

Arkansas Governor's —School—

at ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

41st Annual Session
July 5 – August 1

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Daily Schedule

Daily Schedule

Area I: Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Area II: Monday-Thursday 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Area III: Monday-Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

AGS Community: Monday and Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Small Groups: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

AGS Talks/Impact Events: Monday-Thursday 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

AGS Social: Friday 6:00 pm

Online Procedures

AGS online will make use of two primary platforms, Blackboard and Webex. Each student will be enrolled in four Blackboard “courses”: the AGS Central course and one section for each of Area I, Area II, and Area III. Students will log into Blackboard and use Webex every day, so please familiarize yourself with these systems. Check out these websites to get started:

Blackboard - <https://www.atu.edu/etech/resources.php>

Webex - <https://ois.atu.edu/2020/03/cisco-webex-tools-for-getting-started/>

Blackboard and Webex are fully supported by Arkansas Tech University’s Office of Information Systems (OIS) <https://ois.atu.edu/>. Please contact OIS if you are experiencing any technical difficulties. AGS is not responsible for activities and communications on unsupported platforms. Students should check their email every day for additional information. Please be courteous in your communications and respect the rights and responsibilities of AGS students listed below. We will be hosting large live synchronous events on Webex, so please mute your microphone when you are not speaking. For school-wide events, so please post questions or comments in the Webex comment bubble.

Health and Wellness Center/Counseling Services

Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Suite 119

Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

479-968-0329

<https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>

2020 AGS General Information

You are about to embark on the experience of a lifetime. Arkansas Governor's School is a four-week summer program for approximately 400 gifted and talented rising high school seniors in Arkansas. Participation means becoming part of a close-knit community of people, sharing opportunities and experiences unique to AGS.

The purpose of the Governor's School is to give students who will be future leaders in the state and nation a challenging opportunity to experience 20th and 21st century theories for the interpretation of the facts. The goal of AGS is to provide students with a contemporary curriculum in the three areas of (1) Academics and Arts, (2) General Conceptual Development, and (3) Personal and Social Development. In the current grant cycle, these areas are connected by the theme of "Technology: Past, Present, and Future." Classroom activities will be collaborative, project-based, and grade free.

Our program embraces the idea that learning is not a passive experience. Our expectations are that you will embrace our challenge of excellence and accept the responsibility for your own learning by coming to this program with the determination to do your best. We also expect you to help us maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and personal growth. This requires you, as an AGS participant, to take on some of the responsibilities that will ensure that this summer is productive.

Governor's School Contact:

Email: ags@atu.edu

Web: www.atu.edu/ags

Specific Rules of Conduct

The following rules govern and partly define the AGS community. Please be sure that you fully understand them in letter and spirit. Students will be granted “due process in resolution of conflicts. Each case will be handled individually, and parents or guardians will be informed of all disciplinary action.



- **Hazing in any form is prohibited and will be reported. This result in immediate dismissal from the AGS program.** Hazing can be defined as any action or situation, with or without consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical or academic health or safety of a student.
- **Any form of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault and sexual harassment, is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program.** Sexual misconduct is any unwelcome sexual behavior that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation. Sexual misconduct can be committed by a person of any gender, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.
- **Any form of retaliation is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program.** Retaliation means any adverse action threatened or taken against a person because he or she has filed, supported, or provided information in connection with a complaint of hazing or sexual misconduct.

Respect everyone as an extension of yourself. The definition of respect is to treat individuals with dutiful regard, and to acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of a person – as an individual, or as an authority figure. Respect includes the following:

- Valuing the property of others, including intellectual property.
- Placing value on a person as a unique individual.
- Showing consideration for everyone.
- Avoiding intrusion upon or interfering with another person’s purpose.
- No student will be allowed to act in such a way that infringes upon the rights, privileges, health, or safety of other persons.
- Physical or verbal assault while participating in or attending functions sponsored by the AGS Program is prohibited.
- No student is permitted to use or possess alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco products, vapors, or prescription drugs not approved by the AGS office. Parents will be notified and violators will be sent home immediately.
- Possession of any potentially destructive weapons such as guns, knives, etc., is prohibited.
- Students are to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. This includes refraining from excessive and unnecessary noisiness (loud talking, yelling, and laughing, etc.). Rude, discourteous behavior or using profanity toward staff persons or other students will not be permitted.
- *Activities or actions that promote or suggest sexual intimacy will not be permitted. The AGS staff will judge students’ behavior and deal with it accordingly. As an AGS participant, you are requested to immediately discontinue any actions that a staff member or counselor sees as offensive or out of order. Disciplinary actions will be taken after the second warning.*

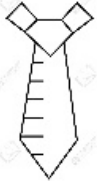
- Students are expected to attend all AGS functions unless otherwise excused by AGS staff.
- Gambling on campus property or on program-sponsored activities is forbidden.
- No student shall take or attempt to take or keep items belonging to the University, AGS, or any of its participants or guests.
- Any damage to University property will be paid for by the student or his/her parents.
- *Computer/internet usage:* Harassment of others and time-consuming recreational computer/internet use (Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, and other social media) at inappropriate times and in inappropriate ways is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to the following: sending unwanted or obscene pictures, messages or files, interfering with the work of another person, sending abusive or obscene messages, using computers and printers to generate offensive media (examples: flyers, posters, e-mail, instant messages, etc...). Illegal downloading of music, programs, movies, etc. while on campus is strictly prohibited. Redistribution of any written materials or recordings of lectures, movies, or other AGS activities is strictly prohibited.
- Participation in ANY ILLEGAL activities (on or off-campus) including, but not limited to, use of tobacco products on campus, the use or the intended use of a weapon, use or possession of illegal substance, or violent behavior which threatens the safety of any person will automatically result in program dismissal.

If any of these rules are broken, the student will face disciplinary action and may immediately be dismissed from the AGS program.



Important Information

Dress Code – People can see you in a Webex meeting! We ask that you use discretion in the way you dress and we expect modesty when dressing for the summer program. Inappropriate clothing may include, but is not limited to: short-shorts, boxer shorts, pajama pants, bare midriffs, halter tops, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, or t-shirts with offensive or unsuitable text/graphics. You may be asked to change, by your counselor or a staff member, if your clothing is deemed to be inappropriate.



DRESS CODE

Attendance – Each student is required to attend Area I, II, and III classes, AGS Community and AGS Small Group meetings, and Impact Speaker and Impact Movie events. AGS Talks (410/610s), AGS Socials, Virtual Field Trips, and other activities are optional but highly encouraged. If for any reason a student does not attend required sessions, his/her name will be forwarded to the program director. Repeated absences will lead to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program.

Tardiness – All students are expected to be on time for all classes and events. Any student who is consistently late will be referred to the program director.

Classroom disruption – Disruption of classroom activities will not be tolerated. All incidents will be reported to the AGS program director.



Health/Counseling services – Medical and Counseling services will be available to all AGS students at the Health and Wellness Center. Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. They can be contacted by phone at 479-968-0329. Appointments can be scheduled online at <https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>. Students must present their AGS ID card and indicate that they are an AGS student when reporting for services.

Honor – Stealing, lying, or cheating under any circumstances will result in immediate dismissal. Failure to inform AGS staff about others' rule violations, or to cooperate with AGS staff investigating suspected rule violations, will result in immediate dismissal.

Instructors and residential staff – Our instructors come from a variety of educational backgrounds. They may be public school educators, college faculty, guidance counselors, or AGS staff. They will guide you through the academic curriculum. Our residential staff will be college graduates or undergraduate college students.

Zero tolerance policy – Students found involved in any hazing, sexual or illegal activities will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning. Students who are caught with any illegal substance (alcohol, tobacco, vaping, etc...) will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning.

AGS Leave Policy

Arkansas Governor's School is state funded, highly competitive, and interested in fostering a very strong sense of community among its participants. Therefore, it is believed to be inappropriate for students who have accepted a place at AGS to take temporary leaves from the program. Time away from the program has an undesired effect on student participation, both for the individual and for the Governor's School community at large. We know that gifted and talented students will have many quality opportunities during the summer. Although we hope that students invited to attend AGS will accept our invitation to attend for the full four weeks, we understand that other choices are available and difficult decisions must be made. For students desiring to take advantage of other opportunities that coincide with AGS, students should decline the AGS invitation which will allow another student to be invited to benefit from the entire program.

Temporary leaves will be granted for certain situations and only these situations. Requests for special leaves of absence must be made in writing at least one (1) week in advance and include explicit justification for the leave. Documentation may be requested to verify listed justification.

A leave may be granted for the following situations:

- unplanned personal or family emergencies
- weddings of immediate family members
- extremely important events of major personal, regional, or national significance
- medical reasons

Please note:

- proper paperwork must be filled out and submitted at least one week in advance
- the student cannot miss more than 2 class days
- the leave cannot be during the first 3 days or the last 3 days of the program
- no student may be granted more than one leave of absence
- leaves granted for medical reasons may not exceed a total of six (6) class days
- proper documentation may be requested to verify the listed justification for the leave

-Out Of Darkness-

Alma mater for the Arkansas Governor's School

Out of the darkness, out of the cave from across the natural state,
We come together to sing your name.

Bright like a diamond, shining in the sky
We search for knowledge, compassion, and light.

Though we are scattered, our bond is strong,
Arkansas governor's school,
We honor you with our voices, our lives, and our song.

-est. July 13, 2015-

Text by John Andrews (AGS '05; AGS faculty 2014-2018) music composed by Stefan Cwik (AGS faculty 2012-2014) commissioned by AGS

2020 AGS Faculty & Staff

Director: Robin Lasey

Co-Director: Jeff Woods

AGS Faculty

Area I Coordinator: Jeff Woods

Area II Coordinator: Jordan Thibodeaux

Area III Coordinator: Sean Huss

Area I Instructors

Choral Music: Chris Harris

Music Accompanist: Hwaju Lee

Cybersecurity: Grant Hurst

Drama: David Eshelman

Instrumental Music: Rick Dimond

English/Language Arts: Kathleen Manus, Tori Sharpe

Mathematics: John Anglin, Matt Myers, Rebecca Streett

Natural Science: Chance Duncan, Jacob Grosskopf, Tim Trawick, Mark Meredith

Social Science: Nate Chapman, Patrick Hagge, Aaron McArthur, Robert Minarcin

Visual Arts: John McGrew

Area II Instructors:

Jordan Thibodeaux

Drew Nolley

Arwen Taylor

David Blanks

Jean-Hugues Bit'a Menye

John Kirk

Latasha Holt

Peter Dykema

Philip Spivey

Andrea Lively

Justin Moss

Area III Instructors:

Sean Huss

Alicia Mariano

Bill Morelan

Brendan Toner

Emily Frazier

Erin Clair

Krista Hinton

Xela McArthur

Morgan Young

Carolyn House

AGS Staff

Small Group Coordinator: Addie Beckham

AGS Social Activity Coordinator: Emilee Smith

AGS Community Group Coordinators: Lauren Fryer, Brett Davies

Resident Assistants:

Lilian Agnacian

Jalarra Davis

Rachel Farhat

Kayla Hawks

Charity Jewell

Autumne Kendricks

Camryn O'Conner

Sophia Pegues

Annette Quinn

Lillian Reyes

Sophie Vargas

Kayleigh Yeager

Timothy Ablondi

Nihal Anwar

Warren McCombs

Jacob Six

Isaac Smith