

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE DIPLOMA

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves throughout their years at GSA by taking an ambitious course of study to prepare themselves well for their futures. Faculty advisors and the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction are available to help students plan their schedules.

The George Stevens Academy diploma is conferred upon students who have satisfactorily met the requirements described below. Participation in the graduation ceremony is reserved for students who have met all graduation requirements at the time of graduation.

### ***Minimum Credit & Distribution Requirements***

- 4 credits of English (must include Senior English or AP English Language and Composition)
- 3 credits of mathematics (must include two years of algebra or higher level analytic math courses plus one year of geometry)
- 3 credits of science
- 3 credits of social science (must include U.S. history)
- 1 credit of physical education
- 1 credit of visual and performing arts
- ½ credit of health
- 6½ credits of electives
- Grade 9 Seminar\*
- Total: 22 credits

\*Grade 9 Seminar provides a structured learning environment where students develop skills and habits they need to be academically successful and independent. Topics include: keeping track of assignments, organization, time management, study skills, test preparation, note-taking, and self-advocacy. Grade 9 Seminar is required of every ninth-grade student enrolled in a study hall.

### ***Minimum Course Load***

All students are required to carry a minimum of six (6) academic courses each semester.

### ***Honors Course Policies***

Honors courses challenge students to pursue a subject more deeply, more intensively, and more rigorously. Honors course enrollment policies are as follows:

- New students will discuss the appropriateness of taking an honors course with the admissions officer as they register for classes.
- A student enrolled in an honors course at GSA must achieve a final grade of 80 or better in order to enroll in the next level honors course in that department unless an alternative non-honors course is unavailable.
- A student who earns a final grade of 90 or better in a standard-level course, or who has an average of 87 for the year AND a 90 for the second semester, may enroll in the honors level in the next appropriate course in that department.

### ***Courses Requiring the Approval of the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction***

The Dean of Curriculum and Instruction must approve in advance Alternative Course Contracts, independent study courses, and courses taken for credit outside George Stevens Academy.

For more details about academic policies, consult the Student-Parent Handbook.