



WESTMINSTER ACADEMY

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Memphis, TN 38119
www.wamemphis.com
CEEB Code: 431506

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2023-2024 SCHOOL PROFILE

Westminster Academy is Memphis' only classical Christian school. Accredited by the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS), the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA), and the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS), Westminster has a student body of 445 students in JK through 12th grade. The curriculum is rigorous and college-preparatory, with its foundation in the classical liberal arts. Westminster Academy teaches all required classes at the honors level. With a faculty to student ratio of 1:8, our students enjoy personal attention and meaningful relationships with their teachers and peers. Our excellent faculty and unique pedagogy are the strengths of our school.

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY DISTINCTIVES

Westminster Academy is a classical Christian school, employing the centuries-proven educational methodology known as the Trivium, consisting of the Grammar, Dialectic, and Rhetoric. Emphasis is placed upon critical thinking skills. At the high school level (spanning Dialectic and Rhetoric), Westminster Academy's history and literature program focuses on an intensive study of the great writings, people, events, works, and ideas that have formed and reformed civilization as we know it. These disciplines are tightly integrated and special emphasis is given to the study of Western Culture. Classic works of our culture are studied within their historical settings and from a traditionally biblical perspective, which helps the students understand how these works and the people who wrote them were influenced by those historical settings. These courses also reveal the universal nature of the great works, which are classics precisely because they speak to all men through all ages. Theology, history, literature, and rhetoric courses have extensive reading, writing, discussion, and public speaking requirements. All courses are taught at the honors level.

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023:
Total Graduates: 32	Total Graduates: 29	Total Graduates: 23
Total students taking ACT: 31	Total students taking ACT: 28	Total students taking ACT: 20
ACT English: Avg 32	ACT English: Avg 33	ACT English: Avg 32
ACT Math: Avg 25	ACT Math: Avg 27	ACT Math: Avg 28
ACT Reading: Avg 31	ACT Reading: Avg 32	ACT Reading: Avg 30
ACT Science: Avg 27	ACT Science: Avg 28	ACT Science: Avg 28
ACT Composite: Avg 28	ACT Composite: Avg 30	ACT Composite: Avg 29
Total students taking SAT: 28	Total students taking SAT: 28	Total students taking SAT: 21
SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing: Avg 654	SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing: Avg 686	SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing: Avg 669
SAT Math: Avg 579	SAT Math: Avg 625	SAT Math: Avg 627
National Merit: 1 Finalist	National Merit: 3 Finalists 2 Commended	National Merit: 4 Commended

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY DISTINCTIVES

Once each year as sophomores, juniors, and seniors, our students are required to write a paper and then present and orally defend an original persuasive argument, up to 20 minutes in length. Preparation to write the paper and then present the **senior thesis** includes formal training in Rhetoric, the art of persuasive expression, or as Aristotle wrote, “the ability to discern in any situation the available means of persuasion.” Texts include Plato’s *Five Dialogues*, *Gorgias*, *The Republic*, *Phaedrus*, Cicero’s *Rhetorica Ad Herennium*, Aristotle’s *On Rhetoric*, and Crider’s *Office of Assertion*.

Westminster begins Latin with 3rd grade students. Students continue with Latin through 10th grade.

The Capstone course is a team-taught, discussion-oriented course where seniors integrate ideas across disciplines and learn to intelligently discuss, civilly debate, and thoughtfully engage cultural issues from a Christian worldview. Throughout the year, seniors explore the great ideas of Western thought (e.g., justice, beauty, equality, liberty, etc.) and analyze current events through the discussion and debate of books, articles, paintings, poetry, music, and film. **As part of the course, they travel to Italy for 11 days and visit Rome, Assisi, Siena, and Florence.** The trip includes discussions, lectures, journaling, sketching, and oral presentations.

Upper School students and faculty belong to one of four houses (Athanasius, Becket, Boniface, Columba) which exist to create communities in which five cornerstone virtues can be cultivated in the hearts of students and faculty (courage, friendship, responsibility, cheerfulness, and devotion). In addition to providing significant leadership and mentoring opportunities, the houses compete monthly in challenges which include art, music, drama, rhetoric, and athletics.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) TESTING

While AP courses are not offered, most students elect to take AP exams. In 2023, 44 Westminster Academy students took 53 AP exams. 91% of Westminster students scored a 3 or higher and 60% posted scores of 4 or higher.

ACCREDITATIONS:

ACCS Accredited in April 2002, Reaccredited in December 2020
NCPSA Accredited in July 2022
SAIS Accredited in October 2019

AFFILIATIONS:

ACCS – Association of Classical and Christian Schools
SAIS – Southern Association of Independent Schools
SCL – Society for Classical Learning

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS:

23 Full-time, 11 with Advanced Degrees

PERCENT OF GRADUATES MATRICULATING TO 4 YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

2020	95% Colleges, 5% Military
2021	91% Colleges, 6% Military, 3% World Race (1 year gap year focused on missions)
2022	96% Colleges, 4% Impact 360 (gap year program)
2023	96% Colleges, 4% Trade School



COLLEGES

SCHOOLS IN **BOLD** INDICATE COLLEGES ATTENDED

- American University
- **Arizona State University**
- **Arkansas State University**
- **Auburn University**
- Austin College
- **Baylor University**
- Belhaven College
- **Belmont University**
- Berry College
- **Bethany College**
- **Birmingham Southern College**
- **Brandeis University**
- **Bryan College**
- **Butler University**
- **Calvin College**
- **Carson-Newman University**
- Case Western Reserve
- Cedarville University
- Clark University
- **Clemson University**
- **Colby College**
- Colgate University
- **Colorado College**
- Colorado School of Mines
- **Columbia University**
- **Covenant College**
- Delta State University
- Denver University
- DePauw University
- **Duke University**
- Eckerd College
- **Elon University**
- Emory University
- Emory & Henry College
- **Fashion Institute of Technology**
- **Flagler College**
- Florida State University
- **Furman University**
- Georgetown University
- Georgia Tech University

- **Grove City College**
- **Hampden-Sydney College**
- **Harding University**
- Harvard University
- **Hillsdale College**
- **High Point University**
- Indiana University
- John Brown University
- **The King's College (New York)**
- **Lipscomb University**
- **London School of Economics**
- Louisiana State University
- Loyola University
- **Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts**
- **Lyon College**
- Mars Hill College
- **Maryville College**
- Millsaps College
- **Mississippi College**
- **Mississippi State University**
- Murray State University
- New York University
- North Carolina State University
- **North Texas State University**
- Northwestern University
- **Oglethorpe University**
- **Oxford University (England)**
- **Palm Beach Atlantic University**
- Pepperdine University
- Presbyterian College
- **Purdue University**
- **Rhodes College**
- **Rice University**
- **Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology**
- **Samford University**
- **Savannah College of Art and Design**
- Sewanee
- Southern Methodist University
- **St. Andrews (Scotland)**
- St. John's College
- **St. Mary's College**
- Tennessee Wesleyan College
- **Texas A & M University**
- **Texas Christian University (TCU)**
- **Tulane University**
- **Union University**

- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Naval Academy
- **University of Alabama**
- University of Alabama (Birmingham)
- **University of Arkansas**
- University of Charleston
- **University of Chicago**
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado
- **University of Dallas**
- **University of Evansville**
- **University of Florida**
- **University of Georgia**
- University of Iowa
- **University of Indianapolis**
- University of Kansas
- **University of Memphis**
- University of Miami
- **University of Mississippi**
- **University of Missouri**
- University of Nebraska
- **University of Oklahoma**
- University of Southern California
- University of Southern Mississippi
- **University of South Carolina**
- University of Tampa
- **University of Tennessee**
- **University of Texas**
- University of Tulsa
- **University of Vermont**
- **University of Virginia**
- Vanderbilt University
- Vassar College
- **Visible Music College**
- **Wake Forest University**
- **Washington & Lee University**
- Washington University
- **Watkins School of Design**
- Westminster College (St Louis)
- Westmont College
- **Wheaton College**
- Whitworth University
- William and Mary College
- Wittenberg University
- Wofford College