



# 2025-2026 School Profile

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

1000 N. Lombardy St.  
Richmond, VA 23220  
804-354-6800  
Counseling ext. 3213  
CEEBS Code 471851  
[www.MLWGS.com](http://www.MLWGS.com)

**Executive Director:** Kristin Janssen  
**Assistant Director:** Dr. Max Smith  
**Assistant Director:** Dr. Lisa Williams  
**Counseling Co-Coordinator:** 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 (rliving@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): 789**  
**Total Enrollment (Class of 2026): 186**  
**Total Faculty: 70 full-time; 7 part-time**  
**Total University Faculty: 7**

### College Matriculation

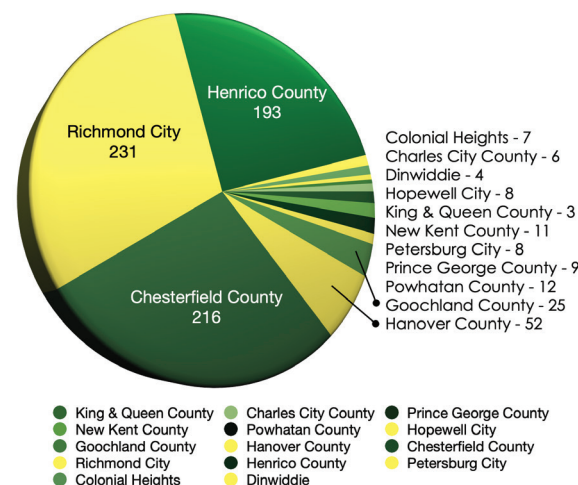
For a matriculation list for our alumni,  
please visit: <http://bit.ly/alumni-colleges>

## 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 writing samples. 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 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 2025

Test	Class of 2024 Mean	National Average	State Average
SAT EWR	682	519*	564*
SAT Math	663	505*	537*
SAT Total (1600 scale)	1345	1024*	1101*
ACT Composite	29.9	24.8*	19.4*

\*Class of 2024 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.

# MLWGS 101 & Dragon Advisory

In an effort to create a level academic playing field and foster a sense of belongingness among students from 14 different school divisions, all Maggie Walker Governor School freshmen participate in two transition-focused programs: MLWGS 101 and Dragon Advisory.

**MLWGS 101** (formerly Foundations: Fundamentals of Independent Research/Communication) is a credit-based course that focuses on quarterly topics, beginning with technology basics, study skills, and elements of honor. Foundational skills are followed by 10-week graded rotations in speech, statistics, and social studies research/paper-writing. The final grade in Foundations/MLWGS 101 is an average of the graded rotations. Note: For the Classes of 2026 and 2027, Foundations also included a graded science rotation that is now covered in the Biology curriculum.

**Dragon Advisory** provides freshmen with a cohort of peers (the same groups as MLWGS 101), a designated faculty advisor, and an upperclass student mentor to assist with the transition from middle school to the culture of the Walker Way. In 30-minute lunchtime sessions several times a month, Advisory meets to give students a chance to ask questions of their mentors, to build relationships with their fellow freshmen, and to acclimate to their new school in a warm and supportive environment. Dragon Advisory is an ungraded course. Approximately 80 members of the Class of 2026 have served as Dragon Mentors (formerly "Bonsai Mentors"), several as program leaders, earning 40 hours of school-related service.

# 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 2025

Examination	# of Candidates	MLWGS Average	Global Average	State Average*
Biology	36	4.17	3.23	3.31
Calculus AB	47	4.87	3.21	3.14
Calculus BC	29	4.86	3.83	3.76
Chemistry	82	4.07	3.36	3.41
Chinese	15	4.40	4.10	4.18
Computer Science A	18	3.22	3.19	3.31
Computer Science Principles	65	3.54	2.86	3.06
English Lang & Comp	169	4.26	3.20	3.46
English Lit & Comp	113	4.04	3.24	3.50
Environmental Science	35	3.66	3.06	3.01
European History	15	4.73	3.27	3.17
French Language	16	3.88	3.19	3.06
German Language	6	3.83	3.26	2.94
Gov't and Politics: Comp	20	3.80	3.16	2.91
Gov't and Politics: US	149	4.69	3.34	3.64
Human Geography	20	4.50	3.14	3.36
Latin	9	4.11	2.85	2.84
Macroeconomics	61	4.39	3.20	3.46
Microeconomics	61	4.43	3.24	3.49
Music Theory	7	4.00	3.00	3.00
Physics 1	133	3.78	3.12	3.06
Physics 2	12	4.08	3.38	2.96
Physics C: Elec. & Mag.	33	4.27	3.38	3.05
Physics C: Mechanics	37	4.43	3.30	3.06
Psychology	102	4.26	3.21	3.34
Spanish Language	41	4.39	3.55	3.52
Spanish Literature	11	4.00	3.03	3.32
Statistics	15	4.20	2.92	2.83
US History	128	4.59	3.30	3.58
2025 Percent of students scoring 3 or higher:		97.58	22.6*	27.2*

2025 Designations			
<b>AP Awards:</b>			
Scholars:	52	<b>National Merit Awards:</b>	
Scholar with Honors:	59	Semi-Finalists: 18	
Scholar with Distinction:	219	Commendations: 39	

# Course Offerings 2025-2026

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	77
<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	26
<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>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	25

## English

AP English Language and Composition  
AP English Literature and Composition  
Contemporary Voices: Cycle A and Cycle B  
(Replaced American Lit 11~ & 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~  
Spanish for Heritage Speakers

## 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  
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 Digital Video Production: INTENSIVE  
Seminar Gender and Culture in MENA: INTENSIVE  
Seminar History of Sabermetrics: INTENSIVE  
Seminar Music Production & Recording: INTENSIVE  
Seminar Fashion and Style: INTENSIVE  
Seminar Jane Austen: INTENSIVE  
Seminar Military History: INTENSIVE  
Seminar Kings: 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 African American Studies  
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  
Intro to Modern Political Theory: INTENSIVE  
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  
Percussion Ensemble: INTENSIVE  
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)

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