



# The Commonwealth Governor's School

Family Information Session  
Caroline County Public Schools  
November 15, 2021

# Overview

- Established in 1998
- Six total sites across four counties with 12 participating high schools
- School within a school model
  - Half day program at King George High School focused on core content areas (mathematics, science, English, social studies)
    - Serves King George HS
    - Serves Caroline HS



# Overview (continued)



## EXAMPLES

- French Revolution Salon
- Henrietta Lacks, Genetics, & Ethics
- Astronomy & Equations of Ellipses

- Interdisciplinary approach to learning
  - Focused on helping students see the connections between content areas and learning big picture concepts
  - Access to real-world, relevant learning experiences in all content areas

# Overview (continued)

- Implementation of a Gifted Model

- Pace

- CGS courses move at a much faster pace than the same course in a comprehensive high school allowing students to feel challenged as they work through new material.

- Process

- Focus on critical thinking skills that allow students to problem-solve, analyze, and dissect material, primary documents, and apply their content knowledge to new situations

- Product

- Students are provided choice and options when completing assignments and projects. They often choose the type of product and the content of the assignment (within a theme) in order to demonstrate their mastery.



# Eligibility

- Gifted or high-achieving students AND highly motivated learners
- Students in grades 9-12
- Must successfully complete Algebra I by the end of the spring in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be eligible to apply





# Field Experiences

- 6-8 field experiences per grade level per year; 1-2 per subject area



# Culminating Project



- Research project
- Focused on student's personal interest
- Receive an elective credit at the conclusion of 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Opportunity to work with an expert in selected field of research
- New intersession model that allows students to work exclusively on research throughout the school year

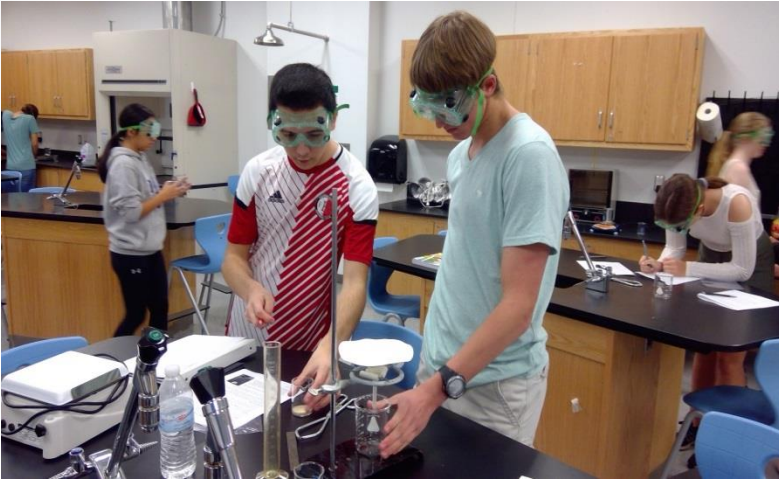
# CGS Mathematics

- Pathway 1
  - Honors Algebra II,
  - Honors Geometry,
  - Honors Math Analysis,
  - AP Statistics
- Pathway 2
  - Honors Algebra II,
  - Honors Math Analysis,
  - AP Calculus AB,
  - AP Statistics **OR** AP Calculus BC & Multivariable Calculus





# CGS Science



- AP Environmental Science
- AP Biology
- DE Chemistry
- AP Physics 1



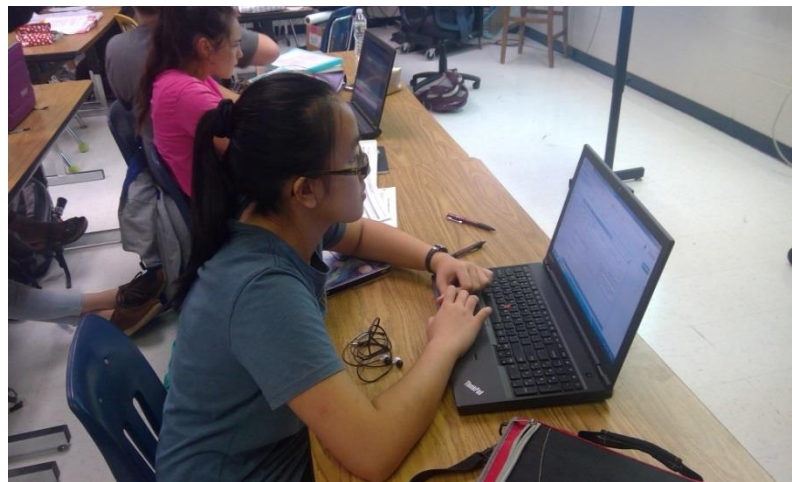
# CGS English

- Honors English 9
- Honors English 10
- AP Language & Composition
- AP Literature & Composition



# CGS Social Studies

- AP European History
- AP Government
- AP U.S. History
- AP Human Geography





# College Credits



- 12 Advanced Placement Courses
  - If testing in all courses and earning a minimum passing score of a 3, students can earn a minimum of 36 college credits
- 1 Dual Enrolled Course
  - 4 college credits in Chemistry 101 & 101 Lab



# Extracurricular Involvement



# CGS Support

- Peer Support
  - Cohort model
- Academic Support
  - Tutoring
  - Note-taking, Time Management & Scheduling Lessons
- Social-Emotional Support
  - Dedicated CGS Program Counselor
  - Lessons on coping with stress, anxiety, & perfectionism
- CGS PTO Events & Opportunities
  - Social Events
  - Academic Events
  - Scholarship Opportunities



# Student Selection



- Application Process Overview
  - Academic achievement profile & ability test scores
  - Teacher recommendations (4)
  - Interview
  - Portfolio presentation

# Application Evaluation

Category	Maximum Total Points
Academic Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ability Measure,</li><li>• Achievement Measure 1 (Reading Comprehension),</li><li>• Achievement Measure 2 (Math), &amp;</li><li>• Grade Point Average</li></ul>	80
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English Teacher,</li><li>• Math Teacher,</li><li>• Other Teacher,</li><li>• Teacher/Mentor/Coach<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Top 3 out of 4 scores taken</li></ul></li></ul>	36
Portfolio & Interview <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes 3 work samples</li><li>• Panel interview</li></ul>	30 - Portfolio 36 - Interview
Grand Total	182



# Portfolio & Interview (continued)

- When it is time to select portfolio items, select **TOP** work samples!
- It is easier to talk about the samples if you feel passionate about the work you completed.
- Sample Portfolio Items:
  - School projects - science fair, research projects, book reports
  - Service projects - clubs, church organizations, scouting
  - Personal interest projects - special talents, musical pieces, theatrical performances, athletic highlights
  - Original stories, poems, artwork

# Portfolio & Interview

- The interview and portfolio review are conducted in ***INDIVIDUAL*** student sessions.
- The portfolio items and interview are scored using separate rubrics.
- The **3** portfolio samples must be from the last 3 years (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade).
- Ensure that at least one sample includes evidence of **cited research** to support your work.
- At least one piece should **NOT** be a school assignment.
- At least one piece should show problem solving.

# Application Process Timeline

- Parent Information Night – November 15
- Application opens (paper version) – November 15
- Visit to CGS Site by Caroline MS students – December 6
- Application closes – January 7
- Testing Window – January 17-28
  - Achievement testing will be administered in reading comprehension and mathematics to all applicants.
  - Ability testing will be administered to any student who has not completed one in the past 12 months.
- Interview/Portfolio Window – Month of February
- Acceptance Notification – Week of March 7

# Best Wishes & Good Luck!

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For more information, please visit,  
[www.cgsva.org](http://www.cgsva.org)