

WESTTOWN SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE



2016-2017

Founded in 1799 by the Religious Society of Friends, Westtown School operates under the care of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and continues to be recognized as one of the nation's best-known Quaker schools. The 600-acre campus is located in historic Chester County three miles east of West Chester, 25 miles west of Philadelphia, and 20 miles north of Wilmington, DE. Westtown is accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges and the Pennsylvania Association of Private Academic Schools.

Students at Westtown are challenged to realize their intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual potential. Truth, openness, and honesty are values which undergird the school community. A spirit of inquiry reigns in the classroom and students are encouraged to think creatively, to feel the condition of others, and to listen to their inner selves. Westtown expects students to be critical, independent thinkers who can work with a spirit of cooperation, understanding, and tolerance of the views of others.

The Westtown experience is defined by rigorous academic preparation for college, community living, weekly Meeting for Worship, and participation in the Work Program. These shared events reflect and teach the fundamental Quaker values of consensus, non-violent resolution of conflict, and the dignity of physical work.

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spirited Quaker education since 1799

• ENROLLMENT

Coeducational since the school's founding, Westtown's student body consists of 662 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. Students come from 17 states and 18 foreign countries. The Upper School (grades 9-12) enrolls 363 students (97 day students and 266 boarders). 10% are Quakers, 27% are American students of color, and 17% are foreign citizens. Need-based financial aid is received by 47% of students in the Upper School. All Westtown graduates enroll in college. The 98 members of the class of 2016 enrolled at 66 colleges and universities. The class of 2017 totals 100.

• SCHOOL CALENDAR

Westtown operates on a semester calendar with semesters beginning on September 6th and January 17th. Throughout the school year classes are held Monday through Friday, are 45-90 minutes in length, and rotate on a 10-day schedule.

• GRADING

Westtown grades on an A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60) scale with 60 as the passing grade. Reflecting the Quaker testimony of equality, comparative statistics (GPA, rank-in-class, checkboxes) are not calculated. Grade distribution information is provided to colleges for courses taken in the junior and senior years.

• CURRICULUM

Grading is by semester (S1, S2, and Final grades reported) to allow for continuous grading. Quarter grades are considered progress grades and not reported on the transcript.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: A minimum of 18 credits is required for graduation including 4 years of English; 2 years of history (including US History); 2 years of one foreign language; 3 years of mathematics; 2 years of lab science; 1 credit of art; 1.75 credits in religion (Bible, World Religions, and a religion elective). Most students graduate with many more than the minimum required credits.

Course load: A normal course load for freshmen and sophomores consists of five year-long courses and one or more semester long courses. The minimum requirement for juniors and seniors is four and one-half credits per semester. Students taking Advanced courses are encouraged to be conservative in their course selection since they will need additional time for the amount and rigor of the work. While the academic program offers students both breadth and depth of study across the curriculum, the faculty emphasizes quality of study over quantity, especially in the junior and senior years.

Course levels: The Westtown curriculum is not tracked. All courses are college preparatory; a small number of courses in each department are identified as 'Advanced'. There is no Honors or AP designation. Beginning in 2007-08, courses were no longer designated as 'Advanced Placement' although students may elect to sit for AP exams. All academic departments identify their most rigorous (college level) courses as 'Advanced'.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CURRICULUM:

English: Courses are taught by grade level with no tracking. In the second semester, juniors and seniors choose an English elective (a one-term college style seminar) to complete the year's credit.

English for Speakers of Other Languages: English Language and Composition 1, 2 and English Literature and Language Seminar (Adv) support the linguistic and academic development of non-native English speakers.

Foreign Language: In French, Spanish, and Mandarin, coursework is offered through the 6th year level. Latin 3 and 4 address Poetry and Advanced Prose; Latin 5 (Adv) is an advanced translation seminar. A number of other languages are offered through the Independent Research program.

Mathematics: Algebra 2/Trigonometry (Adv) covers two years of material in one and prepares the student for Calculus. Linear Algebra and Multivariable Calculus are offered to students who have completed the two-year Calculus sequence. Courses designated as "Essentials" cover the same content as regular level courses but at a more measured pace.

Science: Westtown is a "Physics First" school; in 2015-16, the curriculum changed from full year courses (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) to alternating semesters leading to Advanced electives in the junior and senior years.

Art: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking (1,2,3-Adv,4-Adv) may be taken as full year or semester long courses. The full year courses require a substantial commitment to independent work in the studio outside of class.

Music: Year-long supervised study of an instrument or voice and performances in master classes and recitals.

Independent Research: A junior or senior with a defined area of academic interest may propose and carry out a supervised semester or year-long advanced scholarly research project.

Certificate Programs: Students may choose to participate in one of three interdisciplinary "Deep Dive" programs of study: *Entrepreneurship for Social Change*; *Global Leadership*; and *Sustainability Leadership*. The programs include course work, research projects, off-campus study, mentorship, and experiential learning.

Senior Projects: Seniors design and carry out a capstone project for two to three weeks in the winter. A formal written proposal must be approved in advance; a report or creative project is presented in April for evaluation. During this time, Westtown teachers lead a number of international study/service/language and culture immersion trips.

Junior and Senior Seminar: Required weekly seminars address college planning, health, decision-making and the transition to college.

Physical Education: At least one hour of daily participation in a sport or other physical activity is required of all students for the entire school year. Competitive athletics, recreational sports, outdoor education, gardening, performing arts activities in theater and dance, and community service are offered.

WORK PROGRAM

Work Program, in accordance with Quaker values, reaffirms the goodness of service to others and the dignity of all work. Students are exposed to a variety of working experiences, such as janitorial and kitchen jobs. By taking part in the daily working life of the community, students learn to respect what it means to be part of a community and understand what impact their behavior has on other members of the community.

THE BOARDING REQUIREMENT

Living and learning in community has defined the Westtown School experience for over two hundred years. While students may begin boarding in ninth grade, 50 percent of freshmen and sophomores board and close to all juniors and seniors. In 2015-16, boarding became optional for students who enrolled at Westtown prior to eighth grade. Values fundamental to the vision and mission of the school are taught through the residential program, including respect for others, personal responsibility, integrity, equality, simplicity, and service. The experience serves not only as a learning experience in its own right but as valuable preparation for college.

STUDENT CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

In the letter of recommendation written by the college counselor on behalf of a senior, information is shared concerning any disciplinary event resulting in a suspension from the school during a student's Upper School years. Because boarding schools serve *in loco parentis* for students, expectations are high and clearly articulated. The violation of a major school rule automatically results in a separation of the student from the school for a period of time as determined by the faculty/student *Discipline Council*. Consequences are not meant to punish but rather to teach responsibility to self and community, and resilience.

STANDARDIZED ADMISSION TEST SCORES

Westtown does not record on its transcripts the results of standardized tests. Students are instructed to contact directly the testing agencies to report their scores to colleges and scholarship competitions that require them.

In accordance with the recommendation of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, SAT and ACT scores are reported as **a range reflecting the middle 50% of the class**. 25% of the class scored higher than the top end of this range and 25% scored lower than the bottom end of the range.

Class of 2016

Middle 50% of all students in the class (including non-native English speakers):

SAT:

Reading 560-690; Math 570-710; Writing 560-670.

Medians: Reading 620; Math 650; Writing 610.

ACT:

Composite: 23 – 31

Median: 27

COMPLETE COURSE LISTING

Courses are full year/1 credit unless otherwise noted

ENGLISH

Outsider in Literature
American Literature
Contemporary World Literature
English Language & Composition (Intl) 1, 2

One Semester

Contemporary World Literature
English Literature/Language Seminar: Intl Students (Adv)
The Essay
English Electives for 11th & 12th grade (second semester 2015-16)
Contemporary Dramatic Literature 1,2
Non-Fiction Writing 1, 2
20th Century Literature 1, 2
Research Non-Fiction 1,2
Creative Writing (Adv)
American Lit. 1, 2 (Adv)

HISTORY

American Cultures	US History (Adv)
Peace and Justice	Hiroshima to 9/11
Peace and Justice (Adv)	Hiroshima to 9/11 (Adv)
US History	Holocaust-Genocide (Adv)
US History (Int'l)	

One-Semester Electives

Microeconomics	Macroeconomics
Chinese History	Modern India
Latin American History 1,2	Ancient World History 1,2
Modern Europe 1,2	Modern Africa
Contemporary Affairs (Adv)	Modern World History 1,2
History Independent Research (Adv)	

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

One Semester

String Orchestra	Craft of Art 1,2
Symphonic Band	Foundations Studio Art 2D, 3D
Jazz Ensemble	Digital Arts 1,2
Choral Arts 1,2,3,4 (Adv)	Portfolio Preparation (.25)
Intro to Guitar	Drawing 1,2,3,4 (Adv)
Music Theory and History	Painting 1,2,3,4 (Adv)
Applied Music 1,2;3,4 (Adv)	Clay 1, 2, 3,4 (Adv)
Introduction to Theater	Woodworking 1, 2, 3 (Adv)
Acting/Acting Workshop 1, 2	Printmaking 1,2,3,4 (Adv)
Theater and Social Change	Photography 1, 2, 3 (Adv)
Arts Independent Project (Adv)	

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French 1, 2, 3, 4, 5/6 (Adv)
Chinese 1, 2, 3, 4 (Adv), 5/6 (Adv)
Latin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5/6 (Adv)
Spanish 1, 1/2 (Adv), 2, 3, 4, 5/6 (Adv)
Independent Language Study (Adv)

HEALTH AND LIFESKILLS

One Semester

Health and Lifeskills
Junior Seminar, Senior Seminar
Leadership Seminar

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1 Essentials	Pre-Calculus
Algebra 1	Pre-Calculus (Adv)
Algebra 1 (Adv)	Functions with Physics
Geometry Essentials	Computer Science (Adv)
Geometry	Statistics
Geometry (Adv)	Calculus 1
Algebra 2 Essentials	Calculus 1 (Adv)
Algebra 2	Calculus 2(Adv)
Algebra 2 (Adv)	
Algebra 2/Trigonometry (Adv)	

One Semester

Linear Algebra (Adv)	Multivariable Calculus (Adv)
Introduction to Programming	Mobile App Development
Math Independent Research (Adv)	

RELIGION

One Semester (or two semesters, half credit)

Bible: Message and Meaning	Liberation Theology
World Religions	Business and Society (Adv)
The Contemplative Experience	Religion and Science (Adv)
Non-Violence, Justice, and Social Change (Adv)	
Social and Environmental Justice (Adv)	

SCIENCE

Physics 1	Biology 1
Physics 1 (Adv)	Biology 1 (Adv)
Physics 2 (Adv)	Biology 2 (Adv)
Chemistry 1	Scientific Research (Adv)
Chemistry 1 (Adv)	
Chemistry 2 (Adv)	

One Semester

Biology 1: Cell	Biology 2: Ecology
Biology 1: Cell (Adv)	Biology 2: Ecology (Adv)
Biology 3: Evolution	Biology 3: Evolution (Adv)
Biology 4: Anatomy & Physiology (Adv)	
Biology of Disease	
Molecular Biology (Adv)	
Chemistry 1: Atoms to Reactions	
Chemistry 1: Atoms to Reactions (Adv)	
Chemistry 2: Moles and Stoichiometry	
Chemistry 2: Moles and Stoichiometry (Adv)	
Chemistry 3: Chem Bonding/Equilibrium (Adv)	
Chemistry 4: Chemical Reactions (Adv)	
Organic Chemistry	
Environmental Chemistry	
Physics 1: Newtonian Mechanics	
Physics 1: Newtonian Physics (Adv)	
Physics 2: Waves and Periodic Motion	
Physics 2: Waves and Periodic Motion (Adv)	
Physics 3 Electricity & Mag.(Adv)	
Physics 4: Modern Physics (Adv) Astrophysics	
Design Engineering 1, 2	
Digital Electronics and Logic	
Environmental Science 1: Earth Science	
Environmental Science 2: Sustainability Science	
Environmental Science 3: Environmental Problem Solving	
Literature and Protocol Development	