



# WESTMINSTER

SCHOOL AT OAK MOUNTAIN

## School Profile

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Established in 1998, Westminster School at Oak Mountain is a K-12 classical Christian school. We are committed to graduating young men and women who think 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.

### CORE CHARACTERISTICS

**CHRISTIAN** Our teachers seek to build Christ's Kingdom by equipping students with wisdom, virtue, and eloquence.

**CLASSICAL** 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 cover the historical timeline from antiquity to modernity two separate times. Formal logic and rhetoric are integrated into the curriculum, but are taught in their own formal courses as well.

**COMMUNITY** Westminster is committed to a healthy community of faith and learning. All students in grades 7-12 are assigned to one of eight houses. These houses 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.

**GRAND TOUR** Our Grand Tour provides an experiential culmination of twelve years of study for our graduates. They travel for ten days across Greece and Italy visiting noteworthy historical sites that have been a part of their coursework. This immersive trip gives them a ground-level view of the foundations of both democracy and the modern Western world.

**AFFILIATIONS** Westminster is a ministry of Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, PCA, and is accredited by Cognia (formally known as AdvancED). The school holds membership in the Classical Association of Middle West and South (CAMWS), the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the Society for Classical Learning (SCL), the National Junior Classical League (NJCL), the Educational Theatre Association (ETA), and the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).

**ORGANIZATIONS AND ATHLETICS** Westminster offers a variety of co-curricular activities to enrich study, learning and culture. These include basketball, cross country, track, theater, golf, National Honor Society, robotics, soccer, tennis, track and field, volleyball, yearbook, video production, swimming, diving, and baseball.

### STUDENTS AND SCHOOL

- 34 Student in the class of 2021
- 174 students in grades 9-12
- 562 students total
- 100% college matriculation rate in 2020
- School founded in 1998
- Graduated first class in 2006

### FACULTY

- 24 teaching faculty
- 15 with advanced degrees
- 10:1 students/teacher ratio

### STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS

#### CLASS OF 2020

ACT (Total Tested: 32)

• Composite ACT	30
• English	32
• Math	28
• Reading	31
• Science	29

SAT (Total Tested: 4)

• Critical Reading	688
• Math	610

Average for SAT based on student scores.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

• English/Literature	4
• History	4
• Mathematics	4
• Science	4
• Foreign Language	3
• Rhetoric/Thesis	2
• Theology	1
Total Required Credits:	22 credits

### GRADING AND TRANSCRIPTS

- Semester system
- 4-point grading scale for grade level courses
- 5-point grading scale for honors courses
- Additional weighted scale based on quality points reflective of numeric scores:

98-100	A+	4.4
93-97	A	4.2
90-92	A-	4.0
88-89	B+	3.4
83-87	B	3.2
80-82	B-	3.0
78-79	C+	2.4
73-77	C	2.2
70-72	C-	2.0
69 and below	F	0.0

- 24 honors courses offered, two of those are AP (Note: We do not provide class rank.)

# Wisdom, Virtue, and Eloquence

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

MATH	SCIENCE	HISTORY	LITERATURE	LANGUAGES	RHETORIC	THEOLOGY
Algebra I	Earth Science	American (H)	American (H)	Latin I & II	Rhetoric I	Systematic
Geometry	Physical Science	Ancient (H)	Ancient (H)	Latin III (H)	Rhetoric II	Theology
Algebra II	Biology (H)	Medieval (H)	Medieval (H)	Spanish I	Rhetoric III (H)	Biblical
Geometry (H)	Chemistry (H)	Modern	Modern	Spanish II	Senior Thesis (H)	Interpretation
Algebra II (H)	Physics (H)	European (H)	European (H)	Spanish III (H)		Biblical
Pre-calculus (H)	Anatomy (H)			Greek I		Worldview
Algebra III	Environmental			Greek II (H)		Apologetics
AP Calculus AB	Science (H)					
AP Calculus BC						

H = Honors / AP = Advanced placement

**HUMANITIES** Humanities courses at Westminster cover texts ranging from Homer's *Odyssey* to the Qur'an to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Classes emphasize a conversational methodology called "dialectic" by Socrates. It is an ideal mode for a Christian school because the primary object is not victory in a debate, but the discovery of truth. At Westminster we believe that the art of discussion is a skill that must be honed and refined just like reading or writing. To that end, every class regularly assigns graded discussions in which students conduct conversations on great works of literature while the teacher observes.

**RHETORIC** The purpose of Rhetoric is to help our students become apologists for the Truth of God and his Kingdom in this world. From its study, we believe they should learn: Wisdom—to analyze, discern, and synthesize concepts and readings to exercise effective judgement in communication; Eloquence—to communicate in a clear, concise, and winsome manner; and Virtue—to empathize with, connect to, and transform their audience with integrity.

Rhetoric is a foundational subject explored, integrated, and reinforced throughout students' upper school experience. Because the value of these skills goes beyond academic pursuits, students practice and apply it to other forms of communication. Their studies culminate in a thesis experience that is not merely an exercise but a capstone of academic progress, spiritual and moral development, life skills, and natural aptitudes and interests.

## COLLEGE MATRICULATION

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

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of the Class of 2020 were awarded over \$4,000,000 in academic, athletic, and special achievement scholarships and grants. These thirty graduates accepted packages totaling just over \$1,300,000.

Since 2009 Westminster has had 10 students recognized as National Merit Scholars, 13 as Semifinalists, and 9 as Commended Scholars through the National Merit Scholarship Program.