



Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science

P.O. Box 1410
Tappahannock, VA 22560
Phone: (804) 443-0267

Website: www.cbgs.k12.va.us

Student Application Information

2025-2026

(for matriculation in the 2026-2027 school year)

Greetings to the candidates of the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School! Applying to any of Virginia's 19 governor's schools shows motivation and promise, as a student who is ready to do more than what your high school alone offers. We applaud your interest in CBGS!

Overview of Program, Location, and Courses: The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School provides an educational option for high-ability and gifted students interested in math, science, and technology. Sophomores, juniors and seniors from fourteen participating school divisions in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions in Virginia attend the Governor's School during the morning at one of three sites: RCC-Glenns Campus, RCC-Warsaw Campus or Bowling Green in Caroline County.

CBGS is a demanding program that supplements your home high school by offering mathematics and science classes along with a rich outdoor educational component. You don't have to plan to major in math or science in college to come to CBGS, but it is important to realize you will be deeply immersed in these subjects while you are here. CBGS offers all classes as Dual Enrollment with RCC, so you must prepare to work at the college level, at all times.

Mission: The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science provides a community of learners the opportunity to explore connections among the environment, math, science, and technology, and develops leaders who possess the research and technical skills, global perspective, and vision needed to address the challenges of a rapidly changing society.

Participating School Divisions:

RCC-Warsaw

Colonial Beach

Essex

Lancaster

Northumberland

Richmond County

Westmoreland

RCC-Glenns

Gloucester

King & Queen

Mathews

Middlesex

New Kent

Bowling Green

Caroline

King George

King William

Courses Currently Offered:

10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Advanced Algebra with Pre-Calc I	Pre-Calculus II (Trig)	Calculus I
Foundations of Science	Marine & Environmental Science I	Marine & Environmental Science II
College Success Skills		

Financial model: CBGS is funded mainly from school division contributions and state appropriations. Students' families are asked to pay a nominal fee for field experience trip costs (\$110-\$185). This fee is waived for any student who requires assistance. As of 24-25, students are *not* required to pay for RCC dual enrollment classes; these courses are entirely funded from the CBGS budget.

Selection Overview

Minimum Requirements for Applicants:

- Recommended 85th percentile or higher score on mathematics assessment (factoring in standard error)
- “B” average for the current and previous school years (based on local grading scale)
- Successful completion of the following courses prior to attending CBGS:
 - Algebra I and Geometry (Algebra II may be helpful to have, but is not mandatory unless the applicant is a rising junior)
 - 1 high school credit in Science for rising sophomores; 2 science credits for rising juniors

Selection criteria includes:

- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Math
- Science Article Analysis/Writing Prompt
- Two Faculty Recommendations
- GPA
- Local Interview (Optional; please consult your school district liaison)

Weighting of selection criteria:

Standard Application Weighting (without interview)	Application with Interview
• MAP Math 30%	• MAP Math 30%
• Writing Prompt 20%	• Writing Prompt 20%
• Teacher 1 Recommendation 15%	• Teacher 1 Recommendation 10%
• Teacher 2 Recommendation 15%	• Teacher 2 Recommendation 10%
• GPA 20%	• GPA 20%
	• Interview/Interest 10%

Virginia Placement Test:

VPT scores are not used to determine CBGS eligibility. However, if selected for CBGS, students must meet criteria for participation in dual enrollment that is predetermined by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). In order to receive dual enrollment credit for CBGS courses, the student must meet the admissions criteria set forth by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and Rappahannock Community College (RCC) by meeting ONE of the criteria listed below .

High School Transcript	SAT	PSAT	ACT	VPT
Current cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher and a 2.0 (C) grade or higher in Algebra I or in a higher level math course.	ERW score of 480 or higher and Math score of 530 or higher	Math score of 500 or higher	22 or higher on Math subject area test	Placement into MTH 161 or higher (Satisfaction of MTE 1-9)

Student/Parent Checklist

To apply to CBGS, be sure you do the following steps in a timely manner:

1. Carefully read this packet. Understand what you are getting into!
2. [Complete the CBGS online application](#) or the paper application. It is also recommended that you complete the online [RCC application](#) and [RCC Dual Enrollment Consent Form](#). The application is submitted to your high school counseling office by the deadline they set.
3. Ask two teachers for confidential recommendations. A survey link will be sent to them after you complete the online CBGS application (make sure to enter their email addresses correctly!). Be sure to give your teachers ample time to complete the recommendations.
4. Be prepared to take a writing prompt (see page 5) and the mathematics MAP assessment. Your school staff will tell you when and where you'll do these, but be listening and aware!
5. *If* your school requires an interview, be prepared to participate in that process. Again, your school staff members will tell you when the interview is to take place.

After you have properly applied, the selection process will take place and your high school will notify you of the admission decision. Decisions are made by the end of March and each school division prepares letters of acceptance. You should hear about your application status by early April, although exact mailing dates vary.

Good luck!



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Writing Prompt

You will be administered a writing prompt at your high school by reading a science article and responding as detailed below.

Directions for Student:

Please choose one of the science articles attached, read it carefully, and then compose an essay that includes answers to the following questions:

1. What are the major environmental issues presented in this article and how do they relate to other environmental issues we currently face?
2. What is your critical analysis on the ideas or opinions presented in this article?
3. What additional research might you want to conduct that could build on the information presented in the article?
4. What are the implications for the future based on what you learned in this article?

Your essay will be evaluated using the following rubric:

Score	Understanding and Summary	Critical Analysis and Evaluation	Clarity, Organization, and Relevance
4	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the article, accurately summarizing all key points, arguments, and findings.		
3	Shows a good understanding of the article with minor omissions or inaccuracies in summarizing key points.	Offers a thorough and insightful critique of the article, including a detailed evaluation of the methodology, arguments, and conclusions.	Response is well-organized, clearly written, and directly relevant to the article, with a logical structure and flow.
2	Provides a basic summary but with notable omissions or misunderstandings of key elements.	Provides a solid critique with some evaluation of key aspects but may lack depth or comprehensive analysis.	Response is mostly organized and clear but may have minor issues with relevance or structure.
1	Shows a limited understanding of the article, with significant omissions or inaccuracies.	Gives a basic critique with limited evaluation of the article's methodology, arguments, or conclusions.	Response is somewhat organized but has structural issues that take away from clarity of ideas.
0	Demonstrates a poor understanding of the article with major errors or lack of clarity in the summary.	Provides minimal or no critique, with little to no evaluation of the article's components.	Response lacks clarity, organization, or relevance, making it difficult to follow.



Chesapeake Bay Governor's School Applicant Information

An [online application](#) is preferred. This paper version is provided only for those who are unable to apply online.

Student Information: *(Please print)*

Current Grade: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Preferred First Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

DOB (mm/dd/yy): ____/____/____

Male: ____ Female: ____

Student's personal E-mail: _____ Home Phone: (____) ____-____

High School: _____ Student's Cell Phone: (____) ____-

What math class are you currently taking? _____

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Information: *(Please print)*

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Relationship to student: _____ Home Phone: (____) ____-____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____-

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Relationship to student: _____ Home Phone: (____) ____-____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____-

Program Expectations

Students attending CBGS are responsible for meeting all CBGS program requirements and expectations which include the following:

- Make a serious commitment to CBGS, understanding that the local school board pays a tuition cost for each student to attend Governor's School
- Start school in mid-August
- Develop and/or maintain good study skills required to meet academic rigor of the CBGS curriculum, realizing that courses are Dual Enrollment, and thus demand more than high school rigor, alone
- Participate in the Field Studies component of the CBGS curriculum – this means weekends!
- Understand that there is a field studies comprehensive fee (\$110-\$185). It may be waived if need exists.
- Complete a two-year research project, which includes a senior presentation at the annual CBGS Science Symposium held on a Saturday in March

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT APPLICANT

The decision to apply for admission to the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School is my own and I desire to fully participate in the program. The responses contained in this application are my own work. I have read in its entirety the application procedures, including the application forms and program expectations. I am also aware of the local school division's appeals process.

Printed Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

I, the parent/guardian of the above named student, am aware of and in support of the student's application for admission to the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. I give permission for the student's academic records to be reviewed by the school division's selection committee. I have read in its entirety the application procedures, including the application forms and program expectations. I am also aware of the local school division's appeals process.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Names of Faculty members Completing Recommendation Form:

1. _____

2. _____