

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE 2021
July 11-16, 2021 ♦ University of Delaware

Dear Principal or Guidance Counselor,

Since 1979, The Delaware Governor's School for Excellence has offered rising juniors throughout the state the opportunity to participate in a week of academic, artistic, and leadership development at the University of Delaware. This year's **virtual** program is scheduled from **Sunday, July 11, 2021 to Friday, July 16, 2021**. The program will offer a welcome session on Sunday evening and daily programming will run from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 1:15 p.m. which includes a lunch session with a Governor's School Resident Assistant. There is no cost to students/families for the program, courtesy of the Office of the Governor.

The Governor's School for Excellence is targeted for gifted academic and visual and performing arts students who **live in the state of Delaware**. Academic students will focus on the humanities, business and economics, leadership, physical and social sciences. Courses will be taught by University of Delaware full time and adjunct faculty. The visual and performing art students will focus on concentrated practice and study in their chosen discipline. Students will interact with other students from throughout the state in a virtual environment that is designed to encourage social interaction and relationship building. During sessions, students will be assisted by resident assistants and University staff.

Principals direct the selection process and may choose to oversee this process personally or designate this responsibility to a staff member. **The application process should be made available to all eligible tenth graders.** The online Principal Packet includes the program's guidelines, selection process, timetables, forms, and student applications. Please visit www.pcs.udel.edu/govschool and click on the Principals link for detailed information.

The number of academic students accepted is based on the number of eligible tenth graders in each school as of September 2020. Governor's School is composed of four programs:

1. Academic Program = approximately 60-75 students
2. Visual Arts Program = approximately 10 students
3. Theatre Program = approximately 10 students
4. Music Program = approximately 40 students
 - Choral Music, Brass, Percussion/Piano, Woodwinds, Strings

Thank you for assisting us in this process of selecting the outstanding students who will participate in the Governor's School for Excellence. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Thompson at jason@udel.edu.

Sincerely,

Jason Thompson

Coordinator, Governor's School for Excellence
www.udel.edu/govschool

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What is Governor's School for Excellence?

Governor's School is a week-long, ½ day virtual program sponsored by the Office of the Governor of Delaware that provides traditional and non-traditional college level education, training in the arts, and leadership training for academically or artistically gifted and talented rising eleventh graders.

Guidelines for Principals

Principals (or their designee) are critical to the success of Governor's School because they are responsible for overseeing the selection process and for ensuring that all qualified students have an opportunity to apply. The responsibilities of the principal or designee include the following:

1. Announce to tenth grade students and parents the availability of applications through the principal or other designated offices and from www.pcs.udel.edu/govschool/.
2. Overseeing the distribution and collection of completed applications.
3. Reminding students of the deadline for submission of applications.
4. Ensuring a fair selection process may include:
 - a. Creating a selection committee of a least three faculty/staff members to rate applications and make recommendations of students who should be considered for participation in the program
 - b. Instructing the selection committee as to the criteria for recommending students
 - c. Establishing a date for supervising the essay portion of the application (if using) for students being considered for the academic program
5. Selecting the school nominee(s) for the respective programs, and forwarding the names and application packages to the designated parties within the established deadlines.
6. Assuring that application packages are completed when they are submitted.
7. Forwarding the names and addresses of all applicants to the Governor's School Coordinator. Academic applications are due to the program coordinator by **May 21, 2021** and Visual and Performing Arts applications are due to the program coordinator by **May 7, 2021**. Late submissions may not be accepted. **Due to the virtual nature of the program as well as COVID restrictions in place on campus, NO applications can be submitted by mail.**
8. Please note: Students may only apply to one program within the Governor's School for Excellence. Duplicate applications will be returned to the school and the candidate will only be considered for the program indicated in the initial application.

Selection Process for the Academic Program

This program is targeted for students who are high academic achievers, and also demonstrate intellectual curiosity, leadership ability, and a sense of social responsibility **as well as the ability to demonstrate a high level of engagement in a virtual environment**. Principals and the selection committee need not limit themselves to the handful of students with perfect grades. Consideration also should be given to academically qualified students whose experiences and special talents outshine their grade point averages. **Please select students who genuinely want to be a part of the program, and who will value this unique opportunity.**

Students selected for the academic program **must meet the following requirements:**

1. Live in the state of Delaware
2. Have an overall grade point average of at least 3.5
3. Scored at least a 4.0 average score on the most recent Smarter Balanced. If the student has not taken Smarter Balanced, they must be in the 90th percentile or higher on the STAR, NWEA/MAP or equivalent test. **Students must meet these requirements for the academic program.**

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The number of students per public school has been determined in advance and appears in the following section. Principals are to nominate the designated number of students and one alternate. The principal should forward the applications of the participants and the alternate to the Governor's School Coordinator by using the nomination form found on page 12. Enrollment numbers are based on information posted on a school's profile by the Department of Education.

Public Schools: Numbers of Participants

School	10th Grade Enrollment	# of Academic Participants
A I duPont High	172	1
Appoquinimink HS	412	3
Brandywine High	253	2
Caesar Rodney	527	4
Cab Calloway School Art	125	1
Cape Henlopen	405	3
Charter School of Wilm.	241	1
Christiana High	164	1
Concord High	252	2
Conrad School of the Sciences	168	1
Delaware Military	150	1
Delcastle Tech	396	3
Delmar Sr High	148	1
Dickinson High	166	1

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Dover High	437	3
Glasgow High	177	1
Hodgson Vo-Tech	289	2
Howard HS of Tech	223	1
Indian River High	231	1
Lake Forest High	195	1
Laurel High	170	1
McKean High	213	1
Middletown High	484	4
Milford High	284	2
MOT Charter	173	1
Mt Pleasant High	263	2
Newark Charter	185	1
Newark High	250	1
Penn High	607	4
Polytech High	312	2
Seaford High	210	1
Smyrna High	418	3
St. Georges HS of Tech.	274	2
Sussex Central	442	3
Sussex Tech High	366	2
Woodbridge High	168	1

Scale Used: 50-250=1; 251-350=2; 351-450=3; 450 or more=4

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PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The number of students per private school has been determined in advance and appears in the following section. The number of recommendations or nominees does not guarantee enrollment.

To ensure fairness, schools are asked to follow the first part of the public school selection process.

Once the head of the school has chosen the school's nominee(s), all name(s) and application(s) should be forwarded to the Governor's School Coordinator. Private school student applications and acceptance are at the discretion of the Governor's School program and may vary from the numbers listed below.

Based on previously released enrollment figures, private schools may forward the following number of nominees for the Academic Program:

10th Grade Enrollment	Number of Nominees
50-210 students	1
211-325 students	2
326-435 students	3
436 +	4

Private Schools: Numbers of Nominees

School	10th Grade Enrollment	# of Nominees
Archmere Academy	136	1
Caravel Academy	90	1
Padua Academy	173	1
Saint Mark's High School	200	1
Salesianum School	265	2
Sanford School	61	1
St. Elizabeth's High School	109	1
St. Thomas More Academy	59	1
Tatnall School, Inc. (The)	64	1
Tower Hill School	66	1
Ursuline Academy	51	1
Wilmington Christian School	64	1
Wilmington Friends School	59	1

Enrollment information was not available at the time of this Principal's Packet update. If there has been a significant change in your enrollment, please contact the Governor's School coordinator.

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TIMETABLE FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- May 17, 2021** *Suggested Deadline* for **Academic** students to submit applications to principal.
- May 18 – May 20, 2021** Public & Private schools selects **Academic** finalists and alternates.
- May 21, 2021** **Deadline for Public and Private School principals** to send Student Applications of all Academic participants to Governor's School Coordinator at the address below.

Governor's School Program Assistant
University of Delaware
jrnetta@udel.edu

- End of May, 2021** Welcome packets sent via email.
- July 11-16, 2021** Governor's School for Excellence

ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUGGESTED CRITERIA & RATING PROCEDURES

The selection committee should identify students who are high academic achievers, but also demonstrate intellectual curiosity, leadership ability, a sense of social responsibility and an ability to thrive in an online environment. The committee need not limit itself to the handful of students with perfect grades; consideration also should be given to academically qualified students whose experiences and special talents outshine their grade point averages.

1. After reading the applications, the evaluator may choose to proceed as follows:
Scan before scoring. Before making a detailed rating of an individual application, scan it to get a general picture. Consider these questions:
 - A. Is the application complete, including the recommendations?
 - B. Does the application offer information that bears on the development and potential of the individual (e.g., consider his/her achievement test scores, participation in community activities, teacher recommendations)?
 - C. Does the application alert the rater to a strength or weakness that should be considered in evaluating the application -- e.g., an exceptional mechanical or mathematical aptitude, but a poor ability to communicate?

2. First-Stage Rating: Assign a point value to the teacher recommendations. The following point scale is an example:
 - 13-15 Outstanding Student = consistently shows ability and desire to excel in all areas
 - 10-12 Excellent Student = shows ability to excel in most subject areas
 - 7-9 Good Student = shows ability to excel in some subject areas
 - 4-6 Average Student = has potential to excel in some subject areasStudents who earn the highest ratings in the first stage should be invited to participate in the essay-writing portion of the application process (optional at the school's discretion).

3. Second-Stage Rating: Assign a point value to the essay. The following point scale may be used:
 - 26-30 Excellent/exceptional/exciting to reader
 - 21-25 Very good/comprehensive/clever response
 - 16-20 Good/above average/acceptable response
 - 11-15 Average/acceptable response
 - 0-10 Below average/unacceptable response

4. To assign point values for Smarter Balanced combine both scores & record the combined score.

If the student has not taken the Smarter Balanced assessment, please use the STAR or equivalent test. Use your best judgment when assigning a point value.

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5. Record students' scores on the score sheet as indicated.
 - a. Record the student essay score.
 - b. Record the two teacher recommendation scores, the points for the student's grade point average, ninth grade Smarter Balanced or PSAT score, and points for honors, awards, or community service. Please use your best judgment when assigning point values to the honors, awards, or community service section.
 - c. Total student score equals the essay, teacher recommendations, grade point average, Smarter Balanced or PSAT score, and honors/awards/community service.

ACADEMIC ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS AND TOPICS

The essay portion is **optional** but is provided as an additional measure should the individual school wish to administer. The following instructions should be given to students when they are called together to write their essays should the school choose to use the essay portion in the selection process.

Please choose *one* of the following quotations and describe in *500 words or fewer* what the quote means to you. Essays will be judged on organization, clarity of expression, development of the theme, and grammar.

1. “Get a good idea and stay with it. Dog it, and work at it until it’s done, and done right.”

Walt Disney

2. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. “The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will.”

Vince Lombardi

4. “No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.”

Mahatma Gandhi

5. “Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”

Mother Teresa

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ACADEMIC SELECTION COMMITTEE SCORING SHEET

Applicant's Name: _____

High School: _____

POINTS

1	Student Essay 0-30 points	
2	Teacher Recommendation 1 4-15 points	
3	Teacher Recommendation 2 4-15 points	
4	Grade Point Average: record the actual average 0-5 points	
5	Smarter Balanced Score or PSAT Score Up to 15 points	
6	Honors, awards, community service 0-20 points: please use your best judgment for assigning a point value.	
	TOTAL Maximum total = 100 points	

TOTAL
(Maximum = 100 points)

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**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL
ACADEMIC SELECTION FORM**

Please complete this form and include it with the Academic Student Application Forms. Please send all submissions via email to Jason Thompson, jasont@udel.edu

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: May 21, 2021

Principal's Name	
Principal's E-mail	
School Name	
School Phone Number	
Number of Participants	

The following students have been selected to participate in the Governor's School for Excellence 2021 academic program.

Names of Participant(s) Refer to Page 4, Number of Participants for your school

Name of Alternate (1 per school, not required)

I have enclosed the following documents for each selected participant:

1. Student application form and permission form
2. Two teacher letters of recommendation
3. Student essay

Principal's signature

Date

Selection Process for Visual and Performing Arts Program

Students nominated for the Governor's School must reside in the state of Delaware. Principals are asked to oversee the selection process and to choose up to twelve (12) nominees from the following seven categories:

1. Music Program (up to 8 per school)
 - a. Choral Music
 - b. Instrumental Music—Brass
 - c. Instrumental Music—Piano/Percussion
 - d. Instrumental Music—Woodwinds
 - e. Instrumental Music—Strings
2. Theatre (up to 2 per school)
3. Visual Arts (up to 2 per school)

Of the total twelve (12) nominees, eight (8) can be nominated from the music categories in any given combination. Flexibility in the distribution of nominees in the music categories gives the school the opportunity to select their most talented/gifted vocal/instrumental students. Of the total twelve (12) nominees, two (2) are to be nominated for the Theatre category, and two (2) are to be nominated for the Visual Arts category.

All nominees, whether from public or private schools, will audition or have their work reviewed by a selection committee or the faculty that teaches the arts program. A three-part selection process is recommended for identifying nominees to audition or interview for the Visual and Performing Arts programs.

1. Music, art, or theatre teachers make their recommendations to their principal.
2. From this pool of recommendations, a principal selects their nominations. The application packages for these students must be received by **May 7, 2021. It is important to adhere to this deadline since all applicants must be scheduled for an audition or interview.**
3. The selection committees will review portfolios, interview or audition the nominees, and select finalists for the program. The selection committee includes University of Delaware and Governor's School faculty with expertise in art, music, and theatre. *Failure to report for the interview or audition or to submit art entries on time may disqualify students from the program.*

Unfortunately, not all those nominated for the program will be selected to attend because enrollment is limited to ensure maximum individual attention.

Although there is no eligibility requirement with regard to overall academic grades, a student nominated for the Visual and Performing Arts program must be a serious student in good academic standing, as well as proficient in his or her category. Specific audition or interview requirements are included in the Student Application booklet and on the following pages.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: CHORAL MUSIC

CHORAL MUSIC

Students selected for the choral music program will have opportunities to rehearse and perform several kinds of music and literature. They will work with professional vocal artists and instructors to improve their technique and knowledge, both as solo performers and participants in a chamber vocal ensemble.

Since many music students have already auditioned and been ranked for the All-State Chorus, teachers and principals are encouraged to refer to, but not be restricted by this list when nominating students for the choral music program.

Applications

Students must submit completed application forms to their principals to be forwarded to the Governor's School Assistant by **May 7, 2021**. Nominees must also submit a resume letter listing any vocal training, experience as a performer (solo, group or chorus), and any music honors or awards received. This resume letter must be attached to the application. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School selection committee and will be based on performance criteria.

Auditions

The audition process will be announced at a later date as we are considering the best format for a virtual audition process.

At the Audition:

1. Nominees will be asked to sing a solo vocal selection of their choice. Preference is for selections from the classical vocal art song repertoire. However, a popular song or Broadway musical selection, while less desirable, is acceptable.
2. Nominees will sight sing and perform exercises at the discretion of the judges.

Due to the shift to a virtual Governor's School program, the audition requirements are subject to change.

Notification:

Finalists will be announced in the beginning of June, 2021.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

BRASS

Only students who play brass instruments with proficiency should be nominated in this category. Since many music students have already auditioned and been ranked for the All-State Band, teachers and principals are encouraged to consult, but not be restricted to this list when nominating students for Instrumental Music—Brass.

PIANO/PERCUSSION

Only students who play percussion instruments with proficiency and advanced pianists should be nominated in this category. Since many percussion students will have auditioned and been selected for the All-State Band, teachers and principals are encouraged to consult, but not be restricted to this list when nominating students for percussion. Since there is no All-State category for pianists, it may be more difficult to identify students with pianistic talent. Choral accompanists often are a good source for talent in this area.

STRINGS

Only students who play string instruments with proficiency should be nominated in this category. Since many strings students will have auditioned and been selected for the All-State Orchestra, teachers and principals are encouraged to consult, but not be restricted to this list when nominating students for strings.

WOODWINDS

Only students who play woodwind instruments with proficiency should be nominated in this category. Since many music students have already auditioned and been ranked for the All-State Band, teachers and principals are encouraged to consult, but not be restricted to this list when nominating students for Instrumental Music—Woodwinds.

Applications

Students must submit completed application forms to their principals, which will then be forwarded to the Governor's School Coordinator by **May 7, 2021**. Students must also submit a resume letter listing music instruction (individual and group) received, related experience as a performer, and any music honors or awards received, with their application form.

Auditions

The audition process will be announced at a later date as we are considering the best format for a virtual audition process.

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At the Audition:

1. The nominee will select one piece from his or her repertoire to perform.
2. The judges will select a second piece from the nominee's repertoire for him or her to perform.
3. Nominees may also be asked to sight read from music provided by the judges and/or to play scales to four sharps and four flats.
4. Due to the virtual nature of the audition process this year, audition requirements are subject to change.

Selection:

The University faculty or instructors who teach in the program will make final student selection. Selection will be based on performance criteria during the audition. Decisions made by the faculty judges are final.

Notification:

Finalists will be announced in the beginning of June by mail.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: THEATRE

The subject area teacher should recommend nominees for the Theatre program to the principal. If there is no teacher of dramatic arts or theatre in the school, then the teacher who is responsible for drama productions (e.g., an English teacher or a counselor) may recommend students.

Applications:

Students must submit completed application forms to their principals to be forwarded to the Governor's School Coordinator by **May 7, 2021**. In addition, students applying in this category must submit a resume letter listing theatre courses completed, acting experience (either formal or informal), training and/or experience in directing, theatrical lighting, stage makeup, costume design, or stagecraft, and any honors or awards received in drama or stagecraft. The resume letter must accompany the application.

Auditions

The audition process will be announced at a later date as we are considering the best format for a virtual audition process.

At the Theatre Audition:

1. Nominees should be prepared to perform a prepared scene or speech (a minimum of one minute and a maximum of three minutes) from a play of the nominee's choice.
2. In addition to their prepared pieces, nominees may be asked to improvise, to do some movement or vocal exercises or to speak with the faculty.
3. Please bring a photo of yourself to the audition. The photo should be from the waist-up. A school photo is fine. Notification: **Finalists will be announced in the beginning of June.**
4. **Due to the virtual nature of the program this year, audition requirements are subject to change.**

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: VISUAL ART

Students who have demonstrated talent and strong commitment to art should apply for consideration in the area of drawing/painting. (*The program does not include three-dimensional art.*) The emphasis in drawing will be to provide the student with the basic elements of visual thinking through drawing media and techniques as used in contour line drawing. Line, line systems, and form will be emphasized along with the concept of light, three-dimensional space and texture. The media used in painting will be watercolors and acrylics.

Application:

Students wishing to be considered for this program must submit the following:

1. A completed Governor's School application form to the principal to be forwarded to the Governor's School Coordinator by **May 7, 2021**.
2. A resume letter listing art courses completed both in and out of regular school, amount of experience (i.e. how many hours per week spent in practicing art), any honors or awards received for artistic achievement, and any plans for future art study. This resume letter must accompany the application.
3. Five (5) digital images of recent works that depict level of achievement in drawings or paintings or a combination thereof. No three-dimensional artwork will be accepted.
4. The digital images along with the description page should accompany the application form should be sent to:

Governor's School Program Coordinator

Jason Tompson

jasont@udel.edu

The Selection Committee will review the submitted works and make final selections.

Notification: Finalists will be announced in the beginning of June.

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TIMETABLE FOR VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

- May 3, 2021** **Suggested Deadline** to submit completed student applications to principal or designated teacher.
- May 4 – May 6, 2021** Nominees selected by each school.
- May 7, 2021** Deadline for principals to submit the Visual & Performing Arts Nominees form along with the Student Applications to the Governor's School Program Manager at the address below:
- Governor's School Program Director**
Jason Thompson
jasont@udel.edu
- By beginning of June, 2021** Finalists announced to students. Welcome packets mailed.
- July 11-16, 2021** Governor's School for Excellence at the University of Delaware

**PRINCIPAL'S NOMINATIONS FOR
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS- Pg. 1**

Public and private school principals or headmasters should use this form. This form, along with student application forms and resume letters, must be emailed to:

Governor's School Program Coordinator

Jason Thompson
jasont@udel.edu

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: May 7, 2021

Please type this information:

Principal's Name	
Principal's E-mail	
School Phone No.	
School Name & District	

Choral and Instrumental Music Nominees

No more than eight (8) students may be nominated in any combination of the listed music categories. Student Application forms must accompany this form.

Student Name	Choral	Brass	Piano/ Percussion	Woodwind	Strings
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					

Theatre Arts and Visual Arts Nominees

No more than two students may be nominated in each category. Student Application forms must accompany this form.

Theatre Arts

1. _____ 2. _____

Visual Arts

1. _____ 2. _____

I have included the following documents for each selected nominee:

1. Student application form and permission form-found in student application packet
2. Student Resume Letters

Principal/Headmaster's signature

Date