

2023 West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts – Student Application Part II

Application must be postmarked no later than January 18, 2023

Student Name: _____

Do not complete the application before reading this page.

1. Before completing the application, read all sections of the website. It's important that you know something about GSA before applying. Read closely, "How to Apply."
2. The first step of the application process is to be sure you meet the proper qualifications. Please click on the Qualifications link on the website which is on the "How to Apply" page. You may apply for one and only one arts area; however, instrumentalists may audition on up to two instruments.
3. If you meet the qualifications, the next step is to fill out the Student Application, which includes a Consent Form.
4. Part I of the application is to be submitted online. Confirmation of receipt of Part I must be attached to this page. The remainder is to be completed and submitted by traditional mail. The deadline for submitting both parts is January 18, 2023.

Before continuing, be certain that you have printed the confirmation page from Part I of the application.

5. Part II is a fillable pdf, so you can type directly on it. The essay and your letters of recommendation **must also be typed**.
6. Write the essay. This applies to all applicants. Directions and the space for writing the essay are on Page 5. We suggest that you write the essay and save it as a document. Then you can simply paste it into the application itself.
7. Provide two letters of recommendation. One of the letters must come from a **teacher** who has worked with you in your arts area (may be a private arts teacher) or who is familiar with your work. Letters should clearly state the capacity in which the writer knows you and the writer's professional position. The other letter should come from one of your regular school teachers. Letters should be submitted on professional letterhead and are to be typed using a 12-point Roman or Arial font. The use of fancy, italicized fonts is strongly discouraged. Writers should speak candidly about your work, talent, desire, strengths, and weaknesses.
8. Pay careful attention to the parent/student signature page. If you have questions about the residency and no-visitation requirements, you may direct them to ray.lowther@k12.wv.us or rjwisema@k12.wv.us.
9. Inform your counselor no later than January 5 that you will need a copy of your transcript, first nine-weeks grades, discipline report, and attendance report. This will allow for enough time to have those documents printed when you submit the entire packet to your counselor and have it mailed by the January 18 deadline.
10. Finish the application, print it, and take it to your counselor. The counselor will complete page 3 of the application, give it to your principal to sign, put it in order in your application, attach the necessary school records and return the application to you. Please remind your counselor that your Social Security number is NOT to be sent with your transcript. It is **your** responsibility to go to the Audition Guidelines (How to Apply) section to determine the audition requirements in your area of expertise. Start preparing NOW.
10. Your counselor may mail your application; however, you are the one who is ultimately responsible for mailing the entire packet to Jennifer Gill, West Virginia Department of Education, Building 6, Suite 750, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305. **January 18 is the deadline and the application must be postmarked on or before that date. Anything else is late and will be subsequently disqualified. No exceptions**
11. **By checking this box, I certify that I have read and understand items 1-10.**

ABSOLUTELY NO STAPLES!

Immunization Statement: All students attending a Governor's School must meet the minimum immunization requirements. Students who attend a private school, charter school, or who are home-schools must provide documentation showing that they have been immunized.

2023 West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts – Student Application Part II

Application must be postmarked no later than January 18, 2023

Student Name: _____

Page 3 of 5

To be filled out by the school counselor/principal and returned to the student.

A grade-point average of at least 2.2 after two or three semesters.** The 2.2 must be met before a student is recommended for GSA 2023. The grade can be weighted or unweighted but the policy must be consistent within a school.

(Simply check off #2-7)

2. A record of regular attendance/acceptable discipline record (It is not necessary to send the record itself; check to denote that the record is acceptable.)If there are discipline issues, include that record.

3. Two (2) recommendation letters are attached to this application. One of the letters *must* address the student's ability and passion in the arts area for which application is being made. One letter may come from a private instructor; the other from a high school teacher. Both should address the student's likelihood to fare well with 119 other students for three weeks.

4. Includes all five (5) pages of the application form.

5. Includes photocopy or transcript of grades, discipline report (if any), and attendance record for grades 9 and first grading period of grade 10. Non-public school students must provide verification of required immunizations.

6. Packet is **paper clipped** in the following order: application—in page-number order, teacher recommendations, school records, and student essay.

7. Confirmation of receipt of Part I is clipped to front page of packet.

1. GPA _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Principal or assistant principal must check and sign the following statement. If student is recommended with reservation, an explanation must be attached.

I recommend the above-named student. Please check one of the choices below.

Without reservation _____

With reservation _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

Please redact Social Security numbers if they still appear on student transcripts.

**If first semester grades are not available before the deadline, use the GPA for two semesters and attach a copy of the report card for the first grading period.

2023 West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts – Student Application Part II

Application must be postmarked no later than January 18, 2023

Student Name: _____

Page 5 of 5

Check to see that you have included the essay and that the pages are in the correct order (See page 3).

Mail to Jennifer Gill, West Virginia Department of Education, Building 6, Suite 750, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305.

Student Essay Directions

It has been said that the sense of community is losing ground in America—that we are no longer connected as families, schools, the places we live, or our states. Many isolate themselves with solo activities. Research shows that people who are involved with groups have a greater sense of belonging. The theme for GSA 2023 is "Home--Building Community Through the Arts." Living in a community of artists such as we do at GSA provides unique opportunities for personal and artistic growth along with diverse opportunities for collaboration.

Write a 400-500-word composition that describes the positive effect of arts in a community. Give examples of how groups in one of your communities (school, town, state) are thriving because of the arts. Use one paragraph to describe your access to the arts in your school. How might your participation in GSA make a difference? How might *you* make a difference? Type your composition using the word processor of choice, check spelling and word count, print it and attach it as the last item in your application packet. There will be a significant penalty for fewer than 350 or more than 500 words. Be sure to include a title and your name.

Remind your counselor not to staple your application. Because they are being scanned, they can have no staples. One paper clip only.