



Westminster School

A CLASSICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY | GRADES PRE-K - 8th

Presenting Challenge | Building Character | Instilling Confidence



“Westminster nurtures... and finds a way to bring out each child’s individual gifts.
This school is like no other.

— Current Parent



Westminster School Is ...

- >> An **INDEPENDENT, NON-RELIGIOUS AND NON-PROFIT** institution;

- >> **ACCREDITED** by the *Virginia Association of Independent Schools* and the *National Association of Independent Schools*, and a member of the *Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington*;

- >> **OPEN TO ALL** and **IMPRESSIVELY DIVERSE**, with families representing a wide range of races, religions, and cultural backgrounds;

- >> A PreK-8th grade day school for approximately **220 BOYS AND GIRLS**, with a beautiful campus in the heart of Fairfax County, just minutes from the Capital Beltway;

- >> Founded on a classical curriculum, with an **ACCELERATED, WELL-ROUNDED** academic program, including early exposure to foreign languages, daily PE and athletics, classes in performing and fine arts, frequent field trips, and a wide array of enriching extracurricular opportunities;

- >> Known for small classes (ratio ranges from 1:10 - 1:18) and the **INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION** given to students, including guidance toward honorable conduct, good manners, personal presentation, articulate speech, and details that make the difference;

- >> Home to an **ESTEEMED FACULTY**, where more than 60% hold advanced degrees, and each subject in every grade is taught by a teacher specialist;

- >> Proud of its **ELEGANT FACILITY**, which includes an expansive library, naturally lit art and music studios, a modern makerspace for STEAM, a spacious gymnasium, and a state-of-the-art theater;

- >> **RICH IN TRADITION**, with a unique history and many special events throughout the year that bond our community and provide rich experiences and lasting memories for both students and parents.



Westminster Students Stand Out from the Crowd ...

During the years from 3 to 14, children are shaped by their environment and experiences into the people they are going to be. Kindness, respect, love of learning, work ethic, confidence, comportsment, and enthusiasm for life's possibilities are all formed during this crucial span from young childhood to young adulthood. In close partnership with parents, Westminster School provides an extraordinary program that guides children during these malleable years to become engaged and accomplished scholars, kind and responsible citizens, and confident pursuers of their own dreams.



OUR STORY

Westminster School was founded in 1962 on a belief in the uplifting power of a classical education, great literature, high standards of conduct, and joy in the possibilities of life. These became the pillars of a Westminster education, and more than a thousand graduates have benefited from its unique



LOWER SCHOOL: GRADES K-2

- >> Westminster's lower school offers your child a remarkable adventure in learning, fun, friendship and personal development.
- >> Accelerated academic programs expose our students to a greater breadth and depth of knowledge. Our phonics-based reading approach builds a strong linguistic foundation. By 2nd grade, students are reading chapter books, refining their writing skills, and applying mathematical reasoning to real world scenarios.
- >> The lower school curriculum includes critical thinking and listening skills, hands-on science labs, experiences in social studies, geography and map skills, lessons in French language and culture, and daily P.E.
- >> Immersion in visual and performing arts allows students to develop their imagination, creativity, and confidence. With twice-weekly classes in both art and music, and an annual class play, students are afforded many opportunities to participate in the arts.
- >> Many special and fun traditions including author visits, multi-cultural holiday celebrations, Native American Day, French cuisine tastings, and Hat Day.
- >> Multiple field trips every year, including visits to farms, museums, science centers, theaters, local businesses, restaurants, and more!

combination of challenge and enrichment. Over the years, the Westminster program has been strengthened, refined, and especially dedicated to the arts as a vehicle for self-discovery, expression, and confidence.

While the Westminster program is rich in all areas, including daily PE and sports, as well as strong programs in math and science, it stands out for its classical history

curriculum, emphasis on high-quality reading and writing, and its arts programs, especially drama.

Westminster School is dedicated to the personal development of each of its students, and our graduates remember Westminster as crucial to the formation of their character, success, and wide-ranging interests and accomplishments.

“Westminster really helped bring me out of my shell and give me self-confidence . . . *The lessons I learned there will serve me well for the rest of my life.* — Alumnus

MIDDLE SCHOOL: GRADES 3-5

- >> Students begin in-depth, sequential history studies of Western Civilization, including celebratory history days: 3rd grade – Ancient Egypt and other early civilizations; 4th grade – Ancient Greece; 5th Grade – Ancient Rome.
- >> Classic literature and writing skills are emphasized cross-curricularly.
- >> French instruction continues, with Spanish becoming an option in 5th grade.
- >> Handwriting lessons continue and typing class is introduced in the 4th grade.
- >> In addition to weekly art and music classes, students may participate in chorus or choose to learn an instrument and join the orchestra.
- >> Regular technology and STEAM classes in our makerspace.
- >> Consistent standards and daily expectations teach independence, responsibility and good character. Formal SEL classes begin in 4th grade provided by The Social Institute's #WinAtSocial program.
- >> Drama and the performing arts grow more sophisticated.
- >> Field trips to museums, historical sites, music performances, engineering workshops, and more!
- >> Participation in after-school sports becomes available in 5th grade. Team sports include soccer, basketball, softball, track and field, and cross-country.
- >> A variety of clubs and activities are offered to expand the students' horizon. Some extracurriculars include French club, chorus, math club, and community service.





UPPER SCHOOL: GRADES 6-8

- >> High-school level academics across all subject areas. Most students graduate with 3 or 4 high school credits.
- >> Daily guidance toward personal responsibility, aspiration, and strong study skills. A generous program of special activities and events nurture the student's intellectual, emotional, and social development.
- >> Dance instruction, class parties, and other social events that help adolescents learn to cultivate friendships and enjoy genuine interactions with peers and adults.
- >> Leadership opportunities, including participation in varsity sports, community service projects, carpool patrol duties, extracurricular clubs, and school-wide celebrations.
- >> All students are involved in high-quality arts experiences, including the performance of a Shakespeare play in 7th grade and a Broadway musical in 8th grade.
- >> Advanced technology and STEAM classes in the makerspace, featuring lessons in robotics, video game design, coding, engineering, and architectural projects.
- >> Field trips to Folger Theater, Library of Congress, music and opera performances, art exhibits, outdoor challenges and overnight camping, Williamsburg, and more!
- >> Partnership with The Social Institute to implement their #WinAtSocial program which empowers students to navigate the online and in-person world positively and responsibly.

*I learned things about myself that I might never have known . . . **Being a student at Westminster has opened up a world of possibilities.** Having the confidence to pursue my dreams is invaluable.*

— excerpt from 8th grade graduation speech

LEARN MORE:

Tours Available Daily!
Scan the QR code below
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