



WESTMINSTER

SCHOOL AT OAK MOUNTAIN

2018 - 2019 School Profile

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

westminsterknights.org

Head of School, Brad Baggett
Interim US Head, Charles Evans
Dean of Students, Bridges Herring



5080 Cahaba Valley Trace
Birmingham, Alabama 35242
(205) 208-9696
www.westminsterknights.org
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), Independent School Management (ISM) and the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Established in 1998, Westminster is a co-educational classical Christian school with 536 students in grades K-12. The first graduating class matriculated in 2006. Currently, 234 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 22% of school families received financial aid. In 2018-2019 \$421,320 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 forty-five 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. A 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 receives an extra 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.

2018 GRADUATES 33

GPA Average 3.7 (unweighted) **GPA Median** 3.8 (unweighted)

ACT	English	Math	Reading	Science
	31	27	30	28

SAT*	Critical Reading	Math
	688	620

* Averages for SAT based on five students' scores

SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of the Class of 2018 were awarded over \$4,300,000 in academic, athletic, and special achievement scholarships and grants. These thirty-three graduates accepted packages totaling just over \$1,400,000.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION (reflects all graduating classes)

Auburn University	Louisiana State University	University of Alabama
Belmont College	Marquette University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Berry College	Mercer University	University of Alabama at Huntsville
Birmingham Southern College	Mississippi College	University of Dallas
College of William and Mary	Mississippi State University	University of Mississippi
Covenant College	Missouri State University	University of Montevallo
Dartmouth College	Rhodes College	University of South Alabama
Furman University	Rose-Hulman Institute Of Technology	University of South Carolina
Huntingdon College	Samford University	Vanderbilt University
Jefferson State Community College	Taylor University	Washington & Lee University
The King's College (NYC)	Texas A&M	Westmont College
Lee University	Troy University	Wheaton College
Lipscomb University	United States Military Academy (West Point)	Wofford College
Louisiana Scholars College (NSU)		



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Reading List

9th Grade

The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Selected poems by Emily Dickinson,
Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, and
Langston Hughes
Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Common Sense by Thomas Paine
The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers
The Declaration of Independence
The Constitution
“Letter from a Birmingham Jail” by
Martin Luther King Jr.
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas

10th Grade

Iliad by Homer
Oresteia by Aeschylus
Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Ancient Greek Philosophy (Selections)
Plutarch’s Lives (Selections)
Aeneid by Virgil
Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis

11th Grade

City of God by Augustine
Anglo-Saxon Literature (Selections)
The Qur’an
The Consolation of Philosophy by
Boethius
The Inferno by Dante
Le Morte Darthur by Sir Thomas
Malory
Canterbury Tales by Chaucer
(Selections)
Macbeth by Shakespeare

12th Grade

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Dubliners by James Joyce
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
The Communist Manifesto by Marx and
Engels
Excerpts by Thomas Hobbes,
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, J. S. Mill,
John Locke, Rene Descartes,
Montesquieu, Nietzsche, Lenin,
Hitler, and Adam Smith
Night by Elie Wiesel
Hamlet by Shakespeare
Paradise Lost by John Milton