

# SHENANDOAH VALLEY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

ARTS, HUMANITIES & SCIENCES



## 2021-22 Profile

### Overview

Shenandoah Valley Governor's School (SVGS) is an Academic Year Governor's School sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education. SVGS has programs and courses designed to meet the needs of gifted and highly motivated students.

SVGS provides a unique environment in which individuals explore the interconnections between technology and (1) mathematics and sciences or (2) the arts and humanities.

Students may attend in one of several broad curriculum areas:

- ♦ **Sciences** (science, mathematics, technology, and engineering)
- ♦ **Arts & Humanities** (humanities, visual, and performing arts)

SVGS opened its doors in the fall of 1993 to 95 students in a specialized STEM program.

In 2002, SVGS expanded its mission to include visual arts, theatre arts and humanities courses.

### Community of Learners

#### Community

- ♦ SVGS serves Augusta County, which is geographically the second largest county in Virginia, and the two independent cities of Staunton and Waynesboro.
- ♦ The region is primarily rural with agriculture as its economic base. Estimated median household income in the region for 2014-2018 was \$61,305 with 23.3% of area residents having completed a Bachelor's degree or higher (U.S. Census, 2019).

#### Students

- ♦ SVGS students are selected through a competitive admissions process based on multiple criteria such as academic performance, talent, interests, and teacher recommendations.
- ♦ Admissions is offered to approximately 65% of all applicants.
- ♦ Juniors and seniors from seven public high schools in Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro attend this shared day, selective regional school. Student attend SVGS in the morning and their base schools in the afternoon.
- ♦ For 2021-2022, 169 students are enrolled in the Sciences program and 51 students are enrolled in the Arts and Humanities program which represents about 7% of the area's total high school junior and senior enrollment.

#### Staff

- ♦ 93% of SVGS instructors have a Master's degree or higher.

### Mission and Focus

SVGS provides a supportive and challenging environment for local gifted and talented students to nurture and develop their talents, expand their knowledge, improve critical thinking skills, and foster their sense of personal and social responsibility.

*SVGS has identified nine skills as critical to life-long learning and performance in any academic discipline and profession.*

*These skills are cultivated through exceptional learning experiences at SVGS and are listed below:*

1. **Intellectual Curiosity**
2. **Intellectual Independence**
3. **Persistence and Perseverance**
4. **Critical Analysis and Reflection**
5. **Problem Solving**
6. **Leadership and Collaboration**
7. **Communication**
8. **Digital Literacy**
9. **Social and Ethical Responsibility**

### SVGS Class of 2021 Graduate Profile

93% of the SVGS **Class of 2021** matriculated to a 4 year college. 7% attended BRCC or another 2 year program of study.

University of Virginia	18%
James Madison University	16%
Virginia Tech	14%
Virginia Commonwealth University	8%
Bridgewater College	4%
Other Virginia Colleges	14%
Out of State	14%
BRCC (or other 2 year program)	7%
Undecided at time of survey	5%

Students in the SVGS Class of 2021 reported their intention to major in these areas of study:

STEM	58%
Health & Medicine	12%
Social Science	9%
Arts & Humanities	9%
Business	7%
Undecided at time of survey	5%

# 2021-22 Profile

## Rigorous, Enriching Courses

### Arts and Humanities\*

Literature, Composition & Ideas I, II (DE)  
Psychology (AP)  
Sociology of the Family (DE)  
Sociology of Mass Media (DE)  
Communications (DE)  
Studio Art I, II  
Acting I, II  
Intro to Theater (DE)  
Dramatic Theory & Criticism  
Film Studies/Film Making  
Humanities in Western Culture (DE)

### Sciences\*\*

Scientific Research  
Advanced Scientific Research  
Advanced Environmental Science (DE)  
Aquatic Ecology  
Chemistry (AP)  
Environmental Chemistry (DE)  
Molecular Biology (DE)  
Modern Physics  
Physics  
Physics C (AP)  
Biomechanics  
Geospatial Information Systems (DE)

Pre-Calculus  
Calculus (DE)  
Calculus BC (AP)  
Advanced Calculus-Multivariable  
Statistics (DE)  
Mathematical Modeling  
Intro to Computer Science  
Computer Science (AP)  
Cyber Security & Software Operations  
Machine Learning  
Engineering I  
Engineering II

\*Arts & Humanities students are required to take 1) one class in English; 2) one credit each from the following areas: human experience, human communication and cultural appreciation; and 3) two elective choices from those areas. Second year students take four classes and may take multiple classes in the same area (i.e. 2 human communication classes) pending their interest and needs.

\*\*STEM students typically take 3 classes in each of the following areas: *mathematics, science and technology*. First year students must take either Intro to Scientific Research, Engineering I, or Intro to Computer Science. Second year students take four classes and may take multiple classes in the same area (i.e. 2 science classes) pending their interest and needs.

- ♦ All SVGS classes are year-long classes and are taught at an advanced/college level.
- ♦ SVGS classes are designated as "GS" on the student's official high school transcript and are weighted one quality point in the student's GPA at their base school.

## Practical, Professional Experiences

Academic Competitions  
Art Exhibits  
Electric Vehicle Team  
Field Experiences  
Guest Artists and Professional Workshops  
FIRST Robotics Team  
International Experiences  
Outreach  
Performances  
Senior Capstone Projects

- ♦ *Independent Research*
- ♦ *Mentorship*
- ♦ *Service Learning*

### ARTS & HUMANITIES

The Arts and Humanities program utilizes an extensive "**community campus**" to offer students experiences in professional spaces with professional artists and artisans. Arts and Humanities students participate in multiple performances and exhibits throughout the year.

### SCIENCES

All first year Science students must complete an independent **research, engineering design or programming project**. Students may choose a project in any area of science, math or engineering. Research and engineering teachers facilitate these projects and students are mentored by the school's STEM staff. If additional expertise is needed, community mentors are used to support the student's specific research or engineering interest.

### SVGS SENIOR CAPSTONE

Each SVGS program graduate must also complete an independent **capstone project**.

The senior capstone project is a long-term project embedded in a specific aspect of the curriculum whose intent is to encourage students to reach beyond their academic work, extending and enhancing the traditional school experience outside of the classroom.

The purpose of the project is to allow students to further engage in areas related to student's career interests, and to apply academic and professional skills through authentic learning experiences. Student projects may be focused on service learning, mentorship or independent research.