



Application Packet

2026 Admissions

2026 Application Packet Contents

Section One - MVGS General Information

- Mountain Vista Governor's School At-a-Glance
- Program Offerings

Section Two - Student Application

- Student Application Checklist: student must complete
- Student Application: student must complete
- Applicant Personal Insight Activity
- Applicant Personal Insight Activity Rubric: student reference only, submit with application
- Three Recommendation Forms: student gives to teachers
- Intent to Enroll Form: *private school/out of division students only*

Section Three - Counselor Information

- Student Profile: student must give form to counselor for completion

Section One

MVGS Information

for student reference



Governor's School for Science, Math & Technology

2026-2027	Mountain Vista Governor's School At-a-Glance
Mission	The mission of MVGS is to engage students in a technology-enhanced program, exploring connections within an integrated curriculum of advanced mathematics, science, and the humanities through collaborative research. MVGS challenges students to grow as critical thinkers, leaders, and innovators to maximize their future roles in a constantly changing global society.
School Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4.5 hour Governor's School daily instruction ● 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.- student on-site day ● 1 day a week for Focused Learning Experiences (FLEX) e.g. seminars, challenges, field experiences, special events ● Web-communication systems to provide additional instructional time
Yearly Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yearly academic calendar designed for best fit with participating divisions' calendars ● Web-communication systems utilized when some students cannot be present due to weather, holidays, or other circumstances
Number of Students and Grade Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middletown Site—100+ high school students ● Warrenton Site—100+ high school students ● Grades 10-12
Site Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two sites at Laurel Ridge Community College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fauquier Campus to serve Culpeper, Fauquier, and Rappahannock ▪ Middletown Campus to serve Clarke, Frederick, Warren, and Winchester City ● Sites connected by technology for two-way interaction among teachers and students ● Lab facilities to support project-based and technology-enhanced learning opportunities
Curriculum Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science, Mathematics, Humanities, Research ● Emphasis on interdisciplinary connections ● Scholarly research with authentic application ● Collaboration among faculty and students with community partnerships ● Technology integration in all aspects of learning ● Opportunity to earn college credit
Instructor Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Content-area expertise with extensive teaching experience ● Advanced degrees including gifted education training/endorsement
Diploma/Transcripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Division diploma with Virginia Academic-Year Governor's School Seal ● School Division transcript in addition to Laurel Ridge transcript for dual enrolled courses ● Opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree or General Studies Certificate from Laurel Ridge upon high school graduation
Guidance Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● College admission and scholarship counseling provided by MVGS counselor in addition to base school counseling support
Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laurel Ridge Community College ● MVGS Foundation 501(c)(3)
Summer Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Student Orientation ● Summer Enrichment Opportunities
Distance Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Web-communication to expand time for student-teacher interaction ● Possible use of on-line courses to meet individual needs ● Virtual/community research experiences to enhance classroom learning environment
Application/Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standard Application Packet using a multi-criteria format ● School divisions' selection committees select students to attend
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School divisions provide transportation from base schools to Laurel Ridge

Mountain Vista Governor's School, 6480 College Street, Warrenton, VA 20187
 540-347-6237 Director: Ladona Gorham lgorham@mvgshome.org



Governor's School for Science, Math & Technology

MVGS Three-Year Program/Program of Studies

Rising 10th graders will attend MVGS for three years and will choose the science strand option during the 10th grade year.

Several courses may be available to be dual enrolled for college credit through Laurel Ridge.

Prerequisites: Geometry; Algebra II (prerequisite for Math Analysis) Co-requisites: General Biology

	Math	Science	Humanities	Research
10th Grade	<i>MVGS Precalculus</i>	<i>MVGS Collegiate Chemistry</i>	<i>MVGS Humanities 10/English 10</i>	<i>MVGS Research 1: Scientific Research</i>

MVGS offers two science focus options for second- and third-year students—typically 11th and 12th graders: Physics/Engineering or Life Science.

Option I: Physics/Engineering Focus

Prerequisites: Math Analysis

	Math	Science	Humanities	Elective
11th Grade	<i>MVGS Calculus 1</i>	<i>MVGS Physics I: Mechanics</i>	<i>MVGS Humanities 11/English 11/ Research 2</i>	<i>MVGS Computer Science 1 or MVGS Economics or MVGS Psychology</i>
12th Grade	<i>MVGS Calculus 2/3: Multivariable</i>	<i>MVGS Physics 2: Electricity and Magnetism</i>	<i>MVGS Humanities 12/US Government</i>	<i>MVGS Computer Science 1 or 2 or MVGS Economics or MVGS Psychology</i>

Option II: Life Science Focus

Prerequisites: Math Analysis, General HS Biology, Chemistry

	Math	Science	Humanities	Elective
Second Year 11th Grade	<i>MVGS Statistics</i>	<i>MVGS Collegiate Biology</i>	<i>MVGS Humanities 11 /English 11/ Research 2</i>	<i>MVGS Computer Science 1 or MVGS Economics or MVGS Psychology</i>
Third Year 12th Grade	<i>MVGS Calculus 1</i>	<i>MVGS Collegiate Environmental Science</i>	<i>MVGS Humanities 12/US Government</i>	<i>MVGS Computer Science 1 or 2 or MVGS Economics or MVGS Psychology</i>

Section Two

Student Application

for students to complete



Governor's School for Science, Math & Technology

Application Checklist

This checklist is provided to assist you in completing your application to Mountain Vista Governor's School. You are responsible for ensuring that all of your application materials are completed and submitted to your base high school counselor **no later than March 2, 2026**.

- Read and follow all directions very thoroughly and carefully.**
- Do not use staples and do not print on both sides.**
- Complete the application fully, clearly, and legibly. Inability to read email addresses will result in missed communication.**
- Make sure all student information is provided on the Student Application:
 - ✓ eighth grade or high school teachers' names
 - ✓ date and signature of applicant
 - ✓ date and signature of parent/guardian
- Provide your base, high school counselor with the Student Profile page no later than February 6, 2026. Base high school counselors complete this page only.
- Provide the teacher recommendation forms in a timely manner (no later than February 6, 2026) to:
 - ✓ this year's or last year's Math teacher
 - ✓ this year's or last year's Science teacher
 - ✓ this year's or last year's English or Social Studies teacher
- Type your Personal Insight response, taking the necessary time to organize, compose, revise, and edit. Sign the honor statement.
- Check with your base high school counselor to make sure that your teacher recommendations have been returned prior to February 20, 2026.
- Respectfully remind your base high school counselor to attach the completed Student Profile to the other documents in your application packet before submitting them to the selection committee.
- Relax.** Notification letters will be mailed on May 1, 2026.

Additional items required for homeschool, private school, and out-of-county students:

- Your parent/guardian must request that your official school transcript be mailed to the school division contact. See the contact information attached to the end of this application.

The transcript must include:

- ✓ Courses taken and grades in all subjects from 7th grade onward, including grades from fall semester 2024.
 - ✓ Most recent available standardized test results (ability and achievement).
- Your parent/guardian must complete the Certification of Intent to Enroll form and attach it to your application.



2026 Student Application

Please complete your application legibly in ink or type.

Name of Applicant _____

Last
First
Middle
Preferred Name (if applicable)

Current Base High School _____ Current Grade Level _____

Male Female Non-binary Prefer Not to Answer

Race/Ethnicity (Check **ALL** that apply) American Indian or Alaskan Native Hispanic or Latino
 Asian Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Black or African American White
 Prefer Not to Answer

Student School I.D. Number:	Student Birthday - (MM/DD/YYYY):
Parent/Guardian #1 - Preferred Name Printed:	Parent/Guardian #2 - Preferred Name Printed:
Parent/Guardian #1 - Cell Phone:	Parent/Guardian #2 - Cell Phone:
Parent/Guardian #1 - Email:	Parent/Guardian #2 - Email:
Student Address:	City:
State:	Zip Code:
Student Email (non-school if possible):	Student Cell Phone, if applicable:

Certification of Intent to Enroll form must accompany the application of any student not currently enrolled in a participating school division. See page 11 of this packet.

If not attending a participating division public school:
 Private Out-of-County School Home School Department of Defense School

Names of the three teachers, current high school teachers or eighth grade teachers, who will complete a recommendation for you:

Math Teacher Science Teacher English or Social Studies Teacher
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

MVGS Applicant Personal Insight Activity

At Mountain Vista Governor's School, we're interested in *you* — your experiences, your commitments, and what drives you to learn and lead. *We know that leadership and growth can look different for everyone.* We understand that leadership and growth take many forms. Some students lead clubs or teams, while others help at home, care for siblings, work part-time, or volunteer in their community. Every experience matters.

- **Please type your responses into a document form of your choice. Make sure to include it in your application packet.**

Part 1: Activities, Commitments, and Interests

Please make a list of your activities, clubs, hobbies, and responsibilities — both in and outside of school. For each, include:

- **Activity or commitment name** (examples: soccer team, part-time job, Scouts, caring for younger siblings, volunteering, robotics, art, music, student government, religious youth group, etc.)
- **Length of involvement** (example: “2 years,” “since 7th grade,” “every weekend for the past year”)
- **Your level of involvement or leadership role** (example: “Team captain,” “member,” “help organize events,” “teach younger students,” etc.)

Part 2: Personal Reflection

Choose one or two of the activities or commitments from your list that have been especially meaningful to you. In a short personal statement (about 300–500 words), reflect on:

What have you learned about yourself, others, or your community from these experiences? How have these experiences helped you grow as a learner, leader, or problem solver?

What excites you most about the challenges and opportunities MVGS offers? Be specific about the goals, projects, or skills you hope to develop and how they connect to your interests or experiences.

How do you plan to handle the challenges of MVGS's rigorous learning environment? Reflect on times when you've stayed organized, shown persistence, or learned from mistakes.

The goal is not a perfect essay or polished language — we want to hear your authentic voice and understand the real you. Your reflection should connect your activities and responsibilities to your goals, and help us see how you'll bring your curiosity, commitment, and character to Governor's School.



This activity should be completed without any outside assistance . Please sign this statement of educational integrity:

I, _____pledge that I personally created personal insight activity document independently and without the use of AI or any other outside assistance.

Signature _____ Date _____

Personal Insight Rubric

<p>Leadership and Extracurricular Activities Criteria: Max 20 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity and breadth of activities, honors, and commitments. • Leadership roles and levels of involvement. • Impact on community and personal development. 	<p>Points of Consideration 1–4 points: Few or no sustained activities; limited evidence of initiative or impact, 5–8 points: Regular participation in a few activities; minimal leadership or reflection of growth. 9–12 points: Consistent engagement; emerging leadership or initiative; some evidence of contribution to others. 13–16 points: Demonstrates leadership, reliability, or creativity in multiple areas; clear community or personal impact. 17–20 points: Sustained, meaningful involvement that reflects initiative, influence, and measurable impact on others or self-growth.</p> <p>Leadership may occur in school, at home, or in the community. Activities such as caring for siblings, consistent volunteering, or work experience may demonstrate commitment and initiative equal to formal clubs.</p>	<p>Points Awarded:</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p>Personal Statement Criteria: Max 10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of activities and lessons learned from them (ex: commitment/ grit/how to overcome obstacles). • Reflection on how these lessons will be strengths or will affect MVGS performance. 	<p>Points of Consideration 1–2 points: No connection to skills learned from activities or honors given. 3–4 points: Limited connection to skills learned from activities or honors given. 5–6 points: Some connection to skills learned from activities or honors given. 7–8 points: Diverse activities with significant connection to skills learned from activities or honors given. 9–10 points: Exceptional range of activities, significant leadership roles, and substantial connection to skills learned from activities or honors given.</p>	<p>Points Awarded:</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p>Personal Statement Criteria: Max 10 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity and specificity of goals/objectives to be shared with or gained by attending MVGS. 	<p>Points of Consideration 1–2 points: No connection to skills learned from activities and desire to bring these skills to the MVGS community of learners. 3–4 points: Limited connection to skills learned from activities and desire to bring these skills to the MVGS community of learners. 5–6 points: Some connection to skills learned from activities and desire to bring these skills to the MVGS community of learners. 7–8 points: Significant connection to skills learned from activities and desire to bring these skills to the MVGS community of learners. 9–10 points: Exceptional connection to skills learned from activities and desire to bring these skills to the MVGS community of learners.</p>	<p>Points Awarded:</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p>Writing Clarity & Conventions Grammar and readability</p>	<p>1–2 points: Writing is unclear and contains many errors 3–4 points: Writing is generally clear; minor errors do not obscure meaning. 5 points: Clear, well-organized writing with few or no distracting errors. Voice feels natural and confident.</p>	<p>Points Awarded:</p> <p>Notes:</p>

Possible Final Score: 45		
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The decision to apply to Mountain Vista Governor’s School is my own, and I want to participate fully in the program. The responses contained on all application documents are my own work.

Date Signature of Applicant

I, the parent/guardian of the student above, am aware of and in support of the student’s application to Mountain Vista Governor’s School and give permission for the student’s academic records to be reviewed and for appropriate standardized assessments to be administered by the school’s personnel.

Date Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date Signature of Principal (or designee)

Mountain Vista Governor’s School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth or other medical conditions, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, marital status, genetic information, disability, age, or status as a veteran in its programs and activities.

Science Teacher Recommendation Form for Student Application

This box is to be completed by the applicant before the form is presented to the teacher (current or past year).

Student Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Teacher Directions:

- Check one box for each criterion, using the following rating scale: BA - Below Average A - Average
E - Excellent (top 10%) O - Outstanding (top 5% - one of the best I've ever encountered)
- Mark one (and only one) box for every criterion. DO NOT mark between two categories.
NOTE: Not following this instruction hurts students in the application process.
- Please add comments in the indicated space below.
- Sign, date, and seal recommendation in envelope and return to _____ by February 20, 2026.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ School: _____

Subject(s), Grade Level(s) and Date(s) you taught applicant: _____

Criteria	BA	A	E	O
1. Motivation and Initiative: <i>Curious, self-starter, shows initiative</i>				
2. Communication with Peers: <i>Demonstrates sensitivity, respect for others and opposing viewpoints, shares ideas, accepts criticism</i>				
3. Dependability: <i>Consistent, disciplined, supports others, works safely</i>				
4. Perseverance: <i>Demonstrates sustained commitment to problem solving</i>				
5. Class Participation: <i>Participates fully in laboratory work and discussions</i>				
6. Class Preparation: <i>Completes class assignments</i>				
7. Academic Interest: <i>An innovative thinker, intense interest in understanding nature</i>				
8. Academic Ability: <i>High aptitude and potential for success</i>				
9. Quality of Work: <i>Complete, reflective of deep understanding, accurate, creative in terms of planning</i>				
10. Logical Thinking and Questioning: <i>Extends questioning to include next investigation</i>				
11. Independence: <i>Demonstrates the ability to solve challenging problems or complete difficult tasks with minimal assistance from adults</i>				
12. Ability to synthesize and apply knowledge				
(For selection committee use only)				

Comments: It is **required** that you include comments about this student that will help the selection committee make a decision. You may use a separate sheet if needed (please do not staple).

Mathematics Teacher Recommendation Form for Student Application

This box is to be completed by the applicant before the form is presented to the teacher (current or past year).

Student Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Teacher Directions:

- Check one box for each criterion, using the following rating scale: BA - Below Average A - Average
E - Excellent (top 10%) O - Outstanding (top 5% - one of the best I've ever encountered)
- Mark one (and only one) box for every criterion. DO NOT mark between two categories.
NOTE: Not following this instruction hurts students in the application process.
- Please add comments in the indicated space below.
- Sign, date, and seal recommendation in envelope and return to _____ by February 20, 2026.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ School: _____

Subject(s), Grade Level(s) and Date(s) you taught applicant: _____

Criteria	BA	A	E	O
1. Motivation and Initiative: <i>Curious, self-starter, shows initiative</i>				
2. Problem Solving: <i>Exhibits persistence in solving routine and non-routine problems, synthesizes and applies knowledge</i>				
3. Communication: <i>Justifies and defends mathematical arguments orally and in writing, shares strategies with others</i>				
4. Class Participation: <i>Participates fully in discussions and other activities</i>				
5. Class Preparation: <i>Always does assigned readings and homework</i>				
6. Interest in Mathematics: <i>Demonstrates an intense interest in and appreciation for the beauty of mathematics, makes connections between math topics and between math and other subjects, applies mathematical knowledge to real world problems</i>				
7. Academic Ability: <i>High aptitude in mathematics and potential for success</i>				
8. Quality of Work: <i>Complete, reflective of deep understanding, accurate, and creative in terms of strategies and thinking</i>				
9. Logical Thinking and Questioning: <i>Extends questioning to include next investigation</i>				
10. Independence: <i>Demonstrates the ability to solve challenging problems or complete difficult tasks with minimal assistance from adults</i>				
11. Team Work: <i>Dependable, disciplined, supportive of others, committed to tasks and groups, respectful of others and opposing viewpoints, willing to accept criticism</i>				
12. Ability to synthesize and apply knowledge				
(For selection committee use only)				

Comments: It is **required** that you include comments about this student that will help the selection committee make a decision. You may use a separate sheet if needed (please do not staple).

English or Social Studies Teacher Recommendation Form for Student Application

This box is to be completed by the applicant before the form is presented to the teacher (current or past year).

Student Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Teacher Directions:

- Check one box for each criterion, using the following rating scale: BA - Below Average A - Average E - Excellent (top 10%) O - Outstanding (top 5% - one of the best I've ever encountered)
- Mark one (and only one) box for every criterion. DO NOT mark between two categories.
NOTE: Not following this instruction hurts students in the application process.
- Please add comments in the indicated space below.
- Sign, date, and seal recommendation in envelope and return to _____ by February 20, 2026..

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ School: _____

Subject(s), Grade Level(s) and Date(s) you taught applicant: _____

Criteria	BA	A	E	O
1. Motivation and Initiative: <i>Curious, self-starter, shows initiative</i>				
2. Communication with Peers: <i>Demonstrates sensitivity, respect for others and opposing viewpoints, shares ideas, accepts criticism</i>				
3. Dependability: <i>Consistent, disciplined, supports others, works safely</i>				
4. Perseverance: <i>Demonstrates sustained commitment to problem solving</i>				
5. Class Participation: <i>Participates fully in activities and discussions</i>				
6. Class Preparation: <i>Completes class assignments</i>				
7. Academic Interest: <i>An innovative thinker, intense interest in understanding complex ideas</i>				
8. Academic Ability: <i>High aptitude and potential for success</i>				
9. Quality of Work: <i>Complete, reflective of deep understanding, accurate, creative in terms of planning</i>				
10. Critical/Analytical Thinking and Questioning				
11. Independence: <i>Demonstrates the ability to solve challenging problems or complete difficult tasks with minimal assistance from adults</i>				
12. Ability to synthesize and apply knowledge				
(For selection committee use only)				

Comments: It is **required** that you include comments about this student that will help the selection committee make a decision. You may use a separate sheet if needed (please do not staple).

Certification of Intent to Enroll at Participating School Divisions
Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Frederick, Rappahannock, Warren Counties, and the Winchester City

For HomeSchool, Private, or Out of Division Students Only

Current School:

Out-of-County

_____ (School) _____ (County) _____ (State)

Private

_____ (School) _____ (County) _____ (State)

Department of Defense School

_____ (School) _____ (County) _____ (State)

Home School

_____ (County) _____ (State)

I hereby certify that I will enroll my child as a student in the appropriate public school in _____ School Division if my child is accepted into the Mountain Vista Governor's School program.

_____ Student Name (print) _____ Student Signature _____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date

Section Three

Counselor Information

Student Profile

To be given to your counselor no later than February 6, 2026

Part One below must be completed by the student

Part Two (both pages) below must be completed by your Base High School Counselor

Part One

Student Name _____

Current Grade _____

Student School ID #: _____

Part Two

STI: _____

Testing Data (from the most recent standardized tests). Please copy and attach this sheet and the next for additional tests.

<u>PSAT, SAT</u>	<u>Other Standardized Ability (i.e., Cog AT, I.Q., Olsat, KBIT, WISC, if applicable)</u>
Name:	Name:
Date Administered:	Date Administered:
Evidence Based Reading Score:	Grade Level:
Evidence Based Reading Percentile:	Total Quantitative Percentile:
Mathematics Score:	Total Verbal Percentile:
Mathematics Percentile:	Composite:

Part Two - Continued

<u>SOL Scores</u>	<u>Other Achievement Test(s)</u>
Algebra I: Geometry: Algebra II: Biology: Chemistry: Earth Science: English 8 (Writing): English 8 (Reading): World History I: World History II:	if available (i.e., Stanford 10, ITBS, CAT, Woodcock Johnson, WIAT, KTEA, etc, if applicable) Test: Date Administered: Grade Level: Total Math Percentile: Total Science Percentile: Total Reading Percentile: Total Language Percentile:

GPA Data: Include a transcript and current grade report with the application. _____ GPA (if available)

Attendance and Behavior Infractions

Current Year (First Semester) _____ Tardies _____ Absences _____ Behavior

Previous Year _____ Tardies _____ Absences _____ Behavior

Special Data (REQUIRED): Gifted Identification IEP 504 Plan None

Counselor Name (please print)

Counselor Signature

Date: _____



School Division Contacts

Clarke County Public Schools

Jessica Nail
Director, Curriculum & Instruction
Clarke County Public Schools
317 West Main Street
Berryville, VA 22611

Culpeper County Public Schools

Heather O'Brien
Coordinator, Gifted & Talented Education
Culpeper County Public Schools
471 James Madison Hwy, Suite 201
Culpeper, VA 22701

Fauquier County Public Schools

Tiffany Richtarski
Supervisor, Advanced Programs/Fine Arts
Fauquier County Public Schools
320 Hospital Drive, Suite 40
Warrenton, VA 20186

Frederick County Public Schools

Ryan Lingle
Coordinator, Gifted, Visual & Performing Arts
Frederick County Public Schools
1415 Amherst St.
Winchester, VA 22601

Rappahannock County Public Schools

Cecilia Faulk
Gifted Education Specialist /ITRT
Rappahannock County Public Schools
6 Schoolhouse Road
Washington, VA 22747

Warren County Public Schools

Denise Walton
Coordinator, Testing & Gifted Education
Warren County Public Schools
210 N. Commerce Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630

Winchester Public Schools

Sara Gardner
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Winchester Public Schools
598 N. Kent St.
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