

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Curriculum (JK-6th)

Westminster Academy ascribes to a classical and Christian pedagogy. Our curriculum emphasizes the Christian heritage which has developed predominantly through the West and is captured in the political, philosophical, scientific, and great literary works and fine arts of Western authors, artists, and composers from antiquity, the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and through to the modern day. The chronological approach to teaching Bible and history, starting in 2nd grade, allows for the integration of the great works of art and music with Scriptures at the center.

	Junior Kindergarten–1st	2nd–3rd	4th–6th
Love of Reading	The Neuhaus literacy program is a proven phonetic, multi-sensory, and explicit approach, building a strong foundation for both natural and struggling readers. Through exposure to classic stories with <b>heroes</b> and <b>villains</b> , students learn to distinguish right and wrong and begin to develop both a love for reading and a <b>true moral imagination</b> .	By reading classics like <i>Aesop's Fables</i> , <i>Charlotte's Web</i> , and the Little House series, students learn to <b>appreciate</b> and <b>relate</b> to the experiences and challenges faced by the characters in these stories. They develop a strong vocabulary, <b>love of story</b> , and through exposure to beautiful writing, learn to express themselves well. In these grades, they begin to read biographies and historical fiction.	The literature of 4th-6th grade compliments the study of history. Fourth graders read about Vikings, medieval knights and saints. Fifth graders enjoy American classics like <i>Johnny Tremain</i> , <i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i> , and <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> . Sixth grade selections include <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , <i>Tom Sawyer</i> , and <i>The Hiding Place</i> . Students are challenged to identify the <b>virtues</b> and <b>vices</b> of the characters and discern the <b>truths</b> found in both fiction and non-fiction.
Love of Numbers	We approach math as a progression of understanding from <b>concrete</b> to <b>pictorial</b> to <b>abstract</b> . JK-1st focus on concrete understanding through the use of manipulatives to build number sense. Beginning in K, we use the Singapore math curriculum, <i>Math in Focus</i> .	Students begin to move from a concrete understanding of numbers to a pictorial one, using bar models to solve <b>multi-step word problems</b> . Students learn to retell math problems as stories, choose from an array of methods to think about the problem, and articulate how to solve them.	By the end of Grammar School, students have dealt with algebra and geometry as both equations and word problems. The focus is on <b>understanding</b> and <b>application</b> , rather than just rote use of formulas.
Love of Words	In JK-K, students learn correct letter formation and pencil grip using <i>Handwriting Without Tears</i> . In 1st grade, they begin spelling and learn the elements of writing a complete sentence using <i>First Language Lessons</i> .	Students learn <b>cursive</b> , and use copy work and dictation to learn correct writing mechanics and spelling. Using pre-rhetoric exercises and imitation writing, students retell fables and narratives. They also begin to craft explanatory paragraphs and informative essays. They begin to compose their own original sentences using <i>Writing: Structure &amp; Style (IEW)</i> and <i>Well-Ordered Language, Multisensory Grammar, &amp; Developing Metacognitive Strategies</i> .	Students develop analytical and discussion skills across disciplines and begin to write short essays exploring historical figures, scientific discoveries, and character development. They expound on proverbs and begin persuasive writing. Students learn what makes for <b>effective</b> , <b>beautiful</b> , and <b>interesting</b> sentences in writing.
Love of God's Story	Because we view all of history as <b>God's story</b> , students study the actions of historical figures and events in light of the providence of God. JK-1st begin with Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament using the <i>The Children's Story Bible</i> , <i>The Jesus Storybook Bible</i> and <i>ESV Bible</i> .	In 2nd grade, the study of the Old Testament with ancient Egypt introduces students to the earliest civilizations and <b>God's providence</b> in establishing the nation of Israel and leading them to the Promised Land. Moving on to the classical cultures of Greece and Rome in 3rd grade, students discover how God prepared the world for the coming of the <b>Savior</b> . Curriculum used is <i>Veritas History &amp; Bible Cards</i> and <i>Westminster Shorter Catechism</i> .	Fourth grade studies the fall of Rome through the Renaissance and Reformation, tracing the development of <b>Christianity</b> through a millennium. Fifth grade follows the discovery of the new world through the foundations of our nation. Sixth grade takes students from the War of 1812 through 19th-20th century. Throughout, students are learning about the life of Christ. Bible focuses on the life of Christ and the spread of the early church.

His Story: Told From the Beginning

Grammar School students study the chronological progression of western civilization from creation through modern day, a cycle that is repeated more in-depth in Upper School.

Historical Timeline: 2nd-6th Grade

Creation Day

Fall of Egypt to Rome30 BC

Birth of Jesus0 BC

Barbarians Invade Rome476 AD

Reformation1517 AD

Jamestown1607 AD

War of 18121812 AD

Civil War1861 AD

Present

P.S.A.L.M. CLASSES

**P.E.** - Our PE curriculum is designed to teach students the principles of fitness, the importance of physical activity, and cooperation through exercises, games, and sports.

**Science** - In 2nd and 3rd grades, students study the planets, ecology, and the animal kingdom. They are then introduced to scientific concepts like classification, categorization, and the scientific method, throughout Grammar School. Science becomes increasingly hands on in 4th through 6th grades, with students collaborating and experimenting with bacteria cultures, modeling atomic theory, and exploring body systems.

**Art** - We recognize that God designed His world to be full of beauty. By training the eye and hand to observe and reproduce that beauty, we train the soul to see and appreciate God's beauty throughout creation.

**Latin** - Instruction begins in 2nd grade learning simple vocabulary, chants, and songs. The study of Latin in 3rd grade introduces elementary grammar and mythology. Fourth through sixth graders gain confidence in Latin as they translate, speak, sing, memorize, and recite. Students explore the culture and history of the Romans through projects and presentations. Latin texts include *Elementary Latin* and *Lingua Latina*.

**Music** - Grammar School music is dedicated to training students' ears and hearts to appreciate, to understand, and to love the things that are worth loving. Students learn the elements of music theory, music appreciation, and the history of music, eventually studying all of the major periods of music and their composers, the instruments of the orchestra and band, and the notes in both treble and bass clefs.

**PSALM** classes mirror the chronological time line of history, with projects often integrated across subjects.

UPPER SCHOOL  
Curriculum (7th-12th)

In order to be Christ-centered, Christian education must be more than a baptized secularism. It is not enough to take the curricula of the government schools, add prayer and a Bible class, and claim the result is somehow Christian. There is no such thing as neutrality in education. Every fact, every truth, is understood in the light of a certain worldview. This means that history, art, music, literature, science, mathematics, etc., must all be taught in the light of God’s existence and His revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ. Because the Scriptures occupy a crucial role in teaching us about this revelation, they must also occupy a central role in Christian education.

\*All required course are taught at the honors level.

Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12
Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I or Algebra IA	Geometry or Algebra IB	Algebra II or Geometry	Pre-Calculus or Algebra II	Calculus or Pre-Calculus
Science	Earth Science	Life Science	Biology	Anatomy and Wellness	Chemistry	Physics
Literature	<b>The Path to Virtue:</b> <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> (entire series), <i>The Hobbit</i> , <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	<b>Dystopia and Utopia in Literature:</b> <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>The Giver</i> , <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , <i>Utopia</i> (excerpts), <i>Animal Farm</i> , <i>Julius Caesar</i> , <i>Lord of the Flies</i> , <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i>	<b>Classical and Medieval Literature:</b> <i>Mythology</i> , <i>The Iliad</i> , <i>Oedipus Rex</i> , <i>The Odyssey</i> , <i>Beowulf</i> , <i>Canterbury Tales</i> , <i>Everyman</i> , <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , <i>The Inferno</i> , <i>The Fairie Queene</i>	<b>Renaissance, Enlightenment, and Victorian Literature:</b> <i>The Once and Future King</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> , <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> , <i>Dr. Faustus</i> , <i>Pilgrim’s Progress</i> , <i>Tartuffe</i> , <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> , <i>Jane Eyre</i> , <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	<b>American Literature:</b> Great American Short Stories, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , <i>The Great Gatsby</i> , <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> , <i>As I Lay Dying</i> , <i>Death of a Salesman</i> , <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i>	<b>Capstone Literature:</b> <i>Frankenstein</i> , <i>Dracula</i> , <i>Oresteia</i> , <i>Poetics</i> , <i>Paradise Lost</i> , <i>Twelfth Night</i> , <i>Henry V</i> , <i>Crime and Punishment</i> , <i>Brave New World</i> , 1984, Selected Stories of Flannery O’Connor, <i>The Aeineid</i> , <i>Till We Have Faces</i>
History	<b>TN History/Civics:</b> In Civics, students are introduced to the study of the government while engaging with primary sources, giving them essential tools for studying history. TN history covers state history, geology, economy, and more.	<b>Ancient Western Civilization and World Geography:</b> Through the examination of art, artifacts, primary documents and literature, students explore the ancient Near East and Mediterranean, tracing history from the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia through the end of the Roman Republic.	<b>Western Civilization I:</b> Roman Empire to Renaissance: Students will analyze societies of Europe and the Near East from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance using differing perspectives and particularly from a Christian world-view.	<b>Western Civilization II:</b> Renaissance to the Rise of Nation States: A journey through great political, philosophical, scientific, and theological ideas that shaped Western civilization during the Renaissance, Reformation, and ages of Reason and Revolution in modern Europe.	<b>U.S. History:</b> Foundation to the Civil War: An overview of U.S. History from New World explorations to the end of the Civil War with an emphasis on the Christian influences. Students examine primary sources to understand the culture defining the early years of our nation.	<b>U.S. History:</b> The US in World Affairs : Students study the period following the American Civil War through the present, focusing on political, economic, theological, and philosophical factors that shaped America during Reconstruction, bringing our nation to the global stage.
Language	Latin	Latin	Latin	Latin		
Bible & Theology	<b>Christ in the Old Testament:</b> This course is the first in a two-course sequence. It seeks to lead students through the story of Scripture as it unfolds in the Old Testament, emphasizing the centrality of Christ, His Kingdom, and the Gospel.	<b>Christ in the New Testament:</b> This course is the second in a two-course sequence. Students continue through the story of Scripture, and begin to see how Old Testament themes are picked up and developed in the New Testament, and how OT promises and patterns are fulfilled by Christ and other New Testament realities.	<b>Systematic Theology I:</b> The first class in a three-year study of theology focusing on introducing students to Christian theology and the basics of the Christian world-view while connecting theology to other areas of life.	<b>Systematic Theology II:</b> Students focus on the topics of Christology and soteriology, while learning the tools of biblical interpretation. The overall goal is to give students a deeper understanding of salvation and its daily application.	<b>Apologetics:</b> Christ and Culture: This course builds upon systematic theology in order to explore the intersection of the church and culture. The final semester focuses on the church’s role in non or post-Christian culture, preparing students to live in, not of, the world.	<b>Capstone:</b> A Christian Worldview: Students will examine the ideas of Western thought through a dialogue-intensive format while breaking down the walls that separate different areas of study by exposing the student to a variety of theological, philosophical, political, and historical resources.
Logic & Rhetoric	<b>Cornerstone:</b> Students develop the academic and spiritual skills to be a successful Upper School student.	<b>Logic:</b> This course is an exploration of the 2 main branches of logic, “informal” and “formal” while introducing fallacies and the ability to analyze deductive arguments.	<b>Writing Lab:</b> Students learn the essentials of writing a research paper, mastering the basics of citations, formatting, and style requirements for academic research	<b>Rhetoric I:</b> Students are introduced to a comprehensive set of tools they need for mastering the arts of language in both speaking and writing.	<b>Rhetoric II:</b> Students are introduced to the fundamental themes of classical moral and political philosophy and deliver short speeches to practice rhetorical skills.	<b>Rhetoric III:</b> This course focuses on mastering academic essays and excellence in speech with a final comprehensive senior thesis requiring students to craft a thoughtful and persuasive argument.

Fine Arts

Westminster aims to refine a love of beauty through the basic elements and principles of art, including two-dimensional design, art appreciation, art history, and culminating in Senior Studio Art.

In choir, students are exposed to great choral literature from the Renaissance to the current time, learning how to sing with correct vocal techniques, experiencing truth and beauty through the gift of music.

Athletics

7th and 8th grade students learn the principles of fitness and the importance of physical activity, through exercises, games, and sports while working together.

In high school, our students learn ballroom dancing during Prototol, as well as participate in interscholastic sports.