



2019

Student & Parent

HANDBOOK

Contact Information

214 Litton-Reaves Hall (0343)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0343

Phone: 540-231-6836
Fax: 540-231-3824
Email: agschool@vt.edu

Website:

<https://www.alce.vt.edu/signature-programs/governors-ag-school.html>

Directory

In case of an emergency, parents may want to contact their students at the following numbers. Students will have phones in their rooms and will receive the phone number when they arrive at the school.

- Governor's School Office
 - Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (540) 231-6836 or (540) 231-8177
 - Monday – Friday, 5:00 p.m. – 8 a.m. Call Residential Housing
 - Saturday – Sunday, 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. Call Residential Housing
- Governor's School Email Address agschool@vt.edu
- Residential Housing Help Desk (24/7) (540) 231-5721
- University Student Health Services (540) 231-6444
- Montgomery Regional Hospital (540) 951-1111
- Virginia Tech Police/Fire and Rescue
 - Emergency 911
 - Non-emergency (540) 231-6411

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Welcome to the Governor's School for Agriculture

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the 2019 Governor's School for Agriculture Summer Residential program! Personnel from your local school divisions and the Virginia Department of Education have chosen the best and the brightest students across Virginia to participate in this program. It is my desire that this program would provide your child a wealth of academic information and opportunities for personal growth. I understand that you are entrusting your child to our care during the program and we at the Governor's School take this responsibility seriously. We want to provide a safe, supportive environment for your child to explore new ideas, problem solve, and think critically in the classroom and through activities. We also want to give your child the opportunity to interact with students from diverse backgrounds, and experience living in a college environment. I look forward to seeing your child grow through the Governor's School program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Curtis R. Friedel

Director, Governor's School for Agriculture

Mission of the Governor's School for Agriculture

To develop future leaders and scientists for careers in agriculture. Concentration is placed on STEM integration within the six NIFA challenge areas: food security, climate variability and change, water, bioenergy, childhood obesity, and food safety. This mission will be accomplished through rigorous courses and activities that provide hands-on cutting-edge, scientific, and academic information.

Goals of the Governor's School for Agriculture

Goals of the GSA at Virginia Tech are to:

1. Provide a rigorous agricultural educational program that will challenge gifted and talented students to study and research the scientific nature of agriculture as it relates to and affects Virginia's largest industry, agriculture;
2. Provide structured educational discourse designed to increase the students' ability to critically think and solve problems associated with providing safe, economical, and aesthetically pleasing food, fiber, and shelter to the world's population;
3. Acquaint junior and senior students with scientific education and career opportunities available in agricultural and biological systems engineering, agricultural economics, animal science, plant science, and food science;
4. Promote an atmosphere of inquiry and dialogue, with an appreciation for multicultural diversity.

Governor's School for Agriculture (GSA) Critical Dates

Sunday, June 23 – Arrival: 8 a.m. - Noon

Students should arrive Sunday, June 23, between 9 a.m. and noon for check-in to the program and residence hall. Students and parents must first report to Litton-Reaves Hall for check-in before moving into the dorm. Parking will be available in lots located next to Litton-Reaves Hall. You can park anywhere on campus after 5 p.m. week-days and anytime on the weekend. The student must be moved in to the dormitory by 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 23 – Opening Ceremony: 3 p.m.

Students and parents must attend the Opening Ceremony which will be held in McBryde Hall, Room 100 (Auditorium) Sunday, June 23 at 3:00 pm. The program will consist of guest speakers and an overview of the GSA. Students should dress in business casual attire for the event.

July 6-7 – Parents' Weekend

This is an optional event at the midpoint of the program that is set aside for family members who would like to visit the campus and spend time with GSA students. No required activities are planned. So, students will be free to spend the entire day with their family. If parents find this weekend inconvenient or if the distance to Blacksburg is too far, there will be a variety of recreational activities for students whose parents cannot come for the day. If individuals other than the parent or guardian will pick up the student, they must complete the Pick-Up Release Form and submit to the GSA On-Site Director prior to the weekend, preferably at registration.

Friday, July 19 – Symposium & Poster Session: 1:30 p.m.

This event is a presentation of GSA projects exemplifying the result of the learning experienced and effort put forth by students for the duration of the four-weeks. The event will take place Friday, July 19, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Graduate Life Center, Multipurpose Room. The approximate time for the students' group presentation will be set at a later date and will be distributed to parents via email. We encourage parents, guardians, teachers, and guests to attend this session to support the students in presenting their final product. Parking is available in the lots next to the Graduate Life Center and New Residence Hall East Hall, **but parking passes will be REQUIRED**. GSA will not be responsible for parking tickets received. More information about parking on campus is offered below under the *Visiting Campus* section.

Friday, July 19 – Banquet: 6:30 p.m.

The Parent-Teacher Banquet recognizes the contributions of parents and teachers to the lives of the GSA students. The banquet will be held at the Owens Banquet Room, Owens Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friends, family, and teachers must RSVP to the Governor's School on registration day if they plan to attend. The Governor's School will provide tickets for the student and one teacher. Tickets will be distributed to students the week of the banquet. Tickets purchased are not refundable. Any additional guests are welcome, but will be charged for the meal. **These guests must RSVP.**

Saturday, July 20 – Check-out: 7 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Students must check out of the dorms before 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 20. All trash and personal items **must be removed** prior to checkout. Student rooms must be inspected and approved by a GSA staff member before you may leave.

Saturday, July 20 – Graduation: 11 a.m.

The graduation ceremony will be held in McBryde Hall, Room 100 (Auditorium). Parents, teachers, and all other supporters are encouraged to attend graduation ceremony. Students must be in McBryde Hall, Room 100 (Auditorium) by 10:45 am. All students must be present for the graduation ceremony. You may drive to McBryde Hall, Room 100 (Auditorium) and park on the Drillfield, however, a GSA staff member will also walk the group to McBryde Hall, Room 100 (Auditorium). This group will depart from the dorm at 10:15 a.m.

Visiting Campus

Absolutely no visitors are allowed for the duration of the program, except on Family Weekend. This rule is in place to help the school to achieve a cohesive, self-contained environment in which students can study and come to know one another with minimum external distractions.

Parking on Campus

Parking passes are required during the weekday before 5 p.m., but not after 5 p.m. or on weekends. Friends and family may obtain visitor passes at the Visitor Center located at 925 Prices Fork Road. There is no fee for these passes. Please consult the Visitor Center website for more info: <http://www.visit.vt.edu/about/about.html>

Directions

For directions to the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, VA visit the [Governor's School](#) website. Click on the *Parents/Guardian Information* tab on the right-side toolbar. The Governor's School website also contains general information about Virginia Tech, as well as nearby hotels and restaurants.

Mailing Address of Students

Friends and family may want to contact students through the mail while they are a resident of the school. Please be aware Virginia Tech's Campus Mail adds 1-2 days' time to all letters and packages since items must go through a central sorting service on campus before being delivered to Litton-Reaves Hall. Below is the address that can be used to contact students. FedEx and UPS will also deliver to the same address:

Students' Name
C/O Governor's School
214 Litton-Reaves Hall (0343)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Governor's School for Agriculture Curriculum

The Governor's School curriculum is designed to develop an appreciation of the broad nature of agriculture and natural resource systems on a global level. Students will experience instruction and activities that provides exposure and insight into the real-world challenges involved in the feeding, clothing, and housing the world's population of over 7.4 billion people.

Students will be involved in a series of courses, career awareness activities, seminars, extracurricular activities, and a group project called Global Seminar. The courses consist of core classes, elective classes, and a course in a major assigned to each student. Courses include both classroom instruction and hands-on activities that take place in the lab and in the field.

As part of the registration process, each student will request a major area of interest. The school offers the follow majors:

- Agricultural & Biological Systems Engineering
- Agricultural Economics
- Animal Science
- Food Science
- Plant Science

While every effort is made to match students with their first major choice, it is not always mathematically possible. Students will be organized into groups of 20 based on their assigned major. These groups will be used for scheduling in-major classes, field trips, and Global Seminar.

Core Courses

Students attend core classes in all of the major areas (agricultural & biological systems engineering, agricultural economics, animal science, food science, and plant science) to gain a broader understanding of key elements within agriculture. While each core class focuses on one area within agriculture, key concepts and information will be applicable to other areas of agriculture.

Major Courses

During the final week of GSA, students will attend a four-day course that is specific to their major. The course is intended to give students the opportunity to learn more about an area they are interested in and prepare them to complete a group project in that area.

Elective Courses

Students will attend a variety of elective courses that will enhance their understanding of science in agriculture and develop leadership skills and personal awareness. These courses are intended to give students the opportunity to learn more about an area they might want to explore further.

Panel Discussions

Throughout the school, panel sessions with experts from academia and industry will feature the most-talked-about issues of today in agriculture — from GMOs and biosecurity, to government policy and future careers in agriculture.

Global Seminar

Students also take part in an experience called Global Seminar. The experience is designed to introduce students to issues and problems surrounding agriculture on a worldwide level. As part of the course, students will be assigned to a group of five members to complete a project. Groups will work together to research a single topic in agriculture and create the following items: (a) a 20-page scientific paper, (b) a 3-D printed design, (c) a research poster, (d) a brochure, and (e) a 10- to 15-minute illustrated oral presentation. Groups will meet together during the class, as well as on their own time to finish the project.

Symposium and Poster Session

At the conclusion of the Governor's School, a symposium will be held to showcase the student groups' projects. There will be a general poster session, as well as several concurrent sessions featuring student groups' presentations of their research. Along with their parents/guardians, students are encouraged to invite a high school teacher who has impacted them to campus to be guests at the symposium. The session will conclude with the Awards Banquet as a way to recognize the impact of teachers and parents on the life and work of the students, as well as to present the awards for outstanding presentation, paper, and poster.

Governor's School for Agriculture Faculty and Staff

A broad and diverse group of Virginia Tech faculty and staff are involved in the planning and delivery of the Governor's School for Agriculture. During the Governor's School, the students will have the opportunity to interact with many of these individuals. Below is a description of several of people you will meet, as well as their roles with Governor's School.

Director

The Director, [Dr. Curt Friedel](#), serves as the administrator of the Governor's School for Agriculture. All issues affecting the quality of the program, personnel, instructional faculty, and students' wellbeing should be brought to the attention of the Director.

On-site Director

The On-site Director, [Brittany Hoover](#), is available to students at all times and lives in the dormitory throughout the school. The role of the On-site Director is to provide guidance concerning day-to-day issues, such as supervising staff, transportation, and ensuring the school runs smoothly.

Instructional Faculty

Students will often interact with the faculty members that are teaching courses in the school. The faculty members are faculty from Virginia Tech and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. These faculty members are selected for their participation in the school based on their research and academic specialty, as well as a history of positive teaching evaluations.

Governor's School Leaders (GSLs)

Governor's School Leaders are assigned to work with students in each of the majors. These leaders are undergraduates or graduate students with expertise in a particular major area. They team up in groups of two or more to provide instruction, mentorship, and assistance.

They will attend the courses with the students, as well as accompanying them on fieldtrips and activities. Leaders are selected to participate in the school because of their academic ability, enthusiasm, and leadership. Many are former Governor's School participants.

Housing Information

New Residence Hall East residence hall on the main Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech has been selected for housing of the 2019 Governor's School students. New Residence Hall East is an air-conditioned, suite-style dormitory, with either two or three rooms sharing a common living room and bathroom. Each suite living room is furnished with a coffee table, sofa, side chair, and rocker. In addition, New Residence Hall East features two study lounges and a kitchen on each floor. Each room in New Residence Hall East houses two students of the same gender. Females and males will live in the same dormitory; however, they will be placed in separate areas of the building and supervised by Governor's School staff. At no time is it permitted to be in the living area or dorm room of the opposite sex.

In the rooms, each student will have the following:

- Twin Bed (Extra Long)
- Mattress
- Closet (share with roommate)
- Pillow
- Telephone (share with roommate)
- Bureau/Dresser
- Chair
- Desk
- Bookcase
- T-100 Ethernet Connection
- Electrical Outlets

Coin-operated laundry facilities are conveniently located in New Residence Hall East and cost is \$1.50 to wash and \$1.25 to dry. Students are advised to bring a drying rack if they prefer not to dry their clothes in a dryer.

Two keys will be issued at registration. One key is for the student's suite, and the other key is for the student's individual room. Students are responsible for keeping track of keys throughout their time at the school. **Students will be charged a \$50 fee for each lost or stolen key.** Students are responsible for respecting the property of Virginia Tech and will be charged for damaged or stolen property.

Telephone Access

Students will not have access to telephones in their dorm rooms. **Students should bring cell phones with them, but they may not be taken to class. Abuse of cell phones during class will result in the temporary confiscation of the cell phone.**

Security

Virginia Tech police have general responsibility for dormitory security and make routine, unscheduled visits around and throughout the public portion of all dorms. The campus of Virginia Tech is very safe; however, to reduce the chance of theft within the dorms, students need to keep their doors locked to protect their personal valuables. Objects susceptible to theft include laptops, iPods, or other easily portable or expensive items. The Governor's School for Agriculture is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Computer Requirements

Students are required to bring a laptop computer to the Governor's School to complete assignments requiring basic word processing, spreadsheet calculations, and online research. Virginia Tech supports both Mac and PC computers. Also, please note the following:

- There is wifi across campus, including in dorm rooms.
- Students may also want to bring a 1 GB or higher USB memory stick/flash drive.

Student Email Accounts

Students receive Virginia Tech email accounts for use while they are attending the Governor's School. These accounts will become active the first day of the school and will be available until the last day of the school.

These email accounts can be used for educational and personal uses. Instructors may contact students regarding course information via email. Students also interact with other members of their group through email. Therefore, **students should check their emails on a daily basis.** Students are also encouraged to use this email to contact friends or family.

Students will receive instructions concerning setting up their email account and how to gain access to the account. Students should also review the Virginia Tech Acceptable Use Guidelines to better understand the university email account's policies. The guidelines are available at <https://it.vt.edu/resources/policies.html>.

Library

The Newman Library and Veterinary Medicine Library located on the Virginia Tech campus has many resources that may be helpful to students during their stay.

Newman Library hours:

- Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

List of Items for Students to Bring to Governor’s School

Students are **REQUIRED** to bring the following items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laptop computer• Toiletries• Alarm clock• Blanket/bedspread• Towels and washcloths• About \$20 in quarters for washing and drying clothes• Laundry detergent• Rain gear/poncho/umbrella• Sweatshirt or jacket• Footwear suitable for hiking• Digital camera or a cell phone that can take photos, and any cords needed to upload those photos to a website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old clothing, including long pants and long sleeve shirts to be worn during outdoor field experiences• Pens, pencils, and notebooks• 1-inch, 3-ring binder• Insect repellent• Sunscreen• Closed toe shoes for barns and wading through wet locations• Money for leisure spending (more information provided below)• Calculator• Twin-sized, extra long sheets and pillow case• Trash can with trash bags
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Activity Fee and Bringing Spending Money

The Virginia Department of Education and participating schools pay for all of the educational and room and board expenses associated with the Governor’s School. However, students will have the opportunity to participate in activities, such as bowling, going to the movies, and hiking. Consistent with Virginia Board of Education regulations that govern student activity fees there will be a non-refundable \$185 fee per student. The amount of the fee is determined by the cost of the activities or events that are part of the extra-curricular component of the program. Based on financial needs, students may make a request to the program Director for relief or reduction of the activity fee on a case-by-case basis.

Previous GSA students have found that bringing between \$50 to \$150 is sufficient to cover expenses such as snacks, drinks, souvenirs, etc. There are many ATMs on campus for use with debit and credit cards.

Students may **want** to bring the following items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printer, UL-listed power strip • Stationary and stamps • Snacks and drinks • Stapler • Portable iron and ironing board • Swimsuit • Clothes hangers • Personal CD players, iPod, MP3 players 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid supplies • Room decorations and poster putty • Personal sports equipment, such as rubber cleats, baseball glove • Musical instruments • Hats for sun protection • Extra pillow • Personal refrigerator • Recreational games • USB memory stick • Dishware
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Students are **PROHIBITED** from bringing or possessing the following items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automobiles • Bicycles • Unicycles • Rollerblades or skates • Skateboards/Longboards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other wheeled recreational devices • Televisions • Large stereo or stereo equipment • Walkie-talkies or two-way radios • Fireworks
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Dining Facilities

The dining hall offers a variety of food choices in an all-you-can-eat cafeteria venue. Faculty and staff will be provided with meals at the same facilities as the students. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are available on a daily basis and are clearly labeled. If students have any additional dining accommodations, a written request can be submitted to the dining hall. The form to request for dining accommodations is included on the Student Information form, which is filled out as part of the registration process.

Meal cards will be issued to students that will allow them to gain access to the dining hall. Students are responsible for keeping track of their meal cards. **Lost or stolen meal cards will result in a \$5 charge for replacement.** The dining hall is open for certain hours each day to serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Dining facility hours of operation are:

- Breakfast, 7 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Dinner, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Students will be allowed to gain access to the dining hall only once for each of the meal times each day. The dining hall stops serving meals 30 minutes prior to closing. Dining hall hours of operation may change.

Code of Conduct

Being a student enrolled in the Governor’s School for Agriculture is a privilege. Students are nominated to become part of the school, and, as such, they are representing not only the Governor’s School for Agriculture, but also their schools, their parents/guardians, and themselves at all times.

Attendance

In order to receive a certification of completion from the Governor’s School for Agriculture (GSA) at Virginia Tech, students must be in residence from the first day of the school through the graduation ceremony. Participants are expected to attend all activities set forth by the GSA at Virginia Tech. These activities include but are not limited to scheduled classes, meetings, and field trips. Participants are not allowed to leave the GSA unless special permission is obtained from the GSA On-site Director and GSA Director. Special permission is granted in cases of emergency only. These guidelines are in place to ensure the participants are safe and receive the maximum amount of benefits that the school has to offer.

Standards of Conduct

Compliance with the following rules is mandatory for all GSA participants:

1. Obey local, state, and federal laws. Abide by any special rules for a GSA event or activity.
2. Speak and act in a responsible, courteous, and respectful way. Harassment, threats or bullying of any type is prohibited.
3. Act responsibly to maintain a safe environment for all participants. Acting in a manner that could endanger the health, safety or welfare of yourself or others is prohibited. Report threats to the well-being of any participant immediately to the adult in charge.
4. Possession or use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited.
5. Possession or use of weapons or other dangerous objects is prohibited, except when required as part of an approved educational program. Weapons are defined to include, but are not limited to, guns, knives and incendiary or explosive devices of any kind.
6. Respect all property, facilities, equipment, and vehicles. Students are responsible for any damage or other consequences resulting from behavior.

7. Participate fully in GSA functions. Be in the assigned program areas (e.g. dorms, classrooms, common areas, etc.) on time. If you are unable to attend or participate, you must tell the adult in charge. Help others have a pleasant experience by making every attempt to include all participants in activities.
8. Dress appropriately for each GSA function.
9. Use of any mobile electronic device during a scheduled GSA activity (i.e. class) is prohibited unless activity-specific rules otherwise allow. When permitted, they should be used only in a manner that is consistent with the approved activity and not discourteous or disruptive.
10. The belongings of youth participants, including but not limited to bags, purses, computers, other electronic devices, and dorm rooms are subject to search and seizure by GSA faculty/staff upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited and/or illegally possessed substance or object is contained within that area.
11. Students are never permitted to be in the living area or dorm rooms of the opposite sex.
12. Students are required to walk in groups of two or more at all times.
13. Students must be GSA-designated floors in New Residence Hall East Hall by 9 p.m. every night unless otherwise stated by GSA staff.
14. Students will be in their suite by 10 p.m. each night, and will remain in their suites from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
15. No visitors are permitted in the residence hall or suites at any time other than move-in and move-out unless granted permission by the On-site Director.
16. Students must comply with residence hall rules, as set forth by the GSA and Virginia Tech officials.
17. Room and suite doors shall be locked when vacant.
18. Students are not allowed in GSA staff dorm rooms.
19. Quiet hours will be observed each night. No loud music or other loud noise should be created during these hours.

Quiet hours are as follows: Sunday – Thursday, 7 p.m. – 10 a.m.
 Friday – Saturday, 11:00 p.m. – 11 a.m.

20. Students may not have any guests.
21. Students may not play ball games or throw Frisbees or other objects in the residence hall.
22. Pets are not permitted in the residence hall.
23. Students must keep rooms and suites tidy for the duration of the school.
24. Students must clean rooms and suites prior to check-out; rooms must be approved by a GSA staff member before you may check out.

25. One suite per night will be responsible for cleaning the common areas.

The following occurrences will result in immediate expulsion from the school:

1. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or illegal substances of any type.
2. Being in a living area (i.e. dormitory room), dorm room, or other closed room alone with a member of the opposite sex without special permission from GSA staff.
3. Leaving the GSA designated areas without special permission from GSA staff.
4. Possessing or using a weapon of any kind.
5. Committing any act of violence.
6. Intentionally damaging or stealing the property of Virginia Tech, the GSA, or another individual.
7. Leaving the residence hall after curfew without permission from the GSA
8. Exhibiting potentially harmful behavior to yourself or others.
9. Bringing a vehicle to campus, riding in a vehicle while not accompanied by parent/guardian, or riding in a vehicle not approved by GSA staff/faculty.
10. Disrespecting faculty, staff, presenters, other students, university employees or others on campus.
11. Inappropriate social media use, including but not limited to bullying, impersonation, and intimidation.

Violation of Rules

For minor rule violations, the following steps will be taken:

- *1st offense*: Conference with student and Governor School Leader (GSL)
- *2nd offense*: Conference with student, GSL, and On-site Director/GSA Director
- *3rd offense*: Conference call with student, GSL, On-site Director/GSA Director, and student's parent/guardian
- *4th offense*: Expulsion from school

Note: In case of severe violations of the code of conduct, some steps may be omitted and lead directly to expulsion from GSA.

Virginia Tech Principles of Community

All GSA participants are to adhere to Virginia Tech's Principles of Community in all aspects of the program.

Virginia Tech is a public land-grant university, committed to teaching and learning, research, and outreach to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world community. Learning from the experiences that shape Virginia Tech as an institution, we acknowledge those aspects of our legacy that reflected bias and exclusion. Therefore, we adopt and practice the following principles as fundamental to our on-going efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members:

We affirm the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.

We affirm the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.

We affirm the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and the University. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.

We reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.

We pledge our collective commitment to these principles in the spirit of the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

Dress Code

Students' dress during their enrollment in the school should meet the following guidelines:

Type of Dress	Description	Events
Casual Girls	Pants: Nice jeans or khakis Shorts: Not too short Tops: T-shirts, etc. Shoes: Tennis shoes, sandals, boots, flip-flops, etc.	The majority of the Governor's School is spent in casual dress. (e.g. Class, field trips, in and around the dorm.)
Casual Guys	Pants: Nice jeans or khakis Shorts: Not too short Tops: T-shirts, etc. Shoes: Tennis shoes, sandals, boots, flip-flops, etc.	The majority of the Governor's School is spent in casual dress. (e.g. Class, field trips, in and around the dorm).
Business Casual Girls	Pants: Dress pants or khakis are acceptable. Skirts: Should be knee length and not too tight; avoid high slits. Jacket: Blazer, suit jacket, or sweater. Shirt: Dress blouse, sweaters (knits and cardigans, no hoodies). Shoes: Avoid open-toed shoes or sandals. Heels or flats are acceptable.	Opening ceremony
Business Casual Guys	Pants: Khakis or solid color slacks. Ties: Optional Jackets or Sport Coats: Optional Shirts: Must have collar; may be button-up or polos. Shoes: Should be leather shoes like oxfords or loafers.	Opening ceremony
Professional Girls	Suit: Suits are appropriate. Pants: Dress pants; no capris or cropped pants. Skirts: Need to be knee length and not too tight; avoid high slits. Shirt: Dress blouse Shoes: Avoid open-toed shoes; no sandals. Basic pumps with 1" – 2" heel are appropriate. No stilettos or platforms.	College night, graduation, Banquet, Symposium, and additional ad hoc evening programs.
Professional Guys	Suit: Suits are appropriate and encouraged. Jacket: Sport coats or blazers with slacks are also acceptable. Pants: Dress slacks.	College night, graduation, Banquet, Symposium, and additional ad hoc evening programs.

	Shirts: Must be button-up with collar. Ties: Required Shoes: Should be leather loafers or lace-ups.	
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Additional Guidelines for Dress Code

- During class, field trips, and recreation students can wear long or short sleeve shirts, long pants, shorts, comfortable shoes, footwear suitable for hiking. Closed toe shoes and long pants may be required for some activities. Old clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy will also be necessary.
- Name tags will be provided and must be worn at all times unless otherwise stated by the GSA staff. **Name tags will be worn above the waist and clearly visible.**

The following dress/attire **is unacceptable**. Students should refrain from bringing these items:

- Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia.
- Clothing that exposes cleavage, the midriff, or undergarments.
- Sagging or low-cut pants, low-cut necklines, tube tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, and clothing constructed of see-through materials.
- Bathing suits are only allowed for water-related recreational activities.

Note: Virginia Tech has a diverse population. Students should keep this in mind when they are choosing attire and avoid controversial clothing and accessories.

The Governor’s School reserves the right to require students to return to their room to change clothing if it is deemed inappropriate before participating in further activities.

Medical Protocol

Virginia Tech maintains a student clinic that is staffed by medical professionals. Medical needs exceeding the capability of the clinic personnel will be referred to the Montgomery Regional Medical Hospital, which is a modern, comprehensive medical facility, located less than five miles from campus. If students need to visit the clinic or hospital, a staff member will accompany them. There are forms included on the Governor's School website for parents/guardians to sign to allow their child to obtain emergency treatment until the parents/guardians are contacted. The web site for Virginia Tech Health Services is: <http://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/>.

The Governor's School carries an accident and sickness insurance policy that may cover a small amount of the initial cost of any medical event that occurs with the students during the Governor's School. If the cost of treatment exceeds the maximum coverage, the parent/legal guardian will be billed directly and will be responsible for the remainder. Pre-existing conditions are not covered under the Governor's School's policy. **Parents and guardian must disclose all medical information for the safety of their child.**

Many insurance providers require a referral in order to authorize payment for medical care. If the parents/guardians' insurance provider requires a referral they will need to make the necessary arrangements with their primary care physician. Some medically related expenses and medications are not covered by insurance (e.g. co-payments for a physician's visit, replacing eyeglasses/contacts, orthodontic repair, prescriptions). **Parents/Guardians should discuss how to cover these unpredictable expenses with their child.**

Special Needs and Diets

The Governor's School intends to create an inclusive and welcoming community for all students. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for any student with special needs or circumstances. On the Governor's School web site (<https://www.alce.vt.edu/signature-programs/governors-ag-school.html>), the Student Information Sheet has a section for parents/guardians to complete detailing any special needs of their child. Included on the form is room for any details about special dietary needs as well.

Worship Services

If students are interested in attending religious services during their stay at the school, they can complete the appropriate registration form. Students will need to contact the GSA office if arrangements need to be made for transportation. The State of Virginia regulations prohibit the Governor's School from using state vehicles to transport students to and from religious services. Students will be escorted by a GSA staff member to off-campus services within walking distance. Below is a list of some religious denominations available around the campus area. If students do not see the denomination of their choice, they can visit <http://www.bev.net/organizations/index.php> or contact the GSA office and a staff member will assist them in finding the appropriate phone number.

- Blacksburg Baptist Church 540-552-3869
- Blacksburg Institute of Religion – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 540-951-1167
- Blacksburg Jewish Community Center 540-951-2628
- Blacksburg Presbyterian Church 540-552-2504
- Blacksburg United Methodist Church 540-552-5424
- Christ Episcopal Church 540-980-2413
- Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship 540-382-8787
- First Baptist Church 540-552-6393
- First Church of God 540-382-6350
- Islamic Center of Blacksburg 540-953-4622
- Luther Memorial Lutheran Church 540-951-1000
- Saint Mary's Catholic Church 540-552-1091
- The Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship 540-381-5500
- The River Church 540-381-4674

Recreational Facilities

A wide range of recreational facilities are available on the Virginia Tech campus. Some of these facilities are free while others have an entrance fee that is not covered by the GSA. Some of these facilities also have an age requirement. Below are listed the facilities that are available to students enrolled in the Governor's School.

At the Squires Student Center:

Pool tables - \$
Arcade - \$

Bowling alley - \$

Various other facilities on campus:

Tennis courts
Cross country course
Golf - \$*

Volleyball courts
Basketball courts
Fishing (fishing license required)

Athletic Facilities:

War Memorial Gym – GSA students do not have access to this facility.

McComas Gym – GSA students do not have access to this facility.

\$ - These activities have an associated cost that will not be covered by the neither GSA nor the activity fee.

* - These activities are age restricted. Students should contact the facilities directly to determine the minimum age requirement.

Note: The GSA cannot guarantee that facilities will be in operation for the duration of the school. Students who wish to participate in these activities must bring their own equipment.

MAP

A Virginia Tech campus map can be found at <https://vt.edu/maps.html>. Litton-Reaves Hall is building #118 in grid between grid G-6 and G-7.

In Closing

The faculty and staff at the Governor's School for Agriculture look forward to meeting and working with you this year. If after reading through this handbook you still have questions, feel free to contact the On-site Director. Questions can be emailed to agschool@vt.edu, or call the Governor's School office at (540) 231-6836.