

SHENANDOAH VALLEY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL



Arts & Sciences



SVGS MISSION

We provide a supportive and challenging environment for local gifted and talented students to nurture and develop their talents, expand their knowledge, improve critical thinking skills, and foster their sense of personal and social responsibility.



Shenandoah Valley Governor's School

SVGS will provide a comprehensive, intellectually challenging program for gifted learners, high achievers and creative thinkers in a *community of learners* setting that extends and enriches their education *by providing rich, deep learning experiences to foster skills and habits of mind necessary to living successful lives.*

SVGS has identified **nine skills** as critical to life-long learning and performance in any academic discipline and profession. These skills are cultivated through exceptional learning experiences at SVGS and are defined below as follows:

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY

Intellectual curiosity in creative, scientific, and humanistic inquiry involves asking questions as first steps to explore complex and open-ended subjects. Intellectual curiosity is necessary to explore questions in detail, and to further refine, reframe, or re-direct inquiry projects. Intellectual curiosity is the foundation of human discovery and innovation.

INTELLECTUAL INDEPENDENCE

Intellectual independence involves generating new ideas, applying existing ideas in innovative ways, testing ideas that may fail, and pursuing questions that cut across academic fields. Intellectual independence is the cornerstone of lifelong learning.

PERSISTENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

Persistence and perseverance keep an individual on task in spite of obstacles and set-backs. They involve disciplined work habits and the willingness to identify and utilize a variety of resources in pursuit of a goal. Persistence and perseverance are the essential connectors between good ideas and successful innovations.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

Critical analysis and reflection include evaluating and questioning ideas, and considering how the point of view from which a question is approached will affect findings and conclusions. Another important aspect of critical analysis and reflection is metacognition – analyzing the learning processes that led to one's own understanding. Strong critical analysis and reflection skills are necessary for understanding where ideas come from, viewing problems and ideas from multiple points of view, and effectively using new information to revise and refine ideas.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Problem-solving includes framing a situation or question to be resolved, applying theory and consulting experts to gather insight, generating possible pathways to a solution, testing and refining a chosen pathway, and communicating results to the problem's stakeholders. Sound problem-solving skills are needed whenever the desired state of affairs is unmatched by the current state.

“In order to obtain the intellectually unique atmosphere present at SVGS, peers must rely on each other to critique the projects, presentations, and other various assignments of fellow students in a cooperative manner. This quality sets SVGS apart as a community of learners because it displays the passion each student exhibits for their work and that of their peers.” - Megan G.



“Learning at SVGS is about so much more than an individual educational experience. Classes here are more interactive and centered on active learning and engagement; SVGS feels like a true community of learners rather than a hodgepodge of students who happen to be interested in STEM or theater/visual art. This community sense is established at SVGS through the curiosity, hard work, and dedication of the students here.” – Cady V.



“At SVGS, my peers and I value learning, education, the numerous resources that are granted to them and the incredible opportunities that SVGS has to offer. The community of learners at SVGS should be able to work and succeed in an environment that is positively enforced by the student body that makes it up. Students should be able to achieve their own values and support the values of other in order to unify the learning community.” - Daniel B.



LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Leadership and collaboration skills involve working with others toward common goals. Motivating people, capitalizing on individual strengths, organizing work flow, and negotiating compromise are important elements in collaboration. Leadership and collaboration skills enable a group to exceed the sum of individual contributions.

COMMUNICATION

Communication skills include active listening and clear, well supported, and contextually appropriate writing and speaking. Another important aspect is the effective application of these skills in the use of various digital means of communication. Communication skills are the foundation of human interaction and understanding.

DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital literacy includes communicating through digital devices and applications, accessing and evaluating digital resources, and using digital technologies to create, model, and analyze ideas. Central to digital literacy is an understanding of how humans can effectively use digital resources to give shape to, evaluate, and share ideas.

SOCIAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social and ethical responsibility involves decision-making and problem-solving that promotes human well-being and seeks to address the needs of local and global communities. Understanding the consequences and benefits to various constituents is central to making decisions that are socially and ethically responsible.

SVGS will provide a comprehensive, intellectually challenging program in a community of learners setting through:

INTELLIGENT, ENRICHING COURSES

Arts & Humanities

- Humanities I, II (DE)
- Acting I, II
- Intro to Theater (DE)
- Drama Theory & Criticism
- Studio Art I, II (AP)
- Art History (DE)
- Crafts & Skills I, II

STEM

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| Advanced Scientific Research | Discrete Math (DE) |
| Chemistry (AP) | Pre-Calculus |
| Environmental Chemistry (DE) | Statistics (AP) |
| Environmental Science (AP) | Advanced Technology |
| Molecular Biology (DE) | Computer Science (AP) |
| Modern Physics | Computer Networking/Security (DE) |
| Physics (DE) | Engineering I |
| Scientific Research | Engineering II (DE) |
| Advanced Calculus | Geospatial Information Systems (DE) |

PRACTICAL, PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Academic Competitions
- Art Exhibits
- Electric Vehicle Team
- Field Experiences
- Guest Artists and Professional Workshops
- FIRST Robotics Team
- International Experiences
- Literary Magazine
- Outreach
- Performances
- Senior Capstone Projects
 - Independent Research
 - Mentorship
 - Service Learning

COMMUNITY of LEARNERS

- Evening Hours (M, TH 3:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.)
- Honor Code
- New Student Orientation
- Parent Support Advisory Council (PSAC)
- Peer Mentors/Teaching Assistants
- Student Advisory Board

Shenandoah Valley Governor’s School

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