



**Dates: July 14 - 18, 2025**

*Serving identified Gifted and high-achieving high school students who are currently freshmen, sophomores, or juniors, in Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, and Wythe Counties and the city of Galax schools.*

*Funded and coordinated jointly by these areas' Public Schools,  
Wytheville Community College and the Virginia Department of Education*

*Director:*

*Jenny Buchanan*

*276.620.6742*

*e-mail: [jenny.buchanan@wythek12.org](mailto:jenny.buchanan@wythek12.org)*

*Homepage: <http://www.wcc.vccs.edu/gs/>*

*Governor's School Location:*

*Wytheville Community College*

*1000 East Main Street*

*Wytheville, Virginia 24382*

**APPALACHIAN SUMMER REGIONAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL**

**PURPOSE:** *To provide local gifted and high-achieving high school students with a unique and academically enriching opportunity to earn college credits in a small classroom environment.*

**ELIGIBILITY:** *Students currently enrolled in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade during the 2024-2025 school year who are either identified as gifted or academically high achieving and recommended by their high school counselor. Governor's school slots will be awarded first to students identified as gifted by their school system. The remaining spots will be awarded based on the student's high school's recommendation.*

**COURSES:** *Students will participate in a 1 credit college course at the start of each program day, SDV 100. Students will then rotate through a series of hands-on, interactive sessions from the following areas: sciences (including social sciences), arts (including Humanities), and technology (including computer technology, mathematics, and language courses). The rotation of courses is listed on this application and applicants will rank the courses listed in this brochure in order of first through sixth choice.*

**CREDIT:** *One-semester college credits will be awarded for successful course completion of the program in SDV 100 (College Success Skills) which may count as transfer credit at the discretion of the transferring colleges and can be applied towards a certificate or degree program at Wytheville Community College. Some assignments may be required of students to complete online for the SDV 100 course the week following the in-person program.*

**COST:** *Tuition is provided at no cost.*

**LUNCH:** *This is provided by the program at no cost to students and will be from local restaurants such as Chick-fil-A and Peking.*

**APPLICATION:** Applications are due by **March 21, 2025, to your high school counselor's office.**

*Each school is allotted spots for students for the program. Schools will rank students for acceptance based on their academic giftedness. Spaces will be filled with students identified as gifted and talented first. The remaining spots may be filled by high-achieving students who are not identified as gifted and talented. Students will be notified of their acceptance by April 11, 2025.*

***SELECTION:*** *The application does not guarantee acceptance. The Governor's School does not discriminate based on race, creed, gender, or color.*

***DATES:*** *Students are required to attend in person from July 14-18, 2025, at Wytheville Community College's main campus from 8:30 to 3:15 PM daily. A final program may also be required on the evening of July 18, 2025. More details will be provided before the start of the program if this is required.*

***TRANSPORTATION:*** *Buses may be available to students from Carroll, Galax, Grayson, and Smyth Counties; students may also provide transportation at their own expense. If you need transportation and do not attend these high schools please contact your school counselor for further assistance.*

***VIDEO:*** *Check out this short video to learn more about the program:*  
[https://youtu.be/bFHGUvE\\_FEE](https://youtu.be/bFHGUvE_FEE)

# 2025 GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

**1.**



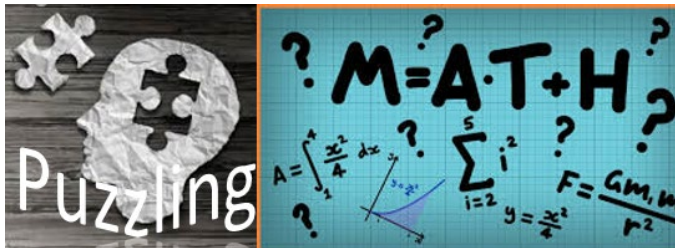
## **GEO SKILLS**

Navigating Geography By Mapping Out A Sense of Place  
& Investigating Contemporary Issues



This course offers an Innovative approach to studying geography and maps by integrating modern online mapping software and interactive activities such as hands-on cartography, geocaching, virtual 8ICF) locations, and collaborative mapping projects. It challenges students to mO\feI beyond the traditional high school world geography course by incorporating hands-on Learning experiences, problem-solving exercises, and real-world applications of geographic principles. students will analyze spatial patterns. investigate human-environment interactions. and develop technical skills In Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related technologies. The course fosters critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity. while all.owing students to develop technical skills for future careers. AllJobs use data and one of the best ways to understand data is visually. This course is designed to inspire curiosity, analytical thinking, and technical expertise

**2.**



This course is designed to bring excitement and curiosity back to the subject of mathematics where it should always be. In this course, we will focus more on the discovery aspect where the beauty of mathematics is revealed. We will sharpen our problem-solving abilities, working as a group to solve some interesting brian-twisting situations. We also explore some of math's more interesting and advanced questions and discover new ideas about our current reality or speculation thereof. Finally, we will research the past of mathematics and uncover some truly puzzling histories of mathematicians who came before us.

**3.**

Students will learn how the history of quilting in the mountains of Southwest Virginia has influenced and shaped the culture and creation of barn quilts. Students will learn how the barn quilts reflect the culture, and traditions, and how the patterns used are significant to Southwest Virginia. Students will make a barn quilt using what they learned about the history of barn quilts to create their work of art.



How to Paint a Barn Quilt

## 4.



**The Labyrinth of Imagination:  
Strategies for Paying Attention and  
Developing Your Creative Self**

This humanities class will explore ways students can appreciate the importance of creativity in every area of their personal lives and in any profession they choose to enter. Students will consider how to get out of the rut of the usual and see the world anew. “Make it new” as Ezra Pound said, or feel “like some watcher of the skies/when a new plant swims into this ken” as John Keats said. The world is bigger than we know. We will ask how we express ourselves and why that is important. We will explore a variety of expressive arts activities including writing and drawing, both individually and in groups. First, we want to explore strategies for “digging deeper” and then consider the best ways to express what we find with increasing precision and originality (eschewing cliches). Students will have the opportunity to encourage, advise, and collaborate. We will explore the history and mythology of the ancient labyrinth as a way to take an inner journey and cultivate mindfulness (“The awareness that arises out of paying attention on purpose, in the Present Moment, without judgment.”- Jon Kabat Zin).

**5.**



**Introduction to Political Theory  
and International Relations**

This course is designed to be an introduction to Political Theory and International Relations. Students will be

presented with several competing theories concerning political structure and how it relates to international affairs. The course begins in Ancient Greece and provides a sweeping view of how political theories have

changed and grown since then. Students will investigate these competing theories and participate in active and open discussions concerning the perceived pros and cons of each theory. They will also be asked to consider the term “theory” in the scientific sense and determine whether any collection of propositions concerning international politics can truly be considered a theory. Finally, they will be asked to apply several theories to

contemporary issues that impact their nation and them personally.

This course surpasses the normal curriculum offered by high school courses due to its focus on theory as well as its intense use of primary sources. The course will encourage students to conduct metacognition, in other words, students will be forced to think deeply about what they believe about government, human beings, and how they interact. They will also have the opportunity to interact with the ideas of some of the greatest thinkers in history each day. Social skills and communication will be key factors as much of the course will be based on discussion and at times debate concerning these theories. Students will need to be able to present their ideas respectfully and publicly to their peers.

**6.**



Keep calm is a course that will focus on managing stress and anxiety. Students will learn how to recognize it and how to use techniques for calming their mind and body. Guided meditations will be taught which will focus on various breathing techniques as well as other calming strategies. Students will learn how to identify when their body is in Fight/Flight/Freeze mode and how to accept and manage it. Students will learn how to calm the chaos that is in our minds.

## 2025 Appalachian Summer Regional Governor's School Application

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School:

Student's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(most communication from the program will be sent via email therefore students are expected to check this email often through the end of the program)*



Parent's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade level:

Have you attended the Appalachian Regional Summer Governor's School before?

Will you need bus transportation to attend the on-campus classes?

T-Shirt Size

**Rank order course selection, 1 being the first choice and 3 being the last choice.**

*Class option 1:*

*Class option 2:*

*Class option 3:*

**Permission of Parent or Guardian**

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to apply and attend the 2025 Appalachian Summer  
student name

Regional Governor's School.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applications are due by March 21, 2025, to your high school counselor's office.**