



Bay Studies 2021 FAQ

General

Why does Gunston have Bay Studies?

- Bay Studies incorporates all disciplines in its exploration of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Region. A week-long program, Bay Studies draws on both outside agencies such as Outward Bound, Echo Hill Outdoor School, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Sultana Foundation, as well as Gunston's own faculty to explore the various components of life in and around the Bay including environmental studies, history, and social and cultural influences. Primarily experiential, Bay Studies incorporates field trips, analysis of primary sources, in-depth study of specific topics, discussion, journal writing, lab work, computer analysis, and lots and lots of fun.

Is Bay Studies required?

- Participation in Bay Studies is required as part of Gunston's graduation requirements. Students earn ¼ academic credit for each year they participate. Graduating students must have attended a climate science Bay Studies.

Will my teachers give me homework or have class?

- Bay Studies gives us the opportunity to step away from our traditional classes and into the immersive and highly experiential learning environment. Classes besides Bay Studies do not meet during the week and academic coursework is not assigned. Teachers may assign a project or paper before leaving for Bay Studies that is due after the week; in this instance, the onus is on the students to plan their time accordingly and work on the project before and after Bay Studies.

How can I find out more about my workshop, packing lists, medical forms, etc?

- Information about Bay Studies is published on Gunston's website: <https://www.gunston.org/academics/chesapeake-bay-studies>. You may also ask your teachers, advisor, and Ms. Beck any questions you have.

I'm a concurrent learner, what will I do for Bay Studies?

- Concurrent learners will be offered an extensive list of asynchronous activities to complete to earn their Bay Studies credit. Concurrent and remote learners are invited to participate in Bay Studies by completing any ten of the activities described here.



- Asynchronous activities are also available for students attending in-person Bay Studies and should be completed following the overnight and during other blocks as indicated in your schedule. Completing two activities is the equivalent of a day of Bay Studies.
- Asynchronous Activities will be available beginning on May 24 and should be completed by Friday, May 28th.

What about bad weather?

- Bay Studies workshops take place rain or shine. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather (and the changing weather) and to make the most of their time. In the event of severe weather (thunderstorms, high winds, tornado warnings, etc) we will work to preemptively address the situation with early dismissal, delayed start, or change of location. Please note that there is no rain date for Bay Studies and the grade-level overnights.

Health and Safety

Do I still need to complete my Schoolpass screening every day?

- Yes! Please complete your Schoolpass screening questionnaire and expect to have your temperature taken upon arrival.

Will masking and distancing be required?

- Students and faculty should wear masks during Bay Studies activities that bring them within six feet of each other (outdoors).
- Students and faculty should wear masks during all indoor Bay Studies activities.
- Masks must be worn while traveling on the bus, van, shared carpools.
- As long as students are six feet apart, *and can remain six feet apart*, they may be unmasked outdoors.
- In any instance that our partner organizations have more stringent protocols in place, we will follow the highest standard.

Transportation

How do I get to my Bay Studies location?

- Daily bus and van transportation will occur at the normal bus times to and from campus.
- Buses, carpooling, and parent-provided transportation will be used for off-campus activities.



- Limited bus transportation is available to certain hubs.
- Every effort will be made to keep carpools together at hubs.
- Thank you for your assistance in transporting students to these amazing destinations.

How do I know when and where to drop my student off?

- Driving directions and times are published on the [Bay Studies website](#). If any issues arise in reviewing them or any adjustments need to be made, please contact Emily Beck as soon as possible.

Meals

Do I need to bring food with me?

- Students will need to bring lunch, snacks, and a water bottle daily.
- Bagged lunches can be collected from Gunston between 8 - 8:30 am
- Lunch will be provided for workshops happening on Gunston's campus.
- Dinner and breakfast will be provided for the overnight

Overnight

What will we do at the grade level overnight?

- Each overnight is a mix of structured and unstructured time.
 - Students will have free time as they gather and set up tents to enjoy Echo Hill's beautiful campus.
 - After a catered dinner, students will participate in several activities including a night hike, live music, and a campfire.
 - In the morning, students will enjoy a catered breakfast, clean their tents, pack their gear, and enjoy some free time before being picked up between 9:30 and 10:00 am.

What special events will there be for 9th graders?

- 9th graders will have a full day of team building and group activities prior to the overnight activities (in place of the 9th-grade retreat that usually takes place in September).

Can I still borrow a tent?

- Students will be overnighing in single-occupancy tents. We have already allocated most of our tents. If you aren't able to find one to borrow from a family or friends, please let Emily Beck know ASAP and we'll do our best to help.



Health, Safety, and Space Guidance for Bay Studies

- **Screening**
 - All students and employees should complete their daily SchoolPass Screening prior to departing for their Bay Studies site each day.
 - Temperatures will be taken upon arrival at each site.
 - Additional screenings will be conducted during the overnights with temperatures taken in the morning.
- **Masking during workshops and activities** -- In any instance that our partner organizations have more stringent protocols in place, we will follow the highest standard.
 - Students and faculty should wear masks during Bay Studies activities that bring them within six feet of each other (outdoors)
 - Students and faculty should wear masks during all indoor Bay Studies activities
 - Masks must be worn while traveling on the bus, van, shared carpools
 - **Mask breaks/mask free spaces and times**
 - **Outdoor Masking**
 - As long as students are six feet apart, *and can remain six feet apart*, they may be unmasked outdoors.
 - Ex: canoeing, kayaking, frisbee, etc
 - More challenging: walking, working in small groups etc
 - **Outdoor Dining**
 - Appropriately spaced (6') outdoor dining does not require face shields
 - After dining, masks must be replaced
- **Indoor Spacing**
 - Students may now be within 3 feet of each other indoors when engaged in academic activities
 - **Indoor dining**
 - If dining indoors, face shields should be worn and 6' of distancing maintained.
- **Shared Materials:**
 - New guidance on “fomites” allows flexibility with shared materials (i.e. in art class or a science lab).
 - Regular hand sanitizing and handwashing remains a high priority.