

West Virginia Governor's STEM Institute



Handbook for Students and Their Families

West Virginia University

Rising Eighth Graders

Session I

June 16 – June 24, 2022

Session II

June 25 – July 3, 2022

West Virginia Department of Education

WELCOME

Governor Jim Justice and West Virginia Department of Education are proud to present the West Virginia Governor's STEM Institute at West Virginia University. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of 96 of the state's most promising math and science students who will be 8th 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 West Virginia Department of Education. The host institution, West Virginia University, is instrumental in seeing to it that the GSI 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 STEM Institute. Participation in GSI 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 mathematics but for having the wisdom to know that GSI 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,



Dr. Ray Lowther
Director of Governor's Schools

INTRODUCTION

STUDENTS

Your attendance at a Governor's School is a challenging opportunity for you to meet and interact with other students and adults in an enriched, relaxed, academic environment where you may explore studies of particular 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 Governor's School 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 to ensure your having the best possible learning experience.

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

You will be receiving more information from GSI later, including arrival information and parent guides, via email. Therefore, please provide an accurate email that you check periodically throughout the summer months so that you do not miss any information. The email you provide on the online forms will be used to send you information.

Daily photos during GSI 2022 will be uploaded to private Facebook groups during the duration of the session. Parents will be invited to the groups using the email addresses they provide us. Parents are welcome to check this site periodically to see photos of students during the student's time at GSI.

Required Paperwork

Students/Parents will need to fill out and send in four documents before they attend GSI. These forms will be emailed to the student and parent email addresses on file. It is important to fill out these documents, scan or take pictures of the completed documents, and email them to gsi@mail.wvu.edu. The 4 documents required to be sent in are (1) the Wufoo form (information in email), (2) a copy of insurance for the student, (3) the signature form, and (4) the WVU media release form.

Student Policies

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 the Dean of Students stating the nature of the emergency and 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 will 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 in the Office of the Dean of Students, located in the Honors Office in 126 Honors Hall.
3. Families are requested not to visit during GSI so that students will have sufficient time to focus on their interaction with other Governor's School students.
4. Students may visit with the opposite gender only in the lounge areas of the residence hall. Visitation with the opposite gender in individual dorm 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 GSI. 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 GSI is in session on Sundays. Students may practice private devotion time on their own.

Medical Information

If students should require medical attention, the WVU Student Health Service is open 7:45am – 8:00pm on weekdays. At other times, emergency medical facilities are available at Ruby Memorial Hospital or local emergency care centers. **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 photocopy of the student's health care card.

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 GSI 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 of Students 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 GSI for any reason.

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

- a. Absence from campus without permission from the GSI Dean of Students;
- 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;
- 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.

Students who are determined to have violated the tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substances rule will be dismissed immediately.

Safety and Security

- Always let someone know where you are going.
- Do not play with fire equipment.
- Never loan your key to anyone for any reason.
- Be sure to travel with a friend as much as possible.
- Report any suspicious people to your resident advisor immediately.

Note: When you are on field trips, you must stay in your chaperoned group at all times. 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 dormitory. You may, however, take the phone when GSI is on an off-campus trip. Students will have an opportunity each night to call home, after the day's activities have concluded.

Living Accommodations

YOUR ROOM

1. You will be housed in Honors Hall. Each room is furnished for two students with twin XL beds, desks, chairs, dressers, under-bed storage drawers, and two large closets. Students in two rooms will share a connecting bathroom. Honors Hall has a social lounge, vending machines, and television viewing areas. The entire complex is air conditioned.
2. You may bring an iPod or MP3 player but not a television. 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 headsets or earphones 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 always be locked 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.
8. All items left in the dorm room at the conclusion of GSI will be collected and donated to a local shelter. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the student and parents to ensure that all personal belongings are removed before leaving GSI. GSI staff will not be responsible for locating and returning items left behind.

THE RESIDENCE HALL

1. While living on campus, you will be under the guidance and supervision of an experienced Dean of Students, Resident Director, 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 during the entire Governor's School.
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 GSI 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 University.

The Honors Hall has five floors, each with study rooms and TV lounges. Students live in suites, which are two double rooms connected by a shared bathroom. A courtyard, library, lounges, study rooms, and other amenities enhance the facility.

Mail is delivered to the Honors Hall daily. Outgoing mail will be picked up from the same location. Postage stamps may be purchased at the post office in the Mountainlair.

Address letters in the manner that follows:

Student's name
West Virginia Governor's STEM Institute
Honors Hall, West Virginia University
250 Second Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-6635

1. If you do not have a cell phone, a telephone will be available that may be used for calling.
2. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served on campus unless otherwise specified (field trips, special events). Hours will be announced when you arrive, and all students and staff will eat meals together.

BANKING

Students should bring some spending money for things like trips to the ice cream store or for souvenirs from trips. Students are urged to put their money in the GSI bank and simply draw out as much as they need each day.

Helpful Information

DRESS AND GROOMING

1. Dress should be casual but tasteful.
2. You will need one set of dress clothes (boys- shirt and tie; girls - dresses suitable for attendance at banquets and other special occasions).
3. For your own safety, it is required that you wear shoes at all times when not on your residence hall floor.
4. Shoes and shirts are required in the dining hall.

SPECIFIC CLOTHING YOU WILL NEED

- A variety of shirts (t-shirts, blouses, lounge shirts)
- Shorts
- Jeans/slacks
- One dressy outfit suitable for a banquet
- Tennis shoes
- Dress shoes
- Swimsuit
- Beach towel
- Sleepwear
- Rain gear
- Lightweight jacket
- Shower shoes (if desired)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING

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

- iPod or MP3 player
- Tray/Basket for toiletries
- Camera and film or memory card
- Games
- Personal sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Hair dryer
- Alarm clock
- Cosmetics/toiletries

ITEMS THAT YOU MAY NOT BRING

- Hot plate/pot
- Popcorn poppers
- Air conditioners
- Televisions
- Microwave
- Refrigerator
- Desktop computer

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I discover that I need to leave GSI 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 GSI and your team requires your full-time participation.

Q: I am in the band. May I miss GSI activities for a couple of hours each day to attend band practice?

A: You may not. Students are to attend the GSI for the entire time, including evenings and weekends.

Q: My sister is getting married. May I miss GSI for 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 GSI, you must make a choice before agreeing to attend the GSI.

Q: Can my parents visit during the GSI?

A: No, the GSI is designed as a parent-free experience so that you can be totally focused on all the activities planned for you.

Q: Will I be able to leave the campus for any reason?

A: You will only be able to leave campus for official GSI 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 GSI 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 GSI before completing the program, the student's principal and superintendent will be notified. Furthermore, the student shall *not* refer to being selected to attend the GSI 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. 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 GSI is reserved for traveling, 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. Jessica Deshler
Dean of Students

WVGSi

West Virginia University

P.O. Box 6635

Morgantown, WV 26506-6635

Phone: (304) 293-8939 or (304) 293-2100 (Honors College office)

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Information Desk at Honors Hall

Staffed 24 hours a day, every day

(304) 293-1800

After hours call (304) 293-8939 to contact our Dean of Students

Student Health Services

(304) 293-2311

Move-in begins at 12 noon on the opening day. The opening session, to which parents are invited, begins at 3 p.m. You will be notified of the opening session site upon registration. At the end of the session, students are dismissed mid-day.

**All forms are to be emailed/scanned to
GSI@mail.wvu.edu**

If issues arise with emailing/scanning forms,
please contact the staff at GSI at
gsi@mail.wvu.edu or the
Honors College Office at
(304) 293-2100