



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

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Petersburg, Virginia 23803**

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Enrollment Policy

Students will only be accepted for enrollment in Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology through a participating school division. The parent/guardian of a student must have an established residence in a participating school division for the student to apply and be granted admission. Acceptance of an invitation to enroll in the Governor's School is a commitment on the part of the student for a minimum of one year. All students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Failure to maintain a 2.0 GPA may result in the student returning to their division home school. An academic intervention process will be implemented with the student if there is a need and grades will be reviewed regularly. If, at the end of a student's sophomore year, they have a cumulative GPA lower than a 2.0, a meeting will take place with the student's local gifted coordinator, ARGS school counselor, ARGS administrator, student, and guardian to determine the next steps for the student's academic placement.

Academic Intervention Process

Faculty members should contact the parent/guardian of any student experiencing academic difficulty (grades D or lower, or not performing to their ability).

The Teacher and School Counselor will hold a conference with the student to offer recommendations for improvements. Schedule adjustments may be recommended at this time.

If the student is still having academic difficulty, a conference will be held at the end of each nine-weeks with the student, parent/guardian, School Counselor, Department Chair, ARGS Administration, and the Coordinator of Gifted Education for the student's home school division to determine the academic plan for the student.

Grades of students on Academic Intervention will be reviewed regularly. ALL STUDENTS' grades will be reviewed at the end of their second year. All students must meet the following criteria:

1. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or greater.
2. Failure in no more than one class by the end of the second year of the process.
3. A plan in place to complete graduation requirements in four years at the Governor's School

If the above requirements are not met, a recommendation will be made to return the student to their home school (district). A hearing will be held at ARGS with the student, parent/guardian, gifted coordinator, ARGS Administration and ARGS Counselor.

Notification will be sent to the student, parent/guardian, and the Coordinator of Gifted Education for the student's home school system as soon as it is determined that the student will not be able to complete the Governor's School graduation requirements in four years.

Residency Regulation

The school division where the student resides on March 1 will be responsible for tuition for the school year beginning in the fall of the same year. Parents are responsible for officially notifying, in writing, the director of the Governor's School within ten business days of change of residency or mailing address. Failure to notify the Governor's School may result in the loss of enrollment and the loss of tuition payment by the school division.

Except for extenuating circumstances (subject to approval by the participating division superintendent or designee), applications for full time students are accepted only during their eighth-grade year of school. All applicants residing in a participating school division must meet the application deadline to be considered for admission. If a new student moves into a participating school division between the deadline and the beginning of the fall semester of ninth grade, the student may submit an application and be placed on the waiting list if the student meets the qualifications for admission.

Selection of Students

Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology provides an opportunity for students to pursue excellence in specific focus areas of the arts and technology: Dance, Music (Instrumental Music, Piano, Vocal Music, Music Technology), Literary Arts, Technology, Theatre Arts (Theatre, Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre), and Visual Arts. The selection of students for admission is based on:

- A comprehensive evaluation including the student's educational record (transcript, teacher recommendations and essay) and the student's adjudication (an audition or portfolio review which is unique for each focus area and an interview)
- The openings available in the focus areas based on capacity and the program of ARGS



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS – 2026

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

The Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology provides a unique opportunity for a community of learners, students with similar interests and abilities, to pursue excellence in specific focus areas of the arts and technology: Dance, Music (Instrumental Music, Piano, Vocal Music, Music Technology), Literary Arts, Technology, Theatre Arts (Theatre, Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre), and Visual Arts. To ensure that all qualified students have the opportunity to apply for admission, the criteria and evaluation procedures have been developed using multiple and nontraditional measures designed to identify students gifted in the arts or technology, regardless of cultural background.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Current eighth grade students (rising ninth graders) who are legal residents of a participating school division are eligible to apply. New residents in a higher grade wishing to transfer from similar art and technology programs may be considered. Specific questions regarding eligibility should be addressed to the local public school division gifted program administrator.

Applicants must be enrolled in Algebra I or higher-level mathematics when they apply, and they will be required to have successfully completed Algebra I for high school credit prior to enrollment. It is highly recommended that students have completed or are currently enrolled in the following:

- *Art, Dance, and/or Music (in school or privately) depending on focus area*
- *Basic Computer Science*
- *Earth Science*
- *International Language*

Applicants should have at least a B average for the seventh grade. If a student does not have a B average for the seventh grade, he or she may apply due to special circumstances. For consideration, the student must provide a separate letter of explanation with the application form.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE

- October 1, 2025 - Online application opens.
- Students must be enrolled in Algebra I or higher-level mathematics to apply) Contact your school division's gifted coordinator if you have questions about the application and to obtain the application URL.
- October 16, 2025 - Open House at ARGS for interested students and parents (6:00 – 8:30 pm)
- December 1, 2025 - Application deadline – no exceptions**
- January 10, 2026 - Adjudication (Date and time will be emailed to applicants by January 5th.)
- January 17, 2026 - Adjudication (Date and time will be emailed to applicants by January 5th.)
- February 27, 2026 - Acceptance status sent to applicants (3/4/26 for Chesterfield and 3/6/26 for Richmond)

WHAT ABOUT ADJUDICATION?

Auditions and portfolio reviews will be held January 10th and January 17, 2026. All applicants will be notified digitally of their assigned date and time by Monday, January 5, 2026. This schedule will also be available through the local gifted program coordinator's office after January 5, 2026. In addition to the audition or portfolio review, an interview session with the applicant and at least one parent or guardian will be required. The parent or guardian will wait in the cafeteria during the student's audition/portfolio review. Audition and portfolio review criteria are specified in this application packet.

Applicants with conflicts should contact their local gifted program coordinator's office as soon as possible. Emergencies (sickness, etc.) must be reported to the local office no later than the Monday morning following the scheduled adjudication for make-up to be considered.

HOW ARE APPLICANTS SELECTED?

A regional committee composed of educators and other persons skilled in technology and the arts from each participating school division will evaluate all applications. The regional committee will rank the applicants by focus area. Local school divisions will select the most outstanding applicants based on the ranking by focus area, and the number of slots available in each focus area. Digital notification of admissions status will take place on February 27, 2026 (Chesterfield on 3/4/26 and Richmond on 3/6/26). Each division will maintain an alternate list for openings that may become available after the initial selection. The division reserves the right to review an applicant's current transcript before offering admission.

WHAT ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE DIGITAL APPLICATION?

Personal Data. Complete the basic student and parent information.

Student Essay. You are to prepare an essay with a maximum of 1950 characters (approximately one page double-spaced). In this essay you are to address the prompt: Think about how your passion for your chosen focus area—Dance, Literary Arts, Music, Technology, Theatre, or Visual Arts—will help you grow as both an ARGS student and a member of the ARGS community. Write an essay no more than 1950 characters long explaining how your individuality, passion for your focus area, and creative voice will contribute to our vibrant school culture. The essay may be typed or copied and pasted into the digital application.

Recommendations. Two recommendations are required to support your application. The recommendations should not be from persons related to the applicant. Recommendation A must be from a 7th or 8th grade English, math, science or social studies teacher. Recommendation B must be from a current school faculty member or private lessons instructor who knows the applicant's ability and potential for success in the focus area chosen. You will need to enter your recommenders' email addresses in the application so that they can be digitally transmitted to them. (All custodial parents/guardians are to sign the "Right of Access" box for each recommendation.) **Make sure to obtain and enter accurate email addresses for your recommenders as incorrect email addresses will slow down your application processing.**

Transcripts. School counselors are responsible for providing a transcript including the second semester of seventh grade and first semester of eighth grade. Transcripts are due to the local public school division's gifted program coordinator by January 30, 2026. (Home-schooled students must have their curriculum approved and on file with the local public school division.)

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

All applications are to be completed and **submitted online by December 1, 2025**. No late applications will be accepted!

APPEALS

Parents/guardians who have questions should contact their local gifted program coordinator. The parent may initiate a formal appeal by submitting a written request (email accepted) to the local gifted program coordinator by March 16, 2026. Parents should present in writing the reasons for initiating the appeal. The local gifted program coordinator will refer the appeal to the ARGS admissions coordinator who will convene a regional appeals committee composed of at least three members from participating divisions who were not involved in the appeal. This committee will review all relevant information that is used in determining student admission status. Appeals are heard within 30 school days of the receipt of the written request. The findings of the committee will be submitted to the local division superintendent or designee who will notify the parent/guardian within 10 school days thereafter of the final decision.

INFORMATION

If you have questions about Appomattox Regional Governor's School, you may contact the office of the public school gifted program coordinator in your local participating school division.

Amelia	Kelly Hays	(804) 561-9477
Charles City	Dr. Todd Perelli	(804) 652-4651
Chesterfield	Dr. George Fohl	(804) 639-8620
Colonial Heights	Dr. Joe Douglas	(804) 524-3435
Dinwiddie	Robbie Garnes	(804) 469-4190
Franklin City	Angela Fair	(757) 569-8111
Hopewell	Janice Butterworth	(804) 541-6400
Petersburg	Dana Crivaro	(804) 732-0510
Powhatan	Angela Stewart	(804) 362-2500
Prince George	Melanie Barron Ficke	(804) 733-2700
Richmond City	Lynn Plevich	(804) 495-3321
Southampton	Kelli Gillette	(757) 556-4890
Surry	Deborah Dawson	(757) 267-2211
Sussex	Dr. Lorraine Davis	(434) 246-1048