

Protocol

Dear Upper School Parents,

I hope you and your families are enjoying a lovely and refreshing summer break.

One of the unique aspects of the upper school education at Westminster is the Protocol Course. Each spring semester since 2000, our upperclassmen are taught the principles of etiquette, as well as a repertoire of ballroom and group dances. The training culminates in the Protocol Ball, a formal evening of dinner and dancing, hosted by the Headmaster. Last year, Westminster expanded its Protocol curriculum to include lessons and events for each Upper School grade; the topics covered ranged from introductions to table etiquette to conversation etiquette, and the new events included a Christmas tea and dinner at the Crescent Club.

This training, however, is more than learning what fork to use at dinner, how to make an introduction, or in what manner and time-frame to R.S.V.P. (although these topics are covered in the course). Westminster considers this training to be complementary to the instruction students receive in the classroom: as we seek to cultivate wisdom and virtue in our students, we strive to equip them not only with the skills to reason, discern, and love God's Truth, but also with skills and principles to embody the humility and graciousness of Jesus in His world.

While I will not be teaching this year, I will continue to serve as the Director of Protocol for the 2011-2012 school year. This year, each grade will again consider a specific set of skills and principles; at the conclusion of the lessons, each grade will have an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned at a special event. More information regarding each grade's specific topics, schedule of lessons, and event will be announced prior to the beginning of the lessons.

It is our hope that this training, in addition to the principles that you parents are faithfully instilling in your children at home, will further equip the students to love and honor their neighbors and fellow image-bearers, as Christ has called us to love, here at Westminster and in their communities. Thank you for your continued support of school and for the privilege of teaching your children. We look forward to another exciting year in the upper school.

Sincerely,
Michal Isbell