

SUBJECT: Requested Governor's School Application Information

DATE: October 15, 2010

Enclosed with this memorandum is the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies application package you requested.

The criteria to qualify for the application process are as follows:

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- Eighth-grade students **must be enrolled in Algebra I** or higher-level mathematics course for high school credit when they apply.
 - Eighth-grade students must have a **B average** according to Henrico County's grading scale in English, mathematics, science, and social studies for the 7th grade year.

The completed application must be in this office no later than **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. No late applications will be accepted.**

If you have any questions please call 652-3765.

Send completed application to: Judy Williams
Henrico County Public Schools
Gifted Education Programs
PO Box 23120
3820 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223-0420

Enclosures

October 15, 2010

We are pleased to inform you that Henrico County eighth-grade students who meet a set of academic criteria may apply for admission to a highly rigorous and comprehensive gifted program. This program is the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies (MLWGS). The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the application criteria and review process associated with this program.

MLWGS is a unique regional school offering a comprehensive college preparatory program. The mission of the school is to provide a challenging, broad-based academic program that will develop gifted students' understanding of world cultures and languages, as well as their ability to contribute and provide effective leadership to a changing global society. It is located at Maggie L. Walker High School on Lombardy Street in the City of Richmond. Students do not need to be identified for gifted services in Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) in order to apply. The criteria to qualify for the application process are as follows:

- Eighth-grade students **must be enrolled in Algebra I** or a higher-level mathematics course for high school credit when they apply.
- Eighth-grade students must have a **B average** according to the HCPS grading scale in English, mathematics, science, and social studies for the 7th grade year.

The selection process is very competitive. HCPS has an internal selection process to ensure regional representation at each public middle school. Please refer to the attachment, *Applicant Selection Process for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School*, for a description of the selection process. It is highly recommended that entering ninth-grade students have completed the following courses by the end of eighth grade:

- English – Advanced Grade 8 English
- Mathematics – Algebra I or higher for high school credit
- Science – Earth Science or higher for high school credit
- Social Studies – World History & Geography I or higher for high school credit
- World Language – Foundations B or completed one year for high school credit

Eighth-grade students enrolled in a HCPS public middle school may obtain an application and informational brochure from their middle school counselor. Students not enrolled in a HCPS public middle school should contact the Gifted Programs Office at the telephone number listed below. The due date for applications is **December 1, 2010**. No late applications are accepted.

Additional information will be distributed at a later date regarding opportunities for students to specialize in an area of interest at the high school level. Henrico County High School Specialty Centers include the following: Center for the Arts; Center for Communications; Center for Education and Human Development; Center for Engineering; Center for World Languages; Center for the Humanities; Center for Leadership, Government, and Global Economics; Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology; Center for Information Technology and Computer Science; and the International Baccalaureate Program. Information and applications for the specialty center programs will be available directly from the center or through your middle school counselor beginning November 29, 2010.

If you have any questions that cannot be answered by your middle school counselor, please call me at 652-3765. For further information about MLWGS visit the school's website: www.gsgis.k12.va.us.

Sincerely,



Judy Williams, Educational Specialist
Gifted Education Programs

Attachments



ANNOUNCING:

**Informational Sessions regarding
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for
Government and International Studies
and the application process.**

**Three sessions will be held from 7 to 8 p.m.
in the auditorium at the following locations:**

**October 25, 2010 at Short Pump Middle School
October 26, 2010 at Wilder Middle School
October 27, 2010 at Rolfe Middle School**

Students and parents may select any session to attend.

Judy Williams, Educational Specialist with Henrico County Public Schools,
as well as staff members from Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government
and International Studies, will present information.

Informational Session for Henrico Students and Parents

at

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**November 3, 2010
6:30 - 8:45 p.m.**

**1000 North Lombardy Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220**

Applicant Selection Process for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

To ensure regional representation at each public middle school, HCPS' internal selection process has two phases. For phase one, HCPS will establish an applicant pool based on the composite score* from the MLWGS regional application evaluation process. HCPS will offer admission to the top qualifying applicant from each middle school who meets the regional established cut-off score in that pool. During phase two, the remaining slots will be offered to all applicants by numerical rank on the MLWGS composite score from highest to lowest.

Phase One

For an applicant to be considered from each public middle school the applicant must:

- have a complete application with all components included on file.
- be a resident in Henrico County.
- be enrolled in Algebra I or a higher math course during the eighth-grade year and successfully pass the course for high school credit.
- be a student at the public middle school where the application had been initiated.
- make a composite score on or above the regional cut-off score.
- satisfy any Governor's School Regional Board approved changes to the admissions process to comply with the application process.

Note: World language requirement beginning 2012-13 (1 year high school credit course)

Applicants participating in a special program such as the International Baccalaureate Program or out of zone program will be considered with the public middle school they attend in eighth grade. All home-school or private school applicants will be considered in phase two of the selection process.

Phase Two

After phase-one selection has been completed and an applicant from each middle school who qualifies has been offered a slot, all other applicants will be selected based on their composite score ranking. In any given year, if no student from a particular public middle school earns a composite score at or above the regional cut-off score, that public middle school will not have a representative that year. Therefore, if the highest scoring student at a middle school is offered acceptance to MLWGS and does not accept that slot, the next selection will be based on the phase-two selection process where composite scores are considered.

*HCPS composite score calculation varies from Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Planning Committee calculation as follows: teacher recommendations (maximum points 10) and writing sample (maximum points 20).