The Governor’s Academy inspires and engages inquisitive students in grades 9 through 12 from all over the world on an expansive campus just north of Boston in Byfield, MA.

Students have been learning and growing at Govs, the oldest boarding school in New England, for over 250 years. Here, they discover new passions. They find their voice. They achieve individual excellence. They work together to support and sustain our open, optimistic, and diverse learning community—and they go on to make a significant impact on the world.

The Class of 2023 has shown resilience and determination during their time at Govs, abruptly moving to synchronous remote instruction in March 2020, navigating a personalized mix of hybrid learning during the 2020–2021 academic year, and returning to fully in-person activities in 2021–2022. Please see individual college counselor recommendations for individual pandemic-related challenges, experiences, and accomplishments.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

| STUDENTS | 408 |
| BOYS     | 52% |
| GIRLS    | 47.5% |
| NON-BINARY | 0.5% |
| BOARDING | 64% |
| DAY     | 36% |
| INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS | 14% |
| FROM | 21 STATES |
| DOMESTIC STUDENTS OF COLOR | 20% |
| FROM | 19 COUNTRIES |

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

| STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO | 5:1 |
| STUDENT AVERAGE CLASS SIZE | 11 |

Academic calendar is divided into two 16-week semesters.

Standard course load is 5.5 credits for ninth graders, 5.25 credits for sophomores, and 5 credits for juniors and seniors.

A graduation requirement for all students is to research and write a history thesis (4,500+ words) on a historical topic of their choice.

Our academic program is grounded in the Seven Essential Skills, ensuring that our students are prepared with the skills to be successful in college and as global citizens.

Every Govs student chooses an afternoon program for three seasons each year.

There are more than 40 afternoon program opportunities, spanning interscholastic athletics, recreational sports, drama, dance, technical theater, robotics, and community service (including hosting the annual Massachusetts Special Olympics Soccer Tournament). Every student in grades 9 and 10 must select two seasons of team activities, one of which must be an interscholastic sport or a performance art.
Requirements
Graduation requirements include academic coursework balanced by an afternoon program devoted to the arts, athletics, and community service. All ninth graders must take six courses—one in each of the departments. Sophomores must take Life Skills. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must take at least five major courses.

ARTS — Introduction to the Fine Arts in the ninth grade and one additional credit (either a year-long course or two semester-long courses)

ENGISH — One course every semester
HISTORY — Two years of history or social science, including U.S. History
LANGUAGES — Three years (through level 3) of one language
MATHEMATICS — Three years, including geometry and algebra 2
SCIENCE — Three years, two of which must be year-long courses, including at least one biological science and one physical science.

AP Courses Offered*
AP Computer Science A
AP World History
AP United States History
AP Psychology
AP US Government & Politics
AP French V
AP German
AP Spanish Language
AP Spanish Literature
AP Mandarin Chinese
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics C
AP Environmental Science
AP Studio Art
AP Ceramics & 3-D
AP Music Theory

*Students must secure permission to take more than three AP courses within one academic year.

Grading System
The weighted GPA is not cumulative; rather it is calculated at the end of each academic year and then following the first semester of senior year. The Academy does not rank its students.

The middle 50% of year-end weighted GPAs for the class of 2023’s junior year were 3.47–4.30.

Honor Roll
3.30–3.64 GPA with no more than one C+

High Honor Roll
3.65 GPA with no grade below B-

Cum Laude Society
No more than 20% of the class is awarded this honor prior to graduation (10% are inducted in the fall of senior year and another 10% in the spring of senior year).

APPROACH TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

March 2020 Govs moved to synchronous remote learning with traditional letter grades for the remainder of the 2019–20 academic year.

2020–2021 Academic Year Governor’s reopened initially as a day school in a hybrid classroom model. Students choosing in-person learning attended classes on campus two to three days per week and synchronous remote classes. Remote learners, including the majority of our international students, attended classes synchronously five days a week. The Academy welcomed a portion of boarders back in October, before moving to remote learning between Thanksgiving break and the New Year. All students participated in a modified afternoon program that included socially distanced outdoor sports and activities, and/or participation in select theatrical events, as well as faculty-approved individual activities and projects. All students were also required to engage in a faculty-approved activity beyond the classroom, as many traditional extracurricular activities were not available.

2021–2022 Academic Year All students learned in person and participated in the full afternoon program.