

College Guidance Information



VALWOOD
S C H O O L
Academics • Character • Service

Profile of the Upper School 2009-2010

Cobb Atkinson, Headmaster
Chuck Glassmire, Upper School Dean
Ginger Holley, Director of Admission
Julie Guilliams, Director of College Guidance

School and Community

Founded in 1969, Valwood School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school serving nearly 400 students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve. Valwood students are immersed in a challenging academic program and are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities.

The 45 acre campus was built in 2002 and is located in Valdosta, Georgia, the state's tenth largest city, a community of 55,000 located in south-central Georgia approximately twenty miles north of the Florida state line. Valdosta is served by interstate 75 and is a two-hour drive from Macon (GA), Gainesville (FL), Jacksonville (FL), and Tallahassee (FL). The greater Valdosta area has enjoyed both demographic and commercial growth during the past two decades and is home to Valdosta State University and Moody Air Force Base. Valwood serves students from Valdosta and attracts students from approximately a thirty-mile radius from the school.

Accreditation and Memberships

Valwood holds dual accreditation from the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In addition, Valwood School is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS), the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA), the College Board, and the Southern and National Associations for College Admissions Counseling (SACAC and NACAC).

Faculty

Many members of the Valwood faculty hold advanced degrees. Teachers facilitate individual learning styles and choose materials they deem appropriate. The student teacher ratio is 11: 1, and class size is limited to 20 students or less.

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

ENGLISH	SCIENCE	FOREIGN LANGUAGE
English I	Biology	Spanish I, II, III, IV
English II	Physical Science	Spanish III – Honors
English II – Honors	Chemistry I	AP Spanish Language
English III	Anatomy and Physiology	French I, II
AP English Language	Physics	French III – Honors
English IV	*AP Biology	
AP English Literature	AP Chemistry	FINE ARTS
Southern Literature	*AP Environmental Science	Drama
Composition I	AP Physics	Chorus
Composition II		Strings
Composition IV	MATHEMATICS	Visual Arts
Speech IV	Algebra I / Algebra I B	AP Studio Art
	Geometry	
	Geometry – Honors	HEALTH & PHYS ED
Government / Economics	Algebra II	Health
World History	Algebra II – Honors	Personal Fitness
AP World History	Pre-Calculus – Honors	Conditioning
U.S. History	Algebra III / Trigonometry	
AP U.S. History	AP Calculus AB	TECHNOLOGY / ELECTIVES
Psychology		Technology
Global Issues		Yearbook

**Offered in alternating years*

Graduation Requirements

4 units of English
 4 units of Mathematics, beginning with Algebra I
 3 units of Social Studies – Government/Economics,
 World History, U.S. History
 3 units of Lab Science – Biology, Chemistry, 1 elective
 2 units of the same Foreign Language
 ½ unit of Senior Speech
 ½ unit of Senior Composition
 ½ unit of Technology
 1 unit of Health and Personal Fitness
 1 unit Fine Arts
 2½ units of Additional Electives
 20 Hours of Community Service per year

Grade Point Average and Class Rank

Grades earned in academic subjects are used to determine a student's weighted GPA and class rank. All subjects are included in the computation of a student's unweighted GPA. Valwood does not report student rankings, except to note those seniors with the highest and second highest cumulative GPAs. The scale used to determine weighted GPA is as follows:

Grade	College Prep	Honors	Advanced Placement
90 - 100	4.0	5.0	6.0
85 - 89	3.50	4.375	5.25
80 - 84	3.0	3.75	4.50
75 - 79	2.5	3.125	3.75
70 - 74	2.0	2.5	3.0
65 - 69	1.0	1.25	1.5
< 65	0	0	0

College Admissions Testing – Class of 2010 Mid 50% Range (through June 2009)

SAT	Critical Reading	510 - 630
	Math	490 - 590
	Writing	520 - 630
	Composite Score (CR + Math)	1000 - 1200
ACT	English	23 - 31
	Math	20 - 26
	Reading	20 - 29
	Science Reasoning	21 - 25
	Composite Score	22 - 27

Advanced Placement

All Valwood students are encouraged to take a challenging course load, including Advanced Placement courses. Students enrolled in an AP classes are **required** to take the AP exam.

	2009	2010
% Class taking at least one AP Exam	76	89
% Exams with scores of 3 or above	52	60

National Recognition of Students

	2009	2008	2007	2006
National Merit Finalists	-	-	-	-
National Achievement Recognition	-	-	-	1
National Hispanic Scholars	-	-	-	-
National Merit Commended Students	-	-	-	-
Advanced Placement Scholars (through 5/09)	3	2	11	7
Class Enrollment	18	31	21	24

College Acceptances

Graduates of the past four classes have received acceptances to the following schools:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	South Georgia College
Appalachian State University	Southern Polytechnic State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University	Spelman University
Auburn University	St. John's University – Queens
Baylor University	Stetson University
Birmingham Southern College	Tuskegee College
Clemson University	Troy University
College of Charleston	Tulane University
Colorado School of Mines	Tusculum College
Eckerd College	United States Coast Guard Academy
Elon University	University of Alabama
Emory University	University of Arizona
Florida A&M University	University of Connecticut
Florida State University	University of Colorado at Boulder
Fort Valley State University	University of Georgia
Furman University	University of Houston
Georgia College & State University	University of Miami
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Mississippi
Georgia Southern University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Georgia State University	University of Richmond
Gulf Coast Community College	University of South Carolina
High Point University	University of Southern Mississippi
Kennesaw State University	University of Tennessee
Liberty University	University of the South (Sewanee)
Louisiana State University	University of Vermont
Mercer University	University of West Alabama
Middle Tennessee State University	University of West Georgia
North Carolina School for the Arts	University of Wisconsin at Madison
Nova Southeastern University	Valdosta State University
Oglethorpe University	Wake Forest University
Rhodes College	Western Carolina University
Samford University	Wofford College
Savannah College of Art and Design	Yale University

GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE CLASS OF 2010

Grades 9 - 11 CLASSES TAKEN AT VALWOOD

	A		B		C		D	F
	95-99	90-94	85-89	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	<65
English I	3	6	2	1	1			
English II				1		1		
English II – Honors		2	4	5	3			
Composition I	6	7		1				
Composition II		4	8	4		1		
English III			1	1	1		1	
AP English Language		2	6	2	3			
Algebra I / IB	1	2				1		
Geometry		1	1	1			1	
Geometry – Honors	2	7	2					
Algebra II		3		1			1	
Algebra II – Honors				1				
Pre-Calculus – Honors	6	2	2		1	1		
Biology	5	5	4					
Physical Science				1				
Chemistry I	4	3	3	1	2	3		1
Physics		1	1	1		1		
AP Biology	1	2	1	1	1			
AP Chemistry		3	1					
Government	6	6	1	1				
Economics	12	3	1					
World History		1				1		
US History			4	1			1	
AP World History		5	5	2	1	1		
AP US History	3	4	3	1				
Spanish I	1		1	1				
Spanish II	1	5	4	2				
Spanish III	1		1	2				
Spanish III – Honors		2	2	1				
Spanish IV – Honors			2					
French I				1				
French II		2		1			1	
French III – Honors			2	1				
French IV – Honors		1						