

WHY WESTMINSTER

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

~1964~



ONE COMMUNITY

Westminster Christian Academy is a covenantal Christian, college preparatory school located in the heart of the Huntsville/Madison Metro. Serving more than 500 families across all of North Alabama, Westminster partners with Christian families in the education and discipleship of children from preschool through 12th grade. Being a part of the Westminster family means One Community. Our parents and teachers work together to ensure that students are safe, well-educated, emotionally healthy, and become life-long learners and followers of Christ.

Do you remember when strong relationships were established, and God remained central to everything? At Westminster, you'll find exactly what you've been missing – a thriving Christian school and a community for your family.

OUR MISSION is to provide an exceptional educational community, encouraging students to reach their highest potential through growth, spiritual formation, and service while surrounded by relationships that support a Christ-centered life.



*At Westminster Christian Academy, we are committed to developing the Core Values of **Excellence**, **Growth**, **Service**, and **Community** in our students.*

*As a Christian school, we are preparing our children for service in the Kingdom of God and in the world. Westminster is distinct because we have an opportunity to guide students to reach their full potential through academic and co-curricular **preparation** and **strong Christian discipleship**.*

Todd Zylstra
Head of School



WELCOME HOME

We understand that choosing the right school for your family is one of the most important decisions you'll make. At Westminster Christian Academy, we put equal focus on academic excellence and Christian discipleship so that each student is prepared to answer God's call in their life.

With more than 975 students from at least 180 Christian churches across North Alabama, we offer a breadth of athletic, fine art, co-curricular, and service opportunities to support each student's individual growth. If you've been looking for a like-minded Christian community for your family that will actively participate in the growth and discipleship of your children, we would love to welcome you home to Westminster!



COMMUNITY

Showing empathy, compassion, and respect toward others

Communicating with clarity and purpose

Acting with manners and responsibility in all relationships

Working collaboratively to solve problems, achieve goals, and resolve conflicts

Supporting one another across academics, sports, arts, and ages

Understanding how to live in a broken world, without compromising values

OUR SCHOOL

At Westminster Christian Academy, our vision is to educate and disciple students, in partnership with Christian families, for lifelong learning and service in God's world. As a covenantal Christian school, all of our employees are Christians, and we require that at least one parent from every family be a professing follower of Jesus Christ, have a church home and pastoral relationship, and support the beliefs found in the Nicene Creed.

Our school is comprised of two campuses - the Lower Campus, which houses preschool for ages 3 and 4, our elementary school for Kindergarten through 5th grade, and the Upper Campus, which houses our middle and high school. Our Upper Campus features the beautiful Van Dyke Athletic Complex, which is vibrant and still growing today. This campus is located near Research Park and is easily accessible from Huntsville or Madison.

Our Lower Campus is in the heart of Madison and includes a recent addition of eight classrooms, a tornado-safe area, and a competition gym with more space for family and community events.

> *I like Westminster because everyone is nice and cares about each other! I've found my place.*

Kayleigh
High School Student





ACADEMICS

Westminster provides a high-quality educational program that equips students with the skills and technology they need for success in whatever path they choose after graduation.

Our academic program includes dual enrollment and AP classes, fine arts, foreign language, integrated STEM opportunities in the classroom, flexible elective offerings, academic support, and academic and life-skills mentorship for every student through our Alliance and Advisory programs. Education today is exciting and relevant to their goals after high school.

Teachers use standards-based assessments to provide formative and summative testing. Data confirms that our teachers and curriculum, coupled with our safe and supportive environment, produce quality educational results, with student scores improving over past years' scores and rising above the national average.

We regularly have National Merit Scholars. Every year more than two-thirds of our seniors receive academic and athletic scholarships to major universities nationwide.

> *We are very selective when it comes to resources to ensure we support the varied needs of our students.*
>
> **Marshall Ellson**
> *Director of Academics*

EXCELLENCE

Thinking critically and creatively to solve problems and challenges

Seeking to use their God-given talents, with diligence and compassion

Pursuing knowledge with eagerness and perseverance

Understanding and engaging in current social, economic, and cultural ideologies

Possessing relational skills and the maturity to work cooperatively and effectively with others

Articulating beliefs with grace, in conversations and actions







GROWTH

Knowing their value and identity in Christ

Becoming confident in the truth of God's Word

Acting courageously with honor and integrity

Taking responsibility, understanding failure, persevering

Thinking critically with a biblical worldview

Becoming lifelong learners

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Westminster offers routine testing, tutoring, and academic support to help our students reach their full potential on their academic journey. For those students who encounter learning challenges, we have an academic support staff who works with the student, parents, and teachers to create a Student Learning Plan that includes academic support to meet a student's specific needs. Additional support for all students includes a variety of free tutoring options for math, reading, history, science, and executive functioning coaching during our FLEX period of the day.

Because we are a covenantal school for all students, not just the academically elite, we offer accommodations for students with a wide variety of learning differences.

A small-class pathway is available in some subjects for those who thrive with more individualized instruction. With a small student-to-teacher ratio, students can move at a slower pace and get the extra attention and support they need.

"The church, school, home partnership provides opportunities for Christ-centered learning and discipleship for our covenantal families."

Kerry St. John
Director of Christian Life





DISCIPLESHIP

At Westminster, we are committed to strong Christian discipleship, recognizing that each student's spiritual and emotional well-being is just as important as their academic growth. Our teachers, coaches, and staff are Christians who care deeply about their students and help them grow as followers of Jesus. Discipleship helps our students flourish in an environment of grace as they mature into adults and wise decision-makers. Upper Campus students enjoy mentoring Lower Campus students through Reading Buddies, Serve Day, and many more purposeful opportunities for connection.

CHAPEL

A chapel service is held every week for students and faculty at both campuses. This is a time set apart for worship that includes student-led music, prayer, and a message to help students grow in faith and character. Students who want to serve during chapel can lead worship through our Chapel Team.

ADVISORY GROUPS

Upper Campus students participate in Advisory groups, where a staff member and a small group of students meet to talk about what's going on in their lives and discuss important topics. This gives students adult advocates and role models in addition to their parents to encourage and help them navigate difficult situations.

SERVICE

Students can put their faith into action by serving others close to home and abroad. They can volunteer with local charities throughout the year including with organizations like the House of Harvest, Kids to Love, and the Downtown Rescue Mission.

Students can also help provide clean water to areas in need through Just One Africa and connect with children in Kenya through the HODI Project.

SERVICE

Loving God and having a heart for others

Sharing gifts and talents

Looking to lead through faith and love

Having a discipleship mentality

Pursuing and promoting a Christian community

Living with humility amidst adversity

Acting as servant-leaders throughout life











Our teachers have a genuine love of the Lord that shows in all our learning activities in and out of the classroom.

Maria Lyman
Head of Lower Campus



LOWER CAMPUS

Westminster's Lower Campus is home to the preschool and elementary school, which provides an early start at age 3 and educates students through 5th grade. We have a caring community of teachers and families to partner with you in your child's education and faith development. During elementary school, students will develop a Christ-centered view of the world along with the academic skills needed for middle school.

Our curriculum includes reading, language development, the arts, math, science, social studies, technology, leadership development, and Bible lessons, which are applied across the curriculum.

Students stay engaged with plenty of hands-on activities and STEM opportunities, including computer applications and coding. They also have opportunities to participate in music, band, choir, and art. In addition to a strong foundation in core subjects, students are prepared emotionally and socially for the next step in their education.

Elementary students also need plenty of exercise and time for play. Our curriculum includes physical education and outdoor play so that students will develop healthy bodies, improve their social skills, and increase their attention spans.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE BOWL
KICK IT FOR CHRIST MARTIAL ARTS
ROBOTICS TEAM
DRAMA CLUB
LEGO CLUB
SPORTS TEAMS
SPANISH CLUB
CHESS CLUB
SAFETY PATROL
PEP SQUAD
FIELD TRIPS
CHAPEL LEADERSHIP
MATH TEAM
READING BUDDIES
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
AND MANY MORE!



Students come to Westminster not only for the academic rigor, but for the service opportunities, and lasting friendships.

Jason Anderson
Head of Upper Campus







EXCITING PROGRAMS AND ELECTIVES

STEM

MEDIA ARTS

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

VIDEO PRODUCTION

PERSONAL FINANCE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DIGITAL LITERACY





UPPER CAMPUS

Westminster's Upper Campus is home to our middle school for 6th through 8th grade and our high school for 9th through 12th grade. Although they share one campus, middle school and high school classes are typically held on different floors.

During these formative years, we work to provide a high-quality education that equips students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed after high school while becoming confident in the truth of God's word.

Our college preparatory curriculum includes a variety of choices including AP and dual-enrollment courses, foreign language choices, and electives in technology and the arts. We offer a FLEX period that allows our students to personalize a portion of their day to participate in clubs, enrichment opportunities, or to spend time with teachers in a subject area where they need extra help.

With the help of our college and career advisor and school counselor, we help students take the right steps toward the future they desire. We currently use Naviance, a software tool that allows students to explore career options, colleges, and more. Westminster graduates are prepared for college, the military, missions, technical, and service career fields.

A majority of our graduates consistently score higher than the national average on the ACT, securing college placement and scholarships to enhance their success.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- STUDENT GOVERNMENT
- BETA CLUB
- KEY CLUB
- NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
- MATH TEAM
- MU ALPHA THETA
- SPANISH CLUB
- CHAPEL TEAM
- BIBLE STUDIES
- SCHOOL STORE
- FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES (FCA)
- AFRICA/HODI MISSION OUTREACH
- LOCAL MISSIONS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- AND MANY MORE!

FINE ARTS

BAND AND COLOR GUARD

The Westminster Christian Academy band program features the Spirit of Westminster Marching Band and Color Guard, High School Concert Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Special Ensemble Performance Band, Middle School Symphonic Band, 6th Grade Concert Band, and 5th Grade Beginner Concert Band.

These bands perform at various athletic events, home football games, pep rallies, and during fine arts chapel services. They also host concerts in the winter and spring. The marching band and color guard compete in yearly music festivals and continue to bring home superior ratings. The wind ensemble performs multiple times yearly for parents and staff and is also assessed by the state of Alabama at the Music Performance Assessment Festival.

CHOIR

We have an active and growing choral program with numerous performance opportunities throughout the year, such as singing in chapel at both the Lower and Upper Campuses. The choir hosts annual winter and spring concerts for the Westminster community and competes in state and regional festivals.

VISUAL ARTS & DIGITAL MEDIA

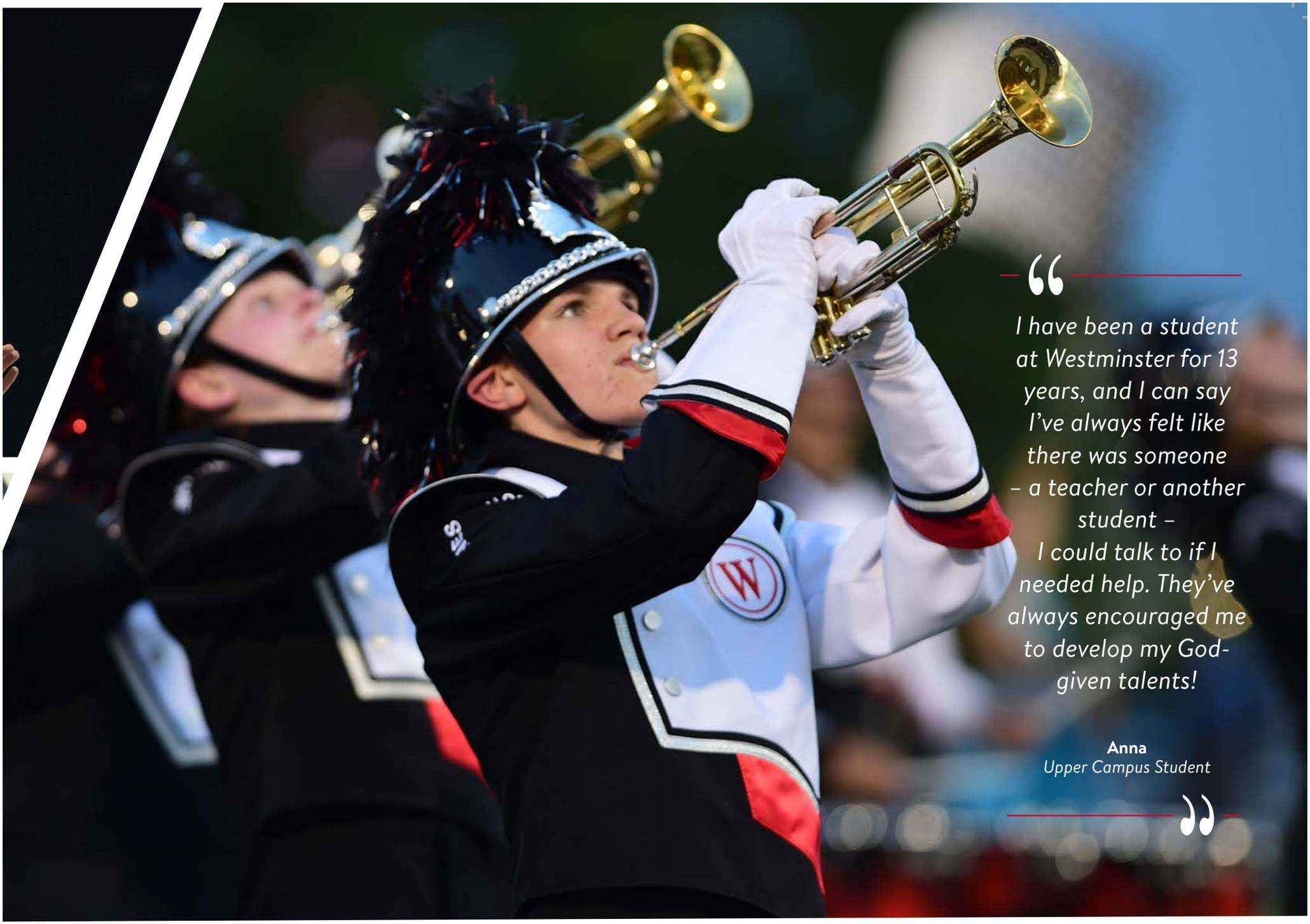
In addition to music, we have a thriving visual arts department where students can explore paint, pen, pencil, and charcoal, as well as sculpture, collage, calligraphy, architecture, interior design, marketing, photography, and videography.

PERFORMING ARTS

For those who love drama and the performing arts, our Upper Campus Theatre students put on a yearly performance for the Westminster community and student body. Club and class options are also available for students at both campuses. Whatever their interests, students are encouraged to develop and use their God-given artistic talents for the benefit of their school, church, and community.







I have been a student at Westminster for 13 years, and I can say I've always felt like there was someone – a teacher or another student – I could talk to if I needed help. They've always encouraged me to develop my God-given talents!

Anna
Upper Campus Student



Westminster Athletics provides the opportunity to disciple students to help build better men and women for Christ, personally and spiritually. We can teach time management, conflict resolution, people skills, and what excellence truly looks like!

Jonathan Adams
Athletic Director



WILDCAT ATHLETICS

Westminster holds over 12 State Championships and more than 60 Individual and Relay titles. Westminster offers 17 unique sports, guided by coaches who mentor student-athlete in both competition and Christ-centered character.

With our thriving elementary sports program, including our pep squad, students begin learning team dynamics while having fun exploring their interests.

Westminster offers more than 48 different middle school, junior varsity, and varsity sports teams including football, flag football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, swimming, golf, tennis, track and field, E-sports, middle and high school cheer squad, high school dance team, and much more.

Students are encouraged to try a variety of team and individual sports to see what they enjoy most. If they choose to participate in athletics programs, they will spend time on the practice field and on road trips with their teammates and coaches. This setting provides the ideal opportunity for building both strong relationships and student mentorship.

Westminster athletics is committed to training our student-athletes to be excellent in all things while instilling a desire to impact the world for the glory of God.

All students can participate in Health and Lifetime Fitness, as a class, through after-school workout programs, or in summer strength and weight training. Our strength and conditioning program is designed to build character in our students, along with instilling a desire to care for their health and physical well-being.

> *I can tell my coaches care about me as a person, not just my performance on the field or the court.*
>
> **Chris**
> *High School Athlete*



COME JOIN US!

A Christ-centered education will have a profound positive impact on your family life. Our prayer is that your child’s education, in accordance with the Bible, will lead him or her to a biblical worldview and lifelong service to Christ. **Our admissions team looks forward to speaking with you!**

SHADOW PROGRAM

Potential students are invited to spend a school day with a student their age to get a first-hand look at a day in the life of a Westminster student.

TOURS

We hold tours upon request if you would like to schedule a time to visit one or both of our campuses.

CESA ACCREDITED

COGNIA ACCREDITED & STEM CERTIFIED

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