

# THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

## School Profile 2024–2025

### 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.

**The Governor's Class of 2025 fully embraces our school motto, *Non Sibi Sed Aliis* (not for self but for others).** From leading our Non-Sibi Day of Service in the fall, to welcoming over 1,000 athletes to Govs for the annual Massachusetts Special Olympics Soccer tournament, to collectively completing over 6,000 hours of service (and counting!), the class of 2025 demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to issues and causes beyond themselves. Our current seniors also impress us with their scholarship and creative ingenuity. In the last year, our Class of 2025 has earned Boston Globe Scholastic Art Gold and Silver Key awards, placed Summa Cum Laude and Cum Laude in the 2024 National Latin Exam, earned multiple ISL (Independent School League) championships, and even competed with the Ugandan basketball team in the 2024 U18 AfroBasket African Championship in South Africa.



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**402**

STUDENTS

**99**

STUDENTS IN  
CLASS OF 2025

**52.5%**

BOYS

**47%**

GIRLS

**0.5%**

NON-BINARY

**64%**

BOARDING

**36%**

DAY

**19%**

DOMESTIC  
STUDENTS  
OF COLOR

FROM

**18**

STATES

**15%**

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS

FROM

**17**

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. 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 2022–2024

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, boat building, and Middle East politics.

**Senior and Junior English Electives** Electives are semester-long courses. Courses have included Prep Schools: A Novel Approach, 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 2025’s junior year was 3.69–4.34.

**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

Governor’s no longer publishes SAT or ACT scores on the school profile. With test optional and test blind college admission policies, standardized test data is largely skewed and less telling. In addition, our decision to no longer publish SAT and ACT data reflects Governor’s commitment to equity in the college process, as well as our confidence that the Governor’s curriculum is a more accurate reflection of our students’ abilities and college readiness.

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.

**COMMITMENT TO INTERDISCIPLINARY AND PLACE-BASED LEARNING**

With the opening last fall of our Alford Coastal Research Center— on the banks of the adjacent Parker River—**Governor’s is deepening its commitment to place-based learning, sustainability, and novel approaches to research.**

Our faculty are actively collaborating on a curriculum centered on place-based learning as a sustainable pedagogy. For example, this fall, our Science and History faculty are piloting a place-based course for ninth graders entitled New England Coastal History and Ecology. Within the team-taught program, students take a multidisciplinary approach to examining the ecological, cultural, and social history of the New England region with a focus on our local Great Marsh ecosystem. At the same time, students learn about the geological and ecological history of the Great Marsh, with a focus on historical epidemics and ideas of human genetics and evolution. Beyond their work in the classroom, students will engage in field work, collaborate on project-based assignments, and interact with visiting professionals.