

The Commonwealth Governor's School

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2023-2024 Profile

Serving the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford

Administrators

Dr. Thomas Taylor, Executive Superintendent
Mrs. Jennifer Grigsby, Regional Director

Students

Grades 9-12: 615 enrolled
Seniors (Class of 2024): 144 enrolled

Mission

To provide gifted and highly motivated high school students a challenging, differentiated, and interdisciplinary academic program of study in the core subject areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies using non-traditional activities supported by technology at their sites.

School and Community

Established in 1998, The Commonwealth Governor's School (CGS) is an Academic Year Governor's School that provides gifted and highly motivated high school students with challenging academic courses. Based on a school-within-a-school model, this half-day program utilizes real-time interactive technology, field experiences, and team teaching to create a regional community of learners. Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford students are offered a rigorous program of study that emphasizes interaction with other talented students in the region. Students from twelve participating high schools attend one of six CGS sites.

Student Selection

Students are selected to attend CGS in a competitive process that evaluates grades, academic ability and achievement, teacher recommendations, an interview, and a portfolio presentation of self-selected interests. Applications are reviewed by independent selection committees from each participating division.

Partnerships

The three CGS community strands of environment, development, and service are key components of the CGS curriculum. CGS has formed partnerships with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Chincoteague Bay Field Research Station; Fredericksburg Area Business Education Foundation; Fredericksburg Regional Summer Governor's School; Friends of the Rappahannock; Germanna Community College; Naval Surface Warfare Command Division, Dahlgren, Virginia; Richard Bland College; and University of Mary Washington. These partnerships enhance the CGS program by providing enhanced instructional technology, guest speakers, mentors and mentorships, field experiences, opportunities for summer enrichment, community service, mathematics competitions, and FIRST Robotics Team and LEGO League competitions.

Curriculum

The CGS curriculum is designed to challenge students through problem-based instruction. Technology enables students to reach worldwide resources for special interest projects and in-depth research. All courses are honors level and above with Advanced Placement exam options available to students.

<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
Honors English 9	Honors English 10	AP English Language and Composition	AP English Literature and Composition
Honors Algebra II	AP Precalculus Or Honors Geometry with Trigonometry	AP Calculus AB Or AP Precalculus	AP Calculus BC & Multivariable Calculus Or AP Statistics
AP Environmental Science	AP Biology	DE Chemistry	AP Physics 1
AP European History	AP U.S. Government	AP U.S. History	AP Human Geography
Culminating Research 9	Culminating Research 10	Culminating Research 11	Culminating Research 12

*11th grade students receive four Dual Enrollment Chemistry credits for CHEM101 and 101L through Richard Bland College.

The Culminating Research process is a four-year journey in which the students progress from novice to expert through researching topics of their interest. At the freshmen level the emphasis lies primarily with process: teaching the students the basics of research, research question development, and presentation. In each of the following years students' skills improve, and the emphasis moves from process to product and presentation. Products are not limited to research papers, but all must include a written research component. By their senior year students become independent researchers and focus on the development of college-level research products. During this final year, students are supported by an expert-advisor in the field as they work on their projects. At year's end, students present their findings to their expert-advisor, the CGS staff, and the community. Students earn one elective credit (Culminating Research and Writing) at the conclusion of all four years of research.

CGS 9th–12th grade students sat for a total of 1246 Advanced Placement exams in 12 subject areas. 71.27% of CGS candidates scored three or above with a passing score. 42.8% of CGS candidate scores were 4 or 5.

The student's home-based high school scale is used for computing grade point average and class rank. The Class of 2023 had 126 graduates, 5 were Valedictorians and 6 were Salutatorians. 100% of these graduates are currently enrolled in higher education for 2023-24. Scholarships awarded totaled more than \$2,964,232+.

Course Descriptions <https://tinyurl.com/52tkyddb>