

**Stoughton Academy
Handbook
2026-2027**



**Director
Ashley J. Guba**

District Administration

School Committee

Chris Shannon, Chair
Jillian DiStefano, Vice Chair
Charlene Hollins
Karen Powers
Jennifer Sears

Superintendent of Schools

Juliette Miller

Mission

Stoughton Academy offers the academic resources of the Stoughton School System to residents of Stoughton and surrounding communities seeking flexible pathways to achieve their educational goals. Through evening programming, credit recovery, opportunities to earn academic credit, and support toward completion of graduation requirements, the Academy provides an accessible and supportive learning environment that helps students make meaningful progress toward a high school diploma and prepares them for postsecondary education, employment, and lifelong learning.

Additional Information

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy of Stoughton Public Schools

The Stoughton Public Schools operate in compliance with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Laws, Acts of 1971, with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Important School Phone Numbers

Director of Stoughton Academy	781-344-7001	x1200
High School Registrar’s Office	781-344-7001	x4141

Stoughton Public Schools' Vision of a Graduate

Stoughton Academy, in partnership with our community, is committed to supporting students on their journeys to live productive, healthy, and meaningful lives. Through our curriculum and via their experiences, our students will become culturally responsive citizens, innovative thinkers, and lifelong learners who exemplify excellence of character and live balanced lives.

Our Six Core Competencies:

Critical Thinking

The Stoughton Academy graduate questions, evaluates, analyzes, synthesizes, and explains information from diverse sources.

Cultural Proficiency

The Stoughton Academy graduate builds meaningful relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and participates in respectful, as well as, productive exchanges.

A Healthy Being

The Stoughton Academy graduate works toward maintaining a state of physical, mental, and social well-being while achieving their full potential.

Communication

The Stoughton Academy Graduate utilizes language to connect, collaborate, exchange information, and succeed in personal, academic, and career-related situations.

Personal Responsibility

The Stoughton Academy graduate accepts complete responsibility for their behavior, feelings, and decisions in all areas of their lives.

Growth Mindset

The Stoughton Academy graduate believes their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The school reserves the right to cancel any course due to insufficient enrollment.

**The Courses in the Stoughton Academy Program of Studies are subject to:
budget decisions, student enrollment and teacher availability.**

Admissions

Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** Open to individuals aged 16 and older.
- **Residency:** Open to residents of Stoughton and surrounding local communities.

Approved Pathways

- **Credit Recovery:** For students needing to make up failed or missing credits to meet graduation requirements.
- **Diploma Completion:** For adult learners returning to earn a high school diploma.
- **Skill Advancement:** For individuals seeking specific course credits for personal, career, or collegiate advancement.

Course Enrollment and Registration

Student enrollment is finalized only upon the verification of prerequisite academic records, required tuition payments, and completed registration documentation. Students may take a maximum of **4 night classes** per semester, with a limit of up to **2 online courses** per semester.

- **Prerequisites:** Official transcripts must be submitted and evaluated prior to class assignment.
- **Holds:** Students with outstanding financial balances or registration documentation will not be permitted to attend evening classes.

Dropping a Course

Students may add or drop classes during the first two weeks of the semester by completing the add/drop form and informing the director.

Class Cancellations

If Stoughton Public Schools close due to inclement weather or any other emergency, Stoughton Academy is automatically cancelled.

Tuition

All tuition and fees are paid online through SchoolCafé. Full payment is **required prior to the start of the first class session**. Students with outstanding balances will not be permitted to attend classes.

Tuition Fees:

- In-District Students: Open exclusively to **Stoughton residents** who have either recently unenrolled from the traditional day school, last year enrolled as an in-district student at Stoughton Academy or returning to the community from an out-of-district day placement.
\$275 per class

- **Out-of-District Students:** Applies to any adult learners who have not recently attended the day school, as well as any individuals residing outside the town of Stoughton. ESL course student.
\$300 per class

Stoughton Academy Graduation Requirements

Stoughton Academy graduation requirements are based on the Massachusetts Common Core Standards (Mass Core) which prepares students for college or career. In order to graduate from Stoughton Academy, students need to satisfy these requirements:

1. **Total minimum of 14 courses**
2. **Subject-Specific Coursework** - these are outlined in the table below
3. **Competency Determination.** All students must complete the MCAS state testing in ELA, Mathematics, and Science.

Subject-Specific Coursework

Graduation Requirements	Courses
English	4
Math	3
Science	2
U.S. History	3
Government	1
Financial Literacy	1
Total Courses	14

Marking System

Grades of students of Stoughton Academy are reported as letter grades on report cards. Each letter grade represents a range of numerical grades as follows:

A+ 97% - 100%
 A 93% - 96%
 A- 90% - 92%
 B+ 87% - 89%
 B 83% - 86%

B- 80% - 82%
 C+ 77% - 79%
 C 73% - 76%
 C- 70% - 72%

D+ 67% - 69%
 D 64% - 66%
 D- 60% - 63%
 F Below 60%

Final Exams

Final exams are given to assess the quality of a student's understanding in a course. These are given on a departmental basis. The results of final exams are used to compute final course grades as follows:

Final Exams: 20%

Stoughton Academy Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale

(Based on Massachusetts State College Formula)

Grade	College
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0

Attendance

Consistent attendance and active engagement are critical for academic success due to the fast-paced, accelerated nature of our evening and asynchronous curriculum.

- **Late Arrivals & Early Departures:** Arriving more than **20 minutes late** or leaving more than **20 minutes early** constitutes an automatic absence for that session. Because evening classes are highly concentrated, missing this time means you have missed a significant portion of core instruction and foundational material.

- **Asynchronous Participation:** Attendance for asynchronous components is tracked weekly. Students must log in and submit the assigned discussion post, quiz, or module task by the deadline to be marked "present" for that week's independent study.
- **Absence Cap:** Exceeding **two unexcused absences** (including missed live sessions or incomplete weekly asynchronous modules) in a single course per term will result in an administrative withdrawal or course failure.
- **Notification Rule:** If an emergency or work conflict arises, students must notify their instructor via email by **5:00 PM** on the day of an in-person class.

To maintain academic integrity on our accelerated schedule, absences are strictly categorized as either excused or unexcused. Only excused absences grant students the right to make up missed graded work without penalty.

- **Excused Absences:** These are unavoidable conflicts that are officially cleared by the administration. To excuse an absence, students must provide **official documentation** (such as a doctor's note, court subpoena, or military orders) within **1 week** of the missed class.
 - *Examples include:* Severe personal illness, medical emergencies, mandatory jury duty or court appearances, active military service, or a death in the immediate family.
- **Unexcused Absences:** These are preventable or undocumented absences. While instructors appreciate advance notice for these situations, they **cannot be excused**, and any missed in-class assignments or quizzes will receive a grade of zero.
 - *Examples include:* Standard work shifts, general fatigue, transportation issues, routine vacations, child care conflicts, or undocumented illness.
- **Director's Discretionary Exception:** The administration recognizes that adult learners face complex, unique challenges. **All final determinations regarding what constitutes an excused absence, as well as exceptions to the two-absence limit, are strictly subject to the review and approval of the Director.** Students facing extraordinary, undocumented hardships must schedule an immediate meeting with the Director to request a policy variance.

Discipline Policy

Stoughton Academy maintains a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment. Violation of the following rules will result in immediate removal from class and potential expulsion from the program.

Zero-Tolerance Violations

- **Substances:** Smoking, vaping, or being under the influence/in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs anywhere on school grounds is strictly prohibited.
- **Weapons:** Possession of any weapon or dangerous object results in immediate expulsion and referral to law enforcement.

Behavior Expectations

- **Disruptive Behavior:** Short-tempered outbursts, defiance, or any behavior that interrupts teaching and learning will not be tolerated.
- **Respect:** All students must treat staff, peers, and school property with respect.

Director's Discretion: Continued violations of any discipline policy or behavior expectations will be reviewed at the Director's discretion, which may lead to permanent suspension or expulsion from the program.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

BUSINESS and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Financial Literacy

This course prepares students to plan and manage their finances, achieve financial independence, and make responsible decisions. Students will gain essential skills in budgeting, saving, managing credit, understanding loans, and making informed consumer choices. Topics include checking and savings accounts, credit basics, financial aid, insurance, and career planning. Additionally, students will complete and become certified in three online courses to strengthen their financial literacy. Practical lessons and real-world applications make this course relevant for all, especially those starting their path to financial independence. *This is a graduation requirement.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English courses at Stoughton Academy aim to meet the language needs and challenge the intellectual interests of students having a wide range of abilities and vocational aims. In addition to providing students with a body of knowledge encompassing diverse voices and experiences, these courses also help students develop appropriate reading and critical thinking skills and effective study techniques. Our courses afford students a progressive experience in the skills of oral and written expression. Vocabulary development is an important component of each course. Composition skills receive the major emphasis; all students will write frequently, doing both creative and expository writing, with special stress placed on analytical writing supported by textual evidence. A student must pass English to proceed to the next level in English.

English 1

In this course, students will explore universal themes through a variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will build skills in literary analysis through discussion, presentation, and written expression. Students will learn strategies that allow them to comprehend and synthesize multiple sources and connect the course texts with the world around them through photography, music, painting, drama, and film. Throughout the year, the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their command of narrative, argumentative, and informative writing through a scaffolded approach. In addition, they will utilize technology to access and interact with diverse texts, and incorporate various media formats into their learning experiences. Through

literature and informational text, students will explore themes such as: racism, sexism, disabilities, gender, and other relevant issues that lead to rich discussions, perspective-taking, and analysis.

English 2

This course reinforces key skills that students developed in their English 1 course. Students will explore universal themes through a variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama and build skills in literary analysis through discussion, presentation, and written expression. Students will continue to learn strategies that allow them to comprehend and synthesize multiple sources and connect the course texts with the world around them through photography, music, painting, drama, and film. Throughout the year, the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their command of narrative, argumentative, and informative writing through a scaffolded approach. In addition, they will learn how to utilize technology to access and interact with diverse texts and how to appropriately incorporate various media formats to support project objectives. Through literature and informational text, students will explore topics such as: power, innocence, war, the human psyche, human nature, sexuality, identity, loyalty, and other relevant issues that lead to rich discussions, perspective-taking, and analysis.

English 3

This course reinforces key skills that students developed in their English 2 course. Students will explore universal themes through a variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama and build skills in literary analysis through discussion, presentation, and written expression. Students will continue to learn strategies that allow them to comprehend and synthesize multiple sources and connect the course texts with the world around them through photography, music, painting, drama, and film. Throughout the year, the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their command of narrative, argumentative, and informative writing through a scaffolded approach. In addition, they will learn how to utilize technology to access and interact with diverse texts and how to appropriately incorporate various media formats to support project objectives. This course uses American Literature to explore archetypal themes such as loss of innocence, the American Dream, dualities, the heroic quest, human nature, race, religion, sexuality, and other relevant issues that lead to rich discussions, perspective-taking, and analysis. A major objective of the course is to study the manner in which authors articulate these themes and how these topics connect to the world today. Vocabulary work, research, poetry, nonfiction, and further development of narrative and argumentative oral and writing skills are an integral part of English 3.

English 4

This course is a continuation for students who have successfully completed English 3. The course involves intensive work in composition, language, and literature with the literary focus on modern-world writers. This course requires a research project that builds upon the research demands of English 3.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The English Language Education (ELE) courses provide English language development to English Learners (ELs) across the domains of language, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The amount of ESL services provided to ELs is determined by students' English language proficiency. The goal of the ELE department is to foster English language acquisition while at the same time maintaining students' home

languages. The greater goal is for ELs to feel as welcomed and valued participants in all classes and to receive an equitable education experience.

ESL Beginner

This course supports students progressing through WIDA *Emerging* proficiency and builds on basic English skills. Students will expand their ability to communicate in routine academic and social contexts. Instruction emphasizes sentence-level writing, structured conversations, and developing interpersonal and interpretive language skills. Students will begin to recognize and use language that aligns with the WIDA standards at their proficiency level, focusing on giving descriptions, following directions, and sharing personal information. The course prepares students to navigate more complex language with increased independence.

ESL Intermediate

This course will help students enhance fluency in academic and social English. Students will strengthen their ability to comprehend and produce more advanced writing, including paragraphs, and to participate in extended discussions. Students will begin to recognize and use language that aligns with the WIDA standards at their proficiency level, such as discussing opinions, analyzing information, and providing evidence in both spoken and written forms. Units explore themes like technology, cultural traditions, and global issues, encouraging critical thinking and real-world application of skills. By the end of the course, students will be able to communicate effectively across a range of settings.

Prerequisites: EPL

HISTORY

The History and Social Sciences curriculum offers courses that are designed to give the Stoughton Academy student a well-rounded learning experience. All courses are intended to meet the needs of all students, at all ability levels. The major objectives of this department are to promote responsible citizenship and teach students to be critical thinkers, demonstrate good judgment and have a strong awareness of the past and present so they can make good judgments in the future.

United States History I

Building on their understanding of civics and government (including, but not limited to, the Constitution, American Revolution, national, state and local governments) in this course, students will study key concepts and themes related to democratization and expansion, economic growth, social/political/religious change, the Civil War, Reconstruction, The Gilded Age, and the Progressive Era. Throughout their studies, the students will have opportunities to connect their knowledge and understandings to the world today by examining primary and secondary sources, analyzing the purpose and point of view of these sources, and evaluating resources in order to argue or explain conclusions using valid reasoning. This course reinforces essential literacy skills by requiring the students to demonstrate their thinking through discussion, presentation, debate, and writing (research, argumentative, explanatory). In addition, they will utilize technology to access and interact with diverse texts, and incorporate various media formats into their learning experiences. In this course, students will continuously consider diverse perspectives, different fields of study, and current events while developing essential social-emotional skills that promote responsible citizenship and civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions. Students will use their historical knowledge and skills to analyze and explain matters

of concern in civic life and use the political process to communicate and plan strategically for civic change. Students will complete a civics project as part of this course.

United States History II

Building on their understanding of civics and government from USI, in USII, students will study key concepts and themes related to WWI, the 1920's, The Great Depression, economics, and World War II. This course will also bring into perspective the years from the onset of the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, and the war in Vietnam. Throughout their studies, the students will have opportunities to connect their knowledge and understandings to the world today by examining primary and secondary sources, analyzing the purpose and point of view of these sources, and evaluating resources in order to argue or explain conclusions using valid reasoning. This course reinforces essential literacy skills by requiring the students to demonstrate their thinking through discussion, presentation, debate, and writing (research, argumentative, explanatory). In addition, they will utilize technology to access and interact with diverse texts, and incorporate various media formats into their learning experiences. In this course, students will continuously consider diverse perspectives, different fields of study, and current events while developing essential social-emotional skills that promote responsible citizenship and civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions. Students will use their historical knowledge and skills to analyze and explain matters of concern in civic life and use the political process to communicate and plan strategically for civic change.

United States History III

This course examines the political and cultural trends that have defined modern American History. Students in USIII will use a variety of primary and secondary resources throughout the course. Students will study the foreign and domestic policies of Nixon, the Reagan and Clinton administrations, both Bush administrations, and the Obama administration. A heavy emphasis will be placed on the rise of conservatism, the end of the Cold War, political polarization, the war on terror, and the 2008 financial collapse. Students will increase their understanding of these topics by examining primary and secondary sources, analyzing the purpose and point of view of these sources, and evaluating resources in order to argue or explain conclusions using valid reasoning. This course reinforces essential literacy skills by requiring the students to demonstrate their thinking through discussion, presentation, debate, and writing (research, argumentative, explanatory). In addition, students will utilize technology to access and interact with diverse texts and incorporate various media formats into their learning experiences.

Government

Government is the study of the United States national government's policies, institutions, and foundations. Students will develop a deep understanding of these five major concepts of U.S. government and politics: 1) Constitutional Democracy, 2) Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, 3) American Political Culture and Beliefs, 4) Political Participation, and 5) Interaction Amongst Branches. Students will study the functions of the U.S. Government by researching, discussing, and writing about contemporary issues, reading and interpreting data, developing evidence-based arguments, and engaging in a required, applied civics/politic research-based project.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics program is designed to meet the needs of students with varying academic abilities. Courses have been aligned with the state framework, and to the Common Core State Standards to provide all students a strong foundation in mathematics as well as prepare them for their future goals. Each course provides students the opportunity to communicate math effectively through reading, writing, and speaking the language of mathematics as well as the development of critical and creative thinking, problem solving and mathematical modeling skills.

The Math Department uses different types of instructional technology to enhance the learning process, such as computer programs, interactive projectors, and calculators. *A TI Graphing calculator is recommended for all courses.* The graphing calculator is an integral part of the mathematics curriculum. When students have their own they become comfortable with that operating system and can use the calculator with familiarity. This is also an advantage to the student when taking exams such as the MCAS, PSAT, and the SAT since students can use a calculator for testing. However, calculators should never be used in lieu of mastering basic computational skills, nor should they replace a basic understanding and application of mathematical principles.

The Math Department wants students to build their mathematical reasoning skills in a variety of ways. Integrating instructional technology into class activities is one way to build those skills. It is also important for students to practice the concepts presented in class to be sure they can successfully solve problems on their own. The Math Department purposely and regularly assigns homework in most classes. The homework assignments given reinforce concepts practiced in class.

Algebra I

This course covers such topics as data analysis, linear equations and functions, inequalities, polynomial functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, exponential functions, and radical expressions. This course focuses on problem solving and modeling using a real-world context.

Geometry

This course covers such topics as reasoning and proof, congruence and similarity, coordinate geometry and transformations, solids, and circles and other conic sections. Algebra, counting techniques, and probability will be integrated throughout the course. Students will be given opportunities to deepen their explanations of geometric relationships in a variety of ways.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II

This course covers such topics as quadratic, polynomial, radical, exponential, logarithmic, rational and trigonometric functions. The course also covers sequences and series and matrices. Data analysis and modeling will be integrated throughout the course. Problem solving techniques, including graphing calculator techniques will be stressed.

SCIENCES

The Science Department offers courses designed to meet the varying academic needs, interests, and vocational aims of students at Stoughton Academy. Courses are offered in each of the major scientific disciplines:

biology, chemistry, and physics. Each course provides students the opportunity to develop subject-specific knowledge as well as valuable critical and creative thinking skills and problem-solving strategies that are so essential to success in our ever advancing, technology-based society.

Biology

This laboratory course is a fast paced study of biological concepts and is intended for the student who has already developed a sound foundation in both general and environmental science concepts, lab procedures and scientific reasoning. This course utilizes the inquiry approach to study such topics as biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, comparative anatomy and physiology, evolution, biodiversity and ecology. All students in this course will complete the Biology MCAS.

Human Anatomy

Anatomy is a laboratory course primarily intended for students planning careers in health and medical-related fields such as nursing, medical or dental technology, physical therapy and occupational therapy. Major topics will include the structure and function of the body systems, including the skeletal, muscular, digestive, respiratory, nervous, immune and reproductive systems. Anatomy includes laboratory activities, case studies, classroom lectures and dissections. This course will build on biology and chemistry concepts.

Prerequisite: Biology

Environmental Science

Environmental Science is a course in which students engage with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.

Physics

This laboratory course is designed to give students a general knowledge of the major concepts and theories of physics. Topics include motion, heat, sound, light, and electricity. Basic math skills are required. The more difficult mathematical relationships are derived and explained as encountered. Two to three engineering projects are an important component of this course.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

The following courses are available to students who have been recommended for enrollment.

Edgenuity

These courses are designed for students who need to recover lost credits. The coursework will be completed on-line with support and direction from an online instructor. Students will be given the prescribed curriculum needed to recover their lost credit. The work will be done independently and monitored by the student's assigned instructor. The instructor will manage time on learning and academic progress of course material. Credit recovery will be granted upon completion of the prescribed course. *Students may take up to 2 courses/semester.*

Transcript Policy

Official transcripts are required for all applicants to verify prerequisite coursework, calculate missing credits, and ensure accurate class placement.

Policy Guidelines

- **New Students:** Must submit an official transcript during the registration process. Enrollment cannot be finalized without it. Transcripts should be uploaded to the registration form.
- **Current Day Students:** Must have your school counselor notify the director/registrar or have a signed Credit Recovery Contract from their school counselor.
- **Processing Time:** Please allow **5 business days** for the Stoughton Academy registrar to review transcripts and audit credit requirements.

How to Request Your Transcript

Please follow these steps based on your current status to ensure your records are sent to Stoughton Academy:

1. If You Are a Current High School Student (Out-of-District, Day Program)

- Visit your school's Counseling Office.
- Request an official copy of your transcript. Upload transcript to the registration form.

2. If You Are an Adult Learner (Returning to School)

- Contact the last high school you attended.
- Access their online transcript request portal or call their main office.
- Request that they securely email your official transcript to you and attached it to the registration form.
ESL courses do not require transcripts.

3. Where to Submit Transcripts

Transcripts must be attached to the registration form.

Transcript Requests from Stoughton Academy

All transcripts requests should be made via the transcript request form on the Stoughton Academy website.

- **Processing Time:** Please allow **5 business days** for the Stoughton Academy registrar to process and deliver your official academic records.

SCHEDULE

Students take up to two classes per night, this means they take:

Course A & B on Tuesdays, and Course C & D on Thursdays.

Day	Time Block	Activity
Tuesday	5:30 PM – 6:50 PM	Session 1: Live Class (Course A)
	6:50 PM – 7:00 PM	Transition Break
	7:00 PM – 8:20 PM	Session 2: Live Class (Course B)
Thursday	5:30 PM – 6:50 PM	Session 3: Live Class (Course C)
	6:50 PM – 7:00 PM	Transition Break
	7:00 PM – 8:20 PM	Session 4: Live Class (Course D)
Flexible	Asynchronous	Independent Study: Weekly assignments and online lectures completed outside of live class. Edgenuity: Students may take a maximum of 2 online classes/semester.