



GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE 2017-18

OUR MISSION

Germantown Friends School is dedicated to reaching that of God in every person. Our mission is to seek truth, challenge the intellect, honor differences, embrace the city, and nurture each student's mind, body and spirit.



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND COLLEGE COUNSELORS

Head of School Dana Weeks

Associate Head of School Page Fahrigr-Pendse, Ed.D.

Interim Head of Upper School Tom Myran

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Our School

Founded in 1845 under the care of the Germantown Monthly Meeting and governed by the School Committee, GFS is a Quaker, independent, coed day school for students in grades K-12, located in the historic Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. It draws students from more than 80 zip codes and three countries.

- 916 students; 375 in grades 9-12
- Student/teacher ratio: 7:1
- 75% of Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees
- 33% of student body are students of color
- \$4 million of financial assistance awarded to 27% of students
- 100% of graduates accepted to a four-year college or university each year

Our Community and Neighborhood Engagement

GFS is committed to diversity, as is reflected by the broad spectrum of racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds of its student body, faculty, and staff. Through neighborhood initiatives, environmental action projects, and institutional partnerships, we are deeply connected to Germantown and the city of Philadelphia. Our educational philosophy is rooted in the Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship (SPICES). Students in grades 9-12 participate in grade-wide community days as well as student-organized community programs, including tutoring in neighboring elementary schools, donation drives, fundraisers, and neighborhood clean-ups, as well as volunteer projects with shelters, community gardens, and food pantries.

Statement of Class Rank

We do not compute class rank or calculate an official GPA at Germantown Friends School. Our experience is that the school's intellectual climate is enhanced by decreased competition, and we strive to teach our students to seek knowledge for its own sake. On the basis of extensive written comments by teachers, we write full and accurate recommendations to the colleges considering our students.

Academic Achievement

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

2013-2017: 9 Scholars; 48 Finalists; 48 Semifinalists; 65 Commended.

AVERAGE SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST/ AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING SCORES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

SAT Scores (average): Overall, 1370; Math, 678; Evidence-based Reading and Writing, 692. **Middle 50%:** Overall, 1270-1470; Math, 610-740; EBRW, 660-740. **ACT Composite Scores (average):** 31. **Middle 50%:** 29-33.

Minimum Requirements for Graduation

English: four years. **History:** three years. **Language:** three levels. **Math:** three years. **Science:** three years (effective with class of 2020). **Music:** one year (grade 9). **Art/Drama:** one year by graduation (effective with class of 2020). **Health:** one semester (grade 10) and one year (grade 12). **Junior Project:** month of January (grade 11). **January Term** (grades 9, 10, and 12). **Physical Education & Athletics:** Two seasons of athletics and one semester PE (grade 9); three seasons of athletics or PE, at least one season must be athletics (grade 10); three seasons, choice of athletics or PE (grade 11); two seasons, choice of athletics or PE (grade 12). Students in grades 9-11 are required to carry five majors per year; seniors are required to carry four majors, but may elect to carry five.

Advanced and Accelerated Courses

Students who do well in courses designated as "Advanced" on their transcripts are prepared for upper level college courses in these and related departments. Many of these students take AP exams and score 4 or higher. The Mathematics Department offers accelerated courses that prepare for the course titled Integral Calculus and Series. *Please note that AP scores are achieved without the benefit of AP courses, which are not offered at GFS.*

Special Elective Programs

In addition to a traditional, rigorous curriculum, we have various special programs that enhance the GFS academic experience. At all levels, we offer strong art and music courses, which are fully-credited major academic courses, and students can elect junior/senior seminars representing a broad range of disciplines. Advanced and individual work is offered whenever appropriate.

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Directed Independent Study (DIS) program allows students in grades 9-12 to pursue interests outside of the regular curriculum by studying individually or in small groups with a faculty member. The experience of planning an independent course and seeing it through to completion is invaluable in helping students take responsibility for what and how they learn. Areas of study range from Mandarin and International Current Affairs to Advanced Graphic Design, Jazz Theory, and Programming.

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

Germantown Friends is a founding member of the Global Online Academy, a consortium of 70 leading independent schools from around the world committed to offering world-class online courses taught by passionate and gifted teachers from its member schools. Its mission is to replicate in online classrooms the intellectually-rigorous programs and excellent teaching that are hallmarks of its member schools; to foster new, effective ways for students to learn; and to promote students' global awareness by creating truly diverse, worldwide, online communities.



UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS 2017-18

Dotted lines indicate typical course progression, but students may deviate from this in some instances.

	NINTH GRADE	TENTH GRADE	ELEVENTH GRADE	TWELFTH GRADE
ENGLISH Four year core sequence required	Exploration of Identity	The Poetry of Language	Literature in Context	Identity and Aesthetics (Advanced)
HISTORY Three years required	Comparative Cultures	Ancient Medieval Civilization or Latin History	Europe and the World or US History (Advanced)	US History (Advanced)
MATHEMATICS Three years required	Intermediate Algebra	Geometry	Algebra II	Functions and Trigonometry
				Precalculus
			Functions and Trigonometry	Statistics (Advanced)
	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus (Advanced)
	Geometry Accelerated	Analysis of Functions	Differential Calculus (Advanced)	Integral Calculus and Series (Advanced)
ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES			Advanced Statistics	Advanced Statistics or Topics in Advanced Mathematics
SCIENCE Three years required*	Physics	Physics or Chemistry	Chemistry or Biology or Advanced Chemistry or Environmental Science	Biology or Advanced Chemistry or Advanced Biology or Environmental Science or Advanced Physics

* effective with Class of 2020; Classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 have two-year requirement

LANGUAGE

Requirements: Three levels of one Classical or Modern Language. Classical Languages offered up to Latin V and Greek V; Modern Languages offered up to French V and Spanish V; Mandarin offered at Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels.

ATHLETICS & PE

Requirements: Two seasons athletics, one semester PE (grade 9); three seasons athletics or PE, one must be athletics (grade 10); three (grade 11) and two (grade 12) seasons, athletics or PE.

VISUAL ART

Electives: Offerings include Foundation, Art History, 3-Dimensional Art, Drawing & Painting, Color & Design, Photography, Digital Collage (Advanced), and Senior Studio (Advanced). One year of art (or drama) required for graduation.

HEALTH

Requirements: One semester of Life Issues in grade 10, one year of Life Issues in grade 12.

PERFORMING ARTS

Music: Ninth grade (required). Electives include Sight Singing & Music Theory, Beginning Music Theory, Advanced Music Theory, Advanced Music Composition, Instrumental Improvisation, Choir (audition), Chorus, Orchestra, Chamber Music, Jazz, and World Percussion.

Drama (electives): Offerings include Drama 9, Drama 10, Drama 11/12, Reader's Theater, and Technical Theater. One year of drama (or art) required for graduation.

JUNIOR PROJECTS

During the month of January, all juniors research, secure, and complete a month-long independent study of their own design, under the guidance of a faculty liaison.

Students use this opportunity to gain insight into a potential career, pursue an interest or passion, or do humanitarian work in the U.S. or overseas.

A final paper and presentation complete the project. (required)

JANUARY TERM

This month-long program enables students in grades 9, 10, and 12 to explore new interests, passions, and interdisciplinary ways of learning. They choose from more than 75 "mini-courses," such as Realism in Mid-Century Cinema, Organic Chemistry, and Current Events: Decoding History, expanding their learning opportunities outside the regular curriculum.

J-Term provides teachers and students space for experimentation and reflection. (required)

COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2013-17

Parenthetical numbers denote graduate enrollment of two or more.

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| American University (3) | Ithaca College | University of Arizona | University of Southern California (2) |
| Amherst College (2) | Johns Hopkins University (5) | University of California, Los Angeles (5) | University of Tampa |
| Auburn University | Kenyon College (6) | University of California, Santa Barbara | University of Texas, Austin |
| Babson College | La Salle University | University of Cambridge | University of the Arts |
| Bard College (2) | Loyola University | University of Chicago (4) | University of Vermont (7) |
| Barnard College (6) | Macalester College (2) | University of Cincinnati | University of Virginia |
| Bates College | Marymount Manhattan College | University of Colorado, Boulder (8) | University of Wisconsin, Madison (2) |
| Berklee College of Music | McGill University (3) | University of Delaware | Ursinus College (3) |
| Boston University (6) | Michigan State University | University of Edinburgh (2) | Vassar College (4) |
| Bowdoin College (2) | Middlebury College (4) | University of Miami | Virginia Tech |
| Brandeis University (2) | New York University (13) | University of Michigan | Wake Forest University |
| Brown University (15) | Northeastern University (3) | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (2) | Washington University, St. Louis (4) |
| Bryn Mawr College (2) | Northwestern University (5) | University of Pennsylvania (48) | Wellesley College (3) |
| Bucknell University | Oberlin College (5) | University of Pittsburgh (17) | Wesleyan University (9) |
| Carleton College | Occidental College | University of Redlands (2) | West Chester University |
| Carnegie Mellon University (2) | Ohio Wesleyan University | University of San Francisco | Whittier College (2) |
| Case Western Reserve University | Pace University, NYC | | Williams College |
| Chestnut Hill College | Pennsylvania State University | | Yale University (11) |
| Colby College (2) | Pennsylvania State University, Abington | | |
| Colgate University | Philadelphia University | | |
| College of William and Mary (4) | Pitzer College (2) | | |
| College of Wooster (2) | Pratt Institute | | |
| Colorado College (2) | Princeton University (4) | | |
| Columbia University (5) | Reed College | | |
| Cornell University (5) | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2) | | |
| Dartmouth College (2) | Rhode Island School of Design | | |
| Davidson College | Rice University | | |
| Dickinson College | Ryerson University | | |
| Drew University | Saint Joseph's University (2) | | |
| Drexel University (15) | Sarah Lawrence College (3) | | |
| Duke University | Savannah College of Art and Design | | |
| Earlham College (5) | Sciences Po/Columbia University | | |
| East Stroudsburg University | Skidmore College (8) | | |
| Elizabethtown College (2) | Smith College (2) | | |
| Emerson College (2) | Spelman College | | |
| Emory University (6) | Stanford University (5) | | |
| Fordham University (2) | Swarthmore College (3) | | |
| Franklin and Marshall College (4) | Syracuse University (2) | | |
| George Mason University | Temple University (17) | | |
| George Washington University (6) | The New School (All Divisions) (3) | | |
| Georgetown University (2) | Trinity College | | |
| Georgia Institute of Technology (3) | Tufts University (4) | | |
| Goucher College | Tulane University (8) | | |
| Hamilton College (NY) (3) | Tyler School of Art, Temple University | | |
| Hampshire College (6) | US Naval Academy | | |
| Harvard University (4) | University College London | | |
| Harvey Mudd College | | | |
| Haverford College (8) | | | |
| Howard University (2) | | | |

