



WESTMINSTER

SCHOOL AT OAK MOUNTAIN

2017 - 2018 School Profile

The Westminster School at Oak Mountain
5080 Cahaba Valley Trace
Birmingham, AL 35242

westminsterknights.org

Interim Head of School, Mark Lloyd
Head of Upper School, Chris Knowles
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CEEB/ACT Code: 010382

MISSION and VISION

Building Christ's kingdom by equipping students with wisdom, virtue, and eloquence

The Westminster School at Oak Mountain is committed to graduating young men and women who think clearly with discernment and understanding, who reason persuasively and articulate precisely, and who interpret the world through the light of Scripture. Our school is designed to develop well-rounded, “renaissance” students, who are scientists as well as linguists, athletes as well as poets. Westminster graduates are well prepared to enter the colleges and universities they choose.

AFFILIATIONS

Westminster is a ministry of Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, PCA, and is accredited by the AdvancED (formerly known as SACS). The school holds membership in the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS), the Educational Records Bureau (ERB), and the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Established in 1998, Westminster is a co-educational classical Christian school with 550 students in grades K-12. The first graduating class matriculated in 2006. Currently, 228 students are enrolled in the Upper School (7-12) grades.

FACULTY

Westminster seeks master teachers who have a passion for learning and for teaching students. Of the twenty-one full-time faculty members serving in the Upper School, thirteen have earned advanced degrees. The student to faculty ratio is 10:1 in grades 7-12.

ADMISSIONS

An admission to Westminster is based on academic records, teacher recommendations, entrance exam scores, and parent and student interviews. Westminster does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

FINANCIAL AID

Westminster maintains a generous financial aid policy and program to ensure socio-economic diversity. Around 29% of school families received financial aid. In 2017-2018 \$452,000 was awarded in aid.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school operates under a two-semester system. The school day for grades 7-12 is divided into six fifty-minute periods.

ORGANIZATIONS and ATHLETICS

Basketball	Cross Country	Drama/Theater
Golf	Junior Classic League	National Honor Society
Robotics	Soccer	Student Newspaper
Tennis	Track and Field	Volleyball
Yearbook	Video	Swimming/Diving

STUDENT LIFE

Westminster is committed to a healthy community of faith and learning. All students in grades 7-12 are assigned to one of four houses. These houses, in large part, serve as the basis for community-building, competition, service, and student government. Each student has a faculty advisor who acts as a mentor, both academically and spiritually, throughout his or her time in the Upper School.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Westminster provides a rigorous, traditional liberal arts education. The core disciplines taught in the Upper School emphasize classical languages, the Great Books, natural sciences, and the story of humankind from the beginning to the present. The Humane Letters are taught as Socratic seminar courses. Students attending Westminster beginning in grade 7 cover the historical timeline (from antiquity to modernity) two separate times. Formal logic and rhetoric are taught as well. As part of a capstone senior year, students travel and study for two weeks in Greece and Italy.

Westminster provides a single track for our students that would, by its content and pace, be widely recognized as an honors college preparatory curriculum. Westminster intentionally does not offer AP courses because of a strong commitment to our traditional, yet unique, curriculum.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate from Westminster, a student must have at least a C average (70 or higher). Westminster does not rank students but does recognize a valedictorian and a salutatorian. The course sequence for the Upper School begins in the grade 7; however, only grades 9-12 are reported on transcripts. Graduation requirements are as follows:

Rhetoric	1	Mathematics	4	Thesis	1
Humane Letters	8	Natural Sciences	4		
Foreign Language	3	Theology	1		

GRADING SYSTEM

Westminster's grading system is based on a 100-point scale. Official grades are given at the end of each semester, and a final grade is assigned at the end of the school year. An un-weighted and weighted, cumulative GPA is provided on the final transcript. Westminster weights GPAs to reflect the academic rigor required of our students. On this scale, classes carrying an "honors" designation receive an extra .50. If Calculus is taken in the junior year, it receives an extra point. Calculus 2 also receives an extra weighted point.

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE SEQUENCE (GRADES 9-12)

	<i>Humane Letters</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Natural Sciences</i>	<i>Foreign Languages</i>	<i>Theology</i>	<i>Rhetoric</i>
<i>9th</i>	American History & Literature	Algebra I/ Geometry	Biology	Latin II	Theology I: Systematic	Rhetoric I: Logic
<i>10th</i>	Ancient History & Literature	Geometry/ Algebra II	Chemistry	Latin III/ Spanish I	Theology II: Biblical Interpretation	Rhetoric II: Speech
<i>11th</i>	Medieval History & Literature	Algebra II/ Pre-Calculus/ Calculus	Physics	Greek I/ Spanish II	Theology III: Church History	Rhetoric III: Junior Thesis
<i>12th</i>	European History & Literature	Trigonometry Calculus/ Calculus 2	Experimental Zoology	Greek II/ Spanish III	Apologetics	Rhetoric IV: Senior Thesis

* Humane Letters courses combine history and literature in a comprehensive approach, which emphasizes primary sources, the Great Ideas, and writing. Socratic dialogue is the primary means of instruction.

+ Foreign Languages

After studying Latin in 7th-9th grades, students may choose to take Spanish for three years or to remain in classical languages, reading Latin literature and learning ancient Greek.

2017 GRADUATES 29

GPA Average 3.5 (unweighted) **GPA Median** 3.65 (unweighted)

ACT	English	Math	Reading	Science
	31	27	30	26
SAT*	Critical Reading	Math		
	670	618		

* Averages for SAT based on four students' scores

SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of the Class of 2017 were awarded over \$2,700,000 in academic, athletic, and special achievement scholarships and grants. These twenty-nine graduates accepted packages totaling just over \$1,100,000.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION (reflects all graduating classes)

Auburn University	Mercer University	University of Alabama at Huntsville
Belmont University	Mississippi College	University of Dallas
Berry College	Mississippi State University	University of Mississippi
Birmingham-Southern College	Missouri State University	University of Montevallo
Covenant College	Rhodes College	University of South Alabama
Dartmouth College	Rose-Hulman Inst. Of Tech.	Vanderbilt University
Furman University	Samford University	Washington & Lee University
Huntingdon College	Texas A&M	Westmont College
King's College (NYC)	Troy University	Wheaton College
Louisiana Scholars College (NSU)	United States Military Academy	Wofford College
Louisiana State University	University of Alabama	
Marquette University	University of Alabama at Birmingham	



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Reading List

9th Grade

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Stories by Washington Irving
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Selected Poems by Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost and Langston Hughes
Selected Stories by Mark Twain, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Ernst Hemingway, and Flannery O'Connor
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
"The Crucible" Arthur Miller
Democracy in America (Selections) by Alexis De Toqueville
Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Common Sense by Thomas Paine
The Federalist and the Anti-Federalist's Papers (Selections)
Select treatises by John Locke
The Declaration of Independence
The Constitution
The Articles of Confederation
"Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr.
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

10th Grade

Enuma Elish
The Code of Hammurabi
Iliad by Homer
Oresteia by Aeschylus
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Ancient Greek Philosophy (Selections)
Plutarch's Lives (Selections)
Paradise Lost by John Milton

Aeneid by Virgil
Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis

11th Grade

City of God by Augustine
Saga of Volsungs
Letters of Abelard and Heloise
Anglo-Saxon Literature (Selections)
The Qur'an
The Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius
How the Irish Saved Civilization by Thomas Cahill
The Inferno by Dante
Selected Arthurian legends
Canterbury Tales by Chaucer (Selections)
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Macbeth by Shakespeare
Much Ado about Nothing by Shakespeare
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

12th Grade

Echoes of Eden Jerram Barrs
Songs of Innocence and of Experience by William Blake
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Dubliners by James Joyce
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
The Communist Manifesto by Marx and Engels
Excerpts from Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, J. S. Mill, John Locke, Rene Descartes, Montesquieu, Nietzsche, Lenin, Hitler, and Adam Smith
Night by Elie Wiesel
The Prince by Machiavelli
Hamlet by Shakespeare