

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**WESTMINSTER** *YOU*

**INFORMATION &  
COURSE GUIDE  
2023–24**

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### What is WestminsterYOU?

WestminsterYOU is a tailored and innovative approach to teaching, learning, and building community. The program provides opportunities for our students and families to engage and learn in ways that work for them in spaces and through programs that inspire connection and customization. WestminsterYOU provides unique experiences that prepare our students to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ.

### Academies

Academies are academic programs that exist both within and outside our traditional seven period day. These programs will offer students the opportunity for hands-on and experiential learning that is community-oriented in scope. Students in our academies will gain valuable experience in real-world situations and scenarios and will have the opportunity to put our school's vision into practice. Students who take part in an academy will have a multi-year experience that may include a mentor and/or related internship. Students who complete work within each portion of an academy will receive credit on their transcript.

### Enrichment

Academic enrichment opportunities offer students the unique ability to go deeper and further into academic material they are interested in. These opportunities stretch across the disciplines.

### Recovery

Academic recovery is designed to give students time, space, and support each week to get caught up on schoolwork and/or seek extra help from teachers. We will also provide a Writing Center and a Math Center for academic support. Students who have a failing grade may be assigned to an intervention program to address academic deficiencies and to give them an opportunity to boost their grade(s).

# COURSE CATALOG

## ACADEMIES

### UPPER SCHOOL

#### **Business Academy**

Grade Levels: 10–12 • Instructor: Mr. Maloy

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Advisory • Year-long

Prerequisites: Intro to Business, two Teacher/Staff Recommendations

The Business Academy is a year-long program designed to build upon the foundation students have gained by taking Introduction to Business. The Business Academy will provide students with rich opportunities and training in business development and leadership. The Business Academy will specifically develop students' understanding of leadership, management, finance, entrepreneurship, and other core business concepts and skills. Students will learn biblical principles of leadership, stewardship, and service so they are prepared and equipped to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. They will learn to lead, to create value, and to develop their God-given gifts through classroom instruction, mentorships, and real-life projects, including our own on-campus coffeehouse, Pawprint. The concepts and skills learned will prepare students for college and for careers in business and across professions and industries and will have life-long practical application.

*General Requirements for Business Academy Distinction at Graduation:*

- *Completion of business courses (Intro to Business and one other)*
- *Two years of academy participation*
- *Any absence beyond five (5) for the school year will result in administrative review and possibly lead to removal from the Academy, loss of academic credit and graduation recognition.*

#### **Fine Arts Academy**

Grade Levels: 10–12 • Instructors: Mr. Butz, Dr. Gargrave, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Rosenberg, Mr. Sarra, Mr. Schwamb

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Advisory • Year-long

Prerequisite: Two Teacher/Staff Recommendations

The Fine Arts Academy is a year-long program designed to give students with gifts in the arts an opportunity to use and explore how those gifts can be used to bring glory to God and good to people. The program is designed to build upon the courses found within our normal curriculum. Students in this academy may choose to focus on visual arts, theatre arts, or music. Students will explore the ways in which art – in its various forms – can be used to reflect God's truth and to engage the community. Specific examples include audition and recital preparation, developing stage presence, and advanced focus on various disciplines within both music and visual arts.

*General Requirements for Fine Arts Academy Distinction at Graduation:*

- *Theatre*
  - *Completion of the following courses:*
    - *Intro to Theatre Arts*
    - *Theatre Arts: Scripts and Styles*
    - *Theatre Arts: Production and Design*
    - *Advanced Theatre Arts*

- *4 semesters Theatre Arts Enrichment Participation\**
  - *May be taken any of the 8 semesters of Upper School*
  - *Any absence beyond five (5) for the school year will result in administrative review and possibly lead to removal from the Academy, loss of academic credit and graduation recognition.*
- *Music*
  - *Completion of at least 3 years (and preferably 4) of the same Performing Ensemble*
    - *Band*
    - *String Orchestra, or*
    - *Concert Choir*
  - *4 semesters Music Enrichment Participation\**
    - *Choose any music enrichment offered*
    - *May be taken any of the 8 semesters of Upper School*
    - *Missing more than 6 classes may be grounds for that semester not counting toward the 4 semester total*
    - *\*2023 seniors need only complete one year of academy participation for the distinction.*
- *Visual Arts*
  - *Completion of the following courses:*
    - *Introduction to Visual Art (prerequisite for application)*
    - *One media-specific course (prerequisite for application)*
    - *Two additional semesters of Visual Arts study including at least one advanced course (Ceramics II, Advanced Studio Art, AP Studio Art, or AP Art History)*
  - *At least four semesters of the Visual Arts Academy\**
    - *May be taken sophomore through senior year*
    - *Missing more than 6 classes may be grounds for that semester not counting toward the 4 semester total*
    - *\*2023 seniors need only complete one year of academy participation for the distinction.*

## **Law and Constitution Academy**

Grade Levels: 9–12 • Instructor: Mrs. LeVar

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Advisory • Year-long

Prerequisite: Two Teacher/Staff Recommendations

The Law and Constitution Academy is a year-long, student-focused program designed to equip participants with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, the legal process, the legal system, and the fundamental principles and values on which these are based. Students will explore essential concepts – including law, power, justice, liberty, and equality – fundamental to our constitutional democracy and to the structure and functioning of other societies. Through activities that engage students in considering how the law and legal issues are essential to the functioning of politics, culture, and society, students will experience how the law affects them and how they, in turn, can affect the law.

*General Requirements for Law and Constitution Academy Distinction at Graduation:*

- *Completion of the following courses:*
  - *Mock Trial*

- *AP American Government or 1818 American Government*
- *Two years of academy participation*
- *Any absence beyond five (5) for the school year will result in administrative review and possibly lead to removal from the Academy, loss of academic credit and graduation recognition.*

### **STUCO Leadership Academy**

Grade Levels: 9–12 • Instructor: Ms. Woodall

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Advisory • Year-long

The Student Council Leadership Academy is a yearlong course designed to equip students to lead their community in the following three areas of influence: government, community building, and service. This course will help students develop skills that will help them better represent the voices of their class, think critically about issues in the community, propose solutions to those issues, brainstorm ideas that will improve the student experience, and plan and implement community and service projects that will build relationships and fill needs within the community. Students will learn biblical principles of leadership, stewardship, and service, so they are prepared and equipped to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. They will learn to lead, to create value, and to develop their God-given gifts through classroom instruction, mentorships, and real-life projects and experience. The concepts and skills learned will prepare students for college and for careers in business, government, project management, communications, and more.

*General Requirements for STUCO Leadership Academy Distinction at Graduation:*

- *Two years of academy participation*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Business Academy Jr. (Middle School)**

Grade Levels: 7 & 8 • Instructor: Mr. Maloy

Meets: Wednesday, 2:10–3 p.m. • Year-long

Business Academy Jr. is an extension of the Business Academy (US), but reformatted for the Middle School Student experience! This opportunity is a fun way for students to preview the US Business Academy and gain some hands-on entrepreneurial experience.

Each Semester, in collaboration with Pawprint Coffee Co. and Business Academy (US), Business Academy Jr. Students will host a pop up shop! Aside from learning the basics of business, they will also seek to use their pop up shop to find ways to help and improve our community at WCA. The goal being that students learn the restorative potential of business.

It will be open to any 7th & 8th Grade students wishing to apply.

*\*\*Priority will be given to 8th Grade Students, as 7th Grade Students will have another opportunity in 8th Grade. The application is not a guarantee, as there will be limited space available, but every effort will be made to focus on students truly interested.*

## **Middle School STEM Academy**

Grade Levels: 7–8 • Instructor: Mr. Decker

Meets: Wednesdays, 2:10–3 p.m. • Year-long

The STEM Academy is a project-based guild empowering students to change the world for Jesus Christ by using problem solving. Through a synergy of disciplines, students will learn more about God and his creation so that they can have a positive impact in our world and on others. The STEM Academy seeks to expose students to a wide range of experiences and activities. Through learning-by-doing, this approach provides valuable opportunities to discover and integrate a biblical worldview into the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

*Students can receive a STEM Distinction in the Middle School by completing one of two available tracks.*

- *The first track requires students to take both STEM 7 and STEM 8 while completing the 2 enrichment courses (Ocean Discovery I and Introduction to Coding) within their Middle School career.*
- *The second track requires students to take both STEM 7 and STEM 8 while completing a year involved with either the Robotics Team or the AV Club.*

*Offerings within the MS STEM Academy:*

### *Courses*

STEM 7 This course is the entrance into the exciting world of STEM. It provides project-based exploration through hands-on activities designed to inspire students. Using the Problem Solving Process we will construct Newton scooters, build rockets, and even conduct a heat transfer experiment that will run on the International Space Station. Throughout each challenge, students will think critically, collaborate, and become better problem solvers.

STEM 8 Adding to the STEM 7 experience, eighth grade students actively engage in a variety of new projects as they research, design, construct, and test their creations. The topics covered range from creating a CO2 dragster, to using 3D modeling/printing and culminating with “The WCA Regatta.” As a result, students become more effective communicators of their ideas while working collaboratively to solve complex problems and accomplish common goals.

### *Enrichments/Academy Offerings*

Ocean Discovery I exposes students to the fields of Marine Biology and Ocean Engineering. They will discover the significance of coral reefs and their impact on humanity. This course will also explore the world of underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and their uses in monitoring the ocean.

Introduction to Coding presents students with the more-accessible coding languages such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Those three core languages are used for web development worldwide. Using CodePen, students will build a website as they progress through the units of study. With jobs in tech-related fields projected to double in the next 10 years, this course will give insight to what it's actually like to work in tech and web development.

## ENRICHMENTS

### **Audition, Recital, and Concert Prep**

Instructor: Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Schwamb

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory

Students who are planning to audition for All-District/All-State, audition for college music scholarships, or perform at a recital or concert should consider joining the Audition, Recital, and Concert Prep course offered through WestminsterYOU. The course will be made up of discussion and performance opportunities in addition to guided rehearsals. Students can join this course as a soloist or as a part of a small ensemble (string quartet, barbershop group, etc.). Students will have the opportunity to discuss performance-related topics like stage fright and music memorization techniques. Mock auditions and performances will be part of the course. This will be especially helpful to those students enrolled in “Honors Music Ensembles.”

### **Beat Making (sign up for this in January)**

Instructors: Dr. Gargrave

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory • QUARTER 3

Use your iPad, GarageBand, and other electronic instruments to create beats: the percussive rhythms, driving bass lines, and colorful harmonies behind many of today's styles of music. Explore some of your favorite artists and tunes, and create your own in a fun and self-paced environment.

### **Conducting Music**

Instructors: Dr. Gargrave, Mr. Schwamb, Mrs. Roberts

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory • QUARTER 2

Explore performing music from the position of the conductor: Leading musicians. Studying music. making decisions and turning ideas about sound into visual gestures that communicate and inspire performance in others.

### **Exploration of the Great Questions**

Instructors: Mr. Knerr; Mr. Seilback

Grade Levels: 10–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory • Year-long

Exploration of the Great Questions is a year-long course designed to allow students to engage with some of the deeper questions of the Christian faith. Our goal is to avoid immediate, simplistic answers to these questions. Rather, the instructors will mentor and guide the students as they explore them in an environment where honest questions are welcomed. Throughout the course, we'll not only engage in open-ended questions — we'll also explore the big questions through film, works of art, and knowledgeable guest speakers who can also speak into the big questions of the day. Wednesdays will be devoted to discussion and cultural analysis. On Thursdays, students will work independently with a variety of materials related to the topics we discussed the previous day. The goal is to bring each student's exploration of the

great questions to a personal level. We welcome those who are struggling to find answers as well as those who simply want to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.

### **First Aid/CPR/AED Certification**

Instructor: Mr. Petke

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday only • 1st or 2nd Semester

Wish you had the knowledge and skills to help save someone's life? In this semester-long Enrichment, students will learn how to respond to medical emergencies. This is a blended learning experience including an online portion and an instructor-led classroom skill session. Upon successful completion of this course students will receive a digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED through the American Red Cross. This is the first course offered through the STEM Academy's Medical Experiential Learning Program.

### **Gardening**

Instructor: Mr. Muehleisen

Grade Level: 7-12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory (Middle school – Wednesday only) Year-long

Do you have a green thumb? Do you like to work with the dirt? Our Gardening exploration will give students the chance to decide what products to grow and then the space to grow them. We will meet Wednesdays and Thursdays to both learn about how to grow a garden and to get to work!

### **Guitar Class**

Instructor: Dr. Gargrave, Mr. Schwamb

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory • QUARTER 1

Whether you're an absolute beginner, an absolute shredder, or a coffeehouse strummer somewhere in between, this enrichment is for anyone who wants a chance to play guitar or bass. Explore and grow as a player, share tips, learn tunes, and play music alongside others who are into it, too. Guitars provided, but bring your own if you have it.

### **Percussion/Drum (sign up for this in January)**

Instructor: Dr. Gargrave

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory • QUARTER 4

Djembe, congas, bongos, xylophone, marimba, drum set, quads, timpani, bass drum, guiro, triangle, cymbals, even buckets! So many things to hit, so little time! The Percussion Enrichment will give you space, time, and ways to explore these instruments and more. No prior experience necessary; bring a willingness to explore and play!



## **Personal Finance**

Instructor: Mr. Adams, Mrs. Terschak

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory by Quarter

This Enrichment is a quarter-long introduction to all things personal finance. Students who sign up for this course should have an interest in gaining insight into the intricacies of budgeting, investing, goal setting, stock market understanding, and much more. Most importantly, this course will explore the ways in which we're called to be stewards of all God has blessed us with.

## **Theatre Arts**

Instructors: Mr. Butz, Mrs. Rosenberg, Mrs. Mueller

Grade Levels: 7–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory (Middle school – Wednesday only) • First or second semester

The Theatre Arts Enrichment Program is a year-long program for students with a serious interest in the Theatre Arts and who are ready to take their theatrical skills to the next level. Students will spend their time learning how to prepare and execute an effective audition; developing better stage technique in voice, movement, and acting; and learning the practical skills applied in set construction and painting. All of the content of the course will be focused around Westminster's Theatre Season. In other words, we will be reading the plays and musicals of our current season\*, developing audition material for the season, learning performance technique with the material from the season, and constructing the sets and props for the season. \*The 2022–23 Theatre Season consists of the following shows: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Matilda*, *Our Town*, and *The Music Man*.

# ACADEMIC RECOVERY & SUPPORT

## **Homework Center**

Instructor: Mr. Pott & Mr. Ruprecht

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Monday & Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:30, and Wednesday & Thursday, Advisory & 3:00 – 3:45

The Homework Center is designed to help students who have missing work get caught up on their assignments. Students in need of this service will be assigned to the Homework Center by their grade-level counselors and principals.

## **Math Support Center**

Instructors: Mr. Cupps & Mrs. Mayfield

Grade Levels: 7–12

The Math Support Center is designed to be a resource for students who need extra help and support in any of their math classes. Students have access to the Math Support Center before and after school as well as during study hall or Advisory.

## **Middle School Writing Center**

Instructor: Mrs. Orr with senior student tutors

Grade Levels: 7–8

The MS Writing Center is designed to be a resource for students who desire or need extra support with the writing process for any of their courses. Middle school students have access to the Writing Center during Middle School Connect on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 2:15 – 3:00.