



THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Prospective Student Pipeline Newsletter #2 November 2023

The Prospective Student Pipeline is a virtual community for families interested in learning more about The Governor's School for Science and Technology (GSST). By subscribing to this newsletter, you will receive updates on GSST's events, along with information about what's happening at the school. Additionally, you'll receive notifications of upcoming events specifically designed 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 considered during the evaluation process include:

- Rigor of courses taken, particularly those in math and science, with additional weighting given to advanced courses (honors, AP, IB, DE).
- Grades in all courses; class ranking.
- Recommendations from one math and one science teacher.
- Testing: SOL scores and scores from AP exams and PSAT, if available.

Applicants must also meet the science and math prerequisites for the Academic Strand to which they are applying.

Factors that are **not** included in the application:

- Extracurricular activities
- Previous research
- Essays

Logistics of the Process:

Students complete an online application available on the GSST website from the beginning of December until the application portal closes at the end of February.

The information students are asked to provide includes:

- Selection of academic strand (Biological Sciences, Engineering, or Computational Sciences).
- Demographic information such as student and parents' names and address
- Names and email addresses of the counselor, a math teacher, and a science teacher.

The home school counselor provides information on high school transcripts, including details on courses, grades, and test data. Math and science teachers complete online recommendations.

Important Information:

Applications open on December 1st.

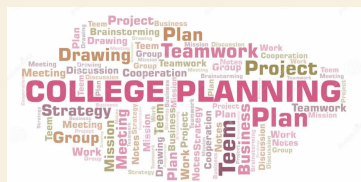
It is highly recommended that you complete your online application as soon as possible so that the GSST registrar, divisional gifted coordinator, and home school counselor can track your application status.

A virtual information session will be scheduled in January to provide an overview of the academic strands and the application process. In the meantime, to view last year's video showcasing the online application, [click here](#).

Governor's School Course Snapshots:

Curious about what happens inside the Governor's School? [Click here](#) to see the

College Planning Corner



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 testament to the quality of their home high schools. All participating schools offer one or more types of advanced course options—AP, IB, and dual enrollment. So, why should a student leave their home high school for half of each day to come to GSST?

The unique features of the GSST experience include:

- Collaborative, lab, and project-based science courses where students apply knowledge in sophisticated, technology-rich facilities.
- Access to post-calculus courses in Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra and Differential Equations.
- A two-year Research sequence that teaches students how to conduct research, use statistics, and analyze data in pursuit of an individual mentorship in a chosen career area.
- A community of academic peers—high-achieving students interested in STEM.

How should a student prepare for GSST in 7th through 10th grades?

Students considering GSST should notify their school counselor when selecting courses to ensure 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 completed by the end of 10th grade for each strand are as follows:

- Biological Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry (Physics is recommended at some point 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.

Additionally, it is recommended to encourage your student to participate in STEM activities to gauge their interest in STEM coursework and careers. 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 for Science and Technology or who would benefit from any of the more general information provided here, please encourage them to subscribe by signing up on the [Prospective Student Pipeline](#) tab of our website.

The Governor's School For Science & Technology

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