



## 2023 Westminster Summer Enrichment Classes

**Location: Westminster Upper School**

**Cost: \$300 per class** (unless otherwise noted)

**Dates: June 5th-15th or June 19th-29th** (unless otherwise noted)

**Times: 9-11 AM or 1-3 PM** (unless otherwise noted)

### **Alabama's Reptiles and Amphibians**

**June 12th - June 15th, Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 noon**

Day 1 will be spent at the Westminster Upper School learning about the anatomy of reptiles and amphibians and their habitats, identification of common species by sight and sound, methods of collecting, including how to use basic field equipment, and safety protocols when working with these animals. The rest of the week will be spent in Oak Mountain State Park doing field work; capturing, identifying, and studying the different species we find. Three different locations will be explored, one each day. A \$5 fee per day is required to enter OMSP unless you have a membership. This fee is not included in the cost of the class. *This class is open to students in grades 9th through 12th.* Maximum enrollment is 10. Teacher - Gregg Thompson

### **Alabama Birding**

**June 19th - June 22nd, Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 noon**

Day 1 will be spent at the Westminster Upper School learning about the anatomy of birds and their habitats, identification of common species by sight and sound, and how to use basic field equipment including birding apps. The rest of the week will be spent at different parks doing field work; identifying and observing the behaviors of the different species we see. An additional entrance fee might be necessary for some parks (eg. OMSP \$5). This fee is not included in the cost of the class. *This class is open to students in grades 9th through 12th.* Teacher - Gregg Thompson

**Algebra I Refresher:** Algebra I Refresher (Prep for Algebra 2 and PreCalculus): This non-graded course provides a targeted review of Algebra. Intended for the student who has studied Algebra 1 level topics but seeks a solid review to proceed with higher math courses or to prepare for standardized testing. Successful completion of this course will not substitute for Algebra I credit for transcript purposes.

*This class is open to students in grades 9th through 12th who have completed Algebra 1*

Teacher - Jeff Chambless

**ACT Math preparation/refresher course:** This course is intended for students in

10th-12th grade. This course will review important math concepts for the ACT. We will also discuss strategies for maximizing time, simplifying problems, and engaging with the stresses of the test. We will study multiple ways to help students prepare to perform at their best.

Teacher - Jeff Chambless

**Basic Auto Maintenance:** This class will include basic instruction to help students feel competent in performing some simple but important services on their own vehicles. Students will learn how to safely jump-start a dead battery, change a flat tire, check basic fluid levels, and do a few other jobs along the way. The class will primarily take place out of doors, and it will get messy. Some optional supply costs may be incurred for students wanting to perform some of the jobs on their own cars, but students will be able to participate without any additional purchases if they wish. *This class is open to rising 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders* Teacher - [Charlie Ritch](#)

**Career Discovery & Direction:** Not sure what you want to do after high school? Don't know what to major in? What career is the best fit for your personality? Let's discover those things together! Before the class ever begins, you will take a [Career Direct](#) assessment, followed by a one-on-one 2-3 hour personal overview of the 30-page report.\* Now, let's get down to business! In this course, we will cover how to write professional emails, create a resume and cover letter, and work on interview skills. We will also dig deeper into the career options from your assessment report by researching different fields, college and gap year programs, and find organizations or people to contact to job shadow. You will leave with a binder of resources! Business suits are not required ;)

*This class is for 11th and 12th graders, as well as alumni from the Class of 2022 and 2023.*

**Cost \$350 (\*The fee for the Career Assessment is included in the cost of the class.)**

Teacher - Amber Zaccagni

### **Cognitive Learning & Study Strategies:**

This workshop will specifically address how to help the individual student prepare for and take tests. We will begin by looking at a variety of cognitive learning strategies used with individual students. We will discuss why these particular study strategies are recommended for the students, as well as how to decide which strategies are best for each student. Cognitive learning strategies will be provided for storing and recalling information, steps in the study process, active learning, reading directions carefully, planning ahead, preparing for and answering different types of questions (multiple choice, matching, essay, etc.), dealing with test anxiety, pacing, checking tests, and avoiding and catching common mistakes. *This class will be offered to two groups, 7th & 8th graders and 9th & 10th graders.*

**Cost: \$350**

Teacher - Kimberly Carraway of [Carraway Center for Teaching and Learning](#)

**Creative Writing:** Calling all writers of poetry and fiction! This summer Westminster is offering a Creative Writing Course that will take the novice as well as the well-seasoned writer of poetry and fiction to new heights. By the time you complete the course, you will be a more practiced, skillful, and confident craftsman of creative writing. We will read and discuss select poetry and fiction. We will identify, discuss, and practice the tools great poets and writers of fiction use. You will, under the guidance of your teacher and with the help of our writing workshop, write two poems, taking them from their earliest stages to a product you will be proud of. You will also take a piece of short fiction through the writing process, arriving at a powerful and polished short story you will want to share with others. And you will have the opportunity, if you so desire, to publish your work alongside your fellow writers. As part of the cost of the course, you will receive a Creative Writing Handbook with all the materials you need (except for a pen and pencil and your imagination!). The handbook includes the following: accessible, amazing poems for reading and discussing; short fiction that will make you say, "I want to be able to do that!"; inspirational and practical passages from writers about being a writer; and inventive writing exercises to help unlock your potential. Hope you will join us! You will be amazed at what we can do together. *This class is open to students in grades 9th through 12th.*

Teacher - Jason Smith

### **Film & Worldview, Part 1 (June 5-15)**

If you want to slump down on the couch, turn off your brain, and veg in front of the TV, Film & Worldview isn't for you. In this course, you will learn how movies work and how filmmakers craft them to entertain and challenge audiences. You will watch movies and analyze portions of screenplays to study how films communicate particular messages. If you're very lucky, Mr. Leithart might even tell you about the time he had coffee with Christopher Nolan. (This course can be taken independently from Film & Worldview, Part 2.) *This class is open to students in grades 7th through 12th.*

Teacher - Christian Leithart

### **Film & Worldview, Part 2 (June 19-29)**

How do you make a movie? Grab a camera and shoot! In this course, you will learn the fundamental skills of writing, shooting, and editing movies. You will write your own screenplay and take a stab at directing your own short film. Lights, camera, action! Or, as the pros say, "Sound speeds. Rolling. Action!" (This course can be taken independently from Film & Worldview, Part 1.) *This class is open to students in grades 7th through 12th.*

Teacher - Christian Leithart

**Financial Literacy:** This summer Westminster students have an opportunity to learn about and apply the principles of wise financial stewardship. Our curriculum? Dave Ramsey's *New Foundations in Personal Finance for High School Students*. The course contents and its materials will be presented to students in an age-appropriate way, using

video lectures, discussion, note-taking, and written exercises. The students will have digital access to all materials. Topics that will be covered include the following: saving and investing; credit and debt; financial responsibility and money management; and insurance/risk management, college education, and income/careers. Students will be provided a workbook made especially for the Ramsey curriculum. *This class is open to students in grades 8th through 12th.*

**Cost: \$330 (includes the cost of digital access and workbook)**

Teacher - Jason Smith

**Introduction to Computer Programming:** This course is designed to help both programming beginners and those with some basic programming experience. Students will learn the basics of how a computer actually works and then get their hands on learning how to do the basics of programming in Python.

*This class is open to students in grades 9th through 12th.*

Teacher - Professor Greg Kawell of Samford University

**Introduction in Designing with Adobe Illustrator (June 19-23, 2-4 PM)** This class will focus on learning basic design principles and how to apply those skills effectively to create compositions using the basic tools of Adobe Illustrator. Students will gain knowledge of terms used in computer-assisted art, as well as create strong graphic design projects through Adobe Illustrator. This class would serve as a good introduction to computer skills needed for several design fields students might want to pursue in college (ie, graphic design, architecture, marketing, interior design, or public relations). This class is open to rising 10th-12th graders. **\$150, plus software costs.** Teacher- Cathye Price

**Music Theory and Composition:** Do you fancy yourself to be the next big star in the world of music composition? Are you the one to tell Bach, Beethoven, and Taylor Swift to move out of the way and make room for the new musical genius? Well then, the summer music theory and composition class will be your perfect opportunity to develop your skills. The class will focus on the fundamentals of music theory in order to give you the background to begin creating your own compositions. *This class is open to students in grades 9th through 12th.*

Teacher - Gordon Craig

## **Outdoor Skills**

### **June 5th - June 8th, Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 noon**

Spend time in the woods with Mr. Ireland to learn or refine outdoor skills in a class entirely outdoors and hands-on. With safety and fun as first concerns, students will develop skills in the following areas: backpacking, campsite skills, first aid, and rock climbing. After the first day (on campus), we will take the bus to off-site locations to learn and practice specific skills. At least one of those trips will be to Oak Mountain State Park, which requires a \$5 entry fee. Students should wear comfortable, rugged clothes and bring a water bottle. No

other equipment is required, but personal gear is welcome where appropriate. *This class is open to rising 8th-12th graders*

Teacher - Nicholas Ireland

**Sculpting with Clay (June 19-23 8 AM-12 noon)**

This workshop will focus on working with clay through the hand-building process. Students will receive instruction on several different ways to construct with clay. Projects will include but are not limited to, creating dishware, sculptures, and luminaries. We will be using the underglaze method to add color to the pottery. However, because of the time restraints with clay, pieces will be fired at a later date and picked up at the school later in the summer. **\$325, all supplies are included in the costs.**

This class is open to rising 7th grade through 12th.

Teacher- Cathye Price

**Typing and Keyboarding:** This is a beginning typing class that is designed to help people who simply want to type better or want to type quickly and accurately as necessary. *This class is open to all Upper School students.*

**Cost: \$310 (includes the cost of the software)**

Teachers - Andy Wood (morning sections) and Nicholas Ireland (afternoon sections)

**Other classes - COMING SOON!**