



Policy on Accommodations

Accommodations and Modifications to Standard Instructional or Evaluation Practices

GCA is not equipped to make modifications to curriculum, but will work with each student needing accommodations on an individual basis. Accommodations at all levels are used only as needed and as deemed necessary by the classroom teacher, the Dean of Academics, the parent, and outside testing.

Students who come to GCA with a 504 plan or other previously provided accommodations will start the year without any accommodations, and will meet with the Dean of Academics and select faculty members if the student, parents, and teachers feel that accommodations would benefit the student. At this meeting, an “Accommodation Worksheet” will be filled out and then provided to all teachers working with the student, or further testing may be requested, which is the responsibility of the parents.

If outside testing is requested, the family will be given one month to complete the testing, or, if they are using the services of a public school district or Scottish Rite, a packet requesting testing should be submitted within 14 days of the meeting with the Dean. It may be decided that the student needs extra tutoring or other assistance, which once agreed upon, will be the responsibility of the parents to secure and to notify the Dean of Academics of the progress.

Lower School

GCA will make accommodations to the academic program for students in the elementary program who have been determined, based on observation, testing, or diagnosis to have learning differences that may require accommodations. Students in need of accommodations due to dyslexia or other processing differences may qualify for the “Take Flight” program that is

offered at GCA at an extra expense. This program serves students with dyslexia and other learning differences.

GCA will provide an initial assessment and may require more outside testing to determine if the “Take Flight” program is appropriate. The “Take Flight” instructor will work directly with the GCA teachers to coordinate the instruction that is being given in place of the regular class work to make sure that all GCA standards are being addressed. Students may leave the GCA classroom and work with the private “Take Flight” instructor for subjects that need extra accommodations. All students are expected to work on strategies in reading and writing that will allow them to join their classmates in the non-accommodated course work within two years of entering “Take Flight.”

Other accommodations will be employed as needed in the elementary classroom including specific seating arrangements, re-reading instructions, extra time on tests, etc.

If a teacher or parent feels that a student would benefit from accommodations in the classroom, a parent teacher conference should be requested with the Dean of Academics.

Upper School

Upper School GCA is not currently equipped to modify its instructional or evaluation practices or procedures in response to a student's learning disabilities or other special challenges, such as ADD. All students will receive (or not receive) credit based upon what they have (or have not) done relative to a common standard, rather than upon individualized standards developed in response to special needs.

