



Governor's School of North Carolina

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***A Summer Program for Gifted and
Talented High School Students***



2021

Student Handbook

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Governor's School West | High Point University | June 20 – July 24, 2021



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

Division of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education | Governor's School of North Carolina

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WELCOME TO GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WEST

High Point University | High Point, NC | June 20 – July 24, 2021

We, the Site Director, faculty, and staff, congratulate you on your selection to attend the North Carolina Governor's School. We have written this Student Handbook to introduce you to our living and learning community. We believe such an introduction will clarify and thereby strengthen the decisions you must make about the school – whether you will come, how you will prepare for coming, how you will participate in this unique experience once you arrive. Many rich traditions have developed over the Governor's School's 56-year history, traditions that distinguish its academic and residential life from other schools. We ask that you read about them now so that you will be fully aware of what to expect when you arrive on campus June 20th.

Many of our past students have spoken glowingly of our program and some of their testimonials are below.

It is what learning and school is supposed to be.

– GSW STUDENT, 2017

I have grown by being able to address my own feelings and listen to others' opinions.

– GSW STUDENT, 2018

*Governor's School truly helped me bloom as an individual intellectually and socially.
The atmosphere is so amazing, and people challenged me to push past or break mental boundaries.*

– GSW STUDENT, 2016

We assemble each summer primarily to explore ideas at the cutting edge of our intellectual and cultural lives. Although each class of students brings its own quirky individuality to the enterprise, common to all generations of Governor's School students (and faculty and staff) are the excitement and pleasure of encountering new ideas and arriving at new insights. We first want to describe the many-layered academic structure in which we pursue these ideas.

OUR ACADEMIC LIFE

CLASSES

AREA I – Area I is the area of the student's special interest and the basis on which he or she was chosen to attend Governor's School. Each student will be immersed in one of five academic or five performing and visual arts disciplines. Here students become acquainted with contemporary developments within their discipline and consider these developments at a complex and theoretical level. The emphasis in every Area I discipline is on exploring concepts and ideas – specifically those in the forefront of each discipline – rather than on skills training. Students in the arts spend much of their Area I class time in active pursuit of their art, but interwoven with practice are discussions of ideas about that art. Academic students rotate through a variety of classes and teachers within their discipline, exploring contemporary thought.

AREA II – Each student attends other classes composed of students from each of the ten Area I disciplines. Here students and teachers explore connections between and among the ideas and theories central to Area I disciplines. Through readings and discussions, Area II provides students with a set of intellectual tools with which to consider their academic and artistic endeavors, as well as their personal beliefs and values, more thoughtfully and systematically. As integrative concepts emerge, the class attempts to construct an understanding of contemporary ways of thinking and of the culture that arises from them.

AREA III – This third class is composed of another group of students representing each of the ten Area I disciplines. Here students attempt to ground what they are learning in their Area I and II classes in their own personal experience. In a safe, open, and diverse environment, Area III teachers encourage students to share their genuine concerns and beliefs and to examine their habits of perception and thinking. Through this exchange, students become aware of a wide range of differing value systems and explore their own perspectives with new insights. Finally, they apply that understanding to their social worlds; that is, they try to discover links between ideas and actions, theory and practice. The tools that Area III provides are more astute observation and more discerning points of view.

CLASS SCHEDULE – We divide our academic day Monday through Friday into four class periods and on Saturday into two class periods. Area I classes meet during first and fourth periods Monday through Friday and during first period on Saturday. Area II and III classes each meet three times a week: during second or third period Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; or second or third period Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. In all Area II, III, and Area I academic classes the student/ teacher ratio is rarely more than 17/1. The ratio in Area I arts classes varies. The traditional schedule of periods and classes follows. Each student takes one Area II class and one Area III class; consequently, each will have some second and third periods free. Students will receive their specific class schedules on Opening Day.

SCHEDULE: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

PERIOD	TIME	AREA
1	9:00 am – 10:15 am	Area I
2	10:25 am – 11:40 am	Area II or III
3	11:50 am – 1:05 pm	Area II or III
4	2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Area I

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY

PERIOD	TIME	AREA
1	9:00 am – 10:15 am	Area I
2	10:25 am – 11:40 am	Area II or III

A TYPICAL CLASS – The academic environment of the Governor's School thrives upon the intellectual curiosity of its students and faculty. Highly energized teachers invite students to explore new and significant ideas, not principally through lecture but through discussion and practice. Knowledge is something actively pursued, not passively encountered. Without the common burdens of covering a defined body of material and being tested on it, students and teachers can forge a safe, non-competitive intellectual environment where ideas from many disciplines are entertained and all active learners are taken seriously.

CREDITS AND GRADES – Students work seriously in their Governor's School courses whether in classrooms, studios, or stages and outside of class whether in reading, problem solving, rehearsing, or researching. At their best, students become engaged with compelling new material and energized by the new ideas which arise from the encounter. The work itself provides its own motive and reward. The school does not administer tests or assign grades. It is our goal and mission to appeal to students' innate, albeit sometimes hidden, love of learning and to inspire them through the material and the passion and brilliance of our instructors.

On the last day of the session, we present to each student a certificate for satisfactory completion of the program. Anyone leaving the program before that last day will not receive a certificate or be allowed to use their attendance at the Governor's School for college applications.

A TYPICAL DAY – Appendix A of this *2021 Student Handbook* contains a typical daily schedule. We expect students to attend all assigned classes and required events and to complete all assigned coursework. The amount of time required for daily class preparation will vary, but a rule of thumb is that students spend an hour or more a day reading, practicing, and/or rehearsing outside of class. As the daily schedule illustrates, outside of the four class periods a day, we schedule time for non-class academic events, recreation, social activities, student organizations, and personal moments.

We turn now to a variety of outside-of-class academic events and then to a range of communal, social, and recreational possibilities.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

***Due to the pandemic, our speakers, performances, and presentations that traditionally have been in person may be scheduled virtually. We will make every effort to record and stream student performances and presentations to make them available for family viewing when possible.**

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL SPEAKERS SERIES – Each year, we invite visiting speakers to address the entire school. We select speakers who are active contributors to and able spokespersons for current knowledge in their field. We ask that they present challenging new perspectives that, like the ideas of our classrooms, engage the entire community in active, continuing discussion and debate. A question/answer time follows each presentation – a crucial part of our learning together. Many educators consider questions the most important intellectual tool we have and the Governor's School regards learning the art and science of substantive question asking to be an essential part of our mission. Nowhere is the exercise of question asking more challenging, dynamic, and important than in student response to outside experts.

Speaker assemblies are usually scheduled on Tuesday or Thursday evenings between 7:00 and 8:30 pm. All students are required to attend this extension and enlivening of the intellectual work of the community. Many of these visiting speakers come for extended stays so that students can enter into dialogue about their ideas in a variety of formal and informal settings. A sampling of former GS speakers follows:

SAMPLE OF RECENT GSW SPEAKERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endia Beal (Photographer) – <i>Am I What You're Looking For?</i> • Patrick Gray (Engineer) – <i>Becoming a Spacefaring Species</i> • Mark Rabil (Attorney) – <i>The Trials of Darryl Hunt</i> • Antonio Corrales (Professor) – <i>Repairing Our Public School System: Strategies to Turn It Around</i> • Aaron Mitchell (Medical Oncologist) – <i>United States Healthcare: Real Problems, Fake Solutions</i> • Ashe Gordon (Artistic Director) – <i>Do You See YOU in Music?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil Weiner (Theoretical Physicist) – <i>Dark Matter, Dark Energy and the Fate of the Universe</i> • Ben Brantley (Theater Critic) – <i>A Critical Perspective: The Role of Theater and the Arts in Modern Society</i> • Angus MacLachlan (Screenwriter) – <i>Reflections on Life, Art, and Movies of Today</i> • Hank Klibanoff (Journalist) – <i>The Past is Never Dead: Civil Rights Cold Cases and Why They Matter</i> |
|--|---|

PERFORMANCES AND ART EXHIBITIONS – Performing and visual arts students provide the school with a common experience of contemporary artistic expression in dance, music (orchestral and choral), theater, and visual arts. Concerts, performances, and exhibits occur throughout the summer and create common “texts” that we continuously discuss in and out of classes. We discover ways in which art forms can say what literal words cannot. Student performers and artists demonstrate that neither words nor numbers define the limits of our knowing and understanding. The entire community attends these school-wide events virtually and experiences the wonder of new ways of hearing and seeing, communicating and being moved. We conclude each week with a required virtual concert on Saturday night at 8:00 pm.

ACADEMIC FAIRS AND SYMPOSIA – Students in the academic disciplines also present their work to the entire student body. On designated afternoons or evenings, students and faculty gather virtually to observe demonstrations, query poster presentations, watch plays, and listen to poetry or short fiction created by students in Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, Spanish, and English. As with artistic performance and expression, these nights provide high moments of intellectual expression and inquiry.

FILM SERIES – Many argue that film is the ultimate modern art form, a crystallization of images and sound that is uniquely a product of the last hundred years. The Governor's School International film series occurs on Sundays and features internationally renowned twentieth century directors. After students and faculty watch two movies by the same director, they discuss the cinema's visual language in the same way that English students might analyze print language or music students analyze auditory statement. These discussions not only deepen the understanding of particular films, directors, and movements, but also sharpen the ability to see and interpret any film. Other optional seminars use individual documentaries as springboards for discussion, especially in the natural sciences and social sciences.

SEMINARS, OPTIONAL SPEECHES, PERFORMANCES – Each day, faculty and staff members offer three or four optional events on varied topics at non-class times. These events allow students to encounter new ideas in fields outside of their Area I disciplines and faculty and staff to discuss ideas about which they care deeply. The seminars bring great intellectual energy and breadth to the entire community and allow deepening conversations in less formal settings. Also, faculty sometimes invite outside speakers to campus. These presentations are open to all and may be required for particular classes. We usually schedule at least two of these optional seminars for an hour before dinner (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm) and another two an hour after dinner (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) before most evening athletic and social activities begin. Times, places, and subjects are broadcast in the weekly Governor's School calendar and on the daily refectory board and the Residence hall bulletin boards. In the past, roughly a half to two-thirds of the community attended at least one program each day. The following is a sample from 100 or more optional seminars we have offered in each of the last few years. In 2021 some of these events may be held virtually, or in small groups to abide by distancing restrictions or to allow students who are uncomfortable in large groups to experience these events.

SAMPLE OF RECENT OPTIONAL SEMINAR TOPICS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why Do We Laugh?</i> • <i>Counting to Infinity</i> • <i>Photojournalism Workshop</i> • <i>The Ethics of Assistance</i> • <i>Aesthetics of Choreography</i> • <i>Women in Comic Books: The Subjugation of Superpowers</i> • <i>I Robot: Exploring Ideas in Artificial Intelligence</i> • <i>Magritte and How We Interpret Art</i> • <i>General Relativity Made Generally Clear</i> • <i>The Shape of the Universe</i> • <i>Better than Crossfire: The Right, The Left, and the Bereft</i> • <i>The Mathematics of Music or the Music of Mathematics</i> • <i>The Science of Soapfilm</i> • <i>The Cube</i> • <i>Are We There Yet? – Women in Science</i> • <i>What is Mime? What is Pantomime?</i> • <i>The Meaning of Life and other Wittgensteinian Answers</i> • <i>The Trouble with Brunnian Circles</i> • <i>The Paradox of Southern Feminism</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shakespeare vs. Tupac</i> • <i>Acting for Non-Actors</i> • <i>Word Play: Experiments in Poetry</i> • <i>Merengue Dancing</i> • <i>The Concept of Concept Albums</i> • <i>Bioethics of Genetic Testing & Stem Cells</i> • <i>Life & Debt: Global Economic Policy</i> • <i>Topology & Order Parameters in Physics</i> • <i>Individuality, Conformity, & Society</i> • <i>Suburbia & the New American Home</i> • <i>Exploring the Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi</i> • <i>Invisible Children: The Film and its Implications</i> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> • <i>Magic as a Social Tool in Harry Potter</i> • <i>When the Levees Broke</i> • <i>Completely Cage</i> • <i>The Spiral toward War</i> • <i>Aristotelian Virtues in The Office</i> |
|--|--|

RECURRING EVENTS – In addition to the Optional Seminars, faculty and staff offer recurring events that allow members of the community to study a subject in greater depth. During recent years for instance, students met either weekly or biweekly to participate in Salsa Dancing, Introduction to Improv, Long Distance Running, Poetry Workshop, Spanish Lunch Table, and First to Go to College. Faculty also offered Reading Circles – periodic meetings with students to discuss a common text. Due to the pandemic and its continued impact, some of these events and activities, when possible, may be offered in smaller groups or virtually this year.

SPECIAL DAYS

OPENING DAY – Residence halls open for registration the morning of Sunday, June 20th. For efficiency, and to provide as much opportunity for safe distancing a staggered move-in schedule will be used, and students/families will be notified of their assigned time in early June. After students have registered and moved in, they will begin an afternoon and evening of orientation. They will meet staff, the faculty, and the Site Director, take a walking tour of the campus, attend residence hall meetings, gather for the community's opening convocation and, just as they are about to drop, for a final social event. Details of this crucial (and longest) day will arrive in our early June mailing.

PARENTS' DAY – Parents of Governor's School West students will be invited to attend an online welcome and information session with the on-site director and members of the Governor's School West administrative staff on Sunday, June 13th at 4pm. Information regarding how to access the meeting will be shared on the Governor's School West website by June 12. The director, and members of the Governor's School administration, will be available to answer questions on campus during drop off on opening day.

CLOSING DAY – On the final day, day, July 24, students attend their Area I classes at 9:00 am. Following their Area I class there will be a closing assembly. Due to the pandemic the details and logistics of this day will be shared later in the session on the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org, or the Governor's School West website, ncgsw.wordpress.com

Through these multiple events for students and staff only, the Governor's School offers students structure and freedom. We will make plain those times that are required – for instance, classes, school-wide convocations, speakers, concerts, and performances. Due to the pandemic some, or perhaps all, of the campus wide offerings will be held virtually. Rather than meeting as a full campus, students will meet in properly distanced groups in smaller venues to participate in virtual events. The aim of these varied academic offerings is to allow us for five weeks to live in ways that are intellectually rigorous, culturally engaged, and aesthetically rich. Many of your friends will question why you would CHOOSE to spend five weeks of your summer at school. We hope this description helps you understand how we envision and measure learning in its most creative, robust, and important dimensions.

The student body is so connected it makes it unlike any school I have ever been to.

– GSW ART STUDENT, 2010

I fell back in love with learning.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2017

I think the freedom we have is by far the strongest aspect [of the program].

It teaches us all to grow up and take care of ourselves.

– GSW SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT, 2010

Governor's School West is fortunate to be located at High Point University, a beautiful, vibrant and exciting campus that welcomes our students, faculty and staff for the first time this summer. From President Nido Qubein to his administrative team to other faculty and staff, HPU is extending a warm and generous welcome to the North Carolina Governor's School. HPU's residential and dining facilities are second to none and students will encounter numerous unexpected features that will enhance their Governor's School experience. You will also attend classroom, convocation and performance spaces that are of professional quality and conducive to both community development and personal growth. Being a residential school is central to our shared endeavor. The opportunities for constant interaction and common experience are vital to what we do. Dialogues begun in classes and assemblies continue over meals and in residence halls. Still, the rigors of living in a community among 342 students and nearly 60 faculty and staff within a vibrant university environment present many students with challenging adjustments. We hope the following description of our residential arrangements will help you form clear and resonant images of our life together. We turn first to the people essential to your experience of residential life.

OUR RESIDENTIAL LIFE

RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF

DEANS OF STUDENTS – The deans of students are the liaisons between students, faculty, Teaching Assistants/Counselors (TACs), medical staff, and families. They provide consistent support and wise counsel for our residential and academic lives. The Day Dean is on campus and available from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm; the Night Dean is on campus and available from 5:00 pm – 8:30 am. Students and families will receive their phone numbers on Opening Day.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS/COUNSELORS – Teaching Assistants/Counselors (TACs) are on duty from 5:00 pm to 8:00 am every evening and night. These TACs are present in the residence halls and on campus to join students in evening activities, to aid students with personal needs, and to assist the school in its concern for student security and comfort. The TACs (most of whom are former Governor's School students) also assist faculty and administrators as teaching or administrative assistants. As a consequence, throughout most days they are on campus actively participating in the life of the school.

MEDICAL COORDINATOR – A Medical Coordinator is on duty in Slane 315 at posted hours between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The coordinator carries a cell phone at all times. This staff member can handle routine health needs that arise, but will refer more serious matters to local doctors and hospitals. (More details on medical arrangements follow in the section on resources.)

SECURITY – High Point University is dedicated to the security and safety of everyone who visits the campus. As noted on their website, "High Point University is safeguarded by a 24/7 professional security force, supplemented by officers with the High Point Police Department, patrolling a well-lit campus with an access-controlled perimeter. Technological enhancements include our robust access control system, expansive video surveillance system, and CARE points (Campus Assistance & Response to Emergency, i.e., blue light towers). Additional technological security improvements include Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) and automatic License Plate Readers at all of our entrances." The High Point University Security and Safety/Emergency Management department can be contacted in the following manners:

- Emergencies
 - Dial 9111 from a campus phone
 - Call 336-841-9111
 - Push the emergency call button at any CARE point
- Non-emergencies
 - Dial 9112 from a campus phone
 - Call 336-841-9112

RESIDENCE HALLS

STUDENT RESIDENCE HALL ROOMS – Governor's School West students will be housed in the following residence halls on the High Point University campus this summer; **Belk Hall, McEwen Hall, North Hall, Wesley Hall, and Yadkin Hall** this summer. These locations offer a full residential experience that is far beyond what most associate with a college residence hall, including a cinema, restaurants, gaming arcade and much more. From the High Point University website: For room views, layouts, bed dimensions and much more, visit <http://www.highpoint.edu/residencelife/dormitory/university-center/>.

Also, each residence hall will be staffed by one or more Governor's School Teaching Assistant/Counselor (TAC) who will live on the hall and serve as a guide for students. Other residential faculty/staff will reside in Belk Hall, separate from students. **Students are not permitted to visit this faculty/staff residential area for any reason.**

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS – The Governor's School West Office will send you the name of your roommate and your residence hall and room assignment in early June so that you may contact your roommate and coordinate your plans. In the past, students have found it especially helpful to organize a shared bringing of materials.

CELL PHONES – Most students own and use cell phones regularly throughout their day. We are sympathetic with students and families who want to be in touch via these phones and do not prohibit them; however, our work together has increasingly been jarred and interrupted by their presence. Consequently, we have developed guidelines for their use. Students must keep cell phones and any other handheld electronic devices turned off and out of sight during all parts of the academic day (that is, class, optional seminars, speeches, and performances). Because this requirement may unsettle your usual expectations, let us reiterate: on a typical academic day, cell phones should be out of sight and out of hearing during class periods between 9:00 am and 3:15 pm and during any other academic times or in academic spaces. Academic spaces include: Classrooms, concert halls, the theater and any other area where classwork or Governor's School events are being held.

If families need to reach students because of emergencies during these times, they can call the Governor's School West Office (8:30 am – 5:00 pm; phone number provided on Opening Day). If students want to use cell phones for other purposes, we ask they wait for other moments or use other means to take pictures, check clocks, or text messages. Faculty and staff will confiscate cell phones that violate these guidelines. Students must retrieve them from the Day Dean at a later date.

RESIDENCE HALL PHONE SERVICE – There are no phones in residence rooms or on the halls. If students do not have a personal cell phone, they are welcome to use a phone at the Governor's School West Office or consider requesting to briefly borrow from a classmate.

PERSONAL COMPUTERS – Students are expected to bring their own personal computers, or tablets. They will be required to participate in the entirety of the program this summer. If students do not have access to a laptop they are encouraged to speak with their school or school district about checking out a laptop for use at the Governor's School this summer. Students can use their own computers in their residence hall rooms with High Point University's campus-wide wireless internet access. Wi-Fi can be accessed at HPU-Guest when searching for wireless networks. As with cell phones, we encourage students to minimize time they might normally devote to the web: streaming movies, online gaming and other online activities, and immerse themselves in the unique social and intellectual life of the community around them. Here are some of our reasons: 1) we have a rich program in our classes and from 3:30 pm until lights out; 2) residence hall room computer use can isolate individuals and discourage full participation in what we uniquely offer; 3) we have found the temptation to watch late-night movies and/or play video games in residence hall rooms usually results in sleep deprivation the following day which may diminish their experience of the program.

PERSONAL PROPERTY – Students are responsible for their own bedding and bath linens including the following:

- Twin size sheets**
- Pillows
- Bath Towels
- Blanket and/or bedspread

Because students are also responsible for their own laundry, personal items (linens and clothing) should be clearly marked with your name. We also recommend that you consider bringing the following items:

- Alarm clock
- Toiletries
- Clothes hangers
- Clothes iron
- Hair dryer, curling iron
- Shower shoes
- Umbrella
- Laundry detergent
- Refrigerator (One per room)

We have had very few losses of students' personal belongings, but the Governor's School does not provide insurance to cover loss. We encourage families to check this standard provision in their homeowners' insurance policies.

CASHLESS CAMPUS/SPENDING MONEY – High Point University operates generally a 'cashless campus' throughout the year, in that most financial transactions are conducted through a student's Passport Card, to which families can make deposits via the High Point University website (www.highpoint.edu) and using a credit or debit card, 24 hours a day. With that, please recognize that all meals, lodging, and virtually all entertainment already will be provided free of charge. Campus purchases via the Passport Card would only be necessary for additional items, or for replacements or forgotten needed items at the Wanek Market. More details about the Passport Card and how to deposit funds will be shared in the June mailing. **With that, High Point University will also accept cash and credit/debit cards over the summer. A reminder that throughout the session students will not be leaving campus for any reason and therefore will not need to spend any money off campus.**

In addition, students will have opportunities to purchase shirts, summer books and other Governor's School memorabilia from the Governor's School West Office during registration and throughout the session. The Passport Card cannot be used for these purchases, so students may wish to bring a small amount of cash. The Governor's School West Office will accept cash, traveler's checks or personal checks. Also, there are ATMs (Wells Fargo, BB&T) located in the Slane Student Center.

RESIDENCE HALL LIVING

STUDENT VISITATION – Governor's School students' Passport Cards (see below) grant access only to allowed residence hall floors and rooms. Students may not visit any students of the opposite sex in residence hall rooms or other prohibited areas. (This is enumerated in the Honor Code that you sign prior to attendance and affirm to follow.) **Due to the pandemic, students will not be allowed to visit any other students' dorm rooms, or other dormitory buildings. We ask that students respect distancing guidelines as set forth by their Teaching Assistant Counselor (TAC) on opening day.** High Point University has many other common spaces for coed visitation. These will be designated and discussed during orientation. In addition, each year various outdoor areas become animated public gathering spaces. In the afternoons and evenings, the campus resembles a vital public square in which individuals and groups converse, play Frisbee and other games, read, work math problems, write poetry, and play all sorts of musical instruments.

CURFEWS AND ROOM CHECKS – Curfews are posted for all seven nights of the week. TACs enforce curfews and conduct room checks each night. Failure to meet curfew or to be present in your room for room check is a serious offense. For instance, if curfew is at 10:30 pm, students should be on their residence hall halls at 10:30 and in their rooms with their lights out by 11:30. After 11:30, quiet conversation in the students' residence hall room is acceptable, but the lights must be out. Phone calls, music, computer use or movie watching, and similar activities are not allowed. We recognize that it is tempting to visit with residence hall friends late into the night, but morning fatigue is so predictable a consequence that your TACs and Night Dean will help you live within these guidelines by enforcing them. The Deans and the TACs work with the Site Director to set appropriate curfews, which may be later on weekends. If curfew hours change, notices will be posted in the residence halls and on the school calendars and notice boards.

RESIDENCE HALL MEETINGS – TACs regularly conduct required residence hall meetings. These will be held virtually this summer. These are significant times when information is presented, rules are set, and problems are aired and resolved.

PASSPORT CARDS/RESIDENCE HALL KEYS – High Point University will issue special *Passport Cards* that will give students access to their residence hall (and specific floors in that building) and to particular buildings throughout campus. Keys will be issued to allow students to enter their assigned residential room. A Passport Card also provide access to meals in the dining hall and selected restaurants on campus and can be used for other campus purchases, provided sufficient funds are uploaded to it (see the Cashless Campus/Spending Money section). Each Passport Card will have the student's name and photo along with the Governor's School logo to distinguish our students from others on campus. Passport Cards and room keys are essential for your coming and going. If you lose your card or key, the replacement cost is \$50.00.

LAUNDRY – Students are responsible for their own laundry. Clothes washers and dryers (free of charge) are located in each residence hall but students must bring their own laundry detergent.

SOAP – Each student room has a sink. Students should bring hand soap or hand sanitizer for their daily use.

FIRE DRILLS – We expect students to adhere to the fire regulations posted in each residence hall. In addition, we ask that you not bring candles, lighters, matches, and other types of flammable material. High Point University Security officers conduct fire drills periodically and all residents must follow posted procedures.

OUR COMMUNAL LIFE

The Governor's School is a living/learning community that is clearly situated between high school and college life. We grant students many freedoms associated with university study, especially the freedom of choice between numerous and diverse intellectual and social experiences. But students are governed by rules and regulations associated with residential life for high school students. The honor code places specific constraints on the individual student, but other expectations enumerated below also ensure that we remain a safe, civil, and focused community.

THE HONOR SYSTEM

A copy of the Honor Code is located in Appendix B.

HONOR CODE – We are serious about the Governor's School Honor Code which each student and parent or guardian signs with the acceptance of the invitation to attend. The spirit of the place is not one of rules and regulations, but we are clear about what we can and will not tolerate in this living/learning community. Adherence to the honor code's explicit terms exercises self-discipline and responsibility, ensures student safety, and frees the community to focus on the new ideas and new persons around us. We include a copy of the Honor Code in Appendix B of this 2021 Student Handbook so that you can review those terms again. *Violation of any of these six propositions may result in immediate dismissal.* This is a twofold tragedy, both in the student's dismissal and in the loss of the spot for another deserving student who might have come. Other established principles like attendance at class and required assemblies and performances are also essential, but the administration might consider extenuating circumstances before acting. Less serious infractions will result in clear, but less severe consequences. Persistent infractions of stated policies can, of course, lead to dismissal. The decision to dismiss a student is made by the Site Director with the counsel of the deans and those faculty and staff members who are directly involved in the honor code violation. The following are details on each Honor Code item.

Failure to adhere to the established pandemic protocols will be considered equivalent to a violation of the Honor Code.

PROHIBITED/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES – All tobacco products (both smoking and smokeless), alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia are strictly prohibited. Smoking of any kind (e.g., cigarettes, e- cigarettes, vaping, etc.) is prohibited for all students. Also, students cannot share or misuse prescription medications or misuse common items (e.g., those that contain alcohol or other harmful substances).

INTEGRITY OF THE COMMUNITY – GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WEST AND HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS – Students must abide by all state and federal laws, as well as the rules and policies of High Point University and the Governor's School. These include but are not limited to the regulations designed to uphold the safety of the students and the maintenance of the campus. Student may not possess weapons. Theft, vandalism, shoplifting, and willful or negligent destruction of property are also prohibited.

Computing – Access to the internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with internet users throughout the world, and the use of the internet for educational projects will assist our students in preparing for success in life and work in the 21st century. The Governor's School and High Point University may monitor network traffic to ensure compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy outlined below, but the parents and guardians of our students are ultimately responsible for setting and conveying any additional standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

Acceptable Use Policy – Access to computers and networks is a privilege that requires the user to act responsibly. Users must observe all relevant laws and regulations, maintain the integrity of the systems, and respect the rights of other users in an effective, ethical, moral, and legal manner. Misuse of computing, networking, or information resources may result in dismissal from the Governor's School and criminal prosecution under applicable statutes. Students should note that the following are prohibited on all High Point University computers:

- Moving or disconnecting computer hardware.
- Loading or downloading any software, including games.
- Unauthorized reproduction of copy-protected material.

- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the college or other users.
- Using printers as copiers – one copy of output should be made and taken to the copiers for the production of multiple copies.

The following are prohibited on High Point University computers as well as those belonging to individual students:

- Connecting an unprotected computer (one that has not been updated with all available operating system patches and/ or does not have current anti-virus software) to the network.
- Using computers or the network in any manner that violates federal, state, or local laws or statutes. Accessing, producing, posting, sending, or displaying material that is offensive in nature. This includes obscene, discriminating, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually suggestive language or images.
- Harassment or unwanted communications to any individuals or organizations. Providing, assisting in, or gaining unauthorized or inappropriate access to High Point University's servers, computers, or network equipment.
- Using social sites designed to arrange in-person meetings, including those that identify precise physical location.
- Activities that interfere in any way with the ability of others to use resources effectively. Peer-to-peer sharing of illegally copied copyrighted material.
- Setting up servers of any kind on the High Point University campus network.

High Point University and Governor's School Property – Just as students are responsible for their own personal property, so too they are responsible for any damage they inflict on residence halls or any other High Point University or Governor's School property. Students profit from the beauty of High Point University's buildings and grounds, and we expect students to treat these facilities with care and respect. Over the years, at each Governor's School campus, we have had only rare instances of student damage and destruction of property. However, if damage occurs whether from carelessness, mischief, or malice, High Point University understandably will charge the responsible students.

HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER – The third item in the Honor Code addresses verbal and nonverbal behavior. Governor's School classes, activities and events explore a wide range of topics, employing our long-held motto of 'question everything' to delve beyond the superficial and the assumed and into matters that may be challenging and even uncomfortable at times for some or all of us. However, this successfully happens only when we welcome and affirm all students, inclusive of all backgrounds. Students are invited to engage in a free and open exchange of ideas and views, both in and out of classes; however, doing so in a manner that others can reasonably interpret as threatening, abusive or intimidating will not be tolerated. Every student is deserving of an environment that both challenges intellectually and maintains one's personal safety and dignity.

INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL ACTIVITY – In its fourth proposition, the Honor Code lists: "I will refrain from inappropriate sexual conduct..." Governor's School is a residential environment that is open to students, staff, parents, and visitors. While we expect students to sometimes display affection with one another, we also expect that the display will not exceed appropriate limits. Certain displays of affection, like extended kissing or consensual physical contact of a sexual nature, may still violate the Honor Code. Also, any sexual behavior between students and staff is strictly prohibited.

Governor's School does not condone sexual intimacy between students. Inappropriate sexual behavior can include full or partial nudity in an intimate situation, or sexual intercourse of any type. When students are in doubt about appropriateness, they should ask an adult on staff – a TAC, an instructor, or an administrator – for guidance. Inappropriate sexual conduct also includes sexting or the sharing of sexually explicit images.

Sexual Harassment – Beyond the boundaries of consensual affection lie questions in which the relations between two students are not mutual. Governor's School West echoes the stance of High Point University, in that we are 'a community that embraces and stands for safe, healthy relationships.' All students are expected to respect the physical and emotional boundaries set by their fellow students; sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Students must refrain from nonconsensual sexual conduct, either verbal or physical, that an individual perceives to be discomforting, hostile, or abusive and that interferes with or distracts from that individual's Governor's School experience.

VEHICLES AND TRAVEL – Students are not allowed to have automobiles, or any other form of wheeled locomotion, on campus.

Visits of Family – Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, all visitation is prohibited during the Governor's School session.

BOUNDARIES AND CURFEWS – Students must stay within the proscribed boundaries of the Governor's School West campus except when involved in school functions. In our June mailing, we will enclose a High Point University campus map. On Opening Day, we will distribute boundary maps will more clearly outline authorized pedestrian travel within the campus.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS – The Publications Coordinator advises a publications staff comprised of student volunteers who produce a student newspaper and a final summer book. The coordinator interviews interested students for key editorial positions. Members of the publications staff perform an essential role. The newspaper typically provides a fresh, unconventional, timely, and excellent forum for the discussion of GS events, personalities, and ideas. The summer book preserves images of our common life (verbal and visual) and records the history of the 2021 Governor's School.

Within the first week, students have usually fallen into natural rhythms of Governor's School West life and move as naturally to the refectory as they would to their own kitchens and to their residence halls as easily as to their front doors at home. As you anticipate this five and one-half week experience and as you adjust to it, the following can be a guide.

I have never stayed at any overnight program before, and I have had virtually no independence. GSW gave me confidence in myself and my abilities; I felt at home from the moment I first got here. Now I know I can do anything.

– GSW MATH STUDENT, 2003

I could have never expected this place to be what it is. Governor's School is like living in a Utopian Society, one which you never want to leave. Not only were my fellow students incredibly talented and wonderful people, but the TACs and faculty were absolutely amazing. When you say that you are going to take care of us, you don't lie.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2008

Governor's School is what public education should be...in which we learn ideas and concepts and how to discuss problems, not fight over them, all while making friends and evolving into our own.

– GSW STUDENT, 2016

GETTING STARTED

REGISTRATION – Registration will be open from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Sunday, June 20. In our early June mailing, you will receive a campus map, explicit registration instructions, a schedule for Opening Day, and your residence hall, room, and roommate assignments. Through residence hall meetings, campus tours, Area I meetings, a convocation, and finally a social, we hope to orient you to the school and to dispel the natural uncertainties of the new and unknown.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OFFICE – The Governor's School West Office serves as the campus administrative headquarters and is in **Phillips Hall**. Staff members open the main office from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and from 8:30 am until 12:00noon on Saturday. On Sundays the office will be open from 10:00am until 3:00pm. The Governor's School West Office is the place to seek help with lost items, Governor's School t-shirt and summer book purchases, and general daytime perplexities. At registration, families will receive detailed names and phone numbers of staff so that they can call appropriate staff if the need arises.

NAMETAGS – As already noted in the *Residence hall Living* section, each student will receive a Passport Card. This also serves as your nametag and must be worn at *ALL times*. These may appear to be an initial and temporary identification, not pertinent after the first few days. In fact, they will serve as an identification card all session long – in the Café and other designated restaurants in order to be served, in the library in order to check out books, and even in the campus convenience store for purchases. As importantly, they distinguish Governor's School students from High Point University students and from visitors on campus. Students are not permitted to use someone else's Passport Card. Also, as earlier noted, lost Passport Cards can be replaced but for a substantial fee. Governor's School lanyards will be provided on Opening Day.

DRESS – The Governor's School has no explicit dress code. As you pack for five weeks, we suggest that you include the kind of casual clothing you might wear at school in warm weather. We also recommend bringing several pairs of comfortable shoes. Though High Point University is generally accessible, you are going to be walking to several locations each day. Sweaters or jackets, long pants, and rain coats or umbrellas will occasionally be welcomed in cool auditoriums or on wet evenings. In addition to obvious clothing norms, for reasons of health and safety, shirts and shoes must be worn in all academic and dining spaces. Although we are essentially casual in our dress, you may wish to include a few items you would choose to wear in a more formal setting. Music, theater, and dance students will receive teacher letters enumerating the attire required for concerts, performances, or rehearsals. Also, if students have the opportunity to dine at 1924 PRIME (the university's learning lab steakhouse), at least *business casual* attire is required. **One more important item of note:** High Point University does not permit wearing or displaying items that are crude, vulgar, uncivil or demeaning, and the Governor's School West community will also follow this practice, as we are appreciative guests on their campus.

STUDENT MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES – The Governor's School furnishes most all essential academic materials and supplies. Students in every discipline will receive a faculty letter that enumerate what materials and supplies they should bring for classes, practice and/or performances. We do not provide notebooks, paper, pens or pencils, but the Wanek Market stocks such supplies if students find they have not brought them.

SPENDING MONEY – See the CASHLESS CAMPUS/SPENDING MONEY paragraph in the **Our Residential Life** section for details about Passport Cards and how various purchases, when necessary, can be made.

DAY-TO-DAY

EMAIL – As mentioned earlier, a computer lab will be opened for email at designated hours of the day, traditionally in the afternoon between the end of classes and before dinner. Students can use their own computers for email in their residence hall rooms; wireless internet is available throughout the campus.

MAIL – TACs distribute mail in the residence halls at curfew. Students can post out-going mail in a drop box in the Governor's School West Office. Mail should be addressed to:

[Student Name]
[Residence Hall and Room Number]
Governor's School West at High Point University
One University Parkway
High Point, NC 27268

BIKES/MOPEDS/SCOOTERS/ROLLER-BLADES/SKATEBOARDS – While High Point University does have such, the Governor's School does not permit its students to use any wheeled locomotion (i.e., skateboards, bikes, mopeds, scooters, etc.), except for individuals who require it due to a disabling condition. The High Point University campus is spacious but compact enough to move around easily.

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES – As with cell phones, we prohibit portable electronic devices in academic times and places (e.g., classes and performances). We have also observed that the less students listen to their private music as they walk to and from classes, the more time they have to enter into the conversations the school prizes.

RESOURCES

HEALTH CENTER HOURS – We will post daily times when students can be seen for their medical needs. TACs provide transportation to local hospitals for after-hours and weekend emergencies. TACs and some faculty have completed the Red Cross course in First Aid. First aid kits are located with TACs on each residence hall.

MEDICAL RECORDS – All medical records submitted are on file in the health center office. The more detailed these records are, the better health care we can provide. We draw your attention especially to the need to note *all prescription drugs that you presently take*.

MEDICATION – Ordinary non-prescription medical supplies are the responsibility of the student. Students receiving allergy shots or other prescription medicines must contact the health center on Opening Day, June 20. Medical staff will be in the health center during the registration hours to discuss medications with students and families. Some medications approved by physicians are kept in the health center and administered by the staff under the physician's direction. Prescriptions can be filled at local pharmacies. Of course, students are responsible for paying for their prescriptions. The Medical Coordinator will have supplies of some common over-the-counter medications for pain, allergy symptoms, cough/cold, abrasions, etc. The Medical Coordinator will administer these on an as-needed basis and in accordance with parental approval on the *Over-the-Counter Medication Administration Form*.

BED CARE – Limited bed space is available for routine illness or observation, but the health center is not intended for students requiring long-term treatment or having highly infectious diseases. We must ask these students to return home until a physician certifies their recovery. If a student's illness extends beyond three days away from campus, the student can return to the Governor's School program only with the approval of the Site Director.

ABSENCES FROM CLASS – The Medical Coordinator provides the names of students seen at the health center whose conditions warrant absence from class to the Day Dean of Students and to the Governor's School West Office. The staff notifies appropriate teachers and TACs. Except in cases of illness, only the Site Director can excuse absence from class. When students are ill and have not yet gone to the health center, they must notify their TAC, the Day or Night Dean of students, or the Governor's School West Office. They cannot remain in the residence hall; they must go to the health center.

EXTENDED ILLNESS – While we strive to maintain our community throughout the session, if a student should be faced with an extended illness, we will contact the student's parents and ask them to come to campus take them home so that they can receive the needed medical care.

THE CAFÉ AND OTHER DINING OPTIONS – As part of its regular operations and its gracious hosting of Governor's School West, High Point University is providing outstanding and award-winning dining options. Various nutritious and appealing meals (including many non-vegetarian, vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options) are offered each day. After scanning in with your Passport Card, you may have as much as you like while remaining in the dining area, if the dining area is full, or exceeds posting restrictions, students will be expected to get a to go meal, and take their meals to another location to eat. Menus are always available on the High Point University website. (Any special diet concerns, such as food allergies, should be noted on your *Special Needs Form*.) NOTE: These meals are provided as part of your Governor's School selection and do not use any funds you or your family have uploaded to your Passport Card; however, scanning is still required to track access by eligible Governor's School community members.

CAFÉ HOURS (TENTATIVE)

- Monday – Friday: Breakfast: 7:00 am – 10:15 am
Lunch: 10:45 am – 3:00 pm
Dinner: 4:15 pm – 7:00 pm
- Saturday – Sunday: Breakfast: 8:00 am – 10:30 am
Brunch: 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Dinner: 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

In addition, the Governor's School West community members can use their Passport Card to occasionally substitute their dining hall visit with a limited meal option from *Subway* and *Chick-fil-A* restaurants, also in the Slane Student Center. Summer schedules and other details for these options will be shared with the Governor's School West community as the session approaches.

Additional dining options are available and are dependent on funds loaded on your Passport Card. These include a *Starbuck's* in the Slane Student Center, and the *Point Sports Grille* in the Wanek Center.

High Point University has a life skills learning lab in 1924 Prime – a fine dining restaurant, located on the fourth floor of Wanek Center, that educates students on professional etiquette as well as global cultures and cuisine. More details about Governor's School students dining here will be shared during the session.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES – Attendance at religious services is a personal decision for each student. Due to the pandemic, we will not allow students to leave campus to attend religious services. We encourage students seeking religious services to attend virtual services that they may attend online.

ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES – An Activities Coordinator and Recreation Coordinator plan social and recreational events for students in the afternoons and evenings and on the weekends. They post outings, nightly activities, and sports schedules, on the weekly calendar. The evenings' social events begin around 9:00 pm.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES – Recreational activities will be organized around student interests. The Slane Fitness Center will be available each day from 5:00-7:00 pm. The center includes a wide range of industry leading strength and cardio equipment. Each cardio machine features a high definition touch screen display with HD television, web browser, and Apple/Android accessible media jacks. Governor's School West does not have access to either golf or tennis facilities this summer. The campus pool (also at the Slane Student Center) will not be available for most of the summer, as it is an amenity used by High Point University students every day. With that, some Governor's School-only events may be scheduled in the pool area, so students may want to bring appropriate swimwear.

High Point University does not have a cross-country track, but in recent years, members of the Governor's School faculty and staff run with students on campus in the early mornings several days per week. Students may not run outside of the established campus boundaries.

Governor's School administration and High Point University officials are exploring intramural sports and other outdoor recreational opportunities. These activities, usually in late afternoons/early evenings, will welcome any Governor's School student who wishes to participate, as the Governor's School emphasis is more on exercise and fun than on team competitiveness. We furnish some equipment, but we encourage you to bring your gloves, tennis rackets and balls, Frisbees, and other personal sports equipment.

ENTIRE FIVE WEEKS

I no longer feel like an outsider. I now know there are other people like me in the world. I feel solved.

– GSW CHORAL MUSIC STUDENT, 2012

I leave GSW with a spark and a fire that I never knew existed within me.

I wouldn't trade this experience for anything – I love GSW.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2008

*I know you're scared, and that you'd prefer to sit on the couch and watch Disney movies.
Yet, Governor's School launches you into dimensions of the world that I didn't know existed...*

After the wonderful six-week experience, I'm no longer afraid to grow up.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2010

Governor's School is the perfect experience for those who want to engage with others and want to learn and try new things.

– GSW STUDENT, 2017

We plan Governor's School activities for seven days a week. We are different from a summer school or even most summer enrichment programs as we undertake to incorporate many different experiences and many layers of experience in our common life. In order to keep our community as safe as possible during the pandemic, and to limit possible exposure to COVID 19 we will not allow students to leave campus during the session.

Should a student have to leave campus for medical reasons, the director will communicate with the student and their parents regarding how to proceed.

Should you leave the school early or for any period of time without approval, however, we cannot award you a Governor's School certificate and we will notify your nominating school/school system.

On Sunday, June 20, you will be greeted by one Site Director, dozens of faculty and staff, and High Point University personnel to begin what we hope will be a vital, rare, and memorable experience. We hope this 2021 Student Handbook helps you prepare for it.

APPENDIX A: Governor's School West Typical Daily Schedule

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15	Area I Class (Monday – Saturday)
10:25 – 11:40	Area II Class (MWF) ¹ Area III Class (MWF)
11:50 – 1:05	Area II Class (MWF and TTS) Area III Class (TTS)
12:00 – 1:45	Lunch
2:00 – 3:15	Area I Class (Monday – Friday) ²
4:00 – 5:00	Optional Seminars Student Organizations: Summerbook or Newspaper Meetings, Recreation
5:00 – 6:30	Dinner
6:00 – 7:00	Rehearsal (MWF) ³
7:00 – 9:00	Optional Seminars or School-wide Speakers ⁴ or Recreation
9:00 – 10:00	Social Activity
10:30	Curfew
11:30	Lights Out

1. No Area II or III classes are scheduled at second period on Tuesday and Thursday. These periods are available for extended Area I work – visiting presenters, field trips, films, rehearsals, projects. On Saturday, third period classes are taught at second period, so all Saturday classes end by 11:40 am

2. Chorus, Dance, and Theater often keep their students until 4:00 pm.

3. On speaker-free Tuesday or Thursday evenings, optional seminars can begin at 6:00 pm. This will provide a long span for extended seminars such as film series.

4. We try to schedule our major schoolwide Governor's School speakers each week on Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm.

APPENDIX B: Governor's School Honor Code

All Governor's School students are privileged recipients of the benefits of a program supported and administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and thereby represent North Carolina's public and private schools. State leaders, NCDPI, and the represented schools expect Governor's School students to act maturely and to behave responsibly. The Governor's School Board of Governors has established a code of conduct that governs the school's communal life and the Site Director, faculty, teaching assistants/counselors, and staff direct and support students in living within this code. Throughout the history of the Governor's School, the Honor Code has proven vital to this community's maintaining its focus on essential matters. Individual students are responsible for the choices they make while in residence. Any Honor Code violation will be thoroughly but quickly reviewed by the Site Director and the Coordinator. Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis and can include prompt student dismissal from the Governor's School with the violation reported to the student's school/school system (Superintendent, Principal, and Guidance Counselor). **Due to the brevity of the session, administrative decisions are final and there is no appeals process.***

STUDENTS PROMISE TO LIVE WITHIN THIS HONOR CODE WHEN THEY AND THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGN AND SUBMIT THE HONOR CODE FORM WITH THEIR ENTIRE PACKET OF REQUIRED FORMS. A GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL STUDENT BECOMES BOUND BY THIS CODE UPON INITIAL ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION ON CAMPUS.

1. I will maintain the integrity of the Governor's School community and not violate the host school's policies or state or federal laws including, but not limited to, possession or use of a weapon, theft, shoplifting, vandalism, and willful or negligent destruction of property.
2. I will not possess or use tobacco (including e-cigarettes), alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia.
3. I will refrain from verbal and/or nonverbal behavior that can be reasonably interpreted as threatening, abusive or intimidating to others.
4. I will refrain from inappropriate sexual conduct including, but not limited to, unseemly public displays of affection. ***For 2021, students may not visit other residence halls, regardless of gender, and may not visit another student's room within their assigned residence hall.***
5. I understand that I may not have a motor vehicle on campus. I will only ride in a motor vehicle that is driven by Governor's School staff on school business. ***For 2021, there will be no visitors on campus.***
6. I will abide by the established curfews and boundary lines. ***For 2021, students may not leave campus.***

* The Student Handbook contains other Governor's School academic and residential expectations and host school policies. The Director may also dismiss or put students on probation for serious or repeated violations of these expectations including, but not limited to, the established principle that students will attend all assigned classes, and required events (concerts, performances, assemblies, etc.).

North Carolina Governor's School West

There is no other place to have an experience quite like this one and it will change your life forever.

– GSW ENGLISH STUDENT, 2004

[GSW has been] the most worthwhile experience I've ever had. Between the other students, cultural exhibits, new ideas, [its] open nature, and teachers, I've never been happier.

– GSW SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT, 2005

I would like to tell friends] that this was the best summer of my life, that it was inspiring intellectually, emotionally, socially, that I learned and grew here more as a person than I did in an entire school year and that there is an amazingly supportive and engaging community here.

– GSW SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT, 2005

You will have the most amazing summer – you'll meet people both incredibly like and unlike yourself – your mind will be opened and it will help form you into a thoughtful, hopeful person.

– GSW STUDENT, 2003

I have found more than a life changing academic experience, I found who I want to be.

– GSW SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT, 2008

I loved meeting people from different parts of the state and realizing how different and similar we all were.

– GSW CHORAL MUSIC STUDENT, 2007

I'm a better musician. I've met some amazing people. I've made lifelong friends. I've stepped out of my comfort zone.

– GSW INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENT, 2016

This is a rare institution that values questions over answers. This place generates a culture that is brave and passionate about addressing the problems of our contemporary world.

– GSW TAC, 2005

I now fully understand the power of knowledge. Here, I've come to experience the most peculiar feeling of never wanting to leave while simultaneously desperate to get out, spread what I've learned, and change the world.

– GSW SPANISH STUDENT, 2011

I have become a more open-minded, harder-working person... my whole point of view on things has changed. I am no longer scared for the future; rather, ready to embrace it.

– GSW NATURAL SCIENCE STUDENT, 2011

It's completely different from high school. You're not forced to learn, it's fun to learn.

– GSW MATH STUDENT, 2005

The Governor's School challenged me to think in new and unique ways. It exceeded every expectation and surpassed its reputation. This was truly the best summer of my life.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2007

No job, trip to the beach or chill time with friends can compare with Governor's School. You gain such a strong sense of self and independence that any other summer activity seems trivial.

– GSW MATH STUDENT, 2006

Governor's School is a diverse educational experience like no other. Learning occurs everywhere.

– GSW STUDENT, 2016

I'm a more aware person and I've become such a better listener through this. I've stepped toward my life with an open heart and mind and compassion to everything I face and looking back 5 weeks ago I never would've guessed I'd be so happy with who I am and what has shaped me.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2012

I am ready to enter the world, do what I love, and never stop growing in knowledge and appreciation of the world around me.

– GSW ENGLISH STUDENT, 2012

It was like being able to live in my ideal community for 6 weeks; a really great and special nurturing environment.

– GSW DANCE STUDENT, 2007

It's not a school... it's the best summer of my life.

– GSW MATH STUDENT, 2006

When I read the quotes on the back of my student handbook, I scoffed. Surely these claims of 'changed lives' and 'unforgettable memories' were merely overly sentimental hyperbole. Now as I write this, I realize the complete truth of them. My entire outlook has changed; I cannot even find words that do this experience justice.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2008

If I had six weeks left to live and could have anything I wanted, I'd come back to Governor's School.

– GSW ENGLISH STUDENT, 2008

My mind was pushed to another level, one that I didn't think was possible. I feel like my eyes have been opened to a whole new world of critical thought.

– GSW ENGLISH STUDENT, 2011

There is no better summer program that combines those eager to learn with those eager to teach.

– GSW THEATER STUDENT, 2011