



THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
of STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Governor's Honors Program

**Instructional Descriptions
and Criteria for Selection**

2016

Guidance on Selecting GHP Nominees to the Governor’s Honors Program

The Instructional Descriptions and Criteria for Selection serve as guidance for GHP coordinators, nominators, and students. The document includes a brief instructional description and criteria for each major. Coordinators and nominating teachers should carefully consider this information as they select their student nominees. The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) strives to promote equity and fairness in the selection process for GHP candidates. GOSA strongly encourages district coordinators and nominating teachers to review the criteria for selection to gain awareness of the requirements of the state-level interview events, the characteristics of a successful GHP student, and reasonable expectations of what students learn during the program.

Successful GHP Students

Student applicants should know that selection to the Governor’s Honors Program is highly competitive. Applicants should have passion in the area of nomination, the desire to attend GHP in the summer, willingness/ability to live in a residential setting for the full length of the program, and the capacity to be fully engaged in the curriculum for the full duration of the program. This is the minimum threshold for consideration for the program. The most successful candidates have the attributes, experiences, and skills outlined in the criteria for selection found for each area of nomination.

Applicants are evaluated in the context of each individual area of nomination. However, students are also evaluated holistically in the context of the social and emotional maturity required to thrive in an intensive, residential setting. Selected students are expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

In general, successful GHP candidates:

- Synthesize information and explore the “hows and whys” to gain a deeper understanding of their area of nomination beyond the classroom and teacher expectations.
- Demonstrate intensity and passion about their area of nomination.
- Develop interests in activities that foster cooperation and humility.
- Exhibit a willingness to challenge their preconceived knowledge and expectations in their area of nomination.
- Exhibit the social and emotional maturity to interact respectfully, cooperatively, and appropriately with their peers, instructors, and program staff.

Selection Process:

Step one (district/private school nomination to the state level): The local systems/private schools nominate their students based on local criteria. District/private school level nominees should have demonstrated: creativity in academic or creative fields, superior ability in the area of nomination, and the social and emotional maturity required to thrive in an intensive, residential setting for the duration of the program.

Step two (students submit an online application): District/private school level students will be notified of their nomination by the GHP office and guided to an online application website which will provide the specific criteria for each area of nomination. Each application must include all of the required components and should be fully completed. Successful GHP applicants will possess an online application that includes: strong support from their nominating teacher and school counselor; clear, well-written responses that demonstrate the applicant's motivation to attend GHP; and a strong response to the GHP required task/assignment that demonstrates giftedness and/or talent necessary to excel and enjoy GHP. A strong written response should be well organized, demonstrate correct sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and paragraphing, and address the question(s). Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Step three (semi-finalist invitation to the state level interview/audition): Students' applications will be scored by area of nomination. Semi-finalists will be chosen in each area of nomination and invited to attend the state level interview/audition via email. Academic and non-academic questions will be explored in a non-threatening environment. Students may also participate in a performance task (written examination, oral examination, artistic demonstration/audition, debate simulation, etc.) during the state level interview. Specific instructions will be provided in advance to those invited to interview.

Step four (finalist selection): Finalists are chosen and notified by the GHP office. It is the responsibility of the finalists; applicants who are offered admission to the summer program, to formally accept or decline the offer via the application interface.

GHP AREAS OF NOMINATION

Agriculture Science

Communicative Arts

Dance

Engineering (Students must be nominated in one subarea: Design, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering/Mechatronics, and Software Engineering.)

Mathematics

Music (Instruments and Vocal)

Science

Social Studies

Theatre (Performance and Design)

Visual Arts

World Languages (Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish)

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Agricultural Science department is designed to provide outstanding students with a comprehensive contemporary program of research based agricultural science education for the career bound agriculture student. Students gain knowledge through supervised agricultural experiences and exploration of topics in soils, hydrology, forestry, natural resources, as well as biotechnology for plants, animals, and the environment. Activities are organized around ways people are likely to encounter environmental science or agricultural science biotechnology (such as the roles of a technician, consumer, food producer, etc.). Students are provided opportunities to practice research, mathematical, laboratory, and communication skills.

By the end of the program, students will have an increased understanding of the complex biological, physical, and socio-economic factors that shape agricultural systems and various agricultural science professions (e.g., the roles of a technician, researcher, food producer, etc.).

Topics of study have included:

Soils and Hydrology

Forest Science

Wildlife Management

Natural Resources

Conservation Management

Environmental Issues

Urban and Community Forestry

Environmental Science and Stewardship

Fundamentals of Agricultural Biotechnology

Agricultural Biotechnology and Its Uses

Genetics and Agricultural Biotechnology

Microbiology and Agricultural Biotechnology

Biochemistry and Agricultural Biotechnology

Laboratory Techniques and Procedures

Crop and Ornamental Horticulture Applications of Biotechnology

Biotechnology Applications in Animal Production

Biotechnology and the Environment

Food Science Applications of Biotechnology

Criteria for Selection

GHP Agricultural Science applicants should have a high level of enthusiasm, knowledge and awareness of the current state of agricultural science in terms of applied research, public policy, and/or agribusiness. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong academic record in agricultural science, biotechnology, and/or a directly related course if no agriculture courses are offered in the student’s school.
Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory experience and safety skills. • Understanding of environmental science, biotechnology, knowledge of the agriculture industry, including products, production, uses and current issues. Students should exude a desire for learning and the ability to “push the boundaries” in regard to all areas of agriculture. • Research, laboratory experience, and safety skills. • Capable of thriving in a group study environment and approaching new agricultural science-based inquiries in a positive and receptive manner.
Interest Level:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong candidates will have a noticeable love for agriculture and environmental science demonstrated through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., independent research, urban or community gardens, membership in 4-H, Future Farmers of America, or other Agriscience organizations, and related work and/or volunteer experiences).
Interview Expectations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-finalists in agricultural science will participate in an individual interview. A portion of the interview involves a topic review. Students will select an agricultural practice or environmental issue that is impactful and of interest. Students should be prepared to present the selected topic during the individual interviews, including specific sources, facts, and knowledge gained through research conducted in preparation for the state level interview. • Students should clearly identify and define the agricultural practice or the pros and cons of solutions of the environmental issue chosen, and discuss how the agricultural practice or environmental issue impacts a home, farm, or community. • Strong candidates will exhibit sufficient preparation, a command of facts and knowledge, confidence in articulating the issue, impacts, and their interest in the topic.

COMMUNICATIVE ARTS

Instructional Description

The Governor’s Honors Program Communicative Arts department offers an intense exploration of the various components comprising the communicative arts. Specific content stretches beyond those topics found in the typical Georgia high school curriculum by exposing students to new and contemporary texts, more obscure classical texts, and teaching students new ways to interact with texts they may encounter in the future.

Courses are designed and taught by various instructors. Each week, an instructor teaches an “experience,” which consists of 11 hours of seat time with some outside reading and individual writing by each student after class hours. Coursework involves student led as well as instructor led discussion, debate, journaling, collaborative creativity (e.g. improvisation, slam poetry, comedy), and performance. Students have opportunities to produce written or performative responses (personal, creative, and analytical) to the course texts. Students are encouraged to try many new styles of writing, composition, and read many new genres and forms. By the end of each course experience, students should have achieved a new way of interacting with a text and understanding of the work’s relationship to other texts and the world to which it belongs.

Topics of study have included:

The study of post-structural critical theories and their application in the reading of a variety of texts
The study of the aspects of the English language, including linguistics
The study of literary ideologies including modernism and postmodernism
The study of the impact of race, class, and gender on literature and life
The composition and performance of literary works, including poems
The examination of popular culture and the nature of media and media literacy
The extended analysis of nontraditional school literature, specific genre fiction, and film
The interdisciplinary nature of literature and art

Criteria for Selection

GHP Communicative Arts applicants should have passion for literature and be able to respond critically to literature and media as well as thrive in a discussion-oriented environment as an active participant. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

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- Academic Record:**
- Strong academic record preferred.
 - Prior coursework in 9th and 10th grade language arts is required. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate level courses can be beneficial in preparation for the summer program but are not required.

Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to reading and writing beyond the classroom and “popular” fiction. • Analytical and synthesis skills, strong communication skills (written and verbal), and willingness to explore various media of communication (e.g. theatre, art, literature). • Strong candidates will have an appreciation and knowledge for the literary canon and canonical authors. They will also be able, and eager, to deal with unfamiliar and ambiguous texts, and new formats and genres.
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Interest in the area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated interest in communicative arts through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., school newspaper, literary magazine, yearbook, theatre, independent research, blogging, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences). • Students should genuinely enjoy discussion and exploration of various media of communication (e.g., theatre, art, literature).
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Interview Expectations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-finalists in Communicative Arts will participate in an individual interview and will complete a writing sample based on a literary/media excerpt or selection that will be provided in a monitored classroom.

DANCE

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Dance department goals are defined through three main objectives:

- Instructional audition preparation for the dancer through various styles of dance,
- Personal interaction with a variety of teachers, choreographers and other dancers, and
- Expansion of student ideas of what defines a dancer and awareness of individual goals.

Students participate in four categories to meet the dance program objectives and to expand their knowledge and technical level of dance, aesthetic judgment, definition of dance, and their interpersonal skills.

Daily Technique Classes in Ballet, Pointe, Modern, Jazz and Improvisation are taught by faculty, guest teachers and students.

Choreography encourages students to develop their own artistic statements through improvisation and rehearsed performance pieces.

Performance Skills are developed through daily rehearsals, open rehearsals, Ballet lecture/demonstrations, improvisation, and concerts during the final week of the program.

Dance History is presented through lecture/discussions, videos, films, student research, presentations to the class of various dancers/choreographers, actual reconstruction of period dances and student choreography of Folk dances.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Dance applicants should have a firm Ballet foundation, strong technique and artistry in their primary style of dance, be self-driven, open-minded, and motivated to pursue a life in dance. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:

- Strong academic record is preferred.

Skills:

- Flexibility and at least two years of technical training in Ballet. This includes, Barre, Adagio, Petite Allegro, and Grande Allegro.
- Students must be able to cope with a demanding practice and performance schedule.
- Strong candidates will have an open mind along with a passion and willingness to explore a variety of approaches to dance. They will

execute the following skills on both the right and left with superior technique: Tendu, Splits, Double Pirouette, Leaps, Leg Extensions, Arabesques, Fouettes, Turns a La Seconde, Developpe, and Grande Battements.

- Previous experience in Pointe work is encouraged but not required.

Interest in the area:

- Demonstrated interest in dance through relevant extracurricular activities, artistry, and knowledge of dance (e.g., participation in dance intensive camps, competition and convention training, master classes and dance performance clinics, independent study, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).

**Interview
Expectations:**

- Semi-finalists should arrive in good shape, free from injury or illness and ready to work hard in a fast paced environment.
- Semi-finalists are required to participate in a performance class and an individual interview.
- Semi-finalists must wear appropriate attire to audition and do not need to bring a change of clothing for the interview portion.
- Female students must dress in a solid color leotard and pink stirrup or footless tights. Female semi-finalists should bring pink ballet shoes and jazz shoes (No Pointe shoes). Male students must dress in a solid color leotard and black or gray stirrup or footless tights. Male semi-finalists should bring black ballet shoes and jazz shoes. In every instance, hair should be securely fastened away from face and neck.

ENGINEERING

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Engineering department involves using design, equipment, and software to conceptualize, create, analyze, and market effective solutions to engineering problems. Although students interview for only one of three subareas (Design, Mechanical/Mechatronics, or Software), they are introduced to professional practices in all three subareas at the beginning of the summer. During the first week, each instructor teaches the fundamentals of his/her discipline to rotating groups. In the second week, students "specialize" in the area for which they interviewed, learning a more focused set of skills and techniques. Students devote the remaining two weeks to group projects, working in small teams to prototype a new invention. Teams consist of one student from each subarea (Design, Mechanical/Mechatronics, Software), allowing students to be experts in their area as they work toward a mutual goal.

GHP Design involves planning and developing a project through industrial or graphic design using a variety of methods, including CAD and 3D modeling.

GHP Mechanical and Electrical Engineering or "Mechatronics" involves planning and developing a project through mechanical and electrical engineering.

GHP Software Engineering involves planning and developing a project through computer software using a variety of software packages.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Engineering applicants should have manual dexterity, creativity, and abstract thinking abilities. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:

- Strong academic record is preferred.
- Prior coursework in robotics, video production, mechatronics, design, engineering, and/or programming related courses is recommended. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate level courses can be beneficial in preparation for the summer program but are not required.

Skills:

- Genuine interest and high motivation to learn.
- True dedication and love of their area of nomination.
- Willingness and capable (expectation) to work in a team setting.
- Ability to work in a fast paced, sometimes stressful environment.

- Ability to meet deadlines.
- Strong candidates will have project, problem solving, design, or research experience developing a product in the subarea in which they are nominated.

Interest in the area: ● Strong candidates will demonstrate interest in engineering beyond the classroom through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., coding or programming; developing applications; involvement in robotics club, competition team; and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).

Interview Expectations:

- Semi-finalist in Engineering will participate in an individual interview with a portfolio review portion.
- The Engineering portfolio must include examples (pictures, drawings, etc.) of the student's interests and work products in engineering (design, mechanical/mechatronics, or software).
- Portfolios may also be presented on a device or electronic medium (i.e. mobile phone, tablet, or laptop) as long as the device does not exceed laptop size. Projectors are not necessary and will not be permitted. Semi-finalists should be mindful that electronic portfolios or demonstrations must fit within the interview time limits. GOSA cannot guarantee that internet access (e.g. Wi-Fi) will be available at the interview site.

MATHEMATICS

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Mathematics department broadens students' exposure to various branches of mathematics. Students have the opportunity to select three content courses from several different options. Courses are tailored to reflect the diversity of both students and of mathematics, and to offer challenges to students within their knowledge base. Topics range from computer programming to proof oriented courses to application oriented courses, but they are all concentrated on techniques of problem solving.

Coursework involves small group work, large group work, cooperative projects and individual effort. Students solve problems in cooperative, collaborative efforts, explain solutions to one another, present their research, and formulate new problems. Students also have the opportunity to develop a research project addressing a mathematics question of their own choosing.

By the end of the program, students will have an increased understanding of the breadth of mathematics, awareness of the place of mathematics in their world, and the ability and confidence to attempt previously unknown or difficult problems.

Topics of study have included:

Programming
Polynomials
Complex Number
CS Nuggets
Number Theory, Graph theory, set theory
Sequences and Series
Mathematical Challenges
Weird Math
Problem Solving
Cryptology
Counting is Fun (arrangements and permutations)
Proof Techniques
Algebra
Matrix Analysis

Criteria for Selection

GHP Mathematics applicants should have an intense interest in mathematics, be highly inquisitive, and enjoy learning new mathematical concepts and applications. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong candidates typically possess a 3.5 GPA or higher and have scored in the 80th percentile or higher on at least one standardized exam (PSAT, SAT, or ACT). ● Prior coursework in Geometry, Algebra, and/or Trigonometry is recommended. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate level courses can be beneficial in preparation for the summer program but are not required.
Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong analytical skills, determination, and curiosity about real-world mathematics applications. ● Ability to reason creatively and independently. ● Appreciation for a wide variety of mathematics.
Interest in the area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong candidates will demonstrate interest in mathematics beyond the classroom through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., math club, academic team, Mu Alpha Theta, independent study, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).
Interview Expectations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Semi-finalists in Mathematics will participate in an individual interview and are evaluated on a variety of factors, inclusive of, but not limited to, interest, ability, and desire to learn.

MUSIC (All Instruments and Vocal)

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Music department consists of seven areas – piano, vocal, strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion, and jazz. The curriculum is performance oriented and emphasizes ensemble skills. Ensembles range in size from duets and trios to large groups such as orchestra, wind ensemble, and mixed choir. Students interested in GHP music must excel in their performance medium.

Students learn about elements of musical theory, analysis, criticism, history and aesthetics in an artistic and supportive environment. Students are afforded several recital and concert opportunities in which to display the results of their studies. Students have the opportunity to participate in a weekly rotation of enrichment courses designed to expose the student to different facets within the field of music, including: conducting, music theory, history of jazz, and survey of 20th century music. Students also participate in final projects, such as a multitude of solo or ensemble performances.

Opportunities for students usually include:

Practicing/rehearsing individually and in ensembles directed by students and/or faculty.

Performing in both formal and informal settings.

Co-developing performance projects with other majors (music and dance, music and art).

Analyzing and critiquing music repertoire from antiquity to the present day.

Attending concerts presented by other students.

Engaging in creation of music through improvisation and composition.

By the end of the program, students will have established a basis for understanding how to study, prepare and perform music in a variety of styles and settings. They will be familiar with standard literature for their voice or instrument, be able to demonstrate in performance the historical context and formal structure in the standard literature of each period, and will have increased skills in tone production and technique needed to perform this progressive literature at a standard acceptable level.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Music applicants should be motivated to improve their performance technique, musical abilities, and hone their self-reflective criticism to prepare for a collegiate program of study. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:

- Strong academic record is preferred. Student should have completed prior coursework or be currently enrolled in at least one music ensemble (or have received sufficient instruction) for consideration as a finalist.

Skills:

- Strong instrument/vocal performance skills.
- Experience playing in groups as well as playing solo.
- Extremely skilled at sight-reading.

- Students **must** be able to cope with a **demanding practice and performance schedule**.
- Strong candidates are positive self-starters who are able to work toward independent mastery in a short time frame. They are comfortable working with others in group environments, be able to adequately and honestly self-assess. They will also have strong sight reading skills and overall musicianship.
- Semi-finalists in Music **Vocal** must:
 - Possess the prerequisite vocal skills to be selected for participation in honors choruses - all state honors chorus, district honors chorus, or a school honors chorus.
 - Have a solid foundation of vocal technique, performance, and sight-reading skills at a level higher than average.

Interest in the area:

- Strong candidates have visible evidence of motivation and curiosity that drives their interest in participating in musical opportunities outside of those in the regular school day. (e.g., youth orchestra, youth band, jazz band, garage band, ensemble, glee club, chorus, etc.).
- Interested in learning about music in a more in-depth manner than the average student.
- The most successful candidates constantly strive for improvement, are willing to try something new or different, and respond well to instruction, criticism, praise, and adversity.

**Interview
Expectations:**

- Semi-finalists must be able to articulate their particular goals, are able to play their selection in tune, and can sight-read with excellent technique at a level higher than average.
- Semi-finalists should be able to be specific about constructive criticism, techniques, and topics they have learned in music class and/or lessons, and be able to self-identify areas for growth in their performance and technique.

SCIENCE

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Science department provides experiences that challenge students to develop further the Characteristics of Science embodied in the Georgia Performance Science Process Standards (SCSh 1-9). The curriculum introduces students to laboratory experiences similar to those encountered by college students taking sophomore/junior level courses, and includes a research project. Typically students take week-long courses in topics such as, extraction, synthesis, and physics-based engineering, while developing and honing their laboratory and problem-solving skills in preparation for collegiate level research.

Students are expected to work together on projects and presentations employing the concepts and methods learned in the program through guided instruction. All students are encouraged to move beyond what they already know, or have accomplished, and to explore new, unknown territories of thought and investigation. Primary investigations will be confined to topics pre-selected by the staff for which the required equipment, resources, and supplies are available.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Science applicants should demonstrate academic excellence in the sciences, be able to analyze data, develop reasonable scientific explanations, and communicate scientific investigations and information clearly. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Note: Although participation in science fairs, clubs, etc., may support evidence of the skills found in a strong candidate, a citation alone is not a sufficient demonstration of the criteria for selection. Similarly, teachers are encouraged to nominate students they believe to be gifted and talented in the sciences even if traditional forms of recognition are not present.

Academic Record:

- Prior coursework in at least one semester or one academic year of Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy, Ecology, Physics and/or a related science-based subject is required. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate level courses can be beneficial in preparation for the summer but are not required.
- Strong candidates demonstrate academic excellence in the sciences, possessing clear understanding of vocabulary, concepts, theories, and principles of biology, chemistry, and physics in particular.

Skills:

- Capable of thriving in a self-directed group study environment and approaching new science-based inquiries in a positive and receptive manner to solve a problem.
- Possess the adaptability and flexibility to cope with and overcome

obstacles to arrive at a resolution.

Interest in the area:

- Demonstrate genuine curiosity about the natural world and the behaviors observed in the laboratory and beyond.
- Strong candidates utilize classroom material and apply research skills to current events and topics as extensions of their learning.
- Strong candidates have demonstrated interest in the subject area beyond the classroom through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., First Robotics Competition (FRC), First Tech Challenge (FTC), Science Olympiad, science fair, Fernbank summer and after school programs, independent study, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).

Interview

Expectations:

- Semi-finalists are assessed on their interest in science and ability to make connections based on evidence, analytical reasoning, and prior knowledge.
- Semi-finalists participate in a group data analysis session followed by an individual interview.
- Strong candidates excel in interpreting graphs, analyzing data, and making inferences to draw conclusions and are able to discuss their findings during the interview portion. They can also convey knowledge and/or awareness of current scientific and technologically related topics, discoveries, and research.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Social Studies department integrates social science disciplines and emphasizes creating and analyzing responses and solutions to global, political, and social problems and crises. Courses are designed and taught by various instructors. The course topics are selected by each instructor with the following guidelines: the topics are ones not covered in the Georgia High School social studies curriculum and/or topics that are barely touched upon by the Georgia High School social studies curriculum. Instructors are encouraged to consider simulations, Socratic style discussions, role playing, debates and other similar activities. Students have the opportunity to develop a research project under the supervision of their instructors.

Activities students engage in include primary historical research, role playing, small and large group work, simulations, debates and writing activities. Students must become adept at quick, in-depth research and how to use it in various activities. They are often called on to assume roles and viewpoints that are quite different from their own, enabling them to stretch and approach issues, problems or concerns from different perspectives in order to consider multiple solutions/responses to an existing situation.

By the end of the program, students will be able to confidently articulate, support, and illustrate an academic or political point with both peers and adults.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Social Studies applicants should have a strong desire to learn about the relationships among individuals, institutions, and society. They should enjoy learning about politics and government, understanding various viewpoints, and becoming a responsible consumer of information. They are open-minded, inquisitive, creative, and respectful. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:

- Strong academic record in social studies, political science, and/or civics focused courses is required. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate level courses can be beneficial in preparation for the summer but are not required.

Skills:

- Strong analytical skills and the ability to think and reason creatively and independently.
 - Staying abreast of a wide variety of current geopolitical topics, officials, policies, and viewpoints.
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Interest in the area:

- Demonstrate interest in the topics beyond classroom curriculum and assignments through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., Model UN, debate team, history day or social studies competitions, mock legislature, mock trial, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).

Interview Expectations:

- Semi-finalists will participate in an individual interview and a 15-20 minute simulation that will test the applicant’s knowledge of current events, platforms, and policies as they answer questions that are based on social studies topics and issues while representing a specific assigned role/persona.
- Topic areas that may be focus areas are posted in advance of the final interview. Specific roles are assigned to applicants the day of the final interview.
- Applicants are evaluated on their research, preparation, flexibility, and ability to analyze and reason. A strong interview candidate will be confident and courteous.

THEATRE

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Theatre department introduces students to nontraditional approaches to character and ensemble development with the anticipated results that the students will gain enriched acting skills, resources, and exhibit a deeper commitment to the process (not the product). Theatre coursework is conducted within an ensemble-oriented environment where students are encouraged to stretch themselves, take creative-choice risks and support others as they do the same. Students will experience the integration of all functions of the theatrical process by identifying the connections between audience, actor, director, designer, construction crew, stage manager, backstage crew, and playwright. The most common vehicle for the education process is improvisation (followed by feedback from peers and instructors) and the hands-on experiences provided by public performances throughout the entire program.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Theatre applicants should have an open mind, the capacity to be a part of an ensemble, and a passion and willingness to explore a variety of approaches to acting. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Strong academic record is preferred.
Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Demonstrate superior level of dramatic understanding, characterization, script analysis, diction, and clarity of communication.● Ability to analyze and interpret text and theatrical work in order to create and convey a fully-realized three-dimensional person, character, or setting.
Interest in the area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Genuine interest in theatre demonstrated by pursuit of theatrical opportunities (e.g., dance training, acting or voice coaching, independent research, design or writing, and work-related or volunteer-related experiences).

**Interview
Expectations:**

- Semi-finalists with an emphasis on **performance** only are required to participate in a(n):
 - Group improvisation class.
 - Cold read provided at the time of the audition.
 - Individual interview.
- For the prepared monologue, semi-finalists (with an emphasis on **performance** only) must:
 - Select material appropriate for his/her age and experience.
 - Avoid accents, dialects, or stylized characters.
 - Dress neatly and comfortably (no torn jeans, flip-flops, or t-shirts).
- Semi-finalists with an emphasis on **design** only are required to participate in:
 - An individual interview to present his/her design portfolio and assigned script review. The portfolio presentation will consist of the student discussing his/her original work and the process used in developing it, and an assigned script review.
- Student Portfolio Contents (for those with an emphasis on theatre **design** only):
 - One (1) finished color set design sketch or three (3) finished color costume plates for a play, musical, or performance piece in which the student has not been involved.
 - No fewer than three (3) rough sketches for the above design(s), showing how the student's finished work developed. The sketches may be in a notebook or be loose.
 - Photos of a set, costume, or property that the student has built or worked on (but not necessarily designed).
 - One (1) other example of the student's interest and ability in the design area. This example can be photographs, sketches, set elevations, set models, prop designs, lighting plots, ground plans/construction drawings, etc.
 - As part of the portfolio, the student should bring articles, photos, drawings, reviews, etc., of at least three (3) different designs for either August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone or Moises Kaufman's The Laramie Project. The student should be prepared to discuss how the different designs vary in concept as well as visuals. The student should also be able to discuss their personal concept for the selected play.

- For example, if the assigned script had been Becket's Waiting for Godot, then the student might find a production set in a very realistic abandoned bus station, one set in a circus with clowns as characters or done as a puppet show.

VISUAL ARTS

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program Visual Arts department is primarily studio oriented. Students are introduced to different media, techniques, styles, and conceptual ideas that are not normally presented in most Georgia high schools. New ideas and challenging concepts in the visual arts are important parts of the instructional program. A spirit of experimentation and risk taking is promoted by encouraging students to venture into unfamiliar territory.

During the first week of the program, students are introduced to ceramics, drawing, painting, design, sculpture, and mixed media through rotational courses. Instructors introduce areas to students at an entry level, and alter difficulty based on individual knowledge. Students also learn from a visiting artist in an intense three-day workshop in which they experiment with new techniques and have an opportunity to interact with the artist one-on-one. Students continue working on projects started during the week of rotations, and begin working on a new body of work based on concepts, styles, philosophies, or material explorations. Each student develops a portfolio of artworks demonstrating breadth and depth of individual ideas to be submitted for a juried exhibition. An independent judge will select student artwork for exhibit. GHP students, under the supervision of the art instructors, will install all of the selected works in an art gallery. An art opening reception will be held for the GHP community to appreciate.

By the end of the program, students will be more aware of the wide variety of media, techniques and concepts that make up the visual arts today. Students will have obtained a positive art experience that promotes visual expression free of prejudice, stereotypes, and preconceived notions of the visual arts. They will have had the opportunity to challenge, search, and question the idea of art.

Criteria for Selection

GHP Visual Arts applicants should have a strong desire to explore the various areas of visual arts. They possess superior drawing and creative skills, view every assignment as an opportunity, persevere through failure, and take artistic, creative risks aimed at expanding their skills in different media and styles of art. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Academic Record:

- Strong academic record is preferred.
- Prior coursework in visual arts or art related courses (e.g. drawing, painting, ceramics and sculpture, woodshop, photography) can be beneficial in preparation for the summer but is not required.

Skills:

- Superior artistic abilities and adequate knowledge of visual arts vocabulary, basic concepts, and techniques (e.g., color, shape, texture, and scale; and major arts of painting, sculpture, and architecture).
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- Strong candidates possess problem solving skills and are willing to experiment and extend concepts beyond basic level.

Interest in the area:

- Possess a sincere interest in visual arts demonstrated through relevant extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., sketchbook, web design, yearbook, photography, artist portfolio, independent study, illustrations or writing, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).

Interview

Expectations:

- Semi-finalists in visual arts will participate in a two-part selection process including (1) an art portfolio interview where they present their art portfolio and (2) a written visual arts exam.
- Successful applicants only present their strongest artistic work, present a variety of art pieces, and meet the recommended number of pieces.
- The portfolio requirements include:
 - Three (3) drawings.
 - Two (2) color works.
 - (Optional) one (1) three-dimensional work.
 - No more than 13 pieces. Recommended 9 to 13 of the strongest pieces of work.
- The selections should demonstrate the student's understanding of composition and principles of design.
 - Unity
 - Balance
 - Repetition
 - Variety
 - Emphasis
 - Proportion
 - Rhythm
 - Figure-ground relationship
 - Scale

WORLD LANGUAGES

Instructional Description

The Governor's Honors Program World Languages department provides a daily immersion program in which students experience different aspects of the culture of the target language. The emphasis of the modern languages (French, German, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish) is to develop further proficiency in all language skills. In Latin, students translate advanced authentic texts and create their own advanced-level materials in the target language.

Student activities include formal and informal communication in modern languages. In Latin, students examine the practical aspects of Latin today and often use texts to develop skills, including translating, composition and the study of classical civilization during the major area, as well as some practice of spoken Latin. All language students present topics of discussion for interaction with other students.

By the end of the program, all language students will have developed a much higher degree of confidence, an increased fluency in their language of study, and will have become better equipped to function independently in any situation which involves the target language. Through exposure to the peoples of the countries studied, the students will also gain a much better understanding of other cultures as well as their own.

Criteria for Selection

GHP World Languages applicants should have a strong commitment to intensive study in the target language. They possess excellent oral language skills, creativity, and appreciation for history and culture. Students are also expected to demonstrate integrity and respect for others at all times during their participation in the program. This includes full participation in all aspects of the program and adherence to all rules, regulations, and expectations as set forth and interpreted by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Note: Any student whose native language is Chinese, French, German, or Spanish will not be allowed to participate in his/her language area at the Governor's Honors Program. For GHP purposes, a student is considered a native speaker of a particular language if one or more of the following is true:

- If the foreign language is the usual means of communication with either parent in the home.
- If the student has lived and attended school in the foreign country (not including American schools or military schools) for three or more consecutive years within the past five years, and the student exhibits native fluency.
- If the student has lived and attended school in the foreign country (not including American schools or military schools) for four or more years at any time in his or her academic career, and the student exhibits native fluency.

A student who falls into any of the aforementioned categories and has not been eliminated at the system level will be eliminated by the state interview team.

Academic Record:

- Strong academic record preferred and specific proficiency in the target language is required.
- At minimum, the student should be currently enrolled or have already taken the target language class at the second-year level or above.
- Strong world languages candidates will possess an A average in the last three semesters of their target language class and should have completed at least target language honors class in good standing or Advanced Placement class (if available).
- The most successful **Latin** candidates have typically completed or been enrolled in third-year level Latin or higher.

Skills:

- Possess specific knowledge of the culture and history of target language speaking peoples (e.g. ancient Roman culture, sports, major works of art, literature, etc.)
- Understand the majority of face-to-face speech in the standard target language dialect when spoken at a normal rate with occasional repetition.
- Strong candidates will be able to fully participate in casual conversation with a somewhat intelligible accent.
- Strong candidates possess skills of collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and adaptability. They have excellent listening, reading, and writing skills in the target language. They preview, prepare, participate, and perform in the target language to the best of their ability.
- **Listening skills/Oral Comprehension:**
Comprehend questions dealing with short recording, pictures, personal attributes, and motivation to attend GHP.
- **Reading skills:**
Comprehend questions dealing with written documents or visual prompts on everyday life, culture, historic events of the target language.
- Strong candidates in **Latin** have proficiency in comprehending and/or translating authentic, unadapted Latin text.
- **Speaking:**
 - Show ability to use the target language orally in an interview and in writing.

- Show ability in guided conversation, exchanging information, and role play.
- Strong candidates are able to describe an event or personal experience in the target language with proper pronunciation and are comfortable with impromptu conversation and reasoning about everyday life, culture, historic events related to the target language.

Interest in the area:

- Displays sincere motivation to use the target language.
- Presents evidence of study, reading or creative activities beyond the classroom through extracurricular activities and pursuits (e.g., Junior Classical League, language or culture clubs, independent reading, independent study, academic competition team, summer programs, experiences with native speakers, and work and/or volunteer-related experiences).

**Interview
Expectations:**

- All language students will be assessed on their ability to read, write, and pronounce their target language, as well as their passion for and knowledge of the target language speaking cultures.
- **Chinese, French, German, and Spanish:**
 - Semi-finalists in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish will participate in an individual interview conducted in the target language and a writing sample in the targeted language. A portion of the interview will consist of oral language picture prompts or listening and reading comprehension exercises.
- **Latin:**
 - Semi-finalists in Latin will participate in an individual interview conducted in English and a written examination. A portion of the interview will consist of picture identification where students will be asked to identify and/or explain the cultural or historical significance of a set of pictures (usually 3 of 5). The written examination will require students to read an authentic Latin passage, answer reading comprehension questions in English, and complete a writing sample in Latin.