



Winchester Thurston School

School Profile 2024-2025

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

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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.

Rigor of Student's Academic Program

To contextualize the depth and challenge of a student's coursework for colleges, Winchester Thurston School categorizes each student's academic rigor on the Secondary School Report as: **College Preparatory, Demanding, Very Demanding or Most Demanding.**

Discipline Reporting Policy

Students must truthfully disclose disciplinary violations on college applications. Upon request from colleges, WT reports incidents from grades 9-12 resulting in probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Class of 2025 and Grading System

- 70 students
- **Grades A through F (including + and -, except A+)**
- **Unweighted 4.0 GPA scale**
- **No class rank reported**
- Only WT courses included in transcript and GPA

School Overview: Established 1887; Pre-K-12 independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school in Pittsburgh, PA. **100% of graduates typically attend four-year colleges/universities in the United States and abroad.**

Campus and Enrollment: Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, near Carnegie Mellon and University of Pittsburgh. **-685 students (Jr. Pre-K-12), 300 in grades 9-12**

Distinguished Curriculum: Real-World Connections and Innovation: Winchester Thurston's curriculum emphasizes educational innovation, rigorous academics, and real-world connections. Students engage in community-oriented learning while developing college-level skills. The program focuses on complex problem-solving, critical analysis and communication, creative thinking, and independent research. This approach prepares students to tackle multifaceted ideas and apply knowledge to real-world challenges.

Joan Clark Davis Center for Interdisciplinary Learning: Opened in 2023-2024, this facility enhances project-based and community-based learning, fostering collaboration across humanities, engineering, arts, and sciences. It also expands the school's renowned **City as Our Campus program**, connecting students with diverse mentors from Pittsburgh's academic, cultural, scientific, non-profit, and business sectors.

Class of 2025 GPA Distribution (End of Junior Year)

Average GPA: 3.72
Highest GPA: 4.0
Middle 50% GPA range: 3.53-3.98
48% have GPA ≥ 3.85

Class of 2025 SAT and ACT Testing Data as of September 15, 2022

SAT Scores (60 test takers)				ACT Scores
Percentile	EBRW	Math	Total (1600)	
25th	640	590	1220	Not enough members of the Class of 2025 took the ACT to report scores. Average ACT composite score for Class of 2024: 27
75th	740	730	1460	
Average	686	649	1335	

School Calendar and Credit Structure

- Semesters/Block Schedule (Trimesters prior to 2023-2024)

Course Type	Credits
Full Year Courses	6 credits
Semester Courses	3 credits
Ensembles	2 credits
Seminar	2 credits
Trimester Courses (pre-23-24)	2 credits
Ensembles (pre-23-24)	3 credits

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	0-59%

Winchester Thurston School Academic Program Notes (Class of 2025)

For detailed course descriptions, please visit the [2024-2025 Winchester Thurston School Curriculum Guide](#)

Winchester Thurston's **rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum** encourages juniors and seniors to pursue their interests through **diverse topics-based and project-based courses**. Grounded in the credo "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others," WT's evolving academic offerings foster an equitable and inclusive learning environment. This approach **develops individuals of strong character prepared for the demands of a changing world**.

Graduation Requirements

- Transition to Semester Calendar (2023): Credit counting changed, but diploma requirements remain similar.
- Students are expected to take at least 5 core courses annually.
- Most exceed this baseline, either maintaining 5 (maximum 6) core courses throughout high school or doubling up in one discipline after completing requirements in another.

Academic Schedule

- Block Schedule: 5-day, A & B week with 80-minute core courses on alternating days.

Grade Reporting to Colleges

- First-quarter grades: Available upon request in mid-November
- First-semester (mid-year) grades: Late January
- Final grades: Mid-June

AP Course & Exam Policy

- AP exams are **optional** for all students enrolled in an AP course.

Independent Projects

- Seniors may design a semester-long, credit-bearing project with a faculty mentor in any discipline, exploring interests beyond standard offerings.

AP Course Phase-Out

From 2022 to 2025, Winchester Thurston is **replacing AP offerings with advanced, mission-aligned courses. These new courses maintain AP-level rigor while allowing for deeper exploration and expanded interdisciplinary opportunities**. As a result, in 24-25, certain AP classes previously available to seniors have been replaced with alternative advanced courses. **Changes are noted in the below department sections**. This transition reflects **WT's commitment to providing challenging, innovative curricula** tailored to our student's needs and aligned with our educational philosophy, ensuring seniors continue to have access to high-level coursework that prepares them for college and beyond.

English, 4 years

- 11th and 12th-grade topic courses match AP English Literature & Composition rigor
- AP English Language & Composition replaced in 23-24 by "The Art of Persuasion: Advanced Topics in Rhetoric and Composition"
- Topic-based courses vary annually

History & Social Sciences, 3 years

- U.S. History requirement: 9th grade Multicultural America
- 11th and 12th-grade topic courses match AP U.S. History rigor
- AP U.S. History phased out in 23-24, replaced by diverse topic courses
- Class of 2025: last to take AP European History as sophomores (22-23)
- Topic-based course offerings vary annually

Mathematics, 3 years

- Advanced Statistics and Data Science (AP Statistics-level rigor)
- Most Rigorous courses:**
 - Advanced Topics in Mathematics (3-year rotation): Differential Equations (22-23); Discrete Mathematics (21-22, 24-25); Multivariable Calculus (23-24)

Science (Lab-based), 3 years

- Course Sequence: Physics (9th) → Chemistry (10th) → Biology (11th)
- Advanced Courses:
 - Most AP/Advanced courses share the same block
 - Biotechnology (AP Biology-level rigor)
 - Advanced Chemistry (replaced AP Chemistry in 23-24)

World Languages & Cultures, through Level 3

- Requirement: 2 years minimum in Upper School (if entering at Level 3+)
- Languages: Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish
- Advanced Seminars:
 - Replace AP World Language courses
 - Maintain AP-level rigor
 - Feature rotating topics for continued study

Arts (Performing & Visual Arts), 1 year (2 semesters)

- Wide variety of courses available
- Performance Ensembles
 - Pass/fail
 - Do not fulfill graduation requirements
- AP Art History phased out in 23-24; no full-year replacement in 24-25

Computer Science, 1 year (2 semesters)

- Most Rigorous Computer Science course: Algorithm Design
- AP Computer Science A phased out in 23-24, replaced with Computer Languages & Structures.

Grade Level Seminar, 4 years (pass/fail)

- This required four-year program focuses on academic skills, social-emotional learning, and physical health and wellness. In December of junior year, the seminar transitions to a College Counseling focus, supporting students through the college search, application, and matriculation process.

Malone Schools Online Network (MSON)

- MSON offers academically challenging courses to motivated 11th and 12th-grade students, enhancing WT's curriculum.
- While these classes don't fulfill WT's graduation requirements, they are graded and appear as additional credits on the WT transcript, providing students with opportunities to explore advanced and specialized topics.

EE Ford Educational Leadership Grant

- Winchester Thurston School received a 2023 E.E. Ford Educational Leadership Grant, becoming only the second school to receive this award twice. The grant will fund a transformative, multi-week, project-based summer experience rooted in WT's City as Our Campus program.
- This initiative, developed in partnership with other Pittsburgh area schools, aims to deepen community impact and provide students from WT and public schools with access to innovative learning experiences beyond the traditional school year and classroom setting.

College Enrollment from the Classes of 2021-2024

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

Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Babson College
Barnard College
Barry University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design
Chatham University
Claflin University
Claremont McKenna College
Cleveland Institute of Art
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
The College of Wooster
Colorado College
Columbia University
Cornell University
Denison University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fisk University

Franklin & Marshall College
Full Sail University
The George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Hampshire College
Haverford College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Howard University
Indiana University, Bloomington
International University of Monaco
Johns Hopkins University
Lehigh University
McGill University
Michigan State University
Morgan State University
New York University
North Carolina A&T State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Otis College of Art and Design
Penn State University
Pitzer College
Point Park University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University

Tulane University
Union College
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Diego
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Toronto
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of West Florida
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Virginia University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Yale University



The **64** students in the Winchester Thurston School Class of 2024 were offered admission at **169** and enrolled at **41** different colleges & universities