



THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Prospective Student Pipeline Newsletter #4 *October 25, 2021*

The Prospective Student Pipeline is a virtual community for families who want to learn more about The Governor's School for Science and Technology (GSST). By subscribing to this newsletter, you'll get information about what's happening at GSST plus notifications of upcoming events for prospective students.

Director's Notes: Ms. Vikki Wismer

Overview of GSST Application Process:

The GSST uses a holistic application process to select the strongest students from the pool of applicants applying to each strand, within each district. Here's an example to help clarify the process.

If Jasmine, a sophomore at Warwick High School, is applying to the Engineering strand, she is competing with all students from Newport News who have applied to the Engineering strand.

Academic factors that are considered include:

- Rigor of courses taken, especially those in math & science, with advanced courses (honors, AP, IB, DE) given extra weighting
- Grades in all courses
- Recommendations from one math and one science teacher
- Testing: SOL scores and scores from AP exams and PSAT, if available
- Applicants must meet the science and math prerequisites for the Academic Strand they are applying to.



Factors that are **not** part of the application:

- Extracurricular activities
- Previous research

- Essays

Logistics of the Process:

- Students complete an online application that will be available on the GSST website from the beginning of January until it closes at the end of February. Information that students are asked to provide includes:
 - Choice of academic strand (Biological Sciences, Engineering, or Computational Sciences)
 - Background information - parents' names, address, etc.
 - Names and email addresses of counselor, a math and science teacher
- The school counselor provides information on courses and grades
- Math and science teachers complete online recommendations.

More information:

A virtual information session will be scheduled later in the year to discuss the academic strands and the application process in more detail. In the meantime, to view last year's video showcasing the online application, [click here](#).

College Planning Corner with Dr. Ellen Fithian:



Long Range Planning for GSST:

One of the key goals of this newsletter is to help families make informed choices about whether Governor's School would be a good fit for their child, and if so, how to prepare to be a successful applicant and student.

Why Governor's School?

The academic strength of incoming Governor's School students is a testimony to the quality of their home high schools. All of our participating schools provide one or more type of advanced course options - AP, IB, and dual enrollment - so why should a student leave her home high school for half of each day to come to GSST?

The unique features of the GSST experience are several:

- Science courses that are collaborative, lab and project-based. Students put knowledge into action in sophisticated, technology-rich facilities.
- Access to post-calculus courses in Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra and Differential Equations
- Two year Research sequence that teaches students how to do research, use statistics, and analyze data in service of doing an individual mentorship in a career area of their choice
- Community of academic peers - high achieving students interested in STEM

How should a student prepare for GSST in 8th through 10th grades?

Students who believe they might want to attend GSST should notify their school counselor when selecting courses to make sure they sign up for the most appropriate choices. Successful candidates are generally those who have taken the most rigorous math and science courses available to them. Specific courses that should be taken by the end of 10th grade for each of the strands are as follows:

- **Biological Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry (It's recommended that Physics be taken at home high school at some time during high school, but not necessarily by 10th grade.)
- **Computational Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- **Engineering Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, and Precalculus (Math Analysis)

Students should also make every effort to take the PSAT during 10th grade. A previous issue of this newsletter discussed how to do that and provided resources for online preparation.

I also recommend encouraging your child to participate in STEM activities that will help him/her gauge their interest in STEM course work and careers. We will continue to post information about these events as we hear about them, so stay tuned to this newsletter for information about STEM options, GSST and its application process.

Virginia Summer Governor's Schools: Applications Available Now

In the realm of advanced educational options, Virginia rocks! In addition to its 19 Academic Year Governor's Schools like GSST, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) provides Summer Residential Governor's Schools as well.

What are they?

They're four week programs in a range of areas: Visual and Performing Arts; Humanities; Math, Science and Technology; Agriculture; Engineering; Marine Science; and Medicine and Health Sciences. Participating students live on a college campus with their peers, supervised by program staff.

Who can apply?

Students can apply in either 10th or 11th grade to attend the following summer.

What do they cost?

The programs are **FREE** to public school students.

How do you apply?

Speak to your school counselor. The first step is completing an application form, which is submitted to your high school. High schools choose which students to nominate to the VDOE, which makes the final selections.

When is the application due?

Each high school sets a deadline by which applications must be submitted. Ask your school counselor when your application is due.

How can I learn more?

[Click here](#) to see a description of the programs, along with the dates they will run in the summer. For detailed info, scroll down to the **Guides** heading and click on the *General Information for Students and Parents* link.

Tell a Friend About the PSP! Everyone is Welcome!

If you know someone who might be interested in learning about The Governor's School, or who would benefit from any of the more general information provided here, please encourage him/her to subscribe by signing up on the [Prospective Student Pipeline](#) tab of our website.

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