

Westminster Summer Enrichment and Reading Guide

The Westminster academic program is undergirded by the idea that learning should never stop, even in the summer. With this in mind, the academic departments have put together a guide to support continued intellectual growth during the summer months. Some work is required of all students but much of the guide contains recommendations for students to follow if they would like to be as prepared as possible for their courses in the fall. These requirements and recommendations are organized by discipline and course. Required work by course is in **red**. Recommended work by course is in **blue**. Students should carefully look at the information provided by each department to determine the required and recommended work for their classes. **Typically all English classes, some electives, honors, and most AP classes REQUIRE summer work.**

Please reach out with any questions to Betsy Heckman, Academic Dean,
bheckman@westminster-school.org.

All School Read- REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS

Our school theme for next year is “commitment”. When reading, try to connect that theme to various aspects of the book.

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, ISBN: 978-0062315007

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Students should focus their attention on completing the summer reading as assigned for their class; beyond this, students should read anything that interests them and read as much as possible. Recommended reading by the English Department can be found [here](#). Books recommended by our librarians can be found [here](#).

Third Form: Literature of Becoming

The Great Transition, by Nick Fuller Goggins,
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1668010754
Paper not available until August, ISBN: 1668010763

Fourth Form: Literature of Being

The Great Transition, by Nick Fuller Goggins,
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1668010754
Paper not available until August, ISBN: 1668010763

Fourth Form: AP Language and Composition- read both books

The Great Transition, by Nick Fuller Goggins,

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1668010754

Paper not available until August, ISBN: 1668010763

The Prince of Los Cocuyos, by Richard Blanco, ISBN: 9780062313775

Fifth Form: Literature of Place

Wild, Beautiful, and Free, by Sophronia Scott, ISBN: 9781542036061

Fifth Form: AP Literature and Composition- read both books

Wild, Beautiful, and Free, by Sophronia Scott, ISBN: 9781542036061

My Antonia by Willa Cather. ISBN: 978-1508474616

Sixth Form: Literature of Values

Educated by Tara Westover, ISBN: 978-1984854858

MATH DEPARTMENT

Each course will have a problem set or link to a problem set. Course-specific problem sets will be available by June 8. Links will be listed below. All students are expected to complete the work for the course they are going into by the beginning of the school year.

Algebra 1: [Complete these problems](#)

Geometry: [Complete this problem set](#)

Geometry Honors: [Complete this problem set](#)

Algebra 2: [Complete these problems](#)

Algebra 2 Honors: [Complete this problem set](#)

Financial Algebra: [Complete this problem set](#)

Precalculus: [Complete this problem set](#)

Precalculus Honors: [Complete this problem set](#)

Precalculus/Calculus Honors: [Complete this problem set](#)

Calculus: [Complete this problem set](#)

AP Calculus AB: [Complete this problem set](#)

AP Calculus BC: [Complete this problem set](#)

Statistics: Please read the book [Damned Lies and Statistics](#) by Joel Best and answer the [Reading Questions](#)

AP Statistics: Please read the book [Damned Lies and Statistics](#) by Joel Best and answer the [Reading Questions](#)

Multivariable Calculus: [Complete this problem set](#)

AP Computer Science- Strongly Recommended

Work your way through Unit 1: Intro to JS: Drawing & Animation found at this link:

[Unit 1: Intro to JS: Drawing & Animation](#)

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Reading science-related articles in newspapers and magazines are a recommended approach to being well-prepared for all science classes. Suggestions include reading one article a week from publications such as *National Geographic* and the Science Section of the *New York Times*. Additional reading recommended by the Science Department can be found [here](#). Course-specific requirements and recommendations are found below.

Honors Physics

Read *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan ISBN: 0345409469. Write 1-2 paragraphs at the end of each chapter over a topic you learned or changed your mind about, handwritten. Due the first day of class for your first class grade.

Honors Biology

Read *The Cell: Discovering the Microscopic World That Determines Our Health, Our Consciousness, and Our Future*. By Joshua Z. Rappoport, PhD. ISBN 978-1-942952-96-1

AP Biology

Students should read *River Out of Eden* by Richard Dawkins ISBN:978-1857994056

AP Chemistry

Students should complete [this review](#) before the start of the school year to be prepared for this course.

AP Environmental Science

In order to be best prepared for this course, students should do the following:

- Students should read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer ISBN: 978-1571313560

- Read articles on current events on the environment that will be shared throughout the summer by the instructors over email.

AP Physics C

Choose to read one of the following books and write a 1 paragraph summary of each chapter and a 1-2 page discussion of your thoughts about the book as a whole at the end.

- by Leon Lederman ISBN: 978-0-618-71168-0 [Choose this one if you think your interest more align with particle physics]
- *Alpha & Omega: The search for the beginning and end of the universe* by Charles Seife ISBN: 978-0670031795 [Choose this one if you think your interest more align with astrophysics]

Astronomy

You may choose to either read *Bad Astronomy* OR watch COSMOS (by either Carl Sagan or Neil deGrasse Tyson) and write 10 paragraphs over 10 topics that you learned about or changed your mind about while reading/watching. 10 *handwritten* paragraphs are due on the first day of class.

It is recommended, but not required, that students familiarize themselves with the night sky, topics in astronomy, and get an understanding of how all sciences are applied in the study of astronomy by doing the following:

- Download the app “SkyGuide” to your iPhone. Use the app to observe planets, stars, and constellations on clear nights. Keep a journal of your observing sessions.
- Read *Bad Astronomy: Misconceptions and Misuses Revealed* by Dr. Phil Plait. Write a summary of each chapter. At the end, tell me 10 things (in paragraphs) you changed your mind about throughout your reading. Hand written.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The best preparation for history classes at Westminster is for students to READ. In addition to the book suggestions found [here](#), students can also hone their reading skills by reading articles in current newspapers and periodicals such as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New Yorker*. In addition, the department recommends listening to history-oriented podcasts, including [Real Dictators](#), [Throughline](#), and [1619](#). Course-specific requirements and recommendations are found below.

Global History and Society (Third Formers)

The best preparation for this course is to be aware of what is going on in the world. Students are encouraged to use [this document](#) to help them follow current events this summer.

Contemporary World History (Fourth Formers)

Students are **required** to read *The World: A Brief Introduction* by Richard Haass

ISBN: 978-0399562396

Contemporary World History Honors (Fourth Formers)

Students are **required** to read *King Leopold's Ghost* by Adam Hochschild, ISBN 978-0358212508. Students must purchase a printed version of this book and are expected to have it with them in class.

United States History (Fifth Formers)

Required: Students should read ONE of the books listed below.

- *Lies My Teachers Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James Lowen ISBN 978-0743296281
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson ISBN 978-0812984965
- *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir* by Frank McCourt ISBN 978-0684842677

Suggested:

- Listen to a handful of episodes from Jon Meacham's "[Hope, Through History](#)" Podcast (~20 episodes over two seasons; each episode is about 30 minutes long – pick a few!)

AP United States History (Fifth Formers)

Required: Students should read ONE of the books listed below that matches their interests in American history. All are very readable, appropriate for AP US students, and are excellent introductions to US history.

- *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle* by Jon Meacham ISBN 978-0553393965
- *American Lion: Andrew Jackson In The White House* by Jon Meacham ISBN 978-0812973464
- *Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein ISBN 978-1631494536
- *Undaunted Courage: The Pioneering First Mission to Explore America's Wild Frontier*, by Stephen Ambrose ISBN 978-0743477888

AP Comparative Government

The best preparation for this course is to become familiar with international current events. Below are suggestions for how to stay informed. **Students are required to choose at least one of these options to commit to on a regular basis. Keep a journal of major events, your thoughts and questions. An assessment of current events will occur at the beginning of the school year.**

- Read the "World" section of the *New York Times* 3-4/week or *The Economist* weekly
- Listen to one of the following podcasts 3-4/week: [The Daily](#) (from the NYT), [First Up](#) (from NPR), [The Intelligence](#) (from *The Economist*)
- Watch *Fareed Zakaria: GPS* weekly (on CNN on Sundays)
- Optional: read *The Twilight of Democracy* by Anne Applebaum, ISBN: 978-1984899507.
- Optional: read *The Age of Revolutions* by Fareed Zakaria, ISBN: 978-0-393-23923-2
- If you want to know more about what is currently happening in Russia or China, check out these two podcasts [Drum Tower](#) (China) and [Next Year in Moscow](#) (Russia)

AP Art History

Complete the following:

- Read/watch at least 4 articles (student's choice) from the *New York Time's* "[Art History: A Close Read](#)" series (a digital subscription may be required). Spend some time with each article. This fascinating series (there are ~20 articles) details exactly what art historians do and how art is an important primary source for historians of all subject areas.
- Read: *The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece*, by Jonathan Harr (ISBN: 978-0375759864). This engaging book reads more like a detective story and recounts the efforts of art historians and investors to find a painting long thought "lost" to the world.
- Optional: listen to a few episodes of the "[Art History for All](#)" podcast (fun, provocative takes on works you've likely seen)

AP Economics

Complete the following: All Required

- Read: [A Little History of Economics](#) by Niall Kishtainy ISBN 978-0300206364
- Listen to [Planet Money Summer School, Seasons 1 & 3](#)
 - Listen to *at least* 1 episode per week. There are a total of 13 episodes roughly 30 minutes in length.
- Subscribe & read *The Morning Brew* [newsletter](#)

Dollars and Sense

- **Required:** read Morgan Housel's, [The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness](#) ISBN 978-0857197689
- Strongly Recommended: Listen to [Planet Money Summer School, Seasons 1 & 2](#) Listen to *at least* 1 episode per week. There are a total of 11 episodes roughly 30 minutes in length.

Moral Philosophy

Required: Read

- Scott Newstok, *How to Think Like Shakespeare: Lessons from a Renaissance Education* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020.) ISBN: 978-0-691-22769-6

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The Language Department highly recommends that students at all levels work to maintain their connection with their language of study. Course-specific requirements and recommendations are found below.

Chinese

- Once a week, read or watch something in Mandarin (make sure it's at least half in Mandarin and not another language/dialect—some shows might incorporate dialects in parts, though, which is fine). Keep a simple journal on a google doc in Chinese with your comments and questions in response to each reading/viewing. You can also set familiar episodes of American shows to dub in Chinese audio where available.
- [Leveled news articles](#): Scroll down to access several free articles, and choose based on interest and HSK level.

Chinese 3/Advanced: up to level 3

Advanced 2/AP: up to level 5

- Movies/series: Find anything you like in Mandarin on whatever streaming service is available to you. There is so much to choose from—follow your interests!

If you would like help finding something to watch:

[Cinema Escapist](#) best recent Taiwanese films (Mandarin)

[Culture Yard](#), the best movies for learning Chinese (Mandarin)

[Culture Yard](#), best recent mainland films (check dialect!)

[Buzzfeed](#), best C-dramas on Netflix

French

For all French students, keep up with current events in the target language, listen to French music, watch a French-speaking film or a French show. Here are some ideas:

- **Séries** (shows): Dix pour Cent / Lupin / Les aventures de Tintin
- **Documentaries** : Des racines et des ailes / Demain / Être et Avoir
 - **Films** : Les Intouchables / Amélie Poulain / Les Choristes / Les petits mouchoirs / Le Petit Nicolas / le Ballon Rouge / Rahan

Use this French website to complete summer work:

<https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/collection-all>

Browse, pick a topic or two that interest you according to your level (see below), then choose a video or two / take notes / complete the questions that go with it or them.

You can open a google doc and then share it with your French teacher. You can write anything on it as long as it is in French: the work that you completed using the website / the film you've watched / a description of your vacation.

- **Level 2 and 2 H** will choose level A1 on this website and can move on to level A2 if they feel like A1 is too easy. <https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/collection-all>
- **Level 3 and 3 H** will choose between A2 and B1 (according to their level) <https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/collection-all>
- **Level 4 and AP** will choose between B1 and B2 <https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/collection-all>
- **Advanced Modern French** will choose C Level <https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/collection-all>

- **AP French Language and Culture**
- **Students must read** *Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran* - link to the free PDF:
https://www.bbns.org/uploaded/PDFs/Upper_School/Summer_Reading_2015/French_V_Cinema_Monsieur_Ibrahim_by_Schmitt.pdf
- **Students should work on their proficiency** using this test: focus on grammar, conjugation and vocabulary using this excellent website:
<https://www.transparent.com/learn-french/proficiency-test.html>
- Students have access to free online classes to be fully prepared for this coming fall. Follow this link and register:
<https://www.edx.org/course/ramp-apr-french-language-culture-weston-high-school-pflc1x>

Latin

- **Latin 2**
 - Keep your grammar forms simmering.
 - Master your noun tables (Declensions 1-5)
 - Lock in your Active and Passive Indicative for the regular conjugations
 - Overcome your pronouns (Is, Hic, Ille, Se, Qui, Ego, Nos, Tu, Vos, Ipse, and Iste)
 - Watch a period movie (Gladiator, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Life of Brian etc.)
 - Read a Greek tragedy
- **Latin 3**
 - Build a quick reference guide/sheet/notecard for all your Latin constructions
 - Indirect Commands, Result Clauses, Fear Clauses, Indirect Questions, Indirect Statements, Conditionals, Gerunds and Gerundives, Temporal, Causal, and Concessive Clauses, Ablative Absolutes
 - Did I miss one? Maybe it was *on Purpose*.
 - Read Kamm's sections on the Late Republic and Early Empire.
- **AP**
 - Read Vergil's Aeneid in **English**
 - Start building a list of characters or major events (in books 1-6)
 - Watch '[Julius Caesar: A Roman Colossus](#)' on Youtube
 - https://youtu.be/AguS_eVoVR4
 - Watch '[Augustus: Rome's Greatest Emperor](#)' on Youtube
 - <https://youtu.be/Zw9le2od08k>

Spanish

Surround yourself with Spanish music, movies, articles, and communities, and if you can travel to Latin America that would be great. The activities recommended below are intended to help students maintain their language skills.

- These are good review websites for all levels:
 - <https://www.duolingo.com/>
 - <https://studyspanish.com/>
 - <https://www.babbel.com/>
- TV Shows to watch in Spanish:
 - Netflix: Velvet, Nailed it- Mexico, Vivo, El camino de Xico, Maya y los 3
 - Disney+: Entrelazados (Intertwined)
- **Level 2**

Present tense review

 - If you read *Pobre Ana* in Spanish 1, Write the next chapter of *Pobre Ana*.
 - If you read *Pobre Ana* in Spanish 1, Write the story of Patricia's visit to Ana's home in California.

Simple future tense review

 - Write what you will do in the new school year that is different from last year. How will you study? What sports will you play? What activities will you participate in? Where will you live? Who will be your roommate? (be sure to use ir + a + infinitive)
- **Spanish 2 Honors**
 - For students transitioning from Spanish 1 to Spanish 2 Honors: They are required to study and to understand the concepts found on pg. 155-177, pg. 182-184 and pg. 233 in *Reporteros 1*. The memorization of the vocabulary from chapters 3.2 and 4.1 in *Reporteros 1* is also strongly encouraged.
- **Level 3**

Present tense review

 - Keep a diary of what you are doing over the summer
 - Write a postcard to your previous Spanish teacher about your summer
 - Choose a news article in Spanish (current events, sports, fashion, dining out) and write a summary: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo>

Imperfect and preterite tense review

 - Write a summary at the end of each month about what happened
 - Listen to a song in Spanish and then write a creative story that led to that song being written

Command review

 - Write 10 commands for your future self to have a great new school year. Give yourself commands for study habits, trying new activities, training for your sport, being a good member of the community, etc.
- **Level 4**

Present tense review

- Practice your verbs using: <https://conjuguemos.com/>
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Imperfect and preterite tense review

- Practice using: <https://conjuguemos.com/>
- Choose a news article in Spanish (current events, sports, fashion, dining out) and write what happened in the story: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo>

- **Advanced Spanish Studies**

Select a country and keep up with current events: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo>

For example, Mexico: <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/crr7mlg0vr2t/mexico>

- **AP Spanish Language and Culture**

- Read: *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*, by Gabriel Garcías Márquez, ISBN: 978-8422698456.

- Maintain your Spanish through the offerings on this website: <https://coffeebreaklanguages.com/coffeebreakspanish/>

- **Latin American Studies & The Caribbean**

Maintain your Spanish through the offerings on this website:

<https://coffeebreaklanguages.com/coffeebreakspanish/>

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

In addition to continuing artistic pursuits over the summer, the department recommends [these arts-related readings](#).

AP Music Theory

Students in AP Music Theory should be able to understand the following basic music concepts: note names on the treble and bass clefs, intervals, and a basic understanding of key signatures. Use the websites below to practice these skills.

- <https://www.musictheory.net/exercises>
- <https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercises/>

AP Art and Design - Drawing Portfolio 2D and 3D Design Portfolio

Both Photography students and Studio Art Students should do the following:

- Read through the Course and Exam Description including rubrics-
[AP Art and Design Program](#)

- Check out the AP Art and Design Program [Differences between the AP Portfolios](#)
Familiarize yourself with the course and the website. This summer ask yourself the following questions- What matters to me and how can I create a strong body of artwork investigating that idea? How can I write what matters to me in the format of a question? How could I create 15 pieces of artwork answering the question and demonstrate practice, experimentation and revision?
- Look at examples of submitted portfolios and read through the written statements.
[Drawing Portfolio Samples](#), [2D Design Portfolio Samples](#), [3D Design Portfolio Examples](#)
- Take a lot of photos this summer and create a separate folder in your phone or laptop so you can access them for reference.
- Use a sketchbook and document your ideas and in-process work.
- Learn more about the Elements of Art and Principles of Design
[Elements of Art and Principles of Design](#).
- Visit museums and galleries. Look at artwork. Study the artwork. Read the artist statements. Take photos and compile a working document of artists that inspire you.