

VT



2022

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) 231-4469
- 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 (540) 231-6411
- 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 2022 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 our desire that this program would provide your child a wealth of academic information and opportunities for personal growth. We 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. We look forward to seeing your child grow through the Governor's School program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Greaud

Co-Director, Governor's School for Agriculture

Dr. Gerald Walz

Co-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 26 – Arrival: 9 a.m. - Noon

Students should arrive Sunday, June 26, 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 10 p.m. weekdays and anytime on the weekend. The student must be moved into the dormitory by 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 26 – Virginia Tech Admissions Info Session (optional) 2 p.m.

Students and parents are invited to a Virginia Tech admissions information session, which will include highlights of Virginia Tech and discuss the admissions process as an undergraduate. The sessions will be held in 1670 Litton-Reaves Hall.

Sunday, June 26 – Opening Ceremony: 3 p.m.

Students and parents must attend the Opening Ceremony which will be held in Litton-Reaves Hall, Room 1670(Auditorium) Sunday, June 26 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.

Friday, July 22 – Symposium & Poster Session: 1:30 p.m.

This event is a presentation of GSA projects exemplifying the result of the learning experience and effort put forth by students for the duration of the four-weeks. The event will take place Friday, July 22, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Litton-Reaves Lobby. 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, **but parking passes will be REQUIRED**. Parking passes can be purchased online through ParkMobile (<https://parking.vt.edu/parking/parkmobile.html>). The GSA will not be responsible for providing parking passes, or for parking tickets received. More information about parking on campus is offered below under the *Visiting Campus* section.

Friday, July 22 – 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 in the Multipurpose room at the Graduate Life Center, 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 23 – 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 23 – Closing Ceremony: 11 a.m.

The closing ceremony will be held in Litton-Reaves Hall 1670 (Auditorium). Parents, teachers, and all other supporters are encouraged to attend the closing ceremony. Students must be in Litton-Reaves Hall 1670 (Auditorium) by 10:45 am. All students must be present for the closing ceremony. You may drive to Litton-Reaves Hall 1670 (Auditorium) and park in the any of the lots in the nearby area, however, a GSA staff member will also walk the group to Litton-Reaves Hall 1670 (Auditorium). This group will depart from the dorm at 10:15 a.m. Students may only be picked up from the closing ceremony by an adult aged 21 or older. This person’s name must be on the Emergency Information, Releases, & Health History form on file and they must show ID when picking the student up.

Visiting Campus

Absolutely no visitors are allowed for the duration of the program. 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 10 p.m., but not after 10 p.m. or on weekends. Friends and family may obtain parking passes through Parking Services located at 505 Beamer Way, the [ParkMobile app](#), or part at a meter. There is a \$6 fee for the parking passes. Please consult the Parking Services website for more info:

<https://parking.vt.edu/parking/visitors.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.

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)
175 W. Campus Drive
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 provide 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 Economics
- Animal Science
- Engineering and Smart Farm Technologies in Agriculture
- Nutrition and 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 economics, animal science, engineering and smart farm technologies in agriculture, nutrition and 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 third week of GSA, students will attend two four-day courses that are specific to their major. These courses are 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 the people you will meet, as well as their roles with Governor's School.

Co-Directors

[Dr. Michelle Greaud](#) and [Dr. Jerald Walz](#) serve as the administrators 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 Co-Directors.

On-site Director

The On-site Director, [Dalton Nelson](#), 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 field trips 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

Harper residence hall on the main Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech has been selected for housing of the 2022 Governor’s School students. Harper Hall 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, Harper Hall features study lounges and a kitchen. Each room in Harper Hall 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)	● Bureau/Dresser
● Mattress	● Chair
● Closet (share with roommate)	● Desk
● Pillow	● Bookcase
● Telephone (share with roommate)	● T-100 Ethernet Connection
	● Electrical Outlets

Coin-operated laundry facilities are conveniently located in Harper Hall and cost is \$1.75 to wash and \$1.50 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, tablets, 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 will be using their email address that they used when applying for Governor's School while they are attending. 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.

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 – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 6 pm
- Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Sunday, 9 a.m. – 8 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• Calculator	<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)• Twin-sized, extra long sheets and pillow case• Trash can with trash bags• Items to clean the bathrooms
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Vehicles

Students are NOT permitted to have a vehicle on campus for any part of the Governor’s School.

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 \$210 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● First aid supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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">● Vehicles● Bicycles, unicycles, scooters● Rollerblades or skates● Skateboards/Longboards● Vapes, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Other wheeled recreational devices● Televisions● Large stereo or stereo equipment● Walkie-talkies or two-way radios● Fireworks● Utility/pocket knives, weapons● Illegal substances
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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. Students and parents are responsible for reading this handbook in its entirety before the start of the Governor’s School.

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 closing 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 on GSA-designated floors in Harper 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 6:30 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. (Labs require closed toed shoes.)	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. (Labs require closed toed shoes.)	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. Shirts: Must be button-up with collar. Ties: Required Shoes: Should be leather loafers or lace-ups.	College night, graduation, Banquet, Symposium, and additional ad hoc evening programs.

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. One-piece bathing suits are required for female participants, and trunk swim suits for male participants.

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 guardians 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 [website](#), the Emergency Information, Releases & Health History form 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. *Indicates online services are offered

- *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 Anglican 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 - \$4.00-\$5.00/hour Ping pong - \$2.00/hour Darts/Foosball/Bumper Pool - \$2.50/hour	Bowling alley - \$2.00 before 5:00 pm, \$2.50 after 5:00/game+\$2.00 for shoes Video games - \$2.00 before 5:00 pm, \$3.00 after 5:00 pm/hour
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Various other facilities on campus:

Tennis courts Cross country course	Volleyball courts Basketball courts Fishing (fishing license required)*
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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 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 and students are solely responsible for safely storing such 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.