

Westminster School



WELCOME HOME!

There is no place like home
The preschool moves to
Westminster's main campus

AWARDS

Student Achievements
& Accomplishments

Alumni

News & Spotlights

WORDS!

Theme for 2018-2019

Developing

Mind, Body, & Spirit

Celebrating
Westminster School's
50th
Graduating Class

The Griffin Gazette



Westminster School empowers students with skills and attitudes crucial to personal success and outstanding contributions to workplace and community. Westminster’s classical education teaches students to think critically and act creatively, to work hard, to develop strong organizational skills, an attention to detail, and a keen sense of personal responsibility, and to treat others with respect, courtesy, and kindness.

Westminster students gain a broad and deep understanding of the world through rigorous, well-rounded academic and enrichment programs. Westminster graduates are noted for their superior academic skills, good character, positive attitude toward life’s challenges and opportunities, and confidence. Westminster graduates are not only well prepared for higher education, they are prepared for life—and leadership—in the 21st century.

Westminster students are empowered with 21st Century skills:
Critical Thinking ~ Communication ~ Creativity
Respect ~ Integrity ~ Work Ethic ~ Confidence



Preschool - 8th Grade • Door-to-Door Bus Service • Extended Care • Summer Camp

703-256-3620 | admissions@westminsterschool.com

www.westminsterschool.com



**Westminster School Magazine:
The Griffin Gazette**

Head of School
Ellis Glover

Assistant Head of School
Susan Glazier

Admissions Director
Nancy Schuler

Director of Preschool
Kristine Lee

**Director of Development/
Alumni Relations**
Gildas Le Moigne

Editor
Susan Glazier

Contributors
Charlotte Foster
Susan Glazier
Kristine Lee
Dennis Miller

Design
Kevin Crook
Gildas Le Moigne

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Westminster School's 57th fall opening! It already has been exciting, full of fresh faces, refreshed classrooms, new classes, and bridges between teams.



This fall, we were so happy to welcome our youngest Griffins—just three and four years old—to the hallways of Westminster School! This brings delight, and perhaps a few dilemmas, as we work to meld the preschool and K-8 programs into a smoothly functioning union. Program additions as well as changes to the teaching structure provides fresh learning experiences for both students and teachers. Finally, I am both proud and confident that our outstanding team of educators deliver in full the promises of our school mission: to present challenge, build character, and instill confidence. I am equally

grateful for the loving and supportive parents, without whose partnership we could not reach so high or achieve so much.

As we look forward to the new school year, let us renew our commitment to Westminster's core mission - to guide young people toward the best version of themselves - for their own sake and for that of the greater world.

With warm regard,

Ellis Glover
Head of School



Table of Contents

Sections

- 3. From the Head of School
- 8. Graduating Class
- 22. Awards
- 26. Poetry Contest Winners
- 32. Westminster Parents Club
- 36. Griffin Fund Donors
- 38. Alumni News and Spotlights

Features

6. Yearly Themes

Awakening the Senses 2017 - 2018
Words! 2018 - 2019

10. All the World's a Stage

Since 1976 and its debut, the Drama Department has become the paragon of the school's program and mission.

14. Welcome Home, Preschool

The Griffin Academy moves to the Westminster campus.

30. Developing Mind, Body, & Spirit

The physical education program enjoys parity with all other academic and art programs.



Crepe Day



International Day



A Reindeer during the Cookie Party



7th and 8th Grade Spring Fling



Hugs and Smiles during PE Class



4th Grade Play
The Wind in the Willows



Learning Animals in French Class

Cover Photo: Collin Do celebrates at the 2018 Graduation ceremony (Photo by Edmond Joe).

Photo Credits: Damilola Awofisayo '18, Kevin Crook, Edmond Joe, Kristine Lee, Gildas Le Moigne, and friends.



3rd Grade Egyptian Day



1st Grade Butterfly Release



Preschool Green Meadows Field Trip



Hat Day



Student Talent Show



Kindergarten Visits the Science Center



Crazy Hair and Wacky Socks Day



8th Grade Car Wash



Halloween Parade

AWAKENING THE SENSES . . .

As a Foundation for Learning

During each of the last few school years, Westminster School has taken the opportunity to focus on a year-long, cross-curricular theme. This approach provides a lens through which to examine and hone our program by highlighting the importance of a particular aspect of teaching/learning and of life. For the 2017-2018 school year, administrators, teachers, and students explored the senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch—both as gateways to more mindful living and as crucial stepping-stones to learning.

In every subject, every classroom, through a variety of activities, students were encouraged to focus on one or more of the senses. For example, kindergartners might be given a paper bag with an object hidden inside. Using just their sense of touch, they might be asked to explore and describe the object in terms of size, shape, and texture. Third graders might be given the opportunity to smell a variety of spices used in Ancient Egyptian cooking or religious rites. Sixth graders might be asked to name all of the colors they saw in a magnificent stained-glass rose window from a Medieval cathedral. Activities like

these help to heighten awareness, increase concentration, and improve discernment, all crucially important to learning something new or exploring it in greater depth.

Of course, isolating and focusing on one sense or one multi-sensory experience is a very effective technique for relaxation, reduction of stress, and greater enjoyment of “the moment.” The next time you decide to eat an apple, take the time to look at it carefully, weigh it and explore its shape and surface with your hands, slice into it and inhale its distinctive scent, savor the first bite, investigate any differences in sensation between the first and last bite, examine the remains of the apple—the stem, core, and any seeds. We wager that it will prove to be a mini-vacation from the busy demands of the day and a delicious dive into the world of the senses. What a way to live!

**“ The senses are the gateway to intelligence. There is nothing in intelligence which did not first pass through the senses.”
Aristotle**

WORDS!

This school term, as you know, our theme is **WORDS!** What a rife topic! Robin Sharma said, *“Words can inspire, and words can destroy! Choose yours well!”* And that’s what we’ll do this year, think long and hard about how we choose our words. How often have we experienced a person who, having become frustrated in an argument, resorts to profanity. He, having exhausted his storehouse of effective words with which to parry, has essentially conceded his argument. Those who choose their words well will be the ones who are most effective and persuasive. As English speakers, we are fortunate that we have such a plethora of words from which to choose. Take the word bad, for example. Here are a few synonyms from which to select alternative, perhaps more nuanced ways, in which to express this term: evil, immoral, wicked, corrupt, sinful, depraved, rotten, contaminated, harmful, tainted, injurious, spoiled. Or, its opposite, good: excellent, fine, superior, wonderful, marvelous, qualified, suited, suitable, apt, trustworthy, gracious, obliging, agreeable, safe, profitable, beneficial.

Selecting the right word is a delicious prospect. Let us, every one of us—administrators, teachers, students, graduates, and parents—take this opportunity to expand our vocabularies, have fun with words (write nonsense poems, for example), and all learn to be a bit more eloquent in

both our spoken and written language. Let’s learn a new word every day, play word games, respectfully debate, and simply celebrate the myriad words with which we might choose to express ourselves. I think it will be a lot of fun, and certainly expansive and empowering. Let’s get started right away! Here’s a new word to fold into our repository of words: Lucubrate: to stay up late at night and study; or to discourse learnedly in writing. From the Latin, *lucubratus*, the past participle of the infinitive *lucubrare*, to stay up late and study by lamplight.

I’d say that the study of words and their etymology, i.e., their origin, is one of the most enjoyable and helpful pursuits for us to share this school year. We can’t wait to hear what new word you learned today. Share it with us and let’s all expand our vocabularies!

Salve et bonam fortunam!

Ellis Glover
Head of School

“Raise your word, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.” - Rumi

WESTMINSTER GRADUATES



An 8th grade class picture in the early 70's. If you recognize one of these students please contact us at 703-256-3620.

On June 7, Westminster School proudly presented its 50th class of graduates to the world. It is no small thing to complete Westminster's rigorous, classical program, and the majority of this year's graduates have been students since Kindergarten or 1st grade. Along the way, the students met the demands of an exceptionally well-rounded and advanced program of studies, including English, math, history, science, geography, French and Latin, plus art, music, dance, drama, daily P.E. and athletics.

At Westminster, the focus is on the humanity of each child. Values of kindness, respect, responsibility, perseverance, and enthusiasm are woven into daily school life. These qualities of character are also explored and reinforced through Westminster's impressive reading program, which includes several high-quality and classic works of literature each year, as well as its remarkable history program, a six-year sequential exploration of the history of Western civilization. The school's additional focus on the arts is also fundamental to turning out independent thinkers, leaders, and poised, self-confident speakers. A yearly calendar of beloved traditions and celebrations rounds out the students' experience as loved and carefully guided members of the Westminster family.

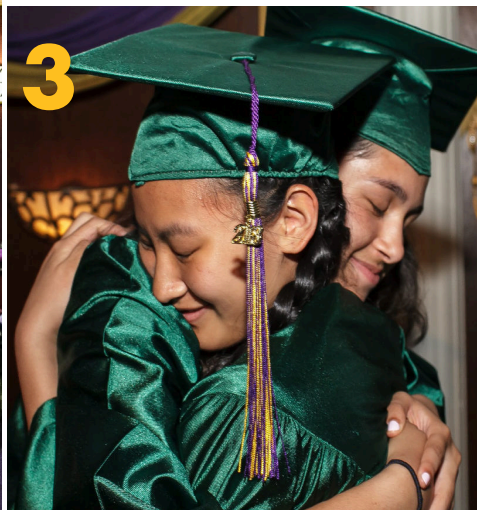
"In the most beautiful way, Westminster has sheltered me all these years, and yet at the same time, it has prepared me to stand on my own and walk out into the world. "

Excerpt from Eleanor Jacobson's speech at the 2018 graduation ceremony.

Although the school's alumni go on to a variety of prestigious high schools and universities, many testify that their Westminster experience was the most formative of all. What makes Westminster School so impactful on its students? The answer lies in the mission and philosophy of the school, which form a bedrock upon which all other aspects of the program rest, so parents can count on their children receiving a consistent experience from Pre-K through 8th grade. The staff and the parents form a partnership for raising and educating the children. The school's mission is upheld by long-serving members of the administrative and teaching staff who are steeped in "the Westminster way."

Although Westminster enjoys an enormously diverse community, with students and staff members representing more than 40 countries and varying religious and cultural backgrounds, they are united by the unique experience offered by the school. Westminster delivers a rigorous academic curriculum of depth and breadth, but it also understands that a child's education and his character are inextricable from one another. Out of that understanding has grown a program to guide children during their most formative years toward becoming their best selves. Ask any Westminster graduate, whether from the first graduating Class of 1969 or those freshly minted in 2018—they will never forget the many lessons learned at Westminster School.

ITS 50TH CLASS! 1969-2018



1. The Class of 2018 2. Three fresh graduates and their parents, who are also graduates 3. Lifelong friendship 4. At Westminster's graduation ceremony, each 8th grader has the opportunity to speak.

HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATION

(Class of 2018)

BASIS Independent McLean
Bishop Ireton
Bishop O'Connell
Bullis High School
Falls Church High School
Flint Hill School
George Mason High School
Highland School
Hilton High School
Justice High School
Lake Braddock High School
McLean High School
National Cathedral School
Northfield Mount Herman School (MA)
The Potomac School
South County High School
St. John Paul the Great
Thomas Jefferson High School for
Science and Technology
Washington & Lee High School
Woodberry Forest


COLLEGE MATRICULATION

(Class of 2014)

Boston University (MA)
Christopher Newport University (VA)
College of William and Mary (VA)
Emory University (GA)
Fordham University (NY)
George Mason University (VA)
George Washington University (DC)
Georgetown University (DC)
Georgia Southern University (GA)
Hampden-Sydney College (VA)
High Point University (NC)
McGill University (QC)
Texas Christian University (TX)
University of Georgia (GA)
University of Mary Washington (VA)
University of Pittsburgh (PA)
University of Virginia (VA)
Virginia Commonwealth University,
School of the Arts (VA)
Virginia Tech (VA)
West Virginia University (WV)



A provocative scene in the 7th grade's production of *Hamlet*:
Was Getrude complicit? It takes two to tango.



"ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE"

Since 1976 and its debut, the Drama Department has become the paragon of the school's program and mission: Presenting Challenge, Building Character, Instilling Confidence.



The drama program is one of the most dynamic aspects of the Westminster experience. Every year, each grade from K-8 produces a play, and every student has a significant role. Most productions include group and solo singing and some choreography. Participation in this important class project develops imagination, responsibility, self-confidence and poise, teamwork, and joy, and provides each child the opportunity to be recognized and celebrated by the entire school community. Graduates overwhelmingly cite their drama experience as one of the most formative aspects of their Westminster education. Not only do they impress future classmates, teachers, and colleagues with their in-depth knowledge of Shakespeare and their confidence as public speakers, singers, and performers, but they also fondly recall the camaraderie they shared with their classmates during play preparations and performances. Many friendships last long after our graduates leave, and often, when they meet in later life, they recall with laughter and song their extraordinary experience as Griffin Players at Westminster School.



West Side Story,
8th Grade



Where the Wild Things
Are, 1st grade



Robin Hood,
5th Grade

“With a new play every year, each character’s personality unlocked a different part of you and gave you better understanding of yourself”

Dana Christopher, Class of 2017

GRYPHON THEATRE SEASON 2018-2019

- October 25 : Frozen (5th)
- November 16 & 17 : The Taming of the Shrew (7th)
- December 7 : Mary Poppins (6th)
- February 1 : 4th Grade Play (TBD)
- February 8 : 3rd Grade Play (TBD)
- February 22 : 2nd Grade Play (TBD)
- March 15 & 16 : Fairytale Courtroom (WPC Play)
- March 29 : 1st Grade Play (TBD)
- April 26 & 27 : The Importance of Being Earnest (8th)
- May 10 : Kindergarten Play (TBD)



The Wind in the Willows,
4th Grade



Trolls,
2nd Grade



Hamlet,
7th Grade



The Jungle Book,
3rd Grade



WELCOME HOME

PRESCHOOL



**THE GRIFFIN ACADEMY
MOVES TO THE
WESTMINSTER
SCHOOL CAMPUS.**



“There’s No Place Like Home”

In August 2010, The Griffin Academy opened its doors for the first time. How fitting it was for the preschool to get its foundation at the very location where Westminster School had its start – St. Albans Episcopal Church. The Griffin Academy is a play-based preschool program that encourages learning and friendship. The children, especially our youngest students (3-year-olds), learn through observation and discovery.

The Griffin Academy prides itself on creating a safe and loving environment where children, ages 3 and 4, thrive. The children are introduced to a school setting where there is an equal balance of play and structure. The Griffin Academy is comprised of one 3-year-old class and two 4-year-old classrooms, with a maximum of 14 children per class and a staff of six or seven teachers. The preschool continues to be blessed with master teachers who share their knowledge, patience, creativity, and over 50 years of teaching experience with the 3-and-4-year-olds. The teaching staff delights in sharing the joys of learning, watching friendships

blossom, and witnessing the individual growth that occurs intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically for each child.

All of the children are exposed to language arts, math, and social studies on a daily basis. Once a week, the children have enrichment classes, which include PE, science, art, library, music and movement, and French. Dramatic play centers allow the children to use their imagination and to





play the role of a veterinarian, chef, actor, scientist, astronaut, pilot and so much more.

The preschool experience is enhanced even further by many field trips and in-house programs each year. Field trip destinations include the Discovery Theater, Air & Space Museum, Natural History Museum, Green Meadows Farm, and the National Zoo, just to name a few. Special in-house guests have included Catriona's Castle (traveling theater company), Under the Sea (meet creatures that live in the sea), and a visit from the local fire department. Some of the most anticipated annual events are the Halloween Costume Parade, Holiday Cookie Party, and Trike-a-Thon.

The Griffin Academy staff is looking forward to sharing the laughter, humor, and unexpected sayings and happenings that accompany the preschoolers with the entire Westminster community this coming school year, as the preschool begins its new residency at Westminster School. One thing is certain, the preschoolers are sure to bring an abundance of charm, cuteness, and love to the halls of Westminster.



Year-round tours available.
Join us for an Open House!
January 15 (9:30 - 11:00)
April 12 (9:30 - 11:00)

An excellent opportunity to tour the school during school hours and to see the children engaged in various teacher-planned activities, playing at a dramatic play center, or participating in one of the many enrichment classes.

Westminster School

A Classical Education for the 21st Century



OPEN HOUSE



Established
1962

Preschool - 8th Grade

January 15

9:00-10:30

Bring
the
Kids!

Art | Music | Drama | Orchestra | Chorus

Phonics-Based Reading | Penmanship | Public Speaking

Critical Thinking | French | Latin | Great Books | Daily PE | Field Trips

Schedule a Tour Today!

Presenting Challenge | Building Character | Instilling Confidence

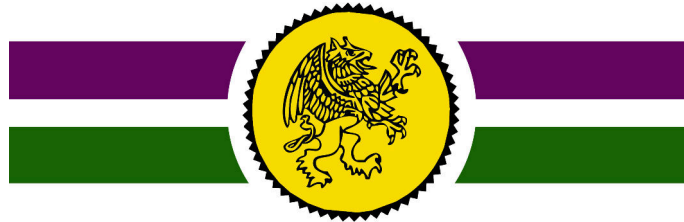
Preschool - 8th Grade • Door-to-Door Bus Service • Extended Care • Summer Camp

703-256-3620 | ADMISSIONS@WESTMINSTERSCHOOL.COM

WWW.WESTMINSTERSCHOOL.COM



11.3.18



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL 5K



Thank you to all the volunteers, participants, and sponsors.
The 5K was a great success for the second year running.

Over \$17,000 raised!

We look forward to seeing you next year!



ENRICHMENT

Going Beyond the Classroom

Beginning in 2014, Westminster School launched an after-school enrichment program designed to help meet the interests of students and the needs of busy parents. This safe, enjoyable program of on-site, after-school classes provides an enriching, wholesome break from the school-day routine while also supporting and enhancing the curriculum of the Westminster program. Over a trimester period, fall, winter and spring, students in grades K-4 have the opportunity to participate in chess, soccer, basketball, ballet, guitar, jazz dance, piano, hip-hop dance, yoga and more. Qualified and professional outside vendors as well as classroom teachers provide specialized group or individual

Chess
Dance
Guitar
Piano
Soccer
Tennis
Yoga
Coding





I came,
I saw,
I conquered.



Caitriona O'Drudy is a legend in her own time. When the announcement was made last spring that she intended to retire from teaching, a bittersweet cry of remembrance arose from Westminster graduates down the years. What?! No more Mrs. O'Drudy welcoming with warmth and reassurance a slightly shell-shocked 7th grader newly accepted as a Westminster student? No Mrs. O'Drudy bouncing down the 7th/8th corridor to remind a wandering spirit just about to slip into the gym that he needed to report to Math Help instead? No more penetrating looks over the top of her glasses as some errant Latin scholar tried to fake it through homework review? No more Leprechaun-like pop-ups from under her desk to startle a group of students who thought they had been granted a few minutes to do as they liked before class began? And what about those calls to parents late on a Friday evening to report on the week's progress and make plans for additional rescue? And even those Saturday morning calls to remind a wayward 8th grader in danger of not walking across the graduation stage that a good-sized chunk of the weekend had best

Carpe Diem

Notables

Grew up in Ireland.

1981 Began Teaching at Westminster.

Her 3 children Graduated from Westminster.

Her Grandsons Graduated in 2017 & 2018.

Lived in Okinawa, Japan for a few years.

Taught over 1,000 Westminster students.

Speaks four languages: English, Gaelic, German, Japanese.

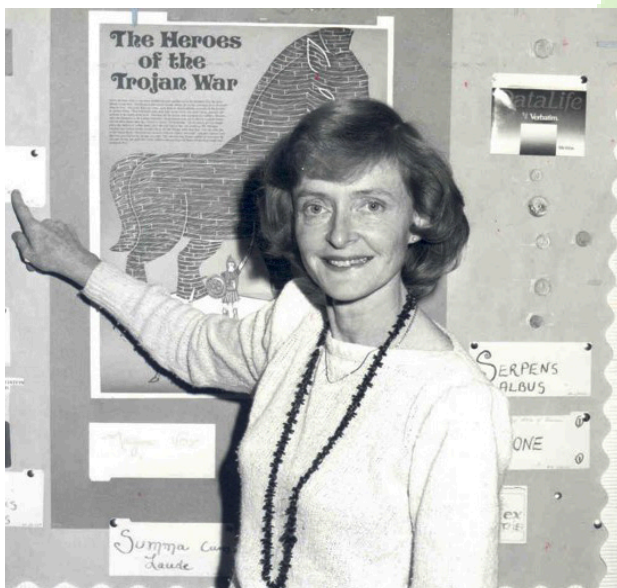
Retired in 2018.

Still works as a substitute teacher at Westminster School.

be spent in study? The list could go on, with countless variations, because through her 36 years as the 7th/8th grade Latin Teacher and, for many of them, also the Team Leader, Mrs. O'Drudy poured her love, knowledge, skill, and unmatched energy into the well-being of her students and the overall good of Westminster School.

Not only a language teacher par excellence, Mrs. O'Drudy was also a revered mentor to any number of teachers who came under her guidance as Team Leader for the upper-school. As one young teacher put it, "If I didn't show up at Mrs. O'Drudy's door with a question at least six times a day, I knew I wasn't doing my job." Keeping the upper-school running smoothly year after year called for the clarity of a systems engineer, the force of a military commander, and the warm understanding of a seasoned grandmother. As a result, not only her students, but also their teachers, grew to love and respect her.

Through the years, Mrs. O'Drudy remembered, honored, and brought to bear Mrs. Goll's (founder of Westminster School) teaching philosophy and superior ethics. She and Mr.



In the early days...



With grandsons, Liam (Class of 2017) and Lochlann (Class of 2018).

Glover also formed a crucial partnership for loving and guiding the students, and often their parents, through the challenges of adolescence and a sterling academic program. With Mr. Glover's strength and ability to turn a darkening situation toward the light, and Mrs. O'Drudy's belief in right conduct and willingness to go the last mile to see that it was done, the two supported each other through many a difficult challenge. Only Mr. Glover's respect and wishes for her and her husband's well-being allowed him to accept Mrs. O'Drudy's resignation. And, in the end, that sentiment is shared by the entire Westminster community, past and present. With a few sad tears, but with hearts full of appreciation for a career of loving service and a job very well done, indeed, Westminster wishes Mrs. O'Drudy all the time she could want to sleep late, read deeply, travel far, enjoy her family, and in general to attend at leisure to her own needs and desires. May the road rise up to meet you, Mrs. O'Drudy! And may it lead you back to Westminster very often!

AWARDS



AN OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR'S ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017-2018

**“WE ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO.
EXCELLENCE THEN, IS NOT AN ACT
BUT A HABIT.” - ARISTOTLE**



Eleanor Jacobson (8th grade) was awarded the “The Golden Gryphon,” which is given to a student who achieves in all areas of endeavor: academics, leadership, participation, and character. This award is voted on by all upper-school teachers and administrators who work with the 7th and 8th graders.

Congratulations! From left to right: Mr. Glover, Eleanor Jacobson, Mrs. Jacobson.



Alex Rose received a generous scholarship award from Highland School worth almost \$59,000.00. He won many other academic awards, including a perfect score on the National Latin Exam, something achieved by less than 1% of the more than 140,000 students who took the test internationally.

Art Contest

Kindergarten

Honorable Mention
Pedro Teran-Gross
Marina Muntain
Overall Winner
Tinbete Daniel

1st & 2nd Grade

Honorable Mention
Nadwa Abdi
Nicolas Guerra
Overall Winner
Lois Roberts

3rd & 4th Grade

Honorable Mention
Sasha Guerra
Angelina Lin
Charlotte Reynolds
Overall Winner
Sophie Le

5th & 6th Grade

Honorable Mention
Jennifer Pearson
Ayah Tajick
Ece Yozgat
Overall Winner
Abbie Lee

7th & 8th Grade

Honorable Mention
Collin Do
Allison Joe
Kayla Kim
Overall Winner
Eleanor Jacobson
Diya Mehta

Overall Winner Grades K-8

Eleanor Jacobson
Abbie Lee

Dimes for Drama

1st place
Sophie Yi
2nd place
Mia Lees
3rd place
Jennifer Pearson

Penmanship Award

2nd Grade
Nadwa Abdi
Zara Damiani

Elijah Guerra

3rd Grade

Devin Boakye
Sophie Le

Charlotte Reynolds

4th Grade

Madeleine Foster
Sabrina Khanna
Camdyn Parker
Arleigh Womack

5th Grade

Nabeera Yasir

6th Grade

Pooja Shekar
Janelle Amo-Yartey

7th Grade

Haydn House
Abbie Lee

8th Grade

Elizabeth Fowler
Karina Sikri
Eleanor Jacobson
Jonathan Michael
Fiona St. Clair
Master Penman
Karina Sikri

Perfect Attendance

Kindergarten

Brielle Ekuban
Timi Ogunlewe
Eva Oppong
Jonathan Pinder
Natan Yohanns



1st Grade

Alexa Arispe
Valentina Diaz
Luke Foster
Ava Patterson
Christian Sahl

2nd Grade

Bethel Alemu
Aida Fall
Priya Perakam
Mira Sears

3rd Grade

Devin Boakye
Raphael Chere
Karina Khanna

4th Grade

Mac Cronin
Madeleine Foster
Gavin Goldstein
Sasha Guerra
Baran Karayilan
Sabrina Khanna
Madeline Roesner
Arleigh Womack
Nabeera Yasir

5th Grade

Rudy Arispe
Max Castro
Tomas Dasek
Maria Khan
Ronan Kim
Sidney Le
Kenny Pozo

Christian Yetinayet

6th Grade

Fatima Khan
Abbie Lee
Sebastian Roberts

7th Grade

Luke Castro
Kayla Kim
Ella Lauer
Nadia Pitter

8th Grade

Deidre Boakye
Michal Dasek
Allison Joe
Diya Mehta
Devin Nemirow
Alex Rose
Shalini Setty
Fiona St. Clair

3rd Grade

Academic Awards

English

Most Improved
Maxx Oriade
Highest Achievement
Karina Khanna, Mia Lees

Math

Most Improved
David Guralnik

History

Most Improved
Jude Shbaikat

Science

Highest Achievement
Karina Khanna

P.E.

Most Improved
Dylan Cespedes

French

Highest Achievement
Karina Khanna

Charlotte Reynolds

French

Most Improved
Manasi Kumar
Highest Achievement
Karina Khanna

Art

Most Improved
David Guralnik
All-Around Proficiency
Sophie Le

Music

Most Improved
David Guralnik
All-Around Proficiency
Charlotte Reynolds

P.E.

Most Improved
Manasi Kumar
David Guralnik
Most Outstanding
Ajwah Jahangir
Dylan Cespedes

4th Grade

Academic Awards

English

Most Improved
Madeline Roesner
Highest Achievement
Camdyn Parker, William Townsend

Math

Most Improved
Justice Emord
Highest Achievement
Gavin Goldstein, Sabrina Khanna,

History

Camdyn Parker, William Townsend, Nabeera Yasir

Science

Most Improved
Angelina Lin
Highest Achievement
Camdyn Parker

French

Most Improved
Mehad Abdi, Isabella Oriade
Highest Achievement
Nabeera Yasir

Art

Most Improved
Camdyn Parker, William Townsend

Math

Most Improved
Alexandra Gardner
All-Around Proficiency
Angelina Lin

Music

Most Improved
Gavin Goldstein
All-Around Proficiency
Zainab Al-Sadig

P.E.

Most Improved
Alexandra Gardner
Gavin Goldstein
Most Outstanding
Isabella Oriade
William Townsend

5th Grade

Academic Awards

English

Most Improved
Alex Marsh, Rhea Massand
Highest Achievement
Santhony Chan, Ronan Kim

Math

Most Improved
Rhea Massand
Highest Achievement
Santhony Chan

History

Most Improved
Alana Taylor
Highest Achievement
Santhony Chan

Science

Most Improved
Alex Marsh
Highest Achievement
Santhony Chan

French

Most Improved
Alex Marsh
Highest Achievement
Santhony Chan

Art

Most Improved
Megan Mills
All- Around Proficiency
Santhony Chan

Music

Most Improved
Santhony Chan
All- Around Proficiency
Zoé Pertuit

P.E.

Most Improved
Abigail St. Clair
Jeremy Lees
Most Outstanding
Alana Taylor
Max Castro

6th Grade

Academic Awards

English

Most Improved
Elisa Mamani-Duran, Lucas Samuel
Highest Achievement
Natasha Dormont, Jibril Mohamud,
Sebastian Roberts

Math

Most Improved



Karina Sikri, the winner of the Master Penman Award.

Myla Mamani
Highest Achievement
Jibril Mohamud
History
Most Improved
Shaniya Smoot
Highest Achievement
Jibril Mohamud, Sebastian Roberts

Science

Most Improved
Hudson House
Highest Achievement
Jibril Mohamud, Sebastian Roberts

French

Most Improved
Fatima Khan, Shaniya Smoot
Highest Achievement
Sebastian Roberts

Art

Most Improved
Haydn House
All-Around Proficiency
Ashley Altekar

Music

Most Improved
Sebastian Roberts
All-Around Proficiency
Sophia Guralnik

P.E.

Most Improved
Sophia Guralnik
Sebastian Roberts
Most Outstanding
Elisa Mamani-Duran
Jacob Bredbenner

7th Grade

Academic Awards

English

Most Improved
Elizabeth Fowler, Ayman Samdani
Highest Achievement
Mealy Cronin

Math (Alg.1,Pt.1)

Most Improved

Abdu Abbas

Highest Achievement

Ella Lauer (no medal)

Math (Alg)

Most Improved

Kayla Kim, Kathryn Sarrge

Highest Achievement

Mealy Cronin

History

Most Improved

Sarah Marghub, Nadia Pitter

Highest Achievement

Mealy Cronin

Science

Most Improved

Samuel Leighton

Highest Achievement

Mealy Cronin

French

Most Improved

Safi Marghub

Highest Achievement

Mealy Cronin

Latin

Most Improved

Christian Noska

Highest Achievement

Mealy Cronin

Art

All-Around Proficiency
Sarah Marghub

Highest Achievement

Kayla Kim

Music

Most Improved

Luke Castro

All-Around Proficiency

Nadia Pitter

P.E.

Most Improved

Karina Sikri

Samuel Leighton

Most Outstanding

Elizabeth Fowler

Ayman Samdani



8th Grade

Academic Awards

English

Most Improved

Deidre Boakye

Highest Achievement

Allison Joe

Math (Alg.1,Pt.1)

Most Improved

Fiona St. Clair, Daphne Vouras

Highest Achievement

Sedey Jahar

Math (Geometry)

Most Improved

Michael Fowler

Highest Achievement

Damilola Awofisayo, Allison Joe

History

Most Improved

Deidre Boakye, Darby Walker

Highest Achievement

Eleanor Jacobson, Allison Joe

Science

Most Improved

Conor Dillon

Highest Achievement

Allison Joe

French

Most Improved

Darby Walker

Highest Achievement

Damilola Awofisayo, Allison Joe

Latin

Most Improved

Fiona St. Clair

Highest Achievement

Eleanor Jacobson, Allison Joe

Art

Most Improved

Collin Do

All- Around Proficiency

Diya Mehta

Music

Most Improved

Collin Do

All- Around Proficiency

Shalini Setty

P.E.

Most Improved

Fiona St. Clair

Akasha Husnain

Most Outstanding

Shalini Setty

Benyat Yimaj

Continental Math League

3rd Grade

Winners

Manasi Kumar, Karina Khanna,
Maxx Oriade

4th Grade

Runner-Up

Gavin Goldstein

Winner

Arleigh Womack

5th Grade

Runner- Up

Ronan Kim

Winner

Jeremy Lees

6th Grade

Runner up

Kai Wang

Winner

Sebastian Roberts

National ScienceLeague

3rd Grade

Devin Boakye

Dylan Cespedes

Raphael Chere

Claire Couraud

London Diamond

David Faguada-Accinelli

David Guralnik

Ajwah Jahangir

Karina Khanna

Manasi Kumar

Deren Kurtay

Sophie Le

Maren Lees

Mia Lees

Elyse Oppong

Maxx Oriade

Charlotte Reynolds (medal winner)

Kaliya Seaborne

Jude Shbaikat

Bradley Walters

4th Grade

Beza Alemu

Mina Ali-Minayar

Zainab Al-Sadig

Matthew Bredbenner

Sophia Bullard

Mac Cronin

Angelica Emord

Justice Emord

Madeleine Foster

Alexandra Gardner

Gavin Goldstein

Sasha Guerra
 Emina Jakupovic
 Baran Karayilan
 Sabrina Khanna
 Asha Lavu
 Joshua Lin
 Josemaria Meister (medal winner)
 Brian Mock
 Faisal O'Brien
 Isabella Oriade
 Camdyn Parker
 William Townsend
 Arleigh Womack
 Nabeera Yasir

5th Grade

Lailah Abdul-Khaaliq
 Hussain Al-Sadig
 Aya Boudad
 Max Castro
 Santhony Chan
 Tomas Dasek
 Maria Khan
 Ronan Kim
 Sidney Le
 Jeremy Lees
 Artemeez Marzban
 Rhea Massand
 Megan Mills
 Justin Nguyen (medal winner)
 Josiah Riverson
 Abigail St. Clair
 Christian Yetinayet

6th Grade

Nasim Abdul-Khaaliq
 Jacob Bredbenner
 Natasha Dormont
 Gavin Grant (medal winner)
 Sophia Guralnik
 Haydn House
 Fatima Khan
 Abbie Lee
 Jibril Mohamud
 Owen Nemirow
 Madison Olds
 Samuel Riverson
 Sebastian Roberts
 George William Rose
 Andrew Smith
 Ayah Tajick
 Kai Wang

7th Grade

Helena Bruck
 Luke Castro
 Mealy Cronin
 Elizabeth Fowler
 Alexander Hearn (medal winner)
 Kayla Kim
 Ella Lauer
 Avi Lavu
 Sarah Marghub
 Mailan Nguyen
 Ayman Samdani
 Kathryn Sarrge

8th Grade

Damilola Awofisayo
 Collin Do
 Michael Fowler
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Allison Joe
 Guo Li
 Diya Mehta
 Jonathan Michael

Devin Nemirow
 Alex Rose (medal winner)
 Hermela Samuel
 Shalini Setty
 Maya Yetinayet

National Mythology Exam

Bronze Medal:
 Hussain Al-Sadig
 Max Castro
 Ronan Kim
 Sidney Le
 Artemeez Marzban
 Justin Nguyen
 Josiah Riverson
 Mary Ivy Smith-Mensah
 Christian Yetinayet
 Silver Medal:
 Jeremy Lees
 Megan Mills
 Gold Medal:
 Santhony Chan (perfect score)

National French Exam

Bronze Medal
 Damilola Awofisayo
 Michal Dasek
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Sarah Marghub
 Alex Rose
 Silver Medal
 Samira Abbasi
 Mealy Cronin
 Alexander Hearn
 Allison Joe
 Devin Nemirow
 Shalini Setty
 Maya Yetinayet
 Gold Medal
 Leyla Ustun

French-Junior National

Honor Society

7th Grade
 Nina Breen
 Helena Bruck
 Luke Castro
 Elizabeth Fowler
 Kayla Kim
 Mailan Nguyen
 Karina Sikri
 Anthony Yancor
 8th Grade
 Conor Dillon
 Collin Do
 Michael Fowler
 Guo Li
 Diya Mehta
 Jonathan Michael
 Hermela Samuel
 Safeerah Ullah
 Soliana Yimtatu

Latin Awards

7th Grade
 Certificate & Ribbon
 Nina Breen
 Helena Bruck
 Luke Castro
 Mealy Cronin
 Elizabeth Fowler
 Alexander Hearn
 Kayla Kim
 Ella Lauer

Avi Lavu
 Sarah Marghub
 Mailan Nguyen
 Kathryn Sarrge
 Karina Sikri
 Certificate
 Mia Brown
 Christian Noska
 Ayman Samdani
8th Grade
 Gold
 Samira Abbasi
 Damilola Awofisayo
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Allison Joe
 Jonathan Michael
 Alex Rose
 Shalini Setty
 Soliana Yimtatu
 Silver
 Michal Dasek
 Conor Dillon
 Michael Fowler
 Guo Li
 Devin Nemirow
 Maya Yetinayet
 Laude
 Sedey Jahar
 Fiona St. Clair
 Magna
 Collin Do
 Akasha Husnain
 Lochlann Machabee
 Diya Mehta
 Safeerah Ullah

Redirection Awards

3rd Grade

Devin Boakye - 1
 Ajwah Jahangir - 1
 Karina Khanna - 1

4th Grade

Angelica Emord - 1
 Madeleine Foster - 0
 Alexandra Gardner - 1
 Sabrina Khanna - 1
 William Townsend - 0

5th Grade

Santhony Chan - 0
 Tomas Dasek - 1



Abigail St. Clair - 0
 Christian Yetinayet - 1
6th Grade
 Abbie Lee - 1
 Sebastian Roberts - 0
 Andrew Smith - 1
 Ece Yozgat - 1
7th Grade
 Elizabeth Fowler - 1
 Kayla Kim - 1
 Christian Noska - 1
 Nadia Pitter - 0
 Karina Sikri - 1
 Leyla Ustun - 0
 8th Grade
 Michal Dasek - 1
 Akasa Husnain - 0
 Eleanor Jacobson - 1
 Sedey Jahar - 1
 Allison Joe - 0
 Diya Mehta - 0
 Fiona St. Clair - 0

Honor Roll Award (grades 3-8)

Year-Round Honor Roll

3rd Grade

Devin Boakye
 Raphael Chere
 Claire Couraud
 Ajwah Jahangir
 Karina Khanna
 Sophie Le
 Maren Lees
 Mia Lees
 Charlotte Reynolds
 Bradley Walters



The six students pictured above (From left to right: Damilola, Michal, Conor, Eleanor, Devin, Shalini) earned citizenship awards, among the highest Westminster School awards, which are given to students who come to school with a positive attitude, achieve in the classroom, and participate in all aspects of life at school, including clubs and sports. They each received a trophy, and their names were engraved on a plaque in the lobby, which dates back to 1978.

4th Grade
 Beza Alemu
 Matthew Bredbenner
 Sophia Bullard
 Mac Cronin
 Nyla Damiani
 Angelica Emord
 Justice Emord
 Madeleine Foster
 Gavin Goldstein
 Sasha Guerra
 Emina Jakupovic
 Baran Karayilan
 Sabrina Khanna
 Asha Lavu
 Josemaria Meister
 Faisal O'Brien
 Camdyn Parker
 William Townsend
 Arleigh Womack
 Nabeera Yasir

5th Grade
 Hussain Al-Sadig
 Max Castro
 Santhony Chan
 Tomas Dasek
 Ronan Kim
 Jeremy Lees
 Artemeez Marzban
 Pooja Shekar
 Christian Yetinayet

6th Grade
 Jacob Bredbenner
 Natasha Dormont
 Gavin Grant
 Sophia Guralnik
 Trevor Klein
 Abbie Lee
 Jibril Mohamud
 Owen Nemirow
 Sebastian Roberts
 Andrew Smith
 Kai Wang

7th Grade
 Nina Breen
 Helena Bruck
 Luke Castro
 Mealy Cronin
 Elizabeth Fowler
 Alexander Hearn
 Kayla Kim
 Ella Lauer
 Avi Lavu
 Sarah Marghub
 Mailan Nguyen
 Kathryn Sarge

8th Grade
 Samira Abbasi
 Damilola Awofisayo
 Michal Dasek
 Conor Dillon
 Michael Fowler
 Akasha Husnain
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Sedey Jahar
 Allison Joe
 Guo Li
 Diya Mehta
 Jonathan Michael
 Hermela Samuel
 Shalini Setty
 Fiona St. Clair
 Safeerah Ullah
 Maya Yetinayet
 Benyat Yimaj
 Soliana Yimatu

Honor Roll – 24 Quarters

(grades 3-8)

Samira Abbasi
 Conor Dillon
 Michael Fowler
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Allison Joe
 Diya Mehta
 Devin Nemirow
 Alex Rose
 Maya Yetinayet
 Soliana Yimatu

Poster Contest Winners

7th Grade
 Kayla Kim - Hamlet
 8th Grade
 Guo Li - West Side Story

Kenneth Hatch Award

Samira Abbasi
 Helena Bruck
 Mealy Cronin
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Kayla Kim
 Diya Mehta
 Devin Nemirow
 Maya Yetinayet

D.A.R. Award

Shalini Setty

**President's
 Education Award**

Damilola Awofisayo
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Allison Joe
 Diya Mehta
 Jonathan Michael
 Devin Nemirow
 Alex Rose
 Shalini Setty
 Maya Yetinayet

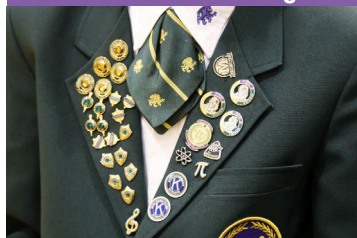
Griffin/Citizenship Award

Damilola Awofisayo
 Michal Dasek
 Conor Dillon
 Eleanor Jacobson
 Devin Nemirow
 Shalina Setty

Golden Griffin Award

Eleanor Jacobson

Pictured Below:
 Students are awarded pins
 as a reminder of their
 achievements during



Poetry Contest Winners



Best poem winners (from left to right):
 Mealy Cronin, Sebastian Roberts, Justice Emord,
 Conor Dillon, Sophie Le. (Jennifer Pearson not
 pictured.)

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
 -- I took the one less traveled by, and
 that has made all the difference.”
 -Robert Frost

Every student in grades 3-8 has the
 opportunity to enter poems in the
 Headmaster's Poetry Contest.

The following is a selection of those judged
 as the best poems. You can view more
 student poems online at
www.westminsterschool.com

Grade 3

Special Merit

**Claire Couraud
Charlotte Reynolds**

Best Poem

Love is Like a Train I Will Never Ride

Love is like a train I will never ride
the risk makes me shy and terrified.
What happens when love dies?
All you would hear are heartbroken ... heartbroken ...
heartbroken cries
Why would I need that in my life?
Cries can cause cracks
perhaps make you weak
even making it difficult to speak
And if every cry makes a crack in your heart,
after a million cries, your heart falls apart.
You'll feel trapped, lost in the dark
Know there is always a little spark
To help you feel strong and brave
To free you from that dark, hideous cave.

Sophie Le

Grade 4

Special Merit

**Angelica Emord
Maddie Foster
Faisal O'Brien**

Best Poem

Punxsutawney Phil

On February's second day
High atop Gobbler's knob
There comes a commotion
Around the notion
Of a tiny groundhog
No bigger than a small dog
but without the bark
His name is Phil; he is of royal stock
Town fathers, and mothers and folks all around
Depend on Phil
To emerge from the ground
He is
The weather oracle
Will winter be short?
Or will it be long?
When will seed
Be placed in the ground?
Only Phil the seer knows
From out of the stump of his tree

Like a fur covered wizard
He casts his spell,
Phil tells the weather in "groundhogease"
Commanding his shadow
To appear if it please
Then he
Disappears
For another twelve months
Until February's second day
When high atop Gobbler's knob
There comes a commotion
Around the notion
Of a tiny groundhog
Justice Emord

Grade 5

Special Merit

**Mary-Ivy Smith Mensah
Abigail St. Clair**

Best Poem

Moonlight

Moonlight crawls up sundowns
Beams in long slashes of pale light
As it's absorbed by the somber night sky
Filling every gap with a soft glaze
Painting the white fence
And icing the sapphire lake basin
Shining beyond the keen, marble landing
Engrossing the white walls
Moonlight takes one last glare through the glass pane
As the moonlight falls

Jennifer Pearson

Grade 6

Special Merit

**Janelle Amo-Yartey
Elisa Mamani-Duran**

Best Poem

The Storm

Birds fly backwards
Old trees fall
Temperatures plummet
Water is all
Trees are slimy
Ground is mud
Cars slip and slide
Rivers flood
Road turns to creek

House to island
Car into boat
Not a patch of dry land
Lightning cracks
Thunder rumbles
Skies are black
Water tumbles
Nothing will survive
Sebastian Roberts

Grade 7

Special Merit

Mia Brown
Abdu Abbas
Sam Leighton

Best Poem

In One Ear and Out the Other
Mealy Cronin

Grade 8

Special Merit

Deidre Boakye
Eleanor Jacobson
Hermela Samuel

Best Poem

Overwhelmed

Shadows pass unnoticed
Shades of black, created by all the sun touches
If the rays touch turns to darkness,
then does that reflect within us?
Like Pandora to her box and
Eve to her tree:
The life corrupts the good, twists them into a broken
shape
of hopelessness
And all we can do is be.
Conor Dillon

The Poet Laureate



Mealy Cronin (7th grade) was the overall winner of this year's poetry contest.

In One Ear and Out the Other

She told us how we were supposed to write a poem
She told us we were to have no complete sentences
No repetitive repeats, only broken phrases
of thoughts that streamed through our
river of consciousness.
She said not to alliterate at all.
She told us that rhyming wasn't necessary
And before class ended, she gave us a cautionary
To never us the word "beautiful" more than once in a single stanza,
But at that point, her words of how to write a beautiful,
No, a poem of worth,
Had gone in my left ear and right out the other.
All the phrases that I knew I wanted to use
Were collecting in the melting pot of my fantasy,
Fusing together and lighting my brain on fire.
Sparks were soaring as I gazed into the inky-colored chalkboard,
Hopelessly visioning the disarrayed cloud that housed my uncertain
Ideas of how I wanted to write my poem.
The bell rang in an unpleasant tone,
And I was still wandering in the woods of quandary,
Wondering how I was going to manage this trek
Up the precipitous mountain of poetry.

Mealy Cronin

Camp Griffin

Experience

Campers ages 3 to 14 years experience independence which fosters self-confidence, problem solving skills, and communication. Campers have flexibility in the schedule to enjoy special camp moments and continuous activities. Experience Westminster's beautiful campus with a state-of-the-art theatre and gymnasium.

Explore

Camp Griffin takes several field trips during the camp week as well as understands the importance of fresh air, sunshine, and hands-on activities. The importance of exploring what the world around us has to offer is immeasurable. **Hours of Operation:**
9:00 am - 3:00 pm Early Care: 7:15 am - 9:00 am Extended Care: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Create

At Camp Griffin, campers have fun with friends from school but they also meet new friends because we are open to the public as well. Campers become better at making and keeping friends. Campers get creative by making food, art, friendships, fun, memories and more.

NOW ENROLLING!

Winter Camp 2018:

December 26-28, and 31, 2018 and January 2-4, 2019

Spring Camp 2019:

April 1-5, 2019

Summer Camp 2019:

June 10- August 15, 2019

(703) 340-7268

Register at:

www.westminsterschool.com





Developing

Mind, Body, and Spirit

The core philosophy of Westminster School rests on a belief that the highest levels of individual achievement and fulfillment may best be attained through a balance of mind, body, and spirit, and that the development of each is of the utmost importance. At Westminster, therefore, the Physical Education Program enjoys parity with all other academic and art programs.

Throughout the P.E. curriculum, students gain important physical and social skills. The Lower School students learn critical motor skills, coordination, body control and balance, and practice manipulative activities such as passing a ball that will be useful in later years. Middle and Upper School students practice sports skills such as soccer, basketball, and hockey and learn complex dance routines. In P.E. class, students also learn important social skills such as responsibility, cooperation and self-control through team sports and interacting with their classmates. Additionally, the P.E. curriculum allows time for students to learn about living a healthy lifestyle and proper social interactions.

In an extension of the Physical Education Program,

Westminster encourages students to participate in organized sports through an after-school sports program. In addition to enhancing their physical fitness and skills, participation in team sports provides an important opportunity for children to strengthen desirable qualities of character, such as determination, self-discipline, cooperativeness, modesty, resilience, and respect for others. Moreover, the experience of striving vigorously to meet the challenges of competition is one that stretches the human spirit through hardship, struggle, and triumph (or honorable defeat) --lessons rich in possibility for any individual.

Westminster is a founding member of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC), a league of approximately 10 area private schools who organize competitive seasons in several sports. Westminster sponsors Junior Varsity girls' and boys' teams, comprised of 5th and 6th grade students, and Varsity girls' and boys' teams, comprised of 7th and 8th graders, in soccer, basketball, and softball. Westminster also fields teams for track and field and cross-country events. There are no try-outs for

Westminster travel teams; any student who wishes to participate may join the team, and Westminster provides the team uniforms. In addition to the CAC competition, the P. E. Department sponsors a winter-time, intramural basketball program for students in grades 5 – 8.

While an appropriately competitive attitude and continuous improvement of game skills are important aspects of the sports program, the highest value held by Westminster teams is good sportsmanship. Among the many winning banners that grace the gymnasium walls, Westminster is proudest of those it has earned for sportsmanship.



Sports Day: The entire school participates in an all-day ceremony filled with sports and excitement. Games include a relay race, water balloon toss, sack race, student teacher volleyball game, and more.



Olympics Day: Grades K-4 experience the winter Olympics' sporting events where they rotate through stations and participate in the creative replications of the luge, figure skating, hockey, curling, and snowboarding.



In the Capital Athletic Conference, the JV girls won the league championship, losing only one game all year, and that game, only by one point! Congratulations to all of the teams and the coaches, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Miller.



The varsity girls took first place in the Cross Country meet.



The Varsity / Parents basketball games are anticipated throughout the season. In addition, for the second year, alumni were invited to play each other. The fifteen grads who participated loved getting the chance to hit the griffin court again. This is sure to become a popular annual tradition!

Westminster Parents Club

2017-2018

WPC PRESIDENT

Mrs. Bredbenner

(WPC President 2017-2018)

Parent of Jacob (7th) Matthew (5th)



I have served for the past few years in different positions for the Westminster Parents Club and last year I served as the President. It was certainly a challenge but rewarding in many aspects. I became intimately involved with everything Westminster. We get to know everything about the school, the staff, events, and the children. The WPC exists for the benefit of the students and their educational experience. I certainly enjoyed working closely with both the school and the parents. You need to be positive, listen attentively, and have the ability to make changes when needed.

Three key points I came to understand;

1. you cannot please everyone.
If you try, everyone will end up being frustrated and no one wins
2. organization is key
3. delegate to succeed

I endeavor to be a role model for my children by volunteering because I care about them and Westminster school.

Westminster parents are an integral part of the school community. In choosing Westminster for their child, parents become partners with the teachers and school administration not only in educating, but also in raising their child. Parental support and involvement are key to their child's enjoyment and success at Westminster School. In addition to enjoying frequent communication with their child's teachers, all parents are members of the Westminster Parents Club (WPC), whose mission includes both fundraising and "fun-raising." The WPC organizes many events throughout the year which generate school spirit and provide fun social opportunities for our families and staff.

Family Fun Nights are very popular events hosted by the WPC, when families come together for casual and enjoyable evenings. Bingo nights, movie nights, and karaoke nights are all favorites. In addition, the WPC hosts the annual back-to-school picnic and welcome-picnic for new families. A lovely teacher appreciation luncheon is held at the end of the year to thank the teachers and staff for their dedication to the students throughout the year. In addition, the WPC hosts a number of adults-only events, the most popular of which is the annual themed spring auction. This event is a great fund-raiser for the school as well as a wonderful opportunity for parents to have a night out without the kids.

The WPC also organizes and facilitates monthly Fun Lunches. Parents volunteer to deliver pizza lunches to the classrooms one Friday every month. They also run a school store in the mornings where students can purchase needed school supplies.

The parents even put on their own play! Parents act, sing, dance, produce and do back-stage work to show their children that they too are willing to risk themselves in performance. The children love to see their parents on stage, and the parents earn a respect for their children who perform in a show every year.

The WPC meets several times a year to discuss ways to support the school's efforts. The WPC president and board also meet with the headmaster to discuss plans for the year.

2018-2019 WPC PRESIDENT

Mrs. Reynolds

Parent of Charlotte (4th) and Ellie (2nd)



The Westminster Parents Club hit the ground running this school year, hosting an Ice Cream Social to welcome new families in August and the Back-to-School Picnic in September. These annual traditions are always a great way for our community to connect

and kick off the school year, and this year was no exception. Special thanks to Richard and Evelyn St. Clair for coordinating a fun and festive picnic, despite the threat of rain! October saw the year's first collection drive for Dimes for Drama, our student-centered fundraiser that supports improvements to the Gryphon Theater. Our veteran Dimes for Drama Chair, Jaime Lees, ensured that collection and counting went off without a hitch.

On October 20, parents, teachers and friends gathered in the theater for the WPC's ninth annual Trivia Night. There was laughter, carousing, and friendly competition in spades. We are so grateful to Co-Chairs Nina Breen, Lisa Sarrge and Kate Schanbacher for coordinating such an entertaining evening!

We have much more fun in store this year. From special events like Movie Night and Bingo Night, to our monthly Fun Lunches, to fundraisers like the Scrip Program and services like the school-supply store, the WPC strives to serve our community and support our school in its mission of providing the highest quality education to our children.

Did you know that all parents and guardians of Westminster and Griffin Academy students are members of the WPC? That means it's easy for everyone to get involved – and we need your help. The WPC can only offer these events and projects if parents step up and volunteer. Mark your calendars now for our next General Meeting, which will be on January 23, 2019, so you can learn more about what we do and how you can help. We look forward to seeing you there!



The 2018 Back to School Picnic was a great success. Children (and some adults) played in the Huge bouncy house and obstacle course. There was a wonderful assortment of food, beverages, and conversation. Thank you to all who came and joined in the festivities. We will see you next time!



Once a month, the parents serve Fun Lunch to the students. It's a great opportunity to grab some pics of our beautiful families. Thanks to all the parents who help out and especially to Mrs. Lees, who organizes it all.

2017-2018 GRIFFIN FUND DONORS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS. TOGETHER, WE ACHIEVED OUR GOAL.

TOTAL* : \$172,384.23

EMERITUS LEAGUE

\$5,000+

Mr. and Mrs. David Breen
Emord and Associates, PC
Fairfax Corner Dental / Aura Center for
Dentistry / Dr. Chang Yi & Dr. Negar Tehrani
Flynn & O'Hara Uniforms
Mr. Ellis Glover
Mr. John Murray
Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Valerie Estey Nemirow

FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

\$2,500-\$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. Angel Diaz / Technical
Services Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Keith W. Fulk
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Pearson/ National
Tactical Solutions Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. E. Antonio Sarrge
Westminster Parents Club

HEADMASTER'S CIRCLE

\$1,000-\$2,499

Mr. and Mrs. Azfar S. (Sonny) Abbasi
Mr. Kevin Augustine and Mrs. Emily
Hymowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barker / T-Mobile
Mrs. Wintay Berhe & Family
Ms. Carrie Billy

Mr. Tyrone Bradley
Mr. and Mrs. David Bredbenner / Patner
Construction, Inc.
Drs. Marco and Brigid Castro
Mr. and Mrs. Luis Chalmeta
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cordick / BB&T
Mr. Cong Do
Dr. Peter M. Dodson & Ms. Marice Werth
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Foster, Jr.
Ms. Susan Glazier
Ms. Cynthia Glover
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Goldsmith
Mr. and Mrs. David Goldstein
Mr. Matthew Holcomb and Dr. Sharese White
Mr and Mrs. David Hisey
Mr. and Dr. Rajeev Khanna
Landegger Charitable Foundation for Mroczek Children
Mr. and Mrs. Sravant Lavu
Dr. Trung Le and Dr. Allie Tran
Col. and Mrs. Cedric E. Leighton
Mrs. Estella Leighton
Mr. Wenfeng Li and Ms. Jahong Lin
Ms. So Jung Lim
Marmara Corporation / Yozgat Family
Dr. Robert Marzban / Luposello and Marzban
Orthodontics
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McCarthy
Mr. Dennis Miller
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Moore
Capt. and Mrs. Michael Noska
Mrs. Caitriona O'Drudy

OrthoVirginia, Inc.
Mr. Farhad Nourbakhsh & Mrs. Nargess
Moghaddam
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Reynolds / Rock Elm, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. David Schuler
Mr. Thomas Sheller / Norfolk Southern
Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith / Wiley Rein
The Builders Club
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Townsend
Dr. and Mrs. William Wang
Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Williams

CLASSICAL GUILD

\$500-\$999

Mr. Erin Abdelrazaq
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Donald House/
Architectural Ceramics
Ms. Yodit Bekele
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Brown
Mrs. Nila Castro
Mr. John M. Cibinic
Dr. John Cronin & Mrs. Cheri Reiser
Mr. and Mrs. James Dann
European Granite Design / Mr. & Mrs.
Mehmet Karayilan
German Auto Group, Inc. / Mr. Samuel
Todd & Mrs. Inga Fahouri
Mr. David Hendricks
Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Lauer / Freddie Mac

Mr. and Mrs. Karan Massand / Merrill Lynch
Mrs. Jill Mendelson
MIT- Micro Integrated Technologies Inc.
Miss Mojan Nourbakhsh
Mr. and Mrs. Gildas Le Moigne
Mr. and Mrs. Bo Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Marsh
Mr. Adil Marghub and Mrs. Maryam Zaidi
Mr. and Mrs. Lane Nemirow
Mr. Kaveh Noorishad and Dr. Shaghayegh
(Sherry) Noorishad
Col. And Mrs. Pannenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. John Riverson
Mr. Gregor Schlosberg and Family
Mr. Gary Schuerfeld and Mrs. Jenness
Simler / Boeing
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Sears
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Stratton
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Wallis
Dr. Wanqiu Wang and Mrs. Shu Sun
Mr. Kevin Ho and Dr. Youn Young Yi

LAUREL PATRONS \$250-\$499

Mr. Jegnaw Alemu and Mrs. Mekdes Shani
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Amo-Yartey
Mr. and Mrs. Vasily Akishev
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Albaugh
Mr. Gregory Brooksher
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Canterbury
Mr. & Mrs. Arnaud T. Couraud
Ms. Karen Courtney
Mr. Khaseem Davis and Mrs. Munira Basir
Eustilus Architecture / Mr. Pedro Teran &
Mrs. Daniella Gross-Zarria
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Hannaway
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Harriman
Mr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Joe
Mrs. Marie Elise Kiper
Mr. Miray Kurtay and Dr. Pelin Kurtay
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Machabee
Merrifield Orthodontics

Mr. Eric Needy and Dr. Sujeeta Bhatt
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Peev
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Pertuit
Mr. Herbert Pinder, Jr. and Dr. Annette
Ansong / Barca Technologies, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Rose
Mrs. Marie-Lou Saldanha
Ms. Alexa Schmidt
Dr. and Mrs. Rohit Setty
Mr. and Mrs. Anmol Sikri
Mr. Grum Teklemariam and Mrs. Nataly
Gabra-Mariam
Ms. Mary Turner

IVY DONORS \$100-\$249

Mr. Ali Al-Sadig & Mrs. Zahra Al-Qudaihi
Mr. Asrat Alemu & Dr. Seble Frehywot
Amazon Smiles Foundation
Mr. Daniel Anderson
Anonymous
Mr. Dennis Argerson
Mr. Yonas Assefa and Mrs. Mariamawit Bekele
Dr. Frank R. Besson
Mr. Rachid Boudad and Mrs. Lamia Najem
Mr. John Branum
Col. Gary U. Bullard & Dr. Jessica T. Bullard
Mr. and Mrs. Benny Cagua
Col. and Mrs. John R. Carswell II
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Castillon
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cecil
Mr. Alex Chere and Mrs. Elleni Yoseph
Ms. Patricia Colon
Mrs. Susan Connell
Ms. Julia Dalby
Ms. Brandy Deddo
Ms. Guetenech Deneke
Ms. Julie Farrell
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Ferreira
Ms. Samantha Foster
Mrs. Taryn Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grant / Ms. Sarah Grant

Ms. Anne Grenade
Mr. Conrad and Dr. Marietta Grundlehner
Mr. and Mrs. James Guerra
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Gyuricza
Mr. Leonardo Guerra and Mrs. Karina Orozco
Hair Unik, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. David Hopkins
Ms. Amy Horner
Mrs. Kathryn Jacobson
Mrs. Samantha Kagan
Mr. and Mrs. David Lundgren (in memory
of Ruth Glover Weller)
Mr. & Mrs. Phong T. Mai
Miss Madeleine Mai
Mr. Michael Mammo and Mrs. Zewditu Amenu
Mrs. Kari Mock
Ms. Mojdeh Nourbakhsh
Mr. and Mrs. Ly Nguyen / Mr. Quincy Nguyen
Ms. Ifrah Nur
Mr. Timmie O'Leary
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Polchert
Mr. and Mrs. John Powers
Mr. and Mrs. David Purdy
Ms. Laura Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Roebuck
Mr. Golam Samdani and Mrs. Nasreen Rahman
Ms. Jori Sapper
Mr. Manuel Seara and Mrs. Maria LaCruz
Mrs. Minoo Yavari Shaghaghi
Mr. Ato Smith-Mensah and Mrs. Pearl Acquah
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi
Ms. Minoo Shaghaghi
Ms. Tracy Shively
Mrs. Melissa Siegel
Dr. Alireza Tajick-Ghaemeih and Mrs. Mina Anane
Ms. Zouzou Teku
Ms. Selamawit Telahun
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Todd
Ms. Ellen Turner
Mr. and Mrs. William V. West, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Wickersham
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Yancor
Mr. Fukare Yimtatatu and Mrs. Azeb Tefera

IVY DONORS
\$100-\$249

Mr. Zebulon Anderson
 Aranzazu Ascunce
 Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Boyd
 Mr. Charlie Breen
 Mr. Jonathan Breen
 Mr. William Breen
 Mrs. Kathryn Browning
 Ms. Sara J. Caltrider
 Mr. Iche Chiu and Dr. Fei Huang
 Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Clark
 Ms. Dannice Crespo
 Mr. Kevin Crook
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Dietz
 Mr. Edmund Ekuban and Ms. Maame-Efua Riverson
 Ms. Victoria Accinelli
 Mr. Gregory Glazier
 Ms. Lindsay Hanson
 Ms. Claudia Henry
 Ms. Elizabeth Jackson
 Ms. Fatima Khalid
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronan Le Moigne
 Ms. Bodil Lund
 Mr. and Mrs. Dharmesh Mehta
 Mr. Mekete Zeleke and Ms. Salome Tewelde
 Mr. Jeffrey Nanda and Mrs. Linda Lamptey
 Mr. and Mrs. Lance A. Morrell
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Morrison
 Mr. and Mrs. James Morton / Company
 Mr. Mark Muntain
 Mrs. Vanessa Patterson
 Mr. and Mrs. William D. Rowe, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Schmidt
 Miss Madeleine Schuler
 Mr. and Mrs. Tourne Shipman
 Ms. Jordan Sinclair McIntyre
 Mr. Nathaniel Smith
 Ms. Jennifer Wenk
 Mr. and Mrs. Sahir M. Zuberi
 Mr. Samir Zuberi

GATSBY WISHES HE HAD BEEN THERE!



Each year, as part of its annual fundraising drive, Westminster School hosts a gala or other major event to which the entire community is invited. The gala calls on the school's supporters to be generous in terms of participation, sponsorships, and auction donations and bids. The 2017-2018 gala, held February 23, turned out to be all that and more—much more! The Great Gatsby Gala netted \$32,653.00 for the school, helping boost the total annual giving to \$172,000.00! Gratitude to all of the wonderful participants and donors who helped make the gala a success.



get ready for

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27, 2018

THOUGHTS ON ANNUAL GIVING

The main function of any development office is, of course, to raise money for the school. The question most asked is, “Why do I need to give when I just paid a substantial check for my child’s tuition?” The answer concerning the need for annual giving is simple on the surface yet more complex when examined. Tuition at Westminster is lower than our competition to make our school affordable to many families. Annual giving allows the school to fund additional programs that would not be possible with only tuition funds. Annual giving also enables the school to offer financial aid to families.

The value of annual giving extends to all sets of our school community. It allows individuals who believe in the school’s mission to express their support by giving to the school. Alumni who have benefitted from Westminster’s classical education, its discipline, self-confidence gained from the stage and sports, and fun-filled events have the opportunity, through annual giving, to help ensure that Westminster’s mission and curriculum are available for future generations. Grandparents and other relatives attend Westminster events and understand the impact that Westminster has had on their loved ones.



Philanthropy to beloved causes such as Westminster becomes important to many senior citizens. Gifts are often received yearly from this group, but large gifts from estate-planning potentially would also benefit Westminster for years to come.

Giving is fundamental to America’s fabric. In times of crisis, our nation

always is the most benevolent and generous in the world. Giving makes you feel good, knowing that others have been helped. A gift to Westminster helps to establish our school’s future and affirms that a classical education

is to be valued. And a last benefit, valued by almost everyone—it is tax deductible!

**“ WE MAKE A LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET.
WE MAKE A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.”
WINSTON CHURCHILL**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr. Dennis Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dennis Miller
Alumni/Annual Giving Co-Coordinator

Alumni Spotlight

'01 Victor
Albisu

Cocinando con Chef Albisu

Westminster graduate Victor Albisu is the award-winning chef behind local favorite, Taco Bamba, and its upscale sister restaurant, Poca Madre. Victor's culinary career began at the Le Cordon Bleu School in Paris, where he also cooked in world class kitchens before returning home to the Washington, D.C. area. He combines his culinary education with his Latin American heritage to bring a unique style of cuisine to both Taco Bamba and Poca Madre, where he applies a contemporary vision to Mexican street food. Victor's upbringing has always had a major impact on his restaurants, from the expert butchery skills he learned behind the counter of his mother's Latin American market to the leadership skills and sense of adventure he picked up in the halls of Westminster School. Victor's gift for cooking has taken him all over the world. He worked as a member of the American Chef Corps, a network of chefs who serve as resources to the Department of State, and he has been involved in several culinary relief missions, including work with José Andrés and World Central Kitchen, helping to bring food and aid to survivors of natural disasters. His most famous guests have included First Lady Michelle Obama and Argentine soccer superstar Lionel Messi. In 2015, Albisu was named Chef of the Year by the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington, but he sees his greatest accomplishment in Taco Bamba, where he can serve amazing global cooking in the neighborhoods where he grew up.



Visit www.tacobamba.com to learn more about the taqueria.

Alumni Spotlight

'16 Sara

'16 Maryam

'18 Samira

Let's Debate!

The Abbasi sisters

Maryam and Sara Abbasi: The girls became the first debaters in Potomac School's history to advance to the elimination rounds at the Tournament of Champions ("TOC") after obtaining a 5-2 record in preliminary rounds. The TOC is the highest-level tournament in high school debate--a tournament one must qualify for by advancing far enough in national circuit tournaments throughout the school year. It is basically the NCAA tournament, the Super Bowl, and the World Cup of high school debate. The first of four national championship debate events was held at the University of Kentucky where the girls advanced into the field of 32 before losing a 2-1 verdict. This is quite an achievement, especially considering that they are only sophomores! Look out world, here come the Abbasi girls!

Samira Abbasi, Class of 2018, and a freshman at The Potomac School, participated in her very first speech tournament on September 15, 2018. Samira competed at the Yale University

Invitational with other members of Potomac's Speech and Debate Team, a nationally-competitive program.

Amazingly, Samira advanced to the Octafinal Round from a field of over 130 competitors with her Original Oratory piece, before bowing out. The Yale event is always a very competitive tournament, drawing entries from all over the United States, and to advance in her first competition ever is truly impressive!

We are always interested in hearing from our alumni. Contact us to share your news.

Gildas Le Moigne
Director of Development/Alumni Relations
glemoine@westminsterschool.com

ALUMNI NEWS



'78 Nina Breen: Is the mother of three Westminster grads and an 8th grader. She also currently serves as a member of the Westminster Board of Trustees. Since leaving Westminster, Nina attended high school and completed a double major (Math and Foreign Affairs) at the University of Virginia. She received a Masters of Systems

Engineering at UVA. Next, she worked as a partner with Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting) for 25 years. She is currently raising four children and consults part-time. She has been a member of the Westminster Board of Trustees for the past four years. She actively volunteers with Pets Bring Joy, an animal rescue group in Fairfax, Virginia.



'90 Dr. Rohit Setty: After Westminster, Rohit attended Paul VI and then earned his bachelor's degree in Education from James Madison University. He earned a Masters in South Asian Studies from University of Michigan, and just a few years ago, a PhD in

Teacher Education, also from University of Michigan. His daughter, Shalini, is a graduate (Class of 2018).



'98 Koorosh Farchadi: After I graduated from Westminster, I broadly continued my worldly education. I worked in a public access TV station

all through high school and college and continue to contribute as a teacher there. This experience snowballed into being the Executive Producer of a student produced, closed circuit TV station in college. After that, I explored a wide range of different options in search of my passion and discovered that my interest is what I have been doing already. After graduating from college, I agreed to be the executive producer of the station. Later I worked with Persian TV stations for 3-4 years. I did freelance work for nearly the next decade, and still selectively continue to do some projects today. About four years ago, a collaborator I began working on what has just recently evolved into an award-winning documentary series called Harvests of Hope. The project has been recognized by a few film festivals, including the 2018 Farm Film Festival in Sicily, Italy, and won the Thomson Reuters Foundation and Barilla Foundation's Good Food Media Award for reporting on sustainability and the food system. I love to garden and received my Permaculture Design Certification last year. I've also been working at the National Science Foundation as their Production Coordination for the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs for almost three years now.



'99 Yohannes Abraham: After graduating from Westminster School, Yohannes graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, then attended undergraduate classes at Princeton University. He went on to earn a

JD at Yale University. Yohannes worked on the Obama-Biden 2012 campaign by managing engagement in key swing states, and, following President Obama's second inauguration, he worked for the White House administration as the Special Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff for the Office of Public Engagement and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.



'01 Abrah Shapiro: After graduating from Westminster, Abrah attended The Madeira School and then earned a B.A. in Film and Television from Boston University. While in college, she moved to Los Angeles to participate in a program sponsored by Boston University, which allowed her to pursue her dream. After starting as

an intern, Abrah rose through the ranks as a production assistant, coordinator, associate producer, and she has worked on the TV show, Little Big Shots. Currently she is producing CBS-The World's Best (premiering after the SuperBowl).

'07 Amanuel Shitaye:

is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and holds a BS in Chemistry with a minor in Public Health from the college of William & Mary. He is now enrolled at Georgetown University School of Medicine. His educational goal was to combine a discipline with fundamental scientific principles with an understanding of the health-related problems affecting populations both nationally and globally.



'09 Leila Malikyar: After graduating from Westminster, Leila attended St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School and then earned a B.A. in Global Studies from UCLA in 2017. "As a graduate of Westminster, I realize its impact in my life today more than before. My love for the

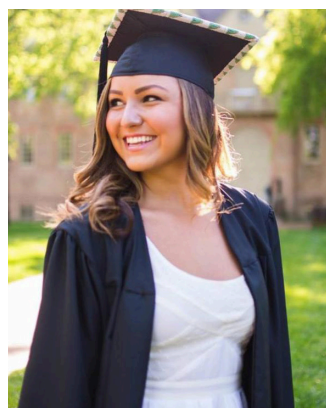
humanities was born and formed at Westminster, as well as my appreciation for history and English. Westminster's rigor gave me a solid foundation and helped me with choosing my college major and interest, Global Studies, with clarity.



These five grads from the Class of 2010 went to four different high schools and recently graduated from five different universities, but through it all, they have remained the best of friends. Four of the five met in kindergarten at Westminster. The fifth joined the class in 2nd grade. That means this friendship is 15-17 years strong. Their Westminster experience bonded them for life; they know that they will always have each other's backs. Lifelong friendships are just one beautiful thing that comes from growing up at Westminster School; it may even be the best thing. It touched our hearts that Westminster means so much to these young women that, unbeknownst to us, they gathered here in their university caps and gowns, to take a picture in front of their first Alma Mater.

From left to right:

Madeleine Schuler--Christopher Newport University, Hyunji Lee--Boston University, Caroline Ackerman--College of William & Mary, Andrea Admana--James Madison University, Jessica Schuler--Virginia Commonwealth University



'10 Caroline Ackerman: After graduating from Westminster, Caroline attended the Madeira School and then chose to attend the college of William & Mary. After graduating Cum Laude, Caroline embarked on her next adventure. She joined Teach for America and will

be teaching in Hawaii for two years.



'11 Emily Schlosberg: Emily attended J. W. Robinson High School and is currently completing her junior year at Sweet Briar College, double-majoring in psychology and sociology. Most recently, Emily won the Centra Health Award of Excellence in Student Scientific Research and Collaborative Innovation, awarded to a student researcher for a completed project in the areas of science and technology or science and medicine. Emily is currently serving as Vice-President of her class, and she will serve as President her senior year. An avid rider, Emily is a member of the National Collegiate Equestrian Association, the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. She serves as President of the Riding Council and received the Scholar Riding award this year.

'14 Charlie Breen:

Charlie was recently featured in a blog post where he discusses the difference between being a “tourist” and a “traveler.” Charlie traveled on Putney’s Community Service Fiji program last summer.



Stay up to date with latest alumni news by following the *Westminster Weekly!* Alumni updates and articles are posted frequently.

The Westminster Weekly is an e-newsletter that provides weekly updates on happenings at school. Each edition also features a spotlight on at least one graduate and a “food for thought” section with interesting articles and blogs.

Contact Mrs. Schuler at admissions@westminsterschool.com to be added to the distribution list.

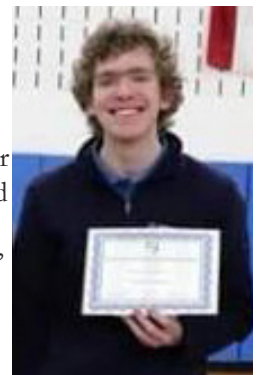


'14 Megan Lee: has been very busy during her four years at Annandale High School! Megan has always been interested in the arts. While at Westminster, she excelled in painting and drawing and even taught herself to play the ukulele. While in high school, Megan has become particularly interested in making documentary films. She is now finishing up her IB diploma at Annandale. Megan is the captain of her varsity lacrosse team and the president of the English Honor Society. She also helps with photography and videography for the yearbook and other Annandale High School publications. Megan will attend the VCU Film School this coming fall. She is one of only 25 students to be accepted to this very competitive and prestigious program. Her dream is to become a documentary film maker; she would also love to be a videographer for bands touring around the country!



'15 Divya Kumaran: recently competed for her high school, W. T. Woodson, in a State DECA Competition held in VA Beach. DECA is an Association of Marketing Students that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

'15 Avery Townsend: graduate of the Class of 2015 and a junior at Flint Hill School, recently received an award for his creative writing. Avery wrote a short story for one of his classes that was submitted to a school-wide writing contest. Avery’s story “Death of the Author” won first place in the short story category.



In Memoriam



REMEMBERING MRS. CONDE



For twenty-eight years, the sounds of her laughter filled the hall, and generations of Westminster griffins enjoyed the myriad of gifts that Ellen Conde shared with everyone who came into her presence. The kindergarten room was filled with a brightness and enthusiasm that emanated from Mrs. Conde, and her expertise and knowledge were unparalleled. Not only was she an exceptional teacher herself, but she mentored many teachers along the way.

Countless lower-school students learned how to read under her total dedication, and Mrs. Conde took her job very seriously. Each morning, she would stride down the hall with her Diet Coke and she was set to welcome her kindergarteners for the day. With a loving tug on a girl's pony-tails or a "Hey, how are ya, honey?" Mrs. Conde knew how to make each one feel special. She was no pushover, however, and the children were always eager to do their best so as not to test Mrs. Conde's patience for that day. This Westminster way of loving the children paired with a firmness that pushed each student to his or her best served as an example to all those who knew her.

As important as her job and students were to her, Mrs. Conde was completely dedicated to her family.

Her husband and daughters were the true joys in her life, and she would light up when talking about them. She loved spending time with her girls, and she greatly anticipated becoming a grandmother. As Mrs. Conde neared retirement, she stepped out of the classroom and helped found the Student Resource Department. She strongly believed that there were some students who would benefit from some extra small-group or individual instruction, and for several years, she worked tirelessly to get the program up and running. In this short time, she helped to develop a program that is still going strong and with her basic beliefs still in place today. This program will serve as a true legacy and testament to Mrs. Conde's beliefs that each child deserves the best reading instruction and education possible.

Mrs. Conde was not one to give advice without being asked, but she guided countless parents and teachers towards a better understanding of young people. One of the pieces of advice she would offer is that parents who understand their children for who they really are raise self-confident children. She believed that when parents could put aside their own expectations and preconceived notions about their children, and truly looked at the child before them, that their child would rise up and fulfill his every potential. She believed in giving children time to learn (without pushing or rushing them), in alignment with their development. At the same time, she had high expectations that led to academic and personal challenges. Her philosophy in teaching and guiding children was wonderfully balanced, and it inspired so many who saw her in action. A true Westminster legend, Mrs. Conde will never be forgotten. Her laughter, words of wisdom, sense of humor, wit, and talent will live on forever in her students and those that knew her.

Farewell to a Dear Friend of Westminster School



With great sadness, we announce the passing of Mr. William B. Bailey, a life-long friend and great supporter of Westminster School. Mr. Bailey died Tuesday, September 25, following a sudden illness. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Alice Bailey and their children, Alycia and Bruce (Class of 1984).

A decade after his son graduated, Mr. Bailey showed his continuing belief in the mission and philosophy of Westminster School by joining the Board of Trustees. He volunteered in that capacity from 1995 to 2013. For the last 11 years of his tenure, he served as Chairman of the Board, providing support for the school and the administration whether times were good or challenging. Even after his retirement from the Board, Mr. Bailey frequently attended special school events, such as the Halloween parades, music programs, staff parties, and graduation ceremonies. He delighted in cracking jokes, especially puns, regaling the company with humorous poems, and sporting full Scottish regalia, including a kilt, at any opportunity. His genial presence and ready laugh, as well as his steadfast support of Westminster School, will be keenly missed.



Westminster School

3819 Gallows Road Annandale, Virginia 22003

Presenting Challenge | Building Character | Instilling Confidence



703-256-3620

WWW.WESTMINSTERSCHOOL.COM