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School profile 2021-2022

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SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR

SCIENCE+ MATHEMATICS

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) models educational excellence while nurturing future leaders for South Carolina and beyond. Established in 1988, GSSM is a public high school with residential, virtual, and outreach curricula for academically talented students from across the state.

Our 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.

Our residential program serves juniors and seniors. Rising juniors apply for admission through a rigorous selection process, including an essay, standardized test scores, interviews, as well as internal application reviews.

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

401 Railroad Avenue
Hartsville SC 29550
843-383-3900 TEL
843-383-3903 FAX
www.scgssm.org

Mr. Daniel S. Dorsel
PRESIDENT

Dr. Jenifer L. Blair
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE
COUNSELING & ADVISING
JBlair@governors.school

Mr. Jacob Sintich
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
COLLEGE COUNSELING
JSintich@governors.school

Ms. Shakarean Hutchinson
COLLEGE COUNSELOR
SHutchinson@governors.school

CEEB Code 410997

ENROLLMENT

TOTAL: **273**
MALE: **48%**
FEMALE: **52%**
STUDENTS OF COLOR: **37%**
(Asian 17%, African-American /Black 10%, Latinx 10%, Multi/Other 10%)
Class of 2023 APPLIED: **386**
Class of 2023 ENROLLED: **157**
Class of 2022 ENROLLED: **116**

FINANCIAL AID

2021-2022 PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE LUNCH PROGRAM: **15%**

FACULTY

FULL TIME: **32**
PART TIME: **10**
PERCENT WITH ADVANCED DEGREES: **100%**
PERCENT WITH A DOCTORATE: **90%**

RESPONSE TO COVID-19

GSSM's transition to all-synchronous virtual education was minimally disruptive to our students' education. Each student's year-end grades are therefore a legitimate measure of content knowledge and accomplishment. Their normal course schedule of classes, labs, and assessments continued throughout the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021. All courses were offered in a hybrid synchronous environment. In the fall, a reduced number of students were allowed on campus. In the spring, every student who wished to return to campus was able to do so. Throughout the entire year, normal policies were followed, including the taking of daily attendance, using Zoom, Canvas and other discipline-specific software programs. GSSM's excellent existing virtual education infrastructure aided our ability to adjust instruction, assignments, assessments, and expectations as necessary.

Sixty percent of the Class of 2022 were able to participate in in-person research over the summer of 2021, while approximately 40% of the class participated in remote projects under the mentorship of professional researchers due to restrictions on research facilities.

GSSM has resumed in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 academic year, with all students returning to live on campus.

ACADEMICS

GSSM combines rigorous STEM, humanities, and social science courses, intensive labs, field trips, and mentored research to foster students' ability to think critically, apply theory, and develop ideas independently. Our small faculty-student ratio allows GSSM faculty to give students individual attention to encourage them to reach their full potential. Our faculty teach at the college level, and our residential schedule mirrors a traditional college schedule. GSSM faculty grade rigorously. Many of our students exhaust AP offerings and take courses above the AP level. Twenty out of the 57 courses (35%) in our STEM departments are above AP, requiring an AP course as a prerequisite or are in an area without an AP course.

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 universities' courses. GSSM also has a dual-enrollment agreement with Coker University that offers our students college-level classes in Chinese, computer science, engineering, English, and economics.

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY PROGRAM

All GSSM students conduct mentored research under the guidance of professional researchers at universities, field sites, and industry partners across the state, nation, and world. Students also have the opportunity to conduct undergraduate-level research at GSSM during the school year under the mentorship of GSSM's faculty (90% PhD) - including microwave spectroscopy, computational drug design, and transportation infrastructure.

Through this distinctive program, GSSM students gain direct and practical experience with the process of research as applied in real world contexts. GSSM students become familiar with the methods of discovery, apply their critical thinking skills, learn to overcome challenges with rigor and creativity, and challenge their ability to communicate. External research partner sites include Clemson University, College of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina, MIT, international sites in Germany (when permitted by travel guidelines), and many others.

Students complete a research portfolio describing their experience to both general and expert audiences. They present their research at the GSSM Annual Research Colloquium and may also share their work at the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science annual meeting, professional conferences, or through submissions to academic journals in conjunction with their 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). Past courses 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 must use the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale. Only grades of C or higher receive credit at GSSM. Additional weighting is given for grades earned in honors, AP, and dual enrollment courses. Per the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy, 0.5 quality points are added to the CP weighting for honors courses, and 1.0 for AP courses. 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 Academic Policies and Course Catalog can be found on our website: www.scgssm.org/residential/courses-and-requirements

Students must take five courses each semester (the equivalent of 15-18 college credit hours); students may take seven+ courses each semester with advisor and administrative approval. To meet GSSM and SC diploma requirements, students must complete:

Mathematics (including Calculus) **4-5**
Laboratory Science (including biology, chemistry, and physics)..... **3**
Foreign Language (in the same language) **2**
Computer Science..... **1** Fine Arts..... **1**
English/Language Arts **4** Research and Inquiry Experience **1**
Social Studies..... **3** Interim Courses **1**
Electives **7**

RANKING POLICY

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

GPA RANGE

(Weighted/SCUGS) Class of 2022: **4.218 – 5.472**

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

Class of 2021 National Merit Finalists: **11**

SAT CLASS OF 2021: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=119	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	673	630-720	524	528
Math	675	620-720	503	523

ACT CLASS OF 2021: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=94	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Composite	29	26-32	18.4	20.6

ACT CLASS OF 2022, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=47	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Composite	28	25-32

GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2022

MATH	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)
Essentials for Calculus	3	1	6	0
Advanced Math II	21	20	5	0
Advanced Math III	18	20	7	1
Analysis I	20	1	0	0
Analysis II	13	8	0	0
AP Calculus AB 201	25	9	2	0
AP Calculus AB 202	25	7	2	0
AP Calculus BC (year-long course)	17	1	2	0
SCIENCE				
AP Biology 201	27	26	5	0
AP Biology 202	23	29	5	0
Principles of Chemistry (year-long course)	22	5	0	0
AP Chemistry 201	8	18	4	1
AP Chemistry 202	9	16	6	0
AP Physics 1-A	6	2	3	0
AP Physics 1-B	5	5	1	0
AP Physics C:M	5	3	1	0
AP Physics C:EM	5	3	1	0
COMPUTER SCIENCE				
AP Computer Science	17	6	8	0
ENGLISH				
College English 111	82	32	8	0
College English 112	82	33	7	1
SOCIAL SCIENCE				
AP U.S. History (year-long course)	71	18	6	0

SAT CLASS OF 2022, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=101	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	678	640-730
Math	678	630-730

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	*Modern Physics
AP Chemistry	*Principles of Microbiology	*Introduction to Analytical Chemistry	
AP Physics 1	*Introduction to Neuroscience	*Computational Chemistry	
AP Physics C:M	*Advanced Genetics	*Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry	
AP Physics C:EM	*Botany	Research in Microwave Spectroscopy	
	*Biological Evolution	Research in Computational Drug Design	

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

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 Design and Modeling (Dual Enrollment)
	Robotics

ENGLISH CORE COURSES	ENGLISH ELECTIVES
English Composition and Rhetoric (Dual Enrollment)	Introduction to Film
AP English Literature	Studies in Dramatic Literature
	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
	Eco-Fiction

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 Language
Spanish III	*Topics in Hispanic Culture and Linguistics
German II	
German III	
Introduction to Chinese I (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese II (Dual Enrollment)	
Intermediate Chinese III (Dual Enrollment)	
Intermediate 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	The Civil War and Reconstruction
Native American Studies	AP Psychology
Colonial America	
Ethics, Beauty, and the Environment	

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY (*ABOVE AP)	
*Mentored Summer Research & Inquiry	*Advanced Research & Inquiry Communication

GOVERNMENT, ECONOMICS AND FINANCE	
Principles of Economics: Macroeconomic Concepts (Dual Enrollment)	U.S. Government/Economics
Principles of Economics: Microeconomic 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	Language I, II
Concert Choir I, II, III, IV	AP Music Theory
Introduction to Ceramics	Advanced Ceramics
2D Art Exploration	Advanced 2D Art Exploration
AP Art History	

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

As recommended 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

Approximately 75% of our students, many of whom have never been on an athletic team before coming to GSSM, participate in varsity sports. All our teams are “no cut.” Despite the novice status of some athletes, however, GSSM has won numerous athletic competitions, including multiple regional championships in women’s tennis, volleyball, cross country, and soccer, and state team championships in men’s cross country (2017), men’s soccer (2018), women’s volleyball (2018), women’s track and field (2019), and state individual championships in men’s and women’s track and field (2018, 2019).

Our athletics department employs 30 seasonal coaches, maintains an excellent fitness center and employs a full-time certified athletic trainer with a state-of-the-art training room. Varsity sports for women and men include:

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

CAMPUS LIFE

We see co-curricular engagement as essential to the holistic experience of students. We encourage all students to get involved in co-curricular activities and expect all students to get involved in the life of the school beyond their academic pursuits, whether through participation, leadership or community service. Our more than 50 clubs include Business Club, Creative Writing Club, Common Ground, ENGAGE and GirlUP. Our Dean of Students leads our campus life program; our two student activity center coordinators, six residence life coordinators and 12 resident assistants manage it. Our residential halls have a house system with each of the six floors forming a house: Praesidium, Fidelitas, Lux, Veritas, Libertatum, and Fortem. House captains, selected by their peers, lead each house, overseen by six full-time live-in professional staff members who all have bachelor’s or master’s degrees. Our staff members facilitate developmental co-curricular programs based on the residential spheres of influence programming model: Social, Leadership, Health and Wellness, Academic and Professional Development.

Our students also support the campus, local, and South Carolina communities through a required community engagement program. The program develops citizenship and shows our students gratitude to the State of South Carolina for the opportunity to attend GSSM, and to the local community for supporting our school. We encourage students to design and develop projects related to their personal interests, passions, and community needs. Past projects 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
- A Mental Health Walk-5K coordinated by GSSM students

2018 – 2021 ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATIONS BOLD INDICATES MATRICULATION

Agnes Scott College	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott)	Michigan State University	St. John’s University (New York)	University of Minnesota (Morris)
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Emory & Henry College	Michigan Technological University	St. Louis College of Pharmacy	University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
Allegheny College	Emory University	Milwaukee School of Engineering	The College of Saint Rose	University of Mississippi
American University	Florida Institute of Technology	Mississippi State University	Stanford University	University of Missouri
Amherst College	Florida Polytechnic University	Missouri University of Science and Technology	Stetson University	University of Mount Union
Anderson University	Florida Southern College	Montreat College	Stevens Institute of Technology	University of New Hampshire
Appalachian State University	Florida State University	Mount Holyoke College	Stony Brook University	University of North Carolina at Asheville
Arizona State University	Fordham University	Muhlenberg College	Swarthmore College	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Auburn University	Francis Marion University	Neumont College of Computer Science	Syracuse University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Baylor University	Franciscan University of Steubenville	New College of Florida	Temple University	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Berea College	Furman University	New York Institute of Technology	Tennessee Technological University	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Berry College	Gardner-Webb University	New York University	Texas A&M University	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Birmingham Southern College	George Mason University	Newberry College	The College of Saint Rose	University of North Florida
Boston College	George Washington University	North Carolina A & T State University	The College of Wooster	University of Notre Dame
Boston University	Georgetown University	North Greenville University	The Ohio State University	University of Oregon
Bowdoin College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Northeastern University	The University of Alabama	University of Pennsylvania
Brandeis University	Georgia State University	Northern Arizona University	The University of Sheffield	University of Pittsburgh
Brevard College	Gettysburg College	Northern Michigan University	The University of Tampa	University of Portland
Brown University	Goucher College	Norfolk College	The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)	University of Puget Sound
Bucknell University	Grinnell College	Norwich University	The University of Texas at Austin	University of Richmond
California Baptist University	Guilford College	Notre Dame of Maryland University	The University of West Florida	University of Rochester
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)	Hamilton College	Nova Southeastern University	Tufts University	University of San Francisco
Carnegie Mellon University	Hampden-Sydney College	Oberlin College	Tulane University of Louisiana	University of South Carolina
Carson-Newman University	Hampton University	Oglethorpe University	Tuskegee University	University of South Carolina (Aiken)
Case Western Reserve University	Harvard University	Ohio Wesleyan University	Underwood International College, Yonsei University	University of South Carolina (Lancaster)
Catholic University of America	Hawaii Pacific University	Olin College of Engineering	Union College	University of South Carolina (Upstate)
Centre College	High Point University	Oregon State University	United States Military Academy	University of Southern California
Charleston Southern University	Hofstra University	Oxford College of Emory University	United States Naval Academy	University of Southern Mississippi
Citadel Military College of South Carolina	Hollins University	Pennsylvania State University	University of Aberdeen	University of the Sciences
Clafin University	Howard University	Pepperdine University	University of Akron Main Campus	University of Toronto
Clark Atlanta University	Illinois Institute of Technology	Pomona College	University of Alabama at Birmingham	University of Utah
Clark University	Illinois Wesleyan University	Princeton University	University of Alabama in Huntsville	University of Vermont
Clemson University	Indiana University (Bloomington)	Princeton University	University of Amsterdam	University of Virginia (Main Campus)
Coastal Carolina University	Indiana University-Purdue University	Providence College	University of Arizona	University of Washington (Seattle Campus)
Colgate University	Indianapolis	Purdue University (Main Campus)	University of California (Berkeley)	University of Waterloo
College of Charleston	Ithaca College	Queen’s University	University of California (Davis)	University of Wisconsin
Colorado College	Jacksonville University	Queens University of Charlotte	University of California (Irvine)	Valdosta State University
Colorado School of Mines	John Carroll University	Reed College	University of California (Los Angeles)	Vanderbilt University
Colorado State University	Johns Hopkins University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of California (San Diego)	Vassar College
Columbia College	Kalamazoo College	Rhodes College	University of California (Santa Barbara)	Villanova University
Columbia University	Kenyon College	Rice University	University of California (Santa Cruz)	Virginia Commonwealth University
Connecticut College	Lafayette College	Roanoke College	University of Central Florida	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Converse College	Lander University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Chicago	Virginia Wesleyan University
Cornell University	Lehigh University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Cincinnati (Main Campus)	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Coventry University	Lenoir-Rhyne University	Rutgers University (New Brunswick)	University of Colorado Boulder	Wake Forest University
Creighton University	Lewis & Clark College	Rutgers University (Newark)	University of Colorado Denver	Washington and Lee University
CUNY City College	Liberty University	Saint Louis University	University of Connecticut	Washington College
Dalhousie University	Lipscomb University	Samford University	University of Delaware	Washington University in St. Louis
Dartmouth College	Long Island University	Santa Clara University	University of Denver	Wellesley College
Davidson College	Loughborough University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Florida	Wesleyan University
Delaware Valley University	Louisiana State University	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Georgia	West Virginia University
Denison University	Loyola University Chicago	Sciences Po	University of Glasgow	Western Carolina University
DePaul University	Loyola University Maryland	Scripps College	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Western University
DePauw University	Loyola University New Orleans	Seton Hall University	University of Houston	Westminster College
Drexel University	Macalester College	Sewanee: The University of the South	University of Illinois at Chicago	William and Mary
Duke Kunshan University	Maine Maritime Academy	Smith College	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Williams College
Duke University	Manchester University	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	University of Kentucky	Wingate University
East Carolina University	Marquette University	Southern Methodist University	University of Liverpool	Winthrop University
East Tennessee State University	Mars Hill University	Southern Wesleyan University	University of Maine	Wofford College
Eckerd College	Mary Baldwin University	Southwestern University	University of Maryland (Baltimore County)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Elon University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Spelman College	University of Maryland (College Park)	Xavier University of Louisiana
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach)	Mercer University	St. Andrews University	University of Massachusetts (Lowell)	Yale University
	Mesa Community College	St. Bonaventure University	University of Miami	
	Miami University (Oxford)	St. John’s College (Santa Fe)	University of Michigan	