



# THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## 2009 Graduating Class Profile

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### *Community*

The Governor's School for Science and Technology (GSST) serves the approximately 490,000 residents of the Virginia peninsula, reaching from the Chesapeake Bay to the historic Williamsburg area. The region is home to NASA Langley Research Center, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, Northrop Grumman Newport News, Canon Virginia, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Hampton University, The College of William and Mary, Christopher Newport University, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and installations of all branches of the United States Military.

### *High School*

Founded in 1985, the GSST is one of 19 Governor's Schools in Virginia that serve as regional magnet programs for gifted students. It provides high-achieving students with advanced courses in math, science, and technology along with a rigorous grounding in research methodology and a community of their peers. Students are drawn from 21 high schools in seven school divisions (Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg-James City County, York County, Gloucester County, and Isle of Wight County) and spend approximately half of their school day (3.25 hours) at the GSST. In addition, all seniors conduct an Honors Research/Mentorship project outside school hours.

### *Faculty*

The rigor of the GSST program stems from the exceptionally strong math and science backgrounds of its faculty members. All hold degrees in mathematics, science, or computer science; seven hold masters degrees and five hold doctorate degrees.

### *Curriculum*

All courses are taught at a college level and many are accredited as dual enrollment courses by local colleges. Curricula promote active scientific learning through extensive laboratory investigations which incorporate advanced scientific technologies. Communication skills are developed through multimedia presentations to peers and professionals.

### *Admissions*

**The admissions process** is a competitive one based on mathematics and science achievement, teacher recommendations, and standardized test scores.



The Governor's School at New Horizons is a current member and a founding member of the *National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology* (NCSSMST).

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## 27 Seniors

### National Merit Honors

Finalist .....2    Commended .....7

### SAT I Scores

#### GSST Mean SAT Scores

Critical Reading..... 630

Math.....672

Total.....1302

#### Virginia Mean Scores

Critical Reading..... 512

Math.....513

Total.....1025

#### National Mean Scores

Critical Reading..... 503

Math.....518

Total.....1021

### Class Rank at the Students' Home High Schools

Valedictorians                      4 students

Salutatorians                        3 students

78% of the seniors are in the top 10% of their class

### College Acceptances

Scholarships Earned: \$2,336,561.00

Boston U	1	Georgia Tech	4	Rensselaer Polytech	1
Cedarville U	1	Hampton U	1	St. Johns U	2
Clark Atlanta U	1	Hood College	1	Stanford U	1
Clemson U	1	James Madison U	6	Texas A & M	2
Christopher Newport U	3	Johns Hopkins U	1	Tulane U	1
C Charleston	3	Johnson & Wales	1	U California LA	1
C William & Mary	6	Liberty University	2	U California SD	1
Carnegie Mellon U	1	Longwood U	1	U California SB	1
Concord U	1	Mary Baldwin C	1	U Chicago	2
Drexel University	2	Mercer U	1	U Maryland	4
Eckard College	1	Morehouse College	1	U Mary Washington	3
Embry-Riddle U	1	New College Florida	1	U North Carolina	3
Ferrum U	3	New York University	1	U Philadelphia	1
Florida Inst Tech	1	North Carolina St U	3	U Richmond	2
Florida St U	2	Ohio State University	1	U Virginia	20
George Mason U	1	Old Dominion U	8	VA Commonwealth U	5
Georgetown U	1	Polytechnic NYC	1	Virginia Tech	28
George Washington U	1	Randolph-Macon	1	Worcester Polytech	1

# Program of Study

*Course Offerings* All offerings are college level courses.

## **Science Courses:**

Biology/Chemistry (2 courses)  
Physics I  
Physics II  
Environmental Science  
Scientific Programming I  
Scientific Programming II

## **Mathematics Courses:**

Pre-calculus  
AP Calculus BC  
Statistics  
Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra

## **Research Courses**

Research Methods and Ethics  
Honors Research and Mentorship (2 courses; 5 hours per week with mentor)

# Honors Research and Mentorship Program

## ***Program Description***

A primary goal of the GSST is to provide students with an opportunity to conduct serious scientific research. All students take a junior year course in Research Methods and Ethics, which introduces them to research methodology, statistics, critical thinking skills, and skills of scientific writing and presentation. In their senior year, students design and conduct a year-long research project under the direction of a scientific professional in the community. The field component is supported by an in-school course which guides students through the entire process, from the selection of a problem to the final presentation.

## ***The Project***

The research project begins with a formal written proposal and culminates in an oral presentation to professionals in the field. In addition, many students have presented their findings at local, regional, and national science competitions and symposia. A small number of students have even had papers published in professional journals.

## ***Research Sites***

Research sites that have participated in the GSST Honors Research/Mentorship program have included NASA Langley Research Center, Thomas Jefferson National Acceleration Facility, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Hampton University, Christopher Newport University, Virginia Living Museum, local engineering firms, hospitals, and a variety of individual medical and professional firms.

### ***Extracurricular Activities***

In addition to its academic offerings, the GSST offers students the opportunity to participate in a number of extracurricular activities and competitions. Highlights of the 2008-09 school year were a trip to Costa Rica's Scientific Research Centers and participation by a GSST team in the Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Competition in Los Angeles. The Construction Challenge team also distinguished itself, placing 1st and 3rd in the Regional competition. In addition to these national competitions, students competed successfully in the Great Computer Challenge at Old Dominion University and a regional mathematics contest at Christopher Newport University. Students competed successfully in the Virginia Junior Academy of Science, state, local and national Science Fairs, NCSSSMST Student Conference and Symposia, Young Epidemiology Scholars Competition, and a variety of other academic challenge competitions.

## **Contact Information**

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