

THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

School Profile 2025–2026

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 Gova, 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.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

408
STUDENTS

98
STUDENTS IN
CLASS OF 2026

54%
BOYS

45%
GIRLS

0.25%
NON-BINARY

64%
BOARDING

36%
DAY

20%
DOMESTIC
STUDENTS
OF COLOR

FROM
19
STATES

15%
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

FROM
18
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 student at the Academy 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 ninth and tenth grade student must select two seasons of team activities, one of which must be an interscholastic sport.

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 2022–2025](#)

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.

20 AP Courses Offered*

- AP English Language
- AP English Literature
- AP Statistics
- AP AB Calculus
- AP BC Calculus

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP World History
- AP United States History
- AP Psychology
- AP US Government & Politics
- AP French V
- AP Spanish Language

- AP Spanish Literature
- AP Mandarin Chinese
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics C
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Ceramics & 3-D
- AP Photo

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, Advanced Spanish, Advanced Studio Art, Multivariable Calculus, and Linear Algebra.

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

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 2026 in junior year was 3.35-4.35.

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 Governor’s Academy 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 the Academy’s commitment to equity in the college process, as well as our confidence that the The Governor’s Academy 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.

CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

Visiting Professional Seminar Series

invites experts in their fields to lead seminar style classes. Topics have included television screenwriting, boat building, and Middle East politics.

Advanced Spanish Language, Culture, and Ethical Inquiry

is a new course designed for students seeking to refine their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while deepening their cultural understanding of the Spanish-speaking world through a dynamic integration of language and visual arts.

Honors Engineering

is a project-based course designed to provide students with the skills necessary to excel in a collegiate engineering environment.

New Course Names in English

To more accurately reflect course content, English I has been retitled Foundations of Literature, and the former English II is now Frameworks of Literature and Writing. AP Junior English is now AP English Language, while AP Senior English is now AP English Literature.

COMMITMENT TO INTERDISCIPLINARY AND PLACE-BASED LEARNING

Governor’s is committed to place-based learning, sustainability, and novel approaches to advanced study across the curriculum. Taking full advantage of the Academy’s location on the banks of the Parker River, just five miles south of Newburyport and 35 miles north of Boston, our faculty are actively integrating innovative place-based learning projects in all subjects. This winter, sophomores in AP World History will visit the Newburyport Maritime Museum to explore the importance of maritime trading and transoceanic connections from 1450 to 1750. Students in Anatomy and Physiology will design an injury and recovery plan for Governor’s athletes, while students in French 3 will write, film, and publish video tours of campus landmarks in French.

This fall marks the second year of New England Coastal History and Ecology, a place-based course for ninth graders that examines the ecological, cultural, and social history of New England with a focus on our local Great Marsh ecosystem. At Governor’s, we believe that innovative teaching methods like place-based learning are not only intellectually rigorous, but also deepen students’ connections with the world around them and provide real-world applications of students’ knowledge.