



Westminster School

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

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-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 students representing a wide array of races, religions, and national origins;
- >> A pre-K-8th grade day school for approximately **275 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, which includes French and Latin, daily PE and athletics, performing and fine arts, frequent field trips, and a wide array of enriching extracurricular opportunities;
- >> Known for small classes (ratio ranges from 1:7 - 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, such as a clear-eyed, open expression and a firm handshake;
- >> Proud of its faculty, where **MORE THAN 60%** hold advanced degrees, and each subject in every grade is taught by a specialist; and proud of its **ELEGANT FACILITY**, including art and music studios, gymnasium, and 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.



Westminster Students Stand Out from the Crowd ...

During the years from 5 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, comportment, 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

- >> Children are taught how to be part of a caring, respectful, and responsible community. They learn good manners, independence, and self-discipline.
- >> Accelerated language arts and math programs put our students ahead. By the time children are in 2nd grade, they are reading chapter books and writing reports and creative pieces. They can reason mathematically and solve word problems involving 4-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- >> Our rich curriculum includes thinking skills, hands-on science, social studies, geography and map skills, French, and daily P.E. classes.
- >> Arts emphasis, with twice-weekly classes in both art and music, Orff instruments, choral performances, art contest, and an annual class play in which everyone participates.
- >> Many special and fun traditions, including Hat Day, holiday celebrations, Native American Day, Le Petit Déjeuner, and International Day.
- >> Seven field trips a year, including farms, museums, theaters, stores, 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

- >> Accelerated curricula in all academic classes, including pre-Algebra in 6th grade.
- >> Handwriting lessons continue through 4th grade.
- >> In addition to weekly art and music classes, students may choose to learn an instrument and join the orchestra.
- >> 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; 6th grade – Middle Ages. (The adventure continues in the upper school.)
- >> Classic literature and writing skills are emphasized.
- >> Consistent standards and daily expectations teach responsibility and good character.
- >> Regular technology and STEAM classes in our Makerspace begin in 3rd grade.
- >> Drama grows more sophisticated, with 6th graders performing a junior musical.
- >> All 6th graders serve as safety patrols.
- >> Field trips to museums, historical sites, music performances, engineering workshops, and more!
- >> After-school athletics plus a wide variety of clubs and enrichment classes.





UPPER SCHOOL: GRADES 6-8

- >> High-school level academics, including Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry/ Physics, Latin I, French II, Renaissance studies, American History, and studies of British and American literary classics.
- >> 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.
- >> Personal attention to each student's individual progress, and help preparing for the future.
- >> Dance classes, parties, and other social events that help adolescents learn how to cultivate friendships and enjoy wholesome interactions with peers and adults.
- >> Leadership training for all students, including community service, varsity athletics, yearbook, talent shows, and being featured in traditional school celebrations.
- >> Participation by all students in high-quality arts experiences, including performing in a Shakespeare play in 7th grade and a Broadway musical in 8th grade.
- >> Advanced technology and STEAM opportunities in Makerspace.
- >> Field trips to Folger Theater, Library of Congress, music and opera performances, art exhibits, outdoor challenges and overnight camping, Williamsburg, and more!

***Westminster taught us that life is full of beauty,
and that we should notice it, and to take care with
the little things that most people just brush aside.***

— 8th Grade Student



**LOOKING FOR A
PRESCHOOL?**

Learn more about our
Griffin Academy at
westminsterschool.com.



Westminster School
3819 Gallows Road
Annandale, VA 22003
703-256-3620
www.WestminsterSchool.com