

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WESTMINSTER *YOU*

**INFORMATION &
COURSE GUIDE
2021–22**

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is WestminsterYOU?

WestminsterYOU is a tailored and innovative approach to teaching, learning, and building community. The program provides opportunities for our students and families to engage and learn in ways that work for them in spaces and through programs that inspire connection and customization. WestminsterYOU provides unique experiences that prepare our students to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

Academies

Academies are academic programs that exist both within and outside our traditional seven period day. These programs will offer students the opportunity for hands-on and experiential learning that is community-oriented in scope. Students in our academies will gain valuable experience in real-world situations and scenarios and will have the opportunity to put our school's vision into practice. Students who take part in an academy will have a multi-year experience that may include a mentor and/or related internship. Students who complete work within each portion of an academy will receive credit on their transcript.

Enrichment

Academic enrichment opportunities offer students the unique ability to go deeper and further into academic material they are interested in. These opportunities stretch across the disciplines.

Recovery

Academic recovery is designed to give students time, space, and support each week to get caught up on schoolwork and/or seek extra help from teachers. We will also provide a Writing Center and a Math Center for academic support. Students who have a failing grade may be assigned to an intervention program to address academic deficiencies and to give them an opportunity to boost their grade(s).

ENRICHMENTS

Apple Certification

Instructors: Ms. Clapper

Grade Levels: 7–12

Meets: Thursday, 2:10–3 p.m. • Second semester only

This course is a free program through Apple that Westminster will facilitate by providing both the time and space for students to participate. According to Apple, “The Apple Certified Support Professional (ACSP) certification is for the help desk professional, technical coordinator, or power user who manages networks or provides technical support for Mac users. ACSP certification verifies that you understand macOS core functionality and that you can configure key services, perform basic troubleshooting, and support multiple Mac users.” Students who complete this course will then have the opportunity to serve in a leadership or support role in the world of technology at Westminster, which will provide students interested in a career in technology valuable real-world experience.

Theatre Arts

Instructors: Mr. Butz, Mrs. Rosenberg, Mrs. Mueller

Grade Levels: 7–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, 2:10–3 p.m. (Middle school – Wednesday only) • First or second semester

The Theatre Arts Enrichment Program is a year-long program for students with a serious interest in the Theatre Arts and who are ready to take their theatrical skills to the next level. Students will spend their time learning how to prepare and execute an effective audition; developing better stage technique in voice, movement, and acting; and learning the practical skills applied in set construction and painting. All of the content of the course will be focused around Westminster’s Theatre Season. In other words, we will be reading the plays and musicals of our current season*, developing audition material for the season, learning performance technique with the material from the season, and constructing the sets and props for the season. *The 2021–22 Theatre Season consists of the following shows: *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Tartuffe*, *Cinderella*UPPER SCHOOL

Audition, Recital, and Concert Prep

Instructor: Mrs. Roberts

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesdays from 2:10–3 p.m.

Students who are planning to audition for All-District/All-State, audition for college music scholarships, or perform at a recital or concert should consider joining the Audition, Recital, and Concert Prep course offered through WestminsterYOU. The course will be made up of discussion and performance opportunities in addition to guided rehearsals. Students can join this course as a soloist or as a part of a small ensemble (string quartet, barbershop group, etc.). Students will have the opportunity to discuss performance-related topics like stage fright and music memorization techniques. Mock auditions and performances will be part of the course. This will be especially helpful to those students enrolled in “Advanced Ensemble.”

College Connection Hub

Instructors: College Counselors — Mrs. West

Grade Levels: 11–12

Meets: Wednesday or Thursday beginning at 2:10 p.m.

12th grade (first semester), 11th grade (second semester)

This resource is designed to help students walk through the college application process. Included in this program will be tips on writing an effective college essay and filling out applications as well as strategies on finding the right school for each individual student.

Creative Writing & Literary Magazine

Instructors: Mr. Roff, Mrs. Holliday

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, 2:10–3 p.m. • Year-long

The Creative Writing Workshop Enrichment is a year-long opportunity for students who have a passion for creative writing to develop their personal projects. Through this enrichment, students will be given the space to walk through the steps of creative writing while gaining feedback from peers and teachers. Students will be encouraged to work on novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and creative non-fiction, but ultimately should bring their own personal writing each week. Although direct instruction is not a component of this workshop, teachers will be available to provide guidance on idea generation, organization, story development, revision, and editing. The workshop will further encourage students to pursue publication, including publication in the Westminster Literary Magazine.

The Literary Magazine will serve as a student-led publication of creative writing pieces, not only from their own personal work but the contributions of the wider Westminster student community. The purpose of this literary magazine will be to highlight the creative talents of Westminster students in areas of both writing and art. Students directly serving with the literary magazine will gather contributions and submissions from the student body, select submissions, edit submissions, design layout for each issue, and ultimately bring the issue to publication in a digital format available to students and families. Students will receive guidance from faculty through all phases of the collection, selection, and publishing process.

Exploration of the Great Questions

Instructors: Mr. Knerr, Mr. Seilback, Mr. Yergler

Grade Levels: 10–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, 2:10–3 p.m. • Year-long

Exploration of the Great Questions is a year-long course designed to allow students to engage with some of the deeper questions of the Christian faith. Our goal is to avoid immediate, simplistic answers to these questions. Rather, the instructors will mentor and guide the students as they explore them in an environment where honest questions are welcomed. Throughout the course, we'll not only engage in open-ended questions — we'll also explore the big questions through film, works of art, and knowledgeable guest speakers who can also speak into the big questions of the day. Wednesdays will be devoted to discussion and cultural analysis. On Thursdays, students will work independently with a variety of materials related to the topics we discussed the previous day. The goal is to bring each student's exploration of the great questions to a personal level. We welcome those who are struggling to find answers as well as those who simply want to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.

Introduction to Coding – Upper School

Instructors: Ms. Clapper

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Thursday, 2:10–3 p.m. • Second semester only

This course will provide students the opportunity to learn the different components of coding by utilizing online curriculum and resources. Similar to Apple Certification, Westminster will provide time and space for students to explore the different facets of computer programming.

10 Pillars Leadership Institute

Instructor: Mr. Snyder, Mr. Petke, and other athletic faculty and staff members

Grade Levels: 9–12 (see details below)

Meets: 9th grade – Wednesdays from 2:10–3 p.m. for one quarter (offered each quarter)

10th–12th grades – Thursdays from 2:10–3 p.m. during the sports season (3 groups: fall, winter, spring)

The 10 Pillars Leadership Institute is a tiered program based upon the philosophy that leadership creates culture, and culture shapes the behaviors that drive results. Using the 10 Pillars of our athletic program, this set of courses will build from the ground up, starting at the 9th grade level, which will focus on the importance of a healthy and God-honoring culture. From there, 10th–12th graders will have the opportunity to learn and practice leadership principles in order to effectively create the type of culture we strive for at Westminster. 10th–12th graders who opt into this program should do so during their sports season or while directly involved in extracurricular activities in order to use these experiences as opportunities to apply their learning in real-life situations.

Westminster Reads

Instructors: Mr. Roff

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Thursdays from 2:10–3 p.m. • Year-long (beginning second semester of the 2021–22 school year)

The Westminster Reading Enrichment is for students who enjoy reading books, specifically, who enjoy reading books with other people. This enrichment will create a community of readers who will select books to read and then discuss these selections using a book club style format. In conjunction with their group, students will curate their own reading lists, set their weekly reading schedule, and work toward their own individual reading goals. Students should be open to reading from a variety of genres and styles. Books discovered by the group to be of exceptional merit can be submitted for acceptance to the Westminster Bookshelf in support of the Westminster Reading Initiative. Expectations include regular attendance, engagement in small group discussions, and of course, reading.

ACADEMIC RECOVERY & SUPPORT

Math Support Center

Instructors: Mr. Cupps & Mrs. Mayfield

Grade Levels: 7–12

The Math Support Center is designed to be a resource for students who need extra help and support in any of their math classes. Students have access to the Math Support Center before and after school as well as during study hall or Advisory.

Homework Center

Instructor: Mr. Pott & Mr. Ruprecht

Grade Levels: 7–12

The Homework Center is designed to help students who have missing work get caught up on their assignments. Students in need of this service will be assigned to the Homework Center by their grade-level counselors and principals.