

SCHOOL and APPLICATION INFORMATION



©
Appomattox Regional Governor's School
For the Arts and Technology

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Petersburg, Virginia 23803

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www.args.us

**PLEASE SEE YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR
GIFTED COORDINATOR FOR AN APPLICATION
PACKET.**



APPLICATION SCHEDULE 2022

for interested students and parents

October 15, 2021	Application packets available through local public middle / junior high schools. On-line portals open for Chesterfield and Richmond. (Students must be enrolled in Algebra I or higher-level mathematics to apply.)
November 3 OR 4	Open House for interested students and parents at Appomattox Regional Governor's School (6:00 – 8:30 PM). Please reference our website: args.us to see when your school division is scheduled to attend.
December 1	Applications due to local public school division middle school / junior high school counselors. On-line portal deadline for Chesterfield, Richmond. (Absolute deadline – No additional application information may be submitted after this date.)
December 29	Individual adjudication schedule (date and time) mailed to each applicant
January 15, 2022	Student Adjudication
January 22	Student Adjudication
January 29	Adjudication Snow Day
February 11	Transcripts (including second semester seventh grade and first semester eighth grade) due from schools to local school division Gifted Program Coordinator
March 11	Letters of acceptance status mailed
March 22	ARGS visitation for accepted students (including potential registration)
March 25	ARGS visitation for alternate (wait list) students
March 25	Response due from accepted students no later than March 25 to local public school division Gifted Program Coordinator
March 25	Deadline for appeal - written appeal (email accepted) received no later than March 25 by local public-school division Gifted Program Coordinator
June - August	New resident adjudication sessions (scheduled individually)

Frequently Asked Questions

As a way to answer the questions or concerns that parents, students, and visitors have about ARGS, we have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions about our programs, schedules, etc.

What is the primary focus of the Governor's School?

The Governor's School was created for gifted students in the fine/performing arts and technology.

Are classes in a block schedule, like many high schools?

ARGS runs on a "Modified Block Schedule." Monday and Wednesday students visit their 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th periods (A schedule), and Tuesday and Thursday students have 5th through 8th periods (B schedule). Fridays alternate between A and B schedule every other week. See the Student Handbook for more details.

Our extended lunch block allows students to meet for clubs and various organizations rather than after school.

Do I have to provide transportation for my child each day?

No. All participating districts are required to provide transportation for all students. To find out when and where your child can be picked up, contact your local school transportation office.

Do you offer dual enrollment or AP classes for students?

We offer Dual Enrollment (DE) AND AP classes in a number of subjects, both core classes and focus related classes. DE classes at the Governor's School are by partnerships with Richard Bland College (RBC) and John Tyler Community College (JTCC).

What are the graduation requirements for students?

The graduation requirements are as follows:

Standard Diploma (24) 4 English 3 Math 3 Lab. Science 3 History & Social Science 2 Health/PE 2 World Language 1 Econ. & Personal Finance 6 Focus Area (electives) TOTAL 24	Advanced Diploma (32) 4 English 4 Math 4 Lab. Science 4 History & Social Science 2 Health/PE 3 World Language 1 Technical or Fine Arts 1 Econ. & Personal Finance 6 Required Focus Area 3 Electives TOTAL 32
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All students graduating from the Governor's School will have the Governor's Seal of Excellence on their diploma. Additional seals for specific subject areas can also be awarded. For more information about graduation, contact Ms. Princess Jackson, Director of School Counseling.

Are students held to a specific level of academic and behavioral standards?

Definitely. All students receive a student handbook, outlining all procedures, expectations, and disciplinary consequences relating to student behavior. Student Handbooks are issued to all students. Also, any student found to be struggling in any class will be put on Academic Probation. This is for students who have below a C in a subject. The probation lasts for one marking period, before further action is taken.

What is the grading scale?

The grading scale is listed below. Dual enrollment (CC) and AP classes carry a weight of .5 above the weight of a regular class.

Letter	Num.Value	GPA	GPA (CC & AP)
A+	97 - 100	4.5	5.0
A	90 - 96	4.0	4.5
B+	86 - 89	3.5	4.0
B	80 - 85	3.0	3.5
C+	76 - 79	2.5	3.0
C	70 - 75	2.0	2.5
D+	66 - 69	1.5	2.0
D	60 - 65	1.0	1.5
F	0 - 59	0.0	0.0

This, unlike many Governor's Schools, is a full time school. Does that mean students have clubs, sports, proms, and other "regular high school" activities?

Yes. Students have the opportunity to join a number of clubs, ranging from Tabletop Gaming Club to the Technology Students of America. Students also have periodic dances. Each year a student designed and published literary arts magazine, *ASGARD*, is produced as well as a yearbook. Since the fall of 2000 students have participated in several VHSL varsity sports; Cheerleading, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Tennis, Cross Country, and Soccer. The students have also participated, and ranked highly, in academic VHSL competitions.

Does ARGS rent or loan equipment, such as computers or musical instruments, to students?

All students are assigned a Chromebook their freshmen year; however, we do not loan out instruments.

How can my child apply to become a part of ARGS?

NOTE: The deadline for student applications is December 1st, 2021 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Students in the 8th grade (public, private, or home schooled) who reside in any of the fourteen participating districts (Amelia County, Charles City County, Chesterfield County, City of Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie County, City of Franklin, City of Hopewell, City of Petersburg, Prince George County, Powhatan County, Richmond City, Southampton County, Surry County, and Sussex County) may apply in the fall of their 8th grade year. In addition, current 9th, 10th, and 11th graders who moved into one of the 14 member school districts after the admission deadline may apply. The admissions information is annually posted on the school website. For more information, contact your local school division's Gifted Education Department.

What if I have a question that is not listed here?

If you would like your question answered, please call 804-722-0200 ext. 110. We will answer your question as soon as possible.

2022 Audition / Portfolio Review Information

Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology

(Applicants may adjudicate in only one focus area. Please keep this sheet for reference.)

SPECIFIC FOCUS AREA REQUIREMENTS

DANCE (2.5 hours in groups)

- Auditions will be held in a dance class format. Students will take a ballet barre with center practice and learn modern dance movement phrases. Students will also work with improvisational dance exercises.
- Bring a full body photograph (4X6 or 5X7) of yourself in dance attire, posed in first arabesque. Photographs will remain with adjudicators.
- All students should wear audition attire. Ladies: leotard and convertible tights. Gentlemen: fitted T-shirt, and sweatpants or convertible tights. Wear no jewelry. Hair should be pulled away from the face and secured.
- Appropriate footwear: Ballet technique shoes for the first section of class; bare feet required for the modern work. Students with pointe experience may choose to wear pointe shoes for the optional solo demonstration.
- A brief individual interview will follow the audition class.
- [Optional] Prepare a 90-second solo to perform. The solo may be either ballet, modern, jazz, tap, or a world dance-form. Bring your music on an MP3 device (preferred) such as a cell phone or tablet; CD format is also acceptable. Sound equipment will be provided.

Dance applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Physicality (Strength. Flexibility. Muscular endurance. Coordination. Facility.)

Ballet Barre (Technique. Vocabulary. Projection. Musicality. Classical line.)

Modern Center (Use of torso. Use of dynamics. Use of space. Use of momentum, rhythm. Centered, grounded.)

Creative Application (Committed to movement being performed. Uses spontaneous, genuine movement. Explores new movement concepts. Inventive / Expressive. Kinesthetically aware.)

Verbal Skills (Clearly articulates commitment to the study of dance. Clearly articulates personal artistic goals. Uses effective verbal skills to discuss dance-related ideas.)

LITERARY ARTS (30 minutes)

- Students should create a portfolio consisting of 3-5 examples of their highest quality creative writing in any of the following genres: poetry, fiction (short story, novella, novel), creative nonfiction essays (no research papers), song lyrics, or an original play/monologue. We would like to see between 5 and 20 pages of creative writing. The work should be original (all from the student) and may be from different genres (ex. two poems, one short story and one play) or from one genre (ex. three poems or three short stories). The works should be typed and should not have peer or teacher comments.
- Students may submit part of a novel and then summarize the rest. They should bring work that represents the scope and range of their skills and passion.
- 48 hours in advance of the assigned adjudication date, students should email this portfolio as a Word document (or in the body of the email) to: Litarts@args.us.
- On the day of adjudication, the student should bring one printed copy with them. Please staple together the contents of the portfolio and do not include it in a binder. Students will turn in this copy at the registration desk upon arrival.
- On-site composition may be required.

Literary Arts applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Thought Process/Critical Thinking (Understands the vital connection between reading & writing. Reads often. Enjoys discussion of reading. Exhibits a knowledgeable / informed interest in literary arts / creative writing. Exhibits self-reflexivity and maturity.)

Motivation / Drive / Professionalism (Exhibits a dedication to craft. Verbalizes / expresses a passion for writing. Expresses a specific interest in ARGS. Understands the rigor of the ARGS program Presents the portfolio in a professional manner, meeting all guidelines.)

Writing Process (Shows complexity of thought in regard to writing. Understands and/or utilizes a revision process. Reveals an openness to a workshop setting. Understands own work (portfolio pieces). Grasps grammar and mechanics appropriate to genre)

Literary Technique (Strives for / achieves metaphor / simile. Uses original symbolism and/or imagery. Uses varied/complex syntax. Exhibits awareness of audience and purpose. Leaves impact/impression on reader.)

Creativity / Originality / Thought Process (Exhibits creativity in subject matter. Exhibits creativity in style. Devises original ideas. Chooses appropriate pieces for the portfolio that express depth of thought and purpose. Uses logical progression of ideas.)

MUSIC (ARGS does not provide instruments at auditions except for piano and percussion. A student currently borrowing an instrument from a local school division may contact the local gifted program administrator for assistance.)

All music applicants are to submit a digital version of a portfolio (and prepared piece with instrument/voice) prior to the audition date. A google drive and/or Flipgrid link and further instructions on how to upload portfolio will be sent in January via email and will be from music@args.us. Applicants will still be required to present and discuss their work during their scheduled audition time.

Accepted music students will attend one week of summer music camp, dates to be announced.

Visit: <https://sites.google.com/args.us/instrumentalandvocalmusic/admissions> for more details in each music area.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – Brass, Woodwinds, Strings, Percussion, Guitar, Harp (15 minutes)

- Perform one selection of your choosing that showcases your best musical ability and preferred playing style. Limit 3 minutes.
- Provide two (2) copies of sheet music for the adjudicators.
- Provide your own accompaniment if needed.
- Perform the provided required selection from the link under “Music” for your instrument.
- Perform scales, technical exercises, or chord progressions specified for your instrument (see link above)
- Demonstrate sight-reading ability.
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment.

Instrumental Music applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Performance and Musicianship (Selection of appropriate repertoire. Interpretation. Phrasing. Articulation. Dynamics.)

Technique (Posture, Tone quality. Intonation. Rhythm/Time.)

Scales (Correct notes. Steady tempo. Tone quality. Articulation.)

Sight Reading and Music Theory (Correct notes. Correct rhythms. Steady tempo. Theory Pre-test.)

Overall Assessment (Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Appreciates the importance of musical preparation. Projects poise and maturity. Honors ensemble experience.)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC - Piano (15 minutes)

- Perform from memory one selection of your choosing of intermediate to advanced difficulty that showcases your best musical ability and preferred playing style. Limit 3 minutes.
- Select and perform a second contrasting selection from the suggested repertoire for piano (see link under “Music”)
- Provide two (2) copies of sheet music for each selection for the adjudicators.
- Perform the following major scales (see link above), one from each fingering group (1, 2, and 3), hands together with accurate fingering, up and down in a steady tempo: Suggested D-flat major, F major, C major
- Demonstrate sight-reading ability, hands together
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment.

Piano applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Performance and Musicianship (Selection of appropriate repertoire. Interpretation. Phrasing. Articulation. Dynamics. Memorization.)

Technique (Posture. Hand position. Tone quality. Facility.)

Scales (Accuracy. Fingering. Steady tempo. Articulation.)

Sight Reading and Music Theory (Correct notes, Correct rhythms, Steady tempo, Theory Pre-test)

Overall Assessment (Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Has an established practice routine. Projects poise and maturity. Demonstrates accomplished musicianship. Accompaniment experience.)

VOCAL MUSIC (15 minutes)

- Select and perform from memory two contrasting songs from the required list that showcase your best musical ability. Follow the link above to access public domain sheet music and accompaniment MP3 files
- Demonstrate poise and presence by introducing yourself and your selections, naming song titles and composers.
- Sing unaccompanied major and natural minor scales, one octave up and down and ending with a tonic triad, and starting from a given pitch in your singing range. Go to the link under “Music” to see examples.
- Demonstrate vocal range, pitch matching, and sight-reading ability.
- Complete a brief written music achievement assessment.

Vocal Music applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Performance and Musicianship (Vocal appropriate repertoire. Interpretation. Phrasing. Articulation. Dynamics. Memorization.)

Technique (Singing posture. Tone quality. Intonation. Diction.)

Scales (Ear training – accurately matches pitches as played by instructor. Demonstrates vocal range.)

Sight Reading and Music Theory (Correct notes. Correct rhythms. Steady tempo. Theory Pre-test.)

Overall Assessment (Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Appreciates importance of musical preparation. Projects poise and maturity. Demonstrates ensemble experience.)

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (20 minutes) This focus area (new for 2022-23) is designed for the student who is interested in recording, live sound, music business, and some aspects of music production.

- Digital portfolio of audio and/or video work and projects an applicant has already completed related to music technology.
- Piece of music you recorded, composed, and/or performed. This should highlight the applicant’s skills in music/music tech. If the applicant plays an instrument or sings, they should also prepare the required piece for that instrument or voice - see *Instrumental or Vocal Music*.
- Demonstrate interest, skills, experience, creative mind
- Resume of related skills, which could include: (1) List of DAW and other audio software programs and apps with which the applicant has prior experience, (2) Musical Composition, (3) Tracking, producing, editing, mixing, mastering, (4) Outlining musical training and experience
- Interview with adjudicators to present and discuss portfolio
- Brief written music achievement assessment and an in-person lesson/demonstration of sound system component assembly.

Music Tech applicants will be evaluated in the following areas:

Quality of Work/Portfolio - includes Performing Audition (if applicable) (10 points)

Resume (software applications & experience) (5 points)

Applied Skills (Prior knowledge of music and/or music technology - will include a lesson/demonstration & Theory pre-test) (5 points)

Overall Assessment (5 points) - Expresses a passion for music at ARGS. Projects poise and maturity. Enthusiasm for learning basic piano keyboard skills and participation in an ARGS ensemble.

TECHNOLOGY (60 minutes)

- Student should be prepared to discuss interest, prior experiences, and future goals with technology experts.
- Portfolio to be brought with student should include a project that illustrates the student's knowledge of technology, engineering, or computer programming.
- Must bring backup of all files, included on a flash drive and/or accessible through the internet.
- If demonstrating an executable file, students must bring their own laptops.
- Students should be prepared to discuss their portfolio including details about the content and any processes used to create it.
- Math / Technology Assessment (30 minute test in addition to interview.)

Technology applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Knowledge of Engineering and/or Computer Science (Ability to describe the research / problem solving process. Understands the Engineering Process. Has genuine inclination for Engineering or Computer Science.)

Mathematics and Science (Expresses strong self-efficacy in math and science. Expresses positive attitudes toward math and science. Understands the importance of math and science in engineering and computer science.)

Communication Skills (Ability to communicate coherently & logically. Ability to think on one's feet and be comfortable in oral and written presentation. Comfortable in receiving critique or constructive criticism. Comfortable working in groups.)

Project or Presentation (Ability to clearly explain the project/presentation and adequately answer questions. Ability to identify and reflect on setbacks during the creation of the project/presentation. Was the project/presentation student's idea. Student based/made project.)

Math Assessment (Test score)

THEATRE ARTS

THEATRE TRACK (2 hours in groups)

- Audition will include improvisational theatre games.
- Applicants should wear athletic shoes or shoes that grip the floor (or bring some to change into for the improv portion).
- Applicants should dress so that they can comfortably move and stretch.
- Applicants are required to prepare one memorized monologue of 1 minute in length.
 - Monologue should be chosen from published works and should be a speech that is spoken by one character to another.
 - Monologue must be appropriate, and its presentation must show the applicant's vocal range, ability to project and to enunciate; and the ability to interpret dialogue intelligently.
 - Applicants are not to use foreign dialects or wear costumes. Properties are not allowed.
- Applicants will be asked to record and upload your monologue on video using **Flipgrid** prior to the audition date. The link will be sent to you in January via email and will be from theatre@args.us. Applicants will still be required to perform their monologue during their scheduled time.

Theatre Track applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Vocal Skills (Projection is good and relative to the space. Speech is appropriately articulate. Voice shows skillful variation of pitch, dynamics, and tone. Vocal nuance enhances the material.)

Physicality (Gestures enhance and are motivated by the text. Facial expressions enhance and are motivated by the text. Stance is grounded or movement is motivated. Actor has an overall command of physicality.)

Execution (Focus is maintained throughout piece. Timing (pace, beats, transitions, etc.) enhance the piece. Piece is rehearsed, and presented intelligently. Commitment to piece supports the content.)

Emotional Connection (Maturity. Vulnerability. Charisma. Inner emotional life is evident.)

Material Selection and Criticism (Appropriate material selection. Presenter flexible with criticism. Presenter improves with criticism.)

TECHNICAL THEATRE TRACK (2 hours in groups)

- *Technical Theatre* applicants (those applying for the study of costumes, lighting, or scenery) will be required to participate in all the above activities except the monologue. In its place, the applicants must present and defend a technical theatre portfolio that shows evidence of completed technical models, or samples of work completed for a stage production or this adjudication. Materials do not have to have been used in support of an actual production, but the applicant should be prepared to discuss and defend the work for its appropriateness to the stage production the work is intended to support.
- Applicants will be asked to submit a digital version of their portfolio prior to the audition date. A google drive link and further instructions on how to upload your portfolio will be sent to you in January via email and will be from theatre@args.us. Applicants will still be required to present and discuss their work during their scheduled time.

Technical Theatre Track applicants will be evaluated in the following four areas:

Theatre Audition - Improvisation/Theatre Games (Adapts well to new situations. Comfortable working with others. Takes direction easily.)

Presentation and Communication Skills (Ability to communicate coherently & logically. Originality of ideas. Ability to think on one's feet and be comfortable in orally presenting material. Comfortable in receiving critique or constructive criticism. Presents portfolio in a professional manner.)

Quality of Work (Attention to Detail. Objective is clearly met through work. Use of materials: Designs – Lines and colors are complementary and/or enhances work.)

Overall Assessment (Articulate about work during interview. Professional portfolio presentation. Demonstrates a passion for Theatre. Comfortable in receiving critique.)

MUSICAL THEATRE TRACK (2.5 hours in groups)

- Audition will include improvisational theatre games.
- Applicants should dress so that they can comfortably move and stretch.
- Applicants will be taught a dance combination in a group. (No previous dance training is required.)
- Applicants should wear athletic shoes or shoes that grip the floor. Dance shoes are recommended but not required for the dance combination.
- For the vocal audition, prepare one song, memorized, no longer than 2 minutes. The song can be from any genre other than spoken word (e.g., Broadway, gospel, jazz, folk, etc.).
 - Bring either an audio accompaniment (CD or MP3 player without vocals); or piano sheet music for the live accompanist. A CD player is provided although students may bring their own. A pianist will be available to play for those with sheet music, though you may bring your own personal accompanist if desired.
 - No selections may be sung a cappella.
- Students will be scored for dancing, singing, and acting, with the vocal score being weighed twice.
- Applicants will be asked to record and upload your song on video using **Flipgrid** prior to the audition date. The link will be sent to you in January via email and will be from theatre@args.us. Applicants will still be required to perform their song during their scheduled time.

Musical Theatre Track applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Vocal Quality (Music selections appropriate for voice. Rhythm and pitch of tune are accurate. Intonation is good. Tone quality is musical and consistent. Diction enhances the piece. Vocal interpolations enhance the piece.)

Performance (Focus is maintained throughout the piece. Facial expressions enhance and are motivated by the text. Stance is grounded or movement is motivated. Singer conveys meaning of lyrics, and mood of music.)

Dancing Skills (Uses space effectively. Demonstrates good coordination. Executes movement in time with music. Performance shows connection to style and mood.)

Tonal Accuracy (Can accurately sing back a series of pitches on first hearing. Can match pitch given from a piano. Can accurately sing back intervals.)

Theatre Audition - Improvisation/Theatre Games (Adapts well to new situations. Comfortable working with others. Takes direction easily.)

VISUAL ARTS (25 minutes)

- Applicants will be required to draw, from observation, a still-life study (10 minutes) on-site as part of their adjudication.
- Students must bring a portfolio of 10-15 pieces of their most recent artwork- include finished pieces, works-in-progress, and sketchbooks. Sketchbooks may include refined drawings and idea-generating sketches.
- Artwork may be 2-dimensional (drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, computer art, etc.) or 3-dimensional (sculpture, mobiles, crafts, architectural models, ceramics, fashion, etc.). Artworks may have made in art class, a summer exploration program, or on one's own. Artwork too large to bring to site can be presented in photographs, or on a digital device.
- Drawings from observation are preferred, rather from images on the Internet or from photographs. Examples include: still-life studies, landscapes, portraits, or interior scenes. *Drawings done in a cartoon/ anime/ manga style or as a game character development are permitted IF it is an observation of an actual 3-dimensional object or from life/ figure drawing.*
- Select work that demonstrates originality, creativity, and skill in the use of materials and techniques, ideas/ content, subject matter, consistency, and craftsmanship.
- A simple portfolio case made of two pieces of stiff cardboard, held together with tape or twine is adequate. Pieces of plain blank paper can be used to separate the works. Include your name, address, telephone number, grade, and current school written in clearly printed block letters on the outside of the portfolio. Label any photographs to identify those that are digital or processed by a commercial lab or those self-processed in a darkroom.

Visual Arts applicants will be evaluated in the following five areas:

Technique / Skills (Design cohesiveness. Proficiency in skills. Variety of media techniques. Sketchbook / Idea development. Craftsmanship.)

Artistic Vision (Originality in approach. Openness to experimentation. Curiosity. Creative composition. Individual expression.)

Drawing Exercise (Ability to create composition. Consistency with shown portfolio. Understanding of underlying forms. Interpretation of prompt. Line quality and control.)

Content / Theme (Appropriate subject matter. Clarity of ideas / intent. Historical / personal context. Cross-disciplinary connections. Depth of exploration.)

Overall Assessment (Articulate about work during interview. Professional portfolio presentation. Demonstrates a passion for art. Comfortable in receiving critique. General knowledge of visual arts.)

**Appomattox Regional Governor's School
for the
Arts and Technology**

512 West Washington Street, Petersburg, Virginia 23803
(804) 722-0200 fax: (804) 722-0201 website: www.args.us

Administration

Executive Director: Dr. Meagan Tenia
Assistant Director: Mrs. Veronica Kouassi-Small

Director of School Counseling: Ms. Princess Jackson
School Counselor: Mrs. Tara Cook
School Counselor Assistant: Ms. Valerie Walker

Overview

Established in 1999 and located in the heart of the Petersburg Historical Restoration Project, the Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology (ARGS) serves a culturally diverse population of gifted and talented students from fourteen school districts, including the cities of Colonial Heights, Franklin, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond and the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Powhatan, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex. Following a rigorous application and adjudication process, a select number of students "major" in one of several focus areas: Visual Arts, Literary Arts, Theatre, Musical Theatre, Dance, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, or Pre-engineering/Technology. ARGS' college preparatory, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement curriculum, combined with the wide range of experiential educational and extra-curricular opportunities, challenges its students both academically and artistically. We are culturally diverse and encourage our students to participate in extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Mission Statement

The Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology provides gifted and talented students a differentiated and rigorous education, cultivates a supportive environment that inspires unique artistic and technological visions, promotes cultural tolerance, nurtures community partnerships, and produces active, engaged citizens.

Goal Statements

The Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology:

- Provides a full-time regional program for students in grades 9-12 who demonstrate advanced skills in the arts and/or technology.
- Offers an advanced program that includes music, dance, theatre, literary arts, musical theatre, visual arts, and technology.
- Provides a learning environment that promotes artistic and academic excellence.
- Engages students in a rigorous academic, skill-based, sequential, multicultural, and interdisciplinary curriculum.
- Fosters problem solving, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and creative expression.
- Enhances student's learning skills, achievement, and personal growth and development.

Population

The diverse student population here at ARGS is over 358 students, with a full and part-time faculty/staff of 59. Faculty, staff, administration and field professionals have been added as student enrollment and curriculum requirements have increased.

Partnerships

A range of organizations, corporations, and institutes of higher learning have expressed interest and provided support toward ensuring and improving the education of ARGS students. The following are among the various supporters with which ARGS is privileged to partner

Apple	Dominion Power	Petersburg City	Sycamore Rouge
Appomattox Education Foundation	Hewlett-Packard	Petersburg Chamber of Commerce	Verizon
Baskerville and Son Blueprint Automation	Honeywell	Petersburg City Public Library	Virginia Society of Professional Engineers
Capital One	John Tyler Community College	Richmond Ballet	Virginia State University
Central Virginia Film Office	New Millennium Studio	Richard Bland College	Virginia Symphony
City of Petersburg	Owens Printing	Roslyn Farms Corporation	
Coca-Cola	Pepsi-Cola	Swift Creek Mill Playhouse	

Advanced Study Diploma Requirements

English	4 units	Social Sciences	4 units
Mathematics	4 units	Health/PE	2 units
Science	4 units (must include labs)	Fine or Practical Arts*	1 unit
Language	3 units of one/2 units of 2 languages	Electives	4 units
Fine Arts/Technology	6 units (focus area only)		

Total: 32 units

(Art students must take one technology course and Technology students must take one art course that may be incorporated into elective credits.)

Graduation Requirements

ARGS adheres to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) graduation requirements for the Standard Diploma. The Advanced Studies Diploma for ARGS requires 32 credits for graduation, which has been approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

Class Ranking

ARGS does not provide a class rank for individual students since the school employs a competitive selection process that provides high quality students to the program. ARGS also does not name or recognize Senior Class Valedictorians or Salutatorians.

Community Service

In keeping with the ARGS mission of providing a comprehensive education for the artistically, technologically, and academically gifted, coupled with the understanding that a school for the gifted should cultivate dynamic opportunities for its students beyond the expectations of typical high schools, ARGS strongly encourages its students to participate in the community.

Dual Enrollment Courses

ARGS offers a variety of college courses on-site as part of a partnership with John Tyler Community College (JTCC) and Richard Bland College (RBC). This dual enrollment program allows students to gain college credits while attending high school. As part of ARGS' dual enrollment program, JTCC has developed a program of study that students may follow to obtain their Associate's Degree from the college. Listed below are the dual enrollment courses that ARGS may offer.

English Composition I-II	United States Government	Chemistry
Survey of British Literature I-II	United States and Virginia History	Microbiology and Genetics I-II
Introduction to Engineering	Engineering Graphics	Human Anatomy/Physiology
Industrial Management	Computer Methods in Engineering and Technology	**Offerings are subject to change yearly

Advanced Placement Courses

ARGS offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses through College Board. Listed below are the AP courses ARGS may offer. AP Calculus AB, AP Chemistry, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Environmental Science

Effective with the Class of 2014, a student's cumulative GPA is based on courses taken after entry as an ARGS student.

Effective with the 2017-2018 School Year, ARGS transitioned from a 7-point grading scale to a 10-point grading scale. Grades earned on the 7-point grading scale were not retroactively adjusted to the 10-point grading scale.

Grading Scale (Effective 2017-2018 School Year)

Grade	Range	Regular	Weighted (DE/AP)
A+	97-100	4.5	5
A	90-96	4	4.5
B+	86-89	3.5	4
B	80-85	3	3.5
C+	76-79	2.5	3
C	70-75	2	2.5
D+	66-69	1.5	2
D	60-65	1	1.5
F	59-0	0	F

Grading Scale (Prior to 2017-2018 School Year)

Grade	Range	Regular	Weighted (DE/AP)
A+	97-100	4.5	5
A	93-96	4	4.5
B+	88-92	3.5	4
B	85-87	3	3.5
C+	81-84	2.5	3
C	77-80	2	2.5
D+	73-76	1.5	2
D	70-72	1	1.5
F	69-0	0	0

(Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement courses are weighted. Honors courses are not weighted, since they are preparation for the Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement courses.)

Curricular and Extra-curricular Opportunities

Unique to ARGS gifted environment; students typically spend many extra hours in course-related practices, performances, and competitions. In addition, ARGS encourages extra-curricular involvement and initiative, offering a wide range of on-site, staff-sponsored clubs, organizations, and honor societies in which students may participate in a leadership and/or support capacity. ARGS singularly carries dual status in the Virginia High School League (VHSL): Group A for athletic competitions and Group AAA for academic and arts competitions. Currently, ARGS offers Group A varsity teams in girls' volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, girls' tennis, boys' tennis, co-ed cheerleading, co-ed cross country, co-ed golf and co-ed soccer.

Post Secondary College Admissions

ARGS graduates have been accepted to various schools nationwide. What follows is a list of some of these schools:

Art Institute of Washington	Harvard University	North Carolina School of the Arts	SUNY Purchase
Campbell University	Howard University	Oberlin Conservatory	United States Naval Academy
Carnegie-Melon University	Indiana University	Ohio University	University of Hartford – Hart School
Christopher Newport University	Indiana Institute of Technology	Old Dominion University	University of Mary Washington
College of William and Mary	James Madison University	Princeton	University of Michigan
Corcoran College of Art and Design	Julliard	Randolph College	University of North Carolina
Cornell University	Liberty University	Randolph-Macon College	University of Richmond
Dartmouth College	Lynchburg College	Penn State	University of Virginia
Duke University	Mary Baldwin College	Pratt Institute	Virginia Commonwealth University
East Carolina University	Morgan State University	Savannah College of Art & Design	Virginia Tech
Emerson College	North Carolina State University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Virginia State University
George Mason University	New York University	Shenandoah University	Virginia Union University
Goucher College	Norfolk State University	Spelman College	Yale University
Hampton University			

Military

In addition to the traditional post-secondary college or university tracks, ARGS graduates also consider possible military career options. Historically, ARGS graduates have been employed through the United States Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.