

WASHINGTON LATIN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL



SUMMER 2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

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.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

5th GRADE ENGLISH ENRICHMENT (rising 5th graders) – Both sessions, Virtual

Washington Latin Summer School English courses for incoming 5th grade students allow students to become acclimated to their new school while also providing enrichment in the fundamental language art skills of reading, writing, and speaking. Students will read a diverse range of literature to develop comprehension, fluency, and decoding skills. Students will learn to better analyze and understand the material they are reading through discussion and written responses. We will also read the assigned Washington Latin summer reading book, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. Students will write every day, and this writing will most likely include journaling, responses to teacher prompts, responses to literature, poetry, and persuasive essays. The goal of our summer programs is to provide positive support and enrichment to our newest students in the long summer months before the start of school in September.

5th GRADE MATH ENRICHMENT (rising 5th graders) – Both sessions, Virtual

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.

ALGEBRA 1B (rising 8th graders) – 5 weeks, In-Person

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.

LATIN I ENRICHMENT (rising 6th- 8th graders) – 5 weeks, Virtual

In this course students will receive extra Latin language practice to keep their skills sharp and prepare them for the next year's work. They will read level appropriate texts while reviewing core language concepts, vocabulary, and the reinforcement of some translation skills. For rising 8th grade students' particular emphasis will be placed on helping students bridge gaps in their understanding in the language so they can start their experience in 8th grade Latin on solid footing.

PHOTOGRAPHY (rising 5th - 8th graders) – Session 1 only, Virtual

If you have ever wanted to learn how to take better photos or just figure out where to start, start here! Students will learn about the golden age of photography and famous photographers while creating their own projects. Digital and traditional photography will be explored, along with action photography, silhouettes, portraits, and more. At the end of the session, students will have a strong portfolio and working knowledge of photographic techniques.

PROGRAMMING AND CODING (rising 5th - 8th graders) – Session 2 only, Virtual

Intro Class (All grades welcome)- This summer enrichment program will be a middle school level introduction to computer science. We will begin with an introduction to visual or block based programming. Students will learn the logic and structure of computer programming as they work on cooperative challenges and create animations and games to share and critique. We will then explore coding languages, learning to create basic websites, images, animations, and more. No experience with programming is necessary.

Intermediate Class (Rising 7th & 8th)- This summer enrichment program is for students who are already comfortable with block based programming and are ready to dive deeper. Students will learn more advanced programming logic and jump right into learning coding languages. Through both self-paced practice and cooperative coding challenges, students will deepen their understanding of programming and their coding skills. (Pre-req: This course is designed for students who are already very comfortable creating complex programs in a block based program, such as Scratch.)

STRUCTURED SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Middle School families will be notified if their student is eligible for skill recovery courses.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH SUPPORT (rising 6th- 8th graders) – 5 weeks, In-Person

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 SUPPORT (rising 6th- 8th graders) – 5 weeks, In-Person

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.