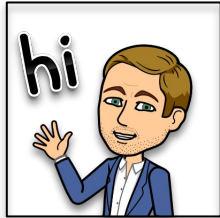


RPS School Applications  
8th Grade Virtual Information  
Session

*Fall 2021*

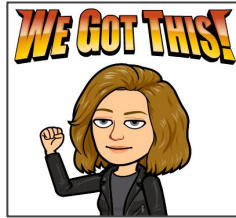
# Welcome!

Before we get started, we want to introduce ourselves!



**Luke Hostetter**

*Director, Strategic Planning*



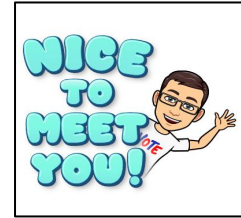
**Lynn Pleveich**

*Coordinator, Programs for  
Gifted & Talented*



**Candace  
Veney-Chaplin**

*Manager, College &  
Career Pathways*



**Andrew Bishop**

*Specialist, Strategic Planning*

During this information session we'll cover the following topics:

1. General information about your options for high school
2. Review of specialty and governor's school options
3. Explore the essay and recommendation sections of the application
4. Question and answer session

If you have a question during the presentation, please submit it using the chat or email it to [enrollrps@rvaschools.net](mailto:enrollrps@rvaschools.net) after the session.

## You have a number of options when considering where to go for high school:

- **Zone School** – The school that you would normally attend based on where you live. You do not have to apply for your zone school. If you do not know your zone school, visit <https://www.croppermap.com/richmond/> and type in your address.
- **Open Enrollment** – Any RPS school that does not have an application process for admission can be accessed by out-of-zone students through a random open enrollment lottery. Seats vary year to year, and transportation is not provided.
  - Rising 9th graders can apply to Armstrong High, George Wythe High, Huguenot High, John Marshall High, and Thomas Jefferson High School IB Middle Years Programme via open enrollment if you do not live in the school's zone.
- **Specialty Schools** – RPS secondary schools that require an application process for admission. For the SY2022-2023 application cycle, rising 9th graders can apply to Franklin Military Academy, Open High School, Richmond Community High School, and the Governor's STEM Academy at RTC.
- **Regional Governor's School** – Rising 9th graders can apply to Maggie Walker and Appomattox Regional Governor's School. Additionally, rising 9th graders can apply to CodeRVA.

Richmond Public Schools offers enrollment admission to students to attend select high schools in a smaller high school setting - Open High School, Richmond Community High School, Franklin Military Academy, and the Governor's STEM Academy at Richmond Technical Center.

These 'specialty schools' offer rigorous college preparation, career preparation, leadership opportunities, community service, and other inspiring experiences.

Students are required to complete a full application and fulfill the requirements set by each school to be offered a seat. The application process for the RPS specialty schools opened on October 14 and closes on **December 1 at 4:30 PM**

Successful completion of a specialty school application does not guarantee a student will receive a seat offer.

Franklin Military Academy (FMA), a premier secondary military institution develops leadership skills, promotes scholarship, and encourages honorable citizenship through military structure by providing rigorous learning experiences. Upon graduation, students will be equipped with the skills necessary to be competitive at colleges and universities, as well as in the 21st-century workforce.

#### At Franklin Military Academy:

- Students engage in a strict regimented military style discipline program. The program provides for individualized instruction with an average teaching ratio of 15:1.
- All students are enrolled in Military Science for one class period, and the academic courses accounts for the remaining classes of a child's schedule. The students may also enroll in a variety of electives.
- Students are encouraged to participate in other educational and cultural experiences offered by Richmond Public Schools and the broader community.
- There is a very small transfer or dropout rate at Franklin, has a strong school culture, and is a natural channel for students interested in pursuing a military career.



Open High's (OHS) vision is to develop positive and informed global citizens who are working to make the world a better place. We are committed to developing responsible, resilient, creative, and compassionate students who value intellectual inquiry and social responsibility. We are a College Preparatory program, and all students take Honors, Advanced Placement, and/or Dual Enrollment courses. All students are expected to work towards the Advanced Studies Diploma.

OHS, known at the “school without walls,” collaborates with the community for classroom space, elective offerings, and events throughout the year. All students are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the school and community and contribute to an environment of mutual respect between families and the school. All students must complete a minimum of 120 hours of community service and a Senior Project.



Richmond Community High School, a nationally recognized leader in urban education, is committed to preparing students to excel in a demanding, technologically sophisticated, global society by providing a college preparatory and experiential learning environment that nurtures individual achievement while embracing diversity.

Students will demonstrate mastery of rigorous college preparatory courses of study and emerge as critical thinkers and effective problem solvers. Students will develop into informed, engaged, and empowered leaders who positively impact their local and global communities. Students will achieve personal excellence by discovering and developing unique interests, talents, and gifts.

The RCHS staff has an uncompromising commitment to achieving these specific, measurable, observable, and demonstrable objectives. Current enrollment is approximately 250 students in grades 9-12; RCHS is housed in the historic J.C. Chandler building located at 201 East Brookland Park Boulevard on the city's north side.





# Governor's CTE Academy for STEM

*...at Richmond Technical Center*

The Governor's CTE Academy for STEM at RTC raises student aspirations and attracts more students to postsecondary education in preparation for technical careers. Courses emphasize in-depth understanding, connect new ideas to prior knowledge, encourage exploration, and help students construct meaning from course content. The Academy is a part-time four-year program for rising 9th graders which offers Richmond Public School students a rigorous academic and technical program of study in two career pathways - Engineering & Technology and Therapeutic Services. The pathways are a combination of academic and technical study that integrates classroom and real-world learning.

A few things that make the Governor's CTE Academy for STEM special are ...

- Industry credentials for employment (certifications, licensure)
- Opportunities for college credit
- Opportunities for career preparation (such as internships, clinicals, job shadowing, apprenticeships, etc.)
- Preparation for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage careers!

**Students who attend the RTC Governor's STEM Academy must also be enrolled in an RPS high school.**



## **Maggie L.Walker Governor's School for International Studies and Government Appomattox Regional Governor's School for Arts and Technology**

Applications must be submitted online via the Enroll RPS portal. No paper applications will be accepted.

All 8th grade students who are currently enrolled in Algebra I or a higher math may apply.



**[Appomattox Regional Governor's School \(ARGS\)](#)**



**[Maggie L. Walker Governor's School \(MLWGS\)](#)**

Short Answer: What are you hoping to gain from your high school experience? (250 words or less)

**14.2 Short Answer:**

Please answer the short answer question below in **250 words or less**. The response can either be typed directly or copy and pasted into the box. *Note: This short answer must be completed by the student.*

**Short Answer: What are you hoping to gain from your high school experience?**

**\*Please copy and paste your short answer into the box below.**

## Essay Topics (250-500 words)

1. Discuss a setback you experienced in some aspect of your life and how you overcame it. What did you learn?
2. Write an essay about an experience in your life that helped shape your values, your intellect, your personality, or your career goals. This could be an event you attended, a trip you took, a book you read, a work of art you encountered, a hobby or a passion you have, or any other significant experience in your life.
3. If you had the power to change one thing in your community, or in the world, what would it be and why?

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**Essay:**  
Please answer **ONE** of the following questions in 250-500 words (about one page). The response can either be typed directly or copy and pasted into the box.  
*Note: This essay must be completed by the student.*

**Essay Choices:**  

1. Discuss a setback you experienced in some aspect of your life and how you overcame it. What did you learn?
2. Write an essay about an experience in your life that helped shape your values, your intellect, your personality, or your career goals. This could be an event you attended, a trip you took, a book you read, a work of art you encountered, a hobby or a passion you have, or any other significant experience in your life.
3. If you had the power to change one thing in your community, or in the world, what would it be and why?

**\*Which essay topic have you chosen?**  
☐ Discuss a setback you experienced in some aspect of your life and how you overcame it. What did you learn?  
☐ Write an essay about an experience in your life that helped shape your values, your intellect, your personality, or your career goals. This could be an event you attended, a trip you took, a book you read, a work of art you encountered, a hobby or a passion you have, or any other significant experience in your life.  
☐ If you had the power to change one thing in your community, or in the world, what would it be and why?

**\*Please copy and paste your essay into the box below.**

## Essay Topic

The Appomattox Regional Governor's School's logo includes the words "Create. Lead. Inspire. Achieve." If you were to be accepted to ARGS, describe how your talents, experiences, and your participation in the school would help you Create, Lead, Inspire, and Achieve academically, in your focus area, and in the school community.

Limit your response to one typed page (black ink, double spaced, 12-point font, which is approximately 250 words).

### When writing your essays, we recommend the following:

1. Write your essay in a word processing program like Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Pages, or the Notes app and **copy and paste** it into the application when you are ready to submit
2. Write multiple drafts and proofread your essays
3. Read your essays out loud prior to submitting them to catch additional errors
4. Be sure to follow the word count guidelines

# Recommendation Requirements

... for specialty schools

The specialty school common application requires two recommendations. These recommendations will be used for all specialty schools. Recommendation requests should be made to two (2) teachers from any subject that you have had in the last two years.

## Recommendations

Students must request two (2) recommendations as part of their application. Please reach out to your recommenders prior to sending them the recommendation to ensure that they are willing to complete the form.

The recommendations should be from teachers from any subject that the applicant has had in the last two years.

Recommendation requests must be sent electronically via the Enroll RPS portal by the application deadline of December 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Recommenders must return recommendations electronically via the Enroll RPS portal by December 15, 2021.

Please click the button below to request a recommendation online. You will need each recommender's email address to send a recommendation request. If you do not know the email address of your chosen recommender(s), please access our [staff directory](#) and search for their name. Once you have sent online recommendation request(s), please click the continue button below.

Please note that recommenders have the right to decline recommendation requests. If this occurs for one / both of your recommenders, please contact us at [enrollrps@rvaschools.net](mailto:enrollrps@rvaschools.net) to update recommendation information for new requests.

Request Online Recommendation

## Online Recommendation Requests

Requested From	Date Requested	Deadline	Status
No online recommendations requested			

Governor's school recommendations are separate from RPS specialty school recommendations. Each governor's school requires two specific recommendations.

Recommendation requests for Maggie Walker Governor's School:

1. Recommendation 1: a 7th or 8th grade English, math, science, social studies or world language teacher who agrees to give the applicant a reference
2. Recommendation 2: a teacher or other adult (not a relative) who knows the applicant's potential for success and agrees to give you a reference

Recommendation requests for Appomattox Regional Governor's School:

1. Recommendation 1: a 7th or 8th grade core subject teacher
2. Recommendation 2: another faculty or private instructor



When completing your recommendation section, we recommend the following:

1. Follow the recommendation guidelines for the specialty schools, as well as for each governor's school
2. Select recommenders who know you well and can speak to your strengths and areas of growth
3. Ask your recommenders if they are willing to complete a recommendation prior to sending them a request

## Keep in mind the following...

- The application window for all school applications will open on **Thursday, October 14th, 2021**. Applications must be submitted via Enroll RPS ([www.attendrvaschools.com](http://www.attendrvaschools.com)).
- The deadline for specialty and governor's school applications is **Wednesday, December 1st, 2021 at 4:30 PM**. The deadline for open enrollment applications is **Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 at 4:30 PM**.
- Students may apply to up to three open enrollment schools and all specialty and governor's schools / programs for which they are eligible.
- Applications must be submitted online via Enroll RPS. Paper applications will not be accepted.
- Placement decisions for all schools, along with any associated next steps, will be shared on **Friday, March 11, 2022**.

All resources related to Open Enrollment, Specialty School, and Governor's School applications can be found at [rvaschools.net/schoolapplications](https://www.rvaschools.net/schoolapplications).



We're also hosting in-person information nights on **Thursday, November 11th** at MLK Middle School and **Tuesday, November 16th** at Boushall Middle school. Both events run from **5:30 - 7:30 PM**.

**Thank you for joining this virtual information session!**

We'd love your feedback on how we can improve this work, and answer any lingering questions you have. Post a question in the Chat or email us at [enrollrps@rvaschools.net](mailto:enrollrps@rvaschools.net).



Learn more at [rvaschools.net/enroll](https://rvaschools.net/enroll)