

# THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

## School Profile 2023–2024

### THE SCHOOL

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.

With 123 members, **the Class of 2024 is one of Governor's largest senior classes in recent memory.** From navigating pandemic protocols as ninth graders, to resuming and recreating their school and community life as sophomores and juniors, our current seniors continue to impress us with their resilience and ingenuity. In the last year, members of our class of 2024 have earned Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, founded a securities trading technology company, named a Canadian Chemistry Olympiad team finalist, published a book, and committed to playing their chosen sport at the collegiate level.



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### Head of School

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### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**415**

STUDENTS

**123**

STUDENTS IN  
CLASS OF 2024

**52.5%**

BOYS

**47%**

GIRLS

**0.5%**

NON-BINARY

**60%**

BOARDING

**40%**

DAY

**20%**

DOMESTIC  
STUDENTS  
OF COLOR

FROM

**18**

STATES

**14%**

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS

FROM

**15**

COUNTRIES

### ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

**5:1**

STUDENT TO  
FACULTY RATIO

**11**

STUDENT AVERAGE  
CLASS SIZE

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.

### CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

**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.

#### SCHOOL CODE

221995

#### ACCREDITATION

The Governor's Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

#### DISCIPLINE REPORTING POLICY

Governor's does not report disciplinary infractions. We expect our students to respond honestly to all discipline-related application questions.

#### COLLEGE MATRICULATION

List for the classes of 2021–2023

CURRICULUM

**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 academic 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)

**ENGLISH** – 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 Junior English – Literature & Composition  
 AP Senior English – Literature & Composition  
 AP Statistics  
 AP AB Calculus  
 AP BC Calculus  
 AP Computer Science Principles

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 Photo  
 AP Music Theory

In addition to AP courses, Governor’s offers rigorous honors level courses that do not follow an AP curriculum. These courses include: Honors Neuroscience, Honors Engineering, Honors Micro and Macro Economics, Multivariable Calculus, and Linear Algebra.

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

**CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS**

**Visiting Professional Seminar Series** invites experts in their fields to lead seminar-style classes. Topics have included historical architecture restoration, the water crisis, and Middle East politics.

**Senior and Junior English Electives** are semester-long courses. Courses have included The Poet and the Essay, Sports and Literature, Asian-American Literature, and Science Fiction.

**Honors Engineering** is a project-based course designed to provide students with the skills necessary to excel in a college-level engineering environment.

**Marine Studies** explores oceanography, ecology, and marine-based environmental issues. Students engage in place-based learning on the Parker River, Great Salt Marsh, Plum Island, and the Atlantic Ocean.

GRADING AND HONORS

**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 2024’s junior year was 3.50–4.18.

**Academic Honors**

3.30–3.64 GPA with no more than one C+

**High Academic Honors**

3.65 GPA with no grade below B-

**Cum Laude Society**

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).

STANDARDIZED TESTING

The middle 50% of SAT scores for the class of 2023 on a 1600 scale is 580–740 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and 570–780 for Math.

The middle 50% of composite scores for the same classes was 1140–1510.

The middle 50% of ACT composite scores for the same classes was 21–31.

DEI STATEMENT

The Governor’s Academy is committed to a diverse, inclusive, and antiracist school community in which students and adults with different perspectives and lived experiences are celebrated and encouraged. Our work as an antiracist school is ongoing, reflecting our commitment to expanding the depth and breadth of opportunities for our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community members.

**THE ALFOND COASTAL RESEARCH CENTER OPENED FALL 2023**

**The Governor’s science department** has long brought classes and labs to the adjacent Parker River and Great Salt Marsh to engage with and learn from our local ecosystem. Located on the banks of the Parker River, our newly opened Alford Coastal Research Center creates innovative opportunities for students to engage in place-based learning, sustainability, and novel approaches to research.

Designed in partnership with scientists from the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Alford Coastal Research Center includes an aquatic laboratory fed by water drawn from the Parker River, a multi-use workshop/lab, classrooms, and living accommodations for a scientist in-residence.