



“Blessed are the  
**curious**  
for they shall have  
**adventures.**

*Lovell Drachman*

# DAWG DAYS

GEORGE WALTON ACADEMY WINTER TERM

COURSE CATALOG  
2020



# DAWGDAYS

GEORGE WALTON ACADEMY WINTER TERM

## FIRST BLOCK OPTIONS

❖ **Title: Managing My Money**

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to help young people understand financial management and financial products. The targeted audience for this class is 16-18-year-old students who want to understand how to manage personal financial matters and is particularly useful for those who are about to leave the family home for college.

**Cost: \$15**

❖ **Title: Not Your Grandma's Cross Stitch (Double Block)**

**Course Description:**

Learn a classic art in a modern way! In this class, students will learn the basics of how to cross stitch. The class will begin with the most important things to know when starting a new project and progress all the way through the final steps so students will have a finished product of which they are proud. Instruction will include tips and tricks along the way to make students feel like an expert when the class is completed. There will be a small cross stitch project to complete in class as well as a medium-sized design to finish on your own! So, come see how we turn this age-old craft into a modern one and you'll be better than Grandma!

**Cost: \$40**

❖ **Title: Remembering the Civil War through Film (Double Block)**

**Course Description:**

In this class, we will examine how Americans have remembered the Civil War by watching several prominent Civil War films and discussing the themes of war, division, and healing found within.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: BBC Yoga (Boys)**

**Course Description:**

Students will increase their knowledge of yoga sequences while also learning the terminology that is associated with this practice. Another important aspect of practicing yoga is the cleansing of the mind and the breathing techniques associated with the movements. The connection of mind and body is important when deciding to attempt a yoga practice. Ashtanga Yoga can be the first step in a life-long process of mind and body improvements. Ashtanga Yoga is a dynamic, physically demanding practice that helps synchronizes breathing and movement techniques to produce an internal heat designed to purify the body. **This form of yoga**, with its many vinyasas, is great for building core strength, improving overall balance, increasing bodily flexibility and toning the body.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Sports in Pop Culture**

**Course Description:**

This course explores the links between sports and pop culture. The process investigates and identifies ways in which sports have or can cause societal change. Sports and athletics are a powerful presence in modern society, especially here in the USA. This class will explore how that presence has led and continues to lead to societal, cultural, and political change. The main focus area of the class will be on the American Culture. The class will also cover aspects of sociology and psychology as a means to identify the why behind the changes led through sports. This class should also offer up a means for those students who would like to explore ways to improve the world or community around them.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Paint Like an Impressionist Painter**

**Course Description:**

Learn to paint like the Impressionists. Students will stretch their own canvas and create their own finished masterpieces using the techniques from the Great Impressionists. Students will explore the techniques these painters used for composition, light, subject, and shadowing, etc. The works from Van Gog and Cezanne will be explored to gain understanding of this important landmark period in art. Students will complete one major piece and host an opening in the Commons at the end of the year. Come and paint with no inhibition. We will also take a field trip to Atlanta to visit several contemporary art galleries.

**Cost: \$150**

❖ **Title: Life Skills 101**

**Course Description:**

Why didn't I learn that in school? Now you can! Each day students will learn from experts in their respective fields. Topics will include: **Basic Finances** such as planning/budgeting, personal banking, establishing and protecting credit/avoiding unnecessary debt, taxes, and more; **Insurance**- understanding health, life, supplemental, home, car, rental,

etc.; **Business** topics including how to apply/interview/follow up, professional behavior, conflict resolution, as well as other HR basics; and **Personal** topics such as setting/attaining goals, self-defense, know your rights, making doctor's appointments and learning one's family health history, basic car maintenance, and cooking in college

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Whiz, Bang, Pow**

**Course Description:**

An assortment of science experiments from underwater fireworks to above water pyrotechnics. These are the fun science experiments that will knock your socks off. Learn how to safely perform experiments that are visually stunning and sometimes LOUD. Dynamite soap and a simulation of the Heindenberg airship disaster will be included. These are the experiments you do not see in most science classes. Students will build their choice of a science device that will be used in their final experiment. Safety will always be observed but prepare to be amazed .

**Cost: \$40**

❖ **Title: "Gasp! (In Spanish)"**

**Course Description:**

This class will explore common themes, cultural ties, and significance of Latin American telenovelas and everyday life. We will compare and contrast between Latin American countries and USA soap operas. We may have an actor/acting coach come and teach the students some key acting techniques with a dramatic flair. The students' final project will be to film a 3 episode series of 10 minutes each to show on the last day of class using the themes, language, and of course drama that we have learned in class.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Tea Time**

**Course Description:**

You'll learn about the cultural significance of tea throughout history. You will also learn about the health benefits of all the different types of tea. We will serve tea in the styles of different cultures, brew and rate different types of tea, brew our own Kombucha, and much more!

**Cost: \$10**

❖ **Title: Revolutionizing Your Spiritual Life**

**Course Description:**

Students will explore how to live more confidently in the world as Christians. Creating an independent Bible study and examining scriptures, students will be better equipped to deal with problems related to peers, family, academics, work, sports, and finances. Learn strategies that will help empower you to be the person God designed you to be. A community service project will be required.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Furniture Restoration**

**Course Description:**

Students will learn how to make an old piece of furniture look even better than a brand new one. This includes cleaning up and preparing the old furniture for painting (sanding, etc.). Painting will be done using various types of paint and varnish with rollers and brushes. The last step will be the distressing.

**Cost: \$40**

❖ **Title: Keeping it Real**

**Course Description:**

Virtually everything you need to know about virtual reality and how to use it to create art in a collaborative environment. Explore the worlds of visual and performing arts in a new and exciting way. We will use Oculus Quest devices to create various prototype 3D models that will be printed using our 3D print lab.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Public Speaking**

**Course Description:**

This course prepares students for a variety of academic and other situations in which formal presentations are required. Topics will include perceptions of others, verbal and nonverbal messages, and techniques of oral presentation and persuasion. Students will learn how to research, outline, and deliver short, informal presentations as well as longer speeches. This course will give students the opportunity to develop and strengthen skills in preparing and presenting public oral presentations in a variety of situations. This course should also sharpen their skills in critical listening. While theoretical foundations for the methods taught will be included, this is a practice-oriented course.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Dave Ramsey Money Principles**

**Course Description:**

How to get ahold of your money before it gets ahold of you. Smart money managing principles on budgeting, paying for college and other expenses, managing a bank account, credit cards, and taxes. Explore how to set yourself up for success financially.

**Cost: \$15**

## **SECOND BLOCK OPTIONS**

### ❖ **Title: Minute to Win It Challenge**

#### **Course Description:**

Challenge yourself to see if you have what it takes to be the Minute to Win It champion. Students will participate in competitions, create their own challenges, and see who prevails under pressure. Through this course, students will develop problem-solving strategies in a competitive environment.

**Cost: Free**

### ❖ **Title: SAT Math Prep**

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to give math strategies and tips to help students perform to the best of their abilities on the SAT test. Instructors will review concepts previously taught and teach new concepts when time permits. The instructors will also help students familiarize their use of the Nspire calculator. The students will complete practice sets of multiple-choice questions throughout the course. An official practice test will be given at the end of the term. The instructors will go over the answers and give suggestions for all missed problems.

**Cost: Free**

### ❖ **Title: Web Design**

#### **Course Description:**

Students taking the Web Design class will be introduced to the formatting language of HTML. This course will appeal to those students who would like a step-by-step description of the basics in the design of webpages and websites. By using the commands of the HTML language, students will be able to understand how web pages are formatted to be viewed as a web page. This programming language allows students to understand how the use of color, font, insertion of pictures and graphics and many more aspects make the webpage visually appealing. The student laptops are the only piece of equipment that will be needed to participate each day.

**Cost: Free**

### ❖ **Title: 10 Year War in Three Weeks' Time**

#### **Course Description:**

In this course, you will study the great Trojan War fought between the kingdoms of Greece and the city of Troy. This course will be taught through whiteboard storytelling and readings from the *Iliad*, namely the Hector cycle. We will supplement particular moments of the war with poetry by later authors, and we will focus, in particular, on the ekphrastic description of the Shield of Achilles. We will also read portions of Madeline Miller's *Song of Achilles*, Aeschylus's *Agamemnon*, and Vergil's *Aeneid* to create an epilogue for the *Iliad* which ends before the war is over. Students will create a giant shield of Achilles as a group project.

**Cost: \$15**

❖ **Title: Conspiracy Debate**

**Course Description:**

Research and debate classic conspiracy theories like Bigfoot, the New World Order, flat earth and government weather control. Teams compete by debating for and against in an attempt to earn votes.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Beyond the Grave**

**Course Description:**

We will learn about the different cultural traditions surrounding death (Día de los Muertos, Korean beads, Muslim burial practices), the process of an American funeral, burial alternatives, and the funeral business. We will tour a funeral home and have guest speakers from different cultures come in and describe their practices.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Hand tools and Woodworking Joinery (Long Block)**

**Course Description:**

I know that it doesn't sound all that impressive. Bear with me. Also, the class is stupidly expensive. Let me explain. The price of the class includes a set of basic, quality hand tools that each student will own. Part of the class will be learning to sharpen and care for the tools that could quite easily be with you for the rest of your life. Having learned about tool use, care, and maintenance, we will then start by building a couple of necessary tools: a mallet, a sharpening strop, and an angle jig for sharpening. Then we will begin learning basic joinery in this order: half-lap joint, mortise-and-tenon, bridle, and finally, the dovetail joint. Yes. The dovetail. We will build small projects along the way using our new and well-maintained hand tools. Hopefully, we will finish by building a wooden tool box that will hold all of your new, well cared for tools.

**Cost: \$250**

❖ **Title: Winter Term Jazz**

**Course Description:**

Students will learn and participate in Jazz ensemble. Students will need to have some musical experience in order to fully participate.

**Cost: \$30**

❖ **Title: How do you say that in ASL?**

**Course Description:**

This course will offer an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL). It's intended for students who are not currently taking Mrs. Gahan's class or have no previous experience with signing. The emphasis will be on finger spelling while learning some common signs, such as greeting others, and introductory conversational phrases. In addition, discussions will center around the culture of the deaf community.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Eye Heart Anatomy**

**Course Description:**

Participate in an introduction to the study of mammalian internal anatomy through dissection. You will learn vocabulary to describe the orientation of the body and be introduced to safe dissection practices. Then you will study three organ systems and complete three dissection investigations using preserved animal specimens. "This class will de-liver!"

**Cost: \$20**

❖ **Title: Healthy Oilin'**

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the positive health benefits of using essential oils. You will learn the history and development of essential oils as well as the benefits and uses. Then, you will make multiple items using essential oils such as candles, bath bombs, body butter, and even food! The items you make will be yours to take home and enjoy.

**Cost: \$30**

❖ **Title: Spoken Word SLAM Poetry Class and Competition**

**Course Description:**

Find your voice in our SLAM Poetry class and competition. Slam combines movement, voice, drama, and the written word for an unforgettable spoken word experience. Making its debut in the 1980's as a response to the elitist and stale 'coffeeshop poets', Slam is a way of expressing oneself briefly, powerfully, and impactfully. We will explore the history, criticism, and cultural implications of Spoken Word Poetry as we write and perform our own. Finally, we will end the course with a Slam competition.

**Cost: Free**

## **THIRD BLOCK OPTIONS**

❖ **Title: Backpacking for Beginners (Double Block)**

**Course Description:**

Everything you need to know before heading out into the backcountry, including how to choose the perfect trip for your skill level, the gear and supplies you need, basic first-aid, permits, map reading skills and meal planning. This information will guide us as we begin a conditioning routine to build up hiking endurance. We begin our training with loaded packs on the cross-country course and slowly increase distance to be able to comfortably hike the five-mile circuit around the base of Stone Mountain. The course culminates with an overnight (maybe two-night) hike of the first section of the Appalachian Trail. Beginning at Springer Mountain, the length of the final hike will depend on the skill level of the group. The goal is to hike the 20-mile section between Springer Mountain and Woody Gap.

**Cost: \$15**

❖ **Title: Etiquette for Young Adults (Double Block)**

**Course Description:**

We equip students with the leadership skills needed to not only handle a variety of social situations with poise and confidence, but to be prepared for success in the global economy of the 21st century. In a similar vein as a Swiss finishing school, we provide teenagers the social skills they need to help them become confident and self-assured young adults.

**Cost: \$50**

❖ **Title: Fire and Ice: The Science of Hot and Cold**

**Course Description:**

This course allows students to conduct some very cool experiments with dry ice and liquid nitrogen. Explore extreme cold and extreme heat. This will be a lab experience for anyone who likes cool experiments. Students will also have a choice of projects that they may build. Anything from a potato canon to a dry ice bubble machine. Students who like hands-on activities and cool science will find this a very enjoyable winter term class.

**Cost: \$25**

❖ **Title: SAT Math Prep**

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give math strategies and tips to help students perform to the best of their abilities on the SAT test. Instructors review concepts previously taught and teach new concepts when time permits. Instructors will also help students familiarize their use of the Nspire calculator. Students will complete practice sets of multiple choice questions throughout the course. An official practice test will be given at the end of the term. Instructors will go over the answers and give suggestions for all missed problems.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Sports Management**

**Course Description:**

This class explores the budget and logistics of running and operating a competitive athletic program. This will incorporate research and analytics to produce at maximum potential. We will use computer technology as well as multiple sports journals as articles to conduct necessary research in the processes that managing a sports program requires.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: From Dorm to Dwelling**

**Course Description:**

In this course, we'll cover the basics of dorm and apartment cooking using fun kitchen appliances like crockpots, instant pots, griddles and grill plates. We'll talk about balanced meals, versatile ingredients, and meal prep. We'll take a shopping trip each week to gather ingredients, and then we'll come back to cook together in pairs or small groups. All cooked meals will be shared as a class.

**Cost: \$50**

❖ **Title: Listen to the Music**

**Course Description:**

Exploring the history of Rock and Roll through the development of vinyl recordings. Students will explore the technology and engineering in the development of vinyl recordings after World War II and how it fueled the evolution of Rock and Roll. Students will explore how sound progressed on recording devices and the nuances of vinyl recordings especially in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Each student will produce a beautiful, unique, portable, blue tooth speaker that can be used with vinyl records or synced to their phones for audio. This will be a very hands on class. The class will finish with a field trip to Athens to visit WUTRY the oldest used vinyl store in the state. We will also visit a vinyl-producing record company in Athens and take a tour of their facilities.

**Cost: \$150**

❖ **Title: New Yearbook Resolutions (Double Block)**

**Course Description:**

Have you ever thought about joining the yearbook staff? Try it out during winter term and see if yearbook is for you! Winter Term is also great time for existing staff members to knock out much of the work that needs to be done on the yearbook. This is a great introduction to interviewing, journalistic writing, photography and graphic design. Existing staff may take one block or a double block. New staff members will only select one block.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: The Art of Deduction**

**Course Description:**

Improve your deductive reasoning skills by studying the works of famous fictional detectives. We will read and watch a variety of detective work, ranging from Agatha Christie's famous Hercule Poirot to Scooby Doo and the Gang. We will also practice our own deductive skills by trying our hand at an escape room. Prepare to have your brain at its best!

**Cost: \$50**

❖ **Title: Beyond Your Imagination: Telling Your Story**

**Course Description:**

"Do you like green eggs and ham? I do not like them, Sam-I-am." Join me for a trip down memory land all the way back to Kindergarten! We will *Romp with the Wild Things* and eat one piece of cake, an ice cream cone and a pickle with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Spend time reading some of your old favorites, researching authors and writing your own children's book to be shared with some very special lower school students at the end of the course. Students need to pay \$10 to publish their own children's books.

**Cost: \$10**

❖ **Title: May the Force be with You!**

**Course Description:**

In this course we will be comparing the original Star Wars trilogy with the Bible, John Milton's "Paradise Lost", Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein", and major historical events. We will be analyzing how the Star Wars movie franchise examines some of the most enduring themes in Western culture and how the progression of this franchise has developed to reflect our current societal values, fears, and hopes. This course will be evaluated on participation in readings, viewings, discussions, and small group presentations.

**Cost: Free**

❖ **Title: Cooler Craftin'**

**Course Description:**

Students will learn how to design and cut personalized items of their choice using their laptop, design software, vinyl, and a cutting machine. Students will create personalized items of their choice. Some of the items are: initials decal, faux leather earrings, t-shirt, painted wooden sign, water bottle, and notebook.

**Cost: \$25**

❖ **Title: Sur La Table**

**Course Description:**

We will be hands-on and cover all the basics such as rules for handling knives, how to read and follow recipes, measuring and mixing and the importance of kitchen safety. Teens will build on skills throughout the week. They will create an impressive menu of restaurant-style dishes.

**Cost: \$50**

❖ **Title: (ACT) now! Tips, Tricks, and (SAT)trategies**

**Course Description:**

The SAT and ACT are coming up! Do you have sweaty palms? IS your stomach in your throat? Have you sharpened 10,000 no. 2 pencils? If you sign up for this class, you can relax. In this course, we will review strategies for taking both the SAT and ACT tests using the best standardized testing tips. We will focus our attention on the English portion of both tests: reading comprehension, vocabulary development, grammar, etc. Additionally, we will cover strategies for taking timed standardized tests.

**Cost: Free**

## **Fourth Block Options:**

### ❖ **Title: The Science of Skydiving**

#### **Course Description:**

Learn what it takes to be a skydiver. What role does physics play in jumping? Do all things fall at 9.8 m/sec? Explore the parts of the parachute and how it works. Practice packing a parachute. Visit a drop zone and potentially fly in an indoor wind tunnel.

**Cost: \$75**

### ❖ **Title: Release Your Inner Nerd**

#### **Course Description:**

Students will work together to collectively create a unique set of cards for the multi-million-dollar, world-wide, collectible trading card game, Magic the Gathering. Using videos and articles from the head designer of Magic himself, we will work step by step to build our own playable set of cards from the ground up. While some previous knowledge of the game is preferred, anyone interested in creating fantasy worlds, learning game design, or making fantasy art is welcome to join as well

**Cost: Free**

### ❖ **Title: Ancient World Entertainment**

#### **Course Description:**

Ancient Games focuses on various aspects of athletics in the ancient world and a comparative examination of ancient and modern sports activities and athletic values. The course covers ancient sport events, especially the Greek Olympic games, and considers the role of sport in ancient societies. Ancient evidence on sport from various sources as well as literary references with sport as a theme are a major focus of the course. Many types of evidence will be discussed, including readings in translation from several ancient Greek and Latin texts, painting, sculpture, and archaeological remains.

**Cost: Free**

### ❖ **Title: Cake Decorating 101**

#### **Course Description:**

Do you love cake? Do you long to decorate exquisite cupcakes? Do you dream in frosting? Then this is the course for you. Come learn the basics of cake, cupcakes and cookie decorating. You will learn the Wilton Method of Cake Decorating, which covers all basic piping, cake frosting with both buttercream and fondant, and cupcake decorating. You will also learn about edible painting for cake décor and cupcake toppers.

**Cost: \$90**

❖ **Title: Off to the Races**

**Course Description:**

Join us as we build pinewood derby race cars. In this cross-curricular art-based course we will explore the techniques of design, physics, aerodynamics, carving, carpentry tool use and more! From original design to the finish line, students will design their cars, understand the rules of pinewood derby racing, and utilize the principles of physics and aerodynamics. As the course capstone, the students will enter their car in the first ever GWA Pinewood Derby Race. Trophies will be given to the fastest car and overall design.

**Cost: \$45**

❖ **Title: Intro to Japanese**

**Course Description:**

Learn the basics of the Japanese language and how to write in hiragana. Explore the culture of Japan including manga and anime.

**Cost: \$35**

❖ **Title: Downward Dawgs (Girls Only)**

**Course Description:**

In this course, students will learn how to connect with their minds and bodies to self-observe. They will perform basic yoga poses to help with energy, stress relief, or sleep. Using the beginner kit, the students will learn basic yoga poses on and off the mat, and with blocks to help with balance. Students will be required to wear exercise attire, or they will not be allowed to participate.

**Cost: \$23**

❖ **Title: Rocket Science and Space Flight**

**Course Description:**

This will be a study of the history of spaceflight and a chance to build and fly solid fuel model rockets. Each student will construct a unique model rocket and launch platform to be used on launch day. A simple launch system will also be wired following basic principles of electricity. Students will learn basic principles of mechanics and electricity as required with model rockets. Launch day will be towards the end of the term with each student able to keep their products at the end of the course.

**Cost: \$25**

❖ **Title: Build an Electric Guitar**

**Course Description:**

We will learn how to build an electric guitar by building an electric guitar. That's how we often learn: by trying and failing and fixing our failures. That is how I build musical instruments. For this course, we will start with a kit that has much of the hard stuff already done. The finished guitar will be a strat-style guitar with a mahogany body and quality basic (but upgradeable) components.

By starting with a kit, we will be able to complete the project and have a finished and playable instrument by the end of the term. Over the course of the class, we will learn some basic woodworking and finishing skills.

**Cost: \$300**

❖ **Title: You Got This!**

**Course Description:**

Take control of your life with stress management techniques to help even the most stressed out person! This class will allow students to take a “breather” between semesters and relax. The class will explore different ways to slow the body and mind such as journaling, coloring, and even using essential oils. Students will also look at the psychology behind how all these techniques work to calm the body. Each student will complete a self-report on how each technique works for him or her. It's important to have your mind in the right state because, remember, what consumes your mind, controls your life.

**Cost: \$20**

❖ **Title: Corner Pocket**

**Course Description:**

The art of becoming a better pool player can be enhanced by using geometry. In this class, students will learn the mathematical techniques that professional players have been using for years. Geometry concepts, such as the distance between two points or the angle of certain body positions, will help students improve their “straight” shots and “angle” shots. More importantly, they will have the opportunity to put this knowledge to use. Students will learn and play the game of 8-ball. Eight-ball is a “call shot” game using 15 balls. Additionally, students will be able to display what they learned by participating in a tournament. A trophy will be awarded to the tournament winner.

**Cost: \$25**