

Upper School Extracurriculars

Our Upper School extra curricular activities are chosen because they give our students the opportunity to put in practice the skills they are learning at Westminster Academy.

Middle School Youth Legislature holds an annual conference similar to the upper school conference described below. It offers **7th and 8th grade** students an introduction to the Tennessee legislature in a similar but simplified format compared to the upper school conference. The students will practice at school for about one hour a week from January to the end of April. The conference is local and is usually the end of April. The cost has been a \$20 fee and the cost of lunch the day of the conference. Contact Faith Shaunak (fshaunak@wamemphis.com) with questions.

Wordsmith is a writing contest that tests the nonfiction writing skills of **7th to 12th grade** students. Two students per grade are **selected** by their English teachers to compete. The students will practice during the school day for a couple of weeks before the competition. The contest is in early February at the University of Memphis and takes about six hours. Contact Deborah Perry (dperry@wamemphis.com) with questions.

The High School **Mock Trial** Competition strives to give students a fuller understanding of the American justice system by allowing them to experience the legal process first hand. Through role playing as lawyers, witnesses, plaintiffs and defendants, students develop an awareness and appreciation for the mechanism our society has chosen to resolve its disputes. Any **9th to 12th grade** student may participate. The students will practice during school and Sunday afternoons from early Fall until the competition in mid February. The tournament takes place in a court room in Memphis for one to two weeks in February. There is no cost unless the team wins the city tournament and goes to the State competition in Nashville. Contact Robin Reed (rreed@wamemphis.com) with questions.

Youth Legislature is an annual conference in Nashville designed to offer high school students a hands-on experience with state government. Any **9th through 12th grade** student may participate and serve as a senator or representative, justice, lawyer, commissioner or lobbyist. The practices usually start in January and continue until the conference which is usually scheduled for March or April. Most students will prepare for 10-12 hours and meet together for four required practices at MUS each about 2-3 hours long. The cost has been \$400 plus food (\$80 - \$100) for the 4 day conference. Students elected to serve as officers will attend the conference one day earlier. Contact Gina Hall (ghall@wamemphis.com) with questions.

The purpose of the WREG sponsored **Knowledge Bowl** is “to encourage learning, support local education, give positive recognition for schools and students and reward academic excellence.” The competition takes place in five rounds of single elimination competition between **9th through 12th grade** students from 32 Memphis/Shelby County high schools. Each Knowledge Bowl team answers questions on topics that are a mixture of academic and nonacademic areas including science, literature, history, math, geography, music, art and current events. Contact Deborah Perry (dperry@wamemphis.com) with questions.