

Academic Information

Families of 5th, 6th, and 7th graders

May 2, 2024 - 6:30 pm Zoom

Washington Latin PCS

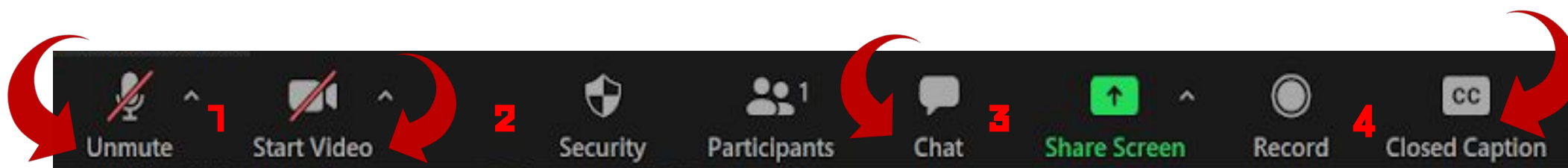


Welcome!

Agenda



- Welcome & Introductions
- Topics we'll address in this session
 - Middle School and your middle schooler
 - Academic sequence through Latin Middle School
 - Options and choices (Math, World Languages)
- Questions & Answers
 1. **Please stay muted** to eliminate background noise.
 2. **Video is encouraged** (but up to you). We would love to see your faces!
 3. **You can turn on live subtitles.** Click on the More link in the toolbar.
 4. Please ask your questions live or in the chat, **we will answer LIVE.**



Fall in Love with Enduring Ideas

Our education is an invitation to fall in love with deep, enduring ideas - Truth, Beauty and Goodness - and so to be changed. We believe that education should be transformational, involving both mind and heart; at their union character develops. Our curriculum introduces students to truths beyond their context yet within their grasp; our pedagogy of questioning opens ideas to critique and encourages students to wrestle with timeless ideas to make them their own.



Middle Schoolers and Adolescence

- ***Challenges of pre-teen and teenage years*** - Identity development, pushing away from adults, formation of cliques
- ***Our response*** - Embrace the individual, surround them with strong adult role models, leverage opportunities for students to find belonging within the broader group
 - Involve each student in “the life of the school”
 - Clubs, Dialogues Across Difference, YES curriculum, overnight field trips like Echo Hill



Academic Program Snapshot - Grades 5-8

| Subject | 5th Grade | 6th Grade | 7th Grade | 8th Grade |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| English | English 5 | English 6 | English 7 | English 8 |
| Math | Math 5 | Math 6 | Math 7 | Algebra 1* <i>(HS credit-bearing)</i> |
| Science | Science 5 | Science 6 | Life Science | Earth Science |
| History | Geography | Civics | Ancient Civilizations | US History |
| Latin | Latin 5th | Latin 6th | Latin 1 <i>(HS credit-bearing)</i> | Latin 2 <i>(HS credit-bearing)</i> |
| Arts/Athletics | Theater/P.E. | Theater/P.E. | Art and Theater/Sports | Art and Theater/Sports |
| Academic Support/Health | Academic Support/Health | Academic Support/Health | Academic Support/Health | Study Hall or Various Elective Options |
| Electives | - | - | - | |



English Curriculum - Overview

Washington Latin's curriculum emphasizes ***broad reading, engaged writing, and civil speech*** across subjects.

- Teachers select a variety of works - ***ancient and modern*** - particularly ***original texts***. Examples (these vary year to year): ancient works (*Antigone, The Odyssey*); modern classics (*Things Fall Apart, To Kill a Mockingbird*); graphic novels (*Maus, The March*).
- We provide ***intensive support in reading and writing*** through intensive Academic Support/Intensive classes + Peer Tutoring.



Latin

- Students who enroll with us in 5th grade take a total of five years of Latin:
 - 5th grade and 6th grade: survey classes focused on vocabulary acquisition, mythology, and history
 - 7th grade: Latin I (for high school credit)
 - 8th grade: Latin I (for high school credit)
 - 9th grade: Latin III/IV or Honors Latin III/IV (for high school credit)
- Students can continue to pursue Latin beyond the requirement. **Spring break international travel** is available to students in Latin V and beyond.



History

- History is an essential part of our program and is explored both within and beyond the History classroom.
 - 5th graders study Geography and become familiar with the different regions of the world
 - 6th graders study Civics, connecting ancient and modern ideas of government
 - 7th grader study Ancient Civilizations, supporting historical exploration in the Latin classroom
 - 8th graders study US History from Early America through the Civil War; students take US History again in 11th grader studying Reconstruction through contemporary times



World Languages

- Students are required to take two years of a World Language for graduation; students choose between Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, and French.
- Most students enroll in language in 9th grade.
- Students who earn a GPA of a 3.7 or higher in 7th grade may start in 8th grade in place of study hall.



Math Curriculum - Overview

- Washington Latin uses the **Common Core standards** to sequence all math courses from 5th grade through Algebra 2.
- Every student has the opportunity to take credit-bearing **Algebra 1 by 8th grade** and Calculus by 12th grade.
- We offer **intensive Math support** for students who demonstrate a need through diagnostic testing.
Goal: all students are on level by end of 8th grade (or sooner).
 - Math Intensive
 - Peer tutoring program



Math Curriculum - Overview

| Grade | Most common | Variation A | Variation B | Variation C |
|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5 | Math 5 | Math 5 | Math 5 | Math 5 |
| 6 | Math 6 | Math 6 | Math 6 | Math 6 |
| 7 | Math 7 | Math 7 | Math 7 | Algebra 1*** |
| <i>Summer</i> | --- | --- | Algebra 1** | --- |
| 8 | Algebra 1 | Algebra 1 and Geometry | Geometry | Geometry |
| 9 | Geometry | Algebra 2 | Algebra 2 | Algebra 2 |
| 10 | Algebra 2 | Pre-Calculus | Pre-Calculus | Pre-Calculus |
| 11 | Precalculus | Calculus | AP Calculus AB | AP Calculus AB |
| 12 | AP Calculus AB or Elective Math* | AP Statistics | AP Calculus BC | AP Calculus BC |

* Example: Statistics or Calculus

** Must earn an A or A- in Math 7

*** Must score a 250 or higher on MAP assessment in 6th



Arts and Electives

- Beginning in 8th grade, students have the opportunity to choose their elective class. Current offerings are here:
 - One semester of Art and one semester of Theater
 - 8th grade Choir (year-long class)
 - Jazz Band (year-long class)
 - Conflict Resolution (year-long class)
 - Nature Studies (year-long class)
- 7th graders will choose their elective with their advisor in the weeks ahead.



Physical Education/Health & Sports

Athletic participation plays an important role in helping young people develop a healthy self-image and healthy habits.

Requirements for MS

- 5th and 6th - PE + Health
- 7th - 1 season of competitive athletics OR non-competitive classes each year
- 8th - 2 seasons of competitive athletics OR non-competitive classes each year
- Current offerings for Middle School students include:
 - **Fall:** Cross Country, Flag Football, Volleyball, Soccer
 - **Winter:** Basketball, Indoor Track, Swimming
 - **Spring:** Tennis, Baseball, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse
 - **Classes:** Yoga, Conditioning, Martial Arts (vary by season)



Choice and Advising



- **Beginning in 7th grade**, students have input into their schedule choices for the following school year.
- For **8th grade**, students choose their electives.
- For **9th grade and beyond**, students choose their level of challenge (on-level vs. Honors or AP) and their electives.
- Students meet 1:1 with their advisors each May to choose their courses for the following year.

Questions



**Thank you
for joining us!**

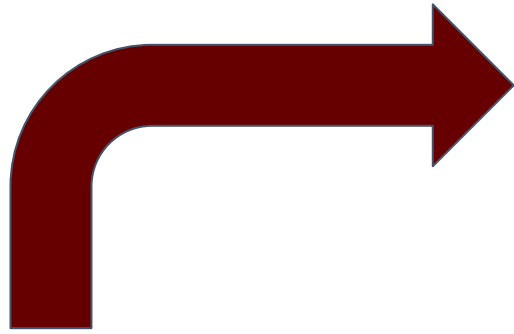


Graduation Requirements

- 4 credits – English
- 4 credits – Math (one year past Algebra II)
- 4 credits – Science
- 4 credits – History
(including DC History and Government)
- 3 credits – Latin (through Latin III)
- 2 credits – Chinese, French or Arabic
(through the second level)
- 3.5 credits – Electives (credits that are above and beyond the minimum and specifically named grad. requirements and are of the student's choosing)
- 0.5 credit - Art
- 0.5 credit – Health
- 0.5 credit – Music
- 0.25 credit – Financial Literacy
- 1 credit – Athletics (four seasons)
- 100 hours – Community Service

**27.25 credits
to graduate**





Here is another way to look at the graduation requirements!

- English 9
 - English 10
 - English 11
 - English 12
- Algebra I
 - Geometry
 - Algebra II
 - 4th Math
- World History I
 - World History II
 - US History
 - DC History
 - Government
- Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Biology
 - 4th Science

- Latin I
 - Latin II
 - Latin III
- World Language I
 - World Language II
- Art
 - Music
 - Health
 - Financial Literacy
- Athletics
- 3.5 Electives
- Community Service

