



A Classical Education for the Modern World

## 2024 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.

Families should register for Summer School 2024 by **April 1, 2024**. ***Classes will be assigned on a first come first serve basis with special priority given to Juniors and Seniors who may need a course to graduate.*** Once the registration form closes families will receive a confirmation email with their child(ren)'s registered courses. Please contact [summerschool@latinpcs.org](mailto:summerschool@latinpcs.org) with any questions.

#### HALF CREDIT COURSES (ELECTIVES)

**Missing more than 1 day will result in not receiving credit**

**Session 1, June 24-July 10**

**or**

**Session 2, July 11-July 26**

#### **SUMMER BRIDGE- (New to Latin 9th Graders Only) Session 1 only, In-Person**

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 like the Socratic Seminar, research methods, and public speaking. They will also get an introduction to the Latin language. Each Friday, instead of usual classes, they spend the day doing community service, earning 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- (Rising Juniors and Seniors Only) 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 everyone who lives, works, and plays 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 their own history or how their 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 the 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, as well as the effects of alcohol, 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- Offered in both sessions, 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 will perform rhythm compositions from pop music and their own original rhythm compositions. They'll gain an understanding on how music is melodically structured, learning specifically about major and minor scales in addition to interval qualities and quantities. They 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.

**HUMAN ANATOMY - Offered in both sessions, In-Person**

Human Anatomy is the study of the different structures within the human body. In this class students will take a look at bones and muscles and explore how our different pieces fit and work together to cause motion.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE - Offered in both sessions, In-Person**

Students will understand the functions of criminal law and the justice system. Students will explore what causes crime and understand the foundations of legal proceedings. By the end of the course, students should understand and be able to explain the roles of police, the courts, and corrections.

**ART - Offered in both sessions, In-Person**

This course offers students the opportunity to explore various art concepts and create an art project. This course provides students with an opportunity to satisfy the Art graduation requirement.

**CREATIVE WRITING - Offered in both sessions, In-Person**

In this course, students will receive various assignments to get them to try new forms of writing. Emphasis will be placed on discussion, re-visioning work, class critiques, and experimentation. It is through writing that life becomes more meaningful. Writing can clarify, heal, excite, encourage, remind, inspire, and make the world better. This class is a beginning for students to become poets, freelance writers, storytellers, scriptwriters, non-fiction writers, or even blog writers. This class is about exploring yourself as a writer and getting your ideas on paper.