

# West Virginia Governor's School For Mathematics and Science

**A Handbook for Students  
and Their Families**



***West Virginia University***

July 8-17, 2009  
Rising Eighth Graders

July 19-31, 2009  
Rising Ninth Graders

**West Virginia  
Department of Education and the Arts**

# FOREWORD

Governor Joe Manchin III, the Department of Education and the Arts, and the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (WV EPSCoR) proudly present the West Virginia Governor's School for Mathematics and Science at West



Virginia University in Morgantown. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of 72 of the state's most promising math and science students who will be 8th and 9th graders next year.

Governor's Schools are truly a community effort.

Funded by the legislature as requested in the governor's budget, all of the Governor's Schools of West Virginia are administered by the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. The West Virginia Department of Education, through cooperative efforts, also plays an integral part in the programs. Other partners in the math and science initiative are West Virginia University and WV EPSCoR.

The information provided in this booklet should answer many of the questions that parents/guardians have about the Governor's School for Mathematics and Science (GSMS). Participation in the GSMS 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.

I am happy to congratulate you, not only for exploring the world of science and math, but for having the wisdom to know that GSMS is the place where you should spend two exhilarating weeks this summer. You make West Virginia proud!

Sincerely,

Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary  
Education and the Arts

# Introduction

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## 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. Your potential for learning will be challenged as you discover new horizons while broadening your knowledge base. 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 in order for you to have the best possible learning experience.

Read this booklet carefully to familiarize yourself with the information you will need in order to have a successful and enjoyable experience at the governor's school.

## Student Policies

### RESIDENCY

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 24 hours.
3. Students may not leave campus. They may go to the Mountainlair but no farther.

### 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, located in the honors office in Stalnaker Hall.
3. Families are requested not to visit during GSMS so that students will have sufficient time to interact socially with other governor's school students.
4. Students may visit with members of the opposite gender only in the lounge areas. Visitation with the opposite gender in your individual room is not permitted.

## Participation and Attendance

1. You are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes, seminars and special events. You will be expected to participate actively in these instructional activities since this is the primary purpose of your being invited to the governor's school.
2. You will receive a copy of the daily schedule upon your arrival at the governor's school. There is also a sample schedule on the Web site.
3. The location and time of special events will be announced.
4. If you must miss a class or event, you must report—IN ADVANCE—your anticipated absence and the reason to the faculty member. For seminars or special events, report to the resident assistant.



## Medical Information

In the event that students should require medical attention, the WVU Student Health Service is open 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekdays. At other times, emergency medical facilities are available at Ruby Memorial Hospital or local emergency care centers. All mentors will have received Red Cross first aid training. **Please alert the governor's school staff of any medical or food allergies or special medical problems so that we may make the proper accommodations.** We will accommodate those students whose medication must be refrigerated.

Parents must provide a copy of the student's health care card. A photocopy is fine.

## 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 GSMS. Disciplinary action in response to misbehavior is the responsibility of staff members.

There are three levels of discipline, the use of which is determined by the nature, frequency or severity of the infraction. These levels are not necessarily progressive.

- A. **Verbal reprimand** by staff with written notice to the GSMS Dean.
- B. **Written warning** by the GSMS Dean (Notice of Disciplinary Probation). A copy will be sent to the parent/guardian and local school counselor.
- C. **Dismissal** by the GSMS Dean.

Final decisions regarding dismissal from the GSMS will be made by the GSMS Dean in consultation with the appropriate faculty, staff and state director of Governor's Schools.

Should a student be dismissed, a letter setting forth the reason for the student's dismissal will be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal and county superintendent of schools.

Destroying or damaging property is a serious matter requiring full compensation, resulting in a written warning, probation or dismissal.

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

- **Absence from campus** without permission from the GSMS Dean;
- **Any unexcused absence**;
- **Disobeying visitation policies**;
- **The use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or controlled substance, whether on-campus or off-campus**;

- **Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person**;
- **Any other behavior deemed to be inappropriate, dangerous, or damaging to self, staff, guests, or the institution.**



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.**
- **Neither play with fire equipment nor prop open fire doors.**
- **Never loan your key.**
- **Be sure to travel with a friend as much as possible.**
- **Report any suspicious people to your resident advisor immediately.**

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**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.

# West Virginia Governor's School for Mathematics and Science

West Virginia University  
July 9-18, 2008  
July 20-August 1, 2008

## About WVU

West Virginia University, founded in 1867, is located in Morgantown, W.Va., a city of nearly 28,000 residents near West Virginia's northern border.

Through 14 colleges and schools, WVU offers 171 bachelor's, master's, doctoral and professional degree programs.

The university's student-centered approach to learning — with such programs as Operation Jump-Start and the Career Success Academy — is giving students one of the top undergraduate experiences in the country.

The Carnegie Institute for the Advancement of Teaching has classified WVU as a Research University.

As West Virginia's major research and development center and only comprehensive doctoral-granting institution, WVU faculty conducted over \$140 million in sponsored contracts and grants in 2004.

WVU is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and dozens of specialized academic accrediting agencies.

The university's total operating budget is approximately \$600 million.

Located in "Mountaineer Country," Morgantown is a recreational haven year-round. In fact, West Virginia's fifth largest city was recently rated the No.1 Small City in America, the Best Small City in the East and the Third Best Small Town in America.

## Living Accommodations

### A. YOUR ROOM

1. You will be housed in Stalnaker Hall. The rooms are furnished for two students each with twin beds, desks, chairs, double dressers and two large closets. Students in two rooms will share a bathroom.

Stalnaker Hall has a social lounge, laundry facilities, vending machines, a computer lab and television viewing areas. The entire complex is air conditioned.

2. Sheets, pillow cases, pillows and blankets will be provided. Bedding changes are made weekly.

3. You will be notified in advance of your roommate's name, address and phone number. You may wish to plan together and share such items as an iron, radio, stereo and alarm clock.

4. You may bring a radio or stereo but not a television set. It is important that you respect the rights of your fellow students by not playing music that can be heard outside your room; use headsets or ear phones, if necessary.

5. You will be issued a key to your room. **A fee of \$25 will be charged to change the lock if the key is lost or not returned.**

6. Your room should be locked at all times when you and your roommate are gone. Missing items should be reported immediately to your resident assistant.

7. If you plan to keep snacks in your room, you must bring airtight containers for storage.

8. You and your roommate are ultimately responsible for the maintenance of your room, any activity that goes on in your room and any damage that occurs during the school.

9. Your room should be made neat and orderly before your first morning class and may be inspected at any time by residence hall personnel.



## B. RESIDENCE HALL

1. While living on campus, you will be under the guidance and supervision of an experienced dean of students 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.
4. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances or drugs, other than prescribed and over-the-counter medications, is strictly prohibited during the entire School.
5. You are expected to 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. In order that everyone may be well rested for the GSMS 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 shall 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.

## C. RESIDENCE HALL SERVICES

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

2. Letters should be addressed to

Student's Name  
West Virginia Governor's School  
for Math & Science  
West Virginia University  
P. O. Box 6635  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6635



3. A telephone that may be used for local calls or with a phone card for long distance
4. Laundry facilities are located on the second floor of Stalnaker Hall. You will need to supply your own detergent and other products as needed. There is no charge for washers and dryers. You may want to share an iron with your roommate.
5. You may wish to attend religious services. For your convenience, transportation will be provided through sign-up sheets posted on each floor during the week.
6. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the Stalnaker Hall Cafeteria. Hours will be announced when you arrive. A salad bar is available during lunch and dinner.

## D. CAMPUS RECREATION

WVU facilities are open for your use at appointed times. Activities available include table tennis, billiards, television, movies at the Mountainlair, bowling, swimming, tennis, basketball, softball, badminton and volleyball. On occasion, we will visit the student recreation center, which features two pools, two gyms, a fitness center and a climbing wall.

## E. BANKING

Students should bring some spending money for things like trips to the mall or ice cream store, souvenirs from trips and munchies before bed. In spite of the fact we feed them very well, there always seems to be room for pizza or Chinese food at 9:30 p.m.! Students are strongly urged to put their money in the camp 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 or two sets 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 at all times.

### ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING

- Desk lamp (to supplement overhead lighting)
- Radio and/or stereo
- Tray/basket for toiletries
- Camera and film or memory card
- Games
- Personal sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- Hair dryer
- Alarm clock
- Cosmetics/toiletries
- Telephone cards



### SPECIFIC CLOTHING YOU WILL NEED

- A variety of shirts, blouses, tops of different weights (for rooms that are too cool)
- Shorts
- Jeans/slacks
- One or two dressy outfits suitable for banquets
- Tennis shoes
- Shoes for dress
- Swimsuit
- Beach towel
- Sleepwear
- Bathrobe and bedroom slippers
- Shower shoes
- Raingear
- Lightweight jacket

### ITEMS YOU MAY NOT BRING

- Televisions
- Hot plate/pot
- Popcorn poppers
- Air conditioners
- Fan
- Microwave
- Refrigerator
- Computer

# Governor's Schools of W.Va. Advisory Council 2009

The Governor's Schools Advisory Council advises the West Virginia Office of the Secretary of Education and Arts regarding site selections, program offerings and procedures for student and faculty selection. The advisory council meets approximately three times a year, usually in Charleston.

## **Membership**

Mrs. Carrie Bledsoe, chair

Mr. Rob Aliff

Dr. Andrew Blackwood

Mr. Grant Bromhal

Mrs. Delores Cook

Ms. Saralyn Dague

Mr. Alfred deJaager

Dr. Keith Garbutt

Mrs. Kay Goodwin

Ms. Sue Ann Heatherly

Ms. Julia Lee

Mr. David McChesney

First Lady Gayle Manchin

Mr. Warren Mickey

Mrs. Vicky Mohnacky

Mrs. Terri Sappington

Mr. Mark Payne

Mr. James Snyder

Mrs. Martha Woodward

## **Student Representatives**

Sarah Abbott and Devon Cottle, GSA

Liz Hart and Benny Becker, GHA

## **Faculty Representatives**

Dr. Linda Cowan, GSA

Hank Hampton, GHA

## **Ex-Officio**

Sherry Keffer, director of Governor's Schools

# Frequently Asked Questions

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

**Q: My sister is getting married. May I miss GSMS for two days to take part in the festivities?**

A: Again, you may not. If you know of an important event that is scheduled during the GSMS, you must make a choice before agreeing to attend the GSMS.

**Q: Can my parents visit during the GSMS?**

A: No, the GSMS is designed as a parent-free experience so that you can be totally focused on all of 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 only for official GSMS outings.

**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 GSMS 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 GSMS before completing the program, the student's principal and superintendent will be notified. Furthermore, the student shall *not* make reference to being selected to attend the GSMS on further applications or resumes.

# Contact Information

## Important Phone Numbers

**Dr. Keith Garbutt**  
**Dean of Students**

WVGSMS  
West Virginia University  
P.O. Box 6635  
Morgantown, WV  
26506-6635  
Phone: (304) 293-8527 or (304) 293-2100  
kgarbutt@mail.wvu.edu

**Mrs. Terri Sappington**  
**Program Director**

WVGSMS  
West Virginia University  
P.O. Box 6635  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6635  
Phone: (304) 293-2100 or (306) 692-2323  
tsapping@access.k12.wv.us

### GSMS Program Assistants

**(304) 293-2100**  
GSMS@mail.wvu.edu

**Mrs. Sherry Keffer**  
**State Director, WV Governor's Schools**

(304) 558-2440  
Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov

### Information Desk at Stalnaker Hall

Staffed 24 hours a day during governor's schools.

(304) 293-8149

### Student Health Services

(304) 293-2311



# Notes



Governor's Schools of West Virginia

Kay Goodwin, Secretary of Education and the Arts  
Joe Manchin III, Governor