The Governor's School @ Innovation Park

A STEM INITIATIVE IN COLLABORATION WITH GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Prince William County Public Schools · Manassas City Public Schools · Manassas Park City Public Schools

2020-2021 School Profile

Jason Calhoun, Ph.D., Director

The Governor's School at Innovation Park (GS@IP) is a specialized regional center for the advanced study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, serving students in grades 11 and 12 from the Manassas Park City Public School, Manassas City Public School, and Prince William County Public School Divisions. The vision shared by GS@IP faculty and participating school divisions is to allow students to encounter a range of opportunities encouraging intellectual and academic excellence. GS@IP is a member of the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS).

Mission Statement

The mission of GS@IP is to engage students in rigorous academic study, challenge them to acquire knowledge, develop understanding, think reflectively, and take intellectual and creative risks in problem solving for the benefit of the Earth.

About GS@IP

- Established in 2010 as Virginia's 19th Academic-Year Governor's School, GS@IP is governed by a Joint Board comprised of representatives from Manassas City Public Schools, Manassas Park City Public Schools, Prince William County Public Schools and George Mason University.
- Our school is housed on George Mason University's SciTech Campus, located in Manassas, Prince William County, Virginia. Most courses are offered for college credit through dual enrollment with GMU.
- GS@IP provides a two-year partial-day program to 118 gifted and academically motivated students from three participating school divisions, including fourteen high schools. Student population is rising to 142 in 2021 and 166 in 2022.
- Students attend morning classes at The Governor's School, then return to their home school for their other required courses, electives, and extracurricular activities. This allows students to remain active at their base high schools while our program provides them with like-minded colleagues and rigorous academic courses.

Admissions

In order to attend The Governor's School, students undergo a rigorous and competitive application process. We seek college-bound students in the top 20 percent their class who are creative, self-motivated, high-achievers looking for a level of challenge in STEM-related fields beyond what is offered at most high schools.

Curriculum

All courses are taught at the Honors, AP, post-AP or dual enrollment level. The rigorous instructional design of the program focuses on learning styles of gifted and talented students and integrates strands in biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering (2021) with mathematics, concepts of engineering and technology, and laboratory research. Learning experiences focus on real-world research with mentorship opportunities in business, industry, government, and university settings. Principles of Technology and Engineering allows students to experience the engineering design process, work collaboratively and collectively with peers, as well as learn core skills utilized in all engineering disciplines.

Mentorship/Internship

The GS@IP mentorship/internship program allows students to conduct inquiry-based research and/or project development working with the support of experts from corporate, university, and government institutions throughout the metropolitan Washington D.C. area. Students are guided by mentors who are accomplished scientists, engineers or other technical professionals working at these agencies. The mentorship program provides a collaborative option for dedicated students to fulfill their required research projects. Agencies supporting student project development or research by providing mentors and/or funding have included: BAE; George Mason University College of Science and Volgenau School of Engineering; Jewell Technology Consultants; Novant Health/PW Hospital; ECS; Aerojet; Aurora Flight Sciences; Dominion Power; Lockheed Martin; Micron; Dewberry; ECS Mid-Atlantic; PWC Government; Pangea-Global; Assett, Inc.; Dewberry; SAI Engineering, AVER Technologies and Progeny Systems.

Student Research and Product Development

Student research and product development are required components of coursework at GS@IP. Students display and discuss their work at an Annual Symposium. The Symposium is held in late May at the George Mason University SciTech Campus.

Project categories include:

Animal Sciences (AS)
Biochemistry (BI)
Cellular and Molecular Biology (CB)
Chemistry (CH)
Computer Science (CS)
Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical (EE)
Materials and Bioengineering (EN)
Environmental Management (EM)
Environmental Sciences (EV)
Medicine and Health Sciences (ME)
Microbiology (MI)
Physics, Astronomy and Robotics (PH)

GS@IP student work has been awarded recognition at local, state, national and international levels including: Regional, Virginia State and International Science and Engineering Fairs; Virginia CyberChallenge; Ocean Bowl Challenge; Real World Design Challenge, International Space Olympics; NASA Real World in World, Verizon App Challenge and Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, amongst others.

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Coursework

Junior Courses

Pre-Calculus*
Calculus I/II*
Biology I/II*
Chemistry I/II*
College Physics I/II*
Principles of Technology and Engineering – options include:
- Computer Science*
- Introduction to Engineering*,**
- Inventions and Innovations

Mentorship or Independent Research*
Practicum in Engineering*,**

Senior Courses

Calculus I/II*
Multivariable Calculus* / Linear Algebra*
Microbiology* / Anatomy & Physiology*
Pre-Organic Chemistry* / Environmental Chemistry*
University Physics I/ II*,**
Statics*,**
Mechanics, Thermodynamics or Dynamics*,**
Principles of Technology and Engineering – options include
- Computer Science*
- Geomatics and Engineering Graphics*
- Inventions and Innovations
- Bioengineering*
- Computing for Scientists*

Mentorship or Independent Research*

*Course offered for dual enrollment through George Mason University.
**Engineering Thread (2021)

Grading Scale

The Governor's School @ Innovation Park and Mason use the following grading scale:

A - Excellent (90-100)
B - Above average (80-89)
C - Average (70-79)
D -Below average (60-69)
F - Failure (0-59)
I – Incomplete

Students at The Governor's School @ Innovation Park must pledge to abide by both the public school systems' Honor Codes as well as George Mason University's Honor Code.

Class Rank

Class rank is not computed or estimated at the GS@IP.

Average SAT Scores (GS@IP Class of 2020)

	Mathematics	Reading & Writing
GS@IP	715	674
Virginia	549	567
National	523	528

GS@IP - College & University Acceptance Data (Class of 2020 Data)

American University – Washington DC
Baylor University – Waco, TX
Boston University – Boston, MA
Bridgewater College – Bridgewater, VA
Carnegie Mellon University – Pittsburgh, PA
Coastal Carolina University – Conway, SC
College of Charleston – Charleston, SC
College of William & Mary – Williamsburg, VA
Columbia University – New York, NY
Cornell University – Ithaca, NY
Drexel University – Philadelphia, PA
Embry-Riddle University – Daytona Beach, FL
Florida State University – Tallahassee, FL
George Mason University – Fairfax, VA
George Washington University – Washington DC
Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) – Atlanta, GA
Howard University – Washington, DC
Indiana University – Bloomington, IN
James Madison University – Harrisonburg, VA
Montana State University – Bozeman, MT
New Jersey Institute of Technology – Newark, NJ
New York University (NYU) – New York, NY
North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC
Northern Virginia Community College
Ohio State University – Columbus, OH
Oklahoma State University – Stillwater, OK
Old Dominion University – Norfolk, VA
Pennsylvania State University – University Park, PA
Radford University – Radford, VA
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – Troy, NY
Rochester Institute of Technology – Rochester, NY
State University of New York (SUNY), Oneonta – Oneonta, NY
Stetson University – DeLand, FL
Temple University – Philadelphia, PA
Texas A&M University – College Station, TX
University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL
University of Alabama, Huntsville – Huntsville, AL
University of California, Davis – Davis, CA
University of Colorado – Boulder, CO
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – Champaign, IL
University of Lynchburg – Lynchburg, VA
University of Maryland – College Park, MD
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities – Minneapolis, MN
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, NC
University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA
University of Tampa – Tampa, FL
University of Utah – Salt Lake City, UT
University of Virginia – Charlottesville, VA
University of Washington – Seattle, WA
Virginia Military Institute – Lexington, VA
Virginia Commonwealth University – Richmond, VA
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University – Blacksburg, VA
Washington and Lee University – Lexington, VA

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