



Parental Guide

Virginia's First Virtual School

<http://www.hgs.k12.va.us>

Sponsored by the
Virginia Department of Education
and Participating School Districts

Our Mission

*I*s to provide challenging learning opportunities for the gifted and talented students of far Southwest Virginia that are not available to them in their regular school program.

*W*e will accomplish this by strengthening their abilities and nurturing their social and emotional well being through mentoring, rigorous academic courses, service to the community, and leadership training within an entrepreneurial culture that encourages creativity, initiative, and problem solving.

What is the Linwood Holton Governor's School?

(www.hgs.k12.va.us)

The Virtual School

This "virtual school" provides a regional Science-Mathematics-Humanities-Global Economics-Technology Program for gifted and talented students to supplement their educational program in preparation for college.

Who can take classes from the Governor's School?

This unique program is offered to gifted students (B average or above) within 17 separate school districts in Southwest Virginia. The "virtual school" will draw students from the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, in addition to the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton.

What are the advantages?

- Dual credit through the Regional Community College Program. Enter college after high school graduation with several college credits. All tuition paid.
- Self-esteem builder for completing college work in high school.
- Join a community of Regional Gifted Learners in the "On-Line Environment" throughout the Region and State.
- Receive college credit for work, which may not be currently available from any accessible source in some high schools.
- Guaranteed success for regular attendance and completion of all work required.

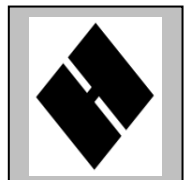
How does a student enroll in the Governor's School?

Visit the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School website at <http://www.hgs.k12.va.us>. At the recommendation of a Guidance Counselor, students may follow instructions to the application form, download and complete for approval. Mail or fax to the Governor's School at:

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School
P.O. Box 1987
One Partnership Circle
Abingdon, Virginia 24212

Voice (276) 619-4326 ♦ Fax (276) 619-4309

Email: holton@hgs.k12.va.us





A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

**Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
One Partnership Circle
Abingdon, Virginia 24210**

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P.O. Box 1987
Abingdon, VA 24212**

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www.hgs.k12.va.us

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Grading Scale

All grades are based on the college level grading scale as all Governors' school courses are taken for college credit.

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F
Incomplete	I

Work missed because of excused absences must be made up as quickly as possible. Make-up tests and quizzes must be scheduled with the teacher. Incomplete grades must be resolved before the end of the grading period.

Honor Code

All Governor's School students are expected to submit their own work on projects, tests, homework assignments, research papers, lab write-ups, and in-class assignments unless the instructor specifically gives instructions allowing for group effort on a given assignment. All students are expected to adhere to the *Code of Conduct*. Suspected Honor Code violations should be reported to the director immediately. The director will then make a decision as to the penalty. Penalties may include: grade reduction, notification to parents, notification to home school principal, dismissal from the Governor's School, or other actions as may be deemed appropriate.

Textbooks

Textbooks, and other necessary supplementary material, will be provided free-of-charge to all our students. If a student should decide not to complete the course, they are instructed to return all books and materials for that course to the Governor's School as soon as possible.

Answers to Many Often Asked Questions

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

This school, named for former Governor A. Linwood Holton, a native of Big Stone Gap, uses the Internet for of its course work; however, the school will be implementing a wide range of technologies to permit students to collaborate and share resources with classmates and teachers.

Why is the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School a Virtual School?

Unfortunately, people in southwest Virginia often confront obstacles that others in the state do not have. In this area, the distance between schools, the rugged terrain, and our harsh winter weather serve as insurmountable barriers to providing a traditional, single-building Governor's School. Some students would have to ride more than an hour and a half, over narrow and curving roads, just to arrive at a central site. But we do need to provide gifted and talented students with more opportunities than they likely can find in their own schools. The compromise is a “virtual” Governor’s School, which uses distance learning and Internet/telecommunications technologies to provide a curriculum especially designed for gifted and talented students.

Student Selection Process

Participating divisions may submit applications for any gifted and interested rising 11th or 12th grade student who has completed the pre-requisites for the course for which they wish to take. If an eligible rising 10th grade student has completed the required pre-requisites, then that student may enroll for college credit as long as they meet approval by the president of their respective community college.

Each division will develop a selection process based on guidelines developed for Governor’s School participants by the Virginia Department of Education. Selection should be consistent with those guidelines.

Criteria for selection should be established related to guidelines developed for Governor’s School participants and selection should reflect those guidelines. The division may allocate from its list of eligible students among its high schools or may wish to establish a pool of students and select from among that pool.

Each division may select from participation in the Governor’s School the number of students on the eligible list. In addition to those students recommended through a review of applications, each high school principal will be able to submit the name of one student for participation in the program as a “discovery student.”

The “discovery” process allows for each high school principal to recommend one student for Governor’s School participation as part of that division’s total. Those students may be recommended without the review included in the selection process used in the division. The discovery student may not meet criteria established by that division, but may be identified based on the opinion of the principal and his staff that the student is properly served by the Governor’s School.

Governor's School student record, application form and faculty recommendations should be used in the Governor's School admission process and forwarded to the Governor's School Director along with the names of the selected students.

Guidelines for Selection

Test scores, attendance records, review of student characteristics and recommendations by teachers should be considered. Interest in science, mathematics, and technology and documented participation in school-based programs may help to determine the level of qualification. Participation in the Governor's School is an honor and students recommended for participation should possess the following characteristics:

1. Strong academic preparation, with special emphasis in the areas of science and mathematics.
2. Test scores that reflect ability and achievement in the areas of science, mathematics, and language.
3. Academic achievement as reflected by grades in those areas supportive of student's success in the sciences, including math, science, and language.
4. Strong interest in continuing their education and careers in science and technology.
5. Demonstrated commitment to participation and contribution to the science process.
6. Need for the alternative educational program offered in the Governor's School.

The student should generally be among the top of their student body in terms of academic preparation and test scores and be capable of pursuing a rigorous academic program with limited supervision.

Honor System

All A. Linwood Holton Governor's School students are expected to submit their own work in projects, tests, homework, research papers, laboratories, and in-class assignments unless the teacher gives specific instructions permitting group work on a class assignment. A high level of ethical behavior is expected of A. Linwood Holton Governor's School students at all times.

What kind of an academic program should a student expect?

Our students should expect a rigorous, high quality, college level course. Emphasis will be given to research, investigation, critical thinking, and problem solving. Our students will complete individual and group projects, writing assignments, and learn important technology skills.

What are the basic requirements to get in?

In order to insure that our students have the best chance for success, the following are the academic pre-requisites for each of our course:

<i>Course</i>	<i>Pre-requisites</i>
Advanced Multimedia Applications	Keyboarding
Appalachian History	U.S. History
Astronomy	Algebra II
Creative Writing	ENG-112 or divisional approval (See Counselor)
Engineering Methods & Computer Programming	Algebra II
Engineering & Robotics	Physics, Algebra II
Environmental Science & Related Problems	Biology
Human Anatomy & Physiology	Biology and General Chemistry
Principles of Physics	Algebra II and Geometry (or equivalent)
Probability and Statistics	Algebra II
Western Civilization	U.S. and World History
World Civilization	U.S. and World History

What percentage of Governor’s School students go on to college?

Almost all of the students attending Governor’s Schools in Virginia go on to colleges and universities just after graduation from high school. A student may find that being a member of a Governor’s School program actually attracts the attention of colleges, and the added prestige of being part of this unique gifted and talented program may bring more offers of scholarship money and advanced standing.

Code of Conduct for Students

Students attending the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School will be expected to abide by the following:

The A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School will provide a unique learning opportunity for those students selected to attend. Students who attend the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School are selected to attend with the expectations that they pursue both academic and personal excellence. Because the freedom to explore, question, and learn from others is an important part of that pursuit, students are given more freedom to make decisions, govern their personal conduct, and make use of the facilities and expertise of the staff that would be found in most high schools. The expectations are students will make good decisions in the use of that freedom. Consideration for others and adherence to school rules will be the guide for personal conduct. The rights, safety, privileges, and dignity of all people will serve as the criteria by which the appropriateness or inappropriateness of personal behavior will be evaluated, as well as will acts that place the student or others in personal danger. If behavior fails in these tests or inappropriateness is in violation of the law or regulation, it will not be condoned.

The A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School program is not for students who do not take school attendance and schoolwork seriously, one that requires above average maturity and judgment. The relationships students develop with A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School teachers and home school teachers provide a unique opportunity, but also require a level of discipline and judgment, which may not be demanded in a regular high school program.

Rules and Regulations

Students attending the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School will be required to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct that is in effect at their home high school as well as the Code of Student Conduct that is in place for the governance of the Governor's School.

Major discipline problems shall be handled by the student's home school. The Director of the Governor's School has the same authority as a school principal to exercise whatever disciplinary measures are appropriate to deal with student misbehavior at regional sites. Students who have serious or repeated behavior problems may be asked to withdraw from the Governor's School to participate in a program that is a better match with their level of maturity and learning preference.

Ethical Conduct for Electronic Learners

With the use of information resources and technology, it is the responsibility for all students to:

1. Recognize and honor the intellectual property of others.
2. Comply with legal restrictions regarding plagiarism and the use and citation of information resources.
3. Report equipment problems immediately to facilitator or instructor.
4. Keep work areas neat and clean.
5. Keep food and drinks away from computers and electronic equipment.

All A. Linwood Holton Governor's School students shall become familiar with the Ethical Code for Electronic Learners that exists and is currently used in their home schools.

Since two of the three pillars that support the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School's philosophy are entrepreneurship and leadership, these concepts will be integrated appropriately throughout the activities of the program and will be infused in the curriculum design.

Goals for the School and Student

The goals of the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School are as follows such that a student should have a program in which:

1. Academic content is rigorous and challenging. Application and real life experiences are an integral part of the curriculum with basic topics and skills integrated throughout all subjects.
2. Personal choices are encouraged. Independent studies, mentorships, internships, and community and academic service are integral components of the curriculum.
3. Communication (oral, written, and technical) is planned for and emphasized throughout the curriculum.

4. Project management is a stressed component with independent learning fostered with the teaching of skills for decision-making and project completion.
5. Divergent thinking is stressed through the encouragement of creativity and entrepreneurship.
6. New, meaningful products are produced with a focus on real world issues and problems.
7. Multi-disciplinary learning with integration of basic and technological skills is fundamental to the curriculum.
8. Character and leadership development are interwoven throughout daily activities. Activities might include seminars, conferences, and in-depth study through telecommunication.
9. Peer support and interaction are planned and prevalent.
10. Excellence is the tone set throughout the school.

