



WASHINGTON LATIN  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
A Classical Education for the Modern World

## 2019 SUMMER SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*Please note that these are tentative course descriptions. It is possible that a course may be canceled due to low enrollment or other considerations.*

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERINGS**

#### **ALGEBRA IB (incoming 8th graders) - 6 weeks (4 hours per day)**

This course is an option for students who have completed Algebra IA in 7th grade with an A or A-. This course is the second part of a two-part study of Algebra, and would set up a student to take Geometry in 8th grade. The course begins with a review of some concepts from Algebra IA, including functions, but then goes to systems of equations, inequalities, multiplying/factoring polynomials, and graphing various types of functions. Great emphasis is placed on using multiple pathways to problem solve and on solving real-world problems. Students are challenged to solve problems logically.

#### **CREATIVE WRITING (incoming 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders) - 3 weeks/Sessions 1, 2**

Designed as an elective for those students who want to pursue their creative juices further, this course encourages students to find a writing voice and to write! Students will write in a variety of genres: poetry, short stories, memoir, newspaper article. They will participate in a writer's workshop approach and will critique each other's work. The course will culminate in each student creating a portfolio of polished work.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH ENRICHMENT - 3 weeks, Session 1 (incoming 6th and 7th graders)**

The focus of this course is to help build student confidence in math with an open creative, and visual curriculum. The end goal is not only to strengthen fundamental math skills, but also to boost student confidence in math, using growth mindset strategies to overcome the gaps in math confidence that many students face. The curriculum is based on the youcubed initiative at Stanford University.

**COOKING (incoming 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders) - 3 weeks/Sessions 1, 2**

Students will learn how to read recipes, go over the different types of tools, and learn about different herbs and spices. The course will also discuss nutrition in cooking. Students enrolled in this class will cook small recipes from stovetop to oven.

**GEOMETRY (incoming 9th graders) - 6 weeks (4 hours per day)**

This course is an option for students who have completed Algebra IB in 8th grade with an A or A-. This course would set up a student to take Algebra II in 9th grade. This course includes all the components of the Geometry course but is designed to explore each concept in greater depth. Geometry places a heavy emphasis on the development of mathematical reasoning through a guided-discovery approach. Students are expected to write formal proofs and apply geometric concepts in modeling situations. Students will begin their study of right-triangle trigonometry. Students will be challenged to justify their thinking and to challenge themselves in what is often their first honors-level math course.

**LATIN ENRICHMENT (incoming 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders) - 3 weeks/Session 2**

*Note: This course is not worth a language credit.* Students will receive extra Latin language practice to keep their skills sharp and prepare them for the next year's work. They will review core grammatical concepts as well as practice vocabulary and translation.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH (incoming 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders) -- 6 weeks**

*Note: Choose this course if your Grade Director has determined it is required. We will split students based on age and need.* Our middle school English courses focus on improving grammar, punctuation, writing, and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension skills include identifying, theme, main idea, and supporting details of a text. Students improve their writing skills daily by preparing, and later correcting, a written response to a given prompt. Throughout the class, students will learn to better analyze and understand the material they are reading, which will be done through discussion, written reflections and assignments, as well as annotations. The writing assignments, meanwhile, will focus the students' efforts on organization and clarity. Students will build their skills initially in order to write strong, clear paragraphs, which will then lead to the completion of a persuasive essay. Students improve their study skills by outlining a variety of passages and practicing proper note-taking techniques.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH (incoming 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders) -- 6 weeks**

*Note: Choose this course if your Grade Director has determined it is required. We will split students based on age and need.* The focus of this course is to explore and become more fluent with the concepts and skills required to successfully navigate middle school math.

While we will work with all four of the five strands of mathematics – number and operations, measurement, geometry, data analysis and statistics, and Algebra – we will focus on the first two. Within those two strands, we will work heavily with fractions (all operations), decimals positive and negative integers, and finding area and perimeter of both simple and complex polygons. We will also focus on proportions and ratios and practice combining like terms and solving one-step equations. Finally, the students will hone their graphing skills while plotting points on a Cartesian coordinate plane.