



Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science

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March 4, 2026

Dear CBGS Families,

Our 23rd Annual CBGS Science Symposium at VCU is this Saturday, March 7th! CBGS Seniors will be presenting results and conclusions from original research projects they designed, developed, and implemented over the course of a year or more. All CBGS students, including Sophomores and Juniors, are required to attend. It will be a powerful day of knowledge sharing and personal achievement for our Seniors.

Here are a few things to keep in mind for this event:

- See the attached Symposium Program for presentation times and locations as well as the VCU Student Commons Map.
- All students should arrive at VCU's Student Commons (907 Floyd Ave., Richmond, VA) by 8:30 a.m.
 - I have attached a VCU Map and Driving Directions for families that are attending.
 - There is some free street parking available as well as a pay-to-park deck next to the Altria Theater (both indicated on the attached map).
- The schedule for the day:
 - 8:30 a.m. – Arrival
 - 9:00-11:45 a.m. – Student Presentations
 - 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. – Lunch
 - 12:55 p.m. – Report to the Commonwealth Ballroom
 - 1:00 p.m. – Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Schacherer, Haverford College
 - 1:30-2:00 p.m. – Awards Presentation and Closing Remarks
- It is very important for students, parents, and any other attendees to be on time. Each session will start at precisely the time indicated on the program. **Doors will be closed once a presentation begins, so don't be late!**
- All students are expected to attend the symposium as engaged and respectful participants. Every student will have a job or assignment to complete on the day of the symposium. Most students will be able to move between rooms, but they must attend a presentation during each time slot.
- **Dress Code:** Students should dress in business/professional attire. Students should not wear jeans, baggy pants, t-shirts, short dresses/skirts, low-cut tops, etc.
- **Students should pack a lunch**, as they will not be able to leave the VCU Student Commons.
 - VCU Student Commons dining establishments will be closed due to VCU Spring Break.
 - Students are not allowed to DoorDash lunch orders.
- **Cell Phones:** Students are not allowed to be on cell phones except during lunch or to take a quick picture of themselves or a classmate after their presentation. Phones need to be silent and away during student presentations and the afternoon keynote address.
- **Student Medications**
 - If any students not accompanied by their parents/guardians require medication during the symposium, this must be coordinated with CBGS staff. Please notify your site's Administrative Assistant and myself if your student will need to take medication.

Executive Board

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Chair ~ Dr. Dana Burnett, Vice Chair ~ Margaret Socey ~ Mark Kelley

- **Student Sign-Out Procedures**
 - Students who ride the bus in the morning and leave with parents **MUST BE SIGNED OUT** by a parent when they leave in the afternoon. Parents/guardians should have already communicated their transportation plans with your site's Administrative Assistants prior to the trip. If plans change, please notify your site's Administrative Assistant.
 - Parents should sign-out students at the CBGS welcome table near the Floyd Avenue main entrance.
 - Students who arrive with parents/guardians and are leaving with those parents/guardians are to be supervised by their parents for the duration of the day; they do not need to be signed out.
- VCU requires us to share the following information:
 - VCU has a text messaging alert system. If you would like to sign up for this system, visit <https://vcu.omnilert.net/subscriber.php>. For more information, visit alert.vcu.edu.
 - If you or your student needs ADA accommodations, please notify me prior to noon on Friday, March 6th.
 - If you have any VCU-related concerns about the event, please contact me and I will put you in touch with VCU staff.

If you need to reach CBGS staff on Saturday, please call (leave a voicemail) or text 804-443-4047; we will respond as soon as possible. We're looking forward to celebrating our students' hard work on their Senior Projects this Saturday!

Sincerely,



Dr. Rob Wright
Director
Chesapeake Bay Governor's School