

# GNS



Glenlyon  
Norfolk  
School

## Vancouver Island's IB World School



IB CONTINUUM  
CONTINUUM DE L'IB  
CONTINUO DEL IB



# CAIS



# Welcome

## to Glenlyon Norfolk School



If you're reading these words you've already begun an important process. In the pages of this book, you'll discover the depth and breadth of the IB curricula that underpins every aspect of our academic life, and you'll learn about the first-class co-curricular opportunities that ensure each and every GNS student has the opportunity to embrace an experience that is well-rounded, challenging and fun.

In that sense, GNS is no different from so many of the other fine schools in BC, across Canada, and around the world.

But GNS is so much more than that.

The GNS experience is an enriched one that meets every student where they are and supports them to do their very best. This is possible because of our people. Our community. The partnership built between the school and our families creates a strong environment for student growth. The relationships forged between students and teachers who know them and care about them as individuals set us apart and make our great school truly exceptional.

As I often state, the foundation of GNS lies in Our Core Values. Truth. Courage. Caring. Individuality. Community. These principles guide each member of the "GNS Family," as we ensure the school remains an exceptional place for students, parents, families, alumni, faculty and staff.

We're so excited that you're considering joining our community, and we look forward to assisting you through the process.

Warmly,

Chad Holtum  
Head of School



GNS has been offering the IB Diploma for over

**25 years**

GNS is ranked in the top

**5%**

**of secondary schools**

in all of British Columbia

Established in Victoria, BC in

**1913**



Students can choose from over

**100**

**co-curricular options**

An average of

**\$1.5+**

**million in scholarships**

was earned by our last 3 grad classes



**8,500+**

**service hours**

were completed by our students last year

**10%**

**of our student population**

is comprised of international students from over 20 countries

**2**

**boarding options:**

Gryphon House residence or Family Boarding homestay

GNS has a population of

**~800**

**students**

across 3 schools, 2 campuses with 1 shared mission

# Who we are

## and where we've come from



Glenlyon Norfolk School (GNS) is a JK to Grade 12 co-educational independent university prep school that is one of the few in Canada to offer the full International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum, an educational program that encourages students to be curious, engaged and balanced learners that care about each other and the world around them. The strength of the school lies in its inclusive community whose members work together to make GNS a safe place for students to take risks, make mistakes and discover who they are. It is a place where students are recognized as individuals

with unique needs, passions and learning styles, and where staff strive to equip them with the skills they need to design their own distinct pathways to success.

In 1913, a pair of enterprising British women founded Norfolk House School, an all-girls school on what is now our Pemberton Woods Campus. Miss Atkins and Miss McDermott were dedicated to a rigorous education in academics, arts, and values. Some 20 years later, Glenlyon Preparatory School for boys was established on the location of our Beach Campus by an equally committed and gifted educator, Major Ian Simpson.

In 1986, Norfolk House and Glenlyon joined together to share their philosophies and resources in a cohesive approach to fostering the futures of their students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Ever responsive to changing needs and a changing world, GNS has continued to evolve. That evolution is grounded on values that act as a touchstone for our decisions and guide our approach to teaching. These values include truth, courage, caring, individuality and community.

GNS has a long-standing history of building bright futures. For over 100 years, our graduates have spanned the globe furthering their studies at esteemed universities. The success of our students is due, in large part, to our GNS family—the exceptional faculty and enthusiastic students—and to our IB curriculum.



# Junior School

## for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5

A magical waterfront setting in Oak Bay is home to our Junior School. Young students in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 5 learn at a school where the beach is their playground and sometimes even their classroom.

In 2020, Glenlyon Norfolk School opened our state-of-the-art 28,000 square foot Junior School main building and refurbished Coach House that includes the Grade 1 to 5 classrooms as well as these dedicated spaces for specialist instruction:

- a high performance gymnasium for physical education, co-curriculars and assemblies
- an art room with kiln
- an open-plan Learning Commons
- gathering and break-out spaces, and
- an Innovation Lab.

The opening of this building marked the completion of a multi-year campus renewal project that began with the creation of new Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten spaces as well as the restoration of the Glenlyon boathouse. The grounds surrounding the buildings were also rejuvenated to incorporate additional playground space and an all-weather playing field.

The buildings were designed to create a school atmosphere that centres around inquiry-based learning and collaboration, a foundational element of the IB Primary Years Programme offered on this campus, which focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer in the classroom and the world outside. An award-winning Nature School program is also offered to our Junior School students.

“Every child is seen at GNS. No one falls through the cracks. The confidence displayed by the students here has so much to do with that.”

– Junior School Parent

LEARN MORE

~280  
students



TAKE A TOUR









# Middle School

## for Grades 6 to 8

Located on the same campus as our Senior School, students in Grades 6 to 8 enjoy the benefits of sharing sophisticated facilities with their high school counterparts while still being part of their own close-knit, nurturing community.

Middle School is the perfect age for students to try new things and our students are encouraged to take on new challenges and, at times, to move a little out of their comfort zones, secure in the knowledge that they will be supported by their teachers and peers. The opportunity to try new things also extends well beyond the classroom with our expansive co-curricular options from athletics to debate to service to robotics to outdoor education and more.

Beginning in Grade 6, our Middle School students are given the opportunity to discover and explore their passions through participating in our unique language and arts options.

- In addition to French, all Grade 6 students are exposed to Spanish and Mandarin. In Grades 7 and 8, students continue with French and one additional language: either Spanish or Mandarin.
- As they move through Middle School, students take part in our fine arts rotation where they specialize in one of band, drama and art each year, supported by the chance to study the other arts, as they fit in with their individual schedules or as co-curriculars.

GNS is proud to offer the IB Middle Years Programme, a rich academic program that is designed to shape our students into reflective, critical thinkers as well as confident, capable global citizens who are well-prepared to move on with confidence to the Senior School. They engage with depth and passion in a program that builds and consolidates foundational skills at a high level, and further develops advanced level thinking such as how to evaluate, how to apply analytical skills, and how to solve real-life problems with creativity.

“GNS is a closely-knit supportive community that offers opportunities and experiences to inspire students.”

– Middle School Parent

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Nestled in the six acres of the Pemberton Woods Campus are the Glenlyon Norfolk Middle and Senior Schools. Buildings are connected by pathways that lead through small gardens, giving the campus a peaceful, university-like feeling. Facilities on site include:

- a 340-seat performing arts hall,
- art rooms, music and band rooms,
- turf field, gymnasium and fitness centre
- two learning commons and labs for science and design.



~200  
students



TAKE A TOUR

# Senior School

## for Grades 9 to 12

There are almost as many academic pathways for GNS students in Grades 9 to 12 as there are students. No matter what choice they make, they are well prepared to take on the challenges of higher education and leave GNS as caring, confident citizens of the world. Through classroom and co-curricular learning, our students engage with our subject and specialist teachers, who help them to develop skills in critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration.

Students in Grade 9 to 12 have an increasing degree of choice in their course selection as they move up in grades, though all students are required to choose a combination of courses that qualifies them for university entry. The ever-expanding choice of courses includes:

- English (Language and Literature, Creative Writing)
- Mathematics
- Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems & Societies)
- Social Sciences (History, Economics, Global Politics, Law)
- Second language options (French, Spanish, Mandarin)
- Arts (Band, Choir, Visual Arts, Theatre), and
- Physical and Health Education.

In Grades 9 and 10, students cover the BC provincial curriculum within the framework of the IB Middle Years Programme, which is intended to help students develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to participate actively and responsibly in a changing and increasingly interrelated world.

Students in Grades 11 and 12 can choose to study only IB curriculum courses, a mixture of IB curriculum and Provincial curriculum courses, or to work towards the full IB Diploma. When choosing their pathway, students should consider their own strengths, post-secondary and personal goals, work-life balance and learning needs.

All students who complete the requirements to graduate Grade 12 in BC receive a Dogwood Diploma. To also receive an IB Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Organization, students must complete the requirements stipulated by the IBO.

[LEARN MORE](#)

“GNS recognizes that each student is an individual and works towards helping them be *THEIR* best, rather than trying to make everyone be *THE* best.”

– Senior School Parent



~350  
students

TAKE A TOUR





# What is IB

## at Glenlyon Norfolk School?



GNS has been an International Baccalaureate (IB) World Continuum School since 1996. We are proud of our unique 'IB Advantage': a 21st-Century approach which educates the whole child and creates global thinkers. The modern, inquiry-based

curricula help develop each student's intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills, allowing them to thrive in a rapidly globalizing world. At the heart of the IB mission and Learner Profile is the wisdom that education must prepare students for more than the workforce; it must prepare students to be committed, creative and compassionate citizens of the world.

Every student at GNS is an IB learner. Every teacher at GNS is an IB educator. During their time at GNS, our students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate topics independently and take action about issues they feel are important. Building on a foundation of over 25 years of training and experience, our teachers have created a unique approach to delivering the IB curricula that enables our students to develop higher-level skills in inquiry, analysis and innovation that they can put into action in the real world today and in the future.

GNS is authorized to offer three IB programmes:

- Primary Years Programme (PYP) from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5
- Middle Years Programme (MYP) from Grade 6 to 10
- Diploma Programme (DP) in Grades 11 and 12

Within the framework of the IB, our teachers follow the prescribed British Columbia curriculum using an approach to teaching that engages the learner. The DP is an internationally standardized, enriched curriculum that includes first-year university concepts and material. Students' learning in the IB is inquiry-based and focussed on critical thinking, allowing them to develop not only their academic skills, but also their character. The IB Learner Profile aims to develop internationally minded people, who strive to be: inquiring, knowledgeable, thinking, communicative, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taking, balanced, reflective and persevering.

[LEARN MORE](#)



# The IB Diploma at Glenlyon Norfolk School

When you look at the IB Diploma Programme at GNS, there are three reasons it stands out:

1. We are always striving to refine our program so that it best meets the needs of our students and best supports them to be academically and personally successful.
2. We offer an incredible breadth of courses at both the Standard and Higher level that are delivered by a highly experienced and caring faculty.
3. We are committed to ensuring that when our students leave us that they have acquired high-calibre communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills.

5 YR AVERAGE IB DIPLOMA PASS RATE	
GNS	93.4%
WORLD	85.6%

5 YR AVERAGE IB DIPLOMA SCORE	
GNS	35/45
WORLD	31.9/45

5 YR AVERAGE IB SUBJECT SCORE	
GNS	5.47/7
WORLD	5.12/7

## IB Course Offerings

- Group 1: English Literature, English Language & Literature, Literature A
- Group 2: French B, Spanish B, Chinese B, Spanish *ab initio*
- Group 3: History, Global Politics, Economics
- Group 4: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems & Societies
- Group 5: Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches
- Group 6: Music, Visual Arts, Theatre



## With 32 options

GNS offers more IB Diploma courses than any other school in Western Canada



## An average of 94%

of our IB Diploma Candidates earn their full IB Diploma with a score of 24 or higher



## For 25 years

GNS has been offering the IB Diploma Programme to local and international students

# University Guidance

Our University Advisors begin working with students in Grade 9 to help students determine appropriate choices for university and college based on interests, courses, location and costs.

Recognizing that post-secondary planning is a collective process involving the school, the individual student and their family, our advisors strive to keep all stakeholders informed about opportunities and application deadlines as they arise. Throughout the year, they schedule visits by university representatives from around the world to meet with Senior School students to answers questions or provide information about specific programs.



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# 100% of our graduates are accepted into post secondary institutions; 90% into their first choice.

Over the last five years, graduates of GNS have been accepted to:

## **Canadian Institutions**

Acadia University  
Bishop's University  
Canadian College of Performing Arts  
Carleton University  
Concordia University  
Dalhousie University  
Emily Carr University of Art & Design  
McGill University  
McMaster University  
Mt. Allison University  
Queen's University  
Quest University  
Royal Military College  
Ryerson University  
Simon Fraser University  
St. Francis Xavier University  
Trent University  
University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
University of British Columbia - Vancouver  
University of Calgary  
University of Guelph  
University of King's College  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Toronto  
University of Victoria  
University of Waterloo  
University of Winnipeg  
Vancouver Film School  
Vancouver Island University  
Western University  
Wilfred Laurier University

## **American Institutions**

Amherst College  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Cornell University  
Eastman School of Music  
Emory University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Harvard University  
Johns Hopkins University

Loyola Marymount University  
Middlebury College  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
Pomona College  
Purdue University  
Rice University  
San Francisco Conservatory  
Santa Clara University  
Stanford University  
University of Arizona  
University of California – Berkeley  
University of California – Davis  
University of California – Irvine  
University of California – Los Angeles  
University of California – Riverside  
University of California – San Diego  
University of California – Santa Barbara  
University of California – Santa Cruz  
University of Hawai'i  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Michigan  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Rochester  
University of Southern California  
University of Vermont  
University of Washington  
Williams College

## **International Institutions**

Asia Pacific University (Malaysia)  
Chinese University of Hong Kong (China)  
European Business School (Switzerland)  
Frankfurt School of Management (Germany)  
King's College (UK)  
London School of Economics (UK)  
Queen Mary University of London (UK)  
Sophia University (Japan)  
St. Andrew's University (UK)  
University College of Dublin (UK)  
University College of London (UK)  
University of Edinburgh (UK)  
University of Glasgow (UK)  
Yokohama University (Japan)

An average of \$1.5+ million in scholarships was earned by our last 3 grad classes

# Beyond the Classroom

Life outside the classroom is an integral part of the GNS experience. Our strong academic program is complemented by robust co-curricular opportunities in athletics, arts, personal interests and service. This combination allows each student to work with their teachers and university advisors to design their own unique pathway to graduation. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure students graduate with the tools necessary to find success in their post-secondary studies and to live happy and successful lives.

## Athletics

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Ultimate
- Volleyball

## Clubs

- Book & Board Game Club
- Chess Club
- Cultural Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Environment & Adventure
- Fitness Club
- Mathematics Club
- Model United Nations
- Pride & Equality
- Robotics
- Round Square
- Science Fair
- Spanish Club
- Tech Team
- Wellness
- Yearbook

## Arts

- Art Club
- Choir
- Concert Band
- Debate & Public Speaking
- Jazz Orchestra
- Musicals
- Performance Studio
- Photography Club
- Tech Squad
- Theatre Company

## Leadership

- Senior Prefect Team
- Athletic Leadership Council
- Gryphon Government

[LEARN MORE](#)

TAKE A TOUR





# Round Square

These are the six pillars of the Round Square, a worldwide network of innovative schools in 50 countries on six continents that follow a unique, educational philosophy that supports students on their journey to becoming capable and knowledgeable adults. GNS joined the Round Square in 1996, providing our students with opportunities to take part in international school exchanges, local and international service projects, and in international and regional conferences in places like Peru, India or Germany.



# Outdoor Education

The goal of Outdoor Education at GNS is to provide students with the outdoor travel and living skills needed to develop self-reliance in the wilderness and stewardship for the natural world. By participating over multiple seasons and developing technical skills in each unique activity, our students build self-confidence and interpersonal skills. From launching kayaks off the beach of our own Junior School Campus to surfing on the wild west coast of Vancouver Island to winter camping on nearby mountains, our staff design these adventures to allow students to make the most of our unique region. Options include:

- hiking the Juan de Fuca and Kludahk trails
- kayaking around the Gulf Islands
- surf and paddle trip to Tofino
- winter camping in Strathcona Park



# Our Boarding Programs

Glenlyon Norfolk School has a long history of welcoming students from outside Victoria to study at our school. These students are an integral part of the GNS experience and valuable members of our community.

We welcome students from around the world including Germany, Mexico, Spain, Japan, Switzerland, France, Italy, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, India, Canada, USA and China. Boarding students enjoy small class sizes, academic curricula enriched by the International Baccalaureate, English Acquisition support, numerous co-curricular opportunities, and a welcoming community.

Boarding students have the option of taking part in our unique Family Boarding Homestay Program where they live with members of the GNS community, or they can apply for a space in our Gryphon House residence program.



# Gryphon House boarding

- Located in an extensively renovated historic guesthouse just minutes from both campuses, Gryphon House will be the home-away-from-home for approximately 24 students from around the world.
- All rooms are double occupancy, each with a private ensuite bathroom. Students have their own bed, desk and dresser, and roommates are carefully matched by our boarding team staff.
- There are two common areas—one on each floor—that students can use to visit, work on homework together, and build community. WiFi is accessible throughout the property.
- Teacher-houseparents live in Gryphon House to care for and support the students.
- Food services are provided by the GNS catering team, with three meals per day (+snacks) served at Gryphon House (breakfast/dinner) and the school Dining Hall (lunch).

## Sample Week Schedule

Thursday – Week 1
6:30 a.m. Wake-up, breakfast service 7:55 a.m. Shuttle bus to school
Homeform (8:10)
Block 1 (8:20):
Block 2 (9:25):
Recess (10:25):
Block 3 (10:35):
Lunch (12:15): Lunch provided on campus
Block 4 (1:00):
Block 5 (2:05):
After school: 3:15 p.m. Classes finish, after school activities 3:30 p.m. Shuttle bus to Gryphon House 5:00 p.m. Check-in 6:00 p.m. Dinner service 7:00 p.m. Homework Prep time 9:00 p.m. Free time 10:30 p.m. Lights out



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- Weekend activities are scheduled throughout the year in the local community as well as to other parts of Vancouver Island and BC with information shared well in advance so that students can plan what to choose. Options could include sports, trips to the mall for necessities, excursions around Vancouver Island and to Vancouver, hiking, beach visits, museums, or karaoke.
- There are many opportunities for Gryphon House students to integrate and engage with the broader community, including other international students, local students, and the local neighbourhood. With Community as a core value of GNS, providing opportunities for students to build strong connections with peers and friends is an essential part of their experience in Gryphon House.

### SAMPLE WEEKEND SCHEDULE

10 a.m. to noon	Brunch
Daytime	A dorm trip – opportunities to explore the local area, participate in sports teams, and connect with other classmates. Or free time to visit with classmates or local day students.
1 to 3 p.m.	Lunch/salad bar available
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
Evening	Open gym time, evening activities (movie nights, etc.), extra prep time for older students.



# Family Boarding homestay

The goal of the Family Boarding Homestay Program is to provide a welcoming, safe, supportive, English-speaking, family environment for students from other countries by arranging for them to live with GNS families—either current parents, alumni or staff. Every effort is made to match the most appropriate student to a particular family—creating a comfortable and positive experience for everyone.

- A great Family Boarding environment is a home away from home for the student. Living far away from your family and friends can be difficult and lonely. Family Boarding host families are expected to care and nurture their student, much like they would their own children, thus contributing to the his/her success improving their English language skills, understanding of other cultures, and the overall experience studying at GNS and living in Canada.
- Providing an international student with the best possible experience requires tremendous communication, coordination and effort on the part of the student, their teachers, support staff, the Host Family and their parents. GNS employs a full-time program coordinator to facilitate this network of support.



[LEARN MORE](#)



“Being different could be a hindrance, but being different is exactly the kind of thing that is celebrated at GNS.”

– Francis (Student from Egypt)



# Apply Today



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