# Winchester Thurston School

## School Profile 2025-2026

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

### SCHOOL OVERVIEW

**Established 1887;** Jr. 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.

**687 students (Jr. Pre-K-12), 310 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.

### 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 funds a transformative, multi-week, project-based summer experience rooted in WT's City as Our Campus program.

### 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.


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### 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 2026 GPA Distribution (End of Junior Year)**

**Average GPA:** 3.66
**Highest GPA:** 4.0
**Middle 50% range:** 3.47-3.93
**46% have GPA ≥ 3.85**

### Class of 2026 SAT and ACT Testing Data as of September 30, 2025

| SAT Scores (69 test takers) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Percentile | EBRW | Math | Total |
| **25th** | 600 | 570 | 1190 |
| **75th** | 720 | 710 | 1410 |
| **Average** | 652 | 636 | 1288 |

| ACT Scores (6 test takers) | |
|---|---|
| Percentile | Composite |
| **25th** | 29 |
| **75th** | 32 |
| **Average** | 30 |

### CLASS OF 2026 AND GRADING SYSTEM

- 72 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

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

### SCHOOL CALENDAR AND CREDIT STRUCTURE

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

**Current System:**
Full Year: 6 credits
Semester: 3 credits
Ensembles: 2 credits
Seminar: 2 credits

**Pre-2023-24:**
Full Year: 6 credits
Trimester: 2 credits
Ensembles: 3 credits
Seminar: 2 credits

# WINCHESTER THURSTON SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM NOTES (CLASS OF 2026)

*For detailed course descriptions, please visit the 2025-2026 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

- Students take at least 5 core courses annually (maximum 6)
- Most exceed this baseline throughout high school
- Students may double up in one discipline after completing requirements in another

## Academic Schedule

- Block Schedule: 5-day, A & B week with 80-minute classes on alternating days
- Semester system (changed from trimesters in 2023-24)

## Grade Reporting

- Q1: Mid-November (upon request)
- Mid-year: Late Jan/Early Feb
- Final: Mid-June

## Additional Opportunities

- **Independent Projects:** Seniors design semester-long, credit-bearing projects with faculty mentors
- **MSON:** Online courses for 11th-12th graders, graded and transcripted

## AP Course Phase-Out

From 2022 to 2025, Winchester Thurston replaced AP courses with imaginative, advanced, mission-aligned courses. These capstone courses maintain AP-level rigor while allowing greater depth of exploration and expanded opportunities for interdisciplinary and project-based experiences. This transition reflects WT's commitment to providing challenging, innovative curricula aligned with our educational philosophy.

## Understanding Course Levels

### ADVANCED TOPICS (AT)

*Maximum rigor and independence*

- Deep understanding & transferable knowledge
- Student investment, independence, agency
- Expert thinking across disciplines
- Experiential learning & independent research
- City as Our Campus real-world connections
- Critical & creative thinking, communication, collaboration

### UPPER LEVEL (UL)

*Rigorous with guided scaffolding*

- Echo AT courses in significant ways
- Interdisciplinary & experiential approaches
- Student voice centered
- Measured, guided pacing with scaffolding
- Most 11th & 12th graders take a balanced mix of AT and UL courses

## AT & UL Course Offerings by Subject (Grades 11-12)

| Subject & Requirements | Key Course Offerings |
|---|---|
| **English**<br>4 years required | **AT:** Rhetoric, Composition & Art of Persuasion • Critical Approaches to Literature & Power<br>**UL:** Comedies & Tragedies • Song, Stage & Screen • Speculative Fiction: Understanding the Unreal |
| **History & Social Sciences**<br>3 years required<br>US History: 10th gr Am. Foundings | **AT:** American Politics & Constitutional Law • Environmental History, Environmental Justice • East Asia: Politics of Memory • The Past in the Present: Public History & Contested Memories • Genocide-Global Perspectives on Crimes Against Humanity • Urban Research & Design<br>**UL:** Death, Divinity & Devotion • Modern Middle East History • Economic Thought & Policy • Russian History |
| **Mathematics**<br>3 years & Algebra 2 required | **AT:** Advanced Statistics & Data Science • Calculus 1 • Calculus 2 • Differential Equations • Discrete Mathematics • Multivariable Calculus<br>**UL:** Precalculus • Statistics • Mathematical Models for Decision Making |
| **Science** (Lab-based)<br>3 years required<br>Seq: Physics(9)→Chem(10)→Bio(11) | **AT:** Advanced Chemistry • Advanced Physics C • Advanced Cell Biology & Human Disease • Biotechnology<br>**UL:** Altruistic Engineering & Design • Biology: Introduction to Cell Biology, Genetics and Evolution • Psychology |
| **World Languages**<br>2 years & through Level 3 required<br>Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish | **AT:** Advanced Seminars (rotating topics)<br>**UL:** Level 4 courses |
| **Computer Science**<br>1 year (2 semesters) required | **AT:** Algorithm Design • Machine Learning & Social Implications of AI*<br>**UL:** Programming Languages & Structures • Entrepreneurship & Product Design<br>**Can count as CS or History credit* |
| **Arts**<br>1 year (2 semesters) required | Wide variety of performing & visual arts courses • Performance Ensembles (pass/fail, don't fulfill requirements) |
| **Grade Level Seminar**<br>4 years required (pass/fail) | Academic skills, social-emotional learning, physical health & wellness • Transitions to College Counseling focus in Dec. of junior year |

# WT College Counseling Philosophy

Our goal is for students to take advantage of the many opportunities at WT to grow, stretch, and learn about themselves.

This will make for a healthy and fulfilling college process and allow students to take full advantage of their experience at WT.

We are here to support ALL of our students and families throughout ALL phases of the college search process.

# SAMPLE SCHEDULES BY GRADE LEVEL

*9th & 10th grades follow foundational curriculum. 11th & 12th grades have broader elective choices.*

### 9th Grade

**Both Semesters:**

- Eng 9: Lit of Journeys
- Contemporary World History
- Physics
- Math
- World Language
- Art or CS
- Grade Level Seminar

### 10th Grade

**Both Semesters:**

- Eng 10: American Voices
- American Foundings
- Chemistry
- Math
- World Language
- Art or CS
- Grade Level Seminar

### 11th Grade

**Both Semesters:**

- English (AT/UL)
- History/Science/CS*
- Biology: Cells, Genetics, Evolution
- Math
- World Language
- Elective (any discipline)
- Seminar (S2: College Counseling)

**May defer 3rd history to senior year*

### 12th Grade

**Both Semesters:**

- English (AT/UL)
- 4 Electives (5 encouraged)
- Seminar: College Counseling (S1) / College Readiness (S2)

*Students design schedules with advisors to meet requirements & explore passions*

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **4** English years | **3** History years (incl. US History) | **3** Math years (through Algebra 2) | **3** Science years (lab-based) |
| **2** World Language years (through Level 3) | **1** Arts year (2 semesters) | **1** Computer Sci. year (2 semesters) | **4** Seminar years (pass/fail) |

***Note:*** *Juniors and seniors have considerable flexibility in course selection. Students work closely with advisors and college counselors to create challenging, personalized schedules that align with their interests and college goals while meeting graduation requirements.*

## WT FAST FACTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **44%+** Students of Color | **40%** Receive Financial Aid | **$5.3M+** Annual Financial Aid | **65%** Faculty with Advanced Degrees |
| **69** Zip Codes | **39** School Districts | **100+** City as Our Campus℠ Partners | |

## HOW CITY AS OUR CAMPUS CREATES AUTHENTIC LEARNING WITH IMPACT

**City as Our Campus** is an extension of WT's core academic curriculum and augments it by providing meaningful, real-world experiences. By working with diverse members of the community—and with a range of resources, tools, and materials—students don't just gain understanding of the community's most pressing issues, they work to solve them.

### Student centered. Faculty driven. Community based.

WT's innovative faculty is at the heart of the City as Our Campus program. Teachers design and implement projects, units, and courses that enhance their curricula. They forge partnerships that transform organizations, institutions, and businesses into co-educators, creating powerful learning opportunities for students. In fact, faculty passion fuels the success of City as Our Campus.

### City as Our Campus as the new learning ecosystem.

In today's interconnected world, schools aren't the only center for learning. Libraries, museums, workshops, labs, and even the digital space have a place in the learning ecosystem. City as Our Campus is driving Pittsburgh's learning ecosystem and putting students and teachers at the center of it.

**Winchester Thurston School**

The Future Grows Here

# COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FROM THE CLASSES OF 2022-2025

*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
Boston College
**Boston University**
**Bowdoin College**
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University
California Institute of Technology
Carleton College
**Carnegie Mellon University**
**Case Western Reserve University**
Chatham University
Claflin University
Claremont McKenna College
Cleveland Institute of Art
Colby College
College of Charleston
The College of Wooster
Columbia University
Community College of Allegheny County
**Cornell University**
Dartmouth College
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Duke University
**Duquesne University**
Eckerd College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson College
**Emory University**
Fisk University
Flagler College
Florida State University
Fordham University
**Franklin & Marshall College**
Full Sail University
The George Washington University
**Georgetown University**
Georgia Institute of Technology
Grinnell College
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
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
**Princeton University**
Purdue University
**Rochester Institute of Technology**
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
**Syracuse University**
**Temple University**
Trinity College Dublin
**Tufts University**
**Tulane University**
University of British Columbia
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Kentucky
University of Limerick
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
**University of Michigan**
University of Notre Dame
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 Virginia
University of Washington
University of West Florida
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Virginia University
Westmoreland County Community College
Williams College
Xavier University
Yale University

**The 70 students in the Winchester Thurston School Class of 2025 were offered admission at 170 and enrolled at 44 different colleges & universities**