strongly encouraged to promptly report the matter orally or in writing to the Title IX Coordinator **Olivia Laguerre** 733 8<sup>th</sup> St. NW or [icaisey@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:icaisey@girlsglobalacademy.org) or 202-600-4822, an administrator, or to any other faculty or staff member or member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Also, any student who is subject to retaliation in violation of this policy or who knows of another student who has been subject to retaliation is urged to report it as soon as possible.

Anyone else who witnesses or becomes aware of sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence is also strongly urged to promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator.

When a report is made without a formal complaint, the Title IX coordinator will:

- Promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures;
- Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint;
- Explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

If the complainant does not wish to proceed with a formal complaint, the complainant's wishes will be respected unless the Title IX Coordinator determines that initiating an investigation over the wishes of the complainant is not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

The school will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the school's ability to provide the supportive measures.

The school may not impose disciplinary sanctions (or other sanctions that are not "supportive measures") against the respondent without conducting a formal investigation. However, the school may remove a respondent on an emergency basis if:

- It undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis;
- Determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal; and
- Provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

A formal complaint may be filed by the complainant, the complainant's parent/legal guardian, or the Title IX coordinator if he/she determines that a formal investigation is needed.

### **Mandatory Reporting**

If the school becomes aware of a report or allegation of sexual assault or sexual abuse, in addition to its own response, the school will also make a referral to CFSA and/or MPD pursuant to mandatory reporting requirements.

### **Informal Resolution Processes**

The Title IX Coordinator may offer and facilitate informal resolution options, such as mediation or restorative justice, so long as both parties give voluntary, informed, written consent to attempt informal resolution. The school will not require participation in informal resolution as a condition of enrollment. The school will not condition informal resolution on the waiver of the right to a formal investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment. The school will not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process and will not offer an informal resolution process unless a formal complaint is filed. At any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the investigation process with respect to the formal complaint.

### **Training**

Title IX personnel involved in the informal resolution process and/or reporting and investigation processes will receive training on the following:

- The definition of sexual harassment;
- The scope of the school's education program or activity;

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- How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes that protects the safety of complainants and promotes accountability;
- How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias; and
- Issues of relevance, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.

### **Investigations of Formal Complaints**

The school will promptly investigate any formal complaints received. Respondents will be presumed to be not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the investigation process.

Once an investigation is concluded, further steps will be taken as needed to interrupt or stop each specific act of sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects, regardless of whether the incident is the subject of a criminal investigation.

Formal complaints will be investigated by Olivia Laguerre, School Social Worker. Once the investigation is complete, a decision will be rendered based on all of the evidence available. The decision-maker will be Karen Venable-Croft, Executive Director.

### **Information for Complainants**

Within two (2) business days of receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide information to the complainant about:

- The investigation process and informal resolution process including a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of investigation process;
- The allegations including sufficient details known at the time including the identities of the parties involved in the incident, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, sexual assault and/or dating violence, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known;
- The complainant's right to have an advisor of his/her choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
- The right to inspect and review evidence;
- The prohibition against knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the investigation process; and

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- Available services and advocacy organizations, about the investigation process, about their rights under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977, and crime victims' rights.

### **Information for Respondents**

Within two (2) business days of receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide information to the respondent about:

- The investigation process and informal resolution process including a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of investigation process;
- The allegations including sufficient details known at the time including the identities of the parties involved in the incident, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, sexual assault and/or dating violence, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known;
- The respondent's right to have an advisor of his/her choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
- The right to inspect and review evidence; and
- The prohibition against knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the investigation process.

### **Investigation**

Complaints of sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence will be investigated in an adequate, reliable and impartial manner. The school will make every effort to complete the investigation within thirty (30) days of receipt of a formal complaint. Extensions of this timeline will be permitted for good cause. If such an extension is exercised, the investigator will notify each party in writing of the reason for the extension. At the conclusion of the investigation period, the investigator will prepare an investigative report to share with the parties and decision-maker as outlined below.

The school will make every effort to protect confidentiality during the course of the investigation. The individual responsible for conducting the investigation will be responsible for making determinations about confidentiality.

Each investigation will include an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's

status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The school will bear the burden of gathering evidence to reach a determination regarding responsibility for the alleged conduct. This investigation will include, as necessary, interviewing witnesses, obtaining documents, and allowing the complainant and respondent to present any inculpatory and exculpatory evidence including witnesses.

The complainant and respondent will have the same opportunity to have others share information on their behalf during any investigative proceeding and to be supported during any proceeding by an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The parties will be provided written notice if they are invited to participate in any investigative proceeding in person. The notice will include the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of any such proceeding, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

Each party will have the same opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. The evidence will be sent to each party in electronic format or hard copy at least 10 days prior to the completion of an investigative report so that the parties have an opportunity to submit a written response.

Upon its completion, the investigator will send to each party and the decision-maker an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence. The parties will be given at least ten (10) days to respond to the investigative report as outlined below.

### **Decision Making**

At least ten (10) days prior to a decision being rendered, each party will have an opportunity to submit a written response to the investigative report which may include written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any other party or witness. The decision maker will gather responses to those questions and provide those responses in writing to each party. The parties will have three (3) additional days to submit additional, limited follow-up questions. The decision-maker will make determinations about what questions are relevant. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.

The decision-maker will review all evidence gathered through the investigative report and responses from each party and will make a determination as to responsibility for the alleged conduct. The decision-maker will use a clear and convincing standard (i.e., clear and convincing evidence establishes that the allegation is substantially more likely than not true) to determine responsibility. Once a determination is made, a written decision will be issued to both parties and will include the following:

- Summary of the allegations;
- Summary of the course and outcome of the investigation including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, and other methods used to gather evidence;
- Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- Conclusions regarding the application of the policy and code of conduct to the facts;
- A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions to be imposed on the respondent, and what other supportive measures will be made available to the complainant;
- Information about the procedures for appeal.

The decision-maker may notify appropriate law enforcement agencies if school staff determine that the behavior cannot be safely and appropriately handled through school-based disciplinary action. Law enforcement agencies will be notified if mandatory reporting requirements are triggered.

## **Appeals**

Any party who is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in writing to the GGA Board Chair. Appeals must be made within 30 days of the conclusion of the initial investigation. When an appeal is made, both parties will be notified of the appeal and will be given an opportunity to respond. The decision-maker for the appeal will not be the same decision-maker that reached the determination regarding responsibility, the investigator or the Title IX Coordinator.

The secondary investigation shall be completed within 30 days of receipt of an appeal, unless: (1) circumstances require additional time to complete a thorough investigation; (2) the higher-level authority sets forth those circumstances in writing; (3) the additional time is not to exceed 15 days. Upon completion of the appeal, the complainant and respondent will be notified

in writing of the outcome of the appeal and the rationale for the result, any change to the result of the initial investigation and when such results become final.

### **Possible Responses When it is Determined that Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault or Dating Violence Occurred:**

#### **Counseling and Interventions for Respondents**

Girls Global Academy will work with its wellness and mental health providers to identify appropriate counseling and intervention strategies for students alleged to have committed acts of sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence, and to determine whether it is a referral to the Child and Family Services Agency is required where the accused's behavior indicates that he or she may be the victim of child sexual abuse or child abuse.

#### **Resources for Students and Families Affected by Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault or Dating Violence**

Students and families affected by sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence may be eligible for school-based supports. For more information about the availability of such supports, please contact School Social Worker Olivia Laguerre [icaisey@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:icaisey@girlsglobalacademy.org) or 202-600-4822.

Other information and resources available outside of school include:

- RAINN (National number to reach counselor anywhere in the country) - 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (Provides information about sexual violence) -1-877-739-3895; [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)
- DC Rape Crisis Center - 202-333-RAPE (7273)
- Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) (Provides free, holistic, and comprehensive case management and legal services to victims of all types of crime regardless of income.) - (202) 742-1727
- Men Can Stop Rape (Outreach and education and prevention work with men and boys.) - (202) 265-6530
- Safe Shores (DC Children's Advocacy Center) - (202) 645-320
- Wendt Center (offers individual and group counseling) – 202-204-5021

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## Part X: FERPA

All Girls Global Academy employees are required to protect the records containing information pertaining to students. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records.

These rights include:

- ***The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.*** Parents, legal guardians, or eligible students should submit to the Girls Global Academy Enrollment and Records Office a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school leader, Principal, will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- ***The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.*** Parent(s), legal guardians, or eligible students who wish to ask Girls Global Academy to amend a record should write to the Enrollment Office and Records and the school leader, Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school leader decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- ***The right to privacy of personally identifiable information (PII) in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.***

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school’s school board; a person or company with whom the school has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an

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education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

- *The right to opt out of school designated directory information.* Generally education records can not be disclosed without consent from the parent, legal guardian, or eligible student. FERPA permits the disclosure of a certain category of information called "directory information" without permission from the parent, legal guardian or eligible student. Directory information is defined as the information in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory Information category examples can include name, age, address, phone number, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, awards received, the most recent previous educational agency attended by the student. While permission is not required, the school will notify parents, legal guardians, and eligible students about directory information. The school will give parents, legal guardians, or eligible students the opportunity to opt out or object to disclosure by submitting a Notice of Intent to Disclose Director Information form.
- *To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Girls Global Academy to comply with the requirements of FERPA.* The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:  
Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue,  
SW Washington, DC 20202-8520

Any requests, questions, and concerns to inspect or review records are sent to:

Enrollment and Records Office  
Girls Global Academy  
733 8th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

[info@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:info@girlsglobalacademy.org)

## **Part XI: Confidentiality Policy**

All Girls Global Academy employees are required to protect and safeguard the records containing student information. The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protect the confidentiality of student records. Any disclosure of confidential student records must be requested and consent must be provided by the school leader.

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All student records will be kept in a central and locked location and stored with Form GGA 0003 - Record of Access. This form is used to record individuals who have accessed a Girls Global Academy student record. Only individuals who are granted access will be permitted to see the records. Exceptions to central storage location of student records include records kept by teachers (grade book, Employees that have access to social security numbers for all individuals are required to keep the information confidential.

All employees with sign annually the Girls Global Academy Form G0001 - Confidentiality Policy for School Employees

The following Girls Global Academy Public Charter School employees have complete access to students records and are exempt from submitting form GGA 0003 - Record of Access:

- Executive Director;
- Principal & Director of Academics
- Operations Manager;
- Admission Coordinator

The following Girls Global Academy Public Charter School employees have complete access to Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) and exempt from signing Form GGA 0003 - Record of Access:

- Executive Director;
- Principal & Director of Academics
- Operations Manager;
- Special Education Coordinator

The following Girls Global Academy Public Charter School employees have complete access to medical records and exempt from signing Form GGA 0003 - Record of Access:

- Executive Director;
- Principal & Director of Academics
- Operations Manager;
- Special Education Coordinator
- Admissions Coordinator

## **Part XII: Student/Parent Grievance Procedure**

Any person who believes that Girls Global Academy has discriminated on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, political affiliation, source of income, or otherwise may submit a complaint to the designated individuals below.

Complaints may be submitted to:

Shamira O’Neal, Principal & Director of Academics  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
733 8th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Complaints of student on student sexual harassment, sexual assault or dating violence are governed by Girls Global Academy’s Student on Student Sexual Harassment Policy, found here [www.girlsglobalacademy.org](http://www.girlsglobalacademy.org). Such complaints should be submitted to:

Destiny Hunter, School Social Worker  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
733 8th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Complaints of bullying are governed by Girls Global Academy’s Bullying Prevention Policy, found here [www.girlsglobalacademy.org](http://www.girlsglobalacademy.org). Such complaints should be submitted to:

Dean of Students  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
733 8th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

The grievance procedures outlined below establish how all other complaints will be investigated and resolved. These grievance procedures are intended to provide for a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints. These grievance procedures may be used by students

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and parents. These grievance procedures do not bar individuals from filing claims in other forums to the extent permitted by state or federal law.

Girls Global Academy encourages individuals to discuss their concerns with appropriate school officials before resorting to a formal complaint. However, individuals are not required to do so before filing a formal complaint.

Girls Global Academy will not retaliate against any person who files a complaint or participates in an investigation in accordance with these procedures.

A formal complaint may be filed by following the steps outlined below:

### **Step 1**

Within 90 days of the alleged discrimination or harassment, written notice of the complaint must be filed with the individual designated above. If the complaint is being made against the designated individual above, the complaint can be submitted directly to the individual identified in Step 2, who will designate an appropriate individual to investigate the complaint. The written notice must include the nature of the complaint, the date(s) of the occurrence, the desired result, and must be signed and dated by the person making the complaint.

Upon receipt of the written notice of the complaint, the designated individual to whom the complaint was submitted will immediately initiate an adequate, reliable and impartial investigation of the complaint. Each investigation will include, as necessary, interviewing witnesses, obtaining documents and allowing parties to present evidence. All documentation related to the investigation will remain confidential.

Within thirty (30) business days of receiving the written notice of the complaint, the individual investigating the complaint will respond in writing to the complainant. The response will summarize the course and outcome of the investigation, and identify an appropriate resolution. If, as a result of the investigation, it is determined that discrimination or harassment have occurred, appropriate corrective and remedial action will be taken.

### **Step 2**

If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision from Step 1, he/she may submit a signed statement of appeal to Karen Venable-Croft, Executive Director Girls Global Academy 733

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8th Street NW Washington, DC 20001 or [info@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:info@girlsglobalacademy.org), within ten (10) business days after receipt of the response. If the complaint is being made against the Executive Director, the appeal can be submitted to Board Chair Girls Global Academy 733 8th Street NW Washington, DC 20001 or [board@girlsglobalacademy.org](mailto:board@girlsglobalacademy.org) who will designate an appropriate individual to address the appeal. The Executive Director, or designee, will review all relevant information and meet with the parties involved, as necessary. Within twenty-one (21) business days of receiving the statement of appeal, the Executive Director, or designee, will respond in writing to the complainant summarizing the outcome of the appeal and any corrective or remedial action to be taken.

Grievants also have the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights by: (1) mailing the complaint to Director, District of Columbia Office, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-1475; (2) faxing it to (202) 453-6021; or (3) filing it electronically at: [www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html](http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html). For more information, you can contact OCR at (202) 453-6020 (voice), (877) 521-2172 (TDD), or [ocr.dc@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.dc@ed.gov).

## **Part XIII: Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Girls Global Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, political affiliation, or source of income in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Anyone having inquiries concerning Girls Global Academy's nondiscrimination policy or who wish to file a complaint alleging discrimination involving *employees* or third parties by Girls Global Academy should contact:

Employee Relations  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
733 8th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-600-4822

Anyone having inquiries concerning Girls Global Academy's nondiscrimination policy or who wish to file a complaint alleging discrimination involving *students* by Girls Global Academy should contact:

**Girls Global Academy** ◦ 733 8th St NW, Washington, DC 20001 ◦ (202) 600-4822

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Shamira O'Neal, Principal & Director of Academics  
Girls Global Academy Public Charter School  
733 8th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-600-4822

Any person who believes that Girl Global Academy has discriminated on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, political affiliation, or source of income, or otherwise may submit a complaint pursuant to Girls Global Academy's Grievance Procedure. A copy of the grievance procedure can be obtained by request through the individual(s) identified above, can be found on our website and can be found in the family/student handbook or staff handbook.

GGA is an equal opportunity employer and makes all employment decisions without regard to race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, ancestry, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, political affiliation, military/veteran status, source of income, immigration status (except as necessary to comply with federal, state, or local law), physical or mental disability, medical condition, or any other category protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including but not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, benefits, compensation, and training. We seek to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws related to discrimination.

## Acknowledgement of Receipt of Girls Global Academy

### Student and Family Handbook

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Girls Global Academy Student and Family Handbook (“Handbook”). I understand that I am responsible for reading and abiding by all policies and procedures in this Handbook.

I expressly agree to the provisions outlined:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Full Name (please print)*

Please sign and date this acknowledgement and return it to Ms. Boyd or the student's Advisory teacher.

