



# THE ACADEMY OF GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Shaping Students to Shape the World

“To solve most of the major problems facing our country today—from wiping out terrorism to minimizing global environmental problems to eliminating the scourge of AIDS—will require every young person to learn more about other regions, cultures, and languages.”

—*Former Secretary of State*  
*Colin Powell*



## WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION?

International Education provides students with knowledge of world regions, cultures, and global/international issues. Students participating in international studies develop skills in communicating in languages other than English, working in global or cross-cultural environments, and using information from different sources around the world. An international studies program provides opportunities for students to develop a respect and concern for other cultures and people. The Academy of Global and International Studies (GIS) at Leonardtown High School provides a rigorous, engaging education that will prepare today's graduates to meet the challenges of life in a global age. Students participating in the GIS program will have an opportunity to learn about world cultures, current affairs, history, and languages, while participating in a regular high school program including activities such as fine arts, athletics, and student government.



## WHY DO WE NEED INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION?

Across the United States, states are grappling with the question of how to produce workers who can be competitive in the twenty-first century global economy. A converging set of powerful economic, technological, demographic, and national security developments requires a citizenry and workforce that are far more internationally knowledgeable, competent, and adept in world languages and cultures—able both to compete and to collaborate internationally. Education is at the core of our response to globalization.

To compete successfully in the global marketplace, both U.S.-based multinational corporations, as well as small businesses, increasingly need employees with knowledge of foreign languages and cultures to market products to customers around the globe and to work effectively with employees and partners in other countries. (Committee for Economic Development)

## WHAT ARE KEY ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION?

### *Academic Rigor*

All courses infuse global content, resources, and perspectives into the curriculum on a daily basis, challenging students to engage in inquiry-based learning and make connections across disciplines. Starting with a student's freshman year, there will be the challenge of Advanced Placement courses in the core content areas.

### *Community Service*

GIS students will participate in community service and service learning opportunities that will prepare them to be active global citizens by engaging directly with their local, national, and international communities. Students will take part in local community service projects that have global implications. The outcomes include giving students real-world experiences, a sense of civic responsibility, and a love of lifelong learning and volunteerism.

### *Learning Simulations*

Advanced simulations, such as Model United Nations, offer GIS students the chance to engage in learning that mirrors authentic, real-world situations through substantive, globally-focused conferences with their peers across the United States.

Students will develop complex analytic and problem-solving skills directly applicable to their lifelong education and careers.

# WHAT IS THE COURSE SEQUENCE FOR GIS?

Students who enroll in the Academy of Global and International Studies will be required to complete Advanced Placement courses in English, Social Studies, and/or World Languages. A score of three or higher on each of these Advanced Placement exams is required to enable each GIS graduate to achieve the AP Scholar Award. The AP Scholar Awards are academic distinctions that students may cite among their credentials on applications, résumés, etc. Students do not receive any monetary award from the College Board.

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
AP World History	AP United States History	AP Government and Politics	AP English Literature
English GIS 9 Honors	Foundations of Technology	AP English Language	AP or CM Science
Geometry H or Algebra 2 H	English GIS 10 Honor	Pre Calc H or Calculus	AP or CM Mathematics
Biology Honors	Algebra 2 H or Pre Calc H	AP or CM Science	AP World Language
World Language	Chemistry Honors	World Language	Elective
PE/Health or Fine Arts	World Language	PE/Health or Fine Arts	Global and International Studies 4
	Global and International Studies 1	Global and International Studies 2	

## OTHER KEY FEATURES OF GIS

- **INTEGRATED CURRICULUM:** A key feature of the Academy of GIS will be the integrated humanities curriculum with English teachers planning lessons with Social Studies teachers so that both contents complement one another and deepen students' understanding of how each reflects and shapes the other. Students' schedules will have built in flexibility for this transdisciplinary instructional model to allow regrouping and extension of lessons.
- **STUDENT LEADERSHIP:** Students have the opportunity to be involved with the Student Council Association (SCA) and through this, shape the climate and direction of school sponsored student initiatives such as the Harvest for the Hungry, the Peer Development Program, and Mock Trial.
- **CAPSTONE PROJECT:** Students will identify in their junior year and complete in the senior year, a comprehensive project that centers on student service, global awareness, and community activism. This will be presented and reviewed by a panel of local school stakeholders.



- **CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT:** Students in the Academy of GIS will be challenged by taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses each year of high school. Each course will be tailored to meet the rigorous standards of college level learning while recognizing that high school students must have scaffolded support to ensure their success. Students in the Academy of GIS will be challenged by taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses each year of high school. Each course will be tailored to meet the rigorous standards of college level learning while recognizing that high school students have scaffold support to ensure their success. In addition, these courses will be underpinned by opportunities for students to refine their academic organizational skills, analytic inquiry, and writing talents.

# APPLICATION PROCESS AND ACADEMY REQUIREMENTS

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Access the online application form or download a pdf form from the St. Mary's County Public School website: <http://www.smcps.org/director-of-secondary-schools/smcps-academies>.

Each application will be reviewed by an admissions team comprised of educators and administrators who will, in turn, make acceptance recommendations to the program supervisor. Candidates will be evaluated based on their past academic performance, dedication to learning, and their desire to be successful in the GIS program.

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

- 3.0 GPA in 8th grade Reading/Language Arts
- 3.0 GPA in 8th grade Social Studies
- Score on Maryland School Assessment for Reading and Mathematics in 8th grade (when available)
- Completion of Algebra while in middle school

*For more information, please contact:*

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301.475.0200 <http://schools.smcps.org/lhs>

Required Credits	Credits
English	4
Social Studies	3
Global and International Studies	4
World Language	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Fine Arts	1
Physical Education/Health	1
Career and Technology Credit	1
Electives	3
<b>TOTAL Credits</b>	<b>27</b>

Recommended Advanced Placement Courses	Credits
AP English Language	1
AP English Literature	1
AP World Language	1
AP World History	1
AP United States History	1
AP U.S. Government / Comparative Government and Politics	1
AP Mathematics	1
AP Science Selection	1
<b>TOTAL Advanced Placement Credits</b>	<b>8</b>



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