Girard College School Profile 2022-23
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Characteristics
- Founded in 1848 by Stephen Girard through the single-largest American philanthropic act
- A coeducational boarding school for academically capable, low-to-moderate income students
- All students receive full scholarships
- Located in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia on a historic 43-acre campus
- High School Enrollment: 112 students from mid-Atlantic region; anticipated 2023 graduates: 27
- 99% are students of color
- High school student-to-teacher ratio: 7:1
- Students engage in a four-year program that introduces, trains, and matches students with local mission-based organizations as a contributing member. Seniors present final projects at the area’s most-attended King Day of Service, hosted on campus with local dignitaries as authentic assessment. Central to the mission of the school, this Social Impact program is a collaborative initiative with the nonprofit Global Citizen that elevates the academic rigor to service-learning.
- All students participate in servant-leader credentials as part of Social Impact program, including First Aid and CPR certification.
- Accredited by The Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
- Member of NACAC, ACCIS, ADVIS, PAIS and PACAC

Academics
- Students were completely remote from March 2020 to February 2022. This has presented unique challenges for our students because of their low socioeconomic status. Most students lacked extracurricular activities during this time.
- Through a strategic partnership with Quest Forward Learning, students immerse themselves in a rich, relevant curriculum of project-based learning.
- Teachers work as mentors, supporting student inquiry, practice, and mastery.
- Small classes enable personalized learning and propel individual growth.
- Courses are thematic and emphasize skills and habits necessary for postsecondary success.
- Vertical alignment prioritizes deeper learning, allowing students to revisit core concepts each year as they progress through core subject areas.
- We are committed to elevated student agency, encouraging academic learning to expand into the Philadelphia region, often leading to internships or special projects.
- As part of Girard’s emphasis on curricular relevance, electives are offered with partner organizations like Mural Arts, Drexel University, and the Curtis Institute of Music. Girard’s capstone course on Mass Incarceration with historic Eastern State Penitentiary demonstrates the intersection of the Social Impact program and the school’s vision as being a Campus for the City.
- Innovative Health & Wellness programming leverages fitness trackers to empower students with data-driven decision making about lifestyle choices.
- Wrap-around services, including counselors and social workers, support student mental health.

Postsecondary Outcomes – Class of 2022
- 94% (17 of 18 graduates) of the Class of 2022 enrolled in postsecondary institutions
- 16 enrolled in a four-year school
- 1 enrolled in YearUp, a hybrid college-workforce training program
- 1 entered the workforce

SAT/ACT Summary – Class of 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT: 25 Test Takers</th>
<th>ACT: 26 Test Takers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence based reading and writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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Courses Available to the Class of 2023

The learning journey for students at Girard is a carefully sequenced set of individualized experiences, or quests. Quests are lessons that take skills or problems and wrap them in a project or other type of investigatory framework. Some quests are completed in teams, while others are done individually. Some quests can be completed in one class and others might take multiple days. Core quests must be completed by all students while choice quests may be optional. Upon finishing a quest, students assess themselves and are assessed by mentors through both informal feedback and formal evaluation. Journeys are collections of quests - they frequently address a common theme and develop a common set of skills.

There are Honors courses, which represent a full year of advanced study. There are also Honors journeys that students can complete over a year during the standard course to earn Honors credit. Students may prepare for and take AP® (Advanced Placement) exams in certain cases. Taking the AP® exam may be a required part of the Honors track or an optional component of the yearlong study.

### Selected Course Descriptions

**Integrated Math I – Algebra I:** Equations, inequalities, systems; descriptive statistics and probability; linear functions; quadratic functions

**Integrated Math II – Geometry:** tools of geometry; triangles; circles; geometry in 3D

**Integrated Math III – Algebra II:** polynomial functions; rational and radical expressions and functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; statistics

**English II – Intermediate English**

**English III – American Literature**

**Integrated Science I – Biology, chemistry, and physics:** scientific method; cells; force and motion; energy

**Integrated Science II – Biology, chemistry, and physics:** chemical reactions; engineering; biomes; waves: sound and light

**Integrated Science III – Biology, chemistry, and physics:** engineering; atomic theory; genetics; biodiversity and evolution

### Representative Sample of Postsecondary Destinations

2017-22 (listed alphabetically)

Albright College, Community College of Philadelphia, Delaware State University, Harvard University, Howard University, Lycoming College, Montclair State University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Temple University, Trinity College, West Chester University, YearUp