



# 2023-2024 School Profile

## Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies

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Richmond, VA 23220  
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Counseling ext. 3213  
CEEB Code 471851  
www.MLWGS.com

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**Assistant Director:** Dr. Max Smith  
**Assistant Director:** Dr. Lisa Williams  
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**Counseling Co-Coordinators:** Joy Cobb & Dr. Rachel Loving  
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**School Social Worker:** Erin Ortiz  
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**School Facts and Statistics**

**Total Enrollment (grades 9-12): 778**  
**Total Enrollment (Class of 2024): 176**  
**Total Faculty: 67 full-time; 8 part-time**  
**Total University Faculty: 7**

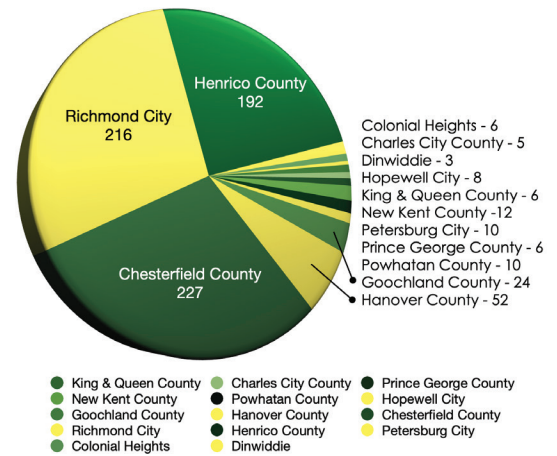
**College Matriculation**  
 For a matriculation list for our alumni,  
 please visit: <http://bit.ly/alumni-colleges>

## Background, Mission, and Admission

Established in 1991, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School is a unique public school for gifted and high achieving students that serves fourteen school divisions in the Richmond area. MLWGS offers a rigorous and accelerated college preparatory program emphasizing a variety of academic areas and is accredited by the Virginia Department of Education.

Our mission is to provide comprehensive educational opportunities that advance gifted students' understanding of world cultures and languages. Our diverse and supportive community develops students' character and ability to contribute, collaborate, and lead.

Our school celebrates the legacy of its namesake, Maggie Lena Walker, the first female African American bank president. As a social activist, Ms. Walker believed in the power of education, and she fought for equality for all. Inspired by her humanitarianism, Maggie Walker Governor's School operates under the four pillars of Courage, Compassion, Community, and Collaboration, which we call the "Walker Way."



All courses at Maggie Walker are taught at the Honors level with options in specific subject areas for accelerated ("Plus" level) courses, Advanced Placement courses, Dual Enrollment courses through Virginia Commonwealth University, and upper level "Intensive" courses.

Selection for admission to MLWGS is a highly competitive process coordinated by a regional planning team. Over 1100 eighth graders competed for approximately 200 seats in this year's entering ninth grade class. An application process includes on-site standardized testing and a writing sample. Maggie Walker Governor's School strives to maintain an inclusive school environment and is committed to recruiting and retaining students, faculty, and staff who are highly able, who value our international mission, and who represent the diversity of the world we share.

## Diploma Requirements

English	4 units
Mathematics (1)	4 units
Science (2)	4 units
Social Studies	5 units
International Language (3)	6 units
Health and Physical Education	2 units
Fine Arts	1 unit
Senior Seminar/Mentorship	1 unit
Foundations - Research & Technology	1 unit
Economics & Personal Finance	1 unit
Community Service (140 hrs. minimum)*	1 unit
Electives	1 unit
<b>Total Units of Credit</b>	<b>31 units</b>

**(1) must take at least through Precalculus**

**(2) must take at least through Physics**

**(3) four years of one language, two years of another**

\* Due to COVID-19, the required number of service hours was reduced for the classes of 2020 - 2023.

## Partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University

Dual Enrollment courses are taught through a unique partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University, a four-year public research university that offers MLWGS students rigorous higher-level courses and one-on-one mentorship opportunities. Courses are taught on the MLWGS campus by VCU professors and MLWGS teachers who have affiliate faculty status at VCU. Grades for these university courses are included on both the MLWGS and VCU transcripts, and they receive extra weight in the calculation of the MLWGS grade point average.



## Calculation of GPA

GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale. Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, University and Intensive Courses have an additional weighting of 1.0 in the calculation of quality points. Maggie Walker offers an "all-Honors" curriculum, including four "Plus" level (accelerated) courses and two Pre-AP courses, where no additional weight is added. Middle school courses are not factored into GPA.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	AP/DE/Intensive Quality Pts	Honors/Plus Quality Pts
A+	95-100	5.5	4.5
A	90-94	5.0	4.0
B+	85-89	4.5	3.5
B	80-84	4.0	3.0
C+	75-79	3.5	2.5
C	70-74	3.0	2.0
D+	65-69	2.5	1.5
D	60-64	2.0	1.0
F	Below 60	0.0	0.0

(P and PS are outlined below in the COVID-19 Impact statement)

## ACT/SAT Scores 2023

Test	Class of 2023 Mean	National Average	State Average
SAT EWR	710	520	569
SAT Math	688	508	544
SAT Total (1600 scale)	1398	1028	1113
ACT Composite	30.3*	20.6*	24.4*

\*Class of 2022 data

## Senior Seminar & Mentorship

As a requirement for graduation, all seniors must participate in (1) a seminar at MLWGS (small group research study), or (2) a mentorship field experience off campus (minimum of 115 hours with a mentor in the professional community and 25 hours with mentorship coordinator). Both the seminar and mentorship students must complete a significant research project and present their findings to a student audience on Senior Showcase Day.

## Athletics & Extra-curricular Activities

MLWGS offers twenty-eight athletic teams that participate in the 3B Region of the Virginia High School League and have earned the VHSL champion's cup for this division seven out of eight years. Over 60 clubs and activities serve the diverse interests of the student body.

## COVID-19 Impacts

On March 13th, 2020, Maggie Walker Governor's School closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MLWGS opened virtually on September 8th, 2020 and remained fully virtual with limited in-person extracurricular activities until March 15th, 2021 when the school began offering students the choice of attending partially in-person (hybrid) or remaining virtual (with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous classroom experiences). While courses were adapted to a virtual environment, grading practices were not impacted in the 2020-2021 academic year. MLWGS opened fully in-person on September 7th, 2021. **It is important to note that the Class of 2024 began their MLWGS experience in a fully virtual setting and faced and overcame related challenges, such as not meeting their fellow schoolmates and faculty in-person until up to a year after matriculating.**

## Class Rank

MLWGS does not rank students because of the high caliber of the student body and competitive nature of the selection requirements. Valedictorian and Salutatorian are not recognized.

## Advanced Placement Exams 2023

Examination	# of Candidates	MLWGS Average	Global Average*	State Average*
Biology	35	4.30	2.83	2.80
Calculus AB	64	4.60	2.77	2.64
Calculus BC	12	4.60	3.63	3.58
Chemistry	72	4.00	2.66	2.68
Chinese	4	5.00	4.09	4.34
Computer Science A	30	3.70	3.12	3.12
Computer Science Principles	66	3.80	2.99	3.06
English Lang & Comp	152	4.20	2.86	3.02
English Lit & Comp	95	4.40	2.47	2.63
Environmental Science	53	3.90	2.67	2.71
European History	12	4.80	2.82	2.62
French Language	11	4.00	3.02	3.08
German Language	8	3.40	3.08	3.06
Gov't and Politics: Comp	28	4.30	3.16	2.93
Gov't and Politics: US	125	4.20	2.62	2.89
Human Geography	35	4.60	2.69	2.94
Japanese	2	5.00		
Latin	13	4.40	2.76	2.96
Macroeconomics	29	4.20	2.74	2.89
Microeconomics	28	4.23	2.97	3.02
Music Theory	12	3.60	3.03	3.00
Physics 1	68	4.00		
Physics C: Elec. & Mag.	30	3.90	3.46	3.07
Physics C: Mechanics	32	4.40	3.38	3.12
Psychology	124	3.50	2.71	2.86
Spanish Language	57	3.90	3.39	3.37
Spanish Literature	9	3.90	2.91	3.35
Statistics	28	3.40	2.85	2.80
US History	123	4.30	2.52	2.69

\*2021 data

## 2023 Designations

### AP Awards:

Scholar:	38
Scholar with Honors:	54
Scholar with Distinction:	206
International Diploma	2

### National Merit Awards:

Semi-Finalists:	20
Commendations:	30

# Course Offerings 2023-2024



All courses at Maggie Walker Governor's School have been designed for the gifted student and, as such, provide more rigor and challenge than similar courses at other schools. In addition to the courses listed below, students may also propose, while meeting certain specific guidelines, a Student Generated Curriculum (SGC) on a topic of their choosing. If a student has exhausted all subject area course offerings, that student may apply to take courses at universities which may be reflected on their transcript.

Labels	Description	GPA Adjustment	Number of Courses
<b>Honors</b>	Maggie Walker Governor's School offers an "all honors" curriculum, meaning that all courses are taught at or above the Honors level. Some subjects are also offered at the "Plus" or "Pre-AP" level, which are accelerated versions of their honors counterparts. Honors, Plus, and Pre-AP courses DO NOT receive additional weight in GPA calculation.	0	78
<b>AP</b>	AP courses are generated and taught according to the College Board's standards and award 1.0 additional weight in GPA calculation.	1	23
<b>VCU Dual Enrollment</b>	As described on page 1, Dual Enrollment courses are generated and taught through a unique partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University on the Maggie Walker campus. Dual Enrollment courses award 1.0 additional weight in GPA calculation as well as 3 or 4 college credits, depending on the course.	1	7
<b>NEW for 2023-24: Intensive</b>	Courses labeled "Intensive" are faculty-generated courses which allow students to demonstrate dedication to a particular area of study through a rigorous examination of a topic. These courses require exceptional commitment and intense work at or above the Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment level. All Intensive level courses will include a discipline-appropriate culminating assessment (e.g. research paper, presentation, portfolio, exam, or other capstone project) from which no student may be exempt. Intensive courses award 1.0 additional weight in GPA calculation.	1	24

## English

American Literature and Composition 11  
 AP English Language and Composition  
 AP English Literature and Composition  
 British Literature and Composition 12  
 Creative Writing  
 World Literature 9 and 10  
 World Literature 9 Plus  
 Yearbook

## Health and Physical Education

Health and Physical Education 9  
 Physical Education/Driver's Education 10

## International Languages

American Sign Language I, II, III  
 Arabic I, II, III~  
 Chinese I, II, III, IV, AP Chinese Language~  
 French I, II, III, IV, Pre-AP~, AP French Language  
 German I, II, III, IV, Pre-AP~, AP German Language  
 Italian I, II, III  
 Japanese I, II, III  
 Latin I, II, III, IV, Pre AP, AP Latin  
 Russian I, II, III~  
 Spanish I, II, III, IV, Pre AP, AP Spanish Language  
 AP Spanish Literature  
 Spanish Conversation

## Mathematics

Algebra II and Algebra II Plus  
 AP Calculus AB  
 AP Calculus BC (AP Calculus AB/BC in 2020-21)  
 Data Analytics  
 Equations, Functions, & Problem Solving  
 Geometry  
 Precalculus and Precalculus Plus  
 Math Modeling: INTENSIVE^  
 Multivariable Calculus: INTENSIVE^  
 Linear Algebra: INTENSIVE^(.5)  
 Math Reasoning: INTENSIVE^(.5)  
 VCU MATH 200: Calculus\*\*  
 VCU MATH 201: Calculus II\*\*  
 VCU STAT 201: Basic Practice of Statistics (S1)\*(.5)  
 VCU STAT 314: Application of Statistics (S2)\*\*(.5)

## Mentorship

Mentorship: INTENSIVE^

## Research and Technology

AP Computer Science A  
 AP Computer Science Principles  
 Foundations: Fundamentals of Independent Research/Communication  
 Economics(.5)  
 Personal Finance(.5)

## Science

Analytical Chemistry and Chemistry Plus  
 Anatomy & Physiology  
 AP Biology  
 AP Chemistry  
 AP Environmental Science  
 AP Physics 1 (Replaced Physics Plus in 2022-23)  
 AP Physics C  
 Engineering: INTENSIVE^  
 Human Genetics & Biotechnology~  
 Intro to Biochemistry: INTENSIVE(.5)  
 Intro to Organic Chemistry: INTENSIVE(.5)  
 Meteorology(.5)  
 Astronomy(.5)  
 Molecular Biology  
 Physics and Physics Plus  
 Topics in Chemistry: Forensic Chemistry~  
 VCU PSYC 401: Physiological Psychology\*\*

## Seminars

Seminar Black Literature, Black Lives: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Digital Video Production: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Evolution of London: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Fashion & Style: Clothing: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Gender and Culture in MENA: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar History of Sabermetrics: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Music Production & Recording: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Slavic Folklore: INTENSIVE^  
 Seminar Wilderness & American Mind: INTENSIVE^

## Social Studies

20th Century Topics: Civil Rights Movement  
 20th Century Topics: American Pop Culture~  
 20th Century Topics: Dictators & Despots~  
 20th Century Topics: East Asian Studies~  
 20th Century Topics: Genocide Studies~  
 20th Century Topics: Historiography: INTENSIVE  
 20th Century Topics: Korea & Vietnam Conflicts~  
 AP Comparative Government and Politics  
 AP Macro & Micro Economics  
 AP European History  
 AP Human Geography  
 AP Psychology  
 AP U.S. Government & Politics  
 AP U.S. History  
 Gender, Politics, and Consumerism: INTENSIVE  
 Historical Global Perspectives 9 & 10  
 U.S. and Virginia Government  
 U.S. and Virginia History  
 We the People: INTENSIVE \$

## Visual and Performing Arts

AP Music Theory  
 Art I, II, and III  
 Art IV: INTENSIVE  
 Art V: INTENSIVE  
 Chorus  
 Chorus: INTENSIVE  
 Commercial Photography~  
 Drama I  
 Intermediate and Advanced Band  
 Advanced Band: INTENSIVE  
 Intermediate and Advanced Orchestra  
 Artist Orchestra: INTENSIVE#  
 Topics in Digital Media: Graphic Design  
 Topics in Digital Media: Digital Art~  
 Percussion Ensemble  
 Photography in the Fine Arts  
 VCU PHTO 233: Elements of the Moving Image\*\*  
 VCU PHTO 243: Darkroom\*

\*Awards 3 college credits at VCU (transcript available at the end of each academic year)

\*\*Awards 4 college credits at VCU (transcript available at the end of each academic year)

^Formerly University or "UNIV" level (originated from a university syllabus and awarded 1.0 additional weight in GPA calculation)

\$ We the People requires admission through a selection process that includes an interview. Admitted students prepare for state/national competition on advanced knowledge of the United States Constitution.

# Artist Orchestra is an audition-based course.

~ Indicates courses that have been offered during a previous school year but are not currently being taught.