WINTERIM HANDBOOK

PREPARE People TEACHTruth GASTON SCHOOL GLORIFY GOD

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WHAT IS WINTERIM?

Winterim is the name we use to describe our mini-semester alternative or authentic educational experiences. Through Winterim offerings, students interact and build relationships with fellow students and faculty in unique settings while participating in a variety of opportunities that meet one or more of the following goals:

- **Educational**: To use travel to strategically expose students to a carefully planned combination of tours, site visits, and hands-on learning opportunities that will enhance their academic learning.
- Adventure: To teach the students skills through hands-on adventures and experiences and build and strengthen relationships
- Leadership Development: Strategically training and equipping students with leadership skills through experiences in another environment or culture.
- Service and Mission: To provide an opportunity for students to physically serve and live amongst people in an impoverished community to primarily be the hands and feet of Jesus.

REGISTRATION

Registration for all Winterim trips and experiences will begin on the following dates at 8 a.m.

- Seniors Sept. 3
- Juniors Sept. 4
- Sophomores Sept 5
- Freshmen Sept 6
- Registration will close by 3:00 PM on Monday, September 9, 2024.

SCHEDULE

Winterim is held during the last week of February. Experiences on or near campus are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please note a teacher may give specific start and end times for their experience because of time constraints, activities, etc. Off-campus overnight trips have their schedule.

COSTS

Cost is variable. Students will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of experiences, recognizing, however, that the final listing of course offerings will be dependent upon student registration.

CREDITS

Every upper school student is required to participate in a Winterim activity and, in doing so, will earn .25 credits (per year) for every year the student is at GCS. Therefore, a current GCS Senior will have .25 credit towards graduation. Current Juniors will have .5 after two years. Sophomores will have .75 after three years. Freshmen will have full credit towards graduation. **The Freshman must choose one "service and mission" activity before graduating.** Winterim grades will be earned on a pass/fail basis and will not be calculated based on the student's overall GPA. Should a student fail to earn a .25 Winterim credit during any given year, the student will need to make arrangements with the administration to make up the credit. The title Winterim, with a grade of pass and a .25 credit, will appear on the report card each year. The specific experience offered to a student through Winterim may provide material for discussion in a college application essay.

Please note: Attending Winterim each year a student is enrolled in the upper school fulfills a graduation requirement.

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is critical. Absence of more than one day will result in the student being required to make up the hours. Arrangements will be made with the administration. Each absence will be considered on an individual basis and must be approved by the principal.

REGISTRATION AGREEMENTS

Students and their parents are expected to review the following expectations for all Winterim experiences before registration is confirmed.

- We have read, understand, and will adhere to the policies and requirements communicated in the Winterim packet.
- The information I have provided is accurate and true.
- In addition to organized tours with the group, students may be allowed to explore designated sites in groups of three or more.
- The student has the responsibility and maturity to handle all aspects of the Winterim experience.
- Students are responsible for self-carry any emergency medication. Students taking a scheduled medication during the trip must have the medication documented on the Medication Authorization form. The student and/ or a parent must make their trip chaperone aware of any medical conditions and medications that the student may have.
- We understand that the student must abide by the expectations and standards outlined in the Gaston Christian Family Handbook both before and during the trip. These expectations include policies on academics, behavior, and attendance. A student's failure to abide by these policies at any time may affect their ability to go on the trip. The school reserves the right to remove a student from a trip before or during the trip for failing to meet these expectations. If a student is removed from the trip or sent home during the trip, the family is responsible for covering the cost of travel and will not receive a refund.
- Winterim experience leaders will communicate firm deadlines for paperwork and other expectations. We understand that failure to meet these required deadlines may affect the student's ability to go on the trip or experience and may result in us losing any or all of our trip payments.
- For travel, a color copy of the student's photo identification, birth certificate, or passport must be submitted to the trip leader by October 1, 2024. Failure to submit one of these documents by this date may result in the student losing their spot on the trip, and any payments already made may not be refunded.
- For international trips, students and chaperones must have a valid passport that is set to expire at least six months after the final day of travel. (Approximately Jan. 1st, 2025)
- For international trips, I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain a valid, unexpired passport by January 2025, and if I cannot obtain a passport in time to travel on this international trip, I will not receive a refund.
- Parents will receive confirmation of their students' Winterim experience registration and a copy of a financial contract. Signing the financial contract secures the student's position on the final roster. Once the financial contract is signed, the student may not switch to another Winterim experience, and payments will not be refundable.
- By completing the registration form, I acknowledge my commitment to the expectations above. Parent(s) will be required to complete additional paperwork for all Winterim experiences.
- Your signature page will be given to you by the staff in charge of your experience.

WINTERIM CONTRACTS AND LIABILITY WAIVER FORM

Following trip registration, parents will receive a winterim contract and release of liability form via email. Please review the included items below. Signing the form constitutes agreement to the following:

- Payments will be due on the specific dates communicated by the Winterim leader or travel organization.
- We agree to allow our students to travel on the publicized dates of the trip.
- Our students will attend all Winterim meetings in preparation for the trip. Winterim leaders will communicate firm deadlines for paperwork. We understand that failure to meet these required deadlines may affect our student's ability to participate and may result in us losing any or all of our payments.
- We agree to the terms above and understand that our student may not switch to another Winterim experience, and payments are non-refundable.
- Travel Insurance Statement: There are many companies that offer travel/trip insurance if you wish to have that protection. The following companies and many others offer this type of insurance: Zurich, AAA, Chubb, and Allianz. Deadlines for purchasing trip insurance related to Winterim travel vary by carrier.

*The following will come from your Winterim Experience Leaders once everyone is signed up for their experience:

AGREEMENT

We understand that the student must abide by the expectations and standards outlined in the Gaston Christian Family Handbook before and during the trip. These expectations include policies on academics, behavior, and attendance. A student's failure to abide by these policies at any time may affect their ability to go on the trip. The school reserves the right to remove a student from a trip before or during the trip for failing to meet these expectations. If a student is removed from the trip or sent home during the trip, the family is responsible for covering the cost of travel and will not receive a refund. Students are responsible for self-carrying any emergency medication. Students taking a scheduled medication during the trip must have the medication documented on the Medication Authorization form. The student and/or a parent must make their trip chaperone aware of any medical conditions and medications that the student may have.

CONSENT TO TREAT

The parent/guardian set forth in this form does hereby authorize a chaperone of the school to see that my child receives any emergency medical treatment that may become reasonably necessary while said student is on this trip. Payment of all charges incurred for medical treatment is guaranteed by the parent. Every effort will be made to contact parents/guardians by telephone in advance of treatment in case of injury or illness. The parent/guardian set forth in this form does hereby agree to hold harmless the person appointed as well as Gaston Christian School and the physician providing treatment from and against any and all loss, costs, damage, or expense of any kind arising out of or in connection with that person's or physician's acting in reliance upon the authorization set forth herein, with the exception of actions which amount to gross negligence.

PERMISSION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I give my permission for my student to participate in the trip indicated above. I understand that although the students will be supervised by a GCS employee, I do assume the risk in my student's participation in the event. I acknowledge that I will not seek to have Gaston Christian School held liable in the event that any accident, injury, loss of property, or any other circumstance or incident occurs during or as a result of my son's/daughter's participation in the field trip. This release of liability includes accident, injury, loss, or damages to the student, as well as to other individuals or property which may result from the student's participation in the event. I hereby release and agree to hold harmless Gaston Christian School, its officials, agents, and employees from any claims arising out of my son's/ daughter's participation in the event(s). I have read, understand, and accept all of the statements recited above and accept full responsibility as Described.

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WINTERIM EXPERIENCES

COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS

- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Leaders: Mrs. Brooks & Mr. McCabe
- Approx. Cost: \$490
- Requirements: Grades 10-12; coed; Min # of students: 18; Max. # of students: 23
- Goal: Education
- Book: Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

During the week, we will visit seven colleges in North and South Carolina. While colleges will be confirmed in early fall, the hope is to visit different types of schools so students have a better understanding of the differences out there - big and small, private and public, Christian and secular! There will be two nights of lodging in hotels and a visit to Frankie's Fun Park. The cost includes bus transportation, overnight accommodations, and food. Frankie's Fun Park will be an additional cost.

CHARLOTTE BASKETBALL OUTREACH

- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Trip Leader: Chris Duhon
- Approx. Cost: \$100
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; coed; Max. # of students: 20
- Goals: Mission, Service, Leadership
- Book of Philippians

After-school basketball camp for underprivileged youth. More information to come.

OUTREACH GASTON

- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Teachers: Mrs. McBee, Mrs. Choren, & Mrs. Mery
- Approx. Cost: \$50
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; coed Max. # of students: 30 (must provide own transportation to and from each location)
- Goal: Mission & Service
- Book: Sharing Your Faith & Serving Others: High School Group Study Jim Burns | Gospel Light

Students will spend Winterim learning about and serving alongside various organizations in Gaston County. Ministry partners include Crisis Assistance Ministry, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Least of These, The Ivy, and local churches TBD. We will also meet daily for a group book study.

COASTAL INLET FISHING

- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Trip Leader: Mr. Hartley and Mr. Parnelle
- Approx. Cost: \$575
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; male-only; Min/Max. # of boys: 6
- Goal: Adventure & Education
- Book: Twelve Ordinary Men by John MacArthur

We will travel to Murrells Inlet, where we will surround ourselves with everything related to fishing! We will spend two days saltwater fishing and one-day trophy bass fishing. Our free time will be spent in Bible study, good conversation, and fishing-related seminars.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: (Baseball oriented)

- Dates: Feb. 24 27 or 28
- Trip Leader: Devon Lowery & Ricky Collins
- Approx. Cost: \$2,000
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; male-only; Max. # of students: 20
- Goals: Service, Mission, Leadership
- Book: God's Wisdom for Navigating Life by Timothy Keller and Kathy Keller

The Gaston Christian varsity baseball team will partner with SCORE International to serve the local community through a variety of projects. The team will also participate in two exhibition games during the week and return home on Tuesday, Feb. 27, in preparation for the first baseball game of the season. The cost includes airline tickets, local transportation, accommodations at SCORE International, supplies for ministry work, donations to local partners, and meals.

N.C. MOUNTAIN TOUR

- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Trip Leader: Mr. Northey, Ms. Abromaitis, & Ms. SanMillan
- Cost: \$1000
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; Coed; Max. # of students: 30 ; Minimum # of students: 25
- Goals: Adventure & Education
- Book: Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

Students will briefly tour their home state, centering around Asheville and visiting surrounding sites aboard a charter bus. Stops along our route will include Snow Tubing, Outdoor Ice Skating, Grandfather Mountain, Biltmore Estate and Gardens, Chimney Rock State Park and more. All fees for travel by charter bus, entry fees, tickets, meals, and hotel accommodations are included in the cost.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

- Dates: Feb. 24 28
- Trip Leader: Mark Moore (lead) & Mark Caspar
- Approx. Cost: \$2,000
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; coed; Max. # of students: 40
- Goals: Service, Mission, Leadership Development
- Book: On Mission: Devotions for Your Short-Term Trip

The Honduras mission trip is a part of our ongoing partnership with Louder Than Words Ministries to reach the Lenca people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gaston Christian students will assist our Lenca ministry partners in planting churches in rural mountain villages that have no evangelical churches. Our itinerary includes travel, ministry days in a Lenca village, and a visit to Faith Hope and Love Orphanage. This is a service learning trip. Students should be willing to be flexible, cross-cultural, and ready to share the love of Christ with others in a variety of ways. Students are expected to attend team meetings leading up to the trip. Included in the cost are airline tickets, local transportation, food and housing in the village and at the mission house in Tegucigalpa, supplies for ministry work, and donations to local partners. Our student mission teams always leave Honduras, having received more than we could ever give! This trip has the potential to change your life!

MAN UP!

- Leaders: Phil Higginbotham & Jason Moore
- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Approx. Cost: \$100
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; males only; Max. # of boys: 30
- Goals: Educational & Adventure
- Book: TBD

This experience was designed specifically for young men who are seeking to think more clearly about their lives, calling, and purpose. If your students find themselves wondering, "Who am I?" then Man Up! is for them. Young men will explore the topic of masculinity from a biblical framework through field trips, practical training (entrepreneurship, woodworking, grilling, exercise routines, etc.), and service. At the end of this week, students won't necessarily be equipped to wrestle a bear, but they will be able to wrestle their dreams. Fees cover the cost of all activities and bus transportation. Students may have opportunities to purchase lunch off campus.

INDESCRIBABLE (Arizona):

- Leaders: Mrs. Turpin & Mrs. Rathod
- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Approx. Cost: \$1,700
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; Females Only; Max. # of girls: 21
- Goals: Educational & Adventure
- Book: Indescribable by Giglio

Female students are invited to a serene getaway in Scottsdale, Arizona, where they can relax, connect, and marvel at the wonders of God's creation. This girl's trip is designed to foster a deeper bond with each other and their Creator, surrounded by an environment of indescribable beauty. The itinerary features a variety of fun and relaxing activities that enhance mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. Students will have opportunities to experience God's creation through stargazing in the desert, exploring Antelope Canyon, and visiting OdySea Aquarium and Butterfly Wonderland. Additionally, students can express their own creativity through de-stressing activities like canvas painting, pottery throwing, and candle making. A trip to a spa, complete with facials, is also included. The cost covers airfare, accommodations, and fees for all tours and activities. Meals are not included.

Florida Keys and Everglades

- Leaders: Jill Overton (lead), Joel Peckman
- Dates: Feb. 24-28
- Approx. Cost: \$1,800
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; Max. # of students: 15
- Goals: Education, Adventure, & Discipleship
- Book: TBD

Students will experience the awe of God's creation via the lush natural beauty of the Florida Everglades, the islands of Key West, including Key Largo and Islamorada, and Miami Beach. Welcoming the 72-degree Florida temperatures in February, an Everglades airboat tour will put students in an eyeshot of the abundant wildlife living on land and in the water. An exciting alligator experience will be included, and is appropriate as this group's official name is the "Gator Gang." A fun road trip down US Route 1 will take students over turquoise blue waters headed toward the Florida Keys. This epic road links all of the keys together, making it perfect for island hopping and catching an amazing sunset. Noted as one of the most unique and scenic roads in the United States, it has been called a "magic carpet" as it connects one gem of an island after another. While visiting Key Largo, students will observe a coral reef on a glass bottom boat. Students will dive into the wonders of the ocean at the Miami Seaquarium, which consists of 38 beautiful acres overlooking the Miami skyline. Visiting Miami's Design District will expose students to vibrant art and architecture. Cost includes attraction tickets, hotel accommodations, flights, a rental van, and an official Gator Gang t-shirt. Meals are not included in this cost.

YOU'RE INVITED! (Local but off-campus in the Lake Wylie area)

- Leaders: Leah Oakes & Kristy McGhee
- Dates: Feb. 24-28 during school hours
- Approx. Cost: \$200
- Requirements: Grades 10-12; Females Only; Max. # of girls: 15
- Goals: Education, Discipleship
- Book: TBD

Join us for a week of learning the art of creative hospitality! We will create menus, make charcuterie boards, prepare brunch, learn about cake decorating, design flower arrangements, and much more - all skills that are used throughout life to invite and welcome others in. We will also do creative activities that can be enjoyed at any age. To end the week, we will host a brunch (preparing and arranging the food, decor, and tablescape) and invite a few others to join us. Hospitality is biblical, and we will spend time each morning in God's Word (with coffee and baked goodies, of course!), looking at ways that God invites us in, shows His love and kindness to us, and how we can, in turn, tangibly show His love and kindness to others. Fees cover the cost of supplies and activities. Students may have opportunities to purchase lunch. Hosted in Mrs. McGhee's home, where there were some activities around Gaston County. Students may need their own transportation (depending on numbers).

WASHINGTON, DC

- Leaders: Jessica Colon, Danielle van Heerden & Ken Connell
- Approximate Cost: \$1,000
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; Max. # of students: 40; Min. # of students: 30
- Goals: Education
- Book: TBD

Washington, DC, is known for its national monuments, built on an epic scale. On this trip, we will explore the iconic landmarks and breathtaking sights of the US capital. Activities include the Holocaust Museum, Spy Museum, Lincoln Cottage, a nighttime bike tour of the Monuments, National Archives, Ford's Theather, The White House, Embassy Row, Arlington National Cemetary and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Smithsonian Museums, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Library of Congress, Washington National Cathedral, and even some time for dining and exploring Old Town Alexandria and Georgetown. The price includes transportation, entrance to the museums/monuments, and a three-night hotel stay with continental breakfast (Price may fluctuate based on number of students).

FRIENDS of NEW YORK CITY

- Leaders: (Lead) Amanda Bartlett, Tom Hawxwell, & Lauryn Ratteerree
- Approximate Cost: \$1,340
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; Max. # of students: 25; Min. # of students: 10
- Goals: Education
- Book: TBD

New York is a city that never sleeps, and students will have adventures that will take them into the history of the United States! With visits to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Central Park, Rockefeller Center, Broadway, and MORE! We will also be visiting the Friends' Apartment! The cost of the trip goes towards purchasing a City Pass for adventures, Metro Cards, an experience on Broadway, a flight, and a hotel.

MADRID, SPAIN

- Leaders: (Lead) Amanda Knight & Kamery Reynolds
- Dates: Feb. 15-Mar. 1
- Approx. Cost: \$2,595 + Flights (around \$600)
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; Max. # of students: 20; Min. # of students: 10
- Goals: Educational Exchange, Adventure, Cultural immersion

Immerse yourself in the enriching history and beauty of Spanish culture. Students will travel to Madrid, Spain, where they will live with a local, approved host family, attend classes at a private school, visit museums, local attractions, famous sites, and restaurants, and enjoy the rich beauty of the Spanish countryside and Madrid city life!

TIME FOR T.E.A. (Taste of the European Arts)

- Dates: Feb. 22-March 1
- Trip Leader: (Lead) Mrs. Brack, Kyle Matheney, & Sara Tugwell
- Approx. Cost: \$4,200
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; coed; Max. # of students: 20;
- Students are required to write one paragraph (at least five sentences) explaining their desire to attend this trip.
- Goals: Education, Cultural Immersion
- Book: Art and The Bible by Francis A. Schaeffer

Students will get a taste of European arts as they explore London and Paris. This trip includes in London: a tour of the Globe Theater, a musical and play on the West End, a tour of Westminster Abbey, a walking tour of Buckingham Palace, tea on a double-decker bus, views on the London Eye, and much more. Experiences in Paris include a ballet, views from the Sacre Coeur in MontMartre, visit to the Eiffel Tower, tour of the Louvre, tour of Notre Dame, a tour of the Palace of Versailles, hands-on cultural experiences such as a macaron baking class and fragrance class, a riverboat tour down the Seine, and more. Cost includes charter bus, entry fees, tickets, hotel accommodations, and flights. Meals are not included in this cost.

*To apply for this trip, please complete the form: <u>European Trip Student Application</u> <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOizPlq__GD8qYRkiR04VDU6wYJSo2DkzQHPEjuIYIn4VJHw/</u> <u>viewform</u>

**Deadline to apply for this trip is Thursday, September 5th..

VOCATIONAL SHADOWING

- Mrs. Hartley and Mrs. Ramsey
- Approx. Cost: minimal gas money for local transportation/possibly food for lunches
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; coed
- Goals: Future Career Consideration, Experience(s) in the Workforce, Consideration of How God Views Work
- Book: Selected articles that will be provided

Students will meet on campus Monday & Thursday with Hartley/Ramsey; shadow professionals on Tuesday & Wednesday and use Friday - at home - to create their personal journal about this experience. On Thursday each student will give an oral presentation about their shadowing experience and culminating reflections. Students are required to make their own shadowing arrangements and receive final approval from Hartley/Ramsey. Students selecting this option must review and sign the Winterim Guidelines and submit the Vocational Shadowing Signature Page to Hartley/Ramsey.

ALTERNATIVE WINTERIM EXPERIENCE

- Must be approved by Mrs. Knight
- Approx. Cost: Varies
- Requirements: Grades 9-12; coed
- Goals: Education, Adventure, Leadership Development, or Mission & Service
- Book: TBD based on your selected experience

Students must receive approval to participate in an independent opportunity arranged through their family with a local or regional service/ministry organization. Students and their parents must submit the Alternative Winterim Experience Form prior to receiving approval for the activity to earn Winterim credit.

https://forms.gle/spYkMXmVYvtyvsDW7

A personal journal and culminating reflection project will be required. NOTE—Alternative Winterim Experiences may only be arranged as a full-day option. They are open to students in grades 9-12 and are off campus.

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GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - EAST CLEVELAND CAMPUS

105 E. RIDGE ST., KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086 | WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG/EAST-CLEVELAND-CAMPUS

ELEMENTARY (PS4-6th Grade) Phone: (980) 484-3888

GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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