

**Georges Valley High School
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www.msad50.org/gvhs/home.html
www.msad50.org/gvhs/depts/studentservices/

Counselors
Martha Brown
Emily Davis

Dear Students, Parents and Community Members:

Welcome to Georges Valley High School's Program of Studies for the 2008 – 2009 school year. We are proud to be serving our communities and will continue to provide diverse, enriching opportunities for our students.

The Program of Studies has been redesigned to make it more informative and useful. We have attempted to provide all of the details necessary for students to make informed decisions. Many of our requirements have been established with the goal of students having multiple options at the end of their high school experience.

For students, choosing a course of study can be a difficult task. The decisions made early in one's high school career can have effects that last a lifetime. Students do not have to navigate this process alone, and are encouraged to seek support from parents, guidance counselors, teachers and administrators. It is important that this process be thorough and thoughtful, and students are encouraged to be pro-active and involved.

It is important to remember that the Program of Studies includes courses that are possible options for the school year. Curriculum is reviewed regularly, and as standards and expectations change, so do the courses that are offered. Many times, the number of requests for a given course will ultimately determine whether or not that course is offered.

If you have any questions regarding the Program of Studies or the course selection process, please feel free to contact your guidance counselor, who will be happy to provide you any required assistance.

We look forward to working with you to help you achieve your present and future goals.

Sincerely,

Robert Beverage
Principal

Course Selection Considerations

The academic goals that you set for your high school years can provide more options for you in the future. By making careful and deliberate course selections you can explore a wide range of subjects as well as focus on your strongest interest areas. A commitment to academic success in high school requires developing good study habits, making a time commitment to school work beyond the school day, and accessing resources and supports that are available.

Remember.... the Student Services office is available to assist all students in gaining a meaningful and successful high school experience. The Student Services staff is more than willing to work with individual students and their parents on the course selection process as well as to address a wide range of other concerns.

Accelerated Vs. Comprehensive Level Courses

When choosing between Accelerated and Comprehensive level courses, several factors should be considered. A Comprehensive level curriculum is considered by colleges to be College Prep work. This level of course work will prepare you for admission to most colleges. If you are looking for a challenge involving more work, deeper focus and more commitment to a course, then maybe the Accelerated level is for you. You will be asked to demonstrate a deeper level of understanding of the concepts introduced. This often involves more academic work. Selective colleges will look at your transcript to see how much you challenged yourself with the level of course work you chose. They will be looking for A's and B's (grades from 100 to 85) in Accelerated level courses. As you make decisions about what level course to select, remember that teachers are a good resource for determining the amount and level of work required for each course level.

New This Year! Additional AP Course Offerings

A new opportunity is available to GVHS students for the 2008-09 school year. Rockland District High School's (RDHS) AP Calculus and AP English Literature courses, as well as others, are available through a collaborative agreement between RDHS and GVHS. AP Calculus and AP English Literature will both be offered period one, every day, during semester one. Transportation will be provided.

Planning for College

Generally, students who succeed in college have the following high school preparation in these academic areas:

- Four years of English
- Four years of mathematics
- At least three years of laboratory science
- At least three years of history and social science
- At least two years of study in a language other than English

The Course Selection Process: How is it done?

- Review this book thoroughly. It will give you a good idea of the academic opportunities that are available here at GHVS.
- Using the diploma requirements sheet on the next page, consider what credits are required each year.
- Read specific information about each course and talk with teachers, parents, and the school counselor about the best options for you.
- Fill in the course request form completely and obtain necessary signatures.
- Turn in your completed course request form to your school counselor (grade 9) or your advisor (grades 10-12) by the date shown on the bottom of the form.
- Meet with a high school counselor later this spring to look at your tentative schedule and make any necessary changes.
- Look for your schedule to come in the mail in early August.
- Have a great year!

Diploma Requirements for the class of 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012

Name: _____ Student ID #: _____ Advisor: _____

Credit Requirements		<i>Write in the COURSE TITLE and CREDIT EARNED</i>			
<u>Area</u>	<u>Total Required</u>	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
English/Language Arts	4	_____ English I	_____ English II	_____ English III	
Mathematics	3				
Social Studies	3	_____ Modern World History	_____ Sophomore SS	_____ US History	
Science	2.5	_____ Earth Systems	_____ Biology		
Fine Arts (may include art, music, music theatre)	1				
Health	0.5		_____ Health		
Physical Education (Fall and Spring PE)	2				
Technology or Vocational Education	0.5				
Career Preparation	1			_____ Junior Journey	
Computer Science	1				
Electives	5				
YEARLY TOTALS:					
CUMULATIVE TOTALS:					
23.50 credits required for graduation					