

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WESTMINSTER *YOU*

**INFORMATION &
COURSE GUIDE
2026–27**

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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 & Connect

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 Connect • 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*

Fine Arts Academy

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

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Connect • 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*
- *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*

Law and Constitution Academy

Grade Levels: 9–12 • Instructor: Mr. Dailey

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Connect • 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.*

Student Council (STUCO) Leadership Academy

Grade Levels: 9–12 • Instructor: Rev. Steve Ottolini

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Connect • Year-long

Students must be elected to STUCO to be eligible for this academy.

The Student Council Leadership Academy is a yearlong course designed to equip students to lead their classes through three areas of emphasis: government, community building, and service. This course teaches critical leadership skills aimed at developing students to:

- Serve as representative government for their class
- Think critically about issues in the community
- Propose solutions; collaborate with a team to improve the student experience
- Plan and implement community events
- Spearhead service within our community.

Biblical principles of leadership, stewardship, and service are emphasized to prepare and equip our leaders to engage the world and change it for Jesus Christ. Students learn to cultivate their God-given gifts through classroom instruction, mentorships, and real-life project leadership. 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, one of which must be as a Senior officer*
- *and/or three years of Leadership Institute participation.*

Aviation Academy

Grade Levels: 9–12 • Instructors: Lt. Col. John "Chappy" Chapman, Lt. Col. Michael Shelton, Jameson Liggett

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday during Connect • Year-long

The WCA Aviation Academy is developing into one of the most comprehensive secondary education Aviation Programs the world has ever witnessed! Students enter into an Aerospace network of Staff, Alumni and Industry professionals which opens the door to unparalleled opportunities within the expanding field of aviation. Whether you aspire to be a professional pilot, fly an UAV, or dream of innovating and engineering things that soar high above, this program is your ticket into the exciting and dynamic field of Aerospace. Squadron 800 is known as the "Flying Wildcats". Our students are given the chance of a lifetime to gain a competitive edge in advanced Aviation exploration while preparing them for whatever the future may hold. This program offers a pathway to achieve a Private Pilot License (PPL), a Part 107 Commercial Drone License, as well as additional ratings.

General Requirements for Aviation Academy Distinction at Graduation:

- *Completion of (3) Aviation courses (Aviation 101, Aviation 201, Aviation 301)*
- *Three 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.

Academy Offerings

Aviation 101 – Exploring Aviation and Aerospace

Instructor: Lt. Col. John "Chappy" Chapman, Lt. Col. Michael Shelton, Jameson Liggett

Grade Levels: 9th Grade only

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect

Aviation 101 will provide the foundation for advanced exploration in the areas of flying and unmanned aircraft systems. Students will learn about engineering practices, problem solving, and the innovations and technological developments that have made today's aviation and aerospace industries possible. Students will also learn about the wide variety of exciting and rewarding careers available to them. Aviation 101 will inspire students to consider aviation and aerospace careers while laying the foundation for continued study in grades 10 through 12 and beyond. *****This is the prerequisite class for all future Aviation Courses*****

Aviation 201 – Introduction to Aircraft Systems and Flight

Instructor: Lt. Col. John "Chappy" Chapman, Lt. Col. Michael Shelton, Jameson Liggett

Grade Levels: 10th Grade only

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect

Prerequisites: Aviation 101

Aviation 201 introduces students to the fundamentals of flight, including basic aerodynamics, aircraft structures, and the forces acting on aircraft. Students explore different types of manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), learning how they are designed, constructed, and operated. This course also examines key aircraft systems such as propulsion, fuel, electrical, and landing gear, along with flight instruments and essential aircraft documentation. Students will develop an understanding of aircraft performance, including how to interpret and calculate critical operating data, while gaining insight into aviation-related career pathways. Aviation 201 culminates with students taking their Ground School Exam for their Private Pilot License (PPL). *****This is the prerequisite class for all future Aviation Courses*****

ENRICHMENTS

Audition, Recital, and Concert Prep

Instructor: Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Schwamb

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect

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."

Exploring the Deep Questions through Film

Instructors: Mr. Knerr; Mr. Seilback

Grade Levels: 10–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect

Exploring the Deep Questions Through Film is a year-long enrichment course designed to allow students to engage with some of the more difficult questions of the Christian faith. Our goal is to avoid immediate, simplistic answers. Instead, the instructors will mentor and guide the students as they explore them in an environment where honest questions are welcomed. We will examine these questions by watching films and discussing their content and message. We welcome those struggling to find answers and those who simply want to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith. A reference from a teacher is required to attend.

Guitar Class

Instructor: Dr. Gargrave

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect

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.

Theatre Arts

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

Grade Levels: 7–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect (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.

Ocean Discovery II: Coral Lab Research and Marine Systems Restoration

Instructor: Ms Castle, Mr. Faszl

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect • First semester and Second semester sections

In *Ocean Discovery II*, students dip deeper into marine science through hands-on labs, fieldwork, and real-world applications. They'll operate a working coral farm, explore coral biology, and study the structure, function, and importance of coral reefs. Students will examine how reefs benefit humanity, why they're under threat, and how we can protect them. The course also introduces the design and maintenance of recirculating marine aquarium systems, covering water chemistry, filtration, and system balance. With a focus on inquiry, conservation, restoration and ocean technology, this course is perfect for students passionate about the planet's health and sustainability.

Ocean Discovery III: PADI Open Water Scuba Diving

Instructor: Mrs. Stewart

Grade Levels: 9–12

Meets: Wednesday & Thursday, Connect • second semester only

Cost: \$645 (Covers the PADI online test and class diving)

Dive into this immersive course from the comfort of WCA and join the world's largest community bound together by a shared passion for the oceans. The PADI Open Water Diver certification is a globally recognized, entry-level scuba diving certification that is a popular way to start exploring marine environments. Students will learn about scuba diving principles and terminology (both in-person and online) while learning basic scuba skills in a pool with a highly trained PADI Instructor. By the end of the course, you'll have the skills and knowledge to dive the best aquatic sites both stateside and abroad as an ambassador for the world's seas. Students will also gain the unique opportunity to connect with God's creation in a deeper, more meaningful way, fostering respect, responsibility, and a spirit of gratitude for the planet we are called to protect.