



THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
of STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Governor's Honors Program

**Instructional Descriptions
and Criteria for Selection**

2015

COMMUNICATIVE ARTS

The GHP communicative arts department offers an intense exploration of the various components comprising the communicative arts. Specific content may vary from year to year, but the general areas include English language studies, genre and thematic literary studies, mass media/video/journalism, critical theory, creative writing, speech, critical thinking, and the aesthetics of the communicative arts.

Topics of study have included:

The extended analysis of nontraditional school literature
The study of the aspects of the English language, including linguistics
The composition and performance of literary works, including poems
The study of post-structural critical theories and their application in the reading of a variety of texts
The examination of popular culture and the nature of media and media literacy
The study of literary ideologies including modernism and postmodernism
The study of the archetypal nature of literature and the relationship of that literature to life
Film studies
The interdisciplinary nature of literature and art
The extended analysis of specific genre fiction
The study of the impact of race, class, and gender on literature and life

Students experience a variety of teaching methods, read a wide variety of new literature, expand their literary vocabularies, examine literature in light of critical theory, expand their knowledge of the English language and its many variations, greatly add to their repertoire of communication skills, and consider the beauty of the language and its applications.

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Step one: The local systems/private schools nominate their students based on local criteria. District/private school level nominees should have demonstrated: creativity in academic or creative fields, superior ability in the area of nomination, and the social and emotional maturity required to thrive in an intensive, residential setting for the duration of the program. District/private school level students will be notified of their nomination by the GHP office and guided to an online application website which will provide the specific criteria for each area of nomination. Each application must include all of the required components and should be fully completed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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LANGUAGES: (French, German, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish)

The language department of the Governor's Honors Program provides a daily immersion program in which students experience different aspects of the culture of the target language. The emphasis of the modern languages (French, German, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish) is to develop further proficiency in all language skills, while the Latin program stresses writing and comprehension skills in addition to an exploration of the cultural aspects of the Latin speaking world, from the ancient Roman Empire to the Middle Ages.

Student activities include communication from the most informal to the most formal on modern languages. The Latin students examine the practical aspects of Latin today and often use texts to develop skills. All language students present topics of discussion for interaction with other students.

At the end of the four weeks, all language students will have developed a much higher degree of confidence, an increased fluency in their language of study, and will have become better equipped to function independently in any situation which involves the target language. Through exposure to the peoples of the countries studied, the students will also gain a much better understanding of other cultures as well as their own.

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MATHEMATICS

The mathematics department concerns itself with broadening the students' exposure to various branches of mathematics. Topics are tailored to reflect the diversity both of the students and of mathematics, and to offer challenges to students within their knowledge bases. Extensive sets of topics, ranging from applied to theoretical and from concrete to abstract, are offered instead of intense traditional course offerings. The presence of mathematics in almost all students' day-to-day activities is also emphasized.

Activities in which students are involved include, but are not limited to, small group work, large group work, cooperative projects and individual efforts. The focus of all activities is student-centered problem solving, with student-to-student interaction also being emphasized. Students solve problems in cooperative, collaborative efforts, explain solutions to each other, present their research, and formulate new problems. They are instructed in the importance of the use of appropriate technology (primarily computers and calculators) in their work.

By the end of the program, students will have an increased understanding of the breadth of mathematics, an increased awareness of the place of mathematics in their world, and an increased ability to apply intellectual and technological tools to problem solving.

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SCIENCE

The Governor's Honors science department provides experiences that challenge students to develop further the Characteristics of Science embodied in the Georgia Performance Science Process Standards (SCSh 1-9). The curriculum introduces students to laboratory experiences similar to those encountered by college students taking sophomore/junior level courses, and includes a research project. Students are expected to work together on projects and presentation employing the concepts and methods learned in program through guided instruction. All students are encouraged to move beyond what they already know, or have accomplished, and to explore new, unknown territories of thought and investigation.

Primary investigations will be confined to topics pre-selected by the staff for which the required equipment, resources, and supplies are available. The necessary materials for these investigations will be provided by GHP with no expense to the student.

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SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies department at the Governor's Honors Program concerns itself with major national and international problems, issues, and concerns facing both governmental and non-governmental organizations at all levels. The social studies focus is on the integration of the various social science disciplines and creating and analyzing responses and solutions to problems and crises. The program uses the Renzulli model in planning and executing the curriculum in both content and methodology. Student-centered activities are emphasized at all times. Consideration is not only given to what students learn at the Governor's Honors Program, but also to how this knowledge might be applied in their local communities and in their own lives.

The kinds of activities in which students engage in the social studies major include primary historical research, role playing, small and large group activities, simulations, debates and writing activities. Students must become adept at quick, in-depth research and how to use it in various activities. They are often called on to assume roles and viewpoints that are quite different from their own, enabling them to stretch and approach issues, problems or concerns from different perspectives in order to consider multiple solutions/responses to an existing situation.

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DANCE

The Governor's Honors Program dance department goals are defined through three main objectives:

Instructional preparation for the dancer through various forms of dance,
Personal interaction with a variety of teachers, choreographers and other dancers, and
Expansion of students' ideas of what defines a dancer and awareness of individual goals.

These objectives are met through four categories.

Daily Technique Classes in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz and improvisation are taught by faculty, guest teachers and students.

Choreography encourages students to develop their own artistic statements through improvisation and rehearsed performance pieces.

Performance Skills are developed through daily rehearsals, open rehearsals, ballet lecture/demonstrations, improvisation, and concerts during the final week of the program.

Dance History is presented through lecture/discussions, videos, films, student research, presentations to the class of various dancers/choreographers, actual reconstruction of period dances and student choreography of folk dances.

Students will participate in all of the aforementioned categories, thereby expanding their knowledge and technical level of dance, aesthetic judgment, definition of dance, and their interpersonal skills.

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MUSIC

The Governor's Honors Program music department concerns itself with intense study, preparation and performance of music, the primary outcome being a more complete musician. Chamber music in small group settings (both jazz and classical) has proven to be the most efficient and effective medium for this work. In the areas of study and preparation, students deal with elements of musical theory, analysis, criticism, history and aesthetics. In the area of performance, students are afforded several recital and concert opportunities in which to display the results of their studies.

Opportunities for students usually include:

Practicing/rehearsing individually and in ensembles directed by students and/or faculty
Performing in both formal and informal settings
Co-developing performance projects with other majors (music and dance, music and art)
Analyzing and critiquing music repertoire from antiquity to the present day
Attending exploratory classes in such subjects as music theory, conducting, history of jazz, and 20th century music
Attending concerts and master classes presented by visiting artists
Attending concerts presented by other students
Engaging in creation of music through improvisation and composition

At the end of the program, students will have established a basis for understanding how to study, prepare and perform music in a variety of styles and settings, and they will be empowered to continue learning on their own.

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THEATRE

The Governor's Honors Program theatre department introduces students to nontraditional approaches to character and ensemble development with the anticipated results that the students will gain enriched acting skills, resources, and exhibit a deeper commitment to the process (not the product). To accomplish these goals, much of the work is done within an ensemble-oriented environment where students are encouraged to stretch themselves, take creative-choice risks and support others as they do the same. Students will experience the integration of all functions of the theatrical process by identifying the connections between audience, actor, director, designer, construction crew, stage manager, backstage crew, and playwright. The most common vehicle for the education process is improvisation (followed by feedback from peers & instructors) and the hands-on experiences provided by public performances throughout the entire program.

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VISUAL ARTS

The Governor's Honors Program visual arts department is primarily studio oriented. Students are introduced to different media, techniques, styles, and conceptual ideas that are not normally presented in most Georgia high schools.

New ideas and challenging concepts in the visual arts are important parts of the instructional program. A spirit of experimentation and risk taking is promoted by encouraging students to venture into unfamiliar territory. The first half of the program focuses on the introduction of a variety of media and methods while the last half is less structured, more flexible and open, requiring students to work more independently in the areas of their interests. Each student develops a portfolio of artworks demonstrating breadth and depth of individual ideas.

Visiting artists participate in the program with workshops, demonstrations and lectures. During the final week, a student art exhibition displays the works produced by the students.

At the conclusion of the program, students will be more aware of the wide variety of media, techniques and concepts that make up the visual arts today; will have obtained a positive art experience that promotes visual expression free of prejudice, stereotypes, and preconceived notions of the visual arts; and will have had the opportunity to challenge, search, and question the idea of art.

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ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, GRAPHIC & INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

The engineering, architectural, graphic, and industrial design component of the Governor's Honors Program provides unique opportunities for students with prior instruction in the disciplines.

Students should possess manual dexterity, creativity, and abstract thinking abilities. They should be able to effectively research and critique information, develop concepts in a creative context and work in teams to achieve program objectives.

This course will take students deeper into engineering and design, using software and equipment to conceptualize, create, analyze, and market effective solutions to design problems. Students will use numerous software packages throughout the course and will also create physical models and working prototypes.

Students will create realistic animations and virtual scenes to be used as communication and marketing tools. The manufacturing process, including materials selection, will be explored in order to create the most appropriate solutions to the given design problems.

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TECHNOLOGY

The technology component of the Governor's Honors Program provides unique opportunities for students involved in technology education. The students' instructional background should reflect work in electronics or technology education while exhibiting an avid interest in technological change and application.

Please be advised that this is not a course in computer programming.

Students nominated to the technology component should have an interest in developing their concrete, abstract, and creative thinking skills in the areas of automation, pneumatics, mechanical systems, engineering, problem solving, computer numerical control (CNC), computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM), computer aided publishing (CAP), electronics, laser applications, computer aided design (CAD), animation, video and robotics. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving, understanding interfacing and hardware, and participation in hands-on applications. Research will be conducted involving creative applications and effects of these technologies on society.

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AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

The Agricultural Education (Ag-Science) component of the Governor's Honors Program provides experiences for outstanding students in a wide array of agricultural topics. This program is designed to provide a comprehensive contemporary program of research-based agricultural science education for the career-bound agriculture student.

Topics may include the following, as they relate to agriculture:

- Fundamentals of biotechnology and its uses
- Genetics, microbiology, biochemistry and biotechnology
- Laboratory techniques and procedures
- Crop and ornamental horticulture applications of biotechnology
- Biotechnology applications in animal production and the environment
- Food science applications of biotechnology
- Soils and hydrology
- Wildlife management, natural resources, conservation management, and environmental issues
- Forest science, including urban and community forestry
- Environmental science and stewardship

The program will focus on applications in multiple areas of agricultural science. Activities will provide opportunities to practice important skills, including applying mathematics, communications, laboratory skills. Students will apply the scientific method, conduct supervised agricultural experiences, and participate in Ag-science leadership organizations.

Students nominated should be interested in Ag-Science, possess good computer skills, be creative thinkers, and have good interpersonal skills. Most importantly, students should possess problem solving abilities and be able to effectively research and critique information. Students will communicate the results of experiments, data collection, research, and opinions on issues in a variety of formats. Career and issues information will be incorporated into each topic.

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