

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY



Catalog
Academic Year 2025-26

Mission Statement

At Westminster Academy, what we believe informs all that we do. Our name reflects our belief that the chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever. Further, we believe that parents are responsible for the education and character development of their children.

Therefore, at Westminster Academy we seek:

- academic excellence under the Lordship of Christ
- an administrative structure that enables parents to direct their child's education
- a community in which everyone treats one another with the utmost respect

Statement of Faith

1. We believe there is one eternal God existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe the Bible is the Word of God, verbally inspired and inerrant, and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
3. We believe God created the Heavens and the Earth and created man in His image.
4. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.
5. We believe that humankind, by disobedience, fell from a sinless state at the suggestion of Satan. This fall plunged humankind into a state of sin and spiritual death and brought upon all humanity the sentence of eternal death. From this condition, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation. By God's grace only, through faith alone, are we saved from our sin.
6. We believe Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh, born of a virgin; He lived a sinless life, suffered and died on our behalf, and He arose bodily from the grave, ascended to the right hand of the Father and is coming again in power and glory.
7. We believe faith without works is dead. The present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to indwell (live within) the Christian, enabling him to live a godly life.
8. We believe that God's design for marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other.
9. We believe there will be a bodily resurrection of the saved to life and of the lost to damnation.
10. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Philosophy of Education and Statement of Purpose

Westminster Academy believes that the goal of education is to see, know, and understand God's sovereign purpose for man and His providential work throughout history. Westminster believes that:

- History displays God's providence.
- Mathematics manifests the order and symmetry of God's creation.
- Language arts provide students with the tools necessary to learn, express, and convey the knowledge and understanding that will ultimately extend Christ's kingdom.
- Science testifies of God's actions and methods.
- The study of the arts reveals God's work and creativity within each individual.

Therefore, Westminster embraces an integrated approach to education: combining faith, knowledge, and reason in order to develop a thorough and thoughtful Biblical worldview that will prepare and enable students to fulfill God's purpose for their lives.

Westminster Academy provides support to homeschooling families who desire a classroom setting with non-traditional learning strategies emphasizing the disciplines and culture of Western civilization. This support occurs within an environment of mutual respect and dignity where the instruction, course content, and materials reflect our primary goal to provide students with a sound academic base from a Biblical worldview.

Westminster Academy is committed to partnering with homeschooling parents to help fulfill their God-given responsibility to train their children. We recognize that parents are the directors of each child's education. It is therefore our purpose to support--not hinder or replace--the family as parents strive to raise their children under the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Location: *Westminster Academy Mailing Address:* 500 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229
at West End Assembly of God: 401 N. Parham Road Richmond, Virginia 23229

Phone: (804) 285-4523

Email address: office@westminsteracad.org

Website: www.westminsteracad.org

Director: Mary Ann Easterling

Office Manager: Tara Cahoon

Registration:

Registrar: Betsy Logan

Phone: (804) 283-1623

Email address: betsy.logan@westminsteracad.org

Facilities

West End Assembly of God has granted us the use of classrooms in their education building. Tables, chairs, and blackboards are provided in each classroom. A study hall is available for students between classes.

Class Cancellations

Cancellations for snow or other reasons will be announced on WWBT-TV (Channel 12) and via email.

Table of Contents

[Blue hyperlinks](#) lead directly to that section of the document.

General Information

| | |
|--|----|
| Philosophy of Education | 2 |
| Location and Mailing Address | 3 |
| Phone | 3 |
| Westminster Website Address | 3 |
| Class Cancellation | 3 |
| Academic Calendar for 2024-2025 | 5 |
| Registration | 6 |
| Tuition and Fees | 7 |
| New Students | 8 |
| Current Students | 8 |
| Placement Testing | 9 |
| Exams | 9 |
| Final Grades | 9 |
| Audit Policy | 9 |
| Private Tutoring | 10 |
| Academics | 10 |
| Of Special Interest | 12 |
| WA/Homeschooling FAQs | 13 |
| Guide to Academic Work and Documentation | 14 |

Courses for Academic Year 2023-2024

| | |
|--|----|
| World Languages | 16 |
| History | 19 |
| Literature and Writing | 27 |
| Mathematics | 40 |
| Science | 46 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Visual Arts | 52 |
| Monday/Wednesday Electives | 55 |
| Thursday Electives | 59 |
| Teacher Profiles | 65 |

Academic Calendar Academic Year 2025-2026

Spring/Summer

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Catalog emailed/on FACTS | Sunday, March 2 |
| Current student registration | Online, starting March 10 |
| New family registration | Online, starting March 24 |
| Placement tests | April 11, June 4, July 16 |
| Regular registration ends | July 1 (\$25 late fee if after) |
| First payment due | Friday, August 1 |
| Class commitment | Friday, August 1 |
| | Enrollment packet must be returned to WA |

Fall term

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Convocation | Tuesday, September 2 |
| Classes begin | Wednesday, September 3 |
| Second payment due | Wednesday, October 1 |
| End of first quarter | Monday, October 27 |
| Second quarter begins | Wednesday, October 29 |
| Thanksgiving holiday begins | Wednesday, November 26 |
| Classes resume after holiday | Monday, December 1 |
| High school exams | December 15- December 19 |
| Last day for elem/middle school | Wednesday, December 17 |
| Third payment due | Thursday, January 1 |
| Classes resume after Christmas | Monday, January 5 |
| Second quarter ends | Thursday, January 8 |

Spring term

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Third quarter begins | Monday, January 12 |
| Catalog uploaded to FACTS | Sunday, March 1 |
| Fourth payment due | Sunday, March 1 |
| Winter Break | Weds/Thurs March 4 & 5 |
| Current student registration | Online, March 9 |
| Third quarter ends | Thursday, March 12 |
| Fourth quarter begins | Monday, March 16 |
| Spring break | March 30 - April 3 |
| Last day of HS classes | Thursday, May 7 |
| High school exams | May 11 - May 15 |
| Last day of elem/MS classes | Wednesday, May 13 |

General Information

Registration

Registration Fee is non-refundable. See below for exceptions:

- There will be no classes dropped after August 1, except by teacher recommendation.
- If payment is not received by August 1, students will be dropped from the class roster.
- After August 1, parents are obligated for the entire year's payment for each class in which their child is enrolled unless an appeal is accepted by the Board.
- For academic class changes per a parent's request made after September 8th, a \$50 Change Class Fee per class will be charged.

Registration requirements:

- Registration deadline for the Fall 2025 term: July 1. Register early! All decisions regarding classes that "make" (attract the minimum enrollment) and those that do not "make" will be made using data from registration forms received by July 1.
- Due to limited class sizes, we expect many classes to fill up early. After July 1, a late registration fee of \$25 must be included with all applications.
- For classes that fill early, parents are asked to deposit \$50 to hold their student's place. This deposit must be received by the deadline that is determined by the registrar. This deposit is simply tuition paid in advance and will be applied toward tuition for that class. If your student is taking a placement test for this class and does not place in the class, the deposit can be applied towards another class. However, once the deposit is paid, should you drop the class at any time, the deposit is non-refundable.
- Certain classes have been labeled A and B. Westminster reserves the right to direct students to specific class sessions (A or B) in order to accommodate all the Westminster students. (A or B designates time).

Courses which do not meet the minimum number of students will not be held unless other arrangements can be made which are satisfactory to the teacher.

- If **all** classes for which a student registers do not meet the minimum, the registration fee will be refunded.
- A confirmation will be mailed in July. FACTS allows parents to see student schedules after June 1.
- Parents must return a confirmation agreement of their child's schedules and submit the first quarter's tuition payment by August 1 to keep their places in the classes for which they are registered. After August 1, their reserved spots will be forfeited.

We are making every effort to ensure the following core classes are held each year at Westminster:
Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Middle School Science, Middle School Math, Biology, Chemistry, Middle and High School History, Middle and High School Literature and Writing, Spanish 1 and 2, American Sign Language

General Registration Information:

- Registration fee: This fee is non-refundable and calculated on a per-student basis.
- Forms received by July 1:
Elementary grade classes \$50 for 1 class/\$80 for two or more Grades 6-12 for existing families \$60 for 1 class/\$90 for two or more Grades 6-12 for new families \$80 for 1 class/\$110 for two or more
- Make checks payable to Westminster Academy.
- On June 1 each family will have access to their own school account through the internet (FACTS). Families can access their child's schedule, quarterly bills, and quarterly grades.
- There is an administrative fee of \$225 per family.
- A \$25 late fee is added for forms received after July 1.
- Each family is responsible for keeping their internet account and Westminster's office up to date on any email and street address changes.
- Registration fees must be brought to the office by the designated date. All registrations after September 1 require two quarters' tuition payment.
- For academic class changes per a parent's request made after September 9th, a \$50 Change Class Fee per class will be charged.
- There will be a \$50.00 charge for all returned checks. All payments afterward must be paid with cash or money order.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition payment requirement:

- The first tuition payment will be due August 1. This is one-quarter of the total balance.
- Required for initial tuition payments after September 1: one-half of the total balance.
- Westminster will administer a quarterly bill totaling all fees, including study hall and lunch. Payments are made twice a semester, due on the following dates: August 1, October 1, January 1, and March 1. Checks for fees should be made payable to Westminster Academy. Students will be held out of class if tuition is 15 days past due.
- Now tuition can be paid electronically through FACTS as one payment or four payments. Details for electronic payments will be sent to registered families at the start of summer.

- Tuition fees are calculated on a per-course basis and are not subject to proration for missed days due to inclement weather.
- Parents who have not paid their tuition or registration fees to Westminster Academy for any previous school year will not be permitted to register for any classes for the 2026-2027 school year.

At any time during the school year, should a family request a payment arrangement other than the quarterly due dates stated above for paying by check or cash (and agreed to by signing the Class Confirmation and Parent Agreement), a one-time administrative fee of \$50 will be assessed for an agreed payment plan. If no alternative payment schedule is arranged and a payment is received more than 14 days past the due date, a fee of \$25.00 will be assessed per late payment.

Westminster does not offer benevolence or scholarships to families in financial need.

Parent Confirmation

In order to guarantee a student's place in a class, parents are required to complete the "Parent Confirmation" that will be mailed to them in July. This confirmation is a commitment from the parent to Westminster Academy that the parent will pay the tuition for their student's classes to completion. This is necessary in order for Westminster Academy to guarantee a definite income for each of our teachers and enable us to retain excellent teachers who love their students and our Lord Jesus.

New Students

- Parents of new students must fill out a family application, a student application, a faith statement and a class registration form for entrance into Westminster. Recent grades or test scores and the registration fee are required for registration. Forms will be online. On request, a link will be sent to parents.
- New student and family applications will be forwarded to our Admissions Committee for review. Our office administrator will schedule an interview with parents, students and the admissions committee. After the interview, parents will be notified by mail of the status of their child's application.
- 2025-2026 academic year queue for sign up for registration for new students begins online at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 20th. Actual registration occurs on Monday, March 24th.

Current Students

- Parents of returning students will fill out a form updating student and family information along with their registration form and faith statement.
- 2025-2026 academic year queue for sign up for registration for current students begins online at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 6th. Actual registration occurs on Monday, March 10th.
- Teacher recommendations will be used for placement of current students at the proper level of courses they desire to take. The Director reserves the right to place students based on the teacher's recommendation.

- Any current student who chronically misses classes, comes to class unprepared, or is a discipline problem may be denied re-admission.

Placement Testing

- Students registering for Math, English, Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology or Physics classes who are not currently taking Math, English, or Science at Westminster Academy must pass a placement test.
- If new to Westminster Academy, students registering for foreign language at Level 2 or above must take the Level 1 or above exam on a designated test day. There will be a \$15 test fee. A follow-up meeting with the student may be necessary.
- Placement tests will be administered by Westminster Academy on Friday, April 11, Wednesday, June 4, and Wednesday, July 16.
- Students who cannot sit for placement tests on these days must contact the Director for other arrangements. The parent will pay \$30 to the test administrator for each test that must be taken since they are not taking placement tests on the dates Westminster organized.
- Students who have registered for a class with a waiting list must pass the next placement test or be put on the waiting list.

Exams

- Students taking high school courses will have two semester exams: one in December, one in May.
- High school courses include all foreign languages starting with Level 1, all math classes starting with Algebra 1, all science classes starting with Biology, History 9 and up, and Literature/Writing 9 and up.
- The exam will cover one semester's material.
- All students are expected to be present for the exams on the date they are given. If an exception is required, the parent must notify the director and the teacher as soon as possible. The parent must pay the teacher \$60 for proctoring the exam at a different time.
- If the student is very ill on the day of the exam the parent must notify the Director within 24 hours of the exam. The student must take the exam within 7 days of its scheduled day.
- If a declared senior or junior has maintained an "A" average at 3 quarters and 4 weeks and signs the senior designation form, he/she may be exempt from the 2nd semester exam. Students may only exempt one time for all of their exams.

Final Grades

- Parents may dispute final grades during a two-week grace period ending June 1.
- Please note that a 'D' (60-69) does not qualify a student to pass to the next level of a subject area. A 'D' does not indicate mastery of the subject. Please see the course description for entrance requirements.

Audit Policy

- Full tuition payment is required for an auditing student.
- The parent must confer with the teacher of the class to agree upon the parameters of the audit before classes start.

Private Tutoring

When employing our teachers for private tutoring beyond periodic, non-scheduled help, the rate for tutoring is a minimum of \$30 per hour (the rate for public school tutors is higher).

Inclement Weather Policy

Days or classes missed due to inclement weather will not be made up. Instead, students will work on assignments at home on the missed day. Students and parents are expected to check FACTS or their email for these assignments and/or tests.

Academics

- We will make every effort to limit classes to a span of two grade levels. Our groupings for classes typically will be as follows: grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Exceptions to the two-year age span for accelerated students will be only in cases of teacher recommendation or exceptional student testing results. Students who have missed a course offering and are older than the grades listed as appropriate in the catalog are welcome to sign up for the course, with the understanding that the class will be taught at the grade level advertised.
- Spanish 1, 2, and 3, American Sign Language 1 and 2, Math Concepts 2, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 and 2, and Geometry will meet three days per week to allow for maximum teacher interaction. After completing Algebra 1 a student may enroll in either Algebra 2 or Geometry, although we highly recommend that Geometry follow Algebra 1. All other high school courses are offered on a two-day-per-week schedule.
- Our 11th and 12th grade science and math courses are designed to be "college preparatory." Trig/Pre-Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy & Physiology are for the advanced student. These courses will be fast-paced and will be designed to help students prepare for the rigors of college coursework.
- Westminster is equipped to supply our high school students with a transcript listing all courses taken at the Academy to aid students when applying to colleges. If a transcript is to be sent to colleges, make requests via email (betsy.logan@westminsteracad.org), listing the student and addresses of colleges. Please allow two weeks processing time.
- Class attendance is very important at Westminster Academy. Chronic absenteeism does not foster mastery of a subject. Therefore, the Academic Committee of the Academy has determined that a student who misses a month of classes in any particular subject could lose credit for that class. For classes that meet once per week, four absences would be the maximum allowed. For classes that meet twice per week, eight absences would be the maximum allowed. For classes that meet three times per week, twelve absences would be the maximum allowed.
- A 'D' (60-69) does not indicate mastery of a subject.

- Please be advised that if your student has learning difficulties or issues, the Director reserves the right to ask for an independent assessment (at the parent's expense) of the student's ability to function in Westminster Academy's academic atmosphere.
- If a student with learning disabilities is admitted to Westminster, their status could be re-evaluated during the academic year if the course is beyond their academic capability.

Communication

Weekly and monthly emailed newsletters will strengthen communication between Westminster Academy and parents.

Discipline Policy

Christian discipleship and character building are at the heart of what we believe in at Westminster. For this reason, all policies in the Westminster handbook are strictly enforced. Conduct slips are given by teachers, the Director, or any adult on the premises observing poor behavior. In extreme circumstances, students may be suspended or expelled. We will not tolerate persistent discipline problems. A complete guide to student behavior is outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Part-Time Help

- Study hall monitors must be able to keep a study hall quiet and have a dependable schedule. Lunch monitors are also needed for lunches from 10 am to 2 pm. Monitors are hired for specific time slots for the year. We have paid monitors in study hall, high school lounge and lunch from 8 am to 4 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please indicate on your registration form if you are interested in serving as a monitor.
- We hire students to set up the classrooms for teachers at Westminster. Students must be able to set up by 7:15 am on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Call the office for details.

Social Gatherings

- Social gatherings are organized several times during the year to create community among the families of Westminster. The highlights of the school year are Westminster's Talent Show and Science Fair. Parents, grandparents, other family members and friends are invited to see our students' accomplishments.
- The Student Activities Committee (SAC) encourages student leadership, integrity, and commitment while promoting fun activities for all ages at Westminster Academy.
- Please consult the calendar on FACTS for timely information.
- Field trips coinciding with classroom study are held throughout the year. In the past several years students and their families have gone to Yorktown, Williamsburg, Washington, D.C., Blackfriar Playhouse, the Science Museum of Virginia, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Study Halls

- Westminster offers monitored study halls for a nominal fee (\$2.00 per half hour). Each study hall meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at a specific time.

- Please sign up your child only if he/she is willing to use the time to study, as we will be enforcing quiet study halls.
- Disruptive students will lose the privilege of having a study hall. Students who are not in study hall or in class should not be on the church's property.

High School Lounge

- Students, 9th grade and above, may sign up to use the high school lounge on Monday and Wednesday instead of a study hall. Under adult supervision, high school students are allowed to talk quietly and study together. This privilege is given to cooperative students who maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. The charge is the same as the study hall fee (\$2.00 per half hour).
- Students who receive a blue conduct slip for any reason will lose the privilege of using the high school lounge and must attend study hall instead of the high school lounge for a probation period.

Lunch Playground Time

- Lunchtime is offered for a nominal fee (\$2.00 per half hour) to all students on Monday and Wednesday for socializing and down time. With adult monitoring, the students can opt to play basketball and sit outside. In the event of inclement weather, the students will have lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- Parents should always assume that students will need coats for lunchtime.

Volunteer Requirements

As an Academy dedicated to supporting the family's role in education, Westminster requires each family to volunteer for one major role (coordinator, organizer) or three minor roles for events at Westminster Academy such as the Science Fair, helping with pizza lunches, baking for teacher breakfasts, or assisting in the office, etc. Each family will be assessed a parent volunteer service fee of \$100 at the beginning of the year, which will be reduced to \$0 as one major or three minor volunteer commitments are fulfilled. Any volunteer service fee balance remaining after commitments are met is recorded to FACTS prior to the 4th quarter and due with the family balance. A digital sign-up form will be emailed in July.

Of Special Interest

Westminster Academy is a discipleship-based academy, with classes taught from a Christian worldview by Christian teachers. The term discipleship means that students admitted to Westminster will be from Christian homes. Westminster will support (not take the place of) the parents' role in discipling students in their walks with Christ.

Special Announcements

Email: In order to communicate more efficiently with Westminster families, we require that you provide us with your email address. We will be sending the newsletter throughout the summer. The President of the Board may use the email list throughout the new school year to inform WA families about the latest developments. We may solicit your opinion on important issues. It is essential that you check your email and FACTS daily.

Parental Role

Because Westminster classes meet only two to three times per week, and Westminster is a parent-managed educational model, parents are expected to play a major role in the educational process. We have listed a description of parental expectations with each course. Parental expectations are divided into three categories according to the age of the child:

- Private Tutor - 3rd through 6th grade students taking academic classes. Teachers will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is the parent's role to set up a time management schedule with the child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. In addition, some of the tests for these classes will be taken at home under parent supervision. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.
- Educational Supervisor - 7th through 10th grade students. Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor, which means setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.
- Educational Counselor - 11th and 12th grade students. Courses offered by WA at this level will mimic that of a Junior College program where independent study skills and disciplined planning for completing homework assignments are necessary. Parents are expected to be available for guidance when questions arise, but the responsibility for time management, preparation for class and academic success falls on the student.

FAQs

Is Westminster Academy a full-time school?

No. Our students attend some classes on Monday/Wednesday and some on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday. Elective classes may be offered on any of those three days. The students gain experience with the same kind of in-class schedule and out-of-class study pattern they will find in college. This schedule allows students to spend less time in class and more purposeful time at home.

Do I still need to register my student as a homeschooler with my county?

Yes. You would file a “Notice of Intent to Provide Home Instruction” with your county or city of residence. For further information on how to complete the form, please contact our Director.

Does Westminster Academy produce transcripts?

Yes. We will give students a transcript for all grades earned at Westminster Academy.

Does WA offer standardized testing required by the state?

No. Parents must make their own arrangements for end of year testing.

Does WA offer private tutoring?

At their discretion and based on availability, some teachers offer private tutoring to registered students at our primary site, West End Assembly of God.

Guide to Academic Work and Documentation

Is there a uniform grading scale at Westminster?

Westminster’s grading scale is as follows:

A 90-100% 4.0

B 80-89% 3.0

C 70-79% 2.0

D 60-69% 1.0

Anything below 60 is considered Failing

How should I document my child’s work?

- Westminster Academy will post a quarterly report card every eight weeks documenting course work, credit, and grades on FACTS.
- Keep your own transcript of your child’s course work, time spent, grades, etc. Keep letters and portfolios as a back-up for your transcript. If you need a transcript of Westminster classes, contact our Registrar, Betsy Logan, betsy.logan@westminsteracad.org

What is a high school unit of credit?

A high school credit refers to the successful completion of a course or, if ambiguous, approximately 4 hours per week for 36 weeks, which equals approximately 150 hours per year. Westminster’s full-year classes issue 1 credit hour per class and our one-semester electives count as 0.5 credit hours.

What credits should my child have upon completion of high school?

Standard Diploma Requirements in Virginia:

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of lab science (usually Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology)
- 3 credits of history (usually including U.S. History and U.S. Government/Econ dual credit)
- 3 credits of math (Algebra 1, Geometry or Algebra 2)
- 2 credit of health & physical education
- 2 credit of world language, fine or performing arts
- 1 credit of economics and personal finance
- 4 credits in elective courses

This is only a guide. Check with your college of choice to see what their requirements are. As a parent, it is up to you to set appropriate educational goals for your child.

Advanced Studies Diploma Course Recommendations:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of lab science (usually Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology)
- 4 credits of history (usually including U.S. History and U.S. Government/Econ dual credit)
- 4 credits of math (Algebra 1, Geometry or Algebra 2)
- 2 credit of health & physical education
- 3 credit of world language
- 1 credit of fine arts or career/technical ed
- 1 credit of economics and personal finance
- 3 credits in elective courses

What other resources, in addition to Westminster Academy and my own home instruction, might help me satisfy these expectations?

You may want to investigate:

- Advanced Placement supplements
- Community colleges
- CLEP
- Online courses

When should my child take Scholastic Achievement Tests (SAT) or American College Testing (ACT)?

The PSAT can be taken through your county school system in the sophomore and junior years. The SAT can be scheduled starting mid way through the junior year, and then repeated as often as desired, by signing up at the College Board website. If a student prefers to take the ACT or CLT standardized tests, each can be accessed at their own websites.

What sort of SAT scores does my child need?

In an ever-changing world, there are no hard and fast rules for what is a “good” score. Schools report their “average” scores, but those scores are averaged from the students who report them. Parents ought to investigate and not be intimidated by the reported averages. A good resource for parents and teenagers considering college admission is the High School & College panel discussion that Westminster offers in the fall.

World Language

American Sign Language 1

Anne Marie Kegley
8th grade and above
Meets Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
Class size: 8-12
Course fee for the year: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Course Description: American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual-spatial language used by the majority of Deaf persons in the United States and Canada. It is a complete language with its own structure, grammatical rules, and semantic expressions. ASL 1 introduces students to the ASL language and its culture. Emphasis is placed on developing basic expressive (signing) and receptive (visual listening) language skills. Students will learn vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers, basic ASL grammar, and cultural information related to the Deaf community. Students will need to practice the language regularly outside of class. They will also need reliable access to the internet.

Skills Needed: Willingness to participate in silent signed activities and ability to pay attention visually.

Materials: *Master ASL! Level One* Package, (only one set per family) which includes:

1. *Master ASL! Level One* red textbook (ISBN 1-881133-20-6)
2. *Master ASL! Fingerspelling, Numbers, and Glossing* blue paperback workbook (ISBN 978-1-881133-21-6)
3. *Master ASL! Level One* DVD (physical DVD or online access)

Copy Fee: \$20

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor – setting up a study schedule with their child and checking that assignments are completed. Parents ensure that their child comes prepared for class.

American Sign Language 2

Anne Marie Kegley
9th grade and above
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-12

Course fee for the year: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: “B” or higher in ASL 1 or teacher recommendation

Course Description: ASL 2 further develops expressive (signing) and receptive (visual listening) language skills. It continues the study of ASL vocabulary, numbering systems, grammar, and Deaf culture. Reliable internet access is needed for students to both watch videos of Deaf signers and turn in their own videos of short narratives which they prepare and sign

Skills Needed: Willingness to participate in silent signed activities and ability to pay attention visually.

Materials: Purchase a one-inch binder to hold the package of lessons which will be provided by the teacher. Students will borrow from the teacher and then return the required two books.

Lessons: *ASL 2: The Language and Community* by Christy Conquy

Books: *Don't Just Sign...Communicate! A Student's Guide to ASL & the Deaf Community* by Michelle Jay

Don't Just Sign...Communicate! A Student's Guide to Mastering ASL Grammar by Michelle Jay

Copy Fee: \$40 (includes the Lesson package by Conquy)

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor – setting up a study schedule with their child and checking that assignments are completed. Parents ensure that their child comes prepared for class.

Spanish 1

TBD

8th grade and above

Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Class size 6-15

Course fee for the year: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Strong English grammar background.

Course Description: Spanish 1 is a high school course in which students will learn the foundations of the Spanish language. There is a heavy emphasis on grammar including subject pronouns, adjective agreement, gender, the present tense, and verb conjugation. Students will also learn a variety of vocabulary words in contextual situations. Students will be required to work several hours a week outside of class in order to master these concepts, which form the foundation for future language study. Students will need access to the internet to utilize the technology component of the course.

Skills Needed: A clear understanding of basic English grammar, especially parts of speech, good auditory skills for listening comprehension in the target language as well as mimicking correct pronunciation, ability to memorize new vocabulary, willingness to speak the target language, openness

to learning new ways of sentence structure that are different from English, and strong spelling ability are required.

Materials: Holt McDougal ¡Avancemos! Uno (ISBN10:0-618-59406X or ISBN-13:978-0-618-59406-1), Cuaderno Workbook level 1 (ISBN10:0-618-76593-X or ISBN-13:978-0-618-76593-5)

Copy and Materials Fee: \$20

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child and checking that assignments are completed. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Spanish 2

TBD

8th grade and above

Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Class size: 6-15

Course fee for the year: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Please see “Placement Testing” on page 9. Students must have at least a 75% in Spanish 1 or they cannot advance without teacher permission.

Course Description: Spanish 2 is a high school course in which students will build on the language basics they mastered in Level 1. The course starts with a short review of Level 1 and then jumps right to new concepts. Level 2 is very fast-paced and includes advanced verb tenses and grammatical concepts. A variety of vocabulary is taught in contextual situations. Students will be required to work several hours a week outside of class in order to advance in their language study. Students will need access to the internet to utilize the technology component of the course.

Skills Needed: A clear understanding of basic English grammar, especially parts of speech, good auditory skills for listening comprehension in the target language as well as mimicking correct pronunciation, ability to memorize new vocabulary, willingness to speak the target language, openness to learning new ways of sentence structure that are different from English, and strong spelling ability are required.

Materials: ¡Avancemos! Dos (ISBN-13:978-0-554-02532-2 or ISBN10:0-554-02532-9), Cuaderno Workbook level 2 (ISBN-10:0-618-76594-8 or ISBN-13:978-0-618-76594-2)

Copy and Materials Fee: \$20

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor in setting up a study schedule with their child, checking that assignments are completed,

and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility of ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Spanish 3

TBD

9th grade and above

Meets Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Class size: 6-15

Course fee for the year: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Please see “Placement Testing” on page 9. "B" or higher in Spanish 2 or teacher recommendation.

Course Description: Spanish 3 is an advanced study of the language. Students will learn complex verb tenses and sentence structure. Students will be expected to express themselves in Spanish not only in their writing but also verbally. The class is fast-paced and requires several hours a week of preparation outside of class to be successful. Special focus will be placed on the practical application of Spanish in conversation and culture. To boost confidence in speaking, a variety of sources will be used, including games, songs, poetry, a short novel, and other comprehensible input.

Skills Needed: A clear understanding of basic English grammar, especially parts of speech, good auditory skills for listening comprehension in the target language as well as mimicking correct pronunciation, ability to memorize new vocabulary, willingness to speak the target language, openness to learning new ways of sentence structure that are different from English, and strong spelling ability are required.

Materials: ¡Avancemos! Level 3 (ISBN: 9780547871929), Cuaderno Level 3 (Student Workbook (ISBN-9780618782208)

Copy and Materials Fee: \$20

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor in setting up a study schedule with their child, checking that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility of ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

History

Elementary School Level

History classes for the 3rd - 5th grader at Westminster lay a wonderful foundation for understanding history in a hands-on, fun way. When students begin a formal study of history in middle school, it will give them a base knowledge to pull from when required both to use facts and exercise critical thinking skills. In elementary school, students will go through a four-year rotation studying Ancient Civilizations, Middle Ages-Renaissance-Reformation, Early Modern American History and Modern History in successive years.

All parents of students in elementary grades are considered private tutors; teachers will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is the parent's role to set up a time management schedule with the child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. In addition, some of the tests for these classes will be taken at home under parent supervision. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Elementary History 3 & 4

Shauna Olson
3rd-4th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Course Fee: \$555.00
Topic: Early Modern Times

Course Description:

As described on WellTrainedMind.com, "Early Modern Times (1600-1850) – History is a story; isn't it time you read it that way? This engaging guide presents world history in a narrative format. Who was the Sun King? How did samurai become sumo wrestlers? What was the Black Hole of Calcutta? And why was a California town named GroundHog Glory? Susan Wise Bauer leads you on a fascinating journey through the cultures, conflicts, and ideas that continue to shape our world."

Now is your chance to come on board for a year of historical exploration! Join us for adventures around the world as we take ourselves back in time to experience world events of the early modern times. This class will be fast paced and fun as we march through this fascinating time period.

Materials:

The Story of the World, Volume 3: Early Modern Times REVISED EDITION by Susan Wise Bauer
The Story of the World Activity Book, Volume 3: Early Modern Times REVISED EDITION by Susan Wise Bauer

Two 1.5 inch 3-ring binders, colored pencils, pencils, sheet protectors, loose leaf paper

Prerequisite: Children wanting to take this class need to be able to:

- Sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers
- Follow at least a 3-step instruction, i.e. stand up, go to your desk and take out your green binder
- Read and write on grade appropriate level as determined by a standardized test

Activity & Copy Fee: \$45

Expectations: Homework will take from 1-3 hours each week, depending on your child's work style and homework choices, and will consist of reading, writing, map work, and project-based activities.

Parental Role: Private Tutor–Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents will check Facts for information about assignments. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is the parent's role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Elementary History 5

Shauna Olson

5th grade

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Course Fee: \$555.00

Topic: Early Modern Times

Although similar to History ¾, this class will not only dig more deeply into the facts but also include longer written requirements, map quizzes, and testing.

Course Description:

As described on WellTrainedMind.com, "Early Modern Times (1600-1850) – History is a story; isn't it time you read it that way? This engaging guide presents world history in a narrative format. Who was the Sun King? How did samurai become sumo wrestlers? What was the Black Hole of Calcutta? And why was a California town named GroundHog Glory? Susan Wise Bauer leads you on a fascinating journey through the cultures, conflicts, and ideas that continue to shape our world."

Now is your chance to come on board for a year of historical exploration! Join us for adventures around the world as we take ourselves back in time to experience world events of the early modern times. This class will be fast paced and fun as we march through this fascinating time period.

Materials:

The Story of the World, Volume 3: Early Modern Times REVISED EDITION by Susan Wise Bauer

The Story of the World Activity Book, Volume 3: Early Modern Times REVISED EDITION by Susan Wise Bauer

The Story of the World Test Book Volume 3: Early Modern Times by Susan Wise Bauer

Two 1.5 inch 3-ring binders, colored pencils, pencils, sheet protectors, loose leaf paper

Prerequisite: Children wanting to take this class need to be able to:

- Sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers
- Follow at least a 3-step instruction, i.e. stand up, go to your desk and take out your green binder
- Read and write on grade appropriate level as determined by a standardized test

Activity & Copy Fee: \$45

Expectations: Homework will take from 1-3 hours each week, depending on your child's work style and homework choices. Weekly assignments will consist of reading, writing, mapwork and project-based activities.

Parental Role: Private Tutor—Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents will check FACTS for information about assignments. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is the parent's role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Middle School Level

History classes for the 6th-8th grader at Westminster lay a wonderful foundation for understanding history in a hands-on, fun way. When students begin a formal study of history in high school, these classes will give them a base of knowledge from which to pull when required both to use facts and exercise critical thinking skills. In middle school, students will go through a four-year rotation studying Ancient Civilizations, Middle Ages, Early Modern, and Modern in successive years.

Middle School History 6

Rebekah DeRoco

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size 8-15

Course fee: \$555.00

Topic: The Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Growth of Nations

Course Description: This course will cover the world events between the years 1455-1707 A.D. The Age of Rebirth looks at the arts, exploration, and faith that flourished during the Renaissance. The Age of Reform examines the conflict, bloodshed, and heroism during the time of the Protestant Reformation, a time that reshaped the political and religious landscape of Europe. But we aren't just studying Europe! The Age of Reason looks into places like Europe, Japan, Russia, Australia and the North American colonies. This age looked to science and rationality to understand life and its mysteries...maybe we still do that today. The year will finish with the Age of Resolve, studying the determination of people like the Jews and Covenanters in the face of persecution. Persecution isn't the only sad storyline. Some people started looking for freedom, but some started to enslave others in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Political, social and religious movements tell us part of the story. But we also will study inspiring stories of people who used their talents and passions to make the world a better place. The class will incorporate geography, projects, activities, stories, and direct instruction to tie together this fascinating period of history.

Similar in content to the 7th and 8th grade history course, the 6th grade class will have age-adjusted expectations for assessments.

Skills Needed: In order to complete this curriculum in a year, students will be expected to complete homework activities. The students will be assigned reading, writing, and creative project activities. Students should have the use of a computer for research. The students will need to be able to sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers, follow 3-step instructions, complete homework, and take notes in class. Students should work on forming good note-taking and organizational habits as well as time-management skills.

Activity and Copy fee: \$25

Materials: *The Mystery of History, Vol. 3: The Renaissance, Reformation, and Growth of Nations* by Linda Lacour Hobar, 2008. (Hardback, Student Reader- not the Companion Guide) ISBN: 1892427087
ISBN-13: 978-1892427083

Parental Role: Private Tutor—The majority of communication between the teacher and the parents will be via email. The teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments via FACTS and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is the parent's role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each assignment.

Middle School History 7

Rebekah DeRoco

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size 8-15

Course fee: \$555.00

Topic: The Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Growth of Nations

Course Description: This course will cover the world events between the years 1455-1707 A.D. The Age of Rebirth looks at the arts, exploration, and faith that flourished during the Renaissance. The Age of Reform examines the conflict, bloodshed, and heroism during the time of the Protestant Reformation, a time that reshaped the political and religious landscape of Europe. But we aren't just studying Europe! The Age of Reason looks into places like Europe, Japan, Russia, Australia and the North American colonies. This age looked to science and rationality to understand life and its mysteries...maybe we still do that today. The year will finish with the Age of Resolve, studying the determination of people like the Jews and Covenanters in the face of persecution. Persecution isn't the only sad storyline. Some people started looking for freedom, but some started to enslave others in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Political, social and religious movements tell us part of the story. But we also will study inspiring stories of people who used their talents and passions to make the world a better place. The class will incorporate geography, projects, activities, stories, and direct instruction to tie together this fascinating period of history.

Similar in content to the 7th and 8th grade history course, the 6th grade class will have age-adjusted expectations for assessments.

Skills Needed: In order to complete this curriculum in a year, students will be expected to complete homework activities. The students will be assigned reading, writing, and creative project activities. Students should have the use of a computer for research. The students will need to be able to sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers, follow 3-step instructions, complete homework, and take notes in class. Students should work on forming good note-taking and organizational habits as well as time-management skills.

Activity and Copy fee: \$25

Materials: *The Mystery of History, Vol. 3: The Renaissance, Reformation, and Growth of Nations* by Linda Lacour Hobar, 2008. (Hardback, Student Reader- not the Companion Guide) ISBN: 1892427087
ISBN-13: 978-1892427083

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Middle School History 8

Rebekah DeRoco

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size 8-15

Course fee: \$555.00

Topic: The Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Growth of Nations

Course Description: This course will cover the world events between the years 1455-1707 A.D. The Age of Rebirth looks at the arts, exploration, and faith that flourished during the Renaissance. The Age of Reform examines the conflict, bloodshed, and heroism during the time of the Protestant Reformation, a time that reshaped the political and religious landscape of Europe. But we aren't just studying Europe! The Age of Reason looks into places like Europe, Japan, Russia, Australia and the North American colonies. This age looked to science and rationality to understand life and its mysteries...maybe we still do that today. The year will finish with the Age of Resolve, studying the determination of people like the Jews and Covenanters in the face of persecution. Persecution isn't the only sad storyline. Some people started looking for freedom, but some started to enslave others in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Political, social and religious movements tell us part of the story. But we also will study inspiring stories of people who used their talents and passions to make the world a better place. The class will incorporate geography, projects, activities, stories, and direct instruction to tie together this fascinating period of history.

Similar in content to the 7th and 8th grade history course, the 6th grade class will have age-adjusted expectations for assessments.

Skills Needed: In order to complete this curriculum in a year, students will be expected to complete homework activities. The students will be assigned reading, writing, and creative project activities. Students should have the use of a computer for research. The students will need to be able to sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers, follow 3-step instructions, complete homework, and take notes in class. Students should work on forming good note-taking and organizational habits as well as time-management skills.

Activity and Copy fee: \$25

Materials: *The Mystery of History, Vol. 3: The Renaissance, Reformation, and Growth of Nations* by Linda Lacour Hobar, 2008. (Hardback, Student Reader- not the Companion Guide) ISBN: 1892427087 ISBN-13: 978-1892427083

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

High School Level

Westminster offers a 2-year rotation to give parents the most flexibility when selecting English and history classes for their high school students. World History 1 (Creation through 1500s) and World History 2 (1600s through present), corresponding with World Literature, will alternate each year for 9th and 10th graders. Eleventh and 12th graders will take American History/American Literature alternating with Government and Economics/British Literature. Special permission will be needed to take the 11th and 12th grade history and English courses earlier than 11th and 12th grade.

High School History 9 & 10

Rick Trumbo
9th and 10th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday (just one hour)
Class size: 8-15
Course fee for the year: \$555.00
H.S. Credit: 1
Topic: World History, Geography, and Bible Part 1

Prerequisite: Students need to have a C+ or higher in History 8

Course Description: World History I is the first of a two-year course. It is acceptable to take this first year independent of the second year of Modern World History.

In this year-long course, students will learn the cultures, personages, and significant events from Creation through 1600 AD. Included in our study will be Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Greece, Rome, Byzantium, Russia, India, and China. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, and Tudor Dynasty. Students will gain a deeper understanding of Christianity through the study of Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. They will also explore how the Early Church emerged amidst Roman persecution and the effect of that persecution on the history of the world. Major world religions, with emphasis on Islam, will be scrutinized, including their impact on the world today. We will determine what constitutes "greatness" in leaders of the past such as Abraham, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Constantine, Genghis Khan, John Wycliffe, Martin Luther among others. We will not only examine how God prepared the world for the Protestant Reformation but also recognize the significance of this remarkable period for today's church.

Skills Needed: Students must be committed to reading and annotating the textbook, since their self-study is vital to success in this class. Additionally, students must be able to process lectures, take detailed notes, think analytically, read and comprehend at grade-level, contribute meaningfully to class conversation, and write well-crafted paragraphs and essays. Students are expected to meet deadlines promptly and take tests independently within an allotted time frame. Each student will be required to research and prepare essays as well as oral presentations.

Materials: *World History*, Student Text, 5th Edition, ISBN 978-1-62856-344-3
(You do NOT need the Student Activities book.) This text is used for both years of World History.

Copy Fee: \$10

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while providing additional guidance if needed. At home discussion of the source materials as well as current events is also strongly encouraged. The student will have the responsibility of managing their time wisely and preparing for class.

High School History 11 & 12

Government & Economics

Erin Bouknight

11th – 12th grades

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Course fee: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Students need to have a C or higher in History 9/10

Course Description: Students will explore our nation's government system and take a look at how economics works on both an individual and national scale. In the first semester, students will learn various global government systems, the three-branch structure of the US government, political parties, and civic duties, among other topics. We will analyze the government through a Christian worldview, seeing how God's sovereignty has impacted the American people over the course of its existence and

what our role as Christians should be in the existing reality of the nation. In the second semester, our study of economics will include a comparative analysis of economic systems and on a micro-level, take into consideration God's desire for us to be good stewards of the resources He gives us. We will also see how economics have changed over the course of America's existence and investigate why that is. We will use primary documents, class discussion, research, and current events to form a deep and nuanced understanding of our government and economics.

Materials: American Government Student Text, 3rd edition BJU Press ISBN: 978-1-60682-194-7
For Economics, students will receive a Sourcebook from me with all the documents and readings necessary for our study of economics. It is also imperative that they have access to the internet, as we will look at current events and visit resource pages to help us along the way.

Skills Needed: The student should be comfortable listening to lectures and taking notes independently; organizational skills are essential for recalling information for tests; the ability to internalize readings and to stay on top of deadlines is also essential.

Copy fee: \$40

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children, while providing additional guidance if needed. The student will have the responsibility of managing their time wisely and preparing for class.

American History 11/12 will be offered during the 2025/2026 School Year

Literature and Writing

Westminster Academy Writing Approach

Language and the ability to communicate are awesome gifts from our Creator. As our understanding grows, so should our ability to communicate with one another. This includes hearing and understanding what others have said through literature as well as speaking and writing so others can understand us.

Westminster Academy has chosen the writing materials from the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) to provide the structure for our instruction. Beginning in 6th grade, students will write both narrative and expository compositions with the goal of learning how to organize their ideas, add variety to sentences, and use an expressive vocabulary. Proofreading and analyzing one's own work will be an important part of learning to write well.

At the high school level, the focus of writing will be more on research and analytical writing. High school students should already be able to write an essay that is free from sentence fragments or run-ons. Proofreading and revising should be a habit for the college-bound high schooler. The research requirements will increase as will the frequency of writing assignments. In the context of literature studies, students will be encouraged to develop a strong Christian worldview, recognize and critique

other worldviews, and improve their ability to articulate a coherent and persuasive Christian response to the many great themes in literature.

These are the goals of each grade level:

| | Paper Length | Skill Type of Writing | Outlining/ Note Taking |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 3 rd – 4 th | 1 paragraph (5-7 sentences) | Intro sentence, conclusion sentence Creative and/or factual paragraph | History facts |
| 5 th | 1-3 paragraphs | Intro sentence, character traits, setting, detail problem and solution, conclusion sentence. Identify and use key words to summarize. Documentation (bibliography) and avoiding plagiarism. Narrative, research, creative, book report & more. | Key word (outline), Summarizing |
| 6 th | 1-5 paragraphs | Topic sentences, clinchers, sentence starters, thesis statements, understanding documentation, and avoiding plagiarism. One-or-two paragraph papers based on novels, (character, theme). Four-paragraph research paper, one paragraph descriptive paper, and possibly narrative. | Key word outline, some note taking |
| 7 th – 8 th | 5 paragraphs; 2-3 pages | Thesis statement, cohesion and depth, proofing, editing and drafting, citing, understanding documentation and avoiding plagiarism, using transitions and sentence variation, MLA documentation. Literature and history based limited research with sources. Persuasive, informative, compare or contrast, test essays. | Keyword outline, regular outlines and guided note taking |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 9 th – 10 th | 5 paragraphs; 4-6 pages | <p>Research process, extracting information from sources, developing an argument and supporting it with research, introductions and conclusions, transitions.</p> <p>Academic voice and style, peer review, revision, MLA documentation (citing and formatting), avoiding plagiarism.</p> <p>Descriptive, informative, compare and contrast, persuasive essays, essays on tests, research paper.</p> | Take notes from reading and lecture, formal outlining |
| 11 th –12 th | More than 5 paragraphs; 7 pages or more | <p>Proofread and edit effectively, peer review, revision, research various sources, track multiple ideas in the context of one essay, respond to an advanced writing prompt.</p> <p>Develop and clearly articulate or support arguments, identify writing situations and plan writing accordingly, organize ideas swiftly, annotate properly, MLA documentation, nuances of Academic Integrity.</p> <p>Researched argument essay, textual analysis writing assignments, annotated bibliography, timed essay exam.</p> | Should be able to take notes from lecture, grasp main ideas and appropriate subordinating points, outlining |

Literature and Writing Courses

Prerequisite: All students new to Westminster or new to a Westminster English class who desire to enter 7th grade or higher English classes must be tested in writing, grammar, and punctuation skills to demonstrate proficiency.

Every year in the spring, students in our Literature and Writing classes will be tested in grammar to determine whether they will be able to continue on in these classes to the next level.

Since class time at Westminster is limited, students are advised to consult the “Summer Reading List” on FACTS and to read extensively from that list in order to have the broadest possible exposure to the standard classics for a college prep education.

Literature 3/4

Shauna Olson
3rd & 4th Grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Course Fee: \$555.00

Course Description: Through the year in literature we will meet a young Native woman who completes one of the most extraordinary expeditions in American history. We will also become acquainted with a few new fictional friends: a flying boy who never wants to grow up, “a tiny mouse with exceptionally large ears”, and a mistreated orphan boy named Oliver. As we immerse ourselves in early modern times, we will delve into some timeless classics found in several fairytales bound in *Faerie Gold*. Join us this year for the wonderful experience of literature based studies!

Materials:

- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
 - *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens adapted by Kathleen Olmstead
 - *Peter Pan* by JM Barrie adapted by Tania Zamorsky
 - *Who Was Sacagawea?* by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin
 - *Faerie Gold* by Ranelda Mack Hunsicker
 - *The NLT Study Bible* or similar study Bible with commentary (strongly recommended)
- Students also need one 1.5” 3-ring binder, page protectors, loose leaf paper, pencils, pencil pouch, colored pencils, 5 plastic tabbed dividers with pockets

Prerequisite: Children wanting to take this class need to be able to:

- Sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers
- Follow at least a 3-step instruction, i.e. stand up, go to your desk and take out your green binder
- Reading and writing skills must be grade appropriate as determined by a standardized test

Activity & Copy Fee: \$45

Expectations: Homework will take from 1-3 hours each week and will consist of vocabulary, journaling, reading, and writing assignments and project-based activities.

Parental Role: Private Tutor—Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents will check Facts for information about assignments. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child’s next class. It is the parent’s role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each required reading assignment. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Writing / Literature 5

Shauna Olson
5th Grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Course Fee: \$555.00

Course Description: Through the year in literature we will meet a young Native woman who completes one of the most extraordinary expeditions in American history. We will also become acquainted with a few new fictional friends: a flying boy who never wants to grow up, “a tiny mouse with exceptionally large ears”, and a mistreated orphan boy named Oliver. As we immerse ourselves in early modern times, we will delve into some timeless classics found in several fairytales bound in *Faerie Gold*. Join us this year for the wonderful experience of literature based studies!

Materials:

- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
 - *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens adapted by Kathleen Olmstead
 - *Peter Pan* by JM Barrie adapted by Tania Zamorsky
 - *Who Was Sacagawea?* by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin
 - *Faerie Gold* by Ranelda Mack Hunsicker
 - *The NLT Study Bible* or similar study Bible with commentary (strongly recommended)
- Students also need one 1.5” 3-ring binder, page protectors, loose leaf paper, pencils, pencil pouch, colored pencils, 5 plastic tabbed dividers with pockets

Prerequisite: Children wanting to take this class need to be able to:

- Sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers
- Follow at least a 3-step instruction, i.e. stand up, go to your desk and take out your green binder
- Read and write with grade-appropriate skills as determined by a standardized test

Activity & Copy Fee: \$45

Expectations: Homework will take from 1-3 hours each week and will consist of vocabulary, journaling, reading, and writing assignments and project-based activities.

Parental Role: Private Tutor—Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents will check Facts for information about assignments. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child’s next class. It is the parent’s role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Writing / Literature 6

Renee Boswell

6th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesdays
Class size: 8-16
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: The writing portion of this class closely follows the Institute for Excellence in Writing: Teaching Structure and Style. It is a wonderful way to help sixth graders organize their thoughts and begin to prepare for upper-level research papers. The class will cover how to break a subject into paragraphs and how to organize a paper by topic. Students will learn how to write a solid paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a closer. Then we will put paragraphs together and write multi-paragraph essays on several topics. For literature, we will look at various forms of poetry and read three novels. There will be unit tests on the novels as well as literary terms. Grammar will be taught as needed in this class. There will be a grammar test given in the Spring and a passing grade is needed to advance to 7th grade English classes.

Possible Literature may include: *Blood on the River*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* and *TBD*

Copy and Materials Fee: \$20.00

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for the successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class. **It is strongly suggested that the student continue to study grammar outside of the classroom. For curriculum suggestions, please consult the Director.**

Grammar 5/6

Laura Pettigrew
5th-6th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: Parents, do you start your school year with the best intentions to include the study of English grammar, only to find that the carefully selected workbook you bought in June is still untouched by May? If so, then this class is for YOU! The study of English grammar has far-reaching benefits, including reading, writing, and speaking well. All instruction, practice, and assessment (quizzes and tests) will take place in class. This is a NO HOMEWORK course. We will start with the basic facts of grammar (parts of speech and sentence types) and gradually grow in skill and confidence as we learn to apply the rules of grammar correctly. We will also cover the proper use of punctuation and the rules of capitalization. Jingles (for easy memorization), sentence diagrams, easy reference charts, and games will help solidify the content in a fun, supportive environment. We will also spend

time preparing for the Westminster grammar placement test which is administered in the spring. Please note that this course is not a replacement for Westminster Academy English courses.

Skills Needed: Students must be able to sit and pay attention for the duration of class. Class work and assessments require handwriting. Though this is a no homework class, students may need to practice or study skills learned in class to prepare for quizzes and tests.

Materials: The teacher will provide students with handouts, tests, and worksheets, drawing from a variety of grammar sources, including *Easy Grammar* and *Our Mother Tongue*.

Parental Role: Parents are encouraged to assist students with organizing their handouts and looking in their notebooks and checking grades on FACTS to monitor student progress. A parent/tutor may need to help a student study for quizzes or tests.

Copy fee: \$30

Literature and Writing 7

Jessica Pilson

7th grade

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size: 8-15

Course fee: \$795.00

Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on WA's placement test. The grammar portion will require mastery of the following: capitalization, periods, question marks, quotation marks, commas, apostrophes, colons, simple subject, verb, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and fragments/sentences. Also, they should have received an 85 or above in Writing 6.

Course Description: The goal of Middle School Literature and Writing 7 is to encourage the students to look analytically at literature, to explore it from a Biblical worldview, and to learn to communicate their thoughts effectively in writing and orally. The literature will include a combination of books, short stories, a play, and poetry. The short stories will be used to enhance the students' reading skills thus making them more able to read larger works. The students will work on some literary analysis with the short stories and poetry. The students will also do some projects and speeches throughout the year. Although other forms of writing are incorporated, class writing will focus mainly on the mastery of paragraph writing. They will write two five-paragraph persuasive essays by the end of the year and possibly some small narratives and poetry. The students will also learn the basics of research. The students will need to keep a journal for the reading in which they will write a short summary of the reading and an analytical response to it. The vocabulary will be taken from the literature. The grammar will be generated from the writing, and we will also do a warm-up each day that will include editing, sentence combinations, and comma usage. Because this is a three-hour class, there is a rigorous workload at all times.

Skills Needed: Ability to process auditory information, read board, take notes, think analytically, read close to grade level, write coherent sentences and paragraphs, identify parts of speech, take tests in allotted time frame.

Possible Literature: *The Book of Virtues* (poetry/short stories), *Johnny Tremain*, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Blood on the River*, a biography of choice of person from specific time period, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (purchased by teacher). Note: these books are subject to change.

Copy Fee: \$25

Parent Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class. **It is strongly suggested that the student continue to study grammar outside of the classroom. For curriculum suggestions, please consult the Director.**

Literature and Writing 8

Jessica Pilson
8th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$795.00

Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on WA's placement test. The grammar test will cover the following areas (which are minimal expectations for this grade level): capitalization, periods, question marks, quotation marks, commas, apostrophes, colons, simple subject, verb, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and fragments/sentences. Also, they should have received an 85 or above in English 7.

Course Description: The goal of Middle School Literature and Writing 8 is to encourage the students to look analytically at literature, to explore it from a Biblical worldview and to learn to communicate their thoughts effectively in writing and orally. The literature will include a combination of books, short stories, a play, and poetry. The short stories will be used to enhance the students' reading skills thus making them more able to read larger works. The students will work on some literary analysis with the short stories and poetry. The students will also do some projects and speeches throughout the year. The students will write paragraphs to demonstrate mastery of the skill; however, the focus will be on larger pieces of writing. The paragraph will be used as a stepping stone to the larger pieces. The students will write two five-paragraph persuasive essays and possibly some short narratives and poetry by the end of the year. The students will also learn how to do a basic research paper. The students will need to keep a journal for the reading in which they will write a short summary of the reading and an analytical response to it. The vocabulary will be taken from the literature. The grammar will be generated

from the writing, and we will also do a warm-up each day that will include editing, sentence combinations, and comma usage. Because this is a three-hour class, there is a rigorous workload at all times.

Skills Needed: Ability to process auditory information, read board, take notes, think analytically, read close to grade level, write coherent sentences and paragraphs, identify parts of speech, take tests in allotted time frame.

Possible Literature: *The Book of Virtues* (poetry/short stories), *Johnny Tremain*, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Blood on the River*, a biography of choice of person from specific time period, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (purchased by teacher). Note: these books are subject to change.

Copy Fee: \$25

Parent Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class. **It is strongly suggested that the student continue to study grammar outside of the classroom. For curriculum suggestions, please consult the Director.**

Grammar 7/8

Laura Pettigrew
7th-8th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: Parents, do you start your school year with the best intentions to include the study of English grammar, only to find that the carefully selected workbook you bought in June is still untouched by May? If so, then this class is for YOU! The study of English grammar has far-reaching benefits, including reading, writing, and speaking well. All instruction, practice, and assessment (quizzes and tests) will take place in class. This is a NO HOMEWORK course. We will start with the basic facts of grammar (parts of speech and sentence types) and gradually grow in skill and confidence as we learn to apply the rules of grammar correctly. We will also cover the proper use of punctuation and the rules of capitalization. This class moves at a faster pace than Grammar 5/6 and covers more material. Jingles (for easy memorization), sentence diagrams, easy reference charts, and games will help solidify the content in a fun, supportive environment. We will also spend time to prepare for the Westminster grammar placement test which is administered in the spring. Please note that this course is not a replacement for Westminster Academy English courses.

Skills Needed: Students must be able to sit and pay attention for the duration of class. Class work and assessments require handwriting. Though this is a no homework class, students may need to practice or study skills learned in class to prepare for quizzes and tests.

Materials: The teacher will provide students with handouts, tests, and worksheets, drawing from a variety of grammar sources, including *Our Mother Tongue*.

Parental Role: Parents are encouraged to assist students with organizing their handouts and looking in their notebooks and checking grades on FACTS to monitor student progress. A parent/tutor may need to help a student study for quizzes or tests.

Copy fee: \$30

Journalism Elective

Jessica Pilson
8th grade and above
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee for the year: \$555.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Course Description: The journalism class will work together to brainstorm, edit, compose, and print the school newspaper. Through lessons on journalism, style and writing, investigation into different types of print media, professional journalist speakers, and a possible field trip, the journalism students will deepen their understanding of the field of journalism. The students will also work on their own skill of communication through print media. The grades will be derived from quizzes, articles, and deadlines for articles. This class is available for eighth graders and above.

Skills Needed: The ability to take notes, work within deadlines, and write close to grade-level are required.

Copy Fee: \$25

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class, and academic success falls on the student.

Literature and Writing 9 & 10 - World Literature—Part I

Jessica Wade
9th-10th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee for the year: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Students must pass English 8 with a “B” or higher, in addition to passing the Westminster placement test for grammar and writing. The areas covered (which are minimal expectations for this grade level) are capitalization, comma and semicolon use, pronoun/antecedent agreement, subject/verb agreement, sentence types, parts of speech, and title punctuation. Students will be required to write a brief essay which will be evaluated for organization, development, and correct structure.

Course Description: Literature in this course will include a combination of plays, mythology, and poetry. We will analyze and explore literature from a Biblical worldview and will incorporate the study of important literary elements such as themes, characterization, symbolism, and imagery. Literature terms will be taken directly from the readings. The writing component of this course will emphasize the IEW writing methods and will also include a research paper in the second semester. Selections may be altered or supplemented per the instructor's discretion.

Skills Needed: Ability to follow FACTS for homework due dates, process (and note-take) visual and auditory information, think analytically, read the required classic novels in the time required, highlight key words and take notes on assigned reading, write complex sentences, organize information into essay format, identify and understand grade level grammar (rules for punctuation, capitalization, formulating complex sentences, using verbals, using parts of speech), research from internet and print resources, take tests and write essays in allotted time frame, turn in homework on time, proactively plan for long-term assignments. **High school students should be able to keep up with short-term and long-term assignments without frequent parent and teacher supervision.**

Materials: Possible Literature: *The Odyssey*, *Antigone*, *Julius Caesar*, *Edith Hamilton's Mythology*, *Le Morte D'Arthur*, and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and various poetry

Copy Fee: \$20 to cover handouts and testing material

Parent Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class. Parents need to provide computer and internet access, as well as access to the public library. **It is strongly suggested that the student continue to study grammar outside of the classroom. For curriculum suggestions, please consult the Director.**

Advanced Literature and Writing 9 & 10- World Literature—Part I

Lindsey Corter
9th-10th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee for the year: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Current Westminster students can gain admittance into this accelerated paced class by teacher recommendation only. New Westminster students must take a placement test prior to entry that will demonstrate a strong grammar background and an ability to keep up with a fast-paced literature and writing curriculum. Included in this placement test are minimal grammar requirements which include capitalization, comma and semicolon use, pronoun/antecedent agreement, subject/verb agreement, sentence types, parts of speech, and title punctuation. Students will be required to write a brief essay which will be evaluated for organization, development, and correct structure.

Course Description: This course explores works of ancient and medieval literature, considering them as works of art that reveal societies of the past, shape culture and literature in the present, and engage with universal questions about worldview, faith, and human nature. The primary aim of the course is to help students grow in both literary analysis and effective communication. To meet this aim, the course relies heavily on discussion, in addition to tools like presentations and assessments, to help make students comfortable crystallizing and articulating their views. Students will also sharpen writing skills, first by examining the methods of other writers, and second through practice. They will write several different types of essays and sharpen skills of organization & development, advanced academic style & syntax, MLA formatting, revision, and peer feedback.

Book List: *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (excerpts), *Julius Caesar* by Shakespeare, *The Odyssey* by Homer, *Antigone* by Sophocles, *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (selections), *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory (excerpts), *The Adventures of Robin Hood* by Roger Lancelyn Green (excerpts), and various poems.

Copy Fee: \$50

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class. Parents need to provide computer and internet access, as well as access to the public library. **It is strongly suggested that the student continue to study grammar outside of the classroom. For curriculum suggestions, please consult the Director.**

Literature and Writing 11 & 12- British Literature

Vicki Pallo
Meets Monday and Wednesday 2:30-4:00 pm
Class size: 15+
Course fee: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Students new to Westminster must pass the placement test for grammar and writing. Returning students must pass the placement test for grammar and writing, and achieve an 80% or higher in Literature/Writing 9/10.

Course description: In this class, students will explore British literature from its origin into the 21st century. By examining the different literary periods as well as various genres, we will analyze and explore the periods of British Literature from a Biblical worldview. Readings will include longer fiction and non-fiction works and plays, along with poetry, short stories, and essays provided by the instructor. We will study important literary elements such as themes, characterization, symbolism, and imagery, and develop analytical thinking, reading and communication skills. Students will write a term paper in the spring.

Optional AP Supplement: For an additional fee, students can opt to add an AP supplement to their American literature course. This would include one or two meetings per month to discuss/review needed skills, do practice activities, and set goals for the year to help prepare for the AP language or literature exams. Purchase of a designated AP practice book also required. Students must be registered in British Literature to be eligible for this option. If interested, contact Mrs. Pallo at vicki.pallo@westminsteracad.org for more information.

Goals: British Literature provides students a launching point for understanding British culture from the 17th to the 21st centuries and examining how this culture has helped shape thinking in the Western world, especially in the areas of science, the arts, history, and faith. Students will be guided through annotating literature and analyzing literary forms, themes and perspectives while reading samples of great British writers such as Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Hopkins, Rosetti, Lewis, Keats, Blake and others.

Skills Needed: Ability to follow FACTS and Google Classroom for homework assignments and due dates. Students must be able to read literature in the allotted time, use complex sentences and paragraphs, organize thoughts into correct essay format, research from internet and print resources without plagiarizing, and proactively plan for long-term assignments and make-up work.

Possible Texts:

- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
- *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- Sourcebook of British literature supplied by the teacher

Fees: \$55 to cover handouts, testing, and sourcebook

Summer Reading Assignment: The instructor will email students in June with their summer reading assignment.

Mathematics

Math Concepts 1

Courtney Breedlove
5th grade and above
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-12
Course fee: \$555.00

Prerequisite: Satisfactory achievement on Math Placement Test

Course Description: This is an upper elementary school math course which introduces alternate methods for students' amenable access to the fundamental concepts of math. The fundamentals of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing will be reviewed. Number sense, theory, graphing, and operations are taught from a student-centered perspective. Students must have internet and web access to email for personal tutoring and homework help outside of class. We do not drill math facts in class. It is the responsibility of the parents to make sure these are being practiced at home.

Skills Needed: Students must quickly recall basic operational facts with the understanding of order and the number line. Recognition of simple geometric and spatial figures and directional sense are also required.

Materials: *BJU Press Math Grade 5 Worktext (4th Edition)* ISBN: 978-1-62856-655-0; Any Times Table or Drill Book of your choice

Copy Fee: \$30

Parental Role: Private Tutor—Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is essential that you, as the parent, work with your student at home weekly on the multiplication facts as well as review addition and subtraction facts to ensure success in this class. Because each child is at a different level, it is your responsibility to continue this at home.

Math Concepts 2

Courtney Breedlove
6th grade and above (advanced 5th grade)
Meets Monday/Wednesday/Thursday
Class size: 8-12
Course fee: \$795.00

Prerequisite: Satisfactory achievement on Math Placement Test or Math Concepts I Teacher recommendation. The text is designated as 6th grade.

Course Description: Math Concepts 2 is a challenging middle school math course that emphasizes thinking mathematically rather than pure manipulation of numbers. The fundamentals of adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, fractions, decimals, ratios, and rate are reviewed and intensified with an emphasis on understanding and problem solving. Basic geometry involving lines, angles, area, perimeter, and volume is taught with preparation for high school Geometry in mind. Powers and integers will be introduced to prepare for pre-algebra.

Skills Needed: Students must be able to quickly recall basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts in order to understand the advanced concepts. Students should be proficient in long division, multiplication, and place values in addition to having a basic understanding of fractions, decimals and multiplying and dividing by powers of 10.

Materials: *Fundamentals of Math 2nd Edition* Bob Jones ISBN: 978-1-62856-072-5 (*this book is not consumable, and if you buy it used you need to make sure it was not written in!*)

Copy Fee: \$30

Parental Role: Private Tutor—Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. In order for us to use class time effectively, I will also ask parents to check their child's homework at home with answers I will provide. This allows us to make the most of our limited instruction time.

Pre-Algebra

Michelle Matsumoto
7th grade and above
Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$795.00

Prerequisite: New students who have not taken Math Concepts 2 at Westminster Academy will be required to take a placement test. Current students must have a "C" or above in Math Concepts 2 or teacher recommendation.

Course Description: Emphasizes math understanding. The shift from manipulating numbers to conceptual thinking continues from Math Concepts 2 and is expanded to basic algebra concepts. Decimals, fractions, ratios, graphs, percentages, number sense and geometry are reviewed and taught at a higher level. Probability, basic statistics, algebraic expressions, integers, patterns, functions, equation solving, and graphing lines are introduced. Word

problems and problem-solving in the topic areas are emphasized so that application of mathematical concepts occurs and higher learning takes place.

Skills Needed: Ability to review previously covered teaching independently. Students must be able to recall basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts automatically in order to understand the advanced concepts. Students also need an understanding of decimals and fractions.

Materials: Pre-Algebra, McDougal Littell, 2005 by Ron Larson ISBN-10: 0618250034 ISBN-13: 978-0618250035

Copy Fee: \$30

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and assisting with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class with assignments and materials and also maintaining an organized binder.

High School Mathematics

High school mathematics courses will be held three days per week in order to allow maximum teacher interaction and instruction.

Algebra 1

Michelle Matsumoto

8th grade

Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Class size: 8-15

Course fee: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: New students who have not taken Pre-Algebra at Westminster will be required to take a test for placement. Satisfactory achievement on the placement test, teacher recommendation, or a “B” or above in Pre-Algebra is required.

Course Description: Full-year course of Algebra 1. This includes evaluation of expressions, operations on polynomials, simplifying square and cube roots, solving single variable multi-step linear equations, quadratic equations and literal equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations in two variables, solving systems of equations algebraically and graphically, analyzing linear and quadratic functions, writing linear equations, factoring, Cartesian coordinate plane graphing, rational expressions and equations, statistics, and line of best fit.

Skills Needed: Ability to follow directions, maintain orderly notes, think analytically, and observe classroom behavior are required. As this is a high school math class, students should expect to be challenged. The ability to study math beyond the completion of assignments is vital for success.

Materials: Larson Algebra 1, Holt McDougal ISBN 13 is 9780547315157 (ISBN 10 is 0547315155). Graphing Calculator: TI-83 or TI-84

Copy Fee: \$30

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and assisting with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class with assignments and materials.

Geometry

Jill Smith
9th grade and above
Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Satisfactory achievement on the Westminster math placement test or a “B” or above in Algebra 1 is required. Students who have not taken Algebra 1 at Westminster must take the math placement test prior to acceptance into the class. Taking this course is strongly recommended for SAT prep. For strong math students, with teacher approval, Algebra 2 and Geometry may be taken concurrently.

Course Description: This course will use deductive reasoning to construct and judge the validity of a logical argument consisting of a set of premises and a conclusion; use relationships between angles formed by two lines intersected by a transversal; solve problems involving symmetry and transformation; construct and justify constructions; solve problems, including practical problems, given lengths or sides and/or measures of angles in triangles; will prove two triangles are congruent and/or similar; solve practical problems applying properties of circles, quadrilaterals, and polygons; apply concepts of similarity in two- or three- dimensional geometric figures; and solve practical problems to find surface area and volume of three-dimensional objects. Algebra review will be layered throughout the course. In addition, logical thinking skills and formal proofing are taught and will be utilized throughout the course.

Skills Needed: Students should expect to be challenged and participate in the course with a willingness to approach math in a different manner. Since this is a 36-week course taught in 32 weeks, students should expect a reasonable amount of homework outside of class and a swift

pace. The ability to study math beyond completion of assignments is vital for success. At the end of the year the students will have an excellent resource notebook for SAT prep.

Materials: McDougal Littell Geometry by Larson, Boswell, Kanold, and Stiff, ISBN 13: 978-0-618-59540-2; ISBN 10: 0-618-59540-6 (**PLEASE USE ISBN NUMBER WHEN PURCHASING BOOK**)

Copy Fee: \$35

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Algebra 2

Jill Smith
9th grade and above
Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Satisfactory achievement on the Westminster math placement test or a “B” or above in Algebra 1 is required. Students who have not taken Algebra 1 or Geometry at Westminster must take the math placement test prior to acceptance into the class. It is recommended that students take Geometry prior to Algebra 2, but not required. For strong math students, with teacher approval, Algebra 2 and Geometry may be taken concurrently.

Course Description: A graphing approach to Algebra 2 is utilized for the ease of transition to Pre-Calculus. This full-year course of Algebra 2 includes rational expressions, radical expressions, rational exponents, factoring, complex numbers, matrices, absolute value linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, solving linear-quadratic, and quadratic-quadratic equations algebraically and graphically, arithmetic and geometric sequences, polynomial expressions and functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, function families, and variation. Probability and basic statistics are also taught as preparation for the SAT.

Skills Needed: Basic factoring, graphing, and radical simplification need to be solid. Even if a student passes the placement test or is moving up from Geometry, these concepts should be reviewed before attending class. Since this is a 36-week course taught in 32 weeks, students should expect a reasonable amount of homework outside of class and a swift pace. The ability to study math beyond completion of assignments is vital for success.

Materials: Algebra 2, Larson, Boswell, Kanold and Stiff, McDougal Littell, ISBN 0618595414 or ISBN-13: 9780618595419, **Please use ISBN when purchasing book.** TI-83 Plus, TI-84 calculator required.

Copy Fee: \$35

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class and academic success falls on the student.

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus

Maria Capparuccini
11th - 12th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Satisfactory achievement on the Westminster math placement test or a “B” or above in Algebra 2 is required. Students who have not taken Algebra 2 at Westminster must take the math placement test prior to acceptance into the class.

Course Description: This course will focus on those concepts that are prerequisites to Calculus, including: Extensive analysis of polynomial, rational, logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometric functions, methods for solving equations and systems of equations, effective, efficient, and appropriate use of the graphing calculator, modeling and interpreting real data with functions, approximating bound area and volumes, and sequences and series.

Skills Needed: The ability to follow directions, maintain orderly notes, and think analytically are required. Students should expect to be challenged and participate in the course with a willingness to approach math in a different manner. The ability to study math beyond the completion of assignments is vital for success.

Materials: *Precalculus: A Graphing Approach*, 5th Edition **ISBN10:** 0-618-85463-0, **ISBN13:** 978-0-618-85463-9. **TI-83 Plus or TI-84 calculator required**

Copy Fee: \$35

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class and academic success falls on the student.

Science

Elementary Science 3 & 4

Laura Pettigrew
3rd– 4th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-14
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: This course will cover the first half of Exploring God's World, with topics like energy, gravity, magnetism, weather, landforms, and the Solar System. We will use our class time to dive into each topic with a variety of hands-on, interactive group activities and experiments, like building marshmallow and toothpick structures, making a compass, observing static electricity, changing liquids into gas, watching crystals form, and more!

Skills Needed: Children wanting to take this class should be able to sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers, wait to speak until called upon, follow simple instructions, and read and write at grade level.

Materials: *Abeka Exploring God's World Student Text Grade 3*, 5th edition (2019). This book will be used over two years, 3rd and 4th grades.

Supplies, Lab, & Copy fee: \$45

Parental Role: The assigned reading will be on grade level, but some children might benefit from a parent or tutor reading aloud to them. Parents/tutor will likely need to assist their students with the quarterly projects and other at home assignments. Otherwise, the role of parents/tutors will be to check FACTS twice a week for reading assignments and project instructions. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Elementary Science 5

Sonya Holloway
5th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-14
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: This general science course will cover a variety of topics such as biology, light, fossils and minerals, energy and engines, wonders of the sky, and weather. Class time will be used for brief lectures and note taking as well as a variety of hands-on, interactive group

activities and experiments, like making a spectrum, observing physical weathering, making crystals, watching molecules move, building water barometers, and more!

Homework: Homework will vary. Students will most often have reading assignments with comprehension questions to answer. There will be quarterly projects, class presentations, and other at-home assignments. Homework should not exceed 90 minutes each week.

Skills Needed: Children wanting to take this class should be able to sit and listen to the teacher without distracting their peers, wait to speak until called upon, follow simple instructions, read and write at grade level, and complete homework assignments with parental assistance/supervision.

Materials: *Abeka Investigating God's World, Student Text Grade 5*, 4th edition

Supplies, Lab, and Copy fee: \$45

Parental Role: The assigned reading will be grade level, but some children might benefit from a parent or tutor reading aloud to them. Parents/tutor will likely need to assist their student with the quarterly projects. Otherwise, the role of parents/tutors will be to check FACTS twice a week for reading assignments and project instructions and help their children manage their time. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Middle School Science 6 - Life/Earth Science

Sonya Holloway

6th grade

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size: 8-14

Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: This course will cover the following topics: invertebrates, plants, geology (including volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks, minerals, and caves), space and the solar system, and an introduction to chemistry. Class time will consist of hands-on activities as well as lecture and introductory note-taking.

Skills Needed: Students should be able to process auditory information, both read and be able to copy what is written on the board in a timely manner, and work with a partner in hands-on activities. He/she should also be able to read close to grade-level, complete homework and turn it in on time, and take tests in the allotted time frame.

Materials: *A Beka Book Observing God's World*, 2011 edition. Binder for handouts as well as a notebook or paper for taking notes, writing instruments, plain unlined paper for drawings and colored pencils.

Lab and Copy Fee: \$40

Parental Role: Private Tutor—Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child's next class. It is the parent's role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. In addition, some of the tests for these classes will be taken at home under parent supervision. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Middle School Science 7 - Life Science/History of Science & Scientific Method

Sonya Holloway

7th grade

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size: 8-14

Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: This course is designed to be a systematic introduction to science and covers the following topics in broad terms: a brief look at the history of science, scientific method, archaeology, cells, genetics, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, skeletal, muscular, lymphatic, endocrine, urinary, and nervous systems. This course is not intended to be a focused study of these topics. Rather, this course introduces students to these topics and to the organized study of science. Class time will consist of hands-on activities as well as lecture and note-taking.

Skills Needed: Students should be able to process auditory information, read the board, take notes, complete homework and turn it in on time, and take tests in the allotted time frame. The student should also be able to read close to grade-level and work with a partner in hands-on activities.

Materials: *Apologia's Exploring Creation with General Science* by Dr. Jay Wile, 2nd edition, ISBN 978-1-932012-86-6 (textbook only) **Please make sure it is the 2nd edition.**

Binder for handouts as well as a notebook or paper for taking notes, writing instruments, plain unlined paper for drawings, and colored pencils.

Lab and Copy Fee: \$50

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Physical Science

Debra Reid

8th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$555.00

Prerequisite: Students should have a strong math background and either should have taken or currently be taking Pre-Algebra.

Course Description: The course covers the following topics: the metric system and conversions, physics of motion, speed, velocity, acceleration, Newton's three laws of motion, and forces in creation--gravity, centrifugal, centripetal, electricity, magnetism, and radioactivity. Waves, sound, light, and astrophysics will also be covered. There are many hands-on experiments using household chemicals and supplies. It is an excellent course for preparing the student to take a college-prep high school curriculum. Students will be required to write lab reports and prepare a science fair project.

Skills Needed: Students should be able to perform basic math skills: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students must be able to memorize at least twenty new terms every two weeks without a word bank.

Materials: *Apologia's Exploring Creation with Physical Science* by Dr. Jay Wile, 2nd Edition, ISBN 978-1-932012-77-4

Lab and Copy Fee: \$30

Parent Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor: setting up a study schedule with their child, checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

High School Science

Biology

April Uebel
9th and 10th grade
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size 10 -15
Course fee: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: The student must pass an entrance test involving comprehension of Biology text or have passed Physical Science with a "C" or higher.

Course Description: This course will enable the student to study God's creation in a systematic way. Cellular biology, genetics, ecology, natural selection, taxonomy, microbiology, botany, and zoology will be covered. Lab work will include microscope work and dissection, as well as other hands-on labs and enrichment activities. This course requires extensive reading, memorization, and vocabulary work in order to get full college preparation benefit. Students have the option of participating in the Science Fair but it is not required for Biology.

Skills Needed: Students need to think analytically, read at grade-level (10th and above), write research papers and laboratory results coherently, follow detailed instructions in the laboratory setting, and comprehend and memorize difficult vocabulary and biological system models.

Materials: Textbook title- *Biology* by Miller and Levine ISBN-13: 978-0-13-323574-6

Lab and Copy Fee: \$50

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class, and academic success falls on the student.

Chemistry

Debra Reid
10th grade and above
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size 10 -15
Course fee: \$795.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on Westminster Academy placement test.

Course Description: The course is designed to be the first-year high school chemistry course and give the student a rigorous foundation in chemistry to prepare him or her for a college-level course. The course covers nomenclature, significant figures, units, classification, the mole concept, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, thermodynamics, kinetics, acids and bases, solutions, atomic structure, Lewis structures, molecular geometry, the gas laws, and equilibrium. Students who take and understand this course will be well-prepared for a tough university chemistry course.

Skills Needed: Students should have a thorough understanding of scientific notation and know how to use a scientific calculator. Students must not only memorize equations but be able to manipulate those equations to solve for different variables. Students should be able to write a lab report following specific directions, including describing data observed and analyzing that data.

Materials: *Apologia's Exploring Creation with Chemistry*, 2nd edition, ISBN 1-932012-26-5

Lab and Copy Fee: \$30

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class and academic success falls on the student.

Physics

TBD

10th- 12th grade (9th grade with approval)

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class size 10 -15

Course fee: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Satisfactory score on Math placement test or WA Algebra 2 with a “C” or higher.

Course Description: This course covers units, measurements, one-dimensional motion, two-dimensional motion, Newton’s laws and their application, gravity, work and energy, momentum, periodic motion, waves, optics, electrostatics, electrodynamics, electric circuits, and magnetism. We will use a hands-on approach to learning physics concepts and applying these concepts to specific applications. This is a terrific preparation course for college.

Skills Needed: Ability to prepare an outline from text chapters, process visual and auditory sources of learning, think critically to solve problems, write lab reports, complete tests in an allotted time frame, and solve algebraic equations by isolating any specified variable.

Materials: *Holt Physics*; ISBN-13: 978-0030368165

Copy Fee and Lab Fee: \$35

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent schoolwork performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class and academic success falls on the student.

Anatomy & Physiology

April Uebel

11th – 12th grade

Meets Monday and Wednesday

Class Size: 10-15

Course Fee: \$795.00

H.S. Credit: 1

pp

Prerequisite: HS Biology

Course Description: We are fearfully and wonderfully made! This class will study the structure and functions of the human body. Systems covered will be Skeletal, Nervous, Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive, Muscular, Integumentary, Urinary, Endocrine, and Reproductive. This class will include lab work (dissection, and other hands-on labs/activities). This is an exciting, fast paced course that will provide an excellent foundation for any college-level science/health program or those wishing to pursue their scientific interest.

Skills Needed: Students need to be able to read at a 10th grade level, think analytically, be able to take notes, follow lab instructions, and work with partners. This course requires extensive reading, memorization, and vocabulary work.

Materials: Apologia *Exploring Creation with Advanced Biology, The Human Body, 2nd edition*; by Shannon and Yunis ISBN: 978-1-146506-60-3

Copy Fee and Lab Fee: \$50

Parental Role: Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class and academic success falls on the student.

Visual Arts

Elementary Art 3 & 4

Anna Hale

3rd-4th grades

Meets: Mondays all year

Class size: 8-12

Course fee: \$295.00

Course Description: During the year, students will gain knowledge and skills needed to be able to express the world around them in an artistic manner through an exploration of a variety of different media, including (but not limited to) pencil, watercolor, oil pastel, paper cutting/collage, and acrylics. We will go over the basic elements and principles of art-making and techniques and look at working artists (both past and present) for inspiration..

Skills Needed: This is a place and time for learning and exploring. Students need to be able to sit in a classroom environment and follow directions without distracting their peers, but NO previous art experience is required.

Materials: \$70 (Supply fee for Art 3/4 is due in August)

Parental Role: The students will have weekly sketchbook assignments. Therefore, parents are encouraged to ensure their students complete assigned tasks and to remind students to bring their sketchbooks and pencils to class every week.

Middle School Art 5/6

Anna Hale

5th grade

Meets: Mondays all year

Class size: 8-12

Course fee: \$295.00

Course Description: This class is for the middle school student who wants to learn different art techniques and skills as well as learn about artists and their styles. Instruction will be given in drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art techniques. Students will keep an artistic journal throughout the year. Students will produce many styles of artwork and display their work in the Showcase.

Skills Needed:

Must be able to follow verbal instructions.

Must be able to concentrate and focus on a task in a classroom setting.

Materials: Supply fee will be charged and the teacher will buy the art supplies. Supply fee due in August and will not exceed \$70.

Parental Role: Private Tutor–Teacher will provide parents with a syllabus and updated information on material being covered each class period. Parents are expected to check homework assignments and help with any preparation or review needed for their child’s next class. It is the parent’s role to set up a time management schedule with their child to ensure successful completion of each assignment. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

Middle School Art 7/8

Anna Hale

7th- 8th grades

Meets: Mondays all year

Class size: 8-12

Course fee: \$295.00

Course Description: This class is for the middle school student who wants to learn different art techniques and skills as well as learn about artists and their styles. Instruction will be given in drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art techniques. Students will keep a sketchbook throughout the year. Students will produce many styles of artwork and display their work in the Showcase. This class is specifically designed for the more mature 7/8 grade student.

Skills Needed:

Must be able to follow verbal instructions.

Must be able to concentrate and focus on a task in a classroom setting.

Materials: Supply fee will be charged and the teacher will buy the art supplies. Supply fee due in August; will not exceed \$70

Parent Role: Educational Supervisor– Parents will guide their children by assuming the role of supervisor, which means checking to be sure that assignments are completed, and helping with time management for successful completion of long-term assignments. Parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child comes prepared for class.

High School Art

Sarah Hastings

9th-12th grades

Meets: Thursdays for 1.5 hours

Class size: 8-12

Course Fee: \$430.00

H.S. Credit: 1

Course Description: This course will direct the high school student in the creative process, teaching a strong foundation in art through the fundamentals of drawing, painting, and sculpture. We will cover line drawing, shading, color theory, painting, design, printmaking, sculpting, and more. Students will develop their skills by keeping an artistic journal throughout the year. To enrich the student's appreciation of the visual arts, the course will include some art history, focusing on individual artists' contributions to the development of art through the ages. Each student will have the opportunity to display his/her finished artwork at the spring Showcase.

Skills Needed:

Must be able to follow verbal instructions.

Must be able to concentrate and focus on a task in a classroom setting.

Materials: Supply fee will be charged, and the teacher will buy the art supplies. Supply fee due August 7; will not exceed \$90.

Parental Role: Educational Counselor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class, and academic success falls on the student.

Other Monday/Wednesday Electives

Once Upon a Stage! (Drama Class)

Shauna Olson
3rd-7th Grades
Wednesday afternoons, two separate one-semester courses
Class size: 7 students minimum, up to 12 students
Course fee: \$160 for a semester

Fall Semester: *A Christmas Carol*

“God bless us, every one.” Tiny Tim

With themes of redemption and forgiveness, what better focus could we take? This melodramatic rendition of a timeless classic illustrates love as the origin of true happiness. We will have a glorious time experiencing Charles Dickens’ odiously scroogey Ebenezer and his tormenting by the ghosts of past, present and future in this adapted for children script.

Spring Semester: *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*

“What’s the use of a book without pictures or conversations or tales of far off adventures?” Alice
A playful play about curiouser and curiouser adventures is sure to capture your student’s fancy. Jump into the rabbit hole to experience the power of our imaginations and reenact Lewis Carroll’s creative masterpiece adapted for children.

Homework optional (to include costuming and memorization of lines).

Copy Fee: \$20 per Semester for playbook and props

Faith in Motion- Physical Education 3/4

Frank Lord
3rd-4th grades
Meets Wednesdays for 1 hour
Class size: max 25
Course fee: \$295

Course Description: Learning the game is the name of the game! In this class it's all about learning about different sports and understanding the fundamentals of the game. For some it will be a great workout and introduction to the wide world of sports. For others it may unlock the love of a sport they haven't tried yet that they can play the rest of their lives. Either way the course is all about movement,

skill development & fun as they learn valuable lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship and healthy competition. Throughout the year we will learn over 20 sports, focusing on skill development, games and activities designed for fun and a love of the game. Our sports include traditional sports like: Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, and Wiffle Ball in addition to some new favorites like Kickball, Dodgeball, Pickleball and Speed and Agility Fitness programs! There is something for everyone in this fun-filled class!

Skills Needed: A willingness to have fun learning new sports!

Faith in Motion- Physical Education 5/6

Frank Lord
5th-6th grades
Meets Wednesdays for 1 hour
Class size: max 25
Course fee: \$295

Course Description: Play Smarter, Move Better, Know the Game! In this class we build on our love of playing sports and games and experience the challenge of learning the games at a deeper level. Students will work on their individual and team skills here as we refine our fundamental skills in our favorite sports. Our classes will provide the framework to enhance coordination, strength and overall fitness in our sports programs. Focusing again on our traditional sports like Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Wiffle Ball in addition to some new favorites like Kickball, Dodgeball, Pickleball and Speed and Agility fitness programs! This class will give you the confidence to join the next pickup game or play on a local sports team.

Skills Needed: A willingness to have fun learning new sports!

Faith in Motion- Physical Education 7/8

Frank Lord
7th-8th grades
Meets Wednesdays for 1 hour
Class size: max 25
Course fee: \$295

Course Description: For the love of the game! In this class we put it all together, building on the skills we have developed over the years and focusing on refining our abilities, enhancing our strategic thinking, and fostering a lifelong love of sports and fitness. The students will work on further skill development, team strategies and fun play in our favorite sports. Focusing again on traditional sports like Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Wiffle Ball, in addition to some new favorites like Kickball, Dodgeball, Pickleball and Speed and Agility fitness programs! In this class we emphasize a deeper understanding of the games, learning not just how to play but why strategies and techniques matter. Fitness training will be taught to understand the importance of staying physically fit and ways

we can achieve our personal fitness goals. We will also understand the importance of leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship through sports and how these skills can help you achieve success in life!

Skills Needed: A willingness to have fun learning new sports!

Grammar 5/6

Laura Pettigrew
5th-6th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: Parents, do you start your school year with the best intentions to include the study of English grammar, only to find that the carefully selected workbook you bought in June is still untouched by May? If so, then this class is for YOU! The study of English grammar has far-reaching benefits, including reading, writing, and speaking well. All instruction, practice, and assessment (quizzes and tests) will take place in class. This is a NO HOMEWORK course. We will start with the basic facts of grammar (parts of speech and sentence types) and gradually grow in skill and confidence as we learn to apply the rules of grammar correctly. We will also cover the proper use of punctuation and the rules of capitalization. Jingles (for easy memorization), sentence diagrams, easy reference charts, and games will help solidify the content in a fun, supportive environment. We will also spend time preparing for the Westminster grammar placement test which is administered in the spring. Please note that this course is not a replacement for Westminster Academy English courses.

Skills Needed: Students must be able to sit and pay attention for the duration of class. Class work and assessments require handwriting. Though this is a no homework class, students may need to practice or study skills learned in class to prepare for quizzes and tests.

Materials: The teacher will provide students with handouts, tests, and worksheets, drawing from a variety of grammar sources, including *Easy Grammar* and *Our Mother Tongue*.

Parental Role: Parents are encouraged to assist students with organizing their handouts and looking in their notebooks and checking grades on FACTS to monitor student progress. A parent/tutor may need to help a student study for quizzes or tests.

Copy fee: \$30

Grammar 7/8

Laura Pettigrew
7th-8th grades
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee: \$555.00

Course Description: Parents, do you start your school year with the best intentions to include the study of English grammar, only to find that the carefully selected workbook you bought in June is still untouched by May? If so, then this class is for YOU! The study of English grammar has far-reaching benefits, including reading, writing, and speaking well. All instruction, practice, and assessment (quizzes and tests) will take place in class. This is a NO HOMEWORK course. We will start with the basic facts of grammar (parts of speech and sentence types) and gradually grow in skill and confidence as we learn to apply the rules of grammar correctly. We will also cover the proper use of punctuation and the rules of capitalization. This class moves at a faster pace than Grammar 5/6 and covers more material. Jingles (for easy memorization), sentence diagrams, easy reference charts, and games will help solidify the content in a fun, supportive environment. We will also spend time to prepare for the Westminster grammar placement test which is administered in the spring. Please note that this course is not a replacement for Westminster Academy English courses.

Skills Needed: Students must be able to sit and pay attention for the duration of class. Class work and assessments require handwriting. Though this is a no homework class, students may need to practice or study skills learned in class to prepare for quizzes and tests.

Materials: The teacher will provide students with handouts, tests, and worksheets, drawing from a variety of grammar sources, including *Our Mother Tongue*.

Parental Role: Parents are encouraged to assist students with organizing their handouts and looking in their notebooks and checking grades on FACTS to monitor student progress. A parent/tutor may need to help a student study for quizzes or tests.

Copy fee: \$30

Journalism Elective

Jessica Pilson
8th grade and above
Meets Monday and Wednesday
Class size: 8-15
Course fee for the year: \$555.00
H.S. Credit: 1

Course Description: The journalism class will work together to brainstorm, edit, compose, and print the school newspaper. Through lessons on journalism, style and writing, investigation into different types of print media, professional journalist speakers, and a possible field trip, the journalism students will deepen their understanding of the field of journalism. The students will also work on their own skill of communication through print media. The grades will be derived from quizzes, articles, and deadlines for articles. This class is available for eighth graders and above.

Skills Needed: The ability to take notes, work within deadlines, and write close to grade-level are required.

Copy Fee: \$25

Parental Role: Educational Supervisor—Parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. The responsibility for time management, preparation for class, and academic success falls on the student.

Other Thursday Electives

Nature Study: Exploring God's Creation

Laura Fernando

3rd-6th grades

Meets Thursday afternoons for 2 hours, full year

Class size: Minimum 10, up to 20 students

Course fee: \$555

One or two parent helpers will get a reduced tuition rate

Course Description: Join us outside each week as we explore the flora and fauna around WEAG! We'll meet outside for two hours each week in all but the worst of weather to explore the area surrounding WEAG, and in the process we'll learn about Virginia's native trees, birds, and insects, the weather, the microscopic environment underground and in a drop of puddle water and so much more! We'll make some nature-based handicrafts, like spore prints and cyanotypes; and learn sketching and dry-brush watercolor painting techniques as we keep our weekly nature journals. At the end of the year, we'll display our nature journals and handicrafts at the yearly science fair!

Nature study is at its very simplest time spent in nature, however, by adding in careful keeping of a nature journal and some guided exploration and encouragement, upper elementary children hone powers of concentration and observation, and practice skills of written expression. This class will cover topics of biology, chemistry, botany, ecology, zoology, earth science and practical applications of mathematics. Children love spending time outside with friends, and nature study is a wonderful way to increase the habit of attention that all tend to enjoy!

Skills Needed:

- Children need to be able to manage their behavior in an outdoor classroom environment where curiosity and discussion is encouraged, while also listening to group instruction and staying with the group and obeying safety and other instructions.
- Children must be able to make age-appropriate transitions between instructor-led learning, supervised exploration and observation, and time spent on nature journals and other projects.

- Children's natural curiosity and resilience will be encouraged. Children will need to come dressed prepared for the weather, and prepared to spend time in a natural environment. Some time the first session will be spent discussing basic nature/wilderness preparedness and first aid.

Materials fee: \$30 (includes all materials)

Parent role: To encourage and celebrate your child's discovery of nature. Periodic emails will be sent with an explanation of what was discussed in class as well as ideas for local and regional field trips and extension activities as appropriate.

Game On: Math Fun

Courtney Breedlove
3rd-7th grades
Meets Thursday afternoons for 1 hour, full year
Class size: 4-14
Course fee: \$295

Course Description: This course is intended to help with speed of math facts and fluency of working with numbers. It will utilize games to create a fun environment for the kids to continue to understand the way numbers work together. It will reinforce both addition and multiplication facts by using games. We will also complete times drills where children compete against themselves to improve math fluency. There is no text for this class, and it will not involve homework, but students will be best served if they are practicing each week on their own. The expectation is that your student is already working on math facts in their math class/curriculum. This is an add-on course for your at-home curriculum or your Westminster class to provide more opportunities for use, recall, and retention of these basic math skills.

Materials Fee: \$20

College & Career Readiness

Deborah McSorley
11th-12th grades
Meets Thursday afternoons for 1 hour, for 1 semester
Class size: 10-15
Course fee: \$160
HS Credit: .5

Course Description: An exploratory course designed to help students identify their skills and interests while providing guidance toward potential college and career paths. The course will include brief personality assessments and exploratory lectures by guest speakers from various fields to spark interest and encourage further study. Students will begin to build a personal framework to better

understand their strengths, passions, and abilities, empowering them to move forward with confidence toward college, trades, or future careers.

Materials: *What Color is Your Parachute? For Teens, Fourth Edition* ISBN: 978-1984858627

Copy Fee: \$15

Creative Writing I

Laura Pettigrew

9th-12th grades

Meets Thursday afternoons for 1.5 hours, first semester

Class size: 6-12

Course fee: \$240 per semester

HS Credit: .5 per semester

Creative Writing is a two-semester elective course. The content in each semester will be different, so a student may take both semesters or only one.

Course Description: The course is designed for students to practice their creative writing skills through the power of story. Meeting once a week for 1.5 hours, students will be given the opportunity to learn writing techniques and workshop their pieces through peer review. Students will engage in both writing and reading activities that explore different writing genres and forms. Between-class assignments will provide opportunities for practice without an overwhelming workload. Assignments will include polishing pieces started in class, preparing drafts for workshops, and occasionally reading selected texts for discussion. Writing exercises will focus on creativity, development of characters, and mastering concise storytelling. Students will have the opportunity to present their best works at the end of the semester in a class anthology or reading event, celebrating their progress and creativity. Grades will be based on helpful participation by engaging with classmates' pieces, improvement in polishing works for final portfolios, and completion of assignments.

Skills Needed: Reading and writing at grade-level.

Copy fee: \$15

Creative Writing II

Laura Pettigrew

9th-12th grades

Meets Thursday afternoons for 1.5 hours, second semester

Class size: 6-12

Course fee: \$240 per semester

HS Credit: .5 per semester

Creative Writing is a two-semester elective course. The content in each semester will be different, so a student may take both semesters or only one.

Course Description: The course is designed for students to practice their creative writing skills through the power of story. Meeting once a week for 1.5 hours, students will be given the opportunity to learn writing techniques and workshop their pieces through peer review. Students will engage in both writing and reading activities that explore different writing genres and forms. Between-class assignments will provide opportunities for practice without an overwhelming workload. Assignments will include polishing pieces started in class, preparing drafts for workshops, and occasionally reading selected texts for discussion. Writing exercises will focus on creativity, development of characters, and mastering concise storytelling. Students will have the opportunity to present their best works at the end of the semester in a class anthology or reading event, celebrating their progress and creativity. Grades will be based on helpful participation by engaging with classmates' pieces, improvement in polishing works for final portfolios, and completion of assignments.

Skills Needed: Reading and writing at grade-level.

Copy fee: \$15

Crochet Elective (First Semester)

Sarah Hastings
6th-12th Grades
Meets Thursdays, 1 hour, first semester
Class size: 5-10 students
Course fee: \$160
HS Credit: .5

Course Description: Take Mrs. Hastings' elective and learn to crochet or improve on your skills. We will start with the basics of a slip knot and foundation chain, and will then work on single and double crochet. More advanced students will learn how to read crochet patterns to create finished objects such as stuffed animals, blankets, and accessories. Open to 6th-12th graders, all skill levels.

Materials fee: \$8 (includes yarn and crochet hook)

Knitting Elective (Second Semester)

Sarah Hastings
6th-12th grades
Meets Thursdays, 1 hour, second semester
Class size: 5-10 students
Course fee: \$160
HS Credit: .5

Course Description: This elective is specific to knitting. New and returning students in grades 6-12 are welcome. We will learn the basics of knitting including casting on, knitting, purling, and casting off. Students with previous experience will build on their knowledge by learning important skills such as knitting in the round, creating gauge swatches, and reading patterns.

Materials fee: \$8 (includes yarn and needles)

Taste and See! Baking Adventures

Meaghan Burkett

6th-8th grades

Meets: Thursday afternoons for 1 hour, for 1 semester

Class size: 6-12

Course fee: \$160 for a semester

Course Description: In this exciting and hands-on baking class, students will explore the world of baking through a variety of delicious projects, from cookies and cupcakes to bread and pies. Each week, they'll learn essential baking techniques, including measuring, mixing, and decorating, while experimenting with sweet, savory and add-in flavorings. Whether they're creating classic treats or trying something new and creative, students will build their baking skills and gain confidence in the kitchen. Students will learn baking skills that they can duplicate at home independently. This class is all about having fun with food, discovering new flavors, and sharing the joy of freshly baked goods!

Materials needed/Activity fee: \$40

High School: Dinner is Ready!

Abby Ball

9th-12th grades

Meets: Thursday afternoons for 1.5 hours, for 1 semester

Class size: 6-12 students

Course fee: \$240 for a semester

HS credit: .5

Course Description: Embark with me on a 15 week culinary journey! Together we will explore various cooking techniques through demonstrations and hands-on training. Your student will learn fundamental knife skills, basic culinary terms, safe handling of kitchen equipment, and cooking procedures. We will explore meat, poultry and seafood with team building exercises geared towards having your student successfully announce with confidence: "Dinner is Ready!"

Materials fee for Food : \$60

Personal Finance (Middle Grades)

Erin Bouknight

7th-9th grades

Meets: Thursday afternoons for 1 semester in the Fall

Class size: 10-20 students

Course fee: \$160

Course Description: Students will explore the role of money in their lives on a personal level. Students will learn and practice a variety of tools to engage with money - from various types of savings programs to budgeting, all the while considering God's desire for Christians to steward the resources He grants us well. Personal Finance will include project based learning: students will engage in a semester-long project that includes the practice of these skills in real time. Each student will discover their individual financial needs, desires, and goals as they work through the semester. We will use documents, class discussion, minor research, and practical application of skills to create an understanding of finances on a personal level.

Materials: It will prove extremely valuable for students to have access to the internet at home.

Copy fee:\$10

Personal Finance (Upper Grades)

Erin Bouknight

10th-12th grades

Meets: Thursday afternoons for 1 semester in the Fall

Class size: 10-20 students

Course fee: \$160

HS Credit: .5

Course Description: Students will explore the role of money in their lives on a personal level. Students will learn and practice a variety of tools to engage with money - from various types of savings programs to budgeting, all the while considering God's desire for Christians to steward the resources He grants us well. Personal Finance will include project based learning: students will engage in a semester-long project that includes the practice of these skills in real time. Each student will discover their individual financial needs, desires, and goals as they work through the semester. We will use documents, class discussion, minor research, and practical application of skills to create an understanding of finances on a personal level.

Materials: It will prove extremely valuable for students to have access to the internet at home.

Copy fee: \$10

Yearbook Design & Production

Jill Smith

9-12th grades

Meets: Thursdays for 1 hour for the 1st-3rd quarters

Class Size: 8-12
Course Fee: \$240
H.S. Credit: 1

Course Description: Yearbook Design & Production is a unique elective that offers students the opportunity to be part of a creative team responsible for capturing the memories of the school year and showcasing them in a professionally crafted yearbook. Meeting once a week, students will learn skills in marketing & sales, photography, layout design, writing, and editing. This course combines creativity, teamwork, and project management as students document and preserve the school's most cherished moments. Students enrolled in this class will receive a yearbook at a discounted rate.

Skills Needed:

This course is ideal for students who enjoy working as part of a team, have an interest in photography, design, or writing, and are detail-oriented and capable of meeting deadlines. Students must be able to follow verbal instructions and focus on a task in a classroom setting. No prior experience is required, but a passion for creativity and school spirit is highly encouraged.

Materials: Students will need a laptop computer with internet access. Additionally, students interested in photography will need a digital camera.

Copy fee: \$30

Homework Expectations: Students may need to attend school events to take photos or conduct interviews outside of regular class time. There will also be assignments related to writing or layout work that can be completed at home to meet project deadlines.

Note: Students who have participated in Yearbook Design & Production for one year may apply to be in Advanced Yearbook Design & Production the following year as an editor. This is available to a limited number of students who have demonstrated leadership skills, ability to meet deadlines, and mastery of the yearbook software. Teacher recommendation is required. Applications will be available in February 2026.

Teacher Profiles

Shown below are brief profiles of the teachers who are offering courses in this catalog. In addition to their name, earned degrees and a short description, we give their answers to the question about their philosophy of education and discipleship in the classroom.

Abby Ball
B.S. in Elementary Education Interdisciplinary Studies
Liberty University

Abby is a current homeschooling mom of two teenagers! She has previously taught both junior kindergarten and kindergarten in a private school setting. Her interest in cooking started during childhood where she often found herself being mom and dad's helper in the kitchen! Abby pursued culinary arts courses as electives at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and went on to run her own personal chef business for four years. A "home cook at heart", she finds joy in making delicious meals she can share with others and looks forward to teaching this fun new elective at Westminster!

Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Renée Boswell
B.A. in Speech Communications
University of Virginia

Renée Boswell has taught Writing 6 for sixth graders since 2005. She worked in radio (as Renée Ridley) for 13 years as a news reporter. After being forced to read plenty of bad writing she is eager to help her students write clean, clear prose with a touch of their own originality.

Being able to write well means being able to think well. I hope to challenge my students to be logical as well as original. The ability to communicate in an effective, winsome manner is a life skill that everyone should cultivate. I pray it will help my students to be able to share the truths of the gospel in a variety of settings.

Erin Bouknight
B.A. History with Secondary Ed. Certification, Cum Laude, Mary Washington College
Current VA Professional Teacher Certification with Gifted Education Endorsement

Erin has a combined fourteen years teaching experience with both middle and high school students. Her experience has included both the public school system and here at Westminster Academy.

I am passionate about history and engaging my students in the discovery of the past and its impact on us today. History gives us a unique opportunity to view God's sovereignty in the experiences of the world, seeing it play out over centuries and continents. I am looking forward to helping students explore American history and government, find patterns across time, and see how God is working in their own lives, as well.

Courtney Breedlove
B.A. in Middle Grades Education, Focus in Math and Literature
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Courtney taught and coached soccer in public middle school in Asheville, North Carolina for four years before staying home and starting a family. Since stepping out of the classroom, she has

tutored privately as well as taught in multiple Classical Conversation co-ops at both the Foundations and Essentials levels. She has had three students go through Westminster and she loves the environment of learning that it fosters and the community it offered to her children. She has loved stepping back into the classroom and creating new student-teacher relationships with the students of Westminster.

I love the opportunity to stretch children's minds through conversation, problem solving and discovery together. Our God is relational, and as we are made in His image, He has made us for relationship as well. Learning in community to discover the innate laws he has created is a joy for me!

Meaghan Burkett
B.S. in Nursing, minor in Biomedical Ethics
The University of Virginia

Meaghan worked as a nurse at UVA Hospital for 20 years. After the birth of their 5th child in 2022, she transitioned to being a full-time stay at home mom and began homeschooling their three oldest children. She values family and cherishes the extra time that homeschooling allows her to disciple and train her children in the ways of the Lord. Her three years of work teaching American Heritage Girls gave her experience teaching middle schoolers. Besides volunteering to construct inventive snacks for VBS (did you know you can make a dolphin out of a banana?), she loves to be in the kitchen and is always trying new recipes while also serving up tried and true family favorites.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. (Psalm 34:8) I find great joy in feeding people! I hope to prepare young people to care for themselves as well as to serve others through learning to bake.

Maria Capparuccini
B.A. in Mathematics, The University of Virginia
Ph.D. in Biostatistics, VCU School of Medicine

After Maria taught at VCU for three years, she and her husband decided to try homeschooling her eldest child. She has since found a love for teaching her own four children at home. The educational support that Westminster Academy has offered her family has been a true blessing, and Maria looks forward to sharing her love of Mathematics with students.

It is my pleasure to guide students as they study PreCalculus. Through the study of Math we grow in the important skills of meticulous hard work, creativity, and critical thinking. I hope that in encountering complex problems together we can further appreciate the beauty in the world God has magnificently created and work to prepare the hearts and minds of the students to meet the challenges that they will face.

Lindsey Corter
B.A. English Language and Literature, Gordon College

M.A. Theological Studies, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Lindsey has been working with students in several different capacities - all geared toward improving their language and literature skills - for the past decade. Most notably, she taught English to elementary and middle school students at a hybrid classical school and has extensive experience as a writing tutor. In her work as a tutor, Lindsey worked with a spectrum of students from undergraduate to doctoral, and came alongside both native and non-native English speakers. She assisted students with everything from literary interpretation to overall essay development and trends of grammatical errors. Lindsey is originally from Massachusetts, but moved to Richmond in 2021, where she and her husband joined the planting of River City Baptist Church. Lindsey has five kids aged six and under, and is excited to step outside the realm of *Paw Patrol* and *Mickey Mouse* again this year to share her love of language, and the God of language, with her students!

I have loved English classes for as long as I can remember, and my love has only grown as I have come to see the profound levels of goodness, truth, and beauty that can be encapsulated and expressed through the written word. Through language, we have a unique ability to understand and communicate the truth of the gospel, explore our world, revel in the glories of Christ, and much more. I am so excited to be able to enjoy the written word together with my students this year, and to encourage their growth as both readers and writers!

Rebekah DeRoco

**B.A. in English, certification in Communications and Secondary Education
University of Richmond**

Rebekah graduated from University of Richmond in 1994 an English major with concentrations in education and communications. A product of an excellent Christian education, Rebekah taught English and History for five years in a Christian school before their oldest daughter was born. A few years and a few more daughters later, homeschooling seemed like an easy way to ease into the schooling years. Eighteen years later, Rebekah is finished homeschooling their five daughters, all of whom attended Westminster Academy for some portion of their homeschool years. History is a subject for which she has gained increasing passion and interest as she homeschooled and now she considers it an intriguing way to form and frame an understanding world view. Rebekah is currently getting a Masters of Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia and serves Westminster as Operations Manager.

At its heart, history is telling a story...a story which frames and shapes our lives today. As we tell the story to each other, we are transformed. When we see a story at work in our world, we understand the forces which shape the world in which we live. God himself is the Great Storyteller- writing that story with words and images in our imaginations and in our real-life experiences.

Laura Fernando

**Bachelor of Social Work
Valparaiso University, Indiana**

Laura grew up in rural Indiana, where you could often find her up in a tree or wading in a creek. After graduating with a degree in social work, she worked in a variety of social service and ministry jobs with children and families until having her oldest daughter. Homeschooling both children has been her favorite job to date, and she has continued to volunteer with special needs students and foster families. She loves hiking and camping, and takes to heart Charlotte Mason's advice, "Never be within doors when you can rightly be without." She has taught guided nature study groups to ages preschool through adult in Wisconsin and Florida since 2015.

"The question is not, –how much does the youth know? When has he finished his education—but how much does he care? And about how many orders of things does he care? In fact, how large is the room in which he finds his feet set? And therefore, how full is the life he has before him? I know you may bring a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink. What I complain of is that we do not bring our horse to the water." (Charlotte Mason, School Education) "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." (Proverbs 30:5)

Anna Hale
B.A. in Art
Bridgewater College

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bridgewater College in Art, with focus in metal and acrylic. I have had many homeschool students since 2009. I enjoy creating different kinds of art and also have a great interest in art history. I love sharing all my knowledge and making it fun for the younger audience.

"In the beginning God created..." Gen. 1:1 How can you not be inspired? Art is about creating and learning from one another. In class, I can learn just as much as my students. We all have something to give. I feel the same way about my walk with the Lord. The more attributes I show the more joy I receive. "Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better."—Andre Gide

Sarah Hastings
BFA in Art Education
Virginia Commonwealth University

Sarah is returning for her third year at Westminster. She has experience teaching art at a private art studio and at Veritas Classical Christian School. Sarah has worked with students ages 4-18. She enjoys teaching general art as well as specialized art subjects like Ceramics and Fiber Arts. When Sarah is not teaching, she loves to knit, garden, bake, and explore Richmond with her husband, two young kids, and dog, Gale. Sarah is looking forward to sharing her love of God and Art with the Westminster students.

My favorite verse is Isaiah 64:8. It says, "For You, Oh Lord, are our Father. We are the clay and You are the Potter. We are all the work of Your Hand". God created us to be creative! We

appreciate God's natural world when we paint a landscape. We marvel at the bodies God gave us when we mold a sculpture of the human form. Creating art points us to Him.

Sonya Holloway

B.A. in Elementary Education, with certification K-7, concentration in science ESL certification

Virginia Tech

Sonya Holloway has taught in various schools and environments for over 35 years, working in public, private, and homeschooling as well as teaching in state schools in Central Europe. Her preferred teaching mode is “interesting interaction”, where the students are engaged in the topic and each other as they discover new facets and stretch their minds.

God wooed and saved me at a young age and I see the enormity of His hand as well as His firm grip on all aspects of nature and life, giving us a “great adventure” when we follow Him. I believe that we are called to be contagious: I want to give Jesus to as many people as I possibly can as I find bridges to the human hearts God puts in my life.

Anne Marie Kegley

B.B.A. in Finance

The College of William and Mary

Anne Marie began learning sign language in 1986. Since 2012, she has been teaching American Sign Language (ASL) classes for homeschoolers. She has also served as a sign language interpreter at two churches. Both of her children were homeschooled and attended Westminster Academy.

It is wonderful that students can earn foreign language credit by learning the beautiful language of ASL alongside American Deaf culture! Everyone studying ASL will find this statement made by Thomas H. Gallaudet in 1848 to be true: “American Sign Language is of great value to the deaf, but could also be of great benefit to the hearing as well...it is superior to spoken language in its beauty and emotional expressiveness. It brings kindred souls into a much more close and conscious communion than mere speech can possibly do.” (Master ASL! Level One 6)

Frank Lord

B.S. in Marketing

Rutgers University

Frank is a homeschool father of 4 children with his wife of 14 years. He is the owner of Overtime Athletics RVA, where he works with preschool and school aged children bringing fun and safe sports programming to RVA. Frank is currently leading both the Troops of St. George and the Youth Group at his local church. He loves to give back to the community where he can. Frank is originally from New Jersey and moved to Richmond in 2018. He coaches his son's hockey teams and plays hockey in a men's league here in Richmond. Frank is excited to join the staff at Westminster Academy and teach how one can grow closer with God through sports.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. - 1 Corinthians 9:24

Mori “Michelle” Matsumoto
B.A. Education, Elementary Reading and Mathematics
Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA

Michelle has been teaching children for over 20 years. She taught 8th grade math in Tacoma City, Washington (Stewart Middle School) for four years, then 6th & 7th grade math/science in Hanover County, Virginia (Liberty Middle School) for 5 years. Michelle has since been homeschooling her own as well as other children (Co-Op environment) for the last 18 years. In 2006, God put in her heart the desire to homeschool her children. She began teaching her eldest son in 8th grade and continued through his high school graduation. Her daughter and younger son are both graduates of Westminster Academy.

As I move forward into this incredible role of assuming greater responsibilities, I do so with the assurance that this is God’s purpose for this season of my life – and the life of your children. I believe each and every one of them are incredibly powerful gifts from God; “Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth.” Psalm 127-4. In this life of challenges and uncertainties, we have been explicitly charged to train up our children in the way that they should go (Proverbs 22:6). I am humbled and honored to assist you, as parents, in training up an Army for God.

Deborah McSorley
MSW Masters of Social Work
California State University, Sacramento

Deborah is a licensed clinical social worker who is currently employed with Abundant Life Partners, Inc as a clinical therapist and supervisor. She enjoys helping individuals and families through challenges, transitions and assisting them to find hope and peace amid challenges, joys, sorrow or struggle. She attended Cal State University Sacramento where she majored in Journalism and Sociology. She went on to earn a master’s in social work (MSW) from Cal State University at Sacramento where she worked extensively in schools with families and at-risk children. She has traveled extensively doing various mission work activities living in Europe, Australia, and Africa in between getting her degrees. She has worked in Seattle, Chicago, Baltimore, Washington DC and Virginia. She began homeschooling her two sons in 2020 and enjoys working part-time while being a full-time mom.

I graduated from high school in Southern California where I accepted Christ as a teenager and have had a heart for teens ever since. My life verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 where it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight." This has been a guiding verse for me and I feel has helped me

seek out my God-given talents and use them for His glory. I hope to help the students in this course do the same.

Shauna Olson

B.S. Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude, University of South Dakota

M.A. School Counseling, Summa Cum Laude, University of South Dakota

Shauna worked as both a teacher and counselor within public and private schools for five years before starting a family. She has home educated her three children for fifteen years, living abroad much of that time. She organized in-home cooperative learning for families in Vancouver, Canada, as well as in London, England. She was founder and administrator of a London, England home educator's co-op. For five years, she and her husband Todd invested in building up families through facilitation of weekly marriage classes in their home church where Shauna and Todd now assist with youth ministry.

It is a joy and honor to continue the adventure of teaching at Westminster. My primary goal is to glorify God by pointing the children to Him in every way possible. This goal is followed closely by my goal of bringing academics to life through hands-on activities, creative re-enactments, lively discussions and projects that reflect each child's unique talents and abilities.

Vicki Pallo

B.A. English Literature, University of Washington

M.A. and Ph.D. English Literature, Binghamton University, SUNY

Vicki has taught literature, writing and research in higher education since 2001. She has home educated her two daughters for over twelve years, and they have attended Westminster since 2019. She has taught at Westminster since fall 2023. A nomad by nature due to her father's military service, she has lived all over the U.S. and in Germany; thanks to her family connections, she considers Kenya her second home. She enjoys gardening, reading, writing, hiking, and playing flute. She also has a heart to serve people of all nations, and regularly serves in the ESL program at her church.

Reading and writing are not only two of my favorite pastimes; I believe they are essential to becoming well-informed, empathetic citizens of this world who are able to communicate God's truths effectively. I have a passion for equipping young people to become all that God has called them to be, and hope that I can play a role in setting students up for success in future learning as well as standing firm in their faith through the ever-changing times we face. Romans 12:2 is a favorite verse of mine, and informs my own spiritual walk as well as my goals as an educator.

Laura Pettigrew

B.A. in English

California Baptist University

Laura has homeschooled her three children in four different countries for fifteen years and counting. She taught writing and literature at a homeschool co-op in Kenya, organized and led

camps for missionary kids overseas, and currently leads the children's ministry at her local church. Laura has been teaching at Westminster since 2022 and has facilitated the Creative Writing Club for the past four years. Most importantly, Laura loves the Lord and loves to creatively communicate His truths to young people.

I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to teach science to 3rd and 4th graders this year! At a young age, I spent all my waking hours outside catching butterflies, digging for worms, climbing trees, and planting flowers. I've never quite grown out of that. I have always enjoyed learning about God's amazing creation, and I cannot wait to share that love with this group of kids. I am equally excited to teach the English grammar and Creative Writing elective courses. I love to help equip students with the necessary building blocks of the English language through the study of grammar, as well as inspiring students to play with language creatively through writing. My goal is to be an educational partner with any student who is willing to do their part in their learning journey. I also love to make the learning process as delightful as possible.

Jessica Pilson

**B.A. in Middle School Education, cum laude, Certified Tester
James Madison University**

Jessica has taught English at Westminster since 2000. Jessica's main focus is middle school. Her teaching experience includes not only Westminster but also experience in the Henrico County school system.

I desire to teach the students the art of communication. Writing, reading, and analysis are learned skills. I want to educate students to analyze and think independently within the framework of the Bible. Students are challenged, pushed, and stretched in my class in order to glorify God. I want my students to be able to effectively communicate the gospel in whatever environment God leads them. I praise God for the chance to teach these students in His ways.

Debra Reid

**B.S. in Chemistry; M.S. in Chemistry
University of Richmond**

Debbie has taught at Westminster for a number of years. She has taught Physical Science and Chemistry. Her employment background includes working at A.H. Robins in chemistry, allowing her to relate practical experience to her class. She has previously taught groups of homeschoolers in chemistry and taught college chemistry at J. Sargeant Reynolds for ten years. She has homeschooled both her children; Lindsey is a graduate of Randolph Macon and Josh is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University. Debbie enjoys teaching basic science principles to the middle and high school students in hopes of encouraging them to pursue sciences.

It has been such a blessing to teach the students at Westminster Academy. I consider it a privilege to share God's principles and how they are explained in nature. I have grown as a Christian as I prepare for each class and have been able to see God in new ways.

Jill Smith
B.S. in Mathematics Education, Cum Laude
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Jill taught Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II in public schools for seven years before staying home with her first born in 2004. She and her husband, Darin, now have four children and have been homeschooling them since 2009. All four of her children have taken various classes at Westminster with her oldest three graduating in 2022, 2024, and 2025. When the opportunity was presented to step back into the classroom in 2019, she happily agreed and has been teaching at Westminster ever since.

It is a privilege to teach high school math in a Christ-centered setting. It is my desire that my students will discover a love for math and develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills. It is my prayer that my excitement for math and joy in teaching will overflow to my students.

April Uebel
B.S. in Human Nutrition Foods and Exercise
Virginia Tech

This is April's third year of teaching at Westminster and her second in Biology and Anatomy. After working in campus ministry for twelve years, and a few years in between for full time motherhood, she is excited to get back to the sciences. God used those years to cement a passion in her heart for working with teenagers and young adults.

God created a world of order and beauty and what a gift that we get to study it! I love seeing students start to understand the how and why in the life sciences. It gives them such an appreciation for the intricate details with which God created the world. If he would put so much thought and care into the design of His creation, then without a doubt, He must love us very much!

Jessica Wade
B.A. in Applied Communications
Asbury College

Jessica has taught in the homeschool community for over fifteen years. After the birth of her second child, she taught under the leadership of Gayle Graham and learned to love homeschooling. She has taught middle and high school literature and writing at different homeschool co-ops and academies all over the Richmond area. All of her children have been homeschooled, with her oldest finished at Regent University. Her middle child graduated from WA in 2023 and is attending South University and her youngest child is a current WA student. She is excited about teaching at Westminster and working with new students.

Making literature come to life and helping students learn to love writing are my passions in the classroom. I enjoy being able to work with students and parents as children develop their writing skills. Helping parents take control of their children's education is my goal with teaching.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Westminster Academy admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of this academy. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs. The Non-Discrimination Policy of Westminster Academy also includes the hiring of faculty and administrative staff. We make no distinction concerning an individual's race or ethnic background because we acknowledge that there can be no preferential treatment with God (Romans 2:11).

Westminster Academy will consider the acceptance of children with special needs on a case-by-case basis. Our resources limit our ability to meet all the needs of some students.