



WESTMINSTER

SCHOOL AT OAK MOUNTAIN

UPPER SCHOOL ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE GOALS

Classical Languages

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will be able to read and appreciate original works in Greek and Latin, and apply their knowledge of grammar and style to their own communication.

Discipline Area Goals:

As a result of classical languages instruction at Westminster, students will:

- Goal One – Better understand the structure of the target languages and of English.
- Goal Two – Read selections of the Great Books, especially of the Bible, as expressed in the original languages.
- Goal Three – Know the Greco-Roman culture that frames the New Testament and that provided the foundations of western civilization.
- Goal Four – Possess confidence in understanding common classical words, phrases, and allusions.
- Goal Five – Acquire an extensive vocabulary in the target languages and in English.
- Goal Six – Appreciate and value language as a gift from God.

Discipline Area Standards:

- Standard One – Read and comprehend a variety of linguistic styles, as represented by various classical authors.
- Standard Two – Possess some proficiency in the oral expression of language.
- Standard Three – Compose original sentences both in the target language.
- Standard Four – Identify grammatical constructions in the target languages.

- Standard Five – Learn different methods of vocabulary acquisition.
- Standard Six – Describe elements of Roman and Greek daily and religious life.

Mathematics

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will be able to select and employ the appropriate tools for solving a mathematical problem, compose and present an elegant argument to support a solution or conclusion, and describe the historical contexts from which particular concepts emerged.

As a result of mathematics instruction at Westminster, students will:

Discipline Area Goals:

- Goal One – Articulate an appreciation for the beauty of mathematics, with God as its source.
- Goal Two – Learn math as a liberal art that integrates in fields like science, engineering, and technology.
- Goal Three – Gain confidence in solving mathematical problems.
- Goal Four – Understand the concepts that are foundational to equations.
- Goal Five – Approach new problems strategically.

Discipline Area Standards:

- Standard One – Calculate the value of various expressions with efficiency and without the aid of technology.
- Standard Two – Manipulate algebraic expressions.
- Standard Three – Learn the application of logic, especially in geometric proofs.
- Standard Four – Compose and present mathematical arguments with elegance.
- Standard Five – Represent mathematical relationships in a variety of forms.
- Standard Six – Describe the history of mathematics within a theo-centric framework.

Science

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will be able to apply the scientific method to solve problems and observe, interpret, classify, identify elements of the natural world.

Discipline Area Goals:

As a result of science instruction at Westminster, students will:

- Goal One – Begin to understand the relationship between the Creator and the creation.
- Goal Two – Articulate the mythos (narrative history) of the natural sciences.
- Goal Three – Use the Scientific Method and other skills to present conclusions that lead to further discovery.
- Goal Four – Take the creation mandate from Genesis to heart and wrestle with the implications of stewardship.
- Goal Five – Communicate the fundamentals of Science using common and technical languages.
- Goal Six – Discover the integrated nature of Science with other academic disciplines.

Discipline Area Standards:

- Standard One – Learn about the Creator by studying the creation Through observation, contemplation, conversation, and experimentation.
- Standard Two – Acquire the narrative of natural science through the use of primary sources.
- Standard Three – Construct models of natural law that complement historical observations through experimentation.
- Standard Four – Build a Biblical model of Creation Stewardship through historical observation.
- Standard Five – Communicate the principles of the seven liberal arts (grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy) and the natural sciences (physics, chemistry, and biology) through extended study.

Humanities

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will understand the importance of literature and history in developing the thought and life of western civilization, all while working from the standpoint of Christian conviction.

Discipline Area Goals:

As a result of Humanities instruction at Westminster, students will:

- Goal One – Enter into the “Great Conversation” by being familiar with the “Great Ideas,” thinking through and expressing them well.
- Goal Two – Do history well by engaging in historical method.
- Goal Three – Understand what constitutes civility and nobility by understand the concepts of chivalry, nobility, civility, barbarism, freedom, virtue, rights and duties.
- Goal Four – Love that which is admirable by being exposed to that which is lovely, having disciplined experiences with beauty, and possessing good aesthetic sensibilities and taste.
- Goal Five – Understand and use leisure rightly.

Specific Discipline Areas:

1. Literature
2. History
3. Rhetoric

History

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will have developed a working knowledge of the history of western civilization through the lens of Christian conviction.

Discipline Area Standards:

As a result of History instruction at Westminster, students will:

- Standard One – Understand the narrative history of western civilization.
- Standard Two – Debate historical causes and effects.
- Standard Three – Appreciate the influence of geography on the history of civilizations.
- Standard Four – Trace the historical impact of philosophy, political theory, and religion.
- Standard Five – Compare various civilizations across time and space.
- Standard Six – Know the importance of perspective for interpreting history.
- Standard Seven – See the parallels between historical events and the current time.

Our Aspiration:

We long for students to understand that God has made himself known in many different ways throughout the history of the world, but that he has uniquely revealed his righteous plan of salvation in the historical person of Jesus Christ, which provides a retroactive and future-oriented interpretive lens for reading all historical developments. (Romans 12:1, Hebrews 1:1)

Literature

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will understand the dynamic power of words and stories in shaping our understanding of ourselves and the world around us from the standpoint of Christian conviction.

Discipline Area Standards:

As a result of Literature instruction at Westminster, students will:

- Standard One – Understand the basic elements of narrative and poetic literature.
- Standard Two – Interact with the importance of form and genre.
- Standard Three – Trace the development of literary forms.
- Standard Four – Discuss the impact of religious and philosophical values on literary expression.

- Standard Five – Appreciate the impact of history on literature and literature on history.

Our Aspiration

It is our desire for students to develop a love for the beauty of literature and to understand the production of it as a unique expression of the divine image in themselves and all of mankind. We also hope they will begin to see the stories and songs of history as mankind's groping in the dark for the God who made them in his image and desires to save them from sin. (Acts 15)

Rhetoric

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will be able to order their thoughts and words for the purpose of ordering their souls, expressing themselves logically, virtuously, passionately, and persuasively.

As a result of Rhetoric instruction at Westminster, students will:

Discipline Area Goals:

- Goal One – Understand the elements of crafting a rhetorical argument.
- Goal Two – Possess the skills to research effectively.
- Goal Three – Possess a framework for evaluating writings and oration rhetorically.
- Goal Four – Have the desire to use rhetoric wisely and virtuously.
- Goal Five – Develop an appreciation for beauty in language and expression.

Discipline Area Standards:

- Standard One – Study and understand the five canons of rhetoric.
- Standard Two – Study and understand the six parts of a discourse.
- Standard Three – Engage in research and be given the tools to research effectively.
- Standard Four – Analyze and imitate great speeches and poetry.
- Standard Five – Discern between virtuous and non-virtuous oratory.
- Standard Six – Craft and present a rhetorical thesis utilizing what they have learned.
- Standard Seven – Study and understand the three modes of persuasion.

Bible/ Theology

Purpose Statement:

By the end of their education at the Westminster School at Oak Mountain, students will love Jesus and understand Him more by having known the biblical narrative, understanding how to use the tools/grammar He has given us, know how to access his Word to us, and grasp how the church has codified the Word so that our students can pursue their callings.

Discipline Area Goals:

As a result of Bible instruction at Westminster, students will:

- Goal One – Comprehend the biblical themes of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation.
- Goal Two – Be proficient in the skills of doing theology.
- Goal Three – Understand the basic tenets of orthodox theology.
- Goal Four – Know the history (narrative and related creeds, confessions, leaders) of Christian thought.
- Goal Five – Defend his/her theological beliefs.
- Goal Six – Apply theology to life.

Discipline Area Standards:

- Standard One – The students will be proficient in hermeneutical skills (skills of interpretation).
- Standard Two – The students will have a knowledge of Old and New Testament content and chronology.
- Standard Three – The students will have an understanding of redemptive history.
- Standard Four – The students will be familiar with the literary genres and themes in Scripture.
- Standard Five – The students will understand the centrality of Christ in Scripture.
- Standard Six – The students will be involved in the process of crafting and developing theological thought.