



THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Prospective Student Pipeline Newsletter #9 *February 10, 2022*

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

Time to Apply!

Our application portal will be closing on February 28th, so I'd like to encourage any student who is interested in applying to either the PreAdmission Program or to The Governor's School to do so now. Here are links to the application and a review of important dates:

10th Graders Applying to Governor's School

All you need to do is complete our brief online

application, which asks you to choose a strand and provide general information about yourself, along with the contact emails for your current math and science teachers. That's it. Your school counselor and teachers will do the rest. There's no essay, no resume, no interview! To learn more about our application process and how to apply [click here](#) to go to the online application.

Once the portal is closed, applications will be thoroughly reviewed. Around the second week of April, all applicants will receive a letter notifying them of their admissions decision.



8th and 9th Graders Applying to the PreAdmission Program

As I explained in the last issue of this newsletter, the PreAdmission Program is the *school referral* branch of our Prospective Student Pipeline. 8th and 9th graders who meet certain academic benchmarks are invited to join by completing a brief online form. The main goal of the PreAdmission Program is simply to reach out to students who might be good candidates for our school, but might not have heard about it, and provide them with information about the program. One benefit of the PreAdmission Program is that we'll share your interest in Governor's School with your school counselor, who can then help you select appropriate courses to prepare for our program. However, PreAdmission Program students receive no advantage in the Governor's School admission process; all applicants are evaluated purely on the basis of their academic record. If you've been invited to join the PreAdmission Program but haven't yet registered, [click here](#). *Under application type, select the PreAdmission Series for Governor's School for Science and Technology (PAS).*

If you were not invited to join the PreAdmission Program, don't worry. We recognize that our school referral process will miss students who might be good candidates for our program. That's why we encourage anyone who is interested in Governor's School to subscribe to this newsletter. By doing so, you will be assured of receiving all online resources and being invited to all virtual informational events.

College Planning Corner with Dr. Ellen Fithian



Why Postponing College Planning Until Junior Year Is a Mistake

For the average high school student, serious college planning doesn't begin until late in junior year. The family visits a few campuses over spring break and the student takes his first SAT in May or June. Then, in fall/winter of senior year the student submits an application to his favorite college and follows it up with a few more, finishing up sometime in January.

What's wrong with this scenario? Possibly nothing - for the *average* student who plans to apply to a small group of colleges, all of which have healthy acceptance rates. The application process is pretty straightforward and

predictable for such students, but for a student aiming for a top school, an honors program or merit scholarship, it's anything but; the timeline just described could result in a myriad of missed opportunities.

First, many colleges require students to submit their applications by mid-October or early November in order to be considered for honors programs and merit aid. Further, there's a lot to be said for applying either early decision or early action to at least one college. By applying early, you get your decision early (typically mid-December to mid-January), which can make for a pleasant senior winter.

Second, if a student is applying to colleges with low acceptance rates, it's a safe bet that the application will not consist of merely a transcript and test scores. To understand why that's the case, let's peek inside the admissions office at fictional Hallowed Halls University (HHU), an elite college with an acceptance rate of 20%. It's almost always the case at schools like this that far more than 20% of applicants are "qualified" - i.e. they meet or exceed the academic standards of the students already attending HHU. So how does the admissions office decide which of the "qualified applicants" to admit?

A common sense assumption might be that applicants' grades and test scores are fed into a formula that identifies the highest 20%, but such an assumption would generally be incorrect. It's not the goal of admission offices at such schools to reward the hardest working students, or even to assemble the brainiest class; their goal is typically to assemble a diverse, vibrant student body from among the qualified applicants. Colleges that are in the fortunate circumstance of having a surfeit of academic superstars often look to admit the students who will also spark debate in the classroom, enliven dinner conversations, play saxophone in the marching band, write offbeat poetry, quarterback the football team, and so on.

It would be difficult for colleges to predict which students are likely to fill those roles if the admissions office only had a student's transcript and test scores. That's why, as a general rule, the more competitive the college, the more information they'll want, things like a thorough summary of activities, teacher recommendations, and frequently multiple essays. Completing all of those application components takes a lot of time, which is the second reason why top students should have a working (if not final) college list by the end of junior year, so they can spend the summer working on applications and essays.

For the reasons described above, it's best if a top student is ready to begin submitting her first applications by mid-October/early November - which means that families of high-achieving students 10th graders should start researching and visiting colleges now.

Pathways Flight Academy: Learn to fly for free!

If you're interested in becoming a pilot or pursuing some other type of aviation career, It's hard to beat this opportunity, sponsored by a collaboration between Virginia Space Grant Consortium, Commonwealth of VA, Averett University, Aviation Adventures, and the Virginia Department of Aviation.

The goal of the program is to broaden the pipeline for commercial pilots, aviation technicians, and air traffic controllers. During the course of a twelve

day residential program, students "will undertake ground school and flight training that can culminate in their first solo flight at the end of the academy."

Who: Virginia residents who are at least 16 years old, have a 3.0 or better GPA, and capable of passing an FAA flight physical exam.

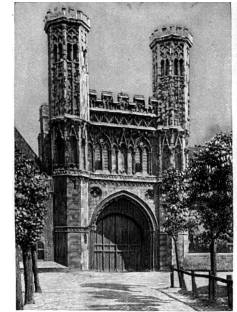
When and Where: Several 12-day residential programs will be offered between June 19th and August 5th. Students will be assigned to a flight school that's not too far from their home.

Application Deadline: March 6th

[Click here](#) for information.

What do Ultracompetitive Colleges Want?

Acceptance rates at many top colleges have nose-dived in recent years. [Click here](#) to learn what's happening, and what a parent can do to help.



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.

The Governor's School For Science & Technology

(757) 766-1100



THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
for
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



[Visit our website](#)