



## Junior Division/High School: Christian Philosophy

### An Introduction to Christian Philosophy and Thinking about God

Tuesdays, 12:15-3:15 PM

This year-long class will introduce 7th-10th grade students to Christian philosophy and explain how we can use the tools of philosophy to think well about God. Class time will feature thought-provoking discussion as we first clarify understanding of our reading and then try to form and defend our own thoughts and arguments. To stimulate and provide context for our thinking, we will drink tea, take walks, and engage with current and historic sources and media. Each week at home students will read 10-15 pages in one of our textbooks and write short answers to reflection questions. Each semester, students will also write a 2–5-page paper exploring an issue of interest to them. Homework should take on average 1-2 hours per week.

For the first semester we will study the book *Unravelling Christian Philosophy*, by Adam Groza and J.P. Moreland. This is a theme-by-theme introduction to major areas of philosophy which comes from a thoroughly Christian perspective while interacting with other worldviews. The second semester we will read *Thinking about God: First Steps in Philosophy*, by Gregory Ganssle. This book guides students through reasons to believe in God, ways to think about the relationship between God and evil in the world, and questions about what God is like. In this course we will adopt church father Anselm of Canterbury's motto of "faith seeking understanding" so that we can grow in knowledge and confidence in our beliefs about God and become better equipped to interact intellectually with others in our world who do not believe.