

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE 2017  
July 9-14, 2017 ♦ University of Delaware

Dear Principal or Guidance Counselor,

Since 1979, Governor's School has offered rising eleventh grade students throughout the state the opportunity to participate in a week of academic, artistic, and leadership development at the University of Delaware. This year's program is schedule from Sunday, July 9, 2017 to Friday, July 14, 2017.

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, physical and social sciences, and a variety of cultural experiences. 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 the exploration of leadership, diversity, teamwork, and creativity. Students will be chaperoned by resident assistants and University staff. Field trips, educational programs, recreational and evening social activities are planned during the week with the inclusion of lodging and food on the campus provided at no cost to the selected students, courtesy of the Office of the Governor.

Principals are the key in 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.udel.edu/govschool](http://www.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 2017. Governor's School is composed of four programs:

1. Academic Program = approximately 80-85 students
2. Visual Arts Program = approximately 10 students
3. Theatre Program = approximately 10 students
4. Music Program = approximately 30 students
  - Choral Music, Brass, Percussion/Piano, Woodwinds, Strings

Thank you for assisting us in this process of selecting the outstanding and talented students who will participate in the Governor's School for Excellence. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-831-1523 or [jasant@udel.edu](mailto:jasant@udel.edu).

Sincerely,

*Jason Thompson*

Coordinator, Governor's School for Excellence  
[www.udel.edu/govschool](http://www.udel.edu/govschool)

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## What is Governor's School for Excellence?

Governor's School is a week-long residential program sponsored by the Office of the Governor of Delaware that provides traditional and non-traditional college level education, training in the arts, leadership training, and social activities for academically or artistically gifted and talented rising eleventh graders. Students live in University dorms, eat at the dining hall, and participate in a stimulating, educational experience. It is held on campus at the University of Delaware, Newark, from Sunday, July 9 to Friday, July 14, 2017.

## 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.udel.edu/govschool/](http://www.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 April 28, 2017 and Visual and Performing Arts applications are due to the program coordinator by March 22, 2017. Late submissions may not be accepted.

## 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. 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, or a minimum combined score of a 135 on the most recent PSAT. If the student has not taken Smarter Balanced or PSAT, they must be in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in the state on the STAR 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	250	1
Appoquinimink HS	445	3
Brandywine High	189	1
Caesar Rodney	449	3
Cab Calloway School Art	122	1
Cape Henlopen	367	3
Charter School of Wilm.	244	1
Christiana High	191	1
Concord High	329	2
Conrad School of the Sciences	165	1
DE Academy of Public Safety and Security	104	1
Delaware Military	145	1
Delcastle Tech	409	3
Delmar Sr High	165	1
Dickinson High	165	1
Dover High	466	4

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Glasgow High	190	1
Hodgson Vo-Tech	290	2
Howard HS of Tech	223	1
Indian River High	260	2
Lake Forest High	250	1
Laurel High	133	1
McKean High	193	1
Middletown High	381	3
Milford High	289	2
MOT Charter	159	1
Mt Pleasant High	263	2
Newark Charter	155	1
Newark High	257	2
Penn High	511	4
Polytech High	304	2
Seaford High	200	1
Smyrna High	348	2
St. Georges HS of Tech.	281	2
Sussex Central	437	3
Sussex Tech High	275	2
Woodbridge High	192	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 September 2015 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**

- April 14, 2017** *Suggested Deadline* for **Academic** students to submit applications to principal.
- April 17 – April 20, 2017** Public & Private schools selects **Academic** finalists and alternates.
- April 28, 2017** **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 Manager**  
University of Delaware  
850 Library Ave  
Newark, DE 19711  
(302) 831-1523 (voice) ♦ [jasont@udel.edu](mailto:jasont@udel.edu) (e-mail)

- Mid-May, 2017** Welcome packets mailed.
- July 9-14, 2017** **Governor's School for Excellence at the University of Delaware, Newark**

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUGGESTED CRITERIA & 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:  
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 or PSAT: If using the Smarter Balanced score, combine both scores & record the combined score. If using PSAT, combine all three scores & use the scale below to assign a point value:
  - 225-240 15
  - 209-224 14
  - 193-208 13
  - 177-192 12



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161-176	11	
160-135	10	*students who score below 135 should not be considered for Governor's School

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

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*

**ACADEMIC SELECTION COMMITTEE SCORING SHEET**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

**POINTS**

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

**TOTAL**  
(Maximum = 100 points)

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL  
ACADEMIC SELECTION FORM**

Please complete this form and include it with the Academic Student Application Forms. Please mail or deliver the form and student applications to:

**Governor's School Program Manager  
University of Delaware  
850 Library Ave  
Newark, DE 19711**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: April 28, 2017**

<b>Principal's Name</b>	
<b>Principal's E-mail</b>	
<b>School Name</b>	
<b>School Phone Number</b>	
<b>Number of Participants</b>	

The following students have been selected to participate in the Governor's School for Excellence 2017 academic program.

Names of Participant(s)

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 **March 22, 2017. 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 Coordinator by **March 22, 2017**. 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

Auditions typically take place on the second or third Saturday of April. The exact date and times are yet to be determined but will be posted when established. Applicants will be mailed a letter confirming the individual 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 sing and perform exercises at the discretion of the judges.

*Nominees must bring their own music to the audition. Accompaniment will be provided.*

#### Notification:

**Finalists will be announced in mid-May by mail.**

## 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.

Note: Pianists selected for the program will perform primarily in group activities as pianists and percussionists. There will be some solo work, but this program is primarily ensemble activity.

### 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 **March 22, 2017**. 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

Auditions typically take place on the second or third Saturday of April. The exact date and times are yet to be determined but will be posted when established. Applicants will be mailed a letter confirming the individual audition date and time.

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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.

**Nominees in brass, woodwind, or strings categories must bring their own music and their own instrument to the audition.** Nominees in piano/percussion should bring their sticks and mallets, but instruments will be provided. If selected, students must provide their own instruments the week of the Governor's School, with the exception of students in piano/percussion.

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 mid-May 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 **March 22, 2017**. 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:

Auditions typically take place on the second or third Saturday of April. The exact date and times are yet to be determined but will be posted when established. Applicants will be mailed a letter confirming the individual audition date and time. Auditions are open to nominees and the selection committee only.

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 mid-May by mail.**



## 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 **March 22, 2017**.
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 (burned onto a CD) of recent works that depict level of achievement in drawings or paintings or a combination thereof. If the student wishes to submit slides in addition to the digital submission, they are welcome although it is completely optional. (No three dimensional artwork accepted.)
4. Digital images must be accompanied by a single 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper listing the title, dimensions of the painting/drawing and the media used. The description page must be clearly labeled with the student's name and school.
5. The digital images along with the description page should accompany the application form, but if a student needs more time, slides may be sent by **April 1, 2017** directly to:

**Governor's School Program Manager**  
University of Delaware  
850 Library Ave  
Newark, DE 19711  
**(302) 831-1523 (voice) ♦ jasant@udel.edu(e-mail)**

The Selection Committee will review the submitted works and make final selections. Nominees will be notified in mid-June.

**Notification: Finalists will be announced in mid-May mail.**

## TIMETABLE FOR VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

- March 15, 2017**                      *Suggested Deadline* to submit completed student applications to principal or designated teacher.
- March 16-17, 2017**                Nominees selected by each school.
- March 22, 2017**                      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 Manager**  
University of Delaware  
850 Library Ave  
Newark, DE 19711
- April 1, 2017**                         **Deadline for Submission of digital images for Visual Arts Nominees** to the Governor's School Coordinator (address above).
- Auditions typically take place on the second or third Saturday of April. The exact date and times are yet to be determined but will be posted when established. Applicants will be mailed a letter confirming the individual audition date and time.
- By mid-May, 2017**                      Finalists announced to students. Welcome packets mailed.
- July 9-14, 2017**                        Governor's School for Excellence at the University of Delaware
- \*Audition dates are subject to change. Nominees will be notified by mail of audition times and locations.**

**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 mailed or delivered to:

**Governor's School Program Manager**  
University of Delaware  
850 Library Ave  
Newark, DE 19711

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: March 22, 2017**

Please print or type this information:

<b>Principal's Name</b>	
<b>Principal's E-mail</b>	
<b>School Phone No.</b>	
<b>School Name &amp; District</b>	

**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 enclosed 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