



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

2022 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS Upper School

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

**All Upper School courses are credit bearing and the grades earned will become part of a student's official transcript.

US students may only be enrolled in ONE class at a time during any Session.

Half-credit courses (Electives) Duration 2.5 weeks (Session 1 or Session 2) the equivalent of a regular single-semester offering during the school year. For example DC History or Health.

HALF CREDIT COURSES (ELECTIVES)

Missing more than 1 day will result in not receiving credit

Session 1, June 27-July 13

or

Session 2, July 14-July 29

SUMMER BRIDGE- Session 1 only, In-Person, New to Latin Students

New, incoming ninth graders are *strongly encouraged* to attend this wonderful program to welcome them to Washington Latin. Students will learn about our school culture and common instructional practices here, including the Socratic Seminar, research methods, and public speaking. They will also get an introduction to the Latin language. Each Friday, they will earn community service hours towards their graduation requirement. This program gives new ninth-grade students an opportunity to familiarize themselves with our building and many of the teachers they will see next year.

DC HISTORY- Offered in both sessions, In-Person

In this course, we will explore the magnificent city of Washington, DC. Our journey begins with the land, its people and the creation of the nation's Capital. We will discuss provocative issues affecting all citizens who live, work and play in DC. Topics such as class, race, geography, politics, education, sports, voting, gentrification, and community will be discussed. In addition, students will be expected to speak and write about their family history, neighborhoods, and their favorite

part of the city. Students will also be asked to speak and write about things they want to change in DC. Most importantly, we will travel and explore the city, host guest speakers, and debate issues that are important to us.

GOVERNMENT- Offered in both sessions, In-Person

An informed citizen is an educated citizen. In the United States, over half of the population does not know its own history or how its government works. They do not know their rights as Americans. They do not know how their country operates, nor do they understand the legacy and history of their country. This course will give you the knowledge and skills to not only understand government, but to think about and to analyze government with a critical eye. The skills we practice and learn in this class will serve you well in your thinking about current events and your world today. You will become citizens who know their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as Americans and more importantly, the legacy that you have inherited from the entire western world. You will join the ranks of the most informed people in America. By the end of this course, all scholars will be able to *identify, analyze, explain, summarize and categorize their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States, understand the role of government in their lives, how American government came to be and interpret key concepts of political science.* Texts: *Magruder's American Government, We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, Democracy in America, The Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution, The Federalist Papers,* and excerpts from various Supreme Court decisions.

HEALTH- Offered in both sessions, In-Person

This course is designed to promote the physical, mental, and social well being of the individual. Areas of study include structure and function of body systems, physical fitness, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutrition, environmental health, mental health, stress, first aid, sexual education, alcohol and tobacco, and other drugs. Students are also given opportunities to explore their own feelings and values with an emphasis on making responsible, healthy choices now and in the future.

MUSIC- Session 2 only, In-Person

In order to get a more comprehensive understanding of music on the whole, the class of General Music takes two different approaches: theoretical and historical. The theory portion of the class is designed to give the student a foundation in how to read, write and perform music. Students are given the opportunity to perform rhythm compositions from pop culture and their own original rhythm compositions. Students are also given a better understanding on how music is melodically structured, learning specifically about major and minor scales in addition to interval qualities and quantities. Students are also required to do listening exercises in order to become more familiarized with music terminology and in order to better appreciate live music. Upon completion of the first quarter, we shift gears and students are introduced to medieval music and the invention of written music. Students learn a general overview of the musical periods in which they are most interested. In efforts to show understanding of the time periods, students compose their own pieces of music using music software on the computer. General Music is taught using a collection of readings from an assortment of books and articles.

FORENSIC SCIENCE - Offered in both sessions, In-Person, [PROMO VIDEO](#)

This course covers key topics in forensic science, including extensive laboratory experience that integrate the concepts learned in biology, chemistry and physics to strengthen individual skills in scientific reasoning and observation. Students will use the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and legal and courtroom procedures from the perspective of a forensic scientist. Through lessons, lab activities, and analysis and creation of fictional crime scenes, students will learn basic scientific and mathematical methods and models required in forensic science.