**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We are so excited to have you traveling with The Governor’s School for the Arts (GSA). Everyone’s journey will begin on September 5th. First shift students will report directly to your departments with the following change: instrumental music and dance students will start their journey in the black box located on the first floor of 254 Granby Street. That’s right, for the first time in the history of the school all students will report to the same building. All other departments will report to their normal locations: musical theatre in room 317 (NO SHOES ON THE DANCE FLOOR), vocal music in room 423, theatre and film in room 410 (NO SHOES ON THE DANCE FLOOR) and visual arts in room 522. Second shift students will report directly to The Roper Theatre. At 2:15 we will begin with pre-boarding instructions followed by departmental speeches and performances.

Each department's itinerary is different so please pay close attention during your departmental meetings. I strongly suggest that you take time to read all documents provided in your opening day packet. Failure to do so may cause you to encounter turbulence during your year long journey.

By the way, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary! This yearlong celebration will include the ribbon cutting for our new space, an evening of dinner and performance events at the Main on March 24th, so save the date.

Other important stops throughout your journey includes departmental trips, our normal cross disciplines, the GSA prom on February 24th and the end of the year celebration on June 8th. For the class of 2018, we have some additional stops just for you so stay tuned.

Remember that our friendly customer service team of Outlaw and Hartman are always available to answer your questions. They are located on the 2nd floor in administration. First year students, you should stop in to say hello.

I’m so looking forward to seeing all of you on September 5th. I’m sure this year’s journey will be the best one EVER!

See you on the 5th!

Dr. Andrea F Warren

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**OPENING DAY - September 5, 2017**

Opening Day at GSA is very exciting. Students will meet with their departments and come together at the Roper Theatre for a presentation of speakers and performances.

1:00 pm - (1st Shift - Norfolk, Portsmouth, Va Beach)

- Report to the Main Building

2:10 pm - (2nd Shift - Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Suffolk)

- Report to the Roper Theatre, 340 Granby Street

2:15 pm - All students will walk to the Roper Theatre for Opening Day Ceremony

4:00 pm - 2nd Shift Students will walk to the Main Building

4:25 pm - Buses depart for 1st shift students

5:25 pm - Buses depart for 2nd shift students
For the first time in our 30 year history all Governor's School for the Arts students will be in the same building!

Our Expansion Campaign has given GSA the opportunity to expand and develop our existing programs, have more space and accept more students.

Every year, The Governor's School for the Arts, which attracts students from the eight cities and counties of South Hampton Roads, turns away hundreds of qualified students.

Now, The Governor’s School has expanded its instructional space, and with it, can transform its impact on students, and the entire community, for decades to come.

The School has never had an orchestra rehearsal hall. For 29 years, students and staff have had to carry instruments, unpack and pack up chairs and stands in order to rehearse in other facilities. Now our students will have a hall commensurate with their talents and training and will not lose instructional time in travel. This is just one example of how the expansion will positively impact our students.

We still need your help in order to sustain the school for decades to come. Please consider a gift to the expansion campaign. There are many naming opportunities, a parents campaign, an alumni campaign and much more! All gifts can be made on a payment plan to fit your budget.

Link HERE for the brochure and more information.
DANCE

This year promises to deliver new beginnings, new friendships, and a wealth of Dance Department traditions.

For the first time in the history of The Governor’s School for the Arts, the Dance Department will be housed with the rest of the school! Our expansion has included four new dance studios in which all of our dancers will take class and rehearse. These studios will be utilized for all departments offering dance classes and rehearsals. We will continue to rent our space at the TRDance Center as well, just 1/2 block up the street!

The dancers will hit the ground running with auditions for Nutcracker, our collaboration with the choreographers for the GSA Winter Dance Concert! Highlighting our fall itinerary, Joanne Holbrook will be setting a modern dance on the entire modern department and Janelle Spruill will be creating a new Jazz work. Jon Petre-Scholz, Associate Chair, will also be working with the acclaimed Teens With A Purpose in a collaborative choreographic work.

The fall includes preparations for Holidays in the City, Winter Concert, and the National High School Dance Festival hosted by Point Park University in Pittsburg PA. The Festival will bring dancers from performing arts high schools from around the country to Pittsburg where they will perform and take classes with some of the finest dance educators in the country. The National Festival is limited to 25 GSA dancers. Spring will bring amazing master classes in collaboration with the Virginia Arts Festival and incredible performances from companies domestic and abroad. Over Memorial Day weekend, we will travel to the NYC for classes, dance concerts, and a taste of Broadway. The year culminates with our Spring Concert, which will bring our dancers to the stage for our spring celebration of Dance.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Instrumental Music department is honored to spend the start of its thirtieth year in new studios for our GSA Jazz ensembles, GSA Percussion (Yō), and GSA Orchestra. We also join the Musical Theater department for travel to Japan in November, continuing a tradition of collaboration with GSA, the Sister Cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk, and the Japanese Education and Culture Center.

GSA members will perform in several venues throughout Japan, enjoy host family stays, and have many opportunities to experience the beauty of Japanese culture. We are excited to offer the first performance in our new studio on November 30 featuring GSA Jazz. We also continue our relationship with the Sentara Music and Medicine program, offering a free performance of small ensembles and soloists in the Norfolk Heart Hospital atrium on December 6 and throughout the year. Our GSA Orchestra concert on January 5th at the Roper will feature Hermann's score from the Alfred Hitchcock thriller "Vertigo", the Hamlet Fantasy Overture by Tchaikovsky and the Four Last Songs of Richard Strauss with Stephanie Marx, soprano.
GSA Department of Theatre & Film has an exciting year planned! We will be kicking it off with two shows opening on the same day! On October 26 we will open the show, TOP GIRLS in our Black Box theatre. It will be directed by Shawn Crawford and will feature an all female cast. On that same date, in the afternoon, we will perform a new play written and directed by department chair Steve J. Earle at The Virginia Theatre Association’s One Act Play Festival. It will feature an all male cast! Our next performance will be another original work created by GSA Theatre students in association with visiting artist Nephri Armeni. Nephri conducted a master class with us last year and it was a huge success so we are excited to bring her back to create this new work with us! We secured two grants from The City of Portsmouth and the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission that enabled us to bring her back.

In the spring, we have Shakespeare and Sherlock Holmes on the boards!

The Vocal Music Department has a full and exciting year planned.

We open our performances with Handel’s Messiah in December, move to a Celebration of Disney songs for our Cabaret in January, present a double bill of Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas and Puccini’s Suor Angelica for our opera production, and conclude with a Liederabend in May.

We are collaborating with the Instrumental Music Department and the James Madison University Orchestra to present Mahler’s Symphony 2 in April, performing in both Virginia Beach and Harrisonburg at the University. We are thrilled to be partnering with the Virginia Opera Association in which sixteen of our singers will perform in their production of Britten’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream in January.

In April, twenty-five students will travel to New York City to see three operas at the Metropolitan Opera, a Broadway musical, and participate in master classes. As part of our participation in the MET HD in the Schools program, all of our students will attend four live HD transmissions of opera from the MET right here at the MacArthur Center movies.

For the first time we are honored to partner with two other departments to bring music to the patients at Norfolk Sentara Heart Hospital as a part of the Music and Medicine program. Students will visit the wards and sing and we will also present a preview performance of Messiah.
The Visual Arts Department is excited to welcome all of our students to a year full of creating. We are always busy with public art projects, exhibitions in our own Origin Gallery located at the MacArthur Center, juried art shows, and other exhibits in almost every city we serve. There are plenty of opportunities to explore and create art!

Visual artists will have the opportunity to work in our new expansion space. This is a beautiful, brand new art space that will be a studio and a gallery located off the 3rd floor in our current building.

Upcoming events include a faculty exhibit beginning on September 14 at Origin Gallery with an opening from 7-9 pm. We will be participating in the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival’s annual sand sculpture competition and Youth Art Show, which take place on September 30 and October 1.

And, the first student exhibit will be based on the summer assignment, “3 is the Magic Number”, and will open November 16 from 6-8 pm.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Students from the musical theatre and instrumental music departments will be traveling to Japan Oct. 30 for a 14 day tour and concerts in three cities. They will be presenting Hooray for Hollywood, a tribute to the music of the movies. The students will get to experience Japanese life by staying with host families and shadowing students in their high schools. 57 students in total will be traveling to Osaka, Miyazaki, Kitakyushu, Toyonaka and Hiroshima. Students will visit the peace museum and dedicate flowers and a song at the peace memorial in Hiroshima. This will be the 8th trip to Japan since 1994.

While some of our students will be traveling, Heather Mayes will be working on a Cabaret for all of our new students! This original work will be performed in our Dalis Black Box Theatre on December 14. Heather will also direct another Cabaret for all of our students March 15-17.

The MT internship program with Virginia Musical Theatre continues this year with a number of students being cast in the first two productions, Mamma Mia & Freaky Friday. Students that are cast or work backstage receive an internship grade.

Stay tuned for the announcement of our musicals!
THE GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION

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