West Virginia Governor’s School
For Mathematics and Science
A Handbook for Students and Their Families

West Virginia State University
Rising Ninth Graders

July 10-23, 2017

Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts
WELCOME

Governor Jim Justice and the Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts are proud to present the West Virginia Governor’s School for Mathematics and Science at West Virginia State University in Institute. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of 60 of the state’s most promising math and science students who will be 9th graders next year.

Governor’s Schools are truly a community effort. Funded by the legislature and requested in the governor’s budget, all Governor’s Schools of West Virginia are administered by the Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts. The host institution, West Virginia State University, is instrumental in seeing to it that the GSMS experience is unforgettable for the students.

The information provided in this booklet should answer many of the questions that parents/guardians have about the Governor’s School for Mathematics and Science (GSMS). Participation in the GSMS is an opportunity for students to meet and interact with other students and adults in an academic environment that facilitates and encourages exploration and understanding of advanced topics in mathematics and science.

We are happy to congratulate you not only for exploring the world of science and math but for having the wisdom to know that GSMS is where you should spend two exhilarating weeks this summer. The Governor’s Schools have long been shining stars in our state’s education opportunities. You are now part of that magnificent brilliance.

Sincerely,

Gayle C. Manchin
Cabinet Secretary of Education and the Arts

Sherry Keffer
Director of Governor’s Schools
INTRODUCTION

STUDENTS

Your attendance at a Governor’s School is a challenging and engaging opportunity. You will meet and interact with other students and adults in an enriched, relaxed, academic environment where you may explore studies of interest to you. You will be living and learning on the campus of one of West Virginia’s finest institutions of higher education as you represent your school and county in this unique experience.

Your days at the GSMS will be memorable. While broadening your knowledge base, you will find that potential for learning will be challenged as you discover new horizons. Moreover, you will become a member of a network of talented young West Virginians whose friendships will serve to support you throughout your lifetime.

Your acceptance of this opportunity carries with it an agreement to govern your behavior with integrity and respect. You are to abide by all rules and regulations included in this brochure. These guidelines are necessary for you to have the best possible learning experience.

Read this booklet carefully to familiarize yourself with the information you will need to have a successful and enjoyable experience at the Governor’s School.

If you are unable to attend, contact Director of Governor’s Schools Sherry Keffer immediately. Her email address is sherry.l.keffer@wv.gov.
Student Policies

RESIDENCY

1. The Governor’s School is intended to be an intensive residential learning experience; therefore, students are expected to remain on campus for the duration of the school, including weekends.
2. Exceptions to this policy can be granted only in the event of a verified emergency. Students will need to request permission from Program Director, Dr. Sean Collins, stating the nature of the emergency. In addition, they must inform their resident assistant of the expected times for leaving and returning. Emergency leave shall not exceed 12 hours for any reason.
3. Students may not leave campus. All trips from the residential dorm require supervision.

Visitors

1. Students are not to entertain non-Governor’s School visitors.
2. Non-participants (legislators, the media, etc.) who wish to observe the instructional program must register with the WVSU Office of University Relations, (304) 761-3363.
3. Families are requested not to visit during GSMS so that students will have sufficient time to focus on their studies and interact socially with other Governor's School students.
4. Students may visit with the opposite gender only in the lounge areas. Visitation with the opposite gender in individual rooms is not permitted.

Participation and Attendance

1. Students are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes, seminars, and special events. You are expected to participate actively in these instructional activities.
2. Students will receive a copy of the daily schedule upon arrival at GSMS. The location and time of special events will be announced.
3. If it is necessary to miss a class or event, the student must report the anticipated absence and its reason to the faculty member in advance. For seminars or special events, report to the resident assistant.
4. There will not be an opportunity for students to attend church, since GSMS is in session on Sundays. Students may practice private devotion time on their own.
Medical Information
If students should require medical attention, the Thomas Care Clinic at WVSU is open 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. At other times, emergency medical facilities are available at Thomas Memorial Hospital or local emergency care centers. All mentors will have received Red Cross first aid training. Please alert the Governor’s School staff of any medicine or food allergies or special medical problems so that we may make the proper accommodations. Refrigerators are available for medicines that must be kept cold. Parents must provide a copy of the family or student’s insurance card. A photocopy is fine.

Disciplinary Action
As a representative of your school, community, and county, you are expected to be an exemplary citizen and participant. Certain behavior is incompatible with the philosophy of the Governor’s School. Disciplinary action in response to misbehavior is the responsibility of staff members.

There are three levels of discipline which are determined by the nature, frequency, or severity of the infraction. These levels are not necessarily progressive.

1. Verbal reprimand by staff with written notice to the GSMS Dean of Students.
2. Written warning by the Dean of Students in the form of a notice of disciplinary probation. Parents will be notified,
3. Dismissal by the dean in consultation with the appropriate faculty, staff, and state director of Governor’s Schools.

Should a student be dismissed, parents must pick the student up no later than 12 hours after having been notified. Further, a letter setting forth the reason for the student’s dismissal may be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal and county superintendent of schools. Once a student has been dismissed, he/she is not to return to GSMS for any reason.

Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Absence from campus without permission from the GSMS Dean;
b. Any unexcused absence;
c. Disobeying visitation policies;
d. The use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances, whether on-campus or off-campus—immediate dismissal.
e. Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person;
f. Bullying;
g. Refusal to follow directions;
h. Any other behavior deemed to be inappropriate, dangerous, or damaging to self, staff, guests, or the institution;
i. Destroying or damaging property—a serious matter requiring full monetary compensation.
Safety and Security

1. Always let someone know where you are going.
2. Never loan your room key to anyone for any reason.
3. Be sure to travel with a friend as much as possible.
4. Report any suspicious people to a GSMS staff member immediately.

Note: When you are on field trips, you must stay in your chaperoned group always. Please realize that this rule is in place out of concern, not distrust. Children (even teenagers) are their parents’ greatest treasure, and the Governor’s Schools of West Virginia are committed to protecting that treasure.

Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

Because class and evening activity times are for learning and focus, personal use of electronic devices – including pagers, cell phones, smart phones, PDAs, MP3 players, laptop computers, etc. – during class or event times is not permitted. Such devices must be left in the residence hall. You may, however, take the phone when GSMS is on an off-campus trip.

Living Accommodations

YOUR ROOM

1. You will be housed in Dawson Hall. Each room is furnished for two students with twin XL beds, desks, chairs, dressers, under-bed storage drawers, and two closets. Students in two rooms will share a connecting bathroom. Dawson Hall has a social lounge, laundry facilities, vending machines, and television viewing areas. The entire complex is air conditioned. PLEASE BRING LINENS – twin XL sheets, pillow, blanket and towels.
2. You may bring a radio or small speaker, but not a television set. It is important that you respect the rights of your fellow students by not playing music that can be heard outside of your room. Use ear buds if necessary;
3. You will be issued a card key to your room. A fee of $25 will be charged to change the lock code if the key is lost or not returned.
4. Your room should be locked at all times when you and your roommate are gone. Missing items should be reported immediately to your resident assistant.
5. If you plan to keep snacks in your room, you must bring airtight containers for storage.
6. You and your roommate are ultimately responsible for the maintenance of your room, all activity that goes on in your room, and any damage that occurs during the Governor’s School.
7. Your room should be made neat and orderly before your first morning class. It may be inspected at any time by residence hall personnel.
THE RESIDENCE HALL
1. While living on campus, you will be under the guidance and supervision of an experienced dean of students and mentors.
2. The residence hall, classrooms, laboratories, and other facilities should be kept neat, clean, and undamaged. You will be expected to pay for any damages beyond normal wear for which you are responsible.
3. Possession or use of tobacco products is prohibited.
4. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances, or drugs other than prescribed and over-the-counter medications is prohibited during the entire Governor’s School.
5. You must be inside the residence hall no later than 9 p.m. If an activity or special event lasts beyond 9, you will be given 15 minutes to reach your room upon conclusion of the event.
6. To ensure that everyone may be well rested for the GSMS program, quiet hours are to be observed in the residence hall from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. This means that there should not be any sounds loud enough to disturb the study or sleep of your roommate, next door neighbor or other students. Lights must be out by 11 p.m.
7. Early in the program, a fire evacuation plan will be explained and a fire drill may be held. When the alarm sounds, you must leave the building. You will be expected to report to an assigned area where roll will be taken.
8. No items are to be hung or displayed outside residence hall windows.

RESIDENCE HALL SERVICES
Now that you’ve read the “cannots and musts,” it’s time to learn about where you will be staying and studying at West Virginia State University.

GSMS will be housed in the Dawson Hall residence hall on the Institute campus. It is located on Barron Drive. The hall has three floors, each with study rooms. Students live in suites, which are two double rooms connected by a shared bathroom. A computer lab, lounges, study rooms, laundry room, and other amenities enhance the facility.

Mail is delivered to Dawson Hall daily. Outgoing mail will be picked up from Keith Hall, conveniently located near Dawson. Please bring postage stamps with you.

Letters and packages should be addressed as follows:

West Virginia State University
Student’s Name, Room #, Dawson Hall
P.O. Box 1001
Institute, WV 25112

1. A telephone will be available that may be used for emergency purposes.
2. Laundry facilities are free and are located on the first floor of Dawson Hall. You
must supply your own detergent and other products as needed. WVSU residential staff will explain laundry access and usage;

3. Due to the schedule of the program, students will be unable to attend religious services during GSMS, as we will be in session on Sundays;

4. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the Goldston Dining Hall in the University Union. Hours will be announced when you arrive. A salad bar is available during lunch and dinner.

CAMPUS RECREATION

WVSU facilities are open for your use at appointed times. Activities available include table tennis, billiards, television and movies, tennis, and basketball.

BANKING

Students should bring some spending money for things like souvenirs from trips and munchies before bed. Despite our feeding them very well, there always seems to be room for pizza or Chinese food at 9:30 p.m. Students are strongly urged to put their money in the camp bank and simply draw out as much as they need each day. Most students find that $50-$100 is more than enough.

Other Helpful Information

DRESS AND GROOMING

1. Dress should be casual but tasteful;
2. For your own safety, it is required that you wear shoes at all times when not on your residence hall floor;
3. Shoes and shirts are required in the dining hall at all times.
4.

SPECIFIC clothing and items you will need

- A variety of shirts, blouses, tops of different weights (for rooms that are too cool)
- Shorts
- Jeans/slacks
- One dressy outfit suitable for a banquet
- Tennis shoes
- Dress shoes
- Swimsuit
- Beach towel
- Sleepwear
- Bathrobe and bedroom slippers
- Shower shoes
- Rain gear
- Lightweight jacket
- Toiletries (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo
- You will need one set of dress clothes—
  - Males--shirt and tie; Coats for males are always suitable, but not required;
  - Females--dresses suitable for attendance at banquets and other special occasion (not formal dresses or gowns)
ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING

Note: Electronics (iPod, cell phone, etc.) are the individual student’s responsibility.

- Desk lamp (to supplement overhead lighting)
- Radio
- Tray/basket for toiletries
- Camera
- Games
- Personal sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Hair dryer
  (In this world of smart phones, the camera, games, alarm clocks, and communication devices are often in one neat, little package)

ITEMS YOU MAY NOT BRING

- Televisions
- Hot plate/pot
- Popcorn poppers
- Air conditioners
- Refrigerator
- Desktop Computer
Advisory Council

Governor’s Schools of W.Va. Advisory Council 2017
The Governor’s Schools Advisory Council advises West Virginia’s Secretary of Education and Arts regarding site selections, program offerings and procedures for student and faculty selection. The advisory council meets two times a year, usually in Charleston.

Membership
Mr. Rob Aliff
Dr. Robert Baker
Dr. Maribea Barnes-Marsano
Mrs. Carrie Bledsoe
Dr. Christi Chambers
Dr. Ryan Claycomb
Dr. Sean Collins
Ms. Saralyn Dague
Mr. Bill Gibson
Mrs. Gretchen Gibson
Mrs. Pam Goots
Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle C. Manchin
Mrs. Katie Hayes
Mrs. Vicky Mohnacky
Dr. John O’Connor
Mr. Mark Payne
Mr. Keith Saine
Mr. John Shirley
Mr. John Waltz
Mrs. Martha Woodward

Student Representatives
Emma Locarnini GHA
Jerry Wang GHA
Catherine Leary GSA
Jacob Martin GSA

Faculty Representatives
Mr. Doug Squire, GHA

Ex-Officio--Sherry Keffer, Governor’s Schools Director
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I discover that I need to leave GSMS for a day to participate in another school-related activity, can I have a leave of absence?
A: No, you may not. You will be a member of a research team and so your commitment to the GSMS and your team requires your full-time participation.

Q: I am in the high school band. May I miss GSMS activities for a couple of hours each day to attend band practice?
A: You may not. Students are to be in attendance at the GSMS for the entire time, including evenings and weekends.

Q: My sister is getting married. May I miss GSMS a day to take part in the festivities?
A: Again, you may not. If you know of an important event that is scheduled during the GSMS, you must make a choice before agreeing to attend the GSMS.

Q: May my parents visit during the GSMS?
A: No. The GSMS is designed as a parent-free experience so that you can be totally focused on all activities planned for you.

Q: Will I be able to leave the campus for any reason?
A: You will leave campus only for official GSMS outings and verified emergencies.

Q: If I get homesick, will I be allowed to go home?
A: A bit of homesickness is not unusual. Please keep in mind, however, that your selection to attend the GSMS was very competitive and, if you choose to not complete the session, you will have prevented another student from attending. If a student leaves the GSMS before completing the program, the student’s principal and superintendent will be notified. Furthermore, the student shall not make reference to being selected to attend the GSMS on further applications or resumes.

Q: What is the policy for cell phones?
A: Cell phones are only allowed on field trips and in student rooms or if an instructor asks that they be used for research during class. Otherwise, they may be used during evening hours, but not during daytime activities.

Q: Will I be given time to attend church?
A: The weekend that you’ll be at GSMS is considered part of GSMS, so there will not be time for you to attend a formal worship service. You should plan for private devotion time.
Contact Information

Important Phone Numbers

Dr. Sean Collins
Program Director
WVGSMS
West Virginia State University
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112
Phone: (304) 766-4150 (office); or (718) 354-7530 (cell)
scollin5@mail.wvu.edu

Ms. Nancy Nkumsah
Director of Residence Life
West Virginia State University
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112
Phone: (304) 766-3037 (office)
nancynk@wvstateu.edu

Joe Oden
Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
West Virginia State University
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112
Phone: (304) 766-4101 (office)
odenjr@mail.wvu.edu

Mrs. Sherry Keffer
Director, Governor’s Schools of West Virginia
Office (304) 558-2440
Mobile (304) 640-0988
Sherry.L.Keffer@mail.wvu.edu

Thomas Care Clinic @ WVSU
(304) 759-6050
Note: Move-in begins at 12 noon on July 10th. The opening session, to which parents are invited, will begin at 3 p.m. You will be notified of the opening session site upon registration. At the end of the session, students are dismissed to their Mentor groups.

All forms are to be mailed to:

Joe Oden
Assistant Vice-President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
West Virginia State University (GSMS)
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112

Postmarked no later than June 1, 2017.