



“Blessed are the
curious
for they shall have
adventures.

Lovell Drachman

DAWGDAYS

GEORGE WALTON ACADEMY WINTER TERM

COURSE CATALOG 2019



Each January, upper school students have opportunities to gain real-world experience or study non-traditional topics during a three-week intensive winter term titled "Dawg Days." Students will take a departure from their regular courses and curriculum to travel, experience internships, or choose from the creative courses listed here.

FIRST BLOCK OPTIONS

❖ **Title:** A Reporter's Life (Double block – both first and second blocks)

Course Description:

It is a school news takeover! Students will learn how school communications are coordinated on a daily basis. Those who take this class will cover everything from what's happening around the school to the interesting trips and internships that are being experienced by students during winter term. We will take over the school announcements in producing the news show every morning. We will coordinate with Christina Russell to handle schoolwide social media posts for the month. We will help write stories for the *InFocus* newsletter that is sent out to parents each week. We will meet with the director of strategic communications, Rebecca Williams, to learn about her job, including how advertising and communications are handled for the school. We will create content for our own small section of the yearbook focused on winter term, including what students in upper, middle and lower school are doing during this special three-week term. Students will also experience a field trip to the University of Georgia for a behind the scenes tour of the Grady School of Journalism. This is an exciting chance for students to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of school operations. This is a long block course because there is so much to cover! It will be a crash course on journalism, communications, design, editing, and photography.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** What's Up, Stitches? (Double block- both first and second block)

Course Description:

An introductory sewing course that focuses on learning sewing machine basics, the art of upcycling, and simple sewing projects for the beginning to intermediate learner (possible collaborative quilt in final week). Students will take two field trips: one to JoAnn Fabrics to purchase supplies and another to a local thrift store to purchase items for "upcycling." In-house field trips with local quilters and seamstresses will also be featured.

Cost: \$50.00

❖ **Title:** Downward Dawgs – A Bulldawgs Intro to Yoga

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: \$23.00

❖ **Title:** WMC: Weapons of Mass Construction

Course Description:

What's the more common name for a truncated icosahedron? A mouthful? It's a soccer ball! Find out more about the different types of unique and interesting geometric solids in this exploratory class. Students will construct 2-D nets for different shapes and turn them into 3-D models using the same methods used over 2000 years ago! Final assessment will be creating a complex geometric solid that you can decorate and display with pride.

Cost: \$8.00

❖ **Title:** Comics Unmasked

Course Description:

Comics go by many names. Whether referred to as graphic novels, comic books, comix, or *manga*, all comics use the dynamic interplay of sequential art and text to tell stories. This class is based on the claim that the stories comics tell--make them not only entertaining to read--but worthy of our attention. Students will study the primary elements of comics as a form and even learn a little history about the comic book industry in the United States before focusing on a variety of genres and themes in recently published comics. Readings and assignments will enable students to explore how comics engage pivotal social and cultural issues in American society, while charting the subtle nuances of human experience. The class will consider the roles that design elements such as layout, perspective, pacing, and coloring play in the interpretation as well. The culminating project will involve creating a short comic book/graphic novel.

Cost: \$20.00

❖ **Title:** Intro to Aviation

Course Description:

This course is intended to introduce interested students to the principles behind aviation and available routes to become professional or leisure pilots. It consists of the following topics:

- Intro to aviation
- Principles behind powered flights
- Aviation physiology
- How to become a pilot
- Tour of local airport
- Flying experiences (weather permitting)

Cost: \$150

❖ **Title:** All That Glitters Might be Gold

Course Description:

The study of precious metals and their uses for coins and electronics. Students will study and examine the properties of these and other metals. A metallurgy lab will be conducted during the course. Students will become familiar with the use of metals for sculpture and coinage. United States coinage will be examined as historical objects and

for their beauty and artistic value. They will also be studied as an investment. Each participant will build a collection of “buffalo” nickels and/or old copper coins and have an opportunity to obtain others. Participants will be allowed to keep their materials. This will be a “hands-on” lab course.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title:** SAT Math Prep (Prerequisite: enrolled in Algebra II)

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:** Sweating Copper

Course Description:

Learn to measure, cut, weld, clean and bend copper pipe. Students will learn the skills plumbers (and scientists) use to create water and gas lines out of copper. Working with PVC and rubber tubing may also be explored. Using butane torches, flux and solder, students will construct their own creations.

Cost: \$100.00

❖ **Title:** You Got This! (A stress-free class)

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: \$15.00

❖ **Title:** Revolutionizing Your Spiritual Life

Course Description:

Using Sadie Robertson’s “Live Fearless” and Tim Tebow’s 2017 Christian Book of the Year “Shaken”, students will explore how to live more confidently in the world as Christians. Creating an independent Bible study and examining scriptures about fear, students will be 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.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Money Matters in Media: The Creativity Drought and the New Media Renaissance

Course Description:

The Office, *Friends*, and nearly every dancing, singing, celebrity, or competition reality show on TV these days were all just imported from Britain and modified for the American audience. (British) *Top Gear*, American *Top Gear*, *Australian Top Gear* . . . argh! Superhero franchises, spinoffs and origin stories: where are the new heroes and heroines? Traditional network and studio-created shows and movies are increasingly predictable, formulaic, and just uncreative. Why? What drives the movement and what changes can we anticipate from the new media that are emerging as powerful players in what is now called “content creation”? This course will analyze the formulas that have proven successful, dig into the systems that produce the successes, and solve all of the creative problems of the world. That last one may be a lie, though. The class will heavily focus on media debate/discussion and will be graded by contributions to those activities.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Intro to 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 each will need to participate each day.

Cost: Free

SECOND BLOCK OPTIONS

❖ **Title:** Etiquette for Young Adults

Course Description:

In this course, we will be equipping 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 vein similar to that of a Swiss finishing school, this course will provide teenagers the social skills needed to help them become confident and self-assured young adults, able to cope and excel in any social or academic situation.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title:** Refunk Your Junk

Course Description:

This course focuses on the art of upcycled and recycled jewelry making. Turn that so-called “trash” into treasure. In this fun course, students will explore how to create stand-out pieces from found objects such as coins, bottles, old keys, stones, vintage or broken jewelry, recyclables and more. Bring to class anything that you would like to reimagine into unique wearable jewelry. Some jewelry-making experience is helpful but not required.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Cool Craftin’

Course Description:

This course will teach students how to design & cut personalized items of their choice using a laptop, design software, vinyl, and a cutting machine. Students will create personalization for a water bottle, a t-shirt, and a wooden sign.

Cost: \$15.00

❖ **Title:** Bass Tank

Course Description:

This is a kinder, gentler version of *Shark Tank*, where contestants pitch a business idea with the hopes of getting it funded. In the Dawg Days version, students will take an idea they already have for a service project or potential business and formally develop the idea by creating a pre-launch plan. Such a plan would be a written document that would include:

- a brief description of the purpose and vision of the project,
- an analysis of similar businesses or offerings currently in the market,
- a description on how the offering differs from competitors,
- a projection of start-up and operating costs,
- along with a projection of revenues or other sources of funding to maintain operations.

Participants will then create a visual 2-D display, video or slide show, and/or a 3-D model to complement their *elevator pitch*. During the final week of the course, students will *pitch* their products, projects or potential businesses to an audience of about four mock would-be investors in a *Shark* or in this case, *Bass Tank* type of setting. During the final days of the course, the students will reflect on the feedback they received in the *Bass Tank*, make revisions and move forward on making their ideas a reality!

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** History of Rock and Roll through Records

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. This course will culminate in

students presenting a project featuring their favorite performers from this era. A guest speaker will be invited to the class to discuss the recording business and students will also take a field trip to Athens to purchase a vinyl record.

Cost: \$30.00

❖ **Title:** SAT Math Prep (Prerequisite - enrolled in Geometry)

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide math strategies and tips to help students perform to the best of their abilities on the SAT test. The 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:** Japanese Language and Culture

Course Description:

Ohayo Gosaimasu! Learn how to speak common conversational phrases in Japanese. This course also offers an introduction to writing in hiragana, katakana and kanji. Explore Japanese culture including: Tea ceremonies, Shintoism, samurai, manga and anime. Ganbatte Kudasai!

Cost: \$15.00

❖ **Title:** Mayans, Incas, Aztecs – History’s Disappearing Acts

Course Description:

This course will go into detail of all those things you missed out on in your regular history class about the **Mayans**, **Incas**, and **Aztecs**. Games played among these cultures were so intense, the losers died. They also created a calendar system that sent current societies into a frenzy thinking the end of the world was coming! These civilizations had big impacts then and still do. They seem to have disappeared... but did they? Come find out what these groups were like back in ancient times and what kind of things these people are doing today.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Habits of Healthy People

Course Description:

Students will explore their own health through the five *F*s: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. Begin your journey toward better health and experience a new level of physical, mental, and spiritual wellness. Warren, Amen, and Hyman’s *The Daniel Plan* will reveal a Christian lifestyle suitable for life’s various phases, including college. For example, learn the dangers of the difficult-to-pronounce ingredients, the importance of the glycemic index, and the most toxic ingredients/foods. Students will tour a local grocery store and learn which choices are better. The course will conclude with a potluck meal showcasing healthy dishes. By the end of the course, will you be ready for the 40-day fitness challenge? “*The Daniel Plan* offers a way of living that honors God and breathes

new life into your mind, body, and spirit.” In addition, tips from other health experts will be incorporated into the course.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Whose Who

Course Description:

The course focuses on assessing the literary value of the *Doctor Who* franchise over the course of the last four or five Doctors. Each Doctor is a fascinating character study because each is quirky in his (or her in the case of the upcoming series) own way, but each is still distinctly “The Doctor”. In addition to character analysis (Who’s the best?) we will assess thematic expansion in the Who-niverse as well as the occasional failures that inevitably accompany the production of literary works. Assessment will be based on graded discussions and journals (mainly attempts at creative and artistic media endeavors).

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** History of the Amish: Past and Present

Course Description:

Students will learn the history of the Amish from their origins in Reformation Era Europe to their resettlement in colonial America and into the life of modern Amish peoples in the 20th and 21st centuries. The class will discuss the social, religious, economic, and political dimensions of the Amish community as well as their portrayal in American movies and television. Students will hear from people who lived in the Amish community and how it shaped their lives in the non-Amish world.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title:** Societal Change and Pop Culture through Sports

Course Description:

This course will explore the links between sports and the pop culture. This will investigate and identify ways in which sport has or can cause societal change. Sports and athletics is 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 exploring ways to improve the world or community around them.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Music History/Instrument Creation

Course Description:

Students will explore the different eras of music from antiquity through present day as well as the composers of the time period. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to create their own musical instruments using various means. There is no musical background needed to experience - or be successful in - this course.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Intro to Excel

Course Description:

Microsoft Excel is a general-purpose spreadsheet program used to organize, calculate, and analyze data. There are many tasks that students can perform by learning how to use spreadsheets. General tasks include making lists, creating simple budgets, preparing a purchase order, creating charts with design colors and images, organizing the accounting ledger for a small business and many more applications. This course is designed to start from the very basics of MS Excel and covers as much of the program as possible over a three-week period of time.

Cost: Free

THIRD BLOCK OPTIONS

❖ **Title:** Cache Me Outside (Double block – both third and fourth blocks)

Course Description:

Experience geocaching and GPS technology in this fun, outdoor skills class. Hiking and outdoor skills for beginners will include the “must haves” list for a hike, both in skills and in equipment. Students will identify plants as friend or foe, create bug-out tins for emergency preparedness, and spend some quality time in the great outdoors. The class will also dive into the world of geocaching with a real life “treasure hunt.” Students will take a few local trips to find geocaches and for the final assessment, each will create and place a geocache of their own.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Dystopia, Vampires, and Witches, Oh My! (Double block – both third and fourth blocks)

Course Description:

This course will examine young adult (consumers that range from 16-25 years old) literature, culture, and film that vary in genre, but focus on dystopia, fairy tale and myth retellings, and the supernatural. TV shows, films, books, short stories, and other media have adapted these genres by reshaping them to fit more contemporary values and ideas about what the world should look like. In addition to genres, students will also become familiar with YA authors, popular banned books, social movements, and literature adapted for television or movies. The course will culminate in a project in which students create their own or retell a fairy tale, myth, or dystopian story in whatever medium they choose.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Trebuchet 101 (Double block – both third and fourth blocks)

Course Description:

Learn how to build one of the most effective siege engines developed prior to the invention of gunpowder. A counterweight trebuchet is a battle machine used to deliver heavy payloads. We will be constructing trebuchets that meet the requirements for the

competition to be held at our Renaissance Fair in March. Competitions based on accuracy and distance will be awarded prizes. Come get a head start on your design and launch your engineering skills into the 14th century.

Cost: \$20.00

❖ **Title: 3D Printing**

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to 3D Printing. They will learn what types of things they can print, how 3D technology works, and use design software to design their own object to print. They will also learn about free downloadable print files.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title: Passaporte: Brasil**

Course Description:

In this course students will learn about different aspects of Brazil. The course will cover food, capoeira, soccer, Olympics, government, history, music, rainforest, and basic language. Students will create crafts that represent different aspects of the country like Christ the Redeemer sunset art, a rainforest diorama, and carnival masks. Students will attempt to replicate the delicious pão de queijo and then work off the calories with a capoeira demonstration. There will also be a parrot demonstration.

Cost: \$25.00

❖ **Title: Paint like a Renaissance Master**

Course Description:

Learn to paint like the Renaissance Masters to the Impressionists. Students will stretch their own canvas and use it to create their own finished masterpieces using the techniques from the Renaissance Masters to the Great Impressionists. Students will explore the techniques these painters used for composition, light, subject, and shadowing, etc. The works from DaVinci and Michaelangelo to Van Gogh and Cezanne will be explored to gain understanding of these important landmark periods in art. Students will complete two major pieces and host an opening in the art department. Come and paint with no inhibition.

Cost: \$25.00

❖ **Title: Magic Carpet Ride and Glide**

Course Description:

Students will build and ride a disc that uses the concept of reduced sliding friction and air pressure. The disc will be their own design and they will enjoy riding the “magic carpet” towards the end of the session. During the course, the participants will learn basic concepts regarding the laws of motion and basic engineering principles. Students will be allowed to keep their product.

Cost: \$25.00

❖ **Title:** Intro to Matlab Programming

Course Description:

Matlab is the programming language most commonly used in college and universities, as well as by professional scientists and engineers. This course is designed to teach interested students the basics of Matlab and how to use it in academic and practical applications. It consists of the following topics:

- Intro to programming languages
- Matlab basics
- Matlab applied to digital image processing
- Matlab applied to engineering problems

Cost: \$30

❖ **Title:** “Two Can Play That Game”

Course Description:

This is a course designed to teach students how to improve and implement strategic thought, logical reasoning, thinking ahead, teamwork, social skills, confidence, and competitive spirit through strategic game play. Students will learn the history of gaming, including the different eras and types of games. They will study games of strategy vs. games of chance vs. games of knowledge/ability. They will develop a sense of how to approach each type of game and a methodology of how to follow game “rules” to achieve the goal - **WINNING**. Students will not only study different types of games, but they will also obtain hands-on experience by playing games themselves or watching others compete. At the end of the course, students will form groups to create their own board game prototype, including the type, rules, and design of the game. Board games teach and build skills and abilities that individuals can use in many different areas throughout their lives. Let’s learn, have fun, and, most importantly, play to win.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title:** Going to Boston

Course Description:

The students will learn the history of Bid Whist, a card game played traditionally in the African American community, (although it originated in London.) They will also learn to play the game along with other card games.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Build a Uke

Course Description:

Students will learn how to build a ukulele by building a ukulele. That’s how we learn sometimes: by trying and failing and fixing our failures. For this course, students will start with a kit that has much of the “hard stuff” already done; but will still learn some of the difficult processes like wood bending and hand planing. But by starting with a kit, students 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, students will learn basic woodworking skills and likely build some useful jigs and clamps, too.

Cost: \$200.00

❖ **Title:** Filling Your Tool Box with Fifteen Essential Life Skills

Course Description:

Each day, students will focus on one essential skill every adult needs, such as preparing for an interview; creating a budget; maintaining a car; cooking an impressive meal; caring for clothes; getting along with others; outlining a resume; completing a job application; writing an essay; processing basic math calculations, including discounts or gratuity; improving one's grade in a class; developing confidence; directing an important social gathering; exhibiting etiquette in every aspect of the personal/professional life; and composing a business letter. At the end of each day, the student will be able to demonstrate the discussed skill through actions or documentation.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

Course Description:

Students will learn the history of international human rights beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. Students will connect with human rights activists from around the world and learn how global communities of citizens come together to define and defend human rights. This class will culminate in a trip to the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

Cost: \$20.00

FOURTH BLOCK OPTIONS

❖ **Title:** European Cinema

Course Description:

This course introduces students to highly acclaimed European films from the last 30 years. Students will learn about the history, culture and traditions of four European countries (France, Spain, Italy and Germany) by watching four movies; one film from each country in its original versions and with English subtitles. After the movies, students will participate in in-depth class discussions of each film, and will have the opportunity to present their views and critiques.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title:** Furniture Restoration

Course Description:

This course teaches 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: \$49.00

❖ **Title:** Visual Journaling

Course Description:

Over the course of three weeks, each student will create a personalized journal using a variety of techniques and materials, working with a new journal prompt each day and

experimenting with an assortment of artistic media. The first few days will be filled with demos of basic image layering and entry composition. The remainder of the course will involve a mix of engaging prompts and fun demos on watercolor techniques, stenciling, layering media, and photo image transfers.

Cost: \$40.00

❖ **Title:** Mrs. Croft's Home for Peculiar Children

Course Description:

In this course, students will read and analyze "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children." The class will also talk about techniques that are used to make good imaginative stories. Students will use photo manipulation to create their own short stories. They will also compare and contrast the movie that recently debuted that was based on the book.

Cost: \$12.00

❖ **Title:** Photo like Ansel Adams

Course Description:

Students will explore the delicate process of fine photography by studying the work of famed photographer Ansel Adams. They will use a large format camera to take photos in nature and develop them using the processes available in the 1930's. This course will involve on-location photography visits and will culminate in three to eight finished photographs.

Cost: \$30.00

❖ **Title:** It Ain't Rocket Science – Yes It Is!

Course Description:

Students will learn about astronautics and spaceflight. They will build and launch rockets. They will construct a launch platform and learn about launch systems. Competitions will be held near the end of the session. Students will be allowed to keep all materials that they construct.

Cost: \$10.00

❖ **Title:** Martial Arts and Kendo

Course Description:

Martial arts are different from sports in many aspects. For example, martial arts are practiced to challenge your own weaknesses and to better yourself. This course is intended to introduce interested students to the world of martial arts and to practice the basics of Kendo (Samurai style swordsmanship). It consists of the following topics:

- Intro to martial arts
- Intro to Kendo
- Kendo basic practices

Cost: \$40.00

❖ **Title:** Dawg Days? I don't think so! Cats are where it's at!

Course Description:

In these three weeks, students will dive into cat culture from all around the world. They will look at the way different countries treated cats throughout the centuries and how that has changed with the modern world. Then there's plenty to talk about with cats in pop culture! So many different characters to discuss and laugh at! If you love cats, then you need to sign up for this **infur**mative and **amews**ing look at felines that affect all of us.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Pen and Paper Gaming

Course Description:

Before the dawn of video games, gamers used to roll dice. Learn the intricate rules that guide boundless imagining & endless adventure. Students will be introduced to and/or play classic games like Dungeons and Dragons, White Wolf and Cyberpunk 2020.

Cost: \$32.00

❖ **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, the class will work step by step to build 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: \$5.00

❖ **Title:** Sports Management

Course Description:

This class will explore the budget and logistics of running and operating a competitive athletic program, incorporating 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 required to manage a sports program.

Cost: Free

❖ **Title:** Ethics

Course Description:

This course will ask students to explore tough moral and social situations and consider and determine their personal responses to questions such as:

- I. Are rich individuals, families and nations morally obliged to help poor individuals, families or nations?
- II. Is it always wrong to steal, to lie, and to kill?
- III. If you could save the life of a friend by letting three strangers die, would you do it?

Cost: Free