



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
**PROFESSIONAL &  
CONTINUING STUDIES**

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 University of Delaware. This year's program is scheduled from **Sunday, July 14, 2024, to Friday, July 19, 2024**. Students will move into dormitories on Sunday evening. There will be daily programming Monday through Friday, and a closing ceremony on the evening of Friday, July 19. There is no cost to students/families for the program, courtesy of the Office of the Governor of Delaware.

The Governor's School for Excellence is open to gifted academic and visual/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 residential on-campus experience. Students will be assisted by resident assistants and UD staff at all times during the program.

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 10th graders. This packet includes the program's guidelines, selection process, timetables, forms, and student applications. For more information, please visit <https://www.pcs.udel.edu/govschool/> and click on the Principals Resources.

University of Delaware's COVID-19 2024 policies for in-person learning will apply to Governor's School. As summer policies have not yet been issued by UD, please see <https://www.udel.edu/home/coronavirus/> for the latest update.

Governor's School is composed of four programs:

1. **Academic Program** = approximately 70-85 students (based on the number of eligible tenth graders)
2. **Visual Arts Program** = approximately 13 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 program assistant, [Jetzain@UDel.Edu](mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu).

Sincerely,

**Jason Thompson**

Coordinator, Governor's School for Excellence

[www.udel.edu/govschool](http://www.udel.edu/govschool)

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## Recommended 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 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.
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 (recommended):
  - 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 forms (pages 9 & 15) are complete when they are submitted.
  - a. Forwarding the names and email addresses of all nominees to the Governor's School program assistant (Jetzain@UDel.Edu). Academic applications are due to the program assistant by **January 29, 2024** and Visual and Performing Arts applications are due to the program assistant by **January 29, 2024**. Late submissions may not be accepted.
7. Forwarding the registration link to all selected/nominee students, so they can register themselves for the program. **This link should only be shared with the final selected nominees and alternates:**
  - a. Academic program Link [Gov24 Academic Registration Link](#)
  - b. Visual and Performing Arts program Link [Gov24 Arts Registration Link](#)
8. **Please note: Students may only apply to ONE (1) 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.**

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### TIMETABLE

<b>Now</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Academic Student requests two teacher letters of recommendation and complete Academic Application</li><li>2. Academic students to submit to guidance counselor:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Completed Academic Application form (attached packet in email)</li></ol></li><li>3. Principal/counselor completes selection of Academic Students form</li></ol>
<b>January 29, 2024</b>	<p>Principal/counselor selects Academic final nominee(s) and alternate Send the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Send registration link to only the final nominee(s) and alternate students, <a href="#">Gov24 ACADEMICS Registration Link</a></li><li>2. Email the Selection Form (Page 9) to the program assistant, <a href="mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu">Jetzain@UDel.Edu</a></li></ol>
<b>February 12, 2024</b>	Registration Application (link) is due from students to UD Gov School
<b>March, 2024</b>	Welcome packets to be sent to the Academic students only
<b>July 14-19, 2024</b>	Governor's School for Excellence

# ACADEMIC PROGRAM

## SELECTION PROCESS

Students selected for the Academic Program **must meet the following requirements:**

1. Attend a Delaware selected High School (see pages 5-6)
2. Live in the state of Delaware
3. Be selected by the student's High School

Consideration also should be given to students with the following attributes:

1. Experiences and special talents outshine their grade point averages
2. Genuinely want to be a part of the program, and who will value this unique opportunity
3. Leadership ability
4. Intellectual curiosity
5. Sense of social responsibility

Academic Program: Principal/Counselor are to nominate the designated number of students (see chart below) and one alternate. Enrollment numbers are based on information posted on a school's profile by the Delaware Department of Education.

Send the Academic Selection Form found on page 9 to the Governor's School program assistant, [Jetzain@UDel.Edu](mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu).

Public Schools		
School	10th Grade Enrollment	Number of Academic Participants allowed to participate
AI duPont High	142	1
Appoquinimink High	323	2
Brandywine High	240	1
Caesar Rodney High	556	4
Cab Calloway School of the Arts	136	1
Cape Henlopen High	519	4
Charter School of Wilmington	241	1
Christiana High	274	2
Concord High	266	2
Conrad School of the Sciences	168	1
Delaware Military Academy	143	1
Delcastle Technical High	409	3
Delmar High	183	1
Dickinson High	215	1
Dover High	454	4
Early College High School at DSU	91	1
First State Military Academy	107	1
Freire Charter School	100	1
Glasgow High	279	2
Hodgson Vo-Tech High	283	2

The Governor's School for Excellence is subject to funding approval from the Governor's Office. If the program is not funded, the program will be canceled, and all applicants notified by email.

Howard High	245	1
Indian River High	305	2
Lake Forest High	236	1
Laurel High	201	1
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy	94	1
McKean High	228	1
Middletown High	295	2
Milford High	372	3
MOT Charter	161	1
Mount Pleasant High	281	2
Newark Charter	231	1
Newark High	250	1
Odessa High	310	2
Odyssey Charter	106	1
Polytech High	297	2
Seaford High	226	1
Smyrna High	476	4
St. Georges Technical High	319	2
Sussex Academy	126	1
Sussex Central High	524	4
Sussex Technical High	345	2
William Penn High	544	4
Woodbridge High	189	1

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

Private Schools		
School	10th Grade Enrollment	Number of Academic Participants allowed to participate
Archmere Academy	136	1
Caravel Academy	90	1
Padua Academy	173	1
Saint Mark's High	200	1
Salesianum School	265	2
Sanford School	61	1
St. Andrews School	79	1
St. Elizabeth's High	109	1
Tatnall School	64	1
Tower Hill School	66	1
Ursuline Academy	51	1
Wilmington Christian School	64	1
Wilmington Friends School	59	1

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

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### SUGGESTED CRITERIA AND RATING PROCEDURES

The selection committee should identify students who are high academic achievers, but also demonstrate intellectual curiosity, leadership ability, and a sense of social responsibility. 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:  
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's 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 the ability to excel in most subject areas
  - 7-9 Good Student = shows the ability to excel in some subject areas
  - 4-6 Average Student = has the 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 the 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's 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.

## SUGGESTED ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS AND TOPICS

The essay portion is **optional** but is provided as an additional measure should the individual school wish to administer it. 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*



**ACADEMIC PROGRAM****STUDENT ACADEMIC SELECTION FORM****Instructions to principal/counselor**

Please complete the Selection Form and email it to [Jetzain@UDel.Edu](mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu) by **January 29, 2024**

- 1.** Have the selected students complete the registration form, [GOV24 Academic Registration Link](#).

Principal/Designee Name:	
Principal/Designee E-mail:	
School Name:	
School Phone No.:	
Number of Participants:	

**Final Nominee(s)** (List their full name and email here)

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**Alternate (1 per school, not required)** (List their full name and email here)

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Principal's signature

Date

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM****TIMETABLE**

<b>Now</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Art Student complete Art Application</li><li>2. Art students to submit to guidance counselor:</li><li>3. Counselor completes selection of Art Students Nominees Form</li></ol>
<b>January 29, 2024</b>	Principal/counselor selects Arts final nominees and alternates. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Send registration link to the final nominees and alternates, <a href="#">GOV24 ARTS Registration LINK</a></li><li>2. Email the Nomination Form (Page 15) and Student resumes and supporting materials to the program assistant, <a href="mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu">Jetzain@UDel.Edu</a>.</li></ol>
<b>February 12, 2024</b>	Art Registration form (link) is due from nominated students to UD Gov School.
<b>March/April 2024</b>	Auditions for Instrumental Music, Choral, and Theater Only.
<b>April 2024</b>	Finalists announced to students (ONLY for Instrumental Music, Choral, and Theater). Welcome packets emailed to accepted students.
<b>April 8, 2024</b>	Visual Arts portfolio are due to <a href="mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu">Jetzain@UDel.Edu</a>
<b>May 2024</b>	Visual Arts finalists announced to students. Welcome packets emailed to accepted students.
<b>July 14-19, 2024</b>	Governor's School for Excellence

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# VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

## RECOMMENDED SELECTION PROCESS

Students nominated for the Governor's School must reside in the state of Delaware and attend a selected Delaware High School (see pages 5-6). Although there is no eligibility requirement with regard to overall academic grades, a student nominated for the Visual and Performing Arts program must be in good academic standing, as well as proficient in their category.

Principal/counselor 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
  - 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 will audition or have their work reviewed by a selection committee that 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 portfolio on time may disqualify students from the program.** Unfortunately, not all those nominated for the Arts program will be selected to attend because enrollment is limited to ensure maximum individual attention. All finalists will be announced by March or May (only for Visual Arts) via email.

# CHORAL MUSIC

## Choral Program Overview

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.

Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School selection committee and will be based on performance criteria.

## Audition instructions for the students

Auditions will take place on UD campus. Students will be contacted directly via email to arrange their audition date and time.

### 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-sign and perform exercises at the discretion of the judges.

## **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.

### **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.

### **Audition instructions for the students**

Auditions will take place on UD campus. Students will be contacted directly via email to arrange their audition date and time.

#### **At the Instrumental Music 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.

## 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.

### Audition instructions for the students

Auditions will take place on UD campus. Students will be contacted directly via email to arrange their audition date.

#### At the Theatre Audition:

1. Nominees should memorize a prepared 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, do some movement or vocal exercises, or 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.

## VISUAL ART

Students who have demonstrated talent and strong commitment to art should apply for consideration in the area of drawing/painting. 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. (*The program does not include three-dimensional art.*)

See the application form for portfolio and resume requirements.

# ART STUDENT NOMINEES FORM

Instructions to principal/counselor

1. Email this form to [Jetzain@UDel.Edu](mailto:Jetzain@UDel.Edu), by January 29, 2024.
2. Have nominees complete the registration form, [GOV24 ARTS Registration Link](#).

Principal/Designee Name:	
Principal/Designee E-mail:	
School Phone No.:	
School Name & District:	

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 and email address	Choral	Brass	Piano/ Percussion	Woodwind	Strings
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					

**Theatre Arts-** Please include student email addresses.

First student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second student name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visual Arts-** Please include student email addresses.

First student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's signature

Date

The Governor's School for Excellence is subject to funding approval from the Governor's Office. If the program is not funded, the program will be canceled, and all applicants notified by email.