

Discover **SOMEONE**
Extraordinary.
YOU.



THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL
POWERED BY K12

WELCOME *to* *The George Washington University Online High School.* FUTURE LEADERS *Developed Here.*

This premier, fully accredited online high school is designed with one goal in mind: to help each student succeed in school, college, and life.

It's a school designed by experienced educators in the arena of online learning and educational excellence.

The George Washington University Online High School (GWUOHS) provides 8th–12th graders with a unique, individualized program developed by experts from The George Washington University (GW) and K12. K12, building on its long experience in creating online education programs, has worked closely with GW's Graduate School of Education and Human Development in developing this major initiative.

We are the only school that complements its high-caliber coursework with the Journeys Symposium—a unique, five-year-long, life-, skills-, and leadership-training curriculum.

GWUOHS offers students seeking admission to top-tier universities:

- Outstanding college prep curriculum
- Exceptional online instructors
- Personalized college counseling
- A flexible, individualized program
- Life and leadership skills development
- Career-building electives
- Unique academic concentrations

All this, and more, in the single-minded pursuit of nurturing the
EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL within each of our students.

WELCOME FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to GWUOHS. In this brochure, we hope you catch a glimpse of the unique spirit that characterizes our school.

Our mission at GWUOHS is to create a rigorous and stimulating academic environment leveraging advanced educational technology and learning methods, as well as resources of The George Washington University, enabling students to follow their intellectual pursuits—while building the foundation for future academic and professional success.

We are a school that encourages the extraordinary potential within each of our students; a school that provides the core academic building blocks essential for success beyond high school; a school that provides critical life learning; a school that fosters smart intellectual risk-taking in a safe, tailored learning environment.

GWUOHS aims to prepare students beyond what they can achieve in traditional schools by providing an individualized education experience attuned to their own needs and goals through regular support of nurturing teachers and college counselors.

We use the widely acclaimed curriculum, technology, and services from K12. Our curriculum challenges each student to think deeply and critically about a wide variety of subjects as they prepare to become leaders of the next generation.

We welcome highly talented students with diverse interests and passions. Here you will find learning marked by joy, energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm. The learning opportunities are virtually limitless. I hope you join us on the journey to discover the extraordinary young person you truly are.

Best Regards,

Alison Mistretta

Alison Mistretta
Head of School



About Alison Mistretta

Alison is dedicated to fostering a student-centered learning environment to help each GWUOHS student achieve personal and academic success. She believes there's no greater honor than to help the next generation forge a path to the future. Alison has more than 15 years' experience in the field of education.

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY

HIGH SCHOOL

FOCUSED ON SUCCESS

What a student learns and achieves in high school largely determines the kind of college he or she can qualify for.

At GWUOHS, students of high potential can truly achieve that potential and move on to the higher learning they deserve. We are a fully accredited, independent private school for students who seek an individualized, flexible, and innovative college preparatory program.

The school is a partnership between GW and K12, the leading provider of online education for grades K-12 in America. Both GW and K12 share a commitment to deliver an individually tailored education by providing outstanding instruction, curriculum, flexibility, and innovative educational technology.

Students seeking admission to top-tier universities will benefit from GWUOHS's outstanding college prep curriculum, coupled with teacher support and personalized, step-by-step college counseling.

WORLD-CLASS CURRICULUM

GWUOHS uses the K12 curriculum as its foundation. This curriculum is highly regarded for its rigorous design as well as its compelling interactivity and integrated blend of books, hands-on materials, and online delivery. Our teachers are experienced in online teaching methods, and provide individual attention to each of our students.

Our high school curriculum offers multiple levels of college preparatory courses—comprehensive, honors, and AP®—aligned with students' interests and skills. We have more than 100 courses across multiple disciplines, including dozens of electives.

Because it's never too early to get serious about college preparation, GWUOHS allows students in eighth grade to take a combination of grade-level and high school courses, where appropriate. This gives them the opportunity to get a head start on taking advanced courses.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION

GWUOHS provides an individualized high school experience. Our multi-year Individualized Academic Plan (IAP) is an integral part of students' personal college prep plans that they create with counselors to reflect their skills, aptitude, and future goals.

GWUOHS students work with each other, instructors, and academic advisors to achieve their goals. The success of this school will be evident every day in the academic stimulation that students experience as they are challenged to reach their highest potential.

PROACTIVE SUPPORT FROM TEACHERS

Instruction and support from teachers—through online classroom sessions, phone, e-mail, and IM—ensures that instructors are always in close communication with students, providing them with an individualized learning experience. Teachers facilitate engaging online discussions between students, and offer one-to-one help through live sessions to review difficult concepts.

PERSONALIZED COUNSELING

At GWUOHS, helping students discover and ultimately attain their postsecondary goals is a stimulating process, nurtured by experienced counselors who employ a personalized approach. Our objective is to properly guide students to gain admission to the postsecondary institutions of their choice that offer the right fit.

Counselors engage in personalized coaching, offering the kind of tailored advice that only results from forming a close relationship with each student. Counselors offer customized support, working with families to build a holistic overview of every student.

GWUOHS students receive:

- Year-by-year preparation for college
- SAT and/or ACT test preparation
- Resources to aid in college evaluation and selection
- Guidance regarding application completion and submission
- Tutorials in essay writing
- Scholarship and financial aid guidance

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Beyond academics, students can also engage in multiple clubs; share their interests, passions, and ideas; and support each other through the GWUOHS secure online community. Clubs, moderated by teachers, are often initiated and brought to life by energetic students eager to share their passion and form groups with students sharing the same interests.

ACCREDITATION: YOUR ASSURANCE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

GWUOHS is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Our parents and students have the right to expect that our school provides a high-quality education endorsed by the education world. As an accredited school, GWUOHS offers courses and a U.S. diploma accepted by schools, colleges, universities, and employers across the globe.

INNOVATIVE *programs*

WITH A HIGH REGARD FOR TRADITION

Talented students who have high academic potential and varied interests and passions will find GWUOHS to be both challenging and satisfying. It is our objective to develop students' character as well as their minds. To do so, we offer innovative program elements and a high regard for tradition.

THE JOURNEYS SYMPOSIUM

GWUOHS is the only school to complement its high caliber coursework with the Journeys Symposium—a unique course sequence on practical life skills and leadership development. Steering students through a voyage of self-discovery, the program concentrates on developing their character, as well as their minds, and includes these consecutive, year-long seminars:

JOURNEYS SYMPOSIUM COURSES

Jumping Into Journeys—This course challenges eighth graders to become leaders and actively map out their plan for academic success, including course scheduling and progression, career exploration, self-reflection, and preparing for the rigor of high school.

The Writer Within: Reflect, Respond, Reaffirm—Students explore and evaluate their personal interests, habits, and preferences through writing exercises and guided experiences that offer greater insight into themselves and each other.

Service to a Cause: Community, Compassion, Commitment—Applying self-awareness to team and community, students engage in a hands-on service experience of their choice. The result is a blueprint they can use for responsible stewardship in the future.

Insights into Leadership: Valor, Vision, Voice—Students begin to build and tell their own unique stories. Through writing challenges, presentations, and discussions, each student crafts a personal narrative that can be used as his or her college essay.

The Capstone Project: Achievement into Action—Focusing on the college application process, students research, examine, and report on examples of courage, motivation, influence, triumph, and legacy fulfillment through a hands-on leadership opportunity.

ACADEMIC OPTIONS: BEYOND THE EXPECTED

Students at GWUOHS can opt to pursue a liberal arts concentration, a science and technology concentration, or an entrepreneurial concentration. Students have the opportunity to select from more than 50 elective courses, with choices that go far beyond what is typically available in most schools, whether public or private.

Science and Technology Electives: These are 21st-century courses for 21st-century students. From Environmental Science to Web Design to C++ Programming, these exciting courses engage high school students and prepare them in a relevant and meaningful manner for the demands and careers of the information-savvy world we live in.

Entrepreneurship Electives: For students with an entrepreneurial bent who want to explore a potential business career, GWUOHS offers electives across a range of disciplines to prepare them with knowledge to advance their interests. These include Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Personal Finance, Marketing, and Economics.

Dedicated Admissions Liaison: For students who are interested in attending The George Washington University after high school, as several of our students have, GWUOHS offers a dedicated resource to assist them with the admissions process. In addition to this valuable liaison, GW will waive the application fee for GWUOHS students who wish to apply.

Liberal Arts Electives: For students who want to explore a potential future career or who want to achieve greater knowledge in a particular subject, GWUOHS offers electives across a range of disciplines. From Fine Art to Journalism, Psychology to World Languages, our high school liberal arts courses span a wide variety.

AP® Excellence: This program is available for qualified students who are not enrolled in the GWUOHS full-time program and are looking to supplement their current education, gain valuable college credits, and challenge themselves intellectually. Offering 15 courses in English, history, math, and science, the AP® Excellence program includes support and training for online education. AP® Excellence students receive a comprehensive program overview in live sessions directed by AP® teachers and coordinators.

WORLD LANGUAGES FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS

For GWUOHS students serious about language study, our world languages course portfolio includes offerings from the powerspeak12 curriculum. Languages offered include Spanish, French, Chinese, German, Japanese, and Latin; AP® levels are available for Spanish and French.

Our courses don't simply adapt adult language-learning products or rely exclusively on "listen and repeat," "trial and error," or "rote memorization" approaches to teaching new languages. Rather, these courses are designed specifically for students, with an optimal mix of innovative yet proven methods that are woven together for a powerful learning experience.

In addition, through the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy (MMLA), GWUOHS students are invited to attend a fully immersive, four-week summer residency program hosted on multiple college campuses around the United States. MMLA provides a safe and structured environment that challenges students to reach new heights of language learning, so they will be prepared to speak, write, listen, and act effectively as world citizens.

INSIGHTS *INTO* *ATTENDING AN* ONLINE SCHOOL

Students at GWUOHS go to school online using our robust Learning Management System (LMS) that hosts online courses and course management tools for students, teachers, and parents. Students use the LMS to access course content, attend class sessions, take assessments, review grades, manage their course schedule, and interact with peers. This platform provides them with a single place to access any information related to their academic life at GWUOHS, anywhere there is an Internet connection.

HOW CLASS SESSIONS WORK

All GWUOHS classes are conducted using a combination of asynchronous and synchronous (i.e., live) components—the combinations will vary based on the course.

Courses contain asynchronous reading, activities, assessments, and videos, as well as synchronous sessions conducted by the teacher at predefined times. Many of these sessions are recorded so that students can “attend” if they miss a session, or review all or part of a session again—if needed.

Central to these synchronous sessions is the online classroom software our teachers use, which includes a whiteboard for live online instruction, multi-student discussion and collaboration, space for instructional slides, as well as file and video sharing. This technology enables teachers and students to conduct a virtual class as if they were in a physical classroom.

Our faculty members also use this online classroom for office hours, tutorials, one-to-one sessions, and parent-teacher conferences.

COURSEWORK DETAILS

- Each course has a regular weekly schedule of lessons and assignments.
- Students are regularly involved in teacher-monitored online discussions on the key topics being covered in the course. The frequency of these discussions varies on a course-by-course basis.
- In addition to computer-graded quizzes and tests, other student assignments and tests are graded by the subject-specific teacher.
- Teachers proactively connect with students to ensure they comprehend subject matter, complete assignments, and progress on schedule.

THE TEACHING FACULTY AT GWUOHS

At the core of the academic program at GWUOHS is a caring faculty that is committed and responsive to individual needs while maintaining high expectations for all students.

Our teachers are selected for their experience teaching talented and diverse students. Employing a variety of strategies to support and challenge a wide array of learning styles, our talented faculty seeks to help each student realize his or her academic potential.

Our faculty members have the opportunity to provide personal attention to their students, so they get to know them extremely well. Our teachers have also received in-depth training in online teaching best practices by K12. K12 has trained more teachers in these methodologies than any other organization.

OUR TEACHERS

- Conduct live online tutorial sessions when needed to reinforce difficult topics
- Respond to students' questions via phone, e-mail, or IM
- Hold virtual office hours to provide individualized help
- Grade assignments and tests

Our teachers are proactive and engage with students to help them succeed at GWUOHS and prepare them for success in college and life.

DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT ONLINE EDUCATION

Here are three commonly held myths about online schooling that simply aren't the case.

MYTH: Students spend all day staring at a computer.

FACT: While attendance, planning, and assessment are all recorded online, not all lesson time is spent on a computer. Content and virtual classroom time is complemented with printed and/or hands-on materials, including novels, textbooks, and such equipment as microscopes for lab work.

MYTH: Students who attend online schools lack socialization and social skills.

FACT: Students in online schools have the opportunity to participate in many academic and social outings and activities. These may include participation in offline and online clubs and enrichment activities. And since students in online schools have more flexible schedules, many find they actually have more time for artistic, athletic, and community activities than their peers in more traditional schooling environments.

MYTH: Attending school online requires a parent to be the teacher.

FACT: The time commitment required of the parent/Learning Coach is significant in younger grades and decreases in middle school and even more so in high school. Since the program provides a recommended schedule, teacher support, and all the required materials, parents don't have to worry about putting together lesson plans, tracking down materials, sorting out grades, and so on. Ever-increasing responsibility and independence is an expectation of the online middle school and high school student, and most respond with flying colors.

CURRICULUM

OPTIONS

At GWUOHS

HIGH SCHOOL

We offer a robust catalog of more than 100 courses. A total of 24 credits are required to graduate from GWUOHS. Students must earn a minimum of 6 simultaneous credits from GWUOHS courses to earn a diploma.

Core Subjects

Math, English, science, and history courses are offered in multiple versions—comprehensive, honors, and AP®—to meet the needs and interests of diverse learners. An individualized learning plan will help determine which level is appropriate for each student:

- **Comprehensive** courses require students to do extensive writing and research, and tackle problems that require analytical thinking. Course projects and activities demand independent thinking and self-discipline above the standard typically found in average high school courses.
- **Honors** courses hold students to a high degree of accountability, demanding independence and self-discipline. Students synthesize and evaluate information and concepts from multiple sources and read texts typically assigned in college-level courses. Students also demonstrate college-level writing in essays that require analysis of primary and secondary sources, responsible use of evidence, and comprehensive citation of sources.
- **AP®** courses are at a college level and follow curriculum specified by the College Board. These courses are designed to prepare students for success on AP® exams, providing students the opportunity to earn credit at many of the nation's colleges and universities.
- **AP® Excellence** for part-time students offers 15 courses in English, history, math, and science and a comprehensive program overview in live sessions directed by AP® teachers and coordinators.

EIGHTH GRADE

GWUOHS serves eighth graders who are willing to cultivate and sustain a strong work ethic in preparation for success in high school and beyond.

GWUOHS gives students a head start on:

- Developing effective study skills
- Engaging in activities that promote self-awareness and build high achievement
- Working with top GWUOHS advisors
- Taking GWUOHS high school courses for credit
- Receiving direct teacher instruction, advising, and counseling



OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS

Highly motivated students—excited by what amounts to the high school equivalent of a college major—may pursue one of three optional concentrations, which require the following additional credits:

Liberal Arts Concentration

- History or Social Science Courses: Two Credits
- World Language or Fine/Liberal Arts Courses: One Credit

Science and Technology Concentration

- Science or Technology Courses: Three Credits

Entrepreneurial Concentration

- Entrepreneurship Courses: One Credit
- Business or Economics Courses: Two Credits

Our **MISSION**

The mission of The George Washington University Online High School is to educate and inspire academically talented and motivated students who seek membership in a school community that values and cultivates hard work, integrity, appreciation of diversity, love of learning, compassion, and high personal expectations.

Through interactive online collaboration, the GWUOHS experience prepares students to contribute significantly, responsibly, and respectfully in a global society.



TALK *With* **US.**
And **DISCOVER**
the **PATH** *to your*
own Extraordinary
JOURNEY.

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Call an enrollment counselor at **877.382.2015** | Visit **[gwuohs.com](https://www.gwuohs.com)**
