

# Geneva High School

## Memorandum

**To:** Dr. Barrett, Superintendent  
**From:** Doug Drexler, GHS Associate Principal  
**Date:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
**Re:** GHS Course Recommendations for 2026-2027  
**Cc:** Mrs. Sims, Dr. Petmezas

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Although it seems as if the current school year is just getting underway, we have already been planning for the 2026-2027 school year. Recommendations include one new course as well as modifications to six existing courses. Additionally, this document includes some informational updates regarding dual credit courses, NCAA-approved courses, and our junior/senior fitness courses. All of these recommendations will better enable GHS to meet the continually evolving needs of our students.

To date, these new and modified course proposals have been reviewed by the GHS Department Chairs, Counseling and Advising Department, Building Leadership Team, Building Administration, Secondary Principals, and the Administrative Cabinet. Board of Education approval is needed before we allow students to register for these courses.

While some of these recommendations will require resources to implement, they are unlikely to require significant changes in staffing, space, or materials. Approval for specific texts and other resources will be requested in the spring.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the recommendations that appear in this report. Ideally, this would appear on the October 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Education agenda for an informational presentation, with a subsequent vote for approval at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting so that these changes can be incorporated into our course selection documents that we provide to students and families.

**Proposals to Modify Existing Courses:**

<b>Dept:</b>	<b>Course(s):</b>	<b>Summary of Proposed Change:</b>	<b>Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:</b>
Art	Yearbook and Yearbook Leadership	Currently, the Yearbook course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. This change will allow interested freshmen to choose this course as an elective starting with the 2026-27 school year. Freshmen have the fewest elective courses to choose from, so this will be a helpful addition to their options. The following year (2027-28), the Yearbook Leadership course will become open to sophomores who took the Yearbook course as freshmen (Yearbook Leadership is currently open only to juniors and seniors).	None
Math	Computer Science Principles	<p>Currently, this course is a year-long elective. However, there are students interested in computer science that only have room in their schedules for a one-semester course. This change will split the existing course into two one-semester courses: Computer Science Principles 1 and Computer Science Principles 2. This will provide students with more scheduling flexibility to pursue computer science at GHS, as students will now be able to take CSP 1 and CSP 2 in different academic years if that is what is needed or desired in their schedule.</p> <p>Additionally, there will now be an option for qualified students to bypass Computer Science Principles 1 if they already have an appropriate level of computer coding experience. Computer Science Principles 2 will have two possible prerequisite pathways:</p> <p>1) Completion of Computer Science Principles 1 -OR- 2) Previous Python coding experience (refer to the course description for Computer Science Principles 1 for specific prerequisite skills needed)</p>	None
Math	AP Computer Science A	<p>This change will create an additional possible prerequisite pathway for students to take this course. AP Computer Science A will have two possible prerequisite pathways:</p> <p>1) Completion of Computer Science Principles 1 and/or Computer Science Principles 2 -OR- 2) Previous Python coding experience (see the course description for Computer Science Principles 1 for specific skills) -AND- Grade of B or better in Algebra 2</p> <p>This change acknowledges that some students will meet the computer skill prerequisites on their own, will allow more students the opportunity to take this course earlier in high school, and will help reduce the scheduling conflicts that often prevent seniors from taking this course.</p>	None
Social Studies	Campaigns and Elections	This course is currently only open to juniors and seniors. This change will allow interested sophomores to choose this course as well.	None
Wellness	Social Issues in Sports	This dual credit course is currently only open to juniors and seniors. This change will allow interested sophomores to choose this elective course and will be another opportunity for sophomores to earn dual credit.	None

### **Proposal for New Course:**

<b>Dept:</b>	<b>Course:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:</b>
Social Studies	Psychology 2	The existing, one-semester Psychology course is one of the more popular electives within the Social Studies Department, and students have expressed interest in additional psychology coursework that isn't at the Honors/AP level. Psychology 2 previously existed as a GHS course until 2020-21 when AP Psychology debuted. Student interest appears high enough to sustain Psychology 2 as a one-semester course, with the prerequisite being a grade of 'B' or better in Psychology 1 (the Psychology course will be renamed Psychology 1). Additionally, we will be seeking dual credit status for students completing the combination of Psychology 1 and Psychology 2. This non-Honors/AP pathway to dual credit Psychology will serve a different type of student than typically enrolls in AP Psychology.	\$1,200

### **Informational Updates:**

<b>Dept:</b>	<b>Course(s):</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Anticipated Materials and Training Costs:</b>
Multiple	Multiple	Agreements were reached in spring 2025 for the following existing GHS courses to be designated as Dual Credit, effective for the current (2025-26) school year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* AP Calculus BC</li> <li>* Horticulture (now 6 college credits instead of 3)</li> <li>* Restaurant Entrepreneurship 2</li> </ul>	Already established
Multiple	Multiple	GHS will be seeking dual credit status for 26-27 for the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* AP Calculus AB</li> <li>* AP Psychology</li> <li>* AP Statistics</li> <li>* Calculus</li> <li>* Psychology 2 (returning course noted above)</li> </ul>	\$37,915
English	Critical Approaches to Film	This course has been approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as a core curriculum course. This will allow students who are prospective college athletes to use this course to meet the academic college requirements of college athletic programs.	None
Math	Geometry Concepts and Applications	This course has been approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as a core curriculum course. This will allow students who are prospective college athletes to use this course to meet the academic college requirements of college athletic programs.	None
Wellness	Lifetime Fitness	Lifetime Fitness has traditionally been operated with one curriculum for juniors and another curriculum for seniors in distinct sections for each throughout the school day. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, junior and senior students will be combined in Lifetime Fitness sections. Students taking Lifetime Fitness as juniors and then again as seniors will still experience the existing two-year curriculum, as the curriculum will now alternate years. This change will help balance sections throughout the school day and help to minimize student scheduling conflicts with other courses in their schedule.	None