

# The Grand River Academy



## Curriculum Guide

2011-2012

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this guide is to inform students and parents of the courses available for planning graduation from the Academy. The selection is strictly college preparatory without an abundance of electives.

A brief description of each course is included with some guidelines the Academy has in place to promote fairness and consistency.

If you have any questions, please refer them to the Guidance Counselor or Headmaster.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Grand River Academy prepares high school boys who can benefit from a highly structured academic, personalized, and social boarding environment for acceptance into college.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF THE GRAND RIVER ACADEMY**

The Grand River Academy, believes that small classes, mandatory study periods, and special help sessions inspire Academy students to take a personal interest in their education, often for the first time. A traditional all-male boarding environment in a rural setting focuses students in their preparation for college. An integral part of the program is the dedicated faculty and staff, who emphasize individual attention for every student.

Grand River Academy values independence, which allows us to implement a college preparatory curriculum that enables students to experience significant academic growth. As one of the oldest single sex, non-military boarding schools in the country, many traditions are evident in our fully accredited program. Students gain pride in and develop self-reliance in our challenging academic atmosphere, structured sports and afternoon activities programs, and the leadership opportunities by our small community.

We believe that responsible, college-prepared students are developed through our structured, yet flexible program. The Student Assistance Program enables many boys to experience not only academic success, but also personal and social growth for a better understanding of the society in which they will function. The Academy believes that with the support of our Learning Center, selected students with learning differences can also meet the requirement of admission to a college or university prior to graduation.

As a secular school, Grand River Academy embraces diversity by welcoming boys not only from many states and countries, but also from many ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. We believe our success is due to our nurturing family atmosphere, our understanding and compassion, and our persistence.

## ACCREDITATION

The Grand River Academy is a college preparatory high school chartered by the State of Ohio as prescribed by the State Department of Education.

The Academy is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and holds membership in it and the National Association of Independent Schools, North Central Association, Cleveland Council of Independent Schools, Midwest Boarding Schools Association, The Association of Boarding Schools, and the International Boys' School Coalition.

## ACADEMIC OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an alternative to the large, impersonal public school.
2. To provide an atmosphere in which non-performing students may achieve.
3. To prepare students for admission to a degree-granting institution.

## STRATEGIES

- Small classes of approximately seven students
- Help sessions scheduled by the teacher
- Special afternoon study halls for students with incomplete assignments
- Two-hour evening study periods in all dormitories
- Special evening study hall in Bauder Hall providing more focus for selected students
- Ninety-minute Saturday study sessions for students with low grades
- International Student Program
- Residential staff available for academic support

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Grand River Academy requires twenty-one (21) units of credit to be successfully completed in grades 9 through 12. *Beginning with the graduating class of 2013, graduation requirement changes include: 4 Units of Math (with a minimum math level of Algebra 2) and 4 Units of Science.*

The twenty-one units required for graduation include:

- 4.0 Units of English
- 3.0 Units of Math  
(Minimum requirements include Algebra I)
- 3.0 Units of Natural Science  
(1 must be in physical science and 1 must be in Biology)
- 3.0 Units of Social Studies  
(1 must be American History and 1 must be Government)
- .5 Unit of Physical Education
- .5 Unit of Health
- .5 Unit of Computer Applications
- 6.5 Units of Electives/Foreign Language (1 unit must be in the "fine arts")
- .50 Senior Colloquium (Including a senior Research Paper)

**Student must be accepted by an accredited college.**

**THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM**

The following subjects are **recommended** by grade level.

<u>Credit</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>
1.00	Introduction to Literature	1.00	World Literature
1.00	Physical Science	1.00	Biology I
1.00	Foreign Language	1.00	Foreign Language
.25	Physical Education	.25	Physical Education
1.00	Civics	.50	Health
1.00	Algebra I	1.00	Intermediate Algebra or Alg. II
.50	Fine Art	1.00	US History

<u>Credit</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
1.00	American Literature	1.00	British Literature
1.00	Chemistry	1.00	Foreign Language
1.00	Foreign Language	1.00	Physics
1.00	U.S. History	1.00	Pre-Calculus or Calculus
.50	Computer Applications I	1.00	Government
1.00	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	.50	Fine Art
.50	Psychology or Economics	.50	Speech

Student must take at least 6 classes per semester unless the Headmaster approves an alternative schedule. A student must take English, Science, and Mathematics every year.

**THE MINIMUM CORE FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION THROUGH 2012**  
 (\* 2013 requirements)

English	4 units
Math	3 units (*4)
Science	3 units (*4)
Social Studies	3 units
Foreign Language	2 units
The Arts	1 unit

Some programs may require more extensive preparation in specific subject areas. Check with the guidance counselor and the college/university of your choice for additional information.

## PUPIL CLASSIFICATION BY CREDIT

Listed below is the minimum number of credits required to be placed in each grade level.

To be assigned to:	A student needs:
Grade 9	0 credits
Grade 10	5 credits
Grade 11	11 credits
Grade 12	16 credits

## GRADING SYSTEM

90 - 100	=	A
80 - 89	=	B
70 - 79	=	C
60 - 69	=	D
59 & below	=	F

GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. Honors courses, including Anatomy, Pre-Calculus, Calculus 1, and Calculus 2 are 5.0 courses.

## GRADE REPORTS

Each classroom teacher updates Ed-line weekly and grade reports are printed out each marking period.

Students receiving deficient grades on the monthly report card will be monitored with weekly progress reports. Parents will receive these reports each week.

## MARKING PERIODS

There will be 8 marking periods throughout the year along with the following dates for semester and final exams:

\*Semester exams January 25-27, 2012

\*Final Exams: May 29-31, 2012

## **MANDATED GRADUATION TESTS**

The State of Ohio requires all chartered schools to administer the Ohio Graduation Tests to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors. These tests consist of writing, reading, math, history, and science. All students must pass five parts to receive a diploma in the State of Ohio.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

All changes in the assigned schedule must be made through the Academy's guidance counselor.

Classes dropped after the 10th day will be reflected on the transcript as "withdrawn failing." The Headmaster, teacher, guidance counselor, and parent must approve any class dropped after the 10th school day.

## **HEADMASTER'S LIST/HONOR ROLL**

At the conclusion of every quarter, a list of students attaining the criteria for Headmaster's List and Honor Roll will be posted.

Headmaster's List requires that a student have an average of all subjects (except physical education) of at least 90%. No single subject, including physical education, can be below 80%.

Honor Roll status requires student have an average of all subjects (except physical education) of at least 80%. No single subject, including physical education, can be below 75%.

The following classes can have an additional five points added to their average: Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Physics.

Students must be taking at least four core courses in order to be eligible for the Honor Roll and Headmaster's List.

## **POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT**

The Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program has been established to permit high school students from the state of Ohio in grade twelve to earn college and high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses. The program is intended to provide expanded opportunities for appropriately qualified high school students to experience course-work at the college or university level.

Ohio residents may have tuition, books, materials, and fees paid for by state funds if the school district is notified by March 30 of each year for enrollment the following year. Ohio residents are responsible for transportation costs. Out-of-state students are responsible for all college tuition, books, materials, fees, and transportation. No part of the Academy's tuition will be refunded.

All students must receive clearance by the Academic Council prior to application for the post-secondary option to any college or university while a student at the Academy. Students are responsible for transportation to and from P.S.E.O. courses.

If requested by the student, the P.S.E.O. course may be applied toward a high school elective credit and be scaled on a 5.0 scale toward the student's G.P.A.

## **TESTING**

<u>TEST</u>	<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTACT PERSON</u>
Ohio Graduation Test	All 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , and 12 <sup>th</sup> graders	October/March	Guidance Counselor
PLAN	10th graders	November	Guidance Counselor
PSAT	11th graders	October	Guidance Counselor
ACT	11th & 12th graders	spring/fall	Guidance Counselor
SAT	11th & 12th graders	spring/fall	Guidance Counselor
TOEFL	International students	spring/fall	International Student Advisor
SLEP	International students	fall	International Student Advisor
Advanced Placement Exams	Eligible students	May	AP Coordinator



## CURRICULUM LISTED BY CREDIT

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### ENGLISH

English 9 (Introduction to Literature)	1.00
Grammar & Composition	.50
Reading	.50
English 10 (World Literature)	1.00
English 11 (American Literature)	1.00
Accelerated English 11	1.00
English 12 (British Literature)	1.00
Accelerated English 12	1.00
Speech	.50
Yearbook	.50
Advanced Grammar and Composition	.50
Intro. To Western Philosophy	.50
Senior Colloquium	.50
Creative Writing	.50

### MATH

Algebra 1/2	1.00
Algebra I	1.00
Intermediate Algebra	1.00
Algebra II	1.00
Accelerated Algebra II	1.00
Intro to College Algebra	1.00
Pre-Calculus	1.00
Beginning Calculus	1.00
Advanced Calculus II	1.00
Integrated Math	.50
Statistics	1.00

### SCIENCE

Physical Science	1.00
Biology I	1.00
Biology II	1.00
Introduction to Chemistry and Physics	1.00
Chemistry	1.00
Physics	1.00
Ecology	.50
Geology	.50
Anatomy and Physiology	.50

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics	1.00
World History	1.00
US History	1.00
World Geography	.50
American Government	1.00
Economics	.50
Psychology	.50
Geo History	.50

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I	1.00
Spanish II	1.00
Advanced Spanish	1.00
French	1.00
Advanced French	1.00

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

Intro. to Language and American Culture	.50
Communications I	1.00
Communications II	1.00
TOEFL Prep.	.50
OGT Prep.	.50

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Applications I	.50
Computer Applications II	.50
Computer Applications III	.50
Computer Applications IV	.50
Advanced Web Design	.50

## Fine Arts

Art	.50
Music	.50
Ceramics	.50

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education	.25
Health	.50

## CURRICULUM

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

#### The Learning Center

The function of the Learning Center is to assist students with learning differences, in improving study skills, in becoming more organized, and in learning content area subjects more effectively.

Vocabulary, content area reading, and reference skills are areas of instruction. Both long- and short-term goals are set for personal progress. Students and teachers discuss daily the meaning and evaluation of the improvement procedures. Carry-over of skills and learning patterns from the Learning Center to the classroom are encouraged and emphasized for a total personal improvement.

#### Reading Enhancement

½ Credit

This course's curriculum places a strong emphasis on reading comprehension, vocabulary, and study skills. Students who have an individual learning style will also benefit from a class size that is extraordinarily small. No additional reading is required outside of class; however, students do read from textbooks, selected paperbacks, popular magazines, prepared materials, and newspapers in class and prepare regular written reviews.

## ENGLISH

### English 9

One Credit

English 9, introduces students to college prep reading, analyzing, and writing about literature, while focusing on the fundamentals such as vocabulary development, spelling, comprehension and study skills, grammar, usage, and the mechanics of writing.

### Grammar and Composition

½ Credit

Grammar and Composition is a one-semester course designed to assist those students whose writing skills are deemed by the English Department to be in need of amelioration. Students in this course will begin writing the various types of paragraphs and move on to writing the various types of essays, both creative and expository. They will refine their language skills, focusing on such fundamentals as vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics, and the process of writing.

### English 10

One Credit

Prerequisite: English 9

English 10 is designed to give the student an introduction to literature from a variety of cultures and to introduce several major themes, archetypes, and stories that will be expanded upon in later courses. The first semester focuses on the foundations of Western literature, while the second semester examines

authors and works from around the globe in a chronological survey. Vocabulary development, grammar, usage, and writing are major elements of the course.

### **English 11**

One Credit

Prerequisite: English 9 and 10

American Literature is a chronological study of the literature of North America. Students examine the development of American literature through the directed reading and discussion of examples of writing from many periods. Vocabulary development, grammar, usage, and writing skills are a major focus. The various elements of the course are unified and evaluated in various compositions in which the student must react to literary works.

### **Accelerated English 11**

One Credit

Must have teacher permission

### **English 12**

One Credit

Prerequisite: English 11

English 12 is a college preparatory British literature survey course. It is arranged chronologically, with the historical and cultural background of the literature forming an important component of the course. The focus is on critical reading, accompanied by oral and written discussion, of narrative and epic poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction. The course offers an in-depth focus on representative works of the most important writers in the canon.

### **Accelerated English 12**

One Credit

Must have teacher permission

### **Speech**

½ Credit

The introduction to speech course is designed to give students of various high school age levels an introduction to the basic aspects of presenting a prepared speech to an audience. It also involves experiences in preparing and organizing material, as well as presenting a finished speech. Students also experience interviewing, oral interpretation and debate. Various projects with different goals are assigned during this one-semester course.

### **Advanced Grammar and Composition**

½ Credit

This course is designed for students at the junior and senior levels who are in need of improving their English language writing skills. Students review the principles of grammar and usage, improve vocabulary skills, and write a range of essays in order to improve their competence in writing clearly, logically, and persuasively.

### **Senior Colloquium**

½ credit

Senior Colloquium is a writing intensive course to help prepare seniors for college level writing. Major emphasis is placed on writing, including a research paper, in order that students may improve their skills in written expression.

### **Creative Writing**

½ credit

This English elective is geared towards upperclassmen intending on pursuing a college major in writing. Emphasis is placed on creating written works in

many genres including poetry, fiction, and short stories.

### **Introduction to Western Philosophy**

1/2 credit

Students will explore the philosophical themes, currents, and schools upon which major works are constructed.

Students will explore how Philosophy underlies all our actions and thoughts.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Civics**

One Credit

Civics is a course in practical law that provides new information, practical advice, and competency building activities. Civics is designed to provide students with the ability to analyze, evaluate and in some situations resolve legal disputes. The students will become acquainted with everyday situations in which most people would be involved. Respect for law and legal authority is part of this. The course will cover two semesters and will explain how our legal process works and how individual rights and obligations are interrelated. In addition, the course will aid in the development of responsible citizenship, the encouragement of critical thinking and competencies essential for effective living and the appreciation of the basic values underlying our way of life. Lastly, this course will develop in the students the knowledge and skills necessary for survival in a litigious society.

### **World History**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Civics

World History is designed to acquaint the student with our world and its

development. There is special emphasis on historical, political, economic, and social concepts. It is hoped that an understanding of the way people lived in the past will help the student grasp events in the world today. Topics will include pre-history to modern times in Europe, Soviet Union, China, Japan, Middle East, Africa, and the Americas including the United States.

### **United States History**

One Credit

United States History is designed to acquaint the student with both the historical background and development of the United States and trace the founding concepts through the present day. We believe that part of education consists of basic issues and concepts, which are heavily emphasized in this course. Consequently, a chronological development of United States History from European Exploration through Reconstruction is followed first semester. Second semester, the course follows a topical sequence from the end of the Civil War to the present. The dividing points of the second semester are economics, social and political, and foreign affairs.

### **World Geography**

½ Credit

World Geography is designed to study the regional concepts of the world through thematic maps and test material. These maps and tests will be employed to show qualitative differences of a certain category of information and may also show quantitative differences in information. The course will likewise stress both political and physical

geography but will tend to relate more to economic and demographic aspects of world geography.

### **American Government** One Credit

American Government, a seniors course, is intended to increase the student's understanding of political systems and governmental institutions. The philosophy of democracy and a comprehensive study of our federal government form the nucleus of this course. The role and responsibilities of the individual citizen are stressed in the course. The economics component is designed to familiarize the student with basic concepts in our economic system as well as other economic systems. It attempts to provide a fundamental foundation that the student can build on to help carry him through life. He can take this foundation and apply it to economic issues of our day.

### **Economics** ½ Credit

Economics is designed to acquaint the student with basic concepts in our economic system as well as other economic systems. It attempts to provide a fundamental foundation, which the student can build on to help carry the student through life. Thus, the student can take this foundation and apply it to economic issues of our day.

### **Psychology** ½ Credit

This course is a systematic approach to the major concepts and issues in psychology. It attempts to encourage informed critical thinking skills as they

are applied to both normal and abnormal development of the individual throughout the life span. The focus of the course is on how to approach emotional concerns from multiple perspectives and how to integrate biological and non-biological approaches to psychological therapy. This course requires a daily journal as well as a final paper on an approved topic in psychology.

### **Geo History** ½ credit

This class is intended for juniors and seniors in danger of not passing the history OGT. Core history standards set for the OGT are specifically addressed during this semester course.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Algebra 1/2** One Credit

Algebra 1/2 concentrates on developing the student's computational proficiency with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. It also emphasizes percent and ratio word problems using these numerical skills. This course begins the formal study of geometry by introducing the concepts of perimeter, area, and volume. The goal of this course is retention of computational skills necessary for the algebra courses to follow.

### **Algebra I** One Credit

Algebra I is the introduction to the principles and practices of elementary algebra while continuing to reinforce basic computational skills with fractions,

decimals, percents, and ratios. The student is introduced to the structure and logic of an algebraic system. At the same time, the student is introduced to applications and problem-solving techniques using algebraic skills learned. The goal of this course is to develop a student's proficiency with numerical skills and algebraic algorithms.

### **Intermediate Algebra**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Intermediate Algebra is an integrated course designed for the student who has completed Algebra I and/or Geometry and needs a reinforcement of elementary algebra topics before enrolling in college preparatory Algebra II. The student will be presented a full review of basic algebra concepts leading to the presentation of intermediate topics in algebra, including an introduction to non-linear functions. At the same time, the student will be presented geometry topics such as angles, perimeter, area, and volume in the form of application problems. The student will learn to use the calculator as a computational tool. Manipulative, practical, and applied problems are emphasized throughout the course to ensure a thorough understanding and the retention of the concepts presented.

### **Integrated Algebra**

½ credit

This class is intended for juniors and seniors in danger of not passing the math OGT. Core mathematics standards set for the OGT are specifically addressed during this semester course.

### **Algebra II**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry

Algebra II is the continuing study of the principles and practices of algebra. The student studies the structure, logic, and graphical representation of algebraic systems. At the same time, the student also studies the application and problem-solving techniques of these systems as tools that can be applied to courses of study beyond the field, particularly the sciences. Basic computational and algebraic skills are constantly reinforced, initially to attain understanding, and secondly, to assure retention for future math courses. TI-86 calculator recommended.

### **Accelerated Algebra II**

One credit

Must have teacher permission

### **Introduction to College Algebra**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Introduction to College Algebra is a course designed for the student who will not need Calculus in college. This course will prepare the student for Pre-Calculus or a first course in College Algebra. Topics include an in-depth coverage of intermediate and advanced algebra, exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, matrices, permutations and combinations, and arithmetic and geometric sequences. The graphing calculator will be used extensively as a computational and learning tool.

### **Pre-Calculus**

One Credit

Five-point Honors class

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Pre-Calculus is designed to teach the fundamental concepts and skills necessary for students to succeed in calculus and in disciplines that are mathematically based, such as physics. It contains an in-depth coverage of trigonometry and the fundamentals of intermediate and advanced algebra. Calculator use is presented and encouraged as an appropriate tool of technology. A goal is to teach students to apply computational skills to develop strategies in reasoning and problem solving. TI-86 or similar calculator required.

### **Beginning Calculus**

One Credit

Five-point Honors class

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

The Calculus course is taught based on the concept of incremental development. The student is exposed to new concepts in small steps over the course of several lessons. Emphasis on review problems permits long-term practice with the different calculus skills. Development of fundamental theorems is introduced later on in order to give the students time to understand the rules they are trying to prove. By teaching the course in this fashion, students are able to acquire a firm mathematical foundation for the pursuit of higher-level math courses in college. Topics included in this course are Limits, Continuity, Exponential Growth and Decay, Derivatives, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Maximum and Minimum Problems, Implicit Differentiation, Solids of

Revolution, Area Under a Curve, Area Between Two Curves, and the Mean Value Theorem. TI-86 or similar calculator required.

### **Advanced Calculus**

One Credit

Five-point Honors Class

Prerequisite: Calculus I

This course continues with the concepts of Calculus I. It is taught with the same book, but at a slower pace. The class will start towards the end of the calculus book and continue until the book is finished. We will then begin reviewing for Calculus AP exam. The class will concentrate on doing practice problems and tests in order to expose the students to the information on the exam.

### **Statistics**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

This class is designed for students to have a basic understanding of statistics. It will be for students that feel Calculus 1 or 2 may be too difficult for them or for students that believe statistics will be a major part of their education once they move onto college. The course will be taught with an emphasis on statistical thinking.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### **Computer Applications I**

½ Credit

Beginning Computer Programming 1 is targeted to the students who have no or very little programming knowledge or experience. The goal is for students to get a sense of how to make computers do



things that we would like them to do, and at the same see how computers can do things that surprise the very people who program them. Microsoft's Visual Basic is the programming language used. All assignments are done in the computer lab. By the end of the semester, students will be writing their own programs and some very simple computer games.

### **Computer Applications II**

½ Credit

Prerequisite: Computer Applications I (or teacher permission)

This one semester course will continue to explore the world of computer programming using Visual Basic NET. Students will build upon the skills learned in Computer Programming I to design, develop and write more complex programs using more complex algorithms. Students will learn to use Visual Basic Net's built in functions in addition to writing their own. They will learn to write their own sub procedures, use looping structures, variable arrays, control arrays, color, and graphics. Animation will be explored along with the use of menus and multiple forms. At the end of the course, the students will sue all their newly developed skills by designing and writing their own computer game.

### **Computer Applications III**

½ Credit

Digital Photography is a semester course in which students will learn the Adobe Photoshop program. This program enables students to learn how to alter, improve or distort pictures to create art. Once the students have mastered the use of the program they will learn how to

use the digital camera to take effective pictures and upload them on the computer. They can use the Adobe Photoshop program to work on their own photographs.

### **Computer Applications IV**

½ Credit

Prerequisite: Comp. Apps. I or II

This course will teach Excel, Publisher, and Access with a review of Word and Power Point in order for all programs to be used together for the purpose of multi-media presentations. The students gain the knowledge on how to construct a multi-media presentation, setting the student up for many successful school and business presentations. It also provides for an introduction to Web Design.

### **Advanced Web Design**

½ Credit

Prerequisite: Computer Applications III

This course is designed to emerge the students in a full force design environment. The projects and clients are real. Students will advertise 'free' web/graphic design in local newspapers. They will also tailor their design to specific client needs. The class will also be in charge of maintaining and updating the GRA website.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### **Spanish I** One Credit

Spanish I is designed to develop proficiency in speaking and understanding spoken Spanish with reading and writing receiving somewhat secondary importance. The approach is basically eclectic. In addition to the text and workbook, students utilize videos, tapes, and records to perfect their mastery over various topics.

### **Spanish II** One Credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I and Permission of Instructor

Much of the first semester is spent reinforcing the work presented in Spanish I. More advanced work is presented second semester. The format continues to be thematic, with students gaining facility in certain grammatical forms and expanded topics of conversation. Students learn to recognize the names and accomplishments of historic and contemporary Hispanic figures of politics and the arts.

### **Advanced Spanish**

One Credit

Prerequisite: A grade of C in Spanish II

A review of the grammar and vocabulary learned in previous years is undertaken, but emphasis is clearly on the spoken language in this course. Students will be able to talk about a variety of topics popular with teenagers. Literary selections are introduced for the first time. "Spanish only" days are held. A journal is kept. Spanish and Latin American accomplishments in music,

architecture, and literature are explored in detail.

### **French & Advanced French** One credit

These courses are designed to introduce the student to French language and culture. The nature of language, hearing and listening, pronunciation, and speaking as well as reading and writing are emphasized in this alternative assessment course. The students are then challenged to participate in a fully immersed French classroom environment.

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### **Health**

½ Credit

The purpose of this course is to present the basic concepts in the field of health in a progressive sequence to help the students prepare and understand the immediate and future consequences of their actions. This course will fulfill all the requirements governed by the State of Ohio.

### **Physical Education**

1 Semester, 1/4 Credit

A program for physical education in this boarding school must extend beyond the traditional standards of the school day. This program will provide an opportunity for students to participate in physical activities with a divided emphasis on competitive and leisure time pursuits. A variety of team sports are incorporated as well as a weight-training program.

### **Lifestyle Fitness**

1 semester, ¼ credit

This course is designed for students who desire to earn a PE credit while participating in a more intense and rigorous environment than the general PE course. The two core components of this course for each student are the development of a semester long personal fitness plan and the execution of that plan.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Physical/Earth Science**

One Credit

The purpose of this first-year course is to introduce students to the basic concepts found in all areas of science and to integrate these with everyday applications.

### **Biology I**

One Credit

Biology I is an in-depth look at all aspects of modern biological study. Students and teacher explore the themes and the basic understanding behind life on Earth. Topics include the origin of life, the chemistry of life, cells and cellular chemistry, DNA and genetics, with emphasis given to ecology (ecosystems and the balance within living systems), the evolution of life. Demonstrations, activities, notes,

independent work, and laboratory experiments all reinforce the material. The class discusses current newsworthy biology topics in an effort to bring relevance of what is learned to the real world. Integrated into the course is the use of computers and technology.

### **Biology II**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Biology I

Biology II is a survey of the five kingdoms of living organisms. The course begins with a detailed look at the simplest life forms, bacteria, which belong to Kingdom Monera. The class makes progress through Kingdom Protista, Kingdom Fungi, and Kingdom Plantae noting specific structural characteristics, reproductive strategies, survival strategies, and the roles of these organisms in their respective ecosystems. Students spend the majority of the second semester detailing the diversity in Kingdom Animalia. The dominant theme throughout the course is evolution and what forces have brought about the current diversity of life on Earth.

### **Introduction to Chemistry and Physics**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Biology

This course is an intermediate course designed to explore the important concepts in the physical sciences, which impact modern daily life. This course will rely heavily on the scientific process, and how scientists use this to increase the understanding of the physical world. Additionally the nature of scientific knowledge will be explored

through the study of the Chemistry and Physics. Chemistry topics will be atomic structure, formation of ionic and covalent compounds, molecular structure, and chemical equations including mass relations, solutions, and gases. Physics topics explored will be basic operating principles of gears, levers, pulleys, simple machines, and the effects of heat on solids, liquids, and gases.

### **Chemistry**

One Credit

Prerequisite: Biology; Enrollment in Algebra II

This course will present a clear and valid picture of the steps by which scientists operate. In so far as it is practical, the concepts and facts are introduced through experimentation. The experiments are performed by the student before class discussion of the ideas they illustrate. The notion that scientific ideas and facts arise from experimentation is emphasized. This course is also designed with the belief that the best way to present chemistry is through the presentation of fundamental principles rather than as a collection of facts. Emphasis is placed on understanding of these principles rather than rote learning or memorization.

### **Physics**

One Credit

Five-point Honors Class

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Algebra II.

Enrollment in Pre-Calculus or instructor permission

Physics is an introduction into the field of physics with associated laboratory techniques. Specifically, the object of

this course is to develop an understanding of the essential principles of physics, the student's problem-solving skills, and his ability to apply mathematical techniques to physical situations. The topics covered include mechanics, electricity and magnetism, optics and waves, and atomic physics.

### **Ecology**

½ Credit semester course

Pre-Requisite: Biology and Chemistry

Open to Seniors only.

Ecology leads students to an understanding of ecology by investigating and analyzing fresh water, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems. This is a foundations course for further undergraduate studies in life sciences.

### **Geology**

½ Credit semester course

Pre-Requisite: Biology and Chemistry

Open to Seniors only.

This course covers the structure of the earth, geomorphology, mineralogy, constructive and destructive forces, volcanism, magma chemistry, tectonic deformation, seismicity, erosion and weathering, geologic hazards, and atmospheric structure.

### **Anatomy and Physiology**

½ credit

Anatomy and Physiology is the study of the structure and function of the human body including cells, tissues, and organs of the following systems: Integumentary, Skeletal, Muscular, Cardiovascular, Nervous system, and Special senses.

## THE ARTS

### Fine Art

½ Credit per Semester

The courses in the arts will provide the student with a variety of media experiences including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, and crafts. Each unit will begin with the basics and progress with the student's level of development. Each student will be directly involved in developing the necessary skills for creating with a medium through exploration of the potential and limitations of each. Individual and group critiques will assist students in clarifying personal interests and goals.

### Ceramics

½ credit

This Ceramics course enables students to make ceramic objects that are hand built and thrown on the wheel. Basic and advanced techniques such as coil, slab, and press molding are taught as students gain knowledge of materials, tools,

### Music

½ credit.

This course is being presented as an introduction to basic music history and music making skills. It is designed to provide a framework for further study either formally or informally.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

### Intro to English Language and American Culture

½ credit

International students entering the Academy for the 1st time will be enrolled their first semester in the ELAC class. The students will be introduced to American Culture as well as sharing their own culture and traditions with their classmates who typically represent various countries. Each student will be assisted in developing the social and organizational skills necessary for success in the American Academics and Social community. Students will be linked with a "buddy" who will act as a mentor and tutor. Each first year international student will be required to participate in scheduled weekends "off campus" with one of the Academy's 5 day boarders in-order to experience first hand the way the American families live. In addition, each new international student will be placed with a host student during our 2 scheduled long weekends; in October and November.

### Communications I

½-1 credit (depending on need)

Following the Intro to English Language and American Culture class, the students will be evaluated by their classroom teachers to determine if continued help and support in their core classes is needed. In addition, specific help will be provided in the areas of reading, speaking and writing.

## **Communications II**

½-1 credit (depending on need)

This course is offered to returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors needing extra help and support with their core classes. In addition, specific help will be provided in the areas of reading, speaking and writing.

## **TOEFL Prep Course**

½ credit

This class will be offered to second semester sophomores, as well as to all juniors and seniors. This is a complete TOEFL preparation course for high-intermediate and advanced students preparing to take the new version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The text used is the Delta's Key to the Next Generation TOEFL Test. The course provides ample practice in the English skills evaluated by the new test, along with useful strategies and practical ideas for individual, pair and group activities. All international students are required to take the TOEFL test upon admittance into an American College or University.

## **OGT Prep**

½-1 credit (depending on need)

This class will be offered to sophomores, as well as to all juniors and seniors whom still need to pass the Ohio Graduation Test. The standardized test is given in March of their sophomore year. In addition, it is given in the fall for all juniors and seniors who still need to pass.

Study Island's web-based state assessment preparation program will be used in helping students work independently and to address skills specific to their needs. Instant feedback is provided to keep both students and teachers informed of their progress. Study Island is used by over four million students in over 9,000 schools.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Driver Education**

Non-credit

Driver Education will be offered through a local professional driving school.



# The Grand River Academy

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## Statement on Learning Differences

The mission of GRA is to help students reach their full potential and gain acceptance into college. Many boys, who have previously underachieved, have struggled with Learning Differences throughout their academic career. Many students with learning differences, including ADD and ADHD improve their achievement at the Academy without formal written plans. The small class sizes, individual attention, and structure help students achieve their potential. The academic confidence they gain at GRA fosters success in all areas of their lives. We do however acknowledge the limitations of our program.

The Learning Center provides the opportunity for students to meet with a LC teacher on a 2:1 student to teacher ration. The LC is available to qualified students (those diagnosed with an LD) for one class period a day at an additional cost. The goal of the LC is to work closely with students teaching them test taking strategies, organization, time management, study skills, and intensive tutoring in specific subject areas including: standardized tests such as the ACT, SAT, and the OGT when specifically requested.

The Director of the Learning Center does hold certifications in Sp.Ed. and LD. Academy teachers hold teaching certificates in their specific subject areas. Outside the Learning Center, our

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teachers provide the same individual help that is available to any other student. GRA does retain a consulting educational psychologist on campus weekly. The educational psychologist attends weekly faculty meetings, helps to create educational plans for success and is available for educational evaluation and re-evaluations. The educational psychologist is also involved with the admissions process.

GRA believes in the potential and ability of all our students; therefore, the Academy will not alter the content of tests for individual students nor does it modify standards for content mastery or grading scales for any student.

The academic program is the top priority at GRA; however, we also want all students to enjoy a healthy residential life as well.

The Academy expects all students to participate in the residential life program and after school activity program.

Finally, in order to monitor student progress, grades are posted weekly on Ed-Line (internet grade program). Parents are encouraged to review their son's academic activities. The full faculty also meets weekly to identify and discuss any student experiencing academic challenge.

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