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June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., State Superintendent
301 N. Wilmington Street :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

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Congratulations on your selection to attend the Governor’s School of North Carolina! Our program, founded in 1963 by Governor Terry Sanford at Salem College in Winston-Salem, is the oldest statewide summer residential program in the nation for academically or intellectually gifted high school students. In 1978 the school was expanded to a second campus, which was established in Laurinburg and relocated to the beautiful campus of Meredith College in Raleigh in 2000. Funded by the General Assembly of North Carolina for its first 49 years, the Governor’s School survived in 2012 through the generous donations of alumni, corporate, and philanthropic foundations. In 2013, the State resumed partial funding of Governor’s School at a level that allowed the program to continue. The program is administered by the Public Schools of North Carolina, State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction through the Exceptional Children Division. A Board of Governors, appointed by the State Board of Education, acts as an advisory body.

We have prepared this Student Handbook to introduce you to the living and learning community of Governor’s School East (GSE). We believe such an introduction will strengthen and clarify the decisions you must make about the school, such as whether you will choose to attend, how you will prepare for this unique experience, and how you will participate once you arrive. Many rich traditions have developed over our history – traditions that distinguish our academic and residential life from other schools. We ask that you and your parents or guardians read about them now so that you can make an informed choice before deciding to join us for what has become a life-changing experience for the 35,000-plus young North Carolinians who have preceded you at the Governor’s School.

The first thing to note about Governor’s School of North Carolina is that, while it is a wonderful academic opportunity, it is both entirely optional and perhaps not for everyone. The school’s focus on ideas and intellectual growth – including a willingness to reexamine and even challenge well-established assumptions – can be exciting and, at the same time, challenging. Governor’s School intends to provoke discussion about a wide range of topics, asking that students ground whatever beliefs they bring in a thorough consideration of alternative viewpoints. Students are presented an intellectual smorgasbord, and they inevitably choose a wide variety of different ideas, interests, and topics that they find compelling. They do not leave behind lessons learned within their own communities, schools, and families, but most Governor’s School students finish the program with a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the world around them and the variety of ways that they might approach it. A student convinced that there is only one valid way to see the world or to make one’s way in it may find Governor’s School to be too challenging. On the other hand, the vast majority of the students who have been selected for and attended Governor’s School over the last 50+ years have found the new vistas opened up by the program both beneficial and exciting.

Welcome to this unique learning community. If you accept this invitation and embark on this journey, know that it will continue long after Closing Day in late July and beyond the Meredith College boundaries. Two independent non-profit organizations (the North Carolina Governor’s School Alumni Association and the North Carolina Governor’s School Foundation) have steadfastly championed this program over the years; they will warmly invite you into their fold and welcome your future fellowship and support. The Alumni Association supports both campuses through contributions and public awareness, and provides an online open-forum system to promote alumni to stay in contact. The Foundation raises tax-deductible donations and contributes to both campuses through grants and its hosting of the tuition scholarship program. Along with the current faculty, staff and administration for this year’s Governor’s School East, these communities that span generations eagerly anticipate your successful completion of this cherished program and are excited about your emergence as a ‘Guvvie’. Onward!
ACADEMIC LIFE

This summer, 335 students and 60+ faculty and staff members will assemble on the campus of Meredith College to explore ideas at the cutting edge of our intellectual and cultural lives. The academic environment of the Governor’s School thrives upon the intellectual curiosity of its students and faculty alike. Students work seriously in their GSE courses whether in classrooms, studios, or stages; and outside of class whether in reading, rehearsing, or attending events. The motivation for this work arises from each student’s excitement and pleasure in encountering new ideas and arriving at new insights; the school does not need to administer tests or assign grades (at the end of the session, however, students are presented with certificates for completing the program). Students are empowered to construct knowledge and learn in their own unique style, and therefore play a central role in the life of the classroom. We will begin by describing the multi-layered structure in which the Governor’s School pursues these ideas.

CLASSES

AREA I: Area I is the area of the student’s special interest and the basis on which he or she was selected to attend the Governor’s School. Each student will be immersed in one of ten disciplines: Art, Choral Music, Dance, Theater, English, French, Instrumental Music, Mathematics, Natural Science, and Social Science. Study of each discipline emphasizes theories, constructs, and ideas by focusing on contemporary texts and compositions, modern thought, artistic expressions, and current issues. Courses and activities are designed to stimulate student creativity, move students to question basic assumptions, and explore unanswered questions. Instructors, who develop their own courses based on their interests and expertise, use progressive teaching methods such as the seminar format and inquiry-based learning. In addition, instructors and students collaborate within and across disciplines.

AREA II: Every student also takes an Area II class, in which connections are made between his or her Area I interests and the more personal exploration of Area III. Although it is sometimes referred to as “Philosophy/Epistemology,” Area II is not so much a course on philosophy and philosophers as it is a course in critical, creative, philosophical thinking and questioning, in which texts from writers and thinkers past and present are offered only to spur the students’ curiosity and the development of their own voices and philosophies. The students are asked to question their received knowledge and beliefs, pay attention to the functioning of language in the development of ideas and societies, and investigate the very nature of thought and the mind. Area II provides the students with a set of intellectual tools with which they may consider their academic and artistic endeavors, as well as their personal beliefs and values, in a more thoughtful light.

AREA III: Finally, every student takes an Area III class, which, like each Area II class, is composed of students from each of the ten Area I disciplines. As a testing ground for ideas, values, and personal concerns, Area III is designed as an introspective program to foster personal and social development. Strategies utilized in Area III encourage students to examine their decision-making process, and to share their concerns and beliefs with their classmates in an environment that emphasizes open-mindedness and diversity. Through this exchange, students become aware of a wide range of beliefs and differing value systems, and are invited to explore their own priorities with new insights. The curriculum encourages students to participate in a cooperative rather than a competitive manner and to develop an appreciation of one’s self and one’s relationship to society. Since the exploration of self and identity is an ongoing process, the result is a lifelong learner.
Academic Life

There are four class periods Monday through Friday and three periods on Saturday. Area I classes meet during first and fourth periods Monday through Friday and during first period on Saturday. Area II and III classes each meet three times a week: during third period Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; or second or third period Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Every student takes one section of Area II and one section of Area III, with the remaining two periods left open for socializing and/or class preparation. There is a built-in “open” block during second period on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Some Area I classes may meet for a double period on those mornings in order to gain necessary instructional or rehearsal time. Students will receive a class schedule showing to which sections of Area II and III they have been assigned during registration. In addition to regular class meetings, some Area I classes may require additional, but limited, time for rehearsals, research projects, etc.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

CONVOCATIONS: On selected evenings, visiting and resident experts will address assemblies that all students are required to attend. Speakers will conclude their convocations with question-and-answer sessions that will allow the students to challenge the speakers with their own insights, opinions, and reactions. These events provide opportunities for all students to experience challenging new ideas that they will continue to discuss in subsequent public and private conversations.

AREA II FILMS: Required films that have been carefully selected by the Area II faculty will be shown on selected Sunday nights at 7:00 pm. The students will be expected to watch the films carefully and be prepared to discuss the films in subsequent Area II classes.

CORNERSTONE EVENTS: On weekday nights on which there are no convocations, students will be encouraged to attend performances, presentations, and lectures presented by GSE faculty, students, and guests. Although attendance is not required, most students opt to attend these events, which provide the school with a common experience of contemporary artistic and intellectual expression. Parents and audience members from the general public are sometimes invited, as well.

ELECTIVES: On afternoons and weekends, members of the faculty and staff offer a number of optional electives on varied topics. These allow students to encounter new ideas in fields outside of their Area I disciplines.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to punctually attend all assigned classes and required events. Students should also complete all assigned coursework and be prepared to spend several hours a week reading, practicing, and/or rehearsing outside of class. When students are too ill to attend class, they must see their Teaching Assistant/Counselor (TAC) or the Day Counselor, who will confirm the illness, inform the GSE office, notify the student’s instructors, and take the student to a health care professional if necessary.
SPECIAL DAYS

OPENING DAY: Our summer will begin on Sunday, June 19 – the day before classes commence. Registration will take place between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm, and parents should plan on attending a few orientation events with their child and departing at 4:00 pm. The rest of the day will be filled with meetings with the faculty and staff. More details will be provided as the date approaches.

PARENTS’ DAY: Parents’ Day is on Thursday, July 7, the day when the mid-session break begins. On this day parents are invited to attend Area I classes. Dismissal is at 12:30 pm, and the residence halls will close at 1:00 pm. The students must return to campus between 3:00 and 6:30 pm on Sunday, July 10.

ALUMNI DAY: On Saturday, July 16, the Governor's School Alumni Association will sponsor a series of events as part of Alumni Day. GSE alums are invited to return and attend events with the current students. The weekend becomes energized by these events and by the presence of those who have come before and who return to relish the experience again.

COLLEGE DAY: Every summer, representatives from various colleges and universities come on campus to speak to our students. In recent years, scores of colleges/universities have participated, including small liberal arts colleges, local institutions such as Duke and UNC, and Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Princeton.

CLOSING DAY: On Wednesday, July 27, there will be an abbreviated class schedule, and our closing convocation will begin at 11:00 am in Jones Auditorium. This required ceremony will mark a time of closure for the students, who will be leaving a place and friends they have come to care for deeply. GSE will adjourn at noon.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

DAILY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES: The Activities staff provides opportunities for everyone to participate in intramural programs. Sports offered in the past have included basketball, volleyball, tennis, and soccer. A pool (limited to lifeguard availability) and ping-pong tables are available for less formal recreation. There is, however, no fitness equipment available for Governor’s School use.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS: With assistance from staff advisors, student volunteers produce a weekly newspaper and a final summer book. The publications staff performs an essential role in recording the school’s events and personalities, expressing opinion, soliciting impressions, and preserving the history of the Governor’s School.

WEEKEND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: The Activities staff also plans social events for the weekends, including afternoon trips. Saturday nights are occupied by dances, including a masquerade. On the night before Closing Day, the staff organizes a formal dance. All dances are limited to GSE students only.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: Students elect Hall Representatives soon after their arrival on campus. These representatives fill important roles as observers, problem solvers, and communicators of issues of student life. They meet with advisors often and can take vital student concerns and proposals to the Director.
• RESIDENTIAL LIFE •

Living in a college residence hall for five and one-half weeks is one of the most difficult adjustments our students make. Few have been away from home for such an extended amount of time, much less in a situation that required them to share a bedroom with someone else and a bathroom with three other people, all while living on a residence hall with as many as fifty students per floor.

RESIDENCE HALLS: All residence hall rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with two or three twin beds with regular-sized mattresses, desks with chairs, dressers, and closets. Personal knickknacks can warm up your room and make it a home away from home. Just remember to keep it safe (no candles or possessions that are fire hazards) and keep it temporary (students will be charged for any damages to Meredith College property). To protect the walls, tape and other adhesives are not allowed.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS: Rooms and roommates will be assigned by the GSE office when it opens during the first week of June. This information will be sent out as soon as possible to allow each student to contact his/her roommate and coordinate plans. In the past, students have found it especially helpful to organize the bringing of dorm-size refrigerators, computers, and other large items.

CAMCARDS: During the first days of the session, students will be issued CamCards – picture IDs that help us easily distinguish GSE students from other visitors on campus (nametags will be distributed on Opening Day that will take the place of CamCards until permanent ones can be made). Since they also serve as keys to the exterior doors of residence halls, as meal passes in the dining hall, and as library cards, students may not allow anyone else to use their CamCards. Students must also exercise utmost care to protect their CamCards and immediately report any lost or stolen card to Campus Security, at which time the access code for the lost card will be cancelled and a new card will be processed for a $5.00 fee. CamCards must be worn at all times (including off-campus), in a manner that allows the student's name to be clearly visible. The students will be given Governor's School lanyards, which provide a convenient way to wear one's CamCard properly.

ROOM KEYS: Keys to the individual residence hall rooms will be issued at registration. There is a $60.00 charge to replace a lost key.

LAUNDRY: Free washing machines and dryers are located in each residence hall, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each student is responsible for his/her own laundry and should bring detergent, fabric softener, and anti-static sheets.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS/COUNSELORS: Teaching Assistants/Counselors (TACs) are on duty anytime students are not in class. The TACs live on the same floors as the students to assist them with personal needs, and to assist the school in its concern for student security and comfort. The TACs (most of whom are Governor's School alums) also assist the faculty as teaching or administrative assistants. As a consequence, they are on campus throughout most days actively participating in the academic life of the school.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS: Clothing and other belongings should be clearly marked with your complete name for identification. There have been very few losses of students’ personal belongings, but GSE does not provide insurance to cover loss. Families are encouraged to check this standard provision in most homeowners’ insurance policies. Items left at the end of the session are donated to local charitable organizations.
RECOMMENDED ITEMS

CLOTHES: GSE does not have a specific dress code, but students are asked to avoid dressing in a way that might be distracting to the learning environment or offensive to those around them. We recommend bringing comfortable clothes for hot days, chilly classrooms, and rain, as well as several pairs of comfortable shoes. Students should also bring dress clothes and attire for the Masquerade Ball and Semi-Formal dance (these can be brought after the mid-session break). For reasons of health and safety, shirts and shoes must be worn in the dining hall and all classroom buildings.

LINENS: Students are responsible for their own bedding and bath linens, including standard twin-size sheets, pillows and pillow cases, blanket, bedspread, and towels.

SCHOOL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES: GSE furnishes all essential academic materials and supplies, but does not provide personal supplies such as notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, and book bags. Special supply needs for individual Area I disciplines will be communicated by memo or letter prior to the beginning day.

CELL PHONE: Students may bring cellular phones to GSE, but are expected to leave them in their residence hall rooms during all parts of the academic day (that is, from 9:00 am to 3:15 pm, and during all convocations, films, cornerstone events, electives, etc.). Faculty and staff will confiscate the cell phones of students who violate these guidelines. In case of emergencies, families can call the GSE office.

COMPUTER AND PRINTER: Students may opt to bring their own computers and printers. To connect to the Internet using personal computers, students must have wireless capability and agree to comply with the attached Acceptable Use Policy. Students on the campus network may use any program to retrieve e-mail from any server, but all outbound SMTP e-mail traffic will be blocked in order to prevent the spread of worms and viruses. We recommend using a web-based client (if your ISP provides one) or a web-based mail system such as gmail or Hotmail. Illegally sharing files while connected to the internet is a violation of the Honor Code (i.e., #2, pages 10-11). Please be certain to disable all file-sharing applications.

REFRIGERATOR: Students are limited to one small refrigerator (maximum 4.0 cubic feet) per room, and may not bring any other kitchen appliance. There are drink and snack machines in every residence hall.

SPENDING MONEY: Even though GSE furnishes all essential food and academic materials, students have traditionally enjoyed having some spending money for incidentals such as snacks, meals off campus, and pizza deliveries. Students may cash checks payable to “Meredith Supply Store,” written by themselves or their parents, for up to $50.00 once a day at the Cate Student Center Bookstore. Store hours will be announced during the session. ATMs are available in the first floor lobby of the Cate Center and in the Ridgewood Shopping Center behind the campus. Students should not keep large amounts of cash or other valuables in their residences. Students will also purchase a campus-wide t-shirt ($15-20) that commemorates their GSE summer, see page 9 for details.

CLEANING SUPPLIES: In-room housekeeping services are not provided. Each resident is responsible for keeping his or her bathroom, residence hall room, hallway, and parlor clean.

OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS: Each student should also bring an umbrella, toiletries, clothes hangers, an alarm clock, a non-halogen desk lamp, a UL-approved surge protector power strip, and a trash can with trash bags.
DISCOURAGED ITEMS

PERSONAL AUDIO PLAYERS: The use of personal audio players (such as an mp3 player) is prohibited during all academic events. Students may use these devices between such events, but we have observed that the less students listen to music as they walk to and from classes, the more time they have to enter into the types of discourse the school values.

TELEVISION: Every residence hall floor has a TV in its parlor. Students should not bring TVs for many reasons. The Governor’s School has a rich program morning through evening. Private TV-watching tends to isolate individuals and discourage full participation in what the Governor’s School uniquely offers. Also, we have found that the temptation to watch late-night TV results in sleep deprivation the following day. Finally, only digital televisions with a QAM tuner work with Meredith College’s cable service. For all these reasons, we ask students to refrain from bringing TVs.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

FIRE HAZARDS: Only UL-approved surge protector power strips with circuit breakers may be used. No electrical adapters of any kind are allowed. All power strips must be plugged into walls (not another power strip). Any electrical items must be UL approved. No irons, halogen lamps, lava lamps, Christmas tree lights, or drapes are permitted. Candles, lighters, matches, and other types of open flames are also prohibited.

BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, ETC.: Sidewalks are for campus pedestrian traffic, so bicycles, mopeds, scooters, hoverboards, skateboards, longboards, etc., are not allowed.

ELECTRICAL COOKING APPLIANCES: Students may not have any kitchen appliances in their rooms other than one small refrigerator (cooking is not permitted in the rooms). There are microwave ovens in every residence hall.

PETS: You are not allowed to bring a pet of any kind to GSE.

RESIDENTIAL EXPECTATIONS

RESIDENCE HALL MEETINGS: TACs regularly conduct residence hall and/or floor meetings that are required for their students. These are significant times when information is presented, rules are set, and problems are solved.

ROOM CHECKS: Rarely, but whenever deemed necessary, TACs and other authorized personnel may conduct room inspections and searches to ensure that students are in compliance with GSE policies and regulations.

MOVIES: Students are prohibited from showing copyrighted movies in residence hall parlors, as it is a violation of federal law to perform or display a copyrighted work in a public space. An exception is made for films shown during school events and electives, since the movies are shown in the course of face-to-face teaching activities.

MUSIC: The federal laws that govern copyrighted movies also apply to copyrighted music. In your private listening, please be aware of noise levels and respect the rights of other Governor’s School students, Meredith College personnel, and other guests on the campus. Music that is deemed too loud or offensive in nature will not be permitted.
GSE OFFICE: The GSE Office is located in Vann 117 (across the hall from the parlor). The GSE office phone number is (919) 760-2658 and the fax number is (919) 760-2657. Office staff opens the office from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon on Saturday. In case of an emergency during other hours, the GSE office voicemail will refer the caller to the cellular phone of the administrator on-duty at that time.

MAIL: Students’ mail will be picked up at the Meredith College post office by a GSE staff member, and distributed to the students by their hall representatives. Since the Meredith College offices are closed on Saturdays, mail can only be picked up Monday through Friday. Mail should be addressed as follows: [Student’s Name]
[Student’s Residence Hall and Room Number]
Governor’s School East
Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27607-5298

HEALTH SERVICES: Any medical records submitted by the student are secured in the GSE office. The more detailed these records are, the better health care we can provide. We draw your attention especially to the need to note all prescription drugs that you presently take, and stress the importance of making the Governor’s School aware of any changes in medication and mental/physical health. We also ask that you let us know if you are currently under a doctor’s care, especially if you need to continue your treatment during the Governor’s School session. Note this on your Special Needs and General Health Information forms.

A registered nurse at the Meredith College Health Center will provide access to basic first aid Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and on Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. For more serious medical needs, students will be taken by a staff member to a local Urgent Care or Rex Medical Center for treatment. Although you are asked to provide insurance information on your Health Examination Form, it is helpful to have a copy of your insurance card handy. The Governor’s School will provide transportation, but will not be responsible for any costs incurred during treatment. Prescriptions can be filled at local pharmacies (including Rite Aid, which is within the walking boundaries). Students requiring allergy shots or other physician-administered medication will be taken to Urgent Care or Rex Medical Center.

Students with prescription medication must contact the Governor’s School Office on Opening Day, June 19. The Director may require some medication to be stored in the Office, with student access through properly trained staff. Other medication (with or without prescription) and medical supplies are the responsibility of the student. Students must take all medications as prescribed, and may not share medication of any kind with other students or staff. Such sharing is an Honor Code violation; see page 10. To ensure safety, we suggest securing these items in a lockbox. Any missing medication must be reported immediately to the TAC or Day Counselor.

The Governor’s School does not have the staff or resources to provide care for students requiring intensive physical or mental treatment, or those having infectious diseases. It is our policy to ask these students to leave campus until a full recovery can be certified by a physician. If a student leaves campus for health reasons and remains away for three or more days, he or she will not be allowed to return to GSE. An exception is made if a student has a case of the flu (see page 9).

CARLYLE CAMPBELL LIBRARY: The Meredith College library offers many services and resources to GSE students, including books, periodicals, microfilms, and audiovisual materials. Students can use their CamCards to check out materials, but will be responsible for the payment of fines for overdue items, including reserve items, and for replacement costs of lost items. Students must return all library items and pay any fines before they can receive their Governor’s School certificate.
BELK DINING HALL: The Meredith College Food Service Director and his staff provide nutritious and appealing meals, including vegetarian and vegan options, three times a day. Breakfast is served between 7:30 and 8:45 am (continental breakfast on weekends), lunch is served from 12:00 pm to 1:45 pm, and dinner is served from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. (Any special diet needs, such as food allergies or gluten free, should be noted on your Special Needs Form.)

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: The Governor's School leaves attendance at worship services to the individual and does not provide transportation. Students who wish to attend religious services off campus must arrange their own transportation (such as a bus, van, or other vehicle driven by an official representative) with a local house of worship and adhere to regular procedures on page 9 (i.e., Staying the Entire Five and One-Half Weeks) and on page 12 (i.e., Traveling in Motor Vehicles).

PERSONAL SECURITY: Personal safety is the responsibility of each student. Students are expected to take basic precautions such as walking in pairs or groups and alerting Campus Security immediately if any uninvited or suspicious individual is sighted on campus. In order to provide as secure a living environment as possible, all residence halls are locked 24 hours a day (except for the parlor entrance to Vann Residence Hall, which provides public access to the GSE Office during business hours). Students access their residence hall by using their CamCard which they wear at all times. CamCards stop granting access to the residence hall at curfew each night, and resume working at 6:00 am the next morning.

CAMPUS SECURITY: Meredith College takes seriously the need to exercise reasonable care for the safety and security of the Governor's School students. Campus Security and security officers patrol the grounds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and students are expected to honor all of their requests. Campus Security can be reached by dialing 8888 on any campus phone and (919) 760-8888 on any other phone. In the case of an emergency back home, families should call the GSE office during office hours, not Meredith Campus Security. Emergencies that arise after hours can be relayed to the administrator's phone. If that is unavailable, call Campus Security.

CAMPUS POLICIES: Meredith College takes great pride in its pristine campus, and, as a visible guest of the college, the Governor's School is expected to maintain this tradition (e.g., not littering, using profanity, or mistreating/damaging the facilities). During Opening Day and periodically throughout the session, the TACs will introduce a number of campus policies that the students will be expected to respect. Just as students are responsible for their own personal property, they are equally responsible for any damage they inflict on any Meredith College or GSE property, and will be charged accordingly.

The Courtyard: Each year the central courtyard area (between Vann/Stringfield and Brewer/Faircloth Residence Halls) becomes an animated public gathering space.

The Lake: Many people find the lake area to be the perfect place for study, quiet conversation, relaxation, contemplation, picnics, and the like. Swimming in the lake is prohibited. The lake is off limits each day before 9:00 am and after 6:45 pm.
ADDITIONAL CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS

BEHAVIOR: Students are expected to observe the rules of common courtesy in interacting with each other, GSE faculty and staff, and Meredith College personnel, and to continue to represent GSE with civil behavior even when off campus.

T-SHIRTS: Every year, the students design and purchase a campus-wide T-shirt that commemorates the summer they spent at GSE. Students may also create T-shirts for their Area I discipline, their residence hall, and many other cherished memories. All T-shirt designs must be approved by the Director to ensure that they represent GSE in an appropriate way, and ordered through the GSE office. Any unapproved T-shirt that makes any reference to “Meredith College,” “Governor’s School,” “Governor’s School East,” “GS,” “GSE,” or any other indicator that might suggest that the shirt is sponsored by the Governor’s School of North Carolina will not be allowed.

INCLUSIVITY: The Governor’s School promotes free but respectful exchanges of ideas and will not tolerate offensive conduct and/or harassment based on race, color, creed, national origin, gender, political affiliation, or sexual orientation.

• STAYING THE ENTIRE FIVE AND ONE-HALF WEEKS •

In recognition of the Governor’s School’s tradition of excellence as a program of the State of North Carolina, out of respect for the large number of applicants who are denied acceptance into the program, and out of consideration for the Governor’s School’s commitment to fostering a strong sense of community among its participants, students are not permitted to leave campus, except during the traveling hours (Saturday from 1:00 pm to 6:45 pm and Sunday from 8:00 am to 6:45 pm, limited to no more than three hours at a time) and during the mid-session break. Students will not be excused from the Governor’s School for the types of school, family, or community events that normally occupy them during the summer, such as sports camps, school activities, competitions, senior portraits, and family reunions. We know that this policy is a jolt for many, but the Governor’s School incorporates many different experiences and many layers of experience in our common life seven days a week, and sharing this common experience is essential to the kind of community we create each year in our brief time together.

As an important part of our effort to create and maintain a sense of community among Governor’s School students, students are strongly discouraged from traveling off-campus more than once before and once after the mid-session break. Students are encouraged to instead spend their free time taking advantage of the extra-curricular activities offered, creating their own activities, or simply relaxing and reflecting on the Governor’s School experience with each other in more informal settings.

Consider your summer calendar as you read this Student Handbook. If there is something of great urgency that cannot be rescheduled (like the wedding of an immediate family member) and exceeds the three-hour travel window during regular traveling/visiting hours as noted on page 12, you may request permission to be excused by filling out and submitting the Temporary Leave Permission Form, which will be uploaded to the Governor’s School website (www.ncgovschool.org) in spring 2016, by Friday, May 6.

No request of more than 72 consecutive hours will be approved. Requests for less time are not guaranteed of approval. The Director will consider all requests and will contact you as soon as possible with a response. Of course, when emergencies arise during the session you should contact the Director.

Please note that students who remain away from campus for a period of more than 72 consecutive hours for any reason (including a family emergency) will not be allowed to continue in the program. (One exception to this policy is if a student contracts a case of the flu. We are required to send all such students home for a full week, but in that case, the affected student would be permitted to return and complete the program.) Anyone who leaves the school early without approval will not be awarded a Governor’s School certificate. The student’s home school will be notified of the early withdrawal, and the student will be forbidden from claiming that he or she attended the Governor’s School on all resumes and college application materials.
• THE HONOR CODE •

Although the Governor's School is exceptionally proud of its instructors, its staff, and its unique curriculum, the most valuable experiences our students encounter are the results of the academic community they foster through on-campus activities and social interaction with their peers. To preserve this sense of community, the school has established a few codes of conduct. These help us to achieve that difficult balance between protecting personal freedom and protecting the security and welfare of 335 high school students.

We are serious about the Governor's School Honor Code that every student and parent/guardian signs with the acceptance of the invitation to attend. The spirit of GSE is not one of rules and regulations, but we are clear about what we can or will not tolerate in our living and learning community. Adherence to its explicit terms frees our communal life so that we can focus on the new ideas and new persons around us. To that end, students who breach any of its policies, or learn that another student has committed a violation of the Honor Code, are expected to immediately report the transgression to a member of the Governor's School faculty or staff.

Should a student violate any part of the code, he or she will be promptly dismissed from the Governor's School. Any dismissal for reasons other than violations of the Honor Code will be by administrative decision. Less serious infractions will result in clear, but less severe consequences, but persistent infractions can also lead to dismissal. If a student is expelled from GSE, his or her home school (Superintendent, Principal, and Guidance Counselor) will be notified of the dismissal, and the student will be forbidden from claiming that he or she attended the Governor's School on all resumes and college application materials. A copy of the Honor Code is included in Appendix B, but it is worth expanding upon a few points here:

1. **I will not possess or use tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia.**

All tobacco products (both smoking and smokeless), alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia are strictly prohibited. Smoking of any kind (e.g., cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping, etc.) is prohibited for all students. Also, students cannot share or misuse prescription medications or misuse common items (e.g, those that contain alcohol or other harmful substances).

2. **I will maintain the integrity of the Governor’s School community and not violate the host school’s policies or state or federal laws, including, but not limited to, possession or use of a weapon, theft, shoplifting, vandalism, and willful or negligent destruction of property.**

Students must abide by all state and federal laws, as well as the rules and policies of Meredith College and the Governor's School. These include but are not limited to the regulations designed to uphold the safety of the students and the maintenance of the campus.

**COMPUTING:** Access to the internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with internet users throughout the world, and the use of the internet for educational projects will assist our students in preparing for success in life and work in the 21st century. While some material accessible via the internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive, we believe that the benefits to students from access to the internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. The Governor's School and Meredith College may monitor network traffic to ensure compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy outlined on page 11, but the parents and guardians of our students are ultimately responsible for setting and conveying any additional standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.
Acceptable Use Policy: Access to computers and networks is a privilege that requires the user to act responsibly. Users must observe all relevant laws and regulations, maintain the integrity of the systems, and respect the rights of other users in an effective, ethical, moral, and legal manner. Misuse of computing, networking, or information resources may result in dismissal from the Governor's School and criminal prosecution under applicable statutes.

Students should note that the following are prohibited on all Meredith College computers:

- Moving or disconnecting computer hardware.
- Loading or downloading any software, including games.
- Unauthorized reproduction of copy-protected material.
- Destruction or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the college or other users.
- Using printers as copiers – one copy of output should be made and taken to the copiers for the production of multiple copies.

The following are prohibited on Meredith computers as well as those belonging to individual students:

- Connecting an unprotected computer (one that has not been updated with all available operating system patches and/or does not have current anti-virus software) to the network.
- Using computers or the network in any manner that violates federal, state, or local laws or statutes.
- Accessing, producing, posting, sending, or displaying material that is offensive in nature. This includes obscene, discriminating, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful, or sexually suggestive language or images.
- Harassment or unwanted communications to any individuals or organizations.
- Providing, assisting in, or gaining unauthorized or inappropriate access to Meredith’s servers, computers, or network equipment.
- Activities that interfere in any way with the ability of others to use resources effectively.
- Peer-to-peer sharing of illegally copied copyrighted material.
- Setting up servers of any kind on the Meredith campus network.

3. I will refrain from inappropriate sexual conduct including, but not limited to, unseemly public displays of affection. I understand that aside from the approved parlors, students and visitors are strictly forbidden from entering residence halls reserved for students of the opposite sex.

INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL CONDUCT: We do not enumerate inappropriate public and private acts of affection because we expect our students to exercise their common sense, sensitivity, and judgment in such matters. We trust that Governor’s School students bring moral compasses built and honed by learning from their families, faith, and communities, and can therefore discern what is and is not suitable behavior. When students are in doubt about appropriateness, they should ask an adult on staff – a TAC, an instructor, or an administrator – for guidance.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Beyond the boundaries of consensual affection lie questions in which the relations between two students are not mutual. All students are expected to respect the physical and emotional boundaries set by their fellow students; sexual harassment will not be tolerated. During orientation we will help sensitize students to the nature and consequences of unwelcome sexual conduct, either verbal or physical, that an individual perceives to be discomfiting, hostile, or abusive and that interferes with or distracts from that individual’s work.

RESIDENCE HALL VISITATION: Students and visitors (including parents and other family members) are forbidden from entering residence halls occupied by students of the opposite sex. Some residence halls have parlors on their first floors that are accessible without going through the residence hall, and males and females may visit together there. The sole exceptions to this rule will be extended during specified hours on June 19 (Opening Day), July 7 (Parents’ Day), July 10 (when the students return from the mid-session break), and July 27 (Closing Day) to facilitate the moving of heavy belongings.
4. I understand that I may not have an automobile on campus. I will only ride in an automobile that is driven by Governor's School staff on school business or by parents or persons indicated on the parental consent form during the specified weekend visiting hours. I will invite and/or entertain visitors on campus only within established weekend visiting hours.

**TRAVELING IN MOTOR VEHICLES:** Transportation for field trips, doctor’s visits, and other Governor’s School business will be provided by GSE. For any other trips, students may only ride in an automobile that is driven by their parents/guardians or the persons indicated on the Parents’ Assurance and Permission Form. This also applies to students attending religious services, as noted on page 8. Off-campus travel can only occur for up to three hours at a time during, and only during, the following hours:

**Traveling/Visiting Hours:** Saturday: 1:00 pm - 6:45 pm and Sunday: 8:00 am - 6:45 pm

Whenever leaving campus, students and drivers must sign out before departing with the attending TAC in Vann parlor and sign back in immediately upon returning. The person who will be driving the vehicle will be asked to show identification to the attending TAC.

**ENTERTAINING VISITORS:** Students may invite and/or entertain visitors on the campus only during the weekend hours listed above. To ensure campus safety, students are required to make certain that all visitors register with the TAC on duty in Vann parlor, and sign-out upon their departure.

**Visits by Immediate Family:** We ask that students’ immediate families attend Area I classes on Parents’ Day, and please limit additional visits to the weekend visiting hours listed above.

**Visits by Others:** We have only five and one-half weeks and four weekends in which we can be together, and we value our shared experiences both in and outside of class. Accordingly, students are asked to wait for visits with their friends until the mid-session break. If friends do visit, they may only visit during the weekend hours listed above.

**Performances and Cornerstone Events:** Since our performances and some cornerstone events are open to the public, audience members are not required to register their presence with the Governor’s School. We do, however, ask that they limit their presence on campus to the event and leave campus immediately after the event.

**VISITOR CONDUCT:** All visitors are expected to respect the honor code (including the regulation governing Residence Hall Visitation) that Governor’s School students have signed. In the event of a rule violation, the visitor(s) will be asked to leave campus, and the GSE student whom they have come to visit will be held accountable for the infraction.

5. I will abide by the established curfews and boundary lines. I will only leave campus to participate in school functions or to walk within the boundaries drawn by the school during the approved hours. I understand that even when I am not on campus, I am still bound by the rules of this Honor Code.

**CURFEWS:** The curfews are designed to ensure every student’s physical security and academic success, and can only be changed at the discretion of the Director.

**Lake Curfew:** For reasons of security, students are not allowed in the lake area before 9:00 am or after 6:45 pm.

**Courtyard Curfew:** Since nighttime brings special security concerns, all students must be in their residence halls, in an approved residence hall parlor, or in the courtyard by 9:00 pm every night, unless they are participating in an event monitored by a member of the GSE faculty or staff.
Residence Hall Curfew: On Sunday through Friday nights, students must be in their residence halls by 10:00 pm and in beds with their lights out by 11:00 pm. After 11:00 pm, reading in bed and quiet conversation amongst roommates are acceptable, but phone calls, television, music, and other activities are not allowed. On Saturday nights, these times are extended by one hour.

ON-CAMPUS BOUNDARIES: Campus boundaries include the portion of campus inside the perimeter Campus Drive (i.e., the Meredith Mile); see page 18. Students are allowed to conduct research in the Carlyle Campbell Library, but may not be present in any other non-residential buildings (such as Weatherspoon Gymnasium, academic buildings, and rehearsal spaces) without the supervision of a member of the Governor’s School faculty or staff. Students are also forbidden from entering any construction zones and any campus roof or ledge. A Meredith Mile walking map will be posted on campus.

OFF-CAMPUS BOUNDARIES: To ensure student safety and to allow ourselves to locate a student quickly in the event of an emergency, the times in which the students may walk off-campus, as well as the number of destinations, is limited. Students may walk off campus between 3:15 pm and 6:45 pm on weekdays and during the listed weekend Traveling/Visiting Hours, provided they sign-out with the attending TAC in Vann parlor and sign-in upon return. Students leaving from the main gate on Hillsborough Street may go straight (to Ben & Jerry’s) or left (as far as Applebee’s; in between there is a Jazmin’s, Beansprout Chinese restaurant, and a Burger King), but not to the right. Students leaving from the back pedestrian gate may cross Wade Avenue only to go to the Ridgewood Shopping Center (there is a Whole Foods Market, a Rite Aid, a Bruegger’s Bagels, and a Tripp’s restaurant).

FINAL THOUGHTS

On Sunday, June 19, you will be greeted by the Director, faculty and staff, and Meredith College staff to begin what we hope will be a vital, unique, and memorable experience. We hope that this Student Handbook helps you prepare for it.
At the end of each session, all of our students are asked to evaluate the Governor's School program. This is a valuable tool for assessing our effectiveness and for soliciting the type of crucial advice that helps us improve upon ourselves every year. As you consider attending the Governor's School this summer, we thought you might want to read a few of the comments written by former students.

IN MY OPINION, THE STRONGEST ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM ARE...

– The freedom the students have to organize whatever activities or programs they wish, and the openness of the environment to all different viewpoints and beliefs.
– Bringing together intelligent students from all areas of the state; creating an atmosphere of tolerance and creativity in which qualified students can really experience the “life of the mind”; exposing students to modern ideas and ways of thinking; providing plentiful seminars, workshops, electives, concerts, and other enrichment activities;… and exposing students to qualified, enthusiastic, and intelligent teachers.
– Not only did I enjoy the great amount of freedom at GSE, I always felt extremely safe on campus.
– The variety of workshops, seminars, and activities available to students. Nowhere else could a person enjoy a concert and poetry reading, both of excellent quality, after swimming or a game of soccer or ultimate Frisbee, after listening to a student-led discussion on class divisions, religion, or any range of subjects.
– We learn how to think, and not simply what to think. We were exposed to a variety of speakers with different views, which was helpful in evaluating our own opinions.
– The innovative techniques and technologies we are provided with that most people have never experienced or don’t until they attend college.
– The encouragement for us to learn to think about things differently, and helping us realize that we can make a difference in our communities.
– The extremely open environment, the programs that immerse students into discussions that prompt genuine thinking, the discussions/presentations that prompt questioning of what I thought I knew, of what I never questioned, and the guest speakers and films.
– The fact that modern issues are openly discussed both in and out of class.

I THINK THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT EXPERIENCE I GAINED WAS...

– Governor’s School instructors presented material in ways that made me excited about learning, or not even aware that I was learning at all! I now know that I really do enjoy learning.
– The friendships I’ve made. Imagine your best friend. Now multiply him/her times 400. That’s Governor’s School.
– A more open mind. I have gained the understanding of different perspectives towards the contemporary issues that society deals with.
– I feel like I am more grounded in my beliefs, but at the same time I am more aware of other people’s opinions. I also truly value the friendships and relationships that I have created the past 6 weeks. It was rewarding being able to get to know and work with some of the brightest students in NC.
– It was a life-changing experience, and what I have learned will definitely help me through the rest of my life.
– Meeting people from across North Carolina who share the same love for learning and passion to make a difference in whatever field they choose.
– I discovered that instead of working through the pressure of getting good grades, students did their best work out of self-motivation, and it was a great feeling.
– Meeting new and radically different people from those I am normally exposed to and seeing how despite these differences we can come together to accomplish unbelievable things.
– Living in a college atmosphere, gaining self-independence, and strengthening all of my moral and religious values.
– I’m leaving Governor’s School with a much better idea of who I am and what I am capable of.
– I found myself being strengthened, and more grounded in my beliefs and my faith in God. I also gained many great friends who I plan to keep in touch with for the rest of my life.
IF I COULD CHANGE ANY ASPECT OF THE GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL PROGRAM, I WOULD...

- Change the length, five and a half weeks may seem like a long time at first, but as you near the end, you wish you could start it all over again.
- Make the day last longer. 24 hours is not enough time to fit everything that needs to be done in. Sadly, this isn’t possible... so I guess what I really mean is that I would change nothing.
- Make it longer. I believe that five and a half weeks is not enough time for such a wonderful atmosphere. Going back to high school after this experience is going to be tough because of the ability of most of the students here to appreciate things and to understand where you’re coming from. I would turn it into a high school program, four years long. It also is profoundly sad to me to even consider leaving.
- Change nothing. The program was run beautifully and the staff was so well qualified. I feel so privileged and honored to have had a chance to study with such brilliant people.
- I would not change anything. The program was run beautifully and the staff was so well qualified. I feel so privileged and honored to have had a chance to study with such brilliant people.
- Nothing I would leave it the way it is, because the experiences I have had here will stay with me forever.
- Transform the five and a half week utopia into a year-long oasis of enrichment.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER STUDENTS TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE...

- It has opened my eyes to new issues throughout the state, country, and globe.
- It completely challenges everything you’ve ever known about everything, and it does so in a positive and uplifting manner.
- Through all that GSE has to offer, any student can go a long way in finding out more about themselves, on not only a curricula-based level, but on a moral and spiritual level as well.
- Governor's School offers a unique opportunity to students to re-evaluate the way they are living their lives, and in many ways, help them to direct and focus their plans for the future.
- It will be a life-changing experience... They will leave with a desire to take action in the world, stand up for what they believe in, and appreciate what others feel and think as well. It will mature them greatly and help them become future leaders!
- At Governor’s School you learn to question your beliefs about everything. It will only make your beliefs stronger.
- It doesn’t just teach you; it teaches you how to learn. Anyone who attends Governor’s School can’t go away without realizing the importance of being educated and well informed.
- It is refreshing to be surrounded by people who are as passionate about learning as you, and the environment makes it comfortable to express opinions on controversial topics.

OTHER COMMENTS

- This is a great experience for any student and I strongly encourage you to take it. I love it here so much that I hope that I will be given the opportunity to come back as a TAC.
- Make the most of your Governor’s School experience because you’ll regret not doing so in the end.
- I had heard from everyone I know who attended that it had been an absolutely amazing experience, so I decided I would go, and not once since I have been here have I regretted it.
- I strongly, strongly encourage my rising junior friends to apply. It will be worth it because it will be an experience of a lifetime.
- All future GSE students: talk to your teachers. Ask questions, get to know them, have fun. They are amazing people and some of the strongest bonds I have formed this summer have been with the staff.
- Really get involved in as many activities as possible. It really made me disappointed to learn that some people stayed in their rooms most of the time and made hardly any friends and didn’t participate in activities. This is an absolutely wonderful and once of a lifetime experience but only if you are willing to make it one. The more you put into it the much more you will get out.
- The teaching staff at Governor’s School treats students with respect and looks upon them as equals, which is new to me and very beneficial.
- I urge you to go to Governor’s School. You’ll get over being homesick within the first couple of hours being here. I just knew I would be so sad once my parents left. But I was so busy here and had so many things to do, that I didn’t even have the opportunity to be. Time flew by, and before I knew it, this wonderful experience was coming to an end.
• APPENDIX B: Governor’s School Honor Code •

All Governor’s School students are privileged recipients of the benefits of a program supported and administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and thereby become representatives of the North Carolina public, private, and charter schools. State leaders, NCDPI, and the represented schools expect Governor’s School students to act maturely and to behave responsibly. The Governor’s School Board of Governors has established a code of conduct that governs the school’s communal life and the Director, faculty, teaching assistants/counselors, and staff direct and support students in living within this code. Throughout the history of the Governor’s School, the Honor Code has proven essential to this community’s maintaining its focus on essential matters. Individual students are responsible for the choices they make while in residence. Should a student violate any part of the code, he/she will be promptly dismissed from the Governor’s School and the violation reported to his/her home school (Superintendent, Principal, and Guidance Counselor).*

To signify your agreement and promise to live within this Honor Code, both you and your parent or guardian must sign below. You become a Governor’s School student bound by its code of honor when you arrive on campus and register.

1. I will not possess or use tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia.

2. I will maintain the integrity of the Governor’s School community and not violate the host school’s policies or state or federal laws, including, but not limited to, possession or use of a weapon, theft, shoplifting, vandalism, and willful or negligent destruction of property.

3. I will refrain from inappropriate sexual conduct including, but not limited to, unseemly public displays of affection.
   I understand that aside from the approved parlors, students and visitors are strictly forbidden from entering residence halls reserved for students of the opposite gender.

4. I understand that I may not have an automobile on campus. I will only ride in an automobile that is driven by Governor’s School staff on school business or by parents or persons indicated on the parental consent form during the specified weekend visiting hours. I will invite and/or entertain visitors on campus only within established weekend visiting hours.

5. I will abide by the established curfews and boundary lines. I will only leave campus to participate in school functions or to walk within the boundaries drawn by the school during the approved hours. I understand that even when I am not on campus, I am still bound by the rules of this Honor Code.

* The Student Handbook contains other Governor’s School academic and residential expectations and host school policies. The Director may also dismiss or put students on probation for serious or repeated violations of these expectations including, but not limited to, the established principle that students will attend all assigned classes, required concerts, performances, and assemblies.

I have read and understand the Honor Code, and I agree to abide by it.

I understand my child has agreed to abide by the Honor Code and I will encourage my child to honor it.

Print Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature
• APPENDIX C: Directions to Meredith College •

The Meredith campus is in west Raleigh. Easy access to the campus is provided by Wade Avenue – an Interstate 40 connector – and by US 1/I-440.

The directions below guide you to Exit 3, Hillsborough St./Meredith College, on I-440. Turn left off the exit onto Hillsborough Street. At the second traffic light on Hillsborough, turn left into the main entrance to campus. Johnson Hall is straight ahead; there you’ll find signs and an information booth for help in locating other facilities.

• FROM HIGHWAY 70 WEST: Exit onto I-440 South (US 1 and 64 West); take I-440 to Exit #3.

• FROM HIGHWAY 70 EAST AND I-40 EAST: From 70 East, take I-40 West. Follow I-40/I-440 West to Exit 293. East travelers, take I-40/I-440 West as well. At Exit 293, take I-440 North to Exit #3.

• FROM I-40 WEST: West of Raleigh, follow the Wade Avenue Exit (#289). At the I-404 junction, take I-440 South; stay in right hand lane and take the next exit (#3).

• FROM US 1 SOUTH AND 64 WEST: 64 West travelers take US 1 North. US 1 will become I-440 North. Follow it to Exit #3.

• FROM US 64 EAST: At the I-40 junction, take I-440 North. Follow it around the western part of the city to Exit #3.

• FROM US 1 NORTH AND 401 NORTH: At the I-440 junction, take I-440 West to Exit #3.

• FROM US 401 SOUTH: Take I-440 South; follow I-440 to Exit 293, which becomes I-440 North. Take I-440 North to Exit #3.
Parking Areas

1. Chapel Lot Staff and Visitors (Visitor spaces are marked) Open 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. for Students
2. Alumnae Lot Staff and Visitors (Visitor spaces are marked) Open 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. for Students
3. Ledford Lot Staff
4. P-6 Commuter, Staff and Apartment Visitors (as marked)
5. P-5 Commuter Lot
6. P-4 Commuter Lot (unpaved)
7. Cate Center Lot Staff — Open 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. for Students
8. Art Center and Library Lot Staff (Visitor and Commuter as marked)
9. Martin Lot Staff — Open 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. for Students
10. Gym Lot Staff and Commuters as marked
11. Softball Field Lot Staff (Seniors and Underclass as marked)
12. Peate Lot (Underclass as marked)
13. G-2 Lot Underclass Students
14. G-1 Lot Underclass Students (Commuters as marked)
15. Heilmann-Barefoot Lot (Seniors and Visitors as marked)
16. Wainwright Commuter Lot
17. Jones-Wainwright Lot (Staff and Visitors as marked)
18. Athletic Field Parking
19. The Oaks Student Apartment Parking