



Winchester Thurston School

School Profile 2023-2024

School Credo: "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others."

555 Morewood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-578-7515
winchesterthurston.org
CEEB: 393970

Head of School
Scott D. Fech, Ph.D.

Director of Upper School
Dana Kooistra

Director of College Counseling
David Weisbord
weisbordd@winchesterthurston.org

Associate Director of College Counseling
Alicia Oglesby
oglesbya@winchesterthurston.org

As a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), Winchester Thurston School is committed to following NACAC's *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*.

Accreditation
Accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) and a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling (PACAC), the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS).

Mission Statement
Winchester Thurston School actively engages each student in a challenging and inspiring learning process that develops the mind, motivates the passion to achieve, and cultivates the character to serve.

Academic Challenge of Student's Program
In representing to colleges, the rigor of our student's academic program, Winchester Thurston School designates each student's program on the [Secondary School Report](#) as **College Preparatory, Demanding, Very Demanding or Most Demanding**.

Discipline Reporting Policy
Winchester Thurston School requires students to respond truthfully when college applications ask about disciplinary violations. When requested, Winchester Thurston School will report any incidents in grades 9 through 12 that result in probation, suspension or expulsion.

Class of 2024: 64 students

Grades: Grades of A through F, including + and – (except A+) are reported in all academic and arts courses

All course grades are unweighted and the grade of A+ is not awarded

Winchester Thurston School does not weight grades (Only courses taken at WT are included in the GPA)

Rank and GPA: Winchester Thurston School does not report class rank

GPA is reported on an unweighted 4.0 scale

School Year: Semesters/Block Schedule (Trimester prior to 2023-2024 academic year)

School and Community: Established in 1887. Junior Pre-K–12, nationally recognized independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school in Pittsburgh, PA. **Nearly 100 percent of graduates attend four-year colleges and universities in the United States and abroad.**

Campus: The campus includes a Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School located in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, **less than one mile from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.**

Joan Clark Davis Center for Interdisciplinary Learning: Opened for the 2023-2024 school year, this new facility is designed so the school can continue to adapt space for project-based and community-based learning while creating collaboration among humanities, engineering, arts, and science programs. Additionally, the space will expand the impact of the school's renowned City as Our Campus program, which connects students in all grade levels with mentors from the academic, cultural, scientific, non-profit, and business communities in Pittsburgh.

Distinguished Curriculum: A Learning Environment Anchored in Real-World Connections: The Philosophy of Teaching and Learning at WT is our Mission in practice. Since its founding, WT has led the way in educational innovation, rigorous academics, scholarly standards, and real-world connections. With rigorous, innovative courses, students are encouraged to think, grow, and give back to the community. They are prepared to master the skill sets required for college-level coursework, including exploration of complex, multifaceted ideas, acquisition and application of knowledge to solve complex problems, critical analysis and communication in multiple modes, creative and original thought, and independent research and learning.

Winchester Thurston School Fast Facts			
Number of Students (9-12)	289	Number of Students (Jr. PK-12)	675
Number of zip codes	69	Number of School Districts	39
City-as-Our-Campus Partners	100+	Financial aid awarded annually.	39% receive more than \$4.7 million
Percent students of color	38%	Gender	51.0% Female 48.6% Male 0.4% Non-binary
Percent international students	3%	Student-Faculty Ratio	7:1
Faculty with advanced degrees	65%+	Average Class Size	15

Class of 2024 GPA Distribution Through End of Junior Year	
Average GPA = 3.68 (Highest GPA is 4.00)	
The Middle 50 percent of the Class of 2024 has a GPA between 3.56 and 3.98	
45% of students in the Class of 2024 have a GPA of 3.85 or higher	

Class of 2024 SAT and ACT Testing Data as of September 30, 2023					
	SAT (55 test takers)			ACT (17 test takers)	
	EBRW	Math	1600	Composite	
25 percentile	630	590	1210	25 percentile	25
75 percentile	730	750	1500	75 percentile	30
Average	681	657	1338	Average	27

Winchester Thurston School Academic Program Notes for the Class of 2024

All Winchester Thurston courses are **considered rigorous and college preparatory**. Students are encouraged to select courses in junior and senior year that reflect their interests and our academic program includes numerous topics-based and project-based learning courses.

WT's equitable and inclusive learning experience is grounded in the credo to "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others." With academic offerings that continue to evolve, WT remains committed to this credo as it develops individuals of strong character who are prepared for the demands of a changing world.

<p>Graduation Requirements: In 2023, Winchester Thurston School moved from a trimester to a semester calendar. This shift changes how we count course credits, but our diploma requirements remain substantively similar. The table below describes the minimum a student must do to graduate from WT. However, nearly all of our students exceed our baseline requirements and choose either to take courses in all five core departments for all four years of high school OR double-up in one core discipline if they have completed their requirements in another. It is strongly recommended that students continue to take at least 5 core courses all four years, and if they drop one core area they should double up in another.</p> <p>Block Schedule: Winchester Thurston Upper School operates on a 5-day, A & B week schedule, with core courses held on alternating days (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of one week and Tuesday, and Thursday of the other week).</p>	<p>Grades: Grades of A through F (including + and -) are given in all academic and arts courses. D- is the lowest passing grade. <u>The grade of A+ is not awarded.</u></p> <p>Rank: Winchester Thurston School does not calculate class rank.</p> <p>GPA: Winchester Thurston School only calculates a GPA on an unweighted, 4.0 scale. All courses that receive a letter grade and appear on the Winchester Thurston School transcript are calculated in the unweighted GPA.</p> <p>Semester Calendar: Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, WT operates on a semester calendar (previously trimesters). First-semester (mid-year) grades are reported in late January, and final grades are reported in mid-June. First-quarter grades are available (if requested) in mid-November.</p>
<p>English, 4 years -In eleventh and twelfth grade, students may take more than one English class per year. <u>Eleventh and Twelfth-grade topic courses are at the same level of rigor as AP English Literature & Composition (Not all topic-based courses are offered each academic year)</u></p>	<p>History & Social Sciences, 3 years -One must be a U.S. History course (9th grade Multicultural America) <u>Eleventh and Twelfth-grade topic courses are at the same level of rigor as AP United States History (Not all topic-based courses are offered each academic year)</u></p>
<p>Mathematics, 3 years -Post AP curriculum courses: -Advanced Statistical Methods and Data Analysis (not offered in 2023-2024) -Advanced Topics in Mathematics (offered on a three-year rotation): -Differential Equations (offered in 2022-2023) -Discrete Mathematics (offered in 2021-2022) -Multivariable Calculus (offered in 2023-2024)</p>	<p>Science (Lab-based), 3 years -Students take lab-based science in the following order: <u>-Physics (9th), Chemistry (10th), Biology (11th)</u> <u>-Both 11th-grade Biology courses are considered to have the same level of rigor</u> <u>-All AP science courses are scheduled in the same block</u> <u>-Biotechnology is considered to have the same level of rigor as AP Biology</u></p>
<p>World Languages & Cultures, through Level 3 -Students entering ninth grade at Level 3 or higher must complete at least 2 years of a World Language in the Upper School. -Languages offered: Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish</p>	<p>Arts (Performing & Visual Arts), 3 Courses (One-course minimum in each department) – Performing Arts, Visual Arts & Student's Choice</p>
<p>Computer Science, two trimester/semester courses or 1-year course -Post AP curriculum course: -Algorithm Design</p>	<p>Other Graduation Requirements -Speech: The Art of Public Speaking, 1 course -Physical Education: 3 Years -Health: 1 Course -College Counseling Seminar (Winter & Spring of Junior Year) -12th Grade: Health, Wellness & College Counseling Seminar</p>
<p>Malone Schools Online Network (MSON) -Provides motivated 11th and 12th-grade students at participating Malone Schools with a variety of academically challenging courses that enhance each member school's existing curriculum. MSON classes do not fulfill Winchester's graduation requirements, but they are graded and appear as additional earned credits on the WT transcript.</p>	<p>AP Course & Exam Policy AP exams are optional for all students enrolled in an AP course.</p> <p>Independent Project Seniors whose interests go beyond WT's regular curricular offerings may design an independent project for academic credit with an appropriate faculty sponsor in any academic discipline.</p>

Response to COVID-19

Winchester Thurston School has operated 100% in-person since September 2021. At the pandemic's start, Winchester Thurston School ceased in-person instruction on March 13, 2020, and transitioned to an entirely virtual learning environment on April 1, 2020. The 2020-2021 school year began in an entirely virtual learning environment and transitioned to a hybrid learning model beginning on September 16, 2020, where students rotated on a weekly basis between in-person and synchronous virtual learning.

WT's grading policy remained a traditional A-F scale (the grade of A+ is not awarded) regardless of instruction method.

College Enrollment from the Classes of 2020-2023

Institutions in **bold** are those at which three or more WT graduates have matriculated

Allegheny College	Georgia Institute of Technology	University of British Columbia, Okanagan
American University	Georgia State University	University of California, Berkeley
Arizona State University	Goucher College	University of California, San Diego
Babson College	Grinnell College	University of Central Florida
Barnard College	Hampshire College	University of Chicago
Barry University	Harvard University	University of Kentucky
Boston College	Haverford College	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Boston University	Hillsdale College	University of Michigan
Bowdoin College	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Brandeis University	Howard University	University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Brown University	Indiana University, Bloomington	University of Pennsylvania
California Institute of Technology	Ithaca College	University of Pittsburgh
Carleton College	Johns Hopkins University	University of Rochester
Carnegie Mellon University	Lehigh University	University of Southern California
Case Western Reserve University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of St Andrews
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design	Miami University, Oxford	University of Toronto, Scarborough
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	Michigan State University	University of Vermont
Colby College	Morgan State University	University of Virginia
Colgate University	New York University	University of Washington
College of Charleston	North Carolina A&T State University	University of West Florida
The College of William and Mary	Northeastern University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
The College of Wooster	Northwestern University	Wake Forest University
Colorado College	Oberlin College	Washington University in St. Louis
Columbia University	The Ohio State University	Wellesley College
Cornell University	Otis College of Art and Design	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Daemen University	Penn State University	West Virginia University
Denison University	Point Park University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
DePaul University	Pomona College	Xavier University
DePauw University	Princeton University	
Dickinson College	Purdue University	
Drexel University	Robert Morris University	
Duquesne University	Rochester Institute of Technology	
Eckerd College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	
Elon University	Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	
Emerson University	Spelman College	
Emory University	Stanford University	
Fisk University	Syracuse University	
Florida State University	Towson University	
Franklin & Marshall College	Trinity College Dublin	
Full Sail University	Tufts University	
The George Washington University	Tulane University	
Georgetown University	Union College	

The **63** students in the Winchester Thurston School Class of 2023 were admitted at **151** and matriculated at **42** different colleges and universities

For a listing of current courses available to Winchester Thurston School students and current course descriptions visit our online [Curriculum Guide](http://www.winchesterthurston.org/lifeatwt/upper-school/) at www.winchesterthurston.org/lifeatwt/upper-school/

