



December 2019

Dear Student:

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to apply to The Commonwealth Governor's School. By requesting this application packet, you have taken the first step toward an exciting new learning experience. The application packet includes:

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Student Application Timeline
- ✓ Candidate Profile Sheet
- ✓ Honors Form
- ✓ Student Portfolio Self-Assessment Form
- ✓ Three Teacher/Mentor Recommendation Forms

Use the Student Application Checklist as a guide to complete your application packet. Return your completed application to your **School Counselor** by **Tuesday, January 14**. If you are not presently a student in a public school in King George County, you must also include a signed Certification of Intent to Enroll form. You must be enrolled full-time in a public school in King George County to attend The Commonwealth Governor's School.

Upon receipt of your completed application, you will be scheduled for standardized testing and an interview with portfolio review. These will occur between January and March. You will receive notification of the time and place for each of these activities.

A committee will evaluate your completed application and supporting materials. A multi-criteria approach is used and includes the following: achievement and ability test scores; grades; teacher recommendations; student honors; and, a portfolio presented during an interview. Students will be ranked according to their total points on the **Candidate Profile Sheet**. A maximum of twenty qualified students per grade level will be accepted to the King George CGS site. **All applicants who complete the application process will receive a letter of decision by the end of March.**

Much is expected of The Commonwealth Governor's School students. The curriculum is demanding and participants work closely with other highly motivated students in Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Caroline counties. The faculty and staff of The Commonwealth Governor's School are committed to providing their students a challenging and exciting high school program. **Please note that 8th grade students must be enrolled in Algebra 1 at a minimum to successfully apply.**

If you have any questions, please call me at (540) 775-5833. Again, congratulations on your decision to apply for participation in this regional community of learners.

Sincerely,

Amanda Higgins

Amanda Higgins
Coordinator of Gifted Services



THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Application Process Checklist 2020

Phase 1- Application

No application will be reviewed for admission to The Commonwealth Governor's School until all materials have been returned to the Counseling Department or the Coordinator of Gifted Services by **January 14, 2020**.

Completed application includes:

- The Student Application page fully, clearly, and legibly completed
- Student Honors form completed
- Teacher/Mentor Recommendation forms completed and submitted by three individuals. Applicants should follow up with their teachers to make sure they have submitted recommendations on time.

All applicants must complete Algebra I by the end of 8th grade

Phase 2 – Testing

- Abilities testing will be conducted at the student's school
- Results from PSAT 8/9 will be used for achievement testing

Phase 3 – Portfolio/Interview

The applicant will receive notification of the time and place for the interview.

The portfolio will be due at the time of the interview. Students should have portfolio materials assembled and ready to present by January 27.

A local school division selection committee will evaluate the completed application and supporting materials.

Applicants will be notified by their local school division of acceptance into CGS for 2020-2021 at the end of March, 2020. Students currently enrolled in a private school, home school, or out-of-division school must enroll in King George County Schools prior to being enrolled at CGS.

Much is expected of CGS students. The curriculum is demanding and participants work closely with other highly-motivated students. The application should reflect that the applicant has set high academic learning goals and will be a positive addition to a challenging academic environment.

If applicants or their families have questions, they should contact

- King George- Amanda Higgins, Coordinator of Gifted Services at (540) 775- 5833
- The Commonwealth Governor's School- Jennifer Grigsby, Director at (540) 548-1278



THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Application Process Timeline 2020

Phase 1- Application

Monday, December 9

Application packets available from:

- Middle and High School Counseling Departments
- Coordinator of Gifted Services
- The CGS website www.cgs.k12.va.us

Thursday, December 12

Workshop for completing the CGS application

King George Middle School- 5:30-6:30 PM

This session is optional. Please bring an application with you.

Tuesday, January 14

Applications due to the Counseling Department of the student's school or to the Coordinator of Gifted Services at the School Board Office.

Phase 2- Testing

January 15-24

Abilities testing administered at the student's school

Phase 3 – Portfolio/Interview

January- March

Individual interviews/portfolio reviews at each middle or high school

End of March

Letters mailed to students with notification of status



The Commonwealth Governor's School Student Application Spring 2020

The Commonwealth Governor's School is designed to provide gifted and highly motivated students a challenging, differentiated, and interdisciplinary academic program of study in the core subject areas of science, mathematics, social studies, and English using nontraditional activities supported by technology at their home school sites. Students must be prepared to pursue and create knowledge both independently and in groups.

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION LEGIBLY IN INK OR TYPE.

Student's Home-Based High School for next year _____

Name of Applicant _____
Last First Middle Nickname (if any)

Date of Birth ___/___/___ Student ID Number _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

E-mail Address _____

Home Phone Number (____) _____ Work Numbers (____) _____ (____) _____

Current School _____ School Division _____ Grade Level _____

If not in a participating school division: (check one)

- Private School Out-of-County School Home School Department of Defense School

Certification of Intent to Enroll Form must accompany the application of any student not currently enrolled in a participating school division.

Names of the three individuals who will complete a recommendation:

English Teacher **Math (Alg. or Geom.) Teacher** **Other Teacher or Mentor**

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

The decision to apply to The Commonwealth Governor's School is my own, and I want to participate fully in the program. The responses contained in this application are my own work.

Date

Signature of Applicant

I, the parent/guardian of the student above, am aware of and in support of the student's application to The Commonwealth Governor's School and give permission for the student's academic records to be reviewed by the school's selection committee.

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian



**The Commonwealth Governor's School
Candidate Profile - Spring 2020**

Candidate's Full Name: _____ Grade (Rising): _____

Home-based High School: _____ Student ID #: _____

I. Academic Information				
	Test	Date Taken	Percentile	Points
Ability Measure				
Achievement 1 (PSAT) Evidence-Based Reading and Writing				
Achievement 2 (PSAT) Math				
Grade Point Average				
Total I: (Maximum of 80)				
II. Recommendations			Total (out of 36 points)	A: Divided by 3
English Teacher				
Math Teacher				
Other Teacher or Mentor				
Total II: (Maximum of 36)				
III. Student Honors and Leadership				
Honors and Leadership Points- 1, 2, or 3 points possible (15 Max)				
Total III: (Maximum of 15)				
IV. Student Portfolio/Interview				
Work Samples- (30 Max)				
Interview- (24 Max)				
Total IV: (Maximum of 54)				
Grand Total: Sum of Parts I -V				
(Maximum of 185)				



STUDENT HONORS AND LEADERSHIP RECORD

Academic Honors and Leadership

In this section, please list the 5 most significant honors, recognitions, or leadership experiences that you have received in the **last three years**. Each item listed may earn up to three points.

Do not list the same honor multiple times (i.e. Honor Roll). Refer to the table below for examples of honors and point levels. Do not attach additional pages. Only the 5 experiences listed in the chart will be scored.

Honor/Recognition/Leadership Experience	Level of Competition or Honor	Year Earned
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

These examples are not exhaustive. Other significant or rare honors may be listed by the applicant - please include documentation.

Level One Honor (1 pt) Predominantly School-based Honor	Level Two Honor (2 pt) School/Local/Regional Honor, more selective or difficult to attain	Level Three Honor (3 pt) Unique or Highly Competitive
Honor Roll	Straight A Honor Roll/Frequent Honor Roll	State Band or Chorus
Perfect Attendance Award	District Band/Chorus	Johns Hopkins Talent Search--95 th percentile or above
Student of the Month	President's Education Award	Rappahannock Youth Symphony
Perfect SOL Score	Regional or State Band or Chorus	State Science Fair
Academic Letter	Piedmont Regional Science Fair (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place)	State Senate or House Page
School Spelling Bee (1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd place)	District Spelling Bee Winner	State or National Sport Competitions
Reflection Contest (1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd place)	National Junior Honor Society	Boy Scout Eagle Award
Captain of a local sports team	Captain of a regional/school team	Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award
School Science Fair (1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd place)	National Honor Society	
Leadership in an extracurricular activity such as a club	District/Regional Reflection Contest (1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd place)	
	Selection to a Competitively-Selected Program such as Fredericksburg Regional Governor's School or Summer Residential Governor's School	



STUDENT PORTFOLIO

Please select three samples of your work which are a source of pride to you. At least one should be something you have done on your own, not in school. Examples might be a science fair project, a piece of art, a research paper, original creative writing or musical composition, a computer program, a tape/video of a performance, a scout merit badge or other award, or something else. Bring the pieces with you to the Commonwealth Governor's School interview, and be prepared to discuss with the interviewers why you chose these particular pieces. Think about what goal you hoped to achieve (even if you did not reach the goal) and what you learned in working on the project. Make sure your items are selected from ***no farther back than the past 3 years***. Your portfolio will be evaluated according to the following guidelines:

1. One piece is **not** a school assignment
2. Work is advanced for age or grade
3. An in-depth understanding of an idea or skill
4. Evidence of cited research to support ideas or research
5. Information is well organized and presented well
6. Higher level thinking is evident
7. Products/work chosen convey student's ideas effectively
8. Content or topic is unusual or unique
9. Samples show unusual, complex, or intricate presentation of an idea
10. Samples show resourceful or clever use of materials or language
11. Information has extensive details and elaboration
12. Problem-finding and problem-solving are evident
13. Evidence of high interest and perseverance
14. Pieces display a range of accomplishments and skills
15. Student can describe why work was selected

Every sample may not show every characteristic, but every characteristic should be evident in at least one sample.



The Commonwealth Governor's School
Math Faculty Recommendation Form for Student Application

Recommendation must come from **current or previous year's** teacher.

This box is to be completed by the applicant before the form is presented to the teacher.

Student Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Teacher Directions:

- Check one box for each criterion using the following rating scale:
 BA - Below Average A - Average E - Excellent (top 10%) O - Outstanding (top 5%)
- Mark one (and only one) box for every criterion. **DO NOT** mark between two categories.
NOTE: Not following this instruction hurts students in the application process.
- Sign, date, and seal recommendation in envelope and return to the counseling office.

Criteria	BA	A	E	O
1. Motivation and Persistence <i>Curious, self-starter, shows initiative, accepts criticism</i>				
2. Communication with Peers <i>Demonstrates sensitivity, respect for others and opposing viewpoints, shares ideas</i>				
3. Academic Interest <i>Intense interest in and appreciation for learning new things</i>				
4. Dependability <i>Consistent, disciplined, supports others</i>				
5. Preparation <i>Prepared to participate fully in discussions and activities</i>				
6. Quality of Work <i>Complete, thorough</i>				
7. Work Habits/Time Management <i>Disciplined, turns in work on time</i>				
8. Logical and Analytical Skills <i>Can reason through problems/dilemmas</i>				
9. Ability to Use New Technologies <i>Can adapt to working with calculators, computers, software, or scientific equipment</i>				
(For office use only)				

Please add any other comments about this student that will help the selection committee make a decision. Use the back of this form to comment on specific strengths and/or weaknesses.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ School: _____

Subject(s)/Grade Level(s)/Date(s) you taught applicant: _____



The Commonwealth Governor's School

English Faculty Recommendation Form for Student Application

Recommendation must come from **current or previous year's** teacher.

This box is to be completed by the applicant before the form is presented to the teacher.

Student Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Teacher Directions:

- Check one box for each criterion using the following rating scale:
 BA - Below Average A - Average E - Excellent (top 10%) O - Outstanding (top 5%)
- Mark one (and only one) box for every criterion. DO NOT mark between two categories.
NOTE: Not following this instruction hurts students in the application process.
- Sign, date, and seal recommendation in envelope and return to the counseling office.

Criteria	BA	A	E	O
1. Motivation and Persistence <i>Curious, self-starter, shows initiative, accepts criticism</i>				
2. Communication with Peers <i>Demonstrates sensitivity, respect for others and opposing viewpoints, shares ideas</i>				
3. Academic Interest <i>Intense interest in and appreciation for learning new things; makes connections</i>				
4. Dependability <i>Consistent, disciplined, supports others</i>				
5. Preparation <i>Prepared to participate fully in discussions and activities</i>				
6. Quality of Work <i>Complete, thorough</i>				
7. Work Habits/Time Management <i>Disciplined, turns in work on time</i>				
8. Writing Skills <i>Produces compositions which reflect control, insight, and maturity</i>				
9. Reading Skills <i>Demonstrates excellent comprehension of complex or demanding texts</i>				
(For office use only)				

Please add any other comments about this student that will help the selection committee make a decision. Use the back of this form to comment on specific strengths and/or weaknesses.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ School: _____

Subject(s)/Grade Level(s)/Date(s) you taught applicant: _____



The Commonwealth Governor's School
Other Teacher/ Mentor Recommendation Form for Student Application

This box is to be completed by the applicant before the form is presented to the teacher.

Student Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Teacher Directions:

- Check one box for each criterion using the following rating scale:
 BA - Below Average A - Average E - Excellent (top 10%) O - Outstanding (top 5%)
- Mark one (and only one) box for every criterion. DO NOT mark between two categories.
NOTE: Not following this instruction hurts students in the application process.
- Sign, date, and seal recommendation in envelope and return to the guidance office.

Criteria	BA	A	E	O
1. Motivation and Persistence <i>Curious, self-starter, shows initiative, accepts criticism</i>				
2. Communication with Peers <i>Demonstrates sensitivity, respect for others and opposing viewpoints, shares ideas</i>				
3. Academic Interest <i>Intense interest in and appreciation for learning new things; makes connections</i>				
4. Dependability <i>Consistent, disciplined, supports others</i>				
5. Preparation <i>Prepared to participate fully in discussions and activities</i>				
6. Quality of Work <i>Complete, thorough</i>				
7. Work Habits/Time Management <i>Disciplined, turns in work on time</i>				
8. Perseverance <i>Demonstrates sustained commitment to tasks, groups, and/or clubs</i>				
9. Independence <i>Demonstrates the ability to solve challenging problems or complete difficult tasks with minimal assistance from adults</i>				
(For office use only)				

Please add any other comments about this student that will help the selection committee make a decision. Use the back of this form to comment on specific strengths and/or weaknesses.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____
 Signature: _____ School: _____

Subject(s)/Grade Level(s)/Date(s) you taught applicant: _____



The Commonwealth Governor's School CERTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENROLL

(for students NOT currently enrolled in King George County Public Schools)

Current School:

- Out-of-County _____
(School) (County) (State)
- Private _____
(School) (County) (State)
- Home School _____

I hereby certify that I will enroll my son/daughter as a full-time student in the appropriate public school in King George County if my child is accepted into the Commonwealth Governor's School program.

Student Name

Date

Parent Name (print)

Parent Signature

Please return this form to:
Amanda Higgins
Coordinator of Gifted Services
King George County Schools
PO Box 1239
King George, VA 22485



FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Academic Information Chart

This chart contains the corresponding point value with the percentile or GPA for use in Section I of the Candidate Profile.

Ability Measure		Achievement 1 Reading Comprehension		Achievement 2 Total Math		Grade Percentage	
Percentile	Points	Percentile	Points	Percentile	Points	GPA	Points
99	20	99	20	99	20	100-99	20
98	19	98	19	98	19	98	19
97	18	97	18	97	18	97	18
96	17	96	17	96	17	96	17
95	16	95	16	95	16	95	16
94	15	94	15	94	15	94	15
93	14	93	14	93	14	93	14
92	13	92	13	92	13	92	13
91	12	91	12	91	12	91	12
90	11	90	11	90	11	90	11
89	10	89	10	89	10	89	10
88	9	88	9	88	9	88	9
87	8	87	8	87	8	87	8
86	7	86	7	86	7	86	7
85	6	85	6	85	6	85	6
84	5	84	5	84	5	84	5
83	4	83	4	83	4	83	4
82	3	82	3	82	3	82	3
81	2	81	2	81	2	81	2
80	1	80	1	80	1	80	1
Total		Total		Total		Total	