

# Mountain Vista Governor's School

## Handbook for

### Students and Parents

Summer 2017

Welcome to Mountain Vista Governor's School.

Please visit the MVGS website ([www.mvgshome.org](http://www.mvgshome.org)) for contact information and updates of news and information. Weekly email announcements will be sent to parents and students. Additional questions can be directed to Dr. Rosanne Williamson, Director, DeAnne Wilmore, Office Manager, Mountain Vista faculty members, or your school division's Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator.

#### I. MVGS BASICS

- MVGS, established in 2006, is a regional program for academically talented and highly motivated 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students serving Clarke County, Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Frederick County, Rappahannock County, Warren County, and Winchester City.
- The program offers courses in science, mathematics, humanities, and research that are uniquely integrated to provide a college-level, project-based learning environment.
- Our half-day program is offered at two Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) campus sites: Middletown and Warrenton.
- The MVGS instructional day is 4.5 hours: 3.5 hours at an LFCC campus site and 1 hour of web-based instruction.
- Students are provided the opportunity to earn college credit through a dual enrollment program on a college campus, as well as the option to take appropriate Advanced Placement examinations.
- Students wishing to enroll must submit an application in late winter and be accepted by the local school division selection committee according to the yearly timeline. Each school division has established the number of participation slots for its students.

#### II. MVGS CURRICULUM

##### A. Mission Statement

The mission of the Mountain Vista Governor's School is to present a research-based, technology-enhanced, integrated program in mathematics, science, and the humanities. The program will challenge students to reach their full potential as independent thinkers capable of assuming leadership roles in a constantly changing global society.

##### B. Curriculum Overview

The interdisciplinary curriculum design of Mountain Vista Governor's School challenges students to construct a highly integrated understanding of mathematics and designated sciences. The development of technology and research skills supports students in solving authentic problems in a scholarly and professional manner. The humanities component requires students to analyze the relationship between the arts and sciences and to construct a personal philosophical basis for ethical leadership in applying scientific knowledge to challenging real-world issues.

### **C. Goals**

The learning environment of Mountain Vista Governor’s School is designed to provide students rigorous educational experiences to reach their fullest potential by:

1. Cultivating a collaborative, supportive regional community of academically talented and highly motivated learners that celebrates intellectual diversity.
2. Providing investigative learning experiences that integrate disciplines.
3. Engaging students in research and extended learning through a discovery approach patterned after activities of scholars and professionals.
4. Developing producers of knowledge as well as consumers of knowledge.
5. Preparing self-reliant, critical thinkers who excel at advanced levels of education and apply knowledge to real world challenges.
6. Creating opportunities for service and leadership in both school and community.
7. Establishing community partnerships to enhance learning opportunities.

### **D. Vision**

The Mountain Vista Governor’s School community of learners will engage in the investigation of scholarly knowledge through an active, constructive learning environment. Students will be expected to become fluent in the processes of mathematics and science, reinforced by a deep understanding of the humanities.

Through research, students will learn to use standard technological tools for data analysis and authentic problem-solving.

Through personal investigation and reflection, students will be challenged to derive meaning from learning.

Through practical application, students will strive to reach their fullest potential.

Through collaboration with peers, teachers, and mentors, students will generate and communicate useful solutions to problems of the local and global community.

### **E. Interdisciplinary Connectivity**

The faculty of Mountain Vista Governor’s School will collaborate to integrate knowledge and skills from all disciplines in the following ways:

1. Scientific and mathematical knowledge will be examined in historical and cultural contexts.
2. The mathematics courses and the science courses will be taught collaboratively.
3. Environmental science will be a component of the physics and biology courses.
4. Students will be challenged to see how the process of science and the knowledge gained through science impacts the cultures and politics of the world.
5. Students will analyze and critique scientific thought against the background of western and non-western philosophy, literature, and the arts.
6. Students will utilize their technical writing skills while conducting scientific investigations and presenting their findings.
7. Students will be challenged through research to see that all knowledge crosses multiple disciplines.

### **F. Technology Integration**

The faculty of Mountain Vista Governor’s School will integrate technology into all courses in the following ways:

1. Students will carry out investigations using computer-aided, data-collecting probes and sensors.

2. Students will use graphing software to manipulate and analyze data collected during laboratory investigations.
3. Students will utilize Internet resources to gather background information throughout the courses.
4. Students will engage in distance learning via multi-site video conferencing and/or on-line instruction.
5. Students will use technology to develop and deliver presentations of their research findings in a publishable format.
6. Students will utilize web-based and technology enhanced textbooks when possible.
7. Faculty will use technology in instructional presentations.
8. Faculty will utilize web-communication systems for off-site instruction, and students will utilize it to prepare and submit assignments (e.g., weather-related or other scheduling issues negatively impacting on-site instruction).

### **G. An Alternative Learning Program Option**

The Mountain Vista Governor's School provides an alternate learning opportunity that is differentiated from the regular high school program by:

1. Providing a college-level program designed to meet the unique needs of academically talented and highly motivated learners.
2. Creating a regional community of learners.
3. Providing a uniquely designed integrated science, mathematics, humanities, and research curriculum.
4. Providing extensive research and real-world application opportunities.
5. Using technology-enhanced instruction for delivery of instruction, data collection/analysis/processing, and effective communication of information/solutions.
6. Focusing on community-based instruction through the themes of engineering, medicine, environment, agribusiness, and animal sciences.
7. Providing a specially designed program (versus a menu of courses) that enables college-bound students to:
  - a. be challenged with college-level content;
  - b. experience college-level research expectations, language, and procedures;
  - c. develop learner-centered skills needed by a self-reliant, life-long learner;
  - d. earn college credits in math, science, humanities, and research;
  - e. develop a two-year portfolio for the college application process;
  - f. relate core knowledge to real-world application skills;
  - g. interact with experts in the career area of their choice.
8. Developing leadership potential by exploring and applying intellectual ideas through research and public action.
9. Providing a half-day program that enables students to continue to be involved in the academic, social, and extracurricular opportunities of their base schools.

### III. MVGS 2017-18 PROGRAM OF STUDY

#### MVGS Three Year Program

Rising 10<sup>th</sup> graders will attend MVGS for three years and will choose the science strand option during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. Courses will be available to be dual enrolled for college credit through LFCC.

Prerequisites: Geometry; Algebra II Honors (prerequisite for Math Analysis) Co-requisites: General Biology

	Math	Science	Humanities	Research
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<i>MVGS Math Analysis</i>	<i>MVGS Collegiate Chemistry</i>	<i>MVGS Humanities 10/English 10</i>	<i>MVGS Research 1: Introduction to Research</i>

MVGS offers two science focus options for second and third year students—typically 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders: Physics/Engineering or Biology/Life Science.

#### Option I: Physics/Engineering Focus

Prerequisites: Math Analysis

	Math	Science	Humanities	Research and Elective
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<i>*MVGS Calculus 1 (Prepares students for AP assessment)</i>	<i>*MVGS Physics 1: Mechanics</i>	<i>*MVGS Humanities 11/English 11 (Prepares students for AP English Language assessment)</i>	<i>*MVGS Computer Science 1 or *MVGS Psychology or *MVGS Economics (offered alternate years) and MVGS Research 2: Individual Research Project</i>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<i>MVGS Calculus 2/3: Multivariable</i>	<i>*MVGS Physics 2: Electricity and Magnetism</i>	<i>*MVGS Humanities 12/ US Government</i>	<i>Computer Science 1 or 2 or *MVGS Psychology or *MVGS Economics (offered alternate years) and MVGS Research 3: Capstone Project</i>

#### Option II: Biology/Life Science Focus

Prerequisites: Math Analysis, General Biology, Chemistry

Co-requisites: recommend Physics either year

	Math	Science	Humanities	Research and Elective
<b>Second Year 11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<i>*MVGS Statistics</i>	<i>*MVGS Biology 1: Collegiate Biology</i>	<i>*MVGS Humanities 11 /English 11 (Prepares students for AP English Language assessment)</i>	<i>*MVGS Computer Science 1 or *MVGS Psychology or *MVGS Economics (offered alternate years) and MVGS Research 2: Individual Research Project</i>
<b>Third Year 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<i>*MVGS Calculus 1 (Prepares students for AP AB assessment)</i>	<i>MVGS Biology 2: Advanced Topics</i>	<i>*MVGS Humanities 12/ US Government</i>	<i>Computer Science 1 or 2 or *MVGS Psychology or *MVGS Economics (offered alternate years) and MVGS Research 3: Capstone Project</i>

\*Course prepares students for an AP assessment.

Note: MVGS Economics will fulfill the graduation requirement for Economics and Personal Finance

<b>Courses Offered 2017-18</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>AP Test Option</b>	<b>Graduation Credit</b>	<b>Dual Enrollment Option</b>
MVGS Collegiate Chemistry	448009	Optional	Science	CHEM 111
MVGS Physics 1: Mechanics	451019	Physics C/ Mech AP	Science	PHY 241
MVGS Physics 2: Electricity and Magnetism	452029	Physics C/ Elect. & M	Science	PHY 242
MVGS Biology 1: Collegiate Biology	432019	Biology AP	Science	BIO 101-102
MVGS Biology 2: Advanced Topics	432029	AP+	Science	BIO 150 & 256
MVGS Math Analysis	316209	No	Math	MTH 163-164
MVGS Calculus 1	317519	Calculus AB AP	Math	MTH 173
MVGS Calculus 2/3	317809	Calculus BC AP	Math	MTH 174 & 277
MVGS Statistics	319109	Statistics AP	Math	MTH 240
MVGS Computer Science 1/ Research 2	318609	Computer Science A AP	Elective	ITP 120
MVGS Computer Science 1/ Research 3	318619	Computer Science A AP	Elective	ITP 120
MVGS Computer Science 2/ Research 3	318639	AP+	Elective	ITP 220
MVGS Humanities 10/ English 10	114009	No	English	HUM 241
MVGS Humanities 11/English 11	115009	AP Language and Comp.	English	HUM 242
MVGS US Humanities 12/Govt	244009	AP Government	US Government	PLS 211-212
MVGS Economics/ Research 2	280809	AP Macro Economics	Economics and Personal Finance	ECO 201-202
MVGS Economics/ Research 3	280819	AP Macro Economics	Economics and Personal Finance	ECO 201-202
MVGS Research 1	011519	No	Elective	PHY 298

MVGS Academic Advisory Board recommendation is that courses earn weighted high school credit based on local division weighting policy/procedures.

#### **IV. ENROLLING A STUDENT IN MVGS**

MVGS courses are offered from Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM to 10:50 AM.

A student should be enrolled in courses according to base high school policy during PM blocks/periods. Students will need to be enrolled in courses required for graduation, as well as other elective choices at the base school.

The MVGS curriculum is designed to be congruent with the Virginia's Early College Scholar's Program. An MVGS senior may register and maintain acceptable status as a Virginia Early College Scholar.

## V. ENROLLING A STUDENT FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDIT

Dual enrollment for high school and college credit through Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) will be an option for students enrolled in any MVGS course that has an LFCC approved dual enrollment teacher. Payment of dual enrollment credit tuition is dependent on the local school board decision.

- Enroll in the LFCC:
  - a) Students who have not previously dual enrolled at LFCC should apply to the college. Go to [www.lfcc.edu](http://www.lfcc.edu) and click on "Apply to LFCC".
  - b) Follow directions to apply.
  - c) When the application process is complete, students should be assigned a Student ID number. Keep this User ID, your password, and student ID where you can find it.
- Take the LFCC Virginia Placement Test.
  - a) Visit <http://www.lfcc.edu/current-students/campus-resources/testing-center/index.html> for testing center contact information, hours and a tutorial for the placement test.
  - b) If the student has qualifying SAT scores (560 in reading and 550 in math), the unofficial report can be included with the Dual Enrollment paperwork and the Placement Tests are not needed. PSAT scores will not suffice. Testing is held in the LFCC Testing Center or at some base high schools.
  - c) Students do not need an appointment.
  - d) Calculus students must ask to take the additional pre-calculus test.
  - e) Plan about 3 hours for the placement test.
  - f) Bring a driver's license, learner's permit, or LFCC ID.
  - g) Ask for a copy of the test report upon completion of the test.

Dual Enrollment forms with instructions will be distributed in August. Full tuition will be due early September.

Middletown Testing Center general information: 540-868-7140 or [lfctesting@lfcc.edu](mailto:lfctesting@lfcc.edu).  
Warrenton Testing Center general information: 540-351-1575 or [fauqtesting@lfcc.edu](mailto:fauqtesting@lfcc.edu). Please call to confirm hours before arriving to take tests.

For more information about Dual Enrollment, please visit <http://www.lfcc.edu/future-students/high-school-outreach/dual-enrollment-homepage/>. Students will complete the LFCC dual enrollment registration and enrollment forms for MVGS classes through the Governor's School.

## VI. ATTENDANCE

Since the academic pace at the Governor's School is accelerated, it is very important that student absences be kept to a minimum. Continuation in the program may be contingent upon an acceptable attendance record.

Parents should contact Mrs. Ellen Provost at [eprovest@mvgshome.org](mailto:eprovest@mvgshome.org) if a student is absent from school. If a student knows in advance that he/she will be absent from Governor's School for personal reasons or a base school academic activity, it is the student's responsibility to obtain assignments prior to the absence.

Absences, tardies, and early dismissals will be reported daily to the base school. School division attendance policies will be in effect. Excessive tardies may result in suspension of driving privileges. A parent/guardian should contact the MVGS Director immediately if a student will be absent for an extended medical situation. A doctor's excuse may be required.

## **VII. MVGS ACADEMIC-YEAR CALENDAR**

The MVGS Governing Board has approved an academic-year calendar for MVGS. This academic-year calendar is consistent with, but may not exactly reflect, the students' local school division calendars. If MVGS is closed due to weather, a student will be responsible for web-based instruction. If a school division is closed and MVGS is open, a student may choose to attend MVGS. The school division will not provide transportation. The student is responsible for any work missed. Seniors' final exam schedule and last day of attendance will depend on the school division's graduation date.

## **VIII. MVGS TRANSPORTATION**

MVGS students will be expected to follow the transportation expectations of their school divisions. The base schools will handle all transportation issues. School divisions provide transportation to MVGS. Local school division policy will determine whether permission will be granted for students to drive to MVGS at LFCC or to be passengers in other students' cars. *Parental/ Guardian Approval and Assumption of Risk Form for Driving to/from Campus* form will be required. School division, charter buses, school activity buses, or rental vans shall be contracted for field experiences, and school division transportation expectations will be in effect.

## **IX. STUDENT GRADES, REPORT CARDS, TRANSCRIPTS, TESTING and OTHER GUIDANCE SERVICES**

MVGS students will be on a nine-week grading period. Report cards will be issued from their base schools. The MVGS Academic-Year Calendar indicates the dates on which each of the MVGS nine week grading periods will conclude. The MVGS Governing Board approved this grading schedule with the understanding that it will be consistent with, but may not exactly reflect, each school division's grading schedules.

MVGS will report grades to school divisions. Credit is awarded through the base high school.

A student who graduates while enrolled in MVGS will receive the base high school's diploma. The Virginia Department of Education Governor's School Seal will be affixed to the diploma.

MVGS courses will be part of the student's base high school transcript. A description of the MVGS program and courses, entitled "MVGS Profile Sheet for Transcripts", should be attached to the transcript. Students must request transcripts showing dual enrollment college credit from LFCC.

Virginia SOL and other standardized testing services will be provided at the student's base school. Students enrolled in Collegiate Chemistry will be required to take the VA SOL Chemistry Test. Students enrolled in Humanities 11 will be required to take the VA SOL English 11 Tests. MVGS course semester and final examinations will be administered at MVGS. Students may register for Advanced Placement Exams, which will be administered at the base schools according to local school division policy.

In an effort to better serve our students and parents, MVGS has added a Guidance Counselor to the staff at both campuses. The MVGS Counselors will provide support in the following areas:

- Assisting students in accessing information relating to all areas of the college admission process
- Working closely with base school Counselors regarding a variety of issues affecting MVGS students
- Providing individual and group counseling on school related issues
- Organizing informational forums for middle school students and parents who are considering MVGS as an academic option to supplement the high school curriculum

## **X. STUDENT BEHAVIOR RESPONSIBILITY**

All Virginia Governor's School students undergo an eligibility screening process that includes references to responsible conduct. MVGS students are expected to be committed to:

1. Embodying high standards of quality in pursuit of excellence;
2. Conducting themselves in a manner that positively affects the learning community's pursuit of its educational objective; and
3. Being exemplary role models of responsible citizenship and decision making.

Technology is an important instructional tool of MVGS. A student's participation in MVGS is contingent upon the ethical and appropriate use of the LFCC teleconferencing, networking, and web-based systems as well as responsible use of laptop computers issued by the school divisions or MVGS. See the *Acceptable Computer Use Agreement and Laptop Guide* and the *MVGS Computer Use Contract*.

A student is accountable for the student codes of conduct for the local school division, Lord Fairfax Community College *Code of Student Rights, Responsibility and Conduct*, Lord Fairfax Community College *Technology Use Agreement*, and MVGS *Expectations for Behavior and Accountability*. MVGS students are responsible for their actions traveling to campus, on-campus, and on community field experiences. Infractions of codes of conduct will be referred to the student's base high school administration for disciplinary action as designated by the local school division. Students and parents/guardians are asked to sign an acceptable behavior form indicating that they have read and understand the MVGS student responsibility of good citizenship as well as their due process rights.

## **XI. MVGS FIELD EXPERIENCE POLICY/PROCEDURES**

The MVGS program is designed to be community-based. A main objective is to provide for authentic learning opportunities beyond the classroom environment. An MVGS field experience is a school-sponsored and school-chaperoned activity, which provides an effective means of accomplishing a stated instructional activity with specific objectives and learning activities defined



in advance. These field experiences must be approved by the MVGS Director and may be during regular or extended school time. MVGS staff members will supervise. School vehicles and commercially licensed carriers or rental cars will provide transportation for field experiences. A student will not be approved as a driver for a field experience.

## **XII. GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL AGENT**

Supervision for the MVGS program is by a regional Governing Board with recommendations from an Academic Advisory Board. The Governing Board is made up of school board members and superintendents from each of the participating school divisions as authorized by Section 22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia. An *Agreement to Establish and Operate a Regional Academic-Year Governor's School* was approved by the Governing Board on November 21, 2005. This document provides an operational agreement with a three-year funding commitment from each participating division. The fiscal agent for MVGS is Fauquier County Public Schools.

## **XIII. The MVGS FOUNDATION and the MOUNTAIN VISTA PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

The MVGS Foundation/MVPTO is a non-profit 501c3 organization.

The mission of the Mountain Vista Foundation and PTO is to:

1. Support the education of students at Mountain Vista Governor's School.
2. Support the growth and expansion of the Governor's School program in Clarke County, Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Frederick County, Rappahannock County, Warren County, and Winchester City.
3. Provide financial support to MVGS.

Parents/guardians of MVGS students are considered members of the MVPTO. MVPTO meetings are held monthly. Please contact the MVGS office ([dwilmore@mvgshome.org](mailto:dwilmore@mvgshome.org)) if you would like further information.

## **XIV. FACULTY**

Listed below are the preferred qualifications for an MVGS instructor:

1. Virginia Teaching License, Master's Degree, and three (3) years of teaching experience
2. 18 hours of graduate credit in specific subject area
3. Endorsement in gifted education
4. Knowledge of a variety of instructional models
5. Knowledge of technology-enhanced instruction
6. Leadership qualities with strong analytical and assessment skills
7. Ability to balance an interdisciplinary knowledge-based curriculum with a learner-centered philosophy
8. Effective oral and written communication skills
9. Ability to design, develop, and implement a differentiated curriculum
10. Ability to plan, organize, and direct learning activities utilizing technology within a team-teaching environment
11. Ability to work effectively with school personnel, students, parents, and the community
12. Possession of the following personal characteristics: innovation, flexibility, organization, enthusiasm, confidence, dependability, cooperation, reflection, self-motivation, and the desire to be a life-long learner.

The MVGS instructors for 2017-18 are listed below.

Instructor	Subject	Middletown Site	Warrenton Site
Allen Burton	Physics/ Research	X	
Judy Cain	Mathematics/Computer Science	X	
Hannah Bement	Biology	X	X
Amanda Harrington	Humanities	X	
Christian Laourdakis	Chemistry	X	X
Clelia LaMonica	Physics/Research		X
Benny Perez	Humanities	X	
Vineeta Ribeiro	Mathematics/Computer Science		X
Diane Ruby	Mathematics		X
Anca Schmittou	Mathematics	X	
Mindy Stephens	Humanities		X
Denise Thompson	Humanities		X

## **XV. MVGS STUDENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY/PROCEDURES**

A student wishing to withdraw from MVGS should adhere to the MVGS Withdrawal Policy/Procedures. Criteria for withdrawing a student from MVGS should be based on the best interest of the student and the school. There are two time periods designated for a student to withdraw from the MVGS program:

1. At the end of the first semester
2. At the end of the school year

The MVGS director has the authority to recommend that a student be withdrawn due to continual failing grades or inappropriate behavior.

## **XVI. PLAN FOR SUCCESS**

The faculty at MVGS seeks to ensure that every student excels at advanced levels of learning and succeeds socially and emotionally as well as academically. If a teacher, student, or parent notices a progressive decline in an individual's academic performance or social success at MVGS, the director should be notified immediately. This notification may take place at any time, but should be monitored upon the completion of each interim and advisory. Actions from the following list should take place:

1. The teacher should talk with the student to clarify and address concerns, missing assignments, changes in performances, etc.
2. The student's team of teachers and MVGS counselor should be consulted.
3. Parents, if unaware, should be contacted.
4. A team meeting to review the student's performance and to discuss what action is best for the student may be held. This assessment may result in the development of an individualized MVGS plan for success that contains specific objectives, strategies for improvement, outcomes, and a designated time period for reassessment. Team members must include the student, parents, MVGS teachers, and director. If deemed appropriate, base school teachers, guidance counselors, the local GT coordinator, and/or the base school administrator may be invited.
5. MVGS instructors shall serve as communication liaisons among the student, parent, and base school.
6. MVGS staff will provide follow-up.

## **XVII. CONCLUSION**

As MVGS is an evolving program, this is an evolving document. It is designed to provide a helpful tool for students and parents. The MVGS website ([www.mvgshome.org](http://www.mvgshome.org)) is continually updated with the most current news and information. Further questions can be directed to Dr. Rosanne Williamson, MVGS Director at [rwilliamson@mvgshome.org](mailto:rwilliamson@mvgshome.org) or to your school division Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

Mountain Vista Governor's School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, political affiliation, or veteran status in its educational programs or employment.