

Setting the Pace for Excellence in Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Extracurricular Activities

In addition to its academic offerings, SWVGS offers students the opportunity to participate in a number of extracurricular activities and competitions. Highlights of previous years include two research trips to Barrow, Alaska for Arctic research, and the International Space Olympics in Moscow, Russia. Students have participated in the Regional, State, and International levels of Science and Engineering Fairs. Students also competed successfully in the Virginia Junior Academy of Science, attended the NCSSSMST student research symposia, Governor's Schools' Capitol Day in Richmond, VA, and the American Geophysical Union Conference in San Francisco, CA. Additionally, students participated in many math and computer science competitions such as the Virginia Mathematics League, the American Mathematics Competition, and the Deloitte Virtual Team Challenge, in which SWVGS students won first in the nation twice. Students have also participated in Science Olympiad and Destination ImagiNation.



Southwest Virginia Governor's School
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Pulaski, VA 24301
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swvgs.us



The Southwest Virginia Governor's School is a current member of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (NCSSSMST)



Admissions

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

Curriculum

All courses at SWVGS are taught at a college level and all 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 and through written scientific research papers.

Faculty

The rigor of the SWVGS program rests on the exceptionally strong math and science backgrounds of its faculty members. All faculty members hold graduate degrees in the area of their specialty.



SWVGS Graduating Class Profile 2014

Academic Year Governor's School

The Southwest Virginia Governor's School (SWVGS) was founded in 1990 and is one of nineteen Governor's Schools in Virginia that serve as specialized regional programs for gifted students. SWVGS provides high-achieving students with advanced courses in math, science, and technology along with a rigorous grounding in research methodology. Students are drawn from 15 high schools in eight school divisions (Carroll County, Galax City, Giles County, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Radford City, Smyth County, and Wythe County) and spend approximately half of their school day at SWVGS. In addition to rigorous, college level coursework, juniors conduct an internship experience in the career of their choice and students complete scientific research projects in both their junior and senior years. Students completing the program earn a completion certificate with seals from the Virginia Academic Year Governor's School program and the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (NCSSSMST).

Community

SWVGS serves the approximately 178,539 residents of the New River Valley. The region is home to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT), Radford University (RU), New River Community College (NRCC), Wytheville Community College, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. All coursework at SWVGS is dual-enrolled with either NRCC or RU.

2014 SWVGS Graduating Class Profile

60 Seniors

Two Seniors are Commended Scholars with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Class Rank at the Students' Home High Schools:

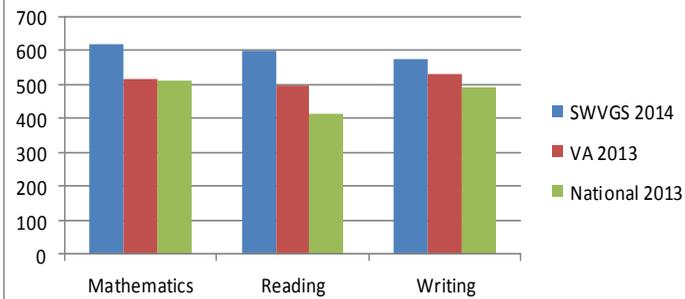
Valedictorians....6 Salutatorians.....3

(Please note that 4 of 15 high schools do not have Valedictorians)

All graduates received college acceptance and 52% will attend Tier 1 colleges and universities

Scholarships Earned: \$823,500
Scholarships Declined: \$1,037,800

Comparison of SAT Scores for 2014 SWVGS Seniors



Colleges and Universities to which 2014 SWVGS Seniors Matriculated

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----|
| Bridgewater College | 2 | Marshall University | 1 |
| Christopher Newport University | 1 | Radford University | 8 |
| East Carolina University | 1 | Sweet Briar College | 1 |
| Emory & Henry College | 4 | University of Charleston, WV | 1 |
| George Mason University | 1 | University of Kentucky | 1 |
| Georgia Tech | 2 | University of Virginia | 4 |
| James Madison University | 3 | Virginia Military Institute | 1 |
| Jefferson College of Health Science | 1 | Virginia Tech | 22 |
| Liberty University | 1 | West Virginia State University | 1 |
| Linn-Benton Community College | 1 | Wytheville Community College | 3 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Criteria for Successful SWVGS Program Completion

To receive a certificate certifying successful completion of program requirements of the Southwest Virginia Governor's School, a student must earn passing grades in the following:

- Study Skills
- Career Education
- College Statistics
- Science and Technology Seminar and Project (Junior and Senior Year)
- A lab-based science course (Junior and Senior Year)
- A mathematics* course (Junior and Senior Year)
- Senior Year math/science elective

* Elective math courses alone are not sufficient to fulfill this requirement.

Grading Scale

| | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| A | 90-100 | Superior performance in mastering content |
| B | 80-89 | Above average performance |
| C | 70-79 | Average performance |
| D | 60-69 | Performance is below average |
| F | 59 or below | Failure to demonstrate mastery |

Instructors may also assign plus and minus grades as designated on course syllabi.

Student Research

A primary goal is to lead students to develop skills required for completion of advanced scientific research. All students are required to take both the junior and senior year Science and Technology Seminar and Project courses. The junior year of the course introduces students to the process of science, research methodology, ethical considerations, need for objectivity and peer review, as well as skills in communicating scientific findings. The lecture portion of the senior year of the course is used to expose students to the vast opportunities associated with research and development. In both years, students select, design, and conduct a research project under the direction of a project sponsor or mentor. Students are expected to complete meritorious projects of high quality. Students present their work orally and visually at science consortia and also create formal written research publications.

Student Internships

The Internship Program, a component of the Career Education course, provides SWVGS students with extended learning experiences. The purpose of the program is to expose students to the applications of science, mathematics, and technology in area businesses, industries, governmental agencies, health care organizations, and universities. Each intern is assigned a mentor who coordinates and supervises the student's activities during his/her internship. Projects and/or problem-solving situations may be included in the internship.