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## ENROLLMENT

TOTAL: **262**  
MALE: **45%**  
FEMALE: **55%**  
STUDENTS OF COLOR: **39%**  
(Asian 16%, African-American/Black 5%,  
Latinx 9%, Multi/Other 8%)  
Class of 2022 APPLIED: **360**  
Class of 2022 ENROLLED: **129**  
Class of 2021 ENROLLED: **133**

## FINANCIAL AID

2020-2021 PERCENT OF STUDENTS  
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE LUNCH PROGRAM:  
**15%**

## FACULTY

FULL TIME: **29**  
PART TIME: **11**  
PERCENT WITH ADVANCED DEGREES:  
**100%**  
PERCENT WITH A DOCTORATE: **93%**

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) is an educational leader enabling and nurturing future leaders for South Carolina and beyond. GSSM is a public high school for academically talented juniors and seniors from across the state with residential, virtual, and outreach curricula. Established in 1988, GSSM provides opportunities for intellectual development beyond the scope of a traditional high school. Rising juniors apply for admission through a rigorous selection process, including an essay, standardized test scores and interviews, as well as external and internal application reviews.

**GSSM's mission is to seek out and advance our state's most talented and motivated students, offering a transforming education in science, mathematics, and engineering that cultivates joy in learning and builds the confidence to engage as ethical leaders with the world's most significant issues.**

GSSM is a member and represented on the Board of Directors of the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) and is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and The College Board.

## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

GSSM's transition to virtual education in Spring 2020 was minimally disruptive to our students' education. Their normal course schedule of classes, labs, and assessments resumed after just one day, completely moving to an online synchronous environment, including the taking of daily attendance, using Zoom, Canvas and other discipline-specific software programs. GSSM's excellent existing virtual education infrastructure sped our ability to adjust instruction, assignments, and expectations as necessary. Each student's year-end grades are therefore a legitimate measure of content knowledge and accomplishment in a trying Spring semester. Rising seniors were not required to participate in a summer research & inquiry experience due to restrictions on research facilities. However, a majority of students freely chose to engage in remote projects this summer under the mentorship of professional researchers.

GSSM is building on that experience as we again teach all classes in a synchronous virtual environment this fall. Through extensive summer research into best practices, we've strengthened institutional guidelines and policies to ensure our students will continue to have the best possible educational experience that is the hallmark of the GSSM experience.

## ACADEMICS

By combining rigorous STEM, humanities and social science courses, extended field trips, intensive 2-3-hour science labs, and mentored research, GSSM fosters a student's ability to think critically, to apply theory, and to develop ideas independently. The small faculty-student ratio allows GSSM instructors to provide individualized attention to encourage students to reach their full potential. GSSM's schedule mirrors that of a traditional college. The students are held to high standards with classes being taught at a college level. GSSM also subscribes to a rigorous grading system. Many of our students exhaust AP offerings and elect to take courses that are taught above the AP level. In our STEM departments, 20 out of the 57 courses (35%) are considered above AP, which means they require an AP course as a prerequisite or there is no AP course sanctioned by College Board in that area.

GSSM has memorandums of understanding with Clemson University and the University of South Carolina to grant college credit for university-approved GSSM courses that are closely aligned with the university's courses. In addition, GSSM has a dual enrollment agreement with Coker University and offers our students college level classes in Chinese, Computer Science, Engineering, English and Economics.

## RESEARCH AND INQUIRY PROGRAM

All GSSM students conduct research under the guidance of professional researchers at universities, field sites, and industry partners across the state, nation, and world. Through this distinctive program, GSSM students gain direct experience and develop practical understanding of research methods. In addition, they become familiar with the methods of discovery and acquire content knowledge, critical thinking skills, data analysis, quantitative skills, and communication skills. Research sites include Clemson University, College of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina, and MIT, as well as international sites in China and Germany.

Students work with their GSSM faculty research advisor to develop a complete research portfolio describing their experience. They present their research at the GSSM Annual Research Colloquium and the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science annual meeting. GSSM students may also have the opportunity to present their research at a professional conference or submit it to an academic journal in conjunction with their summer research mentor.

## JANUARY INTERIM

All GSSM students participate in a three-week January Interim during which they focus on one course that allows them to pursue a passion or explore a new interest. Courses are diverse in topic (science, technology, the arts), intense, and experiential (often including field experiences and travel). Courses this year include: Gliding at the Bermuda High Soaring School, Equine Science and Horsemanship, Origami: The Art of Paperfolding, and The Cooking Lab.

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## GRADING SCALE

All high schools in South Carolina are required to utilize the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale. Only grades of C or higher are given credit at GSSM. Additional weighting is given for grades earned in Honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment. The GPAs provided include all courses listed on the transcript, including courses posted from 8th grade.

### Fall 2016 and later

A = 90 – 100      C = 70 – 79  
B = 80 – 89      D = 60 – 69

GSSM is on the semester system with Interim courses offered in January each year and mentored research completed during the summer between junior and senior year.

Total graduation requirements for a State of SC and GSSM diploma: **24 Credits**. Our Course Catalog can be found on our website:

[www.scgssm.org/residential/courses-and-requirements](http://www.scgssm.org/residential/courses-and-requirements)

Our typical course load is five courses each semester; seven courses is an overload. To meet GSSM and SC diploma requirements, students must complete:

Mathematics (including Calculus) ...	<b>4-5</b>	Foreign Language .....	<b>2</b>
Laboratory Science.....	<b>3</b>	Fine Arts .....	<b>1</b>
Computer Science .....	<b>1</b>	Mentored Research .....	<b>1</b>
English .....	<b>4</b>	Interim Course .....	<b>1</b>
Social Studies.....	<b>3</b>	Electives .....	<b>7</b>

## RANKING POLICY

GSSM does not rank its students; we enroll students from across South Carolina, many ranked first in their 10th grade class. The grade distribution junior year chart provides a context for our students' transcripts.

## GPA RANGE

(Weighted/SCUGS) Class of 2021: **4.05 - 5.54**

## NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

Class of 2020 National Merit Finalists:**14**

## SAT CLASS OF 2020: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=111	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	686	650 - 730	526	531
Math	693	650 - 750	504	528

## ACT CLASS OF 2020: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=108	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Composite	29	27 - 32	19	21

## ACT CLASS OF 2021, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=70	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Composite	28	25 - 32

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2021

MATH	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)
Essentials for Calculus	3	6	4	1
Advanced Math II	21	14	6	0
Advanced Math III	33	9	4	0
Analysis I	21	14	6	0
Analysis II	8	13	2	0
AP Calculus AB 201	13	11	5	0
AP Calculus AB 202	12	14	3	0
AP Calculus BC (year-long course)	13	4	0	0
SCIENCE				
AP Biology 201	30	35	3	0
AP Biology 202	25	34	10	2
Principles of Chemistry (year-long course)	0	10	7	1
AP Chemistry 201	14	15	6	2
AP Chemistry 202	19	13	2	0
Fundamentals of Physics 101	7	20	13	0
Fundamentals of Physics 102	10	22	8	0
AP Physics 1-A	5	7	2	0
AP Physics 1-B	9	5	0	0
AP Physics C:M	4	4	1	0
AP Physics C:EM	5	4	0	0
COMPUTER SCIENCE				
AP Computer Science	21	9	9	0
ENGLISH				
AP English Language (year-long course)	96	32	7	1
SOCIAL SCIENCE				
AP U.S. History (year-long course)	79	24	1	0

## SAT CLASS OF 2021, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=91	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	658	620 - 710
Math	660	610 - 720

SCIENCE CORE COURSES	BIOLOGY ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)	CHEMISTRY ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)	PHYSICS ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)
AP Biology	*Molecular Biology of the Cell	Molecular Spectroscopy	Fluids, Thermodynamics and Optics
Principles of Chemistry	*Human Anatomy and Physiology	*Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry	Computational Physics
AP Chemistry	*Principles of Microbiology	*Introduction to Analytical Chemistry	*Modern Physics
AP Physics 1	*Introduction to Neuroscience	*Computational Chemistry	
AP Physics C:M	*Advanced Genetics	*Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry	
AP Physics C:EM	*Botany		
	*Biological Evolution		

MATHEMATICS CORE COURSES	MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)
Essentials for Calculus	*Linear Algebra (offered on alternate years)
Foundations for Calculus	*Abstract Algebra (offered on alternate years)
Concepts for Calculus	AP Statistics
Calculus with Applications	* Multivariable Calculus
AP Calculus AB	* Discrete Structures
AP Calculus BC	*Number Theory (offered on alternate years)
	*Ordinary Differential Equations (offered on alternate years)

ENGINEERING VIRTUAL COURSES	ENGINEERING ELECTIVES
Biomedical Engineering	Engineering Disciplines and Skills (Dual Enrollment)
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	Computer Programming 1 with MATLAB (Dual Enrollment)
	Applications of Engineering Design
	Engineering Mechanics: Statics
	Engineering: Electronics
	Engineering: SolidWorks
	Engineering: Project Design
	Engineering Design and Modeling (Dual Enrollment)
	Robotics

ENGLISH CORE COURSES	ENGLISH ELECTIVES
English Composition and Rhetoric (Dual Enrollment)	Studies in Dramatic Literature
AP English Literature	Introduction to Film (offered on alternate years)
	Studies in Creative Writing: Fiction
	African-American Literature
	Studies in Creative Writing: Nonfiction
	Introduction to Philosophy
	Introduction to Science Fiction: Literature
	Gender Studies
	Shakespearean Drama

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CORE COURSES	FOREIGN LANGUAGE ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)
French I	French IV
French II	AP French
French III	Spanish IV
Spanish II	AP Spanish
Spanish III	*Topics in Hispanic Culture and Linguistics
German II	
German III	
Introduction to Chinese I (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese II (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese III (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese IV (Dual Enrollment)	

GENERAL SCIENCES	
AP Environmental Science	Physics in the Arts
Your Cosmic Context	Astronomy

COMPUTER SCIENCE CORE COURSES	COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES
AP Computer Science	Computer Science II: C++ Applications (Dual Enrollment)
Computer Science I: Python for Scientist (Dual Enrollment)	Interactive Visual Programming Using Processing
	Data Structures and Algorithms
	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
	Introduction to Computer Networking
	Introduction to Database Design
	Game Design, Prototyping, and Production

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE	
AP U.S. History	Studies in Medieval History
Native American Studies	Civil War and Reconstruction
Colonial America	AP Psychology
Ethics, Beauty, and the Environment	

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY (*ABOVE AP)	
*Mentored Summer Research	*Scientific Investigation I, II, III

GOVERNMENT, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE	
Principles of Microeconomic Concepts (Dual Enrollment)	U.S. Government/Economics
Principles of Macroeconomic Concepts (Dual Enrollment)	AP Comparative Government
Technology Ventures	Quantitative Financial Analysis
AP U.S. Government	International Economics

MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS & ASL ELECTIVES	
Chamber Orchestra	Introduction to American Sign Language I, II
I, II, III, IV	AP Music Theory
Concert Choir I, II, III, IV	Advanced Ceramics
Introduction to Ceramics	Advanced 2D Art Exploration
2D Art Exploration	

### DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

As stated in NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission, GSSM clearly states its policy: The Office of College Counseling and Advising will disclose all infractions that result in suspension, expulsion, withdrawal pending disciplinary action, or any other probation status to the colleges to which a student applies. Whether the offense occurred before or after the time of application, or if a student has received an offer of admission, will not preclude an infraction from being reported.

## VARSITY ATHLETICS

Participation in varsity athletics is one of many ways GSSM students engage beyond the classroom. GSSM athletics department maintains a full-time certified athletic trainer with a state-of-the-art training room as well as an excellent fitness center. Our coaching staff of 30 seasonal coaches is here for our student athletes. Approximately 75% of our student body participates in varsity interscholastic sports. Many of these individuals have never participated on an athletic team prior to coming to the Governor's School – all our teams are run “no cut.”. Despite the novice status of some athletes, GSSM has won numerous competitions. These include multiple regional championships in women's tennis, volleyball, cross country, and soccer, as well as state championships in men's cross country (2017), men's soccer (2018), women's volleyball (2018), women's track and field (2019), and individual state championships in men's and women's track and field (2018, 2019). Varsity offerings for women and men include:

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

## CAMPUS LIFE

All students are encouraged to become involved in various co-curricular activities. Engagement in the co-curricular is viewed by GSSM as essential to the holistic experience of all students. Be it through leadership, club participation, or community service, it is expected that all students will be involved to some degree in the life of the school beyond their academic pursuits. The campus life program is led by our Dean of Students and is managed by our two Student Activity Center Coordinators, six Residence Life Coordinators, and 12 Resident Assistants.

The residential program is based on a House System where each of the six floors in the residence hall represents a house: Praesidium, Fidelitas, Lux, Veritas, Libertatum, and Fortem. The houses are led by House Captains, who are selected from among their peers, and six full-time live-in professional staff members who hold bachelor's or master's degrees. The staff members provide developmental co-curricular programs based on the residential Spheres of Influence programming model: Social, Leadership, Health and Wellness, Academic and Professional Development.

As a response to the State of South Carolina for this opportunity, the local community for their gracious support of the school, and each other as a demonstration of citizenship, students are encouraged to support the campus, local, and South Carolina communities to encourage institutional values through the community engagement program (community service). Over the years, students have been encouraged to design and develop projects related to their personal interests, passions, and community needs. Some of them include:

- Student 2 Student – a tutoring initiative with the local Boys and Girls Club
- Beta Club, National Honor Society, 4H, Student Council, and Service Saturdays at the Humane Society
- Mental Health Walk-5K coordinated by GSSM students to bring awareness of and encourage support for those with these vulnerabilities

## 2017 – 2020 ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATIONS BOLD INDICATES MATRICULATION

<b>Agnes Scott College</b>	<b>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University</b>	<b>Missouri University of Science and Technology</b>	St. Andrews University	University of Minnesota-Morris
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Emory & Henry College	Morehouse College	St. John's College	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
<b>Allegheny College</b>	<b>Emory University</b>	Mount Holyoke College	St. John's University	University of Mississippi
American University	Erskine College	Muhlenberg College	<b>Stanford University</b>	University of Missouri-Columbia
American University in Bulgaria	Florida A&M University	New College of Florida	Stetson University	University of Missouri-Kansas City
<b>Amherst College</b>	Florida Institute of Technology	New York Institute of Technology	Stevens Institute of Technology	University of Mount Union
<b>Anderson University</b>	Florida Southern College	<b>New York University</b>	Swarthmore College	University of New Hampshire
<b>Appalachian State University</b>	<b>Florida State University</b>	<b>New York University (NYU Abu Dhabi)</b>	Tennessee Technological University	University of North Carolina at Asheville
<b>Arizona State University</b>	Fordham University	New York University (NYU Shanghai)	<b>Texas A&amp;M University</b>	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Auburn University	<b>Francis Marion University</b>	Newberry College	The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Augusta University	Franciscan University of Steubenville	North Carolina A & T State University	The College of Saint Rose	<b>University of North Carolina at Pembroke</b>
Barnard College	<b>Furman University</b>	<b>North Carolina State University at Raleigh</b>	<b>The College of Wooster</b>	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Baylor University	Gardner-Webb University	North Greenville University	The King's College	University of North Florida
<b>Berry College</b>	George Mason University	<b>Northeastern University</b>	The Ohio State University	<b>University of Notre Dame</b>
Birmingham Southern College	<b>George Washington University</b>	Northern Arizona University	<b>The University of Alabama</b>	<b>University of Oregon</b>
<b>Bob Jones University</b>	<b>Georgetown University</b>	<b>Northern Michigan University</b>	<b>The University of Arizona</b>	University of Pennsylvania
Boston College	<b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b>	Northland College	<b>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>	<b>University of Pittsburgh</b>
Boston University	Georgia State University	Norwich University	The University of Tampa	University of Portland
<b>Bowdoin College</b>	Gettysburg College	Notre Dame of Maryland University	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	University of Puget Sound
<b>Brown University</b>	<b>Goucher College</b>	Nova Southeastern University	The University of Texas at Austin	University of Rhode Island
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Grinnell College	<b>Oberlin College</b>	The University of West Florida	University of Richmond
California Baptist University	Guilford College	Oglethorpe University	Trinity College Dublin	<b>University of Rochester</b>
California Institute of Technology	Hampden-Sydney College	Ohio University	<b>Tufts University</b>	University of San Francisco
<b>Carnegie Mellon University</b>	Hampton University	Olin College of Engineering	<b>Tulane University</b>	<b>University of South Carolina Beaufort</b>
Carson-Newman University	Harvard College	<b>Olympic College</b>	Tuskegee University	<b>University of South Carolina Columbia</b>
<b>Case Western Reserve University</b>	Hawaii Pacific University	Oregon State University	United States Military Academy	University of South Carolina Upstate
Catholic University of America	<b>Howard University</b>	<b>Oxford College of Emory University</b>	<b>United States Naval Academy</b>	University of South Carolina-Aiken
Centre College	Illinois Wesleyan University	<b>Pennsylvania State University</b>	<b>Universiteit Twente</b>	<b>University of Southern California</b>
Charleston Southern University	Indiana University-Bloomington	Pepperdine University	University of Aberdeen	University of the Sciences
<b>Clafflin University</b>	Ithaca College	Pomona College	<b>University of Alabama at Birmingham</b>	<b>University of Toronto</b>
Clark Atlanta University	Jacksonville University	<b>Presbyterian College</b>	<b>University of Alabama in Huntsville</b>	University of Vermont
<b>Clark University</b>	John Carroll University	<b>Princeton University</b>	University of California, San Diego	<b>University of Virginia</b>
<b>Clemson University</b>	<b>Johns Hopkins University</b>	Providence College	<b>University of California-Berkeley</b>	University of Washington, Seattle
<b>Coastal Carolina University</b>	Johnson & Wales University	<b>Purdue University</b>	University of California-Davis	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Coker University	Kalamazoo College	<b>Queen's University</b>	University of California-Irvine	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>
Colgate University	Kenyon College	Queens University of Charlotte	<b>University of California-Los Angeles</b>	Vassar College
<b>College of Charleston</b>	<b>Lander University</b>	Quinnipiac University	University of California-Santa Barbara	Villanova University
College of the Atlantic	<b>Lehigh University</b>	<b>Reed College</b>	University of California-Santa Cruz	Virginia Commonwealth University
<b>Colorado College</b>	Lenoir-Rhyne University	<b>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</b>	University of Canterbury	<b>Virginia Tech</b>
<b>Colorado School of Mines</b>	Lewis & Clark College	Rhodes College	University of Central Florida	<b>Wake Forest University</b>
Colorado State University-Fort Collins	Liberty University	<b>Rice University</b>	University of Chicago	<b>Washington and Lee University</b>
Columbia College	<b>Lipscomb University</b>	Roanoke College	<b>University of Colorado Boulder</b>	<b>Washington College</b>
<b>Columbia University</b>	Long Island University, Brooklyn	<b>Rochester Institute of Technology</b>	University of Colorado-Denver	Washington University in St. Louis
Connecticut College	Louisiana State University	Rollins College	University of Connecticut	<b>Wellesley College</b>
<b>Converse College</b>	Loyola University Maryland	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Delaware	Wesleyan University
<b>Cornell University</b>	Loyola University New Orleans	<b>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</b>	University of Denver	West Virginia University
Creighton University	Macalester College	<b>Rutgers University-New Brunswick</b>	University of Florida	Western Carolina University
Dalhousie University	Maine Maritime Academy	<b>Saint Louis University</b>	<b>University of Georgia</b>	Western University
<b>Dartmouth College</b>	Manchester University	Samford University	University of Glasgow	Westminster College - PA
<b>Davidson College</b>	<b>Marquette University</b>	Santa Clara University	University of Houston	<b>William and Mary</b>
Delaware Valley University	Mars Hill University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Wingate University
Denison University	Mary Baldwin University	Savannah College of Art and Design	<b>University of Kentucky</b>	Winthrop University
<b>DePaul University</b>	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Scripps College</b>	University of Maine	<b>Wofford College</b>
<b>Drexel University</b>	<b>Mercer University</b>	Seton Hall University	University of Mary Washington	<b>Worcester Polytechnic Institute</b>
Duke Kunshan University	Miami University-Oxford	<b>Sewanee: The University of the South</b>	<b>University of Maryland-Baltimore County</b>	Xavier University of Louisiana
<b>Duke University</b>	Michigan State University	Smith College	<b>University of Maryland-College Park</b>	<b>Yale University</b>
East Carolina University	Michigan Technological University	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Yonsei University-Underwood
East Tennessee State University	<b>Milwaukee School of Engineering</b>	Southern Methodist University	<b>University of Massachusetts-Lowell</b>	
Eckerd College	Mississippi State University	Southern Wesleyan University	<b>University of Miami</b>	
Elon University	Missouri State University	Spelman College	<b>University of Michigan-Ann Arbor</b>	