

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



2024-2025 School Profile



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CEEBS Code 471851
www.MLWGS.com

Director: Dr. Robert Lowerre

Assistant Director: Dr. Max Smith

Assistant Director: Dr. Lisa Williams

Coordinator of Strategic Engagement: Aparna Harger

Counseling Co-Coordinators: Joy Cobb & Dr. Rachel Loving

9th Grade Counselor: Kelly Ndayizigiye

10th & 11th Grade Counselor: Joy Cobb

College/12th Grade Counselor (Last Names A-K, Scholarships, Junior Programming, College Visits):

Kimberly Forquer (kforquer@gsgis.k12.va.us; x3240)

College/12th Grade Counselor (Last Names L-Z, School Profile, AP Coordinator):

Dr. Rachel Loving (rloving@gsgis.k12.va.us; x3211)

School Social Worker: Erin Ortiz

Registrar: Lucas Veale (lveale@gsgis.k12.va.us; x3213)

School Facts and Statistics

Total Enrollment (grades 9-12): 794

Total Enrollment (Class of 2024): 196

Total Faculty: 63 full-time; 6 part-time

Total University Faculty: 7

College Matriculation

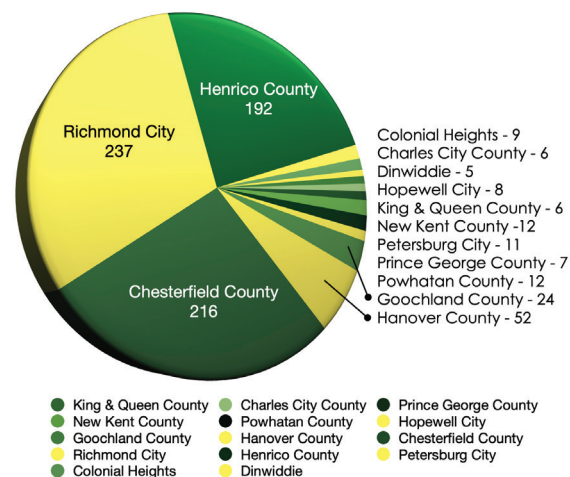
For a matriculation list for our alumni,
please visit: <http://bit.ly/alumni-colleges>

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
Total Units of Credit	31 units
(1) must take at least through Precalculus	
(2) must take at least through Physics	
(3) four years of one language, two years of another	

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.



VCU

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

ACT/SAT Scores 2024

Test	Class of 2024 Mean	National Average	State Average
SAT EWR	713	519	564
SAT Math	698	505	537
SAT Total (1600 scale)	1411	1024	1101
ACT Composite	30.4	24.6*	19.5*

*Class of 2023 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. Over 60 clubs and activities serve the diverse interests of the student body.

COVID-19 Impacts

After experiencing COVID-related closures and virtual instruction during portions of 2020 and 2021, Maggie Walker Governor's School opened fully-in person on September 7th, 2021. **While the Class of 2025 did not experience COVID-related closures during their time at MLWGS, it is important to note that, in our area, many students in this senior class did not have access to in-person education for nearly half of their middle school experience.** This created pronounced differences in students' preparedness for highly rigorous in-person instruction. MLWGS, as always, used programming and individualized approaches to meet the diverse needs of our students as they transitioned to our school.

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 2024

Examination	# of Candidates	MLWGS Average	Global Average	State Average*
Biology	35	4.29	3.24	3.15
Calculus AB	75	4.47	3.19	3.22
Calculus BC	32	4.81	3.83	3.92
Chemistry	59	3.98	3.29	3.31
Chinese	4	5.00*	4.15	4.07
Computer Science A	29	3.97	3.19	3.18
Computer Science Principles	65	3.22	3.00	2.89
English Lang & Comp	173	3.92	3.06	2.79
English Lit & Comp	90	4.26	3.42	3.16
Environmental Science	82	3.62	2.79	2.80
European History	17	4.35	3.13	3.23
French Language	14	3.79	3.09	3.19
German Language	7	3.86	2.97	3.31
Gov't and Politics: Comp	34	4.29	2.94	3.18
Gov't and Politics: US	150	4.77	3.68	3.37
Human Geography	20	4.80	3.09	2.83
Latin	12	4.33	2.95	2.76
Macroeconomics	38	4.03	3.30	3.13
Microeconomics	38	3.84	3.39	3.24
Music Theory	12	3.60*	3.03	3.00
Physics 1	92	3.88	2.54	2.59
Physics C: Elec. & Mag.	37	3.76	3.08	3.53
Physics C: Mechanics	40	4.33	3.22	3.50
Psychology	106	3.45	3.07	2.97
Spanish Language	71	4.18	3.58	3.51
Spanish Literature	3	3.67	3.21	2.99
Statistics	21	3.29	2.90	2.96
US History	114	4.28	3.47	3.23
2023 Percent of students scoring 3 or higher:		93.83	21.7	25.5

*2023 data

2024 Designations

AP Awards:

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

National Merit Awards:

Semi-Finalists: 8
Commendations: 43

Course Offerings 2024-2025

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
Honors	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	77
AP	AP courses are generated and taught according to the College Board's standards and award 1.0 additional weight in GPA calculation.	1	26
VCU Dual Enrollment	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
NEW in 2023-24: Intensive	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	23

English

AP English Language and Composition
AP English Literature and Composition
Contemporary Voices: Cycle A (Replaced American Lit 11~ and British Lit 12~)%
Creative Writing~
The Gothic in Literature and Popular Media
World Literature 9 and 10
World Literature 9 Plus~
Yearbook

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
Data Analytics
Calculus with Applications
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 (MLWGS 101 beginning with the Class of 2028)
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 2
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 Physics: Auto Engineering
Topics in Chemistry: Forensic Chemistry~
Topics in Biology: Becoming a Naturalist
VCU PSYC 401: Physiological Psychology**

Seminars

Seminar Black Legacy, Black Lives: INTENSIVE^
Seminar Digital Video Production: INTENSIVE^
Seminar Gender and Culture in MENA: INTENSIVE^
Seminar History of Sabermetrics: INTENSIVE^
Seminar Music Production & Recording: INTENSIVE^
Seminar Wilderness & American Mind: INTENSIVE^
Seminar Classical Mythology: INTENSIVE
Seminar Photojournalism: INTENSIVE
Seminar The Power of Story: INTENSIVE

Social Studies

20th Century Topics: Civil Rights Movement~
20th Century Topics: American Pop Culture: INTENSIVE
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
International Relations: INTENSIVE
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
Drama I
Intermediate and Advanced Band
Advanced Band: INTENSIVE
Intermediate and Advanced Orchestra
Artist 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*

Health and Physical Education

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

* 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.

% Contemporary Voices: Cycle A is offered to 11th and 12th graders in the 2024-25 school year, Contemporary Voices: Cycle B will be offered to 11th and 12th graders in the 2025-26 school year and on a rotating basis thereafter.