



## Georgia Virtual School

Students sometimes enter Briarwood Academy needing an additional class due to scheduling differences between the previous school and BA. Georgia Virtual School courses are available to students in Georgia. They are generally taken as an addition to a student's schedule. GaVS cannot be used to 'get ahead' or avoid a class. The questions below will answer many questions and outlines expectations.

### What is GAVS?

Georgia Virtual School is an online program run by the Department of Education. Courses follow the Georgia guidelines.

### Do I have to pay?

The current rate is \$250 per half unit of credit. Independent school students and private school students are allowed to take a class free of charge until the limit is met each semester. It is advisable to sign up early. Mrs. Chalker has to approve this online course and it is only to be used for classes at BA that a student cannot be scheduled for such as a failed class or for a student transferring to BA. Classes cannot be taken just to get ahead or to avoid a class/teacher.

### Is there a teacher?

A teacher is assigned to grade work and oversee the course. It is typically a teacher from a different part of the state who has a regular teaching job during the day and works for GAVS part time. Teachers are available to be contacted with issues and questions.

### Do I work on it from home?

Just as with any course you will need to complete work, sometimes a substantial amount of work, from home. You should not consider GAVS unless you have reliable technology and fast Internet service at home. You may also work on it at school when you have the opportunity such as 7<sup>th</sup> period.

Do I have to be online at specific times? Generally not. Content is primarily designed to be accessed at any time.

### Is it self-paced?

GAVS is highly structured, and the deadlines are firm. Penalties for late work are substantial. You cannot move at your own pace and be successful.

### Is it easy?

GAVS is very challenging and is not easy. In GAVS should be prepared for something more difficult than what they would expect in a traditional classroom.

### If I fail a GAVS class does it still go on my transcript?

Yes. All GAVS final grades will be reported on transcripts. Also, BA cannot do anything to raise poor grades.

### What is a good reason to take a GAVS course?

You want to take a class that BA doesn't offer or that will not fit into your schedule, and you are prepared for a challenge.

### What is a bad reason to take a GAVS course?

You want to avoid a particular teacher or are looking for an easy class.

### How do I register?

Go to [www.gavirtualschool.org](http://www.gavirtualschool.org) and create an account or log in, and apply for a course. You have completed your portion of the registration when you see a statement that your request has been sent to Mrs. Chalker for approval.

### How do I know how to use the GAVS website and navigate the coursework?

You must complete an orientation course prior to getting access to your coursework. This should be done several days prior to the start of the course to ensure that you are granted access in a timely manner. There is a quiz over this orientation material and you have to pass it with 100% accuracy to move ahead. Do not rush through your way through the class. There are required exams at the end of the class. BA students must take the exams at school and be supervised or the grade will not be accepted by BA.