

"BEING GEORGIAN DOES NOT ONLY DESIGNATE YOUR ETHNIC IDENTITY: IT CHARGES YOU WITH ALL DIVINE QUALITIES THAT GOD GAVE PEOPLE WHEN HE CREATED MEN IN HIS IMAGE. MY EARNEST DESIRE AND REQUEST IS THAT YOU REMAIN TRUE GEORGIANS AND LOVE YOUR HOMELAND AS YOU LOVE YOUR SOUL... LET'S STAND TOGETHER WITH THIS FAITH, LET'S BUILD OUR COUNTRY TOGETHER, AND LET'S BE PROUD OF OUR STRONG AND VICTORIOUS GEORGIA!"

Guivy Zaldastanishvili



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

I welcome you to the new school year at the Guivy Zaldastanishvili American Academy in Tbilisi.

I am delighted to announce that the school is going through the year in splendid shape. Our newly completed auditorium has rapidly become the heart of GZAAT culture. Guest speakers, college and university presentations, and meetings with faculty and students have found their proper space. More importantly, our student-led assemblies, attended by the entire community, significantly boost the school spirit. Students seem more energized than ever before. They participate in clubs, play team sports, and organize noteworthy charity events.

Academically speaking, we have introduced new elective courses in the senior year and incorporated the History of Philosophy into the curriculum of the Humanities Department. The German language program now begins in grade eight.

The inaugural Teacher Training Program last year gave us three young teachers with extraordinary potential in biology, history, and English. Similarly, the new hires in the Georgian and German languages adapted to the school environment with the utmost professionalism. I feel privileged to witness the harmonious blend of youth and experience interacting for the benefit of the teaching standards at GZAAT. This year, we have recruited three new trainee teachers in mathematics, English, and chemistry. I am highly confident in our ability to train, attract, and retain exceptional teachers.

Ultimately, the confluence of all these factors contributes to developing a stronger culture at GZAAT - one in which students and teachers work extremely hard while simultaneously enjoying diverse activities organized by students, faculty, or both. While this has always been true at our school, I now believe that the collective efforts of the entire community surpass my initial expectations. As the director of the American Academy, witnessing these advancements not only fills me with immense pride in the achievements of the school community but also instills in me a strong sense of optimism for the future of the American Academy in Tbilisi.

Andrés J. Cruz
Director

WELCOME TO THE GUIVY ZALDASTANISHVILI AMERICAN ACADEMY IN TBILISI, WHERE EDUCATION TAKES ON A SPECIAL MEANING, BORN OF A HOST UNIQUE FEATURES IN SCHOOLING.

A highly trained and devoted faculty, the majority of whom have master degrees obtained from premiere colleges and universities in the U.S. and several of whom hold doctoral degrees. Each of these is nevertheless engaged in ongoing and self-designed programs of professional development that span the whole field of secondary education.





A special methodology of teaching known as the Harkness Plan, first developed at The Phillips Exeter Academy, one of the truly great schools in America where many of our original teachers were trained. All classes are equipped with large oval tables seating the teacher and a maximum of fifteen students. Here instruction is interactive among teachers and students, with the students expected to shoulder the bulk of discussion.



*"ONLY THE
EDUCATED ARE
FREE."*

Epictetus

“EDUCATION IS NOT TO REFORM STUDENTS OR AMUSE THEM OR TO MAKE THEM EXPERT TECHNICIANS. IT IS TO UNSETTLE THEIR MINDS, WIDEN THEIR HORIZZONS, INFLAME THEIR INTELLECTS, TEACH THEM TO THINK STRAIGHT, IF POSSIBLE.”

Robert M Hutchins



A unique form of assessment known as Juries, in which every freshman and every sophomore must undergo an individual examination in every discipline that is conducted by members of the faculty plus visitors. Students receive material that they have never seen before and are given one hour to prepare their individual responses. Standing before the jury, they must deliver the analysis of their material and answer all questions posed by jury members. Results are judged as pass, fail, or excellent. All juries must be passed in order to graduate into the next level. Administering juries requires two full weeks of sessions, running from 8 am to 6 pm, including Saturdays.



*"UPON THE EDUCATION
OF THE PEOPLE
OF THE COUNTRY
THE FATE OF THIS
COUNTRY DEPENDS."*

Benjamin Disraeli

*"I CANNOT TEACH
ANYBODY ANYTHING,
I CAN ONLY MAKE THEM
THINK."*

Socrates

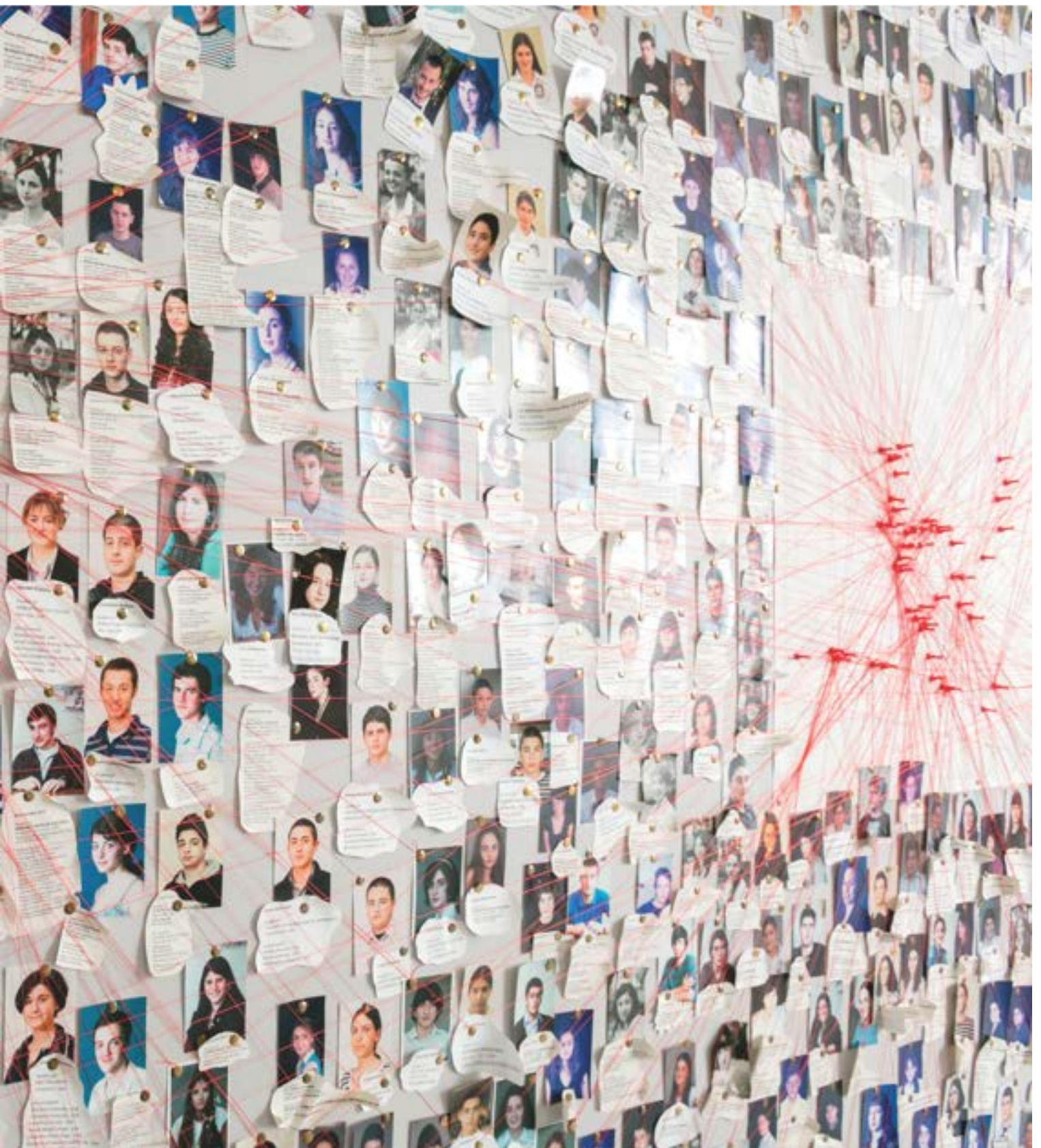




The Library offers the American Academy's students and staff a refined environment, leading-edge technology, and a wide range of information resources. It holds a collection of physical (around 13 000 items) and electronic books and audio-video materials as well as board games; and provides access to much wider array of resources through subscriptions to various digital databases. The Library boasts many titles authored by the American Academy's teachers. The school community is encouraged to suggest resources for purchase - for their specific projects or just enrichment of the Library collection. In addition, the library staff delivers orientations and trainings on a scheduled as well as on demand basis and offers reference service and daily assistance in the use of library resources and technology. The Library also hosts an array of school events, such as lectures, presentations, seminars, and conferences.



A combined record of over 170 acceptances from colleges and universities in Europe and America, together with a total of over three million dollars of scholarships awarded in a single year. Here is a sample list of these institutions:



- Harvard University
- Yale University
- Princeton University
- Columbia University
- Brown University
- Cornell University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Williams College

- Swarthmore College
- West Point Academy
- Naval Academy, Annapolis
- Air Force Academy
- Northeastern University
- Boston University
- Babson College
- Mount Holyoke College

- Smith College
- Wellesley College
- Central European University
- Bocconi University
- Jacobs University
- American University, Paris
- St. Andrews University
- London School of Economics

SPECIAL COMPONENT

BESIDES THE SEVERAL UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE ACADEMY, THERE REMAIN A NUMBER OF SPECIAL ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OFFERED HERE.



Pervasive use of technology: Since its inception back in 2001, the Academy has been equipped with multiple computers, all linked to a central server on which are stored the critical data regarding grades, comments, a database of students, the budget, and all correspondence. Teachers are equipped with their own classroom computers, while science classrooms currently have the use of document cameras and smart boards. Lessons and assignments are registered on the internet so that parents can monitor their children's homework. Besides those computers in the library, a computer room is equipped to instruct a full classroom in various technology programs. Grade books, scheduling, admissions, and all financial data are communicated and stored technologically.

A Parents' Council has been in place since the Academy's beginning. The Council, comprising representatives from all grades, meets regularly with the administration to keep apprised of ongoing issues and policies. They also participate in special programs, such as Parents' Night, Open Houses, and the like.

Advisories: Upon first entering the Academy, students are assigned a faculty advisor for the duration of their stay. Advisors distribute grades, communicate with parents, sit in on disciplinary conferences, and in general are granted special responsibility to monitor and advise.

Prefects: At the end of each year, the faculty appoints six seniors as prefects. Acting as the chief student representatives, each prefect is assigned one of the incoming freshmen advisories where they become student advisors. In addition, prefects assume responsibility for both arranging and monitoring special school events, such as convocation, field trips, "AAT days," and student social events.

TS OF THE ACADEMY

Interdisciplinary Senior Course on Great Ideas: All seniors participate in a full year, team taught interdisciplinary course, with certain faculty members designated as section leaders meeting three times each week and other faculty serving as double period lecturers once each week. In service since Academy inception, the subject matter includes Plato, Greek, and Georgian philosophers, Lucretius, Galileo, Leonardo da Vinci, Newton, Darwin, Freud, Einstein. Students read from primary sources and are required to record notes from the lectures.

American Textbooks: Besides Georgian and Russian, all courses taught use textbooks imported at considerable expense from America. These include many online resources that can be accessed from home.

Full-Time College Counselor: Monitoring and instruction in college application begins in the spring of the sophomore year and reaches its greatest intensity in the middle of senior year when college applications fall due. Besides the full time counselor, the Deputy Director takes part in placement activity, attending college conferences and sponsoring college fairs. Parents are invited to discuss college opportunities and financial aid.

A Fully Equipped Gymnasium: Our new gym provides for programs in football, basketball, volleyball, and rock climbing.



THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM



The five-year (grades 8-12) program of studies at the Academy is designed to produce well-rounded students who are prepared to enter local universities in Georgia as well as major universities in Europe and the United States. English is the primary language of instruction, except in classes studying Georgian and Russian where these languages are spoken exclusively.



OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM MAKES THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS:

- Daily preparation will be stressed with homework in every subject, every day.
- Students will be expected to participate actively in every class, communicating not only with the teacher, but also with their peers.
- Wherever and whenever practicable, technology will be integrated in instruction.
- Frequent writing and assessment will be given high priority in all subjects.
- Attendance is mandatory. Excessive absenteeism can result in lower marks or the requirement that a student repeat the year.

The academic year is divided into two semesters, ending in a marking period. First and the third quarters occur at the halfway point of each semester at which time teachers communicate noteworthy student progress. Unless otherwise designated, classes meet four times per week with one double period. Students engage in physical and extracurricular activities throughout the year.

Our academic program differs from that of the typical Georgian program inasmuch as our courses are more intensive, meeting five hours each week in small classes throughout the year. They include a high degree of "hands on" activities, as well as the use of advanced textbooks and technology.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Georgian: 4 credits

English: 4 credits

Russian: 3 credits

German: 1 credit

History: 3 credits

Mathematics: 4 credits

Biology: 1 credit

Chemistry: 1 credit

Physics: 1 credit

History of Art: 0.5 credits

History of Music: 0.5 credits

History of Religion: 0.5 credits

Interdisciplinary Course "Great Ideas": 1 credit

Electives: 0.5 credits

Physical Education: 1 credit



ADMINISTRATION *From Left to Right (Back Row); From Left to Right (Front Row)*

- ▶ **Ivane Dvaladze** - **PROCTOR** - Sokhumi Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Physics & Mathematics, 1970. Appointed 2006.
- ▶ **Salome Siamashvili** - **ACCOUNTANT** - Diploma in Accounting and Auditing, The University of Georgia, 2011; BA in Business Administration in Finances, European University, 2019. Appointed 2013.
- ▶ **Ia Topuria** - **DEAN OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS** - Diploma in English Language, I.Chavchavadze State Institute of Foreign Languages, 1992; MPA, School of Public Administration, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, 2004. Appointed 2004.
- ▶ **Andrés J. Cruz** - **DIRECTOR** - Licenciatura (Master Degree) in Scenic Arts, University of Córdoba, Spain. 1984. Vice Principal of City on a Hill Charter School, Boston. Co-Director and Principal of Conservatory Lab Charter School, Boston. Appointed 2014.
- ▶ **Lana Vardanidze** - **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** - BA in English Philology, Tbilisi State University, 2011; MA in Translation Studies, Tbilisi State University, 2013. Appointed 2017.
- ▶ **Irina Murtskhveladze** - **ACCOUNTANT** - BA in Economics, Tbilisi State University, 2002. Appointed 2005.
- ▶ **Tamaz Gujejiani** - **BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT** - Diploma in Civil Engineering, Georgian Technical University, 1999. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **Tamar Guniava** - **ADMISSIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR** - Diploma in Information Technologies and Economics, Georgian Technical University, 2004. Appointed 2008.
- ▶ **Givi Kereselidze** - **COMPUTER NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR** - Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Georgian Technical University, 1992. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **Nana Mikhelidze** - **FINANCIAL DIRECTOR** - Diploma in Chemistry, Tbilisi Technical University, 1987. Full member of GFPAA. Professional Accountant. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **Marina Japaridze** - **DEPUTY DIRECTOR** - Diploma with Honors in Biology, Tbilisi State University, 1978; Candidate of Biological Sciences, Georgian Academy of Sciences, 1983; Diploma with Honors in English, Institute of Foreign Languages, 1994; M.Ed., School Leadership Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2004. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Eka Tatishvili** - **DEAN OF STUDENTS** - Diploma with Honors in Geophysics, Tbilisi State University, 1995; Master's Diploma in Geophysics, Tbilisi State University, 2000. Appointed 2016.

TRUSTEES

Giorgi Bazgadze - Co-Chairman

Tamar Japaridze

Nika Khazaradze

Richard E. Lussen

Gocha Matsaberidze

Elizabeth Zaldastani Napier

Donald W. Thomas

Avtandil Tsereteli

Nicholas Zaldastani - Co-Chairman

FACULTY

English

Kenneth Goff

Mariam Khidesheli

Khatuna Tskhadadze

Gvantsa Zhuruli

Lela Samniashvili

Anthony Schierman

Manana Mgeladze

Tamr Jejilashvili

Georgian

Ana Abashidze

Rusudan Abramidze

Levan Gigineishvili

Mariam Dadiani

Ketevan Topadze

Mariam Toradze

Ana Kopaliani

Mariam Giorgashvili

Science

Tamar Mamulashvili, *Chemistry*

Ilya Mestvirishvili, *Physics*

Natia Chachua, *Chemistry*

Irina Tsintsadze, *Laboratory Assistant*

Nia Chachiasvili, *Biology*

Thea Japaridze, *Biology, Chemistry*

Ekaterine Tsuladze, *Physics*

Lela Sisauri, *Physics*

Humanities

Liana Asatiani, Lika Nizharadze, **Music**

Nino Bakradze, Eka Chigogidze, **Art**

Marina Khositashvili, **Religion**

Elene Javakhishvili, **Biology**

College Counseling

Ketevan Chikovani

Marina Japaridze

Marika Tsitskishvili

Ia Topuria

Lika Chkhaidze

Special Program

Manana Pkhakadze

Mathematics

Vasil Godabrelidze

Lasha Kokilashvili

Goderdzi Pruidze

Irma Chelidze

David Shapakidze

Sofio Chkheidze

Russian

Anna Avakova

Eka Gordeziani

Maia Lordkipanidze

Irina Chkheidze

Maya Khadouri

German

Pati Ramishvili

History

Nino Mitsishvili

Lasha Bezhanishvili

Paata Ramishvili

Ketevan Sturua

Levan Gambashidze

Sandro Mikelashvili

Sports

Nino Gelashvili

Zviad Kotrikadze

Library

Tamar Gvaramadze

Mariam Ketiladze

Nato Dvaladze

Student Services

Tinatin Kvantaliani,

School Doctor

Ketevan Mosashvili,

School Psychologist

Nino Mgebrishvili,

School Psychologist

FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

In addition to our Trustees we are indebted to the following organizations and institutions for their generous support in helping the American Academy offer a superlative education for Georgians:

- U.S. Department of State
- The American Embassy, Tbilisi
- The Phillips Exeter Academy
- Harvard University
- Simmons College
- The Georgian Association of the U.S.A

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (Grade 8)

In 2017, the American Academy introduced the Junior High School program (grade 8). The new program has been designed to foster students' social, emotional, and cognitive development and growth, which will enable them to enter high school more prepared for the challenges they usually face as freshman students.

Language of instruction is Georgian with gradual English immersion from the second quarter with the aim of getting students proficient by the end of the year. The teaching approach in Junior High has flexibility of applying different instructional strategies such as interactive classes, group work, etc.

The Junior High School program offers well-structured advisory, counseling, and the academic support programs. Each program addresses various issues that young students face at school; advisory program has a very well defined curriculum of study skills, whereas the academic support program is focused on not only assisting academically vulnerable students, but also developing other areas of their interest.

Admission to the Junior High is based on three tests - Georgian, English, and Math. After that, a personal interview takes place.



Back Row: **Zviad Kotrikadze** (Sports); **Anna Avakova** (Russian); **Ekaterine Tsuladze** (Physics); **Lasha Bezhanishvili** (History); **Sofio Chkheidze** (Math).

Front Row: **Lika Nizharadze** (Music); **Thea Japaridze** (Science); **Nino Gelashvili** (Sports).



ENGLISH:

The purpose of this class is to ensure that its students have the English language skills not only to succeed but to excel during their high school years at the American Academy. To do this, the course seeks to provide them a firm foundation in the grammar, vocabulary, and critical and creative thinking skills that they will need. It also strives to develop the students' academic, organizational and interpersonal citizenship skills that will benefit them at the American Academy and beyond.

SCIENCES:

The course covers different topics in chemistry and biology. In this course, students will learn how to gather, analyze and interpret scientific data on chemistry and human anatomy. It also includes the academic and the technical vocabulary which are necessary for building success in these disciplines. Assignments include exercises and hands-on activities. Oral presentations will help the students to develop their argumentation and debate skills.

MATHEMATICS:

Algebra and Geometry are remarkable subjects, being both mathematically beautiful and having practical applications. The central goal of this course is to learn how to translate real-world applications to algebraic/geometric problems and then solve these problems using the acquired techniques of math. In this course some of the major concepts and theorems will be discussed. These include algebraic fractions, linear equations with one variable, various methods for solving systems of linear equations with two variables, types and properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, circles etc.



PHYSICS:

The course covers fundamental principles and processes of the physical world. One of the primary goals is to give students understanding of what physics is and what purpose it serves. Topics include basic concepts of motion, forces, energy, heat and electricity. Upon completion, students should be able to describe and explain physical concepts as well as know where they are applied. Students will be able to describe the reasons and causes behind physical phenomena as well as to apply these concepts to solve problems.

RUSSIAN:

This Russian language course begins with a systematic review of Russian grammar, concentrating on forms of nouns and verb systems. This course develops students' command of both oral and written Russian. It also develops students' skills at expressing themselves in the Russian language by intensive studying of the forms and aspects of nouns, verbs of motion, and essential vocabulary. The course trains students in all language skills combined with the study of cultural texts. Selected readings will serve as the basis for discussions, exercises, and compositions.

GEORGIAN:

The goal of this Georgian language course is to deepen students' knowledge of Georgian literature, familiarizing them with a variety of literature movements and styles. Its detailed learning of literate texts will help students in better understanding writers' concrete methods of creating their works. The course helps understanding Georgian literature in context of the world's culture. At the end of the course, students will have a deeper knowledge of grammar, orthography, punctuation and they will be able to use that knowledge to write and create essay. In addition, students will be able to discuss different styles and genres of literature works, use critical thinking, and follow/lead a discussion.

GERMAN:

The German program aims to give students a solid command of the language by the time they graduate. Students will be exposed to language-level appropriate vocabulary and grammar structures and develop listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will also be introduced to German culture, media, and the arts and be prepared to communicate practically in everyday situations. After completing the German course, American Academy students should be able to gain at least a B1 rating in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.



SOCIAL SCIENCES:

Social Sciences class aims to help students understand their cultural heritage and its respective place in the world. The course aims to train students to become better critical thinkers along with providing them with the necessary knowledge in the respective fields of history and geography. It focuses on teaching the basics of scientific research methodology and its approaches. The program involves various individual and group activities. The types of assignments include tests, presentations, argumentative essays and class discussions. Students extensively work with sources and various types of visual materials. Outside of the main textbook, the program utilizes the use of historical sources, both in Georgian and English languages.

ART:

In this class, students are familiarized with elements of visual and applied art, expressive methods, variety of techniques, materials and procedures. Students develop skills to embody and express different types of ideas. They use their imagination, observation, creativity towards different tasks. The course includes class and home works as well as individual pair, and group works. In addition, the course includes general school projects like working together with the drama club to create theatrical shows and costumes. At the end of the year, the art course will hold an exhibition.

MUSIC:

This is a one-year, once per week, introductory (music) course, which introduces students to the basic elements of music theory, literature, and history. Knowledge and understanding of core elements will develop in students a conscious perception of the world masterpieces and further promote the formation of their musical taste.

ADVISORY PROGRAM:

To promote students' social-emotional development, the Junior High School offers well-structured advisory and counseling programs, which will address various issues that young adolescents face. Advisory program has a very well defined curriculum of study skills. Each advisory group will have no more than ten students and advisory meetings will be held on a daily basis during the scheduled period of time.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

The academic Support program is focused not only on assisting academically vulnerable students but also on developing other areas of their interest.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (GRADES 9-12)

Instruction in English will focus on gaining fluency and precision in the use of the language. Emphasis will be placed on grammar, learning the structure of the language and practicing sentence variation. Work on vocabulary is designed to enhance the range of both student comprehension and expression. Daily reading assignments include essays, poems, short stories, novels, and plays will be drawn from classics of British and American literature as well as world literature in translation. Stress will be placed on composition, learning the proper form of expository essays and keeping journals. Oral presentations will explore the use of classical rhetoric in argumentation and debate. SAT preparation will be arranged in after school sessions in the junior year.



ENGLISH - 4 years

ENGLISH TEACHERS *(From Left to Right)*

- ▶ **Gvantsa Zhuruli** - BA in International Public Relations and Communication, University of Alabama, 2001. Appointed 2007.
- ▶ **Mariam Khidesheli** - Bachelor's degree in Global Management, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, 2012; Master's degree with Honors with a major in Philosophy of Culture, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2018; Appointed 2020.
- ▶ **Lela Samniashvili** - Diploma with Honors in English Language and Literature, 1999, Simultaneous Interpretation, 2001, Tbilisi State University; MPhil in Higher Education, University of Oslo, 2007; PhD in Educational Sciences, Tbilisi State University, 2017; Visiting scholar at UC Berkeley 2001-2003, Appointed 2009.
- ▶ **Khatuna Tskhadadze** - Bachelor's degree in Philology at Tbilisi Ivane Javakhishvili State University in 1998; Appointed 2020.
- ▶ **Anthony Schierman** - BA in Comparative Literature, Reed College, 1992; CELTA, International Teacher Training Organization, Mexico, 2003. Appointed 2007.

- ▶ **Manana Mgeladze** - BA in Philology and English Teaching, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 1985; PhD in Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, 1997; Master's Degree in Education, Simmons College, USA, 2002. Appointed 2023.
- ▶ **Tamar Jejlashvili** - BA in English Language and Literature, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 1998. Master's Degree in English Language and Literature, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2000; Master of Science in Education, Simmons College, USA, 2004. Reappointed 2023.



Although instruction will cover the traditional topics in mathematics - algebra, trigonometry, geometry, and calculus - it will differ substantially in approach. Sometimes called “teaching to the problem,” this approach stresses the process rather than the product of mathematical thinking. It invites students to ask their own questions and to formulate their own solutions. It encourages them to work in groups, solving problems together. The creative use of technology will be an important ingredient in negotiating this process, employing computers, calculators, and the Internet. At the same time, students will be exposed to the ancient and medieval roots of mathematics. And they will delve into the mysteries of probability by learning the wages of chance. In the senior year students who qualify can take the Advanced Placement course in calculus. The math department also holds special SAT preparations courses.

MATH TEACHERS (From Left to Right)

- ▶ **Goderdzi Pruidze** - Diploma with Honors in Mathematics, Tbilisi State University, 1996; MS (Mathematics), Louisiana State University, 2004. Appointed 2011.
- ▶ **Irma Chelidze** - BA in Physics and Mathematics, Tbilisi State University, 2000; M.Ed., Harvard University, 2002. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **David Shapakidze** - Diploma with Honors in Physics, Tbilisi State University, 1994; PhD in Physics, Warsaw University, Poland, 2001; Candidate of Physics and Mathematics, Acad. E. Kharadze Abastumani National Astrophysical Observatory, 2002. Appointed 2005.
- ▶ **Sopio Chkheidze** - Diploma in Economics, DePauw University (USA) and Georgian Technical University, 2013; M.A. in Educational Administration, Ilia State University, 2015. Appointed 2020.
- ▶ **Vasil Godabrelidze** - B.S. Applied Mathematics and Computer Sciences. Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia 2004. M.S. Mathematics, University of Alaska Fairbanks. USA 2008. M.S. Petroleum Engineering, University of Alaska Fairbanks. USA 2010. Appointed 2017.
- ▶ **Lasha Kokilashvili** - Diploma with Honors in Mathematics, Tbilisi State University, 1993; Candidate of Sciences in Physics and Mathematics, A. Razmadze Math Institute, 1999; MScEd Simmons College, Boston, MA, 2003; EdS University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 2019. Worked at GZAAT in 2003-2011. Reappointed in 2014

Students will spend the full four years of their secondary education studying their native language and literature. They will be drilled in use of correct grammar. They will expand their vocabularies and learn the conventions of proper Georgian usage, distinguishing between formal and informal speech. They will practice writing grammatical and stylistically correct formal essays, drawing upon typological comparison with the English language. They will engage in oral presentations and compete among themselves in special debates. Study of Georgian will encompass a thorough knowledge of the classic literature, both ancient and modern. The curriculum of Georgian literature is directly related with the masterpieces of world literature and cultural studies. This study will be integrated with the curriculum in history and will include consideration of all genres - poetry, essay, fiction, biography, drama, and film. Preparation for the national exam in Georgian will be included in the curriculum of the 11th and 12th grades.



GEORGIAN - 4 years

GEORGIAN TEACHERS *From Left to Right (Back Row); From Left to Right (Front Row)*

- ▶ **Mariam Toradze** - Diploma in Journalism, Tbilisi State University, 1983; PhD in Mass Communication, Tbilisi State University, 2015; Certified Teacher. Appointed 2015.
- ▶ **Mariam Dadiani** - Diploma in Georgian Philology, Tbilisi State University, 1994. Appointed 2011.
- ▶ **Rusudan Abramidze** - Diploma with Honors in Georgian Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1988; Best Teacher of the Year 1997-1998. Appointed 2004.
- ▶ **Ketevan Topadze** - Diploma in Georgian Philology, Tbilisi State University, 1994; MS. Ed., Simmons College, 2002. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **Levan Giginishvili** - BA in Georgian Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1994; MA in Medieval Studies, Central European University, 1995; BA Philosophy, Catholic University of Leuven, 1996; PhD Medieval Studies, Central European University 2000. M.Ed., Harvard University, 2003. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Ana Kopaliani** - BA in Georgian Language and Literature, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2005; MA in Translation Studies, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2009. Doctoral Degree (Translation Studies and Comparative Literature), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2021. Appointed 2023
- ▶ **Mariam Giorgashvili** - BA in Georgian Language and Literature, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2010; MA in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, 2012. Appointed 2023.

*"Мысль! Великое слово!
Что же и составляет
величие человека,
как не мысль?"*

А. С. Пушкин



Students will study Russian as their third language for gaining fluency in both reading and speech. They will read Russian classical and modern literature in the original. Classes will be given four times a week. Besides some of the classics of Russian literature, students will read current journals and newspapers, and will watch films in order to master their colloquial speech.

RUSSIAN TEACHERS *(From Left to Right)*

- ▶ **Irina Chkheidze** - Diploma in Russian Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1988. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **Eka Gordeziani** - Diploma with Honors in Russian Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1990; Candidate of Russian Philology, Tbilisi State University, 1996. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Maia Lordkipanidze** - Russian Philology, Tbilisi State University, 1983. Training in Medical Psychotherapy, 2004. Appointed 2015.
- ▶ **Maya Khadouri** - Diploma with Honors in Russian Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1989. Appointed 2003.



RUSSIAN - 3 years



HISTORY – 3 years

The study of history will cover major issues in the history of the world and of Georgia. Focus will be on understanding key events, key ideas, and key values through the history of mankind. The subject of history also considers raising awareness of current events and trends in the world. Historical study will involve readings, discussions writing assignments, presentations and preparation of at least one major project both on the individual and the class level. Assignments will be issued daily and the use of computer technologies with related skills constantly encouraged.

Studies will begin with the origins of humans, early forms of societies, the ancient civilizations from Egypt and Mesopotamia, India and China and American civilizations to Greece and Rome, including related periods in Georgia. Sophomore year will include the history of China and India, World Religions through the Middle Ages, again with related periods of Georgian history. Juniors will begin with the end of the medieval period and carry this up to modern times.

HISTORY TEACHERS *(From Left to Right)*

- ▶ **Paata Ramishvili** - Diploma in History, Tbilisi State University, 1981; Candidate of Historical Sciences, Tbilisi State University, 1991. MS. Ed., Simmons College, 2004. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Nino Mitsishvili** - Diploma in History, Tbilisi State University, 1995; PhD in History, Tbilisi State University, 2003. Appointed 2003.
- ▶ **Ketevan Sturua** - Diploma with Honors in History, Tbilisi State University, 1987; PhD in History, Georgian Academy of Sciences, 2004. Appointed 2006.
- ▶ **Levan Gambashidze** - Bachelor (Philosophy), Ilia Chavchavadze Tbilisi State University of Language and Culture, 2005; Master (Philosophy), Ruhr University, Bochum 2009. Appointed 2015.
- ▶ **Sandro Mikelashvili** - BA in History: Tbilisi State University, 2022; MA in Educational Sciences: Tbilisi State University, 2024. Appointed 2023.

RELIGION - 1 semester

Seniors will study the major religions of the world - Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Paganism - as well as instances of primitive religions. Emphasis will be placed on knowledge of the history and the theology of each religion. Ethical implications of the various systems of beliefs will be explored. Students will consider selected moral dilemmas over which judgments might appropriately be rendered according to certain religions in question.

ART - 1 semester

Seniors will study the major works of art and architecture down through the centuries, enabling them to identify these works by period and creator. They will learn the fundamentals of composition in painting, the use of shadowing and perspective in drawing, the design and landscaping of great buildings. Students should emerge with the capacity to comment on the history, style, and composition of various works of art.

MUSIC - 1 semester

Seniors will study the history, structure, and style of great works and be able to identify these pieces by name and composer. They will study all types of music as well - classical, folk, jazz, modern, and opera. They will consider the mechanics of harmony, tonality, and discord. Students will learn to identify all instruments in a symphony orchestra.



From Left to Right

- ▶ **Marina Khositashvili - RELIGION TEACHER** - Diploma with Honors in English Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1980; Diploma in Christian Culture, Tbilisi Theological Academy, 1994. Appointed 2004.
- ▶ **Liana Asatiani - MUSIC TEACHER** - Diploma in Music, Tbilisi State Conservatory, 1980; MA in Music, 1985; Diploma in Computer Studies, Institute of Mathematics, 1994. Appointed 2005.
- ▶ **Nino Bakradze - ART TEACHER** - Diploma in Fine Arts, Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, 1981. Appointed 2004.



SCIENCE - 4 years

Our biology course consists of six large units: cells, evolution, genetics, energy, matter and organization, and ecology, each composed with several sub themes logically connected. We also teach the basics of human anatomy and physiology, which are embedded in the course of study. We integrate textbooks and technology into our classes, using video, interactive animations, and internet resources to enrich the course. Our hands-on activities provide students the opportunities to make their own investigations, which help them to make the connections between biological concepts and everyday life.

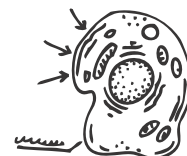
The course in chemistry, covers most of the major topics of inorganic chemistry, including (but not limited to) basic chemical vocabulary, writing chemical formulas and balancing equations, periodic table and atomic structure, reaction types, stoichiometry, calorimetry, and kinetics.

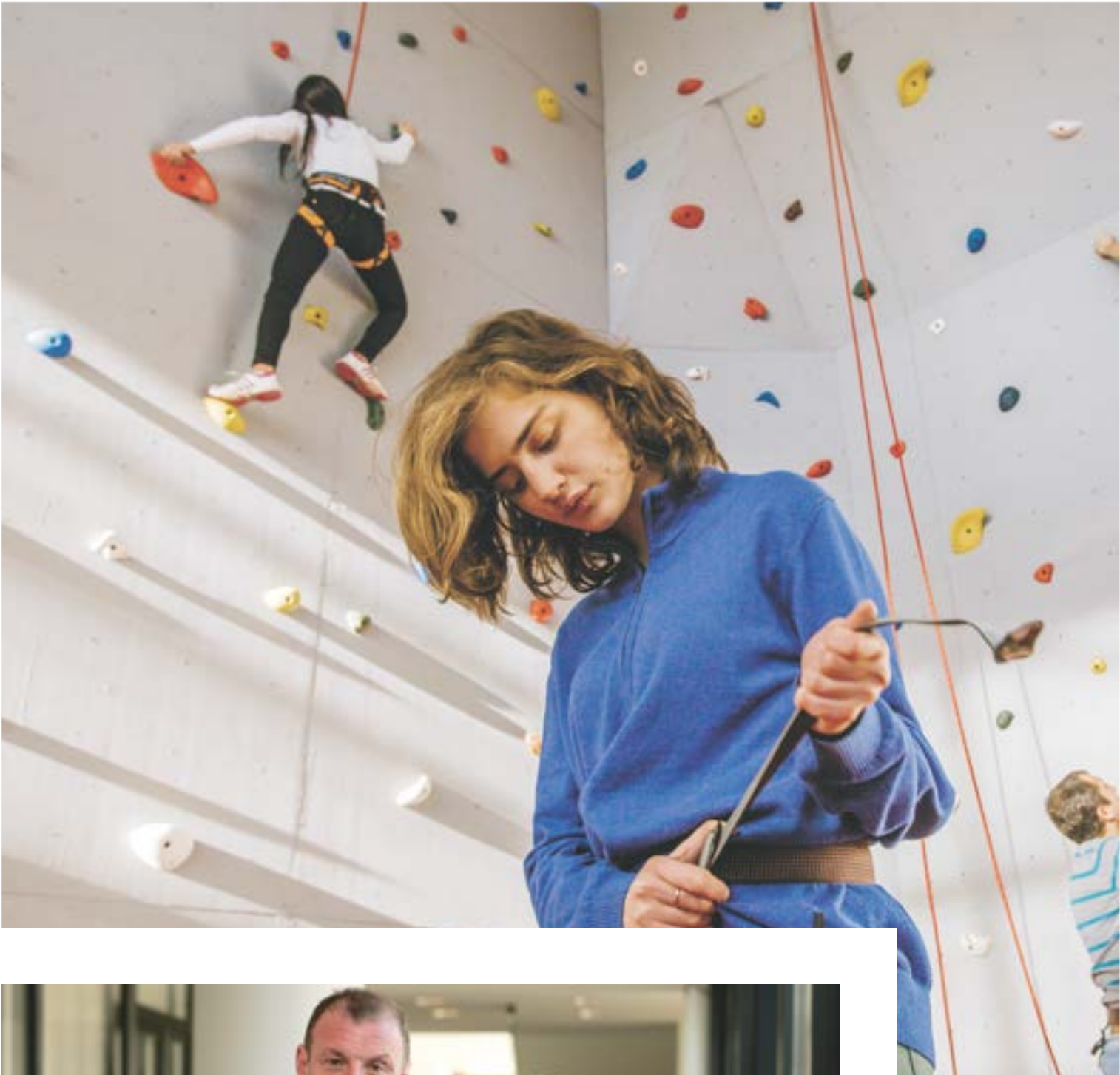
The physics course is designed to give students a grounding in the major areas of physics and to give them an opportunity to apply their knowledge to real life situations. The course utilizes extensive discussions, problem solving, lab work and live presentations. At the end of the course students prepare a written report and presentation on a scientific topic of individual interest, through which they are able to demonstrate their understanding of physics.



From Left to Right (Back Row); From Left to Right (Front Row)

- ▶ **Lela Sisauri - PHYSICS TEACHER** - Degree in Russian Language and Literature (First Class/Red Diploma of Distinction) A.S. Pushkin Pedagogical Institute, Tbilisi, 1987; MA in Social Anthropology, Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK, 2003; GDL in Law, BPP Law School, London, UK, 2009. Appointed 2021.
- ▶ **Ilia Mestvirishvili - PHYSICS TEACHER** - BA in Physics, Tbilisi State University, 1993; MS. Ed. Simmons College, 2003. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Tamar Mamulashvili - CHEMISTRY TEACHER** - Diploma in Chemical Engineering, Georgian Technical University, 1991; MSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Tufts University, 2000; M.Ed., Harvard University, 2002. Appointed 2001.
- ▶ **Irina Tsintsadze - LABORATORY ASSISTANT** - Diploma in Chemical Engineering, Tbilisi Technical University, 1986. Appointed 2006.
- ▶ **Ekaterine Tsuladze - PHYSICS TEACHER** - Diploma with Honors in Physics, Free University of Tbilisi, 2020. Appointed 2020.
- ▶ **Nia Chachiashvili - BIOLOGY TEACHER** - Diploma in Biology, Tbilisi State University, 1985; Candidate of Biological Sciences, Georgian Academy of Sciences, 1998; MS. Ed., Simmons College, 2001. Appointed 2000.
- ▶ **Natia Chachua - CHEMISTRY TEACHER** - Diploma with Honors in Chemical Engineering, Georgian Technical University, 1989; Candidate of Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry), Academy of Sciences of Georgia, 1995. Appointed 2005.
- ▶ **Elene Javakhishvili - BIOLOGY TEACHER** - BA in Biology, Agricultural University of Georgia, 2020; Currently pursuing master's in Applied Genetics, Ilia State University. Appointed 2023.





SPORTS - 2 years



"ALL GENUINE LEARNING IS ACTIVE, NOT PASSIVE. IT INVOLVES THE USE OF THE MIND, NOT JUST THE MEMORY. IT IS A PROCESS OF DISCOVERY, IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS THE MAIN AGENT, NOT THE TEACHER."

Mortimer J Adler

SPORTS TEACHERS *(From Left to Right)*

- ▶ **Nino Gelashvili** - Diploma in Russian Philology, Tbilisi State University, 1990. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Zviad Kotrikadze** - Diploma in Civic and Industrial Engineering, Tbilisi Technical University, 1992. Appointed 2001.

The expanded sports facilities on our campus enables us to offer you a more diverse sports program than in the past and to eliminate the need for time consuming bussing to other facilities. Students are required to take PE during the freshman through sophomore years and will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities such as soccer, basketball, handball, volleyball, swimming, rock climbing, aerobics and dance.

SENIOR ELECTIVES - 1 YEAR

In 2008 the faculty proposed a Senior Elective program that would give students an opportunity to choose options that interested them. This year these courses include Filmmaking, Fundamentals, in Sociology, History of Western Philosophy, History of Art, History of Religion, History of Music, Introduction to Psychology, Personality Psychology, Introduction to Marketing, and Photography.



UNIVERSITY PREPARATION AND PLACEMENT

We are especially proud of our University Counseling Program. The American Academy is proud of the way it supports students in finding university placement. 90% of our graduates continue their studies to universities in the US, UK, Canada, and Europe. The number of students admitted to top-ranked universities and colleges is impressive, as is the amount of financial aid, which has been awarded to our students.

The university orientation program begins in the tenth grade with a career introduction. From the junior year, we begin the process of selecting universities, preparing documents, and submitting applications. Students and their parents attend group and individual meetings to discuss university options that are relevant to the student's personal and academic information. After completing the work on the list of universities, we start preparing and sending the necessary documents to universities.

From Left to Right

- ▶ **Ketevan Chikovani** - **HEAD OF UNIVERSITY COUNSELING** - BA in Sociology, Tbilisi State University, 1998; BA in English Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1999; MA in Sociology, Tbilisi State University, 2000; MS in Education, Simmons College, 2003. Appointed 2013.
- ▶ **Mariam Tsitskishvili** - **UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT** - Diploma in English Language and Literature, Georgian David Aghmashenebeli University, 2001. Appointed 2011.
- ▶ **Ia Topuria** - **DEAN OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS** - Diploma in English Language, I. Chavchavadze State Institute of Foreign Languages, 1992; MPA, School of Public Administration, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, 2004. Appointed 2004.
- ▶ **Marina Japaridze** - **DEPUTY DIRECTOR** - Diploma with Honors in Biology, Tbilisi State University, 1978; Candidate of Biological Sciences, Georgian Academy of Sciences, 1983; Diploma with Honors in English, Institute of Foreign Languages, 1994; M.Ed., School Leadership Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2004. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Lika Chkaidze** - **UNIVERSITY COUNSELING PROGRAM COORDINATOR** - BA in French Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 2019; MA in French Literature, Tbilisi State University/University of Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis. Appointed 2023.

SENIOR PROJECTS

In order to graduate, seniors are required to complete a Senior Project. The Senior Project is designed to represent significant research effort on the part of the students and requires a formal presentation in addition to the written submission. Completion of the Senior Project is a graduation requirement.

EXTERNAL TESTING PROGRAMS

American Academy offers its students SAT preparation courses at the beginning of their junior year. We provide after-school SAT sessions designed to prepare students for the test. It is optional to participate in the program, and those who wish to attend the sessions are welcome to do so after the classes.



LIBRARY AND COMPUTER CENTER

From Left to Right

- ▶ **Nato Dvaladze** - **LIBRARY ASSISTANT** - Diploma in Mathematics, Tbilisi State University (Abkhazia branch), 1978. Appointed 2008.
- ▶ **Mariam Ketiladze** - **LIBRARIAN** - BA in English Philology, Ilia State University, 2019; BA (minor) in Teacher Preparation Academic Program, Ilia State University, 2019. BA in Educational Administration, UCC, Denmark, 2017, MA in Public Policy Administration, Ilia State University, 2020; MA in Economics and Management, Universite Paris est Creteil, France, 2022. Appointed 2022
- ▶ **Tamar Gvaramadze** - **LIBRARIAN DIRECTOR, INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE TEACHER** - Diploma with Honors in Medical Therapy, Tbilisi State Medical Institute, 1987; MLIS, Graduate School of Library Information Science, Simmons College, 2004. Appointed 2002.

STUDENT LIFE

The American Academy not only offers a challenging academic program but seeks to support students in a variety of ways. Ekaterine Tatishvili, the Dean of Students, coordinates the Advisory Program, student services, special events, field trips, the special lecture series and extracurricular activities. The Dean is also a liaison with the Parents Council who contributes in many ways to the life of the school.



COMPUTER LAB

The computer lab is equipped with 16 computers, a projector, a printer/scanner/fax, a photocopier, and a webcam with speakers. In one word, this is a multi-functional communication center that hosts various events and activities such as subject related lectures that require internet resources, online testing, movie show, presentations, virtual classes and conferences, and various club meetings.

Givi Kereselidze, the IT Administrator, is responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the computer lab. Givi also provides maintenance of the school hardware and software and assists students, faculty, and staff in resolving IT problems.

- ▶ **Givi Kereselidze - COMPUTER NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR** - Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Georgian Technical University, 1992. Appointed 2001.

FIELD TRIPS

A number of field trips are provided during the academic year. These include grade specific trips to different areas in Georgia.





STUDENT SERVICES

Student counselling is handled by the school psychologist and health matters are dealt with by the school doctor. Cafeteria facilities are provided as well as transportation to sports and other activities.

From Left to Right

- ▶ **Ketevan Mosashvili** - **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST** - BA in General Psychology, Tbilisi State University, 2003; MA in Psychological Counselling, Tbilisi State University, 2005; Visiting Scholar, Appalachian State University, NC, USA, 2012. PhD in Psychology, Tbilisi State University, 2016. Appointed 2007.
- ▶ **Tinatin Kvantaliani** - **DOCTOR** - Diploma in Pediatrics, Tbilisi State Medical Institute, 1982. Appointed 2002.
- ▶ **Nino Mgebrishvili** - **PSYCHOLOGIST** - BA in Social-Political Science-General Psychology, Tbilisi State University, 2012; MA in Children and Adolescent Psychological Assessment and Counselling, Tbilisi State University, 2021; MA in Clinical Psychology- Exchange Semester, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany, 2019. PhD Student. Appointed 2022

CAFETERIA



Approximately once each month a distinguished lecturer will speak to the school about topics of interest and importance, especially those touching upon both current and historical issues and events that relate to status of Georgia. Parents and friends of the school will be invited to attend.

- ▶ **Manana Pkhakadze** - **SPECIAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR** - Diploma with Honors in Georgian Language and Literature, Tbilisi State University, 1971; Doctor of Classical Philology, 1989, Associated Professor, TSU. Appointed 2002.

LECTURE SERIES



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

To achieve our goals we regard student participation in extracurricular activities as essential. These activities are scheduled at the end of the school day or on Saturdays, changing from year to year according to students' demand. Clubs function as independent student organizations or under supervision of a faculty advisor. Successful clubs in the past have been Drama, Debate, Intellectual Club, Chess, Model United Nations, Computers, Movie, and Archaeology Clubs, Music Club, Kendo (Japanese Fencing), Newspaper and the Saturday School Community Service program. The school also participates regularly in sports competitions with schools in the region. Students have input in school affairs through the student council and the senior prefect system.



ADMISSIONS

Entering Georgian or international students must have successfully completed seven years of schooling. Normally we fill all our available places during eight grade admissions. The school does, however, consider the application of transfer students, space permitting, in grades 9-11 but such students must demonstrate a high level of academic preparation and strong English skills. Parents must inform the school about students with special needs and in such cases, additional evaluations may be required to make sure that the school is equipped to provide the support needed.

Since Georgian is the primary language of instruction in the 8th grade in the first semester, entering students must demonstrate fluency during the entrance examination; students who are not fluent in Georgian cannot apply to the Junior High (grade 8) program. The language of instruction in higher grades (9-11) is English in both semesters.

Admission to the Academy is based on three tests, each of which is independently scored: a Georgian, an English, and a Math test administered by our Georgian, Math, and English departments respectively. Students applying to higher grades (9-11) take only English and Mathematics tests. After that, a personal interview takes place. Results from the tests and interview determine the final selection of the incoming Junior High (grade 8) student.

Prospective applicants must fill out the Online Application Form (the Online Application Form can be found in the Admissions section of the school's website) and upload the below documents to the Online Application Form's last page.

Please be informed that only a fully completed application with all relevant documents enclosed, will be considered for registration.

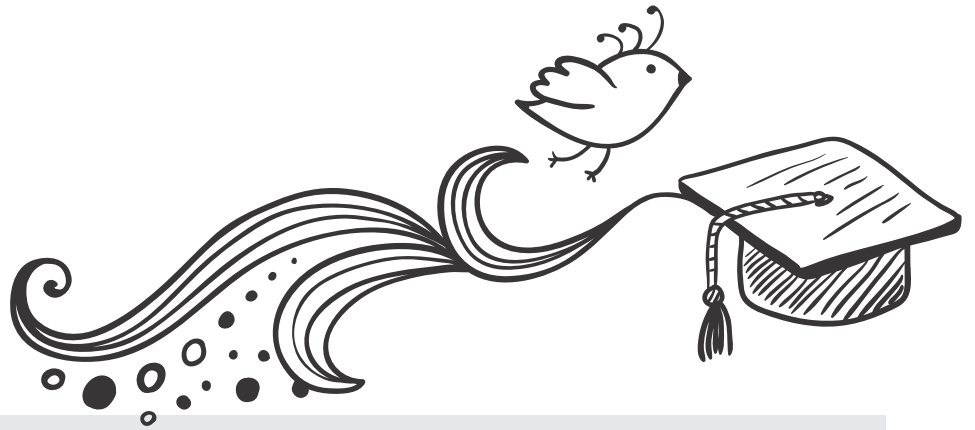
Applicants must upload the following:

- 1** A notarized photocopy of Birth Certificate
- 2** A current transcript of student's grades (the first semester report)
- 3** A brief statement in English, written in long hand on a separate sheet of paper and describing why the student wishes to attend the Academy
- 4** A current digital photo attached
- 5** A document verifying the transfer of 150 GEL non-refundable application fee

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Additional Educational Services welcomes American Academy students and parents as well as families from other schools and institutions.



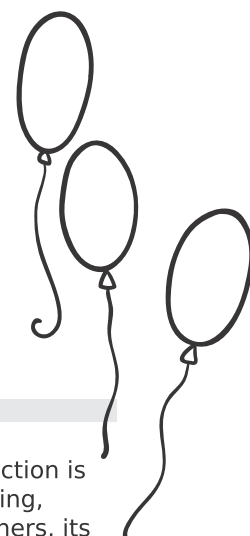


International Summer Academy - A three-week summer program with a mission to challenge each child to reach his or her full intellectual, creative, and physical potential. Students from all over the country and around the world have the opportunity to engage in challenging academic experiences. Small group work, short lectures, writing exercises, debates, oral presentations, laboratory works are used to push students to deepen their knowledge, improve problem-solving skills, and develop as independent, critical thinkers. ISA core faculty is composed of the American Academy teachers and our successful alumni from various prominent universities of the world. Students will learn advanced western educational practices and spend three weeks in a multicultural environment.

American Academy's summer program offers volunteering opportunities in teaching, administration, or physical education.







Saturday Academy offers various courses and programs for different age groups. Academic instruction is designed to increase students' natural curiosity and broaden their general knowledge while studying, competing, and having fun. All courses are developed and taught by the American Academy teachers, its successful alumni, or invited professionals. Several activities are led by our high school students with an outstanding academic standing at the American Academy. Saturday programs are offered throughout the academic year.

Conversational English - English courses for various age groups led by native speakers.

Talks with Teens - coaching, discussions, and/or various workshop sessions for teens led by coaches, trainers, psychologists, or experts of various fields.

Seminars for Parents - mostly tailored around teens and various parenting issues and led by coaches, trainers, or psychologists.



ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR:

Junior High School (Grade 8)

- Annual Tuition: 16,500 GEL
- Security Deposit: 600 GEL

High School Program (Grades 9-12)

- Annual Tuition: 28,000 GEL
- Security Deposit*: 600 GEL

If two or more siblings are enrolled simultaneously at the Academy, a 15% tuition discount will be granted to a sibling in the higher grade.

*Security Deposit - Students at the Academy are issued books as well as locks for their lockers. A deposit of 600 GEL will be collected at the time the student enters the school. The Security Deposit will be fully refunded at the end of the senior year minus any amount as per EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT. Please visit www.gzaat.ge for more details.

TUITION ABATEMENT

The American Academy is committed to making the quality education available to talented and promising students from a broad range of backgrounds.

In this regard, each year the school offers tuition abatement program to students who have strong academic abilities and a demonstrated financial need.

Students granted abatement must maintain at least a "C" average and have no disciplinary incidents on their record. The school has the right to rescind abatement for their academic or discipline reasons. Parents must reapply for tuition abatement each year.

Fee Schedule

Please visit www.gzaat.ge for tuition payment terms and conditions.

AUTHORIZATION

In 2010 the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia awarded the Guivy Zaldastanishvili American Academy in Tbilisi a Gold Medal for the Best Private School in Georgia.

In May, 2022, the Accreditation Council of the National Center renewed the status of the General General Educational Institution for Guivy Zaldastanishvili American Academy for a period of 6 years for the implementation of the basic and secondary general educational programs.

