

GEORGE
STEVENS
ACADEMY

An American High School on the Coast of Maine



www.GeorgeStevensAcademy.org



from the Head of School



There are many good reasons for choosing to go to a boarding school, and many factors to consider when choosing which one to attend. Since you are already looking at boarding schools, you are already familiar with some of the benefits—being able to take classes and participate in programs unavailable back home, enjoying the personal growth that comes from early independence and that hastens readiness for college. At a boarding school, your view of yourself and your view of the world expand, and a whole range of possible futures, previously unseen or obscure, comes into focus.

George Stevens Academy prides itself on a faculty made up of deeply experienced teachers as well as younger professionals—all teachers filled with enthusiasm for the excellent academic program they have created. GSA teachers will challenge you, engage you, support you, and prepare you exceptionally well for success at top colleges and universities. They will help you refine your thinking and increase your ability to use new knowledge and skills effectively. When you graduate from GSA, you will be ready for whatever academic challenges you encounter at college or university.

But George Stevens Academy is more than a boarding school with an excellent academic program. We are a New England Town Academy, a distinctive kind of American school different from most other boarding schools in the world. As a Town Academy, we cherish our relationship with the towns surrounding us and with the people who live in them. We are committed to serving our local students right alongside our residential students. This means that while you will have classmates from all over the world, most of your friends and fellow classmates will have grown up right on the Blue Hill peninsula itself. Your experience at GSA will encompass much more than the typical academic boarding school experience; you will become part of the life of a small New England community and its rich diversity of people from all walks of life.

At GSA you will find an outstanding academic curriculum, exceptionally strong jazz and arts programs, options for both independent study and collaborative work, strong sports, and many clubs and activities. So explore GSA and consider joining an exceptional academic program set in a safe, friendly, and welcoming New England community. You will graduate having been transformed into a stronger and more able student, and into a person with a larger worldview and a greater capacity for understanding, working with and appreciating people everywhere.

Timothy J. Seeley

Timothy J. Seeley, Head of School

The Mission of George Stevens Academy

George Stevens Academy is an independent high school on the coast of Maine. The Academy is a caring educational community committed to meeting the needs of each local and residential student with a challenging, comprehensive academic and experiential program that fosters the pursuit of knowledge, inspires creativity, develops self-reliance, and prepares graduates for a purposeful life in a changing world.

Why GSA?

FOUNDED IN 1803, George Stevens Academy educates 290 local high school students, as well as 40 international and domestic boarding students.

GSA OFFERS

- ▶ **outstanding preparation** for admission in selective colleges and universities.
- ▶ **a safe and beautiful environment** in which adolescents are healthy and well-cared for.
- ▶ **a long tradition of excellence** at one of the oldest schools in the United States.
- ▶ **a modern curriculum** that prepares students for 21st-century study and jobs.
- ▶ **a wholesome community** in which to grow and develop lifelong friendships.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Independent Study & Internship Projects

Eleventh and twelfth grade students are eligible to spend two to three weeks in February and March doing a self-designed independent study research project or a career internship.

Recent ISIP projects have included: interning with a local architectural firm, volunteering with a medical mission in Ecuador, working in local day care centers, exploring veterinary science, restoring antique automobiles, working with teachers in local elementary schools, apprenticing with local artists, creating a digital art portfolio, studying piano, and producing a saxophone CD.

Alternative Course Contracts

Alternative Course Contracts provide an opportunity for students to take a course not offered in the regular curriculum. Working with the Office of Student Services and a member of the GSA faculty, students can design and complete coursework in any area of special interest.

Music Groups

Among the musical arts, GSA is particularly known for its award-winning Jazz Band, several jazz combos, and its Steel Drum Bands.

In 2015 the GSA Jazz Band won the Maine State Champion title. GSA's Jazz Band has won the championship eleven times since 2003 and seventeen times since 1989. Since 1987, the GSA Jazz Band has placed first, second or third every year but but two, and a GSA jazz combo has placed first, second, or third in their respective division for thirteen years in a row

Arts Fest

Every spring GSA students and faculty spend a week celebrating the arts. Local artists come to campus and conduct dozens of workshops in dance, music, film, painting, poetry, creative writing, woodworking, blacksmithing, photography, and more.

Haystack Mountain School

The Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in nearby Deer Isle offers extraordinary opportunities for GSA students throughout the year. In the fall, students may attend a three-day intensive workshop in one of six arts disciplines: blacksmithing, metal working, fiber arts, ceramics, print making, and wood sculpture. In the spring, Haystack artists offer Saturday mentorship programs in a variety of arts.

Culinary Arts

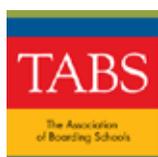
Students interested in food services may enroll in a culinary arts program where they learn every aspect of food preparation, menu planning, healthy eating, and food safety. The program is taught by the school's own Chef Bianco. Through "hands on" experiences in the school's kitchen, students learn about the restaurant/hospitality industry, including how to cater events.

Eastern Maine Skippers Program

The Eastern Maine Skippers Program prepares students to contribute to the vitality of fishing communities today and in the future. Students participate in activities and workshops that prepare them for college work in modern marine studies. They have the opportunity to learn about jobs on the waterfront, how to run a successful business, research skills, and other aspects of leading a small business.

Non-Profit Experience

Upperclass students may participate in the Non-Profit Experience program where they learn from leaders in the local non-profit sector about fundraising, philanthropy, and nonprofit governance.





“Looking back, I am so happy that we chose George Stevens Academy from all the other schools that were offered to us as possible alternatives! All our hopes and wishes came true. Caterina came back as a very happy young lady, mature, confident, and with a new outlook on life!”

—a mother in Switzerland



GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

- ▶ Founded in 1803.
- ▶ Two semesters: Sept-Jan & Jan-June.
- ▶ 290 local students, and 40 international and domestic boarding students.
- ▶ 32 teachers • 10:1 student/teacher ratio.
- ▶ Most classes between 10 and 20 students.
- ▶ Four levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction.
- ▶ Safe campus and surrounding community.
- ▶ Separate dormitories for girls and boys, with resident dorm parents.
- ▶ Wireless internet throughout campus.
- ▶ Seven AP Scholars in the Class of 2015.
- ▶ Regional and State Championships in Jazz Band, baseball, girls tennis, and girls basketball.
- ▶ More than 35 clubs and extracurricular activities, including Model U.N., Math Team, Anime Club, Student Ambassadors, Girls Volleyball, and Outdoor Exercise.
- ▶ Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and Maine Department of Educational & Cultural Services.
- ▶ Member of The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Independent Schools Association of Northern New England (ISANNE), and Maine Association of Independent Schools (MAIS).

LOCATION

George Stevens Academy is located in the town of Blue Hill on the coast of Maine in New England, a region known for a long tradition of excellent schools, colleges, and universities. The school is a few steps (approximately 215 meters/230 yards) from the Atlantic Ocean.

The Blue Hill Peninsula is famous for its traditional coastal fishing and boatbuilding history and is an oasis for writers, painters, sculptors, and musicians. The charming village of Blue Hill at the mouth of Blue Hill Bay is a collection of shops, art galleries, pottery studios, restaurants, a first-class public library, a music lending library, and lovely nineteenth-century houses. Throughout the year, there are opportunities to attend or participate in classical, jazz, steel drum, and choral concerts. George Stevens Academy is at the heart of this special place. From Blue Hill, there is easy access to northern Maine's largest shopping city (Bangor) and university (University of Maine). To learn more about Blue Hill see <http://www.bluehillpeninsula.org/>.



SAFETY

The Institute for Economics and Peace, which compiles data from all 50 states, has ranked Maine first in safety for eleven consecutive years.

CLIMATE

The Blue Hill Peninsula boasts spectacular outdoor spaces in all seasons of the year. In spring and fall, the temperatures are cool to warm during the day and cool or chilly at night.

Maine has a reputation for cold winters. However, George Stevens Academy is located on the coast, where the climate is tempered by the Atlantic Ocean's Gulf Stream. In Blue Hill, the winters are warmer and the summers are cooler than in interior parts of the state. Winters are cold (averaging 23 degrees Fahrenheit or -5 degrees Celsius in January, the coldest month of the year), but very cold spells are usually brief.

An occasional Nor'easter may deliver more than ten inches of snow, but it is unusual to have more than 15-20 days when more than an inch (2cm) of snow falls. Hurricanes, tornadoes, and ice storms are rare. Of course, school buildings (including dormitories) are located close to each other and are properly heated. Students are taught to dress for comfort when participating in outdoor activities.

TRAVEL

International students generally fly into Bangor International Airport (BGR), which is an hour's drive from campus. Blue Hill is a 3 hour drive from Portland, Maine, and 5 hours from Boston, Massachusetts.

A CHANCE TO BE HANDS-ON SCIENTISTS

Hurricane Island

The Hurricane Island Foundation's Center for Science and Leadership invited GSA to participate in a pilot program.

Eight GSA students from Biology Honors class and Earth Systems Honors and AP Environmental Science classes participated by spending four days and three nights on Hurricane Island, off Rockland, Maine, doing hands-on research. The group traveled to Rockland, took the ferry to Vinalhaven, then went by a smaller boat to Hurricane Island to explore and study the island and surrounding ocean.

Here's how one teacher described the experience:

We left school at 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Our first stop was the Biopolymer plant in Rockland for a tour. They produce carrageenan, a thickening agent made from algae imported from all over the world. Next we took the ferry to Vinalhaven and shuttled to Hurricane Island via a smaller boat.

We were busy from early morning until well past dark each day. We slept in large tents with bunk beds, comfortable even during a rainstorm, and ate all our meals together. We searched tidal pools for organisms to take back to the lab for identification, worked in pairs on an algae identification guide, and as a group developed an experiment to determine if herbivorous

and carnivorous snails would return to an area they had been grazing once all their food source was removed. If they didn't return, how far would they travel within a radius to reach food? Snails were counted and marked, rocks were scrubbed clean and marked snails were replaced within the experimental area.

Students were interested in the ratio of native rock and Jonah crabs to invasive, non-native Green crabs. A quick survey found that almost all the crabs in the intertidal zone were indeed Green crabs. There was also a Green crab competition to see how many Green crabs could be found in five 10-minute periods.

Over the four days we hauled and cleaned mooring lines, hiked to the highest point on the island for a spectacular view, and a few brave souls even went swimming in the ocean. The evenings were spent in the lab working on the algae reports for presentation to the group.

Friday morning we gathered and analyzed data from which to draw conclusions—and then the Green Crab Challenge was on! One student collected more than eighty Green crabs in under an hour.

Later that afternoon, gear in tow, we headed for the mainland. Happy, tired, and a bit sun-burned even with sunscreen, we headed back to GSA.





George Stevens Academy has 31 Athletic Teams

We encourage all our students to participate in a sport while at GSA, and most of them do!

FALL: Boys and Girls Soccer at the JV and Varsity levels (4)
Boys and Girls Cross Country at the JV and Varsity levels (4)
Coed Golf, Varsity (1)

WINTER: Boys and Girls Basketball at the Freshmen, JV, and Varsity levels (6)
Cheering (coed) at the Varsity level (1)
Boys and Girls Swimming at the Varsity level (2)

SPRING: Baseball at the JV and Varsity levels (2)
Softball at the JV and Varsity levels (2)
Boys and Girls Tennis at the JV and Varsity levels (4)
Boys and Girls Outdoor Track at the Varsity level (4)
Sailing (coed) at the Varsity level (1)



JOHNSON CHEN : IN HIS OWN WORDS



Johnson Chen is from Shanghai, China. He came to GSA in 2010 as a freshman. He lived with two host families and then served as a Dorm Proctor in the Boys Dormitory. Johnson was an elected member of GSA's Student Council, captain of the cross-country team, captain of the chess team, and a Student Ambassador.

After graduating in 2014, Johnson and a classmate from Maine traveled to Shanghai where they did an internship, working together to share their experiences with other students who were interested in studying in the United States. Johnson is now a sophomore at McGill University, studying computer science and business. Johnson wrote the story below while at GSA. It offers a realistic look at the challenges and opportunities of being an international student at an American high school.



"It is hard for international students studying in high school in America, and especially for Chinese students. We hope to improve our English speaking, but we fear making mistakes while we are talking. We hope to make friends with American students, but we fear being awkward at the beginning. We hope to adapt to American culture, but we fear failing to do it because of sharp cultural differences. Thus, naturally, most Chinese students usually stay together and form their own coterie. Without a doubt, I was one of them. Coming to an American high school as a freshman, I was afraid of speaking to people in English. It is more comfortable to stay with people who are from the same country, speak the same language and share the same tastes and feelings. However, there was always something in my heart that kept questioning myself: Was this really what I wanted?

When I came back to George Stevens Academy as a sophomore, I lived with a host family. Their son, Nick, and I had the same advisor, and we were in the same class. Living with Nick's family provided me a supportive home in which to practice my English speaking, and a great opportunity to make some American friends.

Nick and I became friends in a flash. He is a splendid and generous young man. His parents are amiable and gracious. I came to realize that GSA had provided me a wonderful platform to learn American culture and begin to understand American society. I became a friend with Nick first, then joined his group,

established a solid and fulfilling relationship with his friends and finally became a member of the community.

I am helping the international students to make their first moves to reach out. We hang out with American students for sports and leisure events, and share experiences on how to make friends with students from different racial, social and cultural backgrounds. Always giving a first try, the more I practice, the more empowered I feel. By introducing China and Chinese culture to American students, the distance between our two countries seems smaller and more easily traversed.

Some of my American friends and I are planning a trip to China in the summer after we graduate from GSA. I hope I can provide as warm and as informative an introduction to my country as my American friends gave to me. This, too, will be a new first for me, and, I hope, a chance for many new firsts for them.

Yesterday, through many tiny "firsts," I ventured out of my cultural comfort zone and jumped into the complex and rainbow multitude of American society. Today, along with fellow GSA students, I am going after not only American dreams, but also, Chinese dreams and all the beautiful dreams we share. For tomorrow, I am not sure how far I can reach, but I am certain of this: I will continue trying new firsts, and I will have American friends to help me on my way."



GSA Graduation

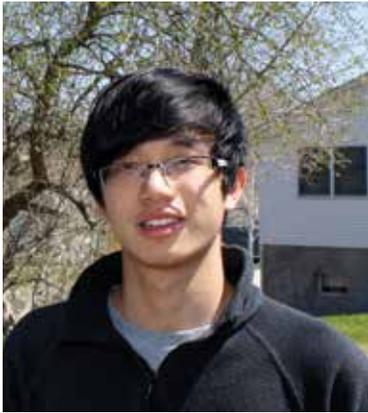


On the third Sunday of June, GSA's graduating class assembles on the Front Lawn, surrounded by family, friends, teachers, school staff, and the Board of Trustees. GSA's band performs traditional graduation music, and the graduating seniors process, dressed in maroon and white caps and gowns. The excitement is palpable and contagious.

The Head of School and the President of the Board welcome the assembled audience, and an invited Commencement Speaker—often a successful past graduate—addresses the graduating class. The four senior students who have earned top academic averages deliver speeches to their fellow graduating classmates.

(See a sample of recent student speakers and excerpts from their remarks on facing page.)





Honor Essayist

Linfeng "Bigo" Shen

Cornell University

"Two thousand years ago, Confucius said, *Life is really simple, but we keep making it complicated.* We all want options, choices, and possibilities, but sometimes these options or choices just make our lives much more complicated. Sometimes, not giving yourself so many options to choose from can be a relief. So, when you can, keep it simple, and make things easier."



Honor Essayist

Mary Elizabeth Prescott

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

"During our time here, we have done many things, met many people, and made many friends. The things that we will remember from high school are the things we've worked the hardest at, the things that we are passionate about."



Salutatorian

Jiangqiong "Joan" Liu

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

"My first year at GSA I mistook joining the swim team for a good opportunity to learn how to swim. On the first day of practice, I stood on the edge of the swimming pool and looked down at the water. My coach said, "Ready, set, go!" but I was still on the edge with quaking knees. I thought my teammates would laugh at me, but they were not laughing; they were cheering me on."

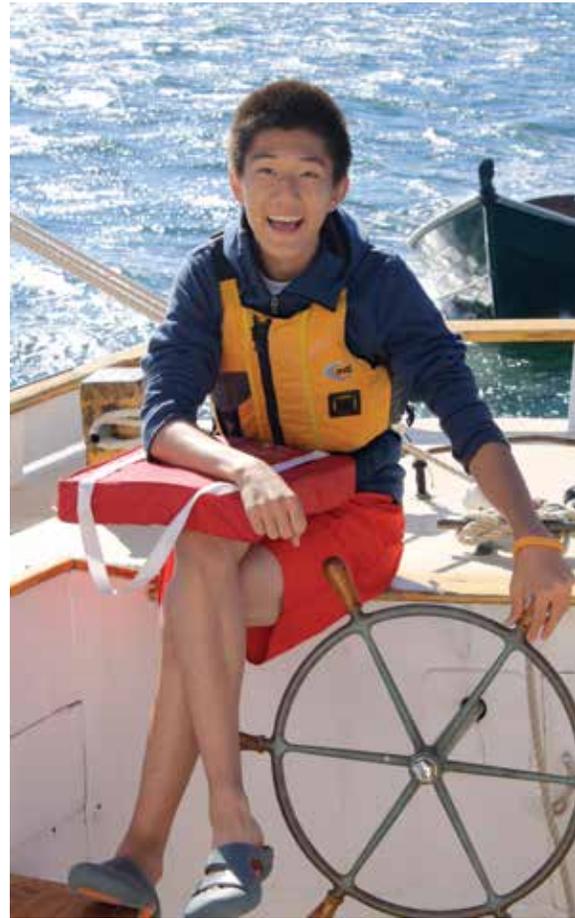


Honor Essayist

William Tyler Navarre

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"It has been said by many that nothing is forever. Today, we must acknowledge this reality. What at first seemed an endlessly expansive journey has come to a close. Even just a few days ago, graduation resided in the far-off space we call the future, but now it's here."



“My host family is very nice. When I need any kind of help, I ask my host parents. They find the best way for me, and sometimes they give me advice. They cook Korean foods for me, so I really don't miss Korean food. They want to learn about Korean culture, because they are interested in Asian culture. We have a lot of conversations about both Korean and American cultures.”

Minpyo, South Korea



University and College Acceptance of International Students 2011-2015

BLUE indicates schools students attended.

American University
University of Arizona
Arizona State University
 Art Center College of Design
Babson College
 Bentley University
Boston University
California College of the Arts
University of California-Davis
University of California-Irvine
University of California-Los Angeles
 University of California-San Diego
 University of California-Santa Cruz
Case Western Reserve University
Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Clark University
 Colby College
 Colorado State University
 Concordia University Irvine
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
 Drexel University
Emerson College
 Emmanuel College
Emory University
 Fordham University, Lincoln Center
 George Mason University
 George Washington University
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Hampshire College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign
 Indiana State University
 University of Iowa
 Iowa State University
 Johnson & Wales University
University of Kentucky
Kutztown University
Lehigh University
Marymount Manhattan College
 University of Massachusetts-Amherst
 University of Massachusetts-Boston
 University of Maine-Presque Isle
 University of Maryland
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
McGill University
University of Melbourne

University of Miami-Oxford
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Michigan State University
 University of Missouri
 Mt. Holyoke College
 New York Film Academy
 New York University
 Northeastern University
 Ohio University
 Ohio State University
 University of Oregon
Oregon State University
 Pace University
Parsons, The New School for Design
Pennsylvania State University
 Pepperdine University
 University of Pittsburgh
 Polytechnic Institute of NY University
Pratt Institute
 Purchase College SUNY
 Purdue University
 Quinnipiac University
 Ramapo College of New Jersey
 University of Rochester
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Rutgers, State University of New Jersey
 University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco
School of the Art Institute-Chicago
 School of Visual Arts
 Seton Hall University
 Simmons College
 Skidmore College
 Smith College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY Buffalo
Syracuse University
 University of Vermont
Wake Forest University
University of Washington
University of Washington-Bothell
 Washington State University
 University of Waterloo
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Wentworth Institute of Technology
 Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

IMPROVING YOUR ENGLISH SKILLS — ESL AT GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

Students must arrive at GSA with sufficient English proficiency to communicate with other students and teachers in their classes, dormitories, cafeteria, and athletics. To help students improve their academic English, GSA offers four levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. Courses are offered in Listening & Speaking and in Reading & Writing. If necessary, individualized support beyond the four levels of classes may be available. Most students complete the sequence of ESL courses within two years. It is a graduation requirement of GSA that all students, whether residential or day, successfully complete the Senior English course.

Jazz Champions

GSA musicians turned out great performances at the 2015 Maine State High School Instrumental Jazz Festival. Every GSA Combo placed in the top three. Gold Rush placed 3rd in the Multiple Division A. In Multiple Division B, Cloud Nine placed third and Sax Appeal placed second. In Combo Division III, J-A Double Z placed first. For a second year in a row, the GSA Jazz Band became the 2015 Maine State Champion. It is GSA's eleventh State Jazz Band Championship since 2003 and seventeenth since 1989. In the last 28 years, the GSA Jazz Band has placed first, second or third in all but two years, and for the thirteenth year in a row a GSA combo placed first, second, or third in its respective division.



Eastern Maine Skippers Program



GSA Marine Biology teacher Sue Jellison instructs GSA students in the Eastern Maine Skippers Program

The Penobscot East Resource Center launched the Eastern Maine Skippers Program to prepare high school students from the most fishing-dependent counties in Maine to “actively contribute to the vitality of our fishing communities today and in the future.”

More than 40 students from six high schools participate in activities and workshops that prepare them for college work in modern marine studies.

Under the guidance of local fishermen, marine teachers, and researchers, GSA students have undertaken a “Winter Flounder Project,” focusing on the life cycle of the Winter flounder, including its prey, behavior, and habitat preferences; and a “Green Crab Project,” examining the recent explosion of Green crabs in Maine’s coastal waters, and exploring ways to turn around its negative impact on the local fishing industry. Students from six schools presented their findings to Maine’s Commissioner of Marine Resources in a public competition, and GSA’s team was awarded top honors.



To Apply for Admission

To apply for admission to George Stevens Academy, submit the following items to GSA's Admissions Office:

- ▶ Admission Application Form (via SSATB or TABS)
- ▶ \$75 non-refundable application fee
- ▶ English teacher Recommendation Form
- ▶ Mathematics teacher Recommendation Form
- ▶ School Report Form, including transcripts for the past three years
- ▶ Official score report for a standardized measure of English proficiency, such as TOEFL (school code 8826), TOEFL Junior (for students entering grades 9 or 10 only), IELTS, iTEP, or Cambridge English exams
- ▶ Other testing, such as SSAT (school code 3367), PSAT, or SAT, if available

Links to the required forms are provided on our website at: www.georgestevensacademy.org/application.

When the above items have been received, we will schedule an in-person or Skype interview. We encourage you to make a campus visit, if possible, for a personal interview and opportunities to meet the faculty, staff, and students. Please contact us in advance to arrange the details of your visit.



Questions? Please contact:

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