



THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

2022-23 ACADEMIC PROFILE

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SCHOOL MISSION

At The Potomac School, we believe that intellectual development, love of learning, and strength of character are complementary, and equally essential, educational goals. With a firm commitment to our core values and a rigorous academic program, we prepare students to lead lives of purpose, achievement, and generosity of spirit.

THE SCHOOL

- Founded in 1904 in Washington, DC
- K-12; co-ed
- Upper School added in 1987
- Accredited by Virginia Association of Independent Schools
- Enrollment K-12, 1,069; Upper School, 467
- 180 full and part-time faculty
- 71% of faculty have advanced degrees
- Students receiving financial aid: 21%
- Students of color: 43%
- Senior class enrollment: 116
- Graduates attending four-year colleges: 100%
- Upper School average class size: 15
- Class of 2023 National Merit Semi-finalists: 9
- Class of 2022 National Merit Commended Students: 25

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- All courses are highly rigorous and college preparatory.
- All Upper School students take at least five academic courses each semester.
- The school year consists of two semesters.
- Each year-long course is worth one credit.
- Honors, AP, and Advanced enrollment is based upon departmental approval.
- Due to the structure of the curriculum, very few students take AP or Advanced courses prior to 11th grade.
- The Potomac School does not rank students or provide a GPA.
- At Potomac, English and history do not offer an Honors level in grades 9 and 10. In 11th grade, students have a choice of AP English Literature and either AP U.S. History or Advanced U.S. History, in addition to the regular level. While the 12th grade English, history, and science electives are not designated as honors courses, they are taught at a level commensurate with work done after the completion of 11th grade work.
- Beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, Potomac transitioned from a five-day schedule with an anchor day to a two-day rotation with classes meeting every other day for 80 minutes.

COURSE NOMENCLATURE CHANGES (as of 2019-20)

- In an effort to streamline and clarify courses that are accelerated, Potomac faculty and administration made the decision in 2019 to rename all courses that are taught at an honors or advanced level. While these courses were denoted on the transcript with an (H) under 'level' prior to 2019-20, many courses carried different names depending upon department. Former names included accelerated, advanced, and honors. In the case of honors science courses, the course name did not contain 'honors' at all (e.g., Physics: Mathematical Models and Chemistry: Quantitative Analysis).
- The Math Department has three levels: Honors, Extended, and Regular. Former names were Accelerated (H), Advanced, and Regular.

CONCENTRATION PROGRAMS

Potomac offers four concentration programs for students who are interested in intensive study in a particular discipline. Students in the EFEB, GPAC, and SERC concentrations design and conduct original research projects. All four programs have required courses; VPAC includes after-school and/or co-curricular commitments, and the SERC and EFEB concentrations require summer work between 11th and 12th grades. The number of students admitted to GPAC, SERC, and VPAC is limited, and admission to these programs is competitive.

- Global Perspectives and Citizenship Program (GPAC): 12 students in the Class of 2023
- Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC): 11 students in the Class of 2023
- Visual and Performing Arts Concentration (VPAC): 4 students in the Class of 2023 – 2 Music, 1 Studio Art, 1 Theater
- Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Business (EFEB): 2 students in the Class of 2023

POTOMAC HONORS, ADVANCED & AP COURSE OFFERINGS

28 courses at the Honors level

Honors Algebra 2
Honors Art History
Honors Biology
Honors Classics: Introduction to Homeric Greek
Honors Chemistry
Honors Chinese 4
Honors Concert Band/Jazz Band
Honors English 11
Honors French 2, 3
Honors Geometry
Honors GPAC 10: Global Studies
Honors GPAC 11: Research
Honors Handbells Ensemble
Honors Latin 2, 3, 4
Honors Physics
Honors Precalculus
Honors Rhetorical Analysis
Honors SERC 10: Integrated Chemistry & Physics
Honors SERC 10: Topics in Science & Engineering
Honors SERC 11: Independent Research
Honors SERC 12: Documentation & Presentation
Honors Spanish 2, 3, 4, 5

19 courses at the AP level

AP Biology	AP Music Theory
AP Calculus AB	AP Physics C
AP Calculus BC	AP Physics: Electricity & Magnetism
AP Chemistry	AP Spanish Language & Culture
AP Comparative Government & Politics	AP Spanish Literature & Culture
AP Computer Science A	AP Statistics
AP English Literature	AP U.S. Government & Politics
AP French Language & Culture	AP U.S. History
AP Latin	
AP Macroeconomics	
AP Microeconomics	

36 courses at the Advanced level (college-level equivalent)

Advanced Biology
Advanced Calculus 1
Advanced Calculus 1 and 2
Advanced Chemistry
Advanced Chinese 1, 2, 3
Advanced Comparative Politics: Power and Politics in the 21st Century
Advanced Computer Science
Advanced Ethics
Advanced Film Studies
Advanced French: Global Challenges and the Francophone World
Advanced French: Francophone Literature
Advanced Humanities Seminar: World War I, “The Wasteland,” and the Aftermath
Advanced Latin: Vergil’s *Aeneid* & Caesar’s *De Bellis Gallicis*
Advanced Linear Algebra
Advanced Literary Theory
Advanced Lyric Poetry
Advanced Macroeconomics
Advanced Masterpieces of British Women’s Literature
Advanced Mechatronics
Advanced Microeconomics
Advanced Minds on the Edge: Representing Troubled Psyches in Literature
Advanced Modern Women Writers
Advanced Music Theory
Advanced Organic Chemistry
Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism
Advanced Physics: Mechanics
Advanced Python Programming
Advanced Representing Women in Literature
Advanced Spanish Language & Culture
Advanced Spanish Literature A – Pícaros, Donjuanes and Quijotes: Archetypes of Spanish Golden Age Literature
Advanced Spanish Literature B: Identity and Reality in Spanish and Latin American Contemporary Literature
Advanced Statistics
Advanced United States History
Advanced U.S. Government & Politics

2022–23 STANDARDIZED TEST RANGES

ACT (47 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMPOSITE	31-33	31.8

SAT (67 tested)	MIDDLE 50%	MEAN
COMBINED	1290-1500	1388
EBRW	650-740	689
MATH	630-760	699

AP SCORES

- 87 members of the Class of 2023 sat for 186 exams in 23 subjects in May 2022.
- 75% of them earned a 4 or 5.
- 95% earned a 3 or better.

MOVING BEYOND THE AP

Beginning with the 2022–23 academic year, The Potomac School will no longer subscribe to the AP curriculum. The highest level of course work will be designated as “Advanced.” We made this decision as part of our ongoing curriculum review and in the interest of offering our students the most relevant and enriching education possible.

Over the past two years, our Upper School faculty and administration began the work of developing rigorous course options that will offer students interdisciplinary learning experiences and opportunities for independent work. Potomac faculty continue to develop challenging advanced courses that address student interests and build critical skills.

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

The Potomac School partners with Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of independent schools that enables its members to offer their students online courses that address particular academic interests and may be outside the scope of their curricula. GOA has over 125 member schools and currently offers approximately 33 rigorous online courses available to Potomac students in a wide range of academic disciplines. Taught by faculty from the member schools, GOA classes bring together students from across the U.S. and around the world, creating an academic experience shaped by shared interests and multiple perspectives. Potomac credit is awarded upon successful completion of these courses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

21 credits, including successful completion of

- English (4 years)
- History (3 years: 2 world history and 1 U.S. history)
- Mathematics (3 years, including geometry and algebra 2)
- Science (3 years: biology, chemistry, and physics)
- World Languages (3 years of the same language)
- Arts (3 semesters in 2 different areas: visual art, music, or theatre. Distribution requirement waived for four-year participants in a music ensemble group or VPAC)
- Non-academic requirements (9 of 12 seasons of athletics/activities)

The Potomac School is a founding member of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS) and a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and complies with the Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION LIST 2019-2022

American University (3)	Kenyon College (3)	United States Naval Academy (1)
Amherst College (3)	Lehigh University (3)	University of California, Davis (1)
Auburn University (1)	Loyola University Maryland (1)	University of California, Los Angeles (2)
Barnard College (2)	Macalester College (1)	University of California, Santa Cruz (1)
Bentley University (1)	Manhattan College (1)	University of Chicago (7)
Berklee College of Music (1)	Marymount University (1)	University of Colorado Boulder (1)
Boston College (12)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)	University of Denver (3)
Boston University (9)	McGill University (1)	University of Georgia (1)
Bowdoin College (1)	Michigan State University (1)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1)
Brown University (7)	Middlebury College (2)	University of Mary Washington (2)
Bucknell University (8)	Morehouse College (1)	University of Maryland-College Park (2)
Carleton College (2)	New York University (6)	University of Miami (4)
Carnegie Mellon University (1)	Northeastern University (6)	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (9)
Case Western Reserve University (2)	Northern Virginia Community College (1)	University of Northern Colorado (1)
Claremont McKenna College (2)	Northwestern University (8)	University of Notre Dame (6)
Clemson University (4)	Occidental College (1)	University of Pennsylvania (9)
Colby College (3)	Ohio State University (1)	University of Pittsburgh (1)
Colgate University (7)	Old Dominion University (1)	University of Richmond (2)
Colorado College (2)	Pennsylvania State University (5)	University of Rochester (2)
Columbia University (3)	Pitzer College (1)	University of Southern California (4)
Connecticut College (1)	Pomona College (2)	University of St Andrews (3)
Cornell University (2)	Princeton University (6)	University of Virginia (30)
Dartmouth College (9)	Providence College (1)	University of Wisconsin-Madison (2)
Davidson College (2)	Purdue University (1)	Vanderbilt University (4)
Dickinson College (1)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)	Vassar College (2)
Drexel University (1)	Rhode Island School of Design (1)	Villanova University (1)
Duke University (6)	Rice University (5)	Virginia Commonwealth University (1)
Elon University (1)	Saint Anselm College (1)	Virginia Tech (6)
Emory University (3)	Santa Clara University (5)	Virginia Wesleyan University (1)
Fordham University (3)	Shepherd University (1)	Wabash College (1)
Franklin and Marshall College (2)	Skidmore College (2)	Wake Forest University (17)
George Mason University (1)	Southern Methodist University (6)	Washington and Lee University (11)
George Washington University (1)	Spelman College (2)	Washington University in St Louis (6)
Georgetown University (8)	Stanford University (8)	Wesleyan University (4)
Georgia Institute of Technology (2)	Stevenson University (1)	Widener University (1)
Hamilton College (4)	Syracuse University (3)	William & Mary (18)
Harvard University (10)	Texas Christian University (1)	Williams College (5)
Haverford College (1)	The Catholic University of America (1)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (2)
High Point University (1)	The University of Edinburgh (2)	Xavier University (1)
Imperial College London (1)	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1)	Yale University (2)
Indiana University-Bloomington (6)	Trinity College Dublin (3)	
Ithaca College (1)	Tufts University (6)	
James Madison University (3)	Tulane University of Louisiana (11)	
Johns Hopkins University (3)		