

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
FOR THE ARTS

A PROGRAM OF



Summer Program 2020: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What will the virtual program look like?

While exact details are still being developed, we currently expect the following (details subject to change):

- All programming will take place on Mondays through Fridays from June 29th through July 17th.
- Programming will start for all students at 10:00 a.m. EST with a performance/presentation and Q&A from a series of dynamic and diverse artists. This is similar to how each day begins at a standard GSA program. This is a great way to connect with creative professionals, learn about their path, and consider how your own future can be inspired by these artists' stories.
- Faculty will lead students through artform-specific learning in the window of 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST each day. The duration, frequency, and type of content will likely be different each day. For instance, some days may include presentations from guest artists, while other days may include more one-on-one learning opportunities or prompts for projects that students work on in their own time. Faculty are already dreaming up exciting and engaging experiences!
- At a standard GSA summer program, students live in college residential halls under the guidance of Residential Advisors (RA's). While the housing details will obviously be different this year, we believe the mentorship of RA's and the community they develop is vitally important to your GSA experience. Each GSA 2020 student will be assigned to a "RA Group" which will meet virtually each day at 5:30 p.m. EST for up to 90 minutes. This will be an informal time to connect with students in other artforms under the guidance and facilitation of your RA, providing you with opportunities to chat about your day, develop friendships, and simply have fun.
- While there will be no formal programming on evenings or weekends, students may be asked to use this time to work on creative projects, and/or there may be optional community activities scheduled during this time (i.e. talent shows, virtual school dance, etc.).

2. What kind of technology will be used for the virtual program – and what if I don't have access to it?

We currently anticipate most of GSA's virtual programming will take place via Zoom video conferencing or a similar platform, potentially supported by other learning/communication platforms such as Canvas and Slack. More information will be provided to students in the future.

GSA strives to be an accessible program as possible; this is why we travel through all regions of the state for recruitment, offer waivable application fees, and provide the summer program at no cost to students. We will survey all accepted students to learn what technology they have access to and do whatever possible to help bridge any gaps. Ultimately any student who cannot

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
FOR THE ARTS

A PROGRAM OF



Summer Program 2020: Frequently Asked Questions

access a virtual GSA program due to lack of technological access will still be considered GSA student and just as important a member of the GSA family as anyone else. We will do whatever we can to still serve and educate these students, and they will still be considered GSA alumni.

3. Beyond technology, what kind of equipment or supplies will I need to participate?

We understand you may not have access to a variety of resources in your art form, including commonly used tools, supplies, equipment, etc. Based on your artform, GSA will survey students on what they have access to and design a curriculum mindful of any limitations. Improvisation is an important element of artistry, so we will figure this out together!

4. Can students accepted into GSA 2020 defer their acceptance to next year?

To maximize the level of access to GSA and the privileges of being a GSA alumnus, you cannot defer your acceptance to 2021. We are planning an exciting program for you, and we hope you will accept your well-deserved invitation to join us for a creative summer experience.

Eligibility for next year's GSA summer program will remain the same as in previous years. This means students accepted into GSA 2020 who are currently juniors and decline their position at this year's program will be unable to apply to GSA 2021.

Accepted students who are currently sophomores and decline their position at GSA 2020 may apply for GSA 2021 next year. While their acceptance into GSA 2020 will be a noted accolade in their application, every 2021 applicant will start with a blank slate and be subject to the same criteria and adjudication process. We cannot guarantee these students will ultimately be accepted into the 2021 summer program.

5. Will GSA 2020 students still be eligible for scholarships offered by colleges/universities to GSA alumni?

The terms of these scholarships have always been decided by each individual college/university, and not the GSA program (similarly, the scholarship funding is paid out by the colleges, not GSA). Every student who completes GSA's 2020 virtual program will be considered an alumnus of the program by GSA, and we will confirm your alumni status to universities as requested. Just like any other year, however, it is ultimately up to each college/university to determine how/if they will provide their GSA alumni scholarships.

We have received promising signs from some schools that they intend to continue upholding GSA scholarships, but we encourage you to directly contact specific schools of interest to inquire about any changes in their scholarships. The list of colleges/universities that currently provide GSA alumni scholarships can be found [here](#).

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
FOR THE ARTS

A PROGRAM OF



Summer Program 2020: Frequently Asked Questions

6. Why is GSA going virtual instead of postponing for later in the summer or hosting two programs in 2021?

There are many variables to consider when assessing our ability to keep GSA students, staff, and faculty safe this summer. Preparing for the summer program is a large effort that includes much work from many people months in advance. Since we cannot predict a specific time of the summer when it will be completely safe to convene GSA in-person, and since planning for any type of program must begin now, we have decided to focus our efforts on a virtual program out of safety concerns. Postponing this summer's program by a year and hosting two programs in summer 2021 is not logistically feasible, considering administrative resources and need for arts-specific learning facilities.

While it is certainly disappointing to lose the type of connection that can only occur with in-person interaction, we are still very excited to convene the GSA family virtually this summer. It is going to be a fun and rewarding experience!

7. Will there be any kind of in-person convening for GSA 2020?

We are hopeful we can find an opportunity to celebrate the GSA 2020 class in person at an event later in 2020 or 2021. While we look forward to acknowledging your accomplishments virtually this summer, we know nothing can replace the opportunity to meet your fellow GSA family members face to face.

8. How can I help or support GSA and GSA students during this time?

Students: the best way to support your new GSA Family during this time is by embracing your skills as an artist and leaning into this summer's opportunity. Remain resilient, find ways to practice your artwork while remaining healthy at home, keep your eye out for communication from GSA and respond promptly when asked to, and prepare yourself to "show up" this summer and actively participate in the virtual program as best you can. We are preparing a great program for you, but like any other year, GSA is only what you make it out to be. You have authorship in what GSA 2020 can be, and you will only get something out of it if you invest something into it. Remember you have been carefully chosen for this experience – we know you are up to the challenge, and you have an artistic voice worth amplifying – and while many things in life are being canceled or postponed, no one can take that voice away from you. You are good enough for this opportunity and we are very excited to work with you.

Parents, teachers, and community partners: join us in doing whatever you can to encourage your GSA students and celebrate their achievements widely in your community. If your students are disappointed by this development, offer them a space to express those emotions – but also remind them that they still have an exciting opportunity this summer that they have earned through hard work and talent!

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
FOR THE ARTS

A PROGRAM OF



Summer Program 2020: Frequently Asked Questions

Help your students look for communication from GSA and craft responses when needed (parents, some of the requested information will come from you or require your e-signature). If you are so inclined, there will be opportunities to help support GSA so we can continue to provide this transformational program to future generations of young Kentuckians without charging tuition. We hope you will join us in paying it forward, as you are able to.

Parents/guardians: we know you are taking on a unique role as GSA Parents this year. While usually you would not see your students for the entire three weeks of the GSA summer program, your living space has now become the residential hall, the cafeteria, and the classroom all at once. We are actively thinking of ways to best support you as well as your student during this virtual experience, and please let us know your needs/questions/concerns at gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org. We know that remaining open to your child's artistic journey this summer will require a balance between providing them support and giving them space. We're in this journey together!

To everyone: at the end of the day, GSA is about celebrating the importance, power, and potential of creative Kentuckians. Embrace your own creativity, however simple that may be – activities like journaling, cooking, gardening and sketching count! And do whatever you can to champion the young creative folks in your life. Ask them about their artwork, their dreams, and their ideas – and share yours as well. By engaging in these conversations, you will bring a little bit of GSA right into your own community – and that is exactly what this program is all about.