



The Governor's School of New Jersey
APPLICATION for the
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL IN THE SCIENCES
at DREW UNIVERSITY

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING CANDIDATES

In order to help identify talented and motivated students who will be particularly benefited by this program, we suggest the following overall criteria.*

First, the student must be interested in the subject of the school. The student should expect to be immersed in an intensive and enriching program in the sciences. We expect him or her to have an ongoing interest in science, and a strong desire to explore this interest.

Second, the student must be willing to attend the full session. Saturdays and Sundays make up part of the program, hence there will be no weekend leaves of absence.

Third, the student must have at least a B average in academic course grades (excluding gym and shop courses) and should rank at least in the 90th percentile on any standardized tests he or she has taken. High ability in mathematics must be demonstrated by strong scores in the PSAT/SAT examination. In other words, students should have demonstrated by their achievements that they can hold their own in interactions with the most "academically talented" students. The most creatively talented and motivated students will not always devote their gifts solely to earning the highest grades, and will divide their time between school and other creative and scientific activities. Such students can be appropriate candidates for the Governor's School.

*In drawing up these criteria, we gratefully acknowledge the use of materials stemming from the experience and work of the Governor's Schools of North Carolina and South Carolina.

Please Note: To be eligible for the New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences, the nominee must have completed the Junior year of high school during the 2008-2009 school year, and expect to be a Senior for the 2009-2010 school year.



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Governor's School in the Sciences has several objectives. The first is to broaden the scholars' appreciation and knowledge of science through exposure to a range of scientific topics and scientists. The subject of career exploration and choice is woven throughout the program. The second objective is to introduce scientific research to the scholars via hands-on research experience in a student's area of interest. Resources from New Jersey's industrial, governmental, and academic science establishments are used.

In previous years, the program at Drew consisted of a number of components designed to accomplish these objectives.

1. There is a core curriculum of courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, computer science, and anthropology. Offered four times a week, these courses address aspects of these fields not normally seen in either high school or first year college. Students are required to select three courses from this core. Homework is assigned, although no grades are given for the courses.
2. Laboratory courses (in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Science) are held two afternoons a week. Each offers innovative experiments. Each student must select one lab course.
3. Elective courses are offered twice a week in the evenings. These are intended to enrich the curriculum by addressing topics of current interest in the sciences. Recent topics have included designing interactive technologies, the interaction of science and culture, and philosophy of science. Students take one elective course.
4. Two afternoons a week are set aside for work on team projects. Students work in small teams under faculty guidance on mini-research topics. Recent topics have included cloning of DNA, enzyme kinetics, radar target tracking, celestial mechanics, chemical synthesis, and visual perception. The final day of school is devoted to a scientific meeting at which teams report their results to the entire group. Results are published in an online Governor's School Journal. Work on the research projects frequently takes place during free time on weekends.
5. Evening colloquium speakers discuss modern science from both industrial and academic viewpoints. This allows a glimpse into doing science and provides a discussion of real-world considerations related to work in science.
6. One day a week is kept open for field trips to local science laboratories and sites, such as The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Robert Wood Johnson New Jersey Medical School, Schering-Plough and others.

During free evenings and weekends, there is time for study as well as for recreation on the campus and in Madison. Entertainment on campus includes films and the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival. Other special events include a selective college fair and a career morning. Students can attend local religious services.

Closing ceremonies are held at a final banquet for scholars, faculty, counselors, and visiting dignitaries.

The faculty for the Governor's School in the Sciences includes science faculty from Drew and other local colleges, as well as scientists from industrial and governmental laboratories.

Free of exams, grades, or any form of AP or college credit, the experience of scholars spending an intensive time working, learning, and living together has always proven to be productive, satisfying, and memorable for all concerned.



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INFORMATION FOR PRINCIPAL, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Incomplete applications will adversely affect consideration of the nominee. Please verify that this application is complete as follows:

- Students should meet the criteria listed in the Criteria for Selecting Candidates section.
- All student contact information must be supplied unless otherwise indicated.
- If student email address is unavailable, use family or guidance counselor email address.
- All school contact information, including guidance counselor email address must be supplied.
- Student and Parent signatures are required.
- Only reference letters from a math and a science teacher will be considered when applications are evaluated.
- Students must supply two typed essays as described in #1 and #2.
- Extracurricular activities, including volunteer and paid work experience are important. If these are not included, it will be assumed that there are no extra activities.
- Transcripts
 - a. Attach an official transcript for grades 9 and 10.
 - b. Grade 11 first marking period grades are required. If these are not available at the time the application is submitted, they must be supplied to the Governor's School in the Sciences office by December 12.
- PSAT Scores
 - a. Junior year PSAT scores are preferred – If these are not available please indicate this on the Checklist.
 - b. If a student has not taken the PSAT test in the Junior year, Sophomore year PSAT scores or SAT scores may be substituted. Please indicate this on the Checklist.
 - c. If no standardized test scores are available, please indicate this on the Checklist.

CHECKLIST – Complete and Sign

STUDENT NAME: _____

1. **Transcript** of the student's academic course grades. Check one.
 The transcript contains current 11th year grades.
 The transcript does not include 11th year grades but these will be sent by year end.
2. **Junior year PSAT scores** or acceptable substitute. Check one.
 Junior year PSAT scores are enclosed. (**strongly preferred**)
 Junior year PSAT scores are not available but will be sent by year end.
 PSAT scores from pre-junior year or SAT scores are enclosed. (**acceptable**)
 No PSAT/SAT scores are available for this student.
3. **Letters of reference.** Check to indicate inclusion.
 One letter from a science teacher is enclosed.
 One letter from a mathematics teacher is enclosed.
4. **Application and supporting documentation.** Check to indicate inclusion.
 Application Page 1, Page 2 and Page 3. Biographical sketch.
 Student contact information. Science essay.
 Parent and student signature. Extracurricular activities and awards

The above required items are included in this application

Signature of Principal/Guidance Counselor/Nominating Committee Chair

Print Name



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Please Print or Type:

All fields, including email, are mandatory unless stated otherwise.

Name of Student _____ Home Phone (____) - _____
(Last) (First)

Street Address _____ Email _____

City or Town _____ Zip _____ County _____ State Legis. District # _____

Birthdate ____/____/____ Gender (M/F) _____ Race/Nat'l Origin _____
mo day yr (this information is voluntary)

Father/Guardian Full Name _____ Mother/Guardian Full Name _____

Father/Guardian Email _____ Mother/Guardian Email _____
If Available If Available

PARENT AND STUDENT CERTIFICATION

I am a resident of the State of New Jersey.
I will be a senior in the 2009-2010 school year.
I am willing and able to attend the entire session.

This is to certify that I give permission for
my child to attend the Governor's School of
New Jersey.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent

DATES to REMEMBER

November 21, **2008** - High schools submit application packets to County Superintendents' offices.

December 12, **2008** - Applications of nominees submitted to the Governor's School in the Sciences at Drew University.

By April 3, 2009 - Decision letters sent to all nominees by the Governor's School in the Sciences.

All dates for 2009 summer programs will be announced January 15, 2009 at www.nj.gov/govschool.



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Name of Student _____

Name of School _____ Public _____ Private/Parochial _____

School Street Address _____

School City/Town _____ School County _____ School State _____

Name of School District _____

School Guidance Counselor _____ School Guidance Department Telephone _____

School Guidance Counselor Email _____

Name of School District _____

Names of References _____

Science Teacher Name and Email Address

Mathematics Teacher Name and Email Address

STUDENT ESSAYS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Attach a brief (one-page or less) autobiographical sketch which includes your personal background, aspirations, and scientific interests.
2. Discovery is the hallmark of science. Attach a one-page essay describing one discovery in science or math and the impact it has had on people's lives.
3. Attach a list any special science or math activities or awards. (Science fairs, competitions, summer programs, etc.)
4. Attach a list of extracurricular school and community activities, indicating offices held, leadership positions, and amount of time devoted to each per week. Include paid work experience as well as volunteer positions.

The Governor's School will not discriminate because of sex, race, color, creed, national origin, physical handicap, political activity or private conduct.