



WESTMOUNT CHARTER SCHOOL: PLANNING AND RESULTS REPORTING SUMMARY 2016

Priorities

Differentiated professional learning will continue to be a primary focus to enhance staff understanding of students “*from the inside out.*” Selected research topics of relevance to teaching practices will be accessed to develop local expertise in various aspects of gifted education. Mentorship to teachers new to Westmount remains a focus to enhance their understanding of gifted children from the inside out as they refine their repertoire of instructional strategies.

Summary of Accomplishments

- Westmount celebrated its 20th anniversary as a charter school.
- The application for a 15-year Charter renewal was successfully submitted and approved by the Minister of Education.
- The modernization project at the Mid-High campus was completed.
- Our students continued to excel on standardized testing, exceeding provincial averages in all categories of results.
- A Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) was established in partnership with all Charter schools in Calgary.
- A total of twenty (20) students enrolled in Dual Credit courses in biology at Mount Royal University and mathematics courses at the University of Calgary during the 2015/2016 academic year.
- Westmount continued its participation in the *Partner Research Schools* (PRS) initiative with the Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary including presentations at the Partners Research Conference in August 2016.
- We continued the partnership with Briar Hill Elementary School (CBE) in a longitudinal study of academic literacy with Dr. Hetty Roessingh, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary.
 - Staff at the K-4 campus focused on: Empathy, Accountability and Dual Exceptionalities through their Collaborative Concept Circles groupings to enhance understanding of best practices in gifted education.
 - The Virtues Program and Zones of Regulation were introduced at the K-4 campus
 - Mid-High staff pursued Assessment, Relational Health and Lagging Skills, Flexible Pacing, and Design Thinking, through collaborative work in their Focus Groups.
 - Westmount continued participation in Moving Forward with High School Redesign. Dual-credit (high school students enrolled in university level courses) was a critical new component of programming. SOURCE (Self/Organization/Understanding Relationships/Career Explorations) was introduced as a new and integral component of a personalized approach to Learning Redesign at Mid-High.

Student Success

The recent provincial *Accountability Pillar Evaluation* (October 2016) summary indicates Westmount continues to rank highly in all measure categories.

Provincial Achievement Test (PAT): Acceptable standard; 96.5% of Westmount students achieved this standard compared to 73.6% of students across the province. PAT: excellence standard; 57.6% of Westmount students achieved this standard compared to 19.4% of students across the province.

Westmount students exceeded provincial results in both acceptable and excellence categories in all PATs written. DIPLOMA EXAM: acceptable standard; 97.6% of Westmount students achieved this overall standard as compared to 85.0% of students across the province. DIPLOMA EXAM: excellence; 56.6% of Westmount students achieved this standard compared to 21.0% of students across the province.

Westmount students exceeded provincial results in both acceptable and excellence categories on all Diploma exams written (January and June 2016).



Future Challenges

The following are challenges that Westmount will continue to face in seeking new opportunities for growth and innovation:

- identifying and utilizing pertinent research to inform our understanding and instructional design of giftedness from the inside out;
- continuing the refinement and standardization of student admissions criteria and practices;
- improving teacher training and accessing outside resources to understand and meet the needs of our twice-exceptional learners;
- updating and maintaining the current technology infrastructure to support teaching and learning needs;
- facilitating effective professional development of our staff; and
- sharing innovative practices with the broader education community.

Collaborative Parental and Community Engagement

Opportunities for parental involvement include:

- Active monthly School Council meetings, dialogue with the principals (Coffee Chat with the Principal), or sessions on topics where parents interact with each other and the administration or special guest presenters.
- A parent volunteer committee that organizes dozens of parents to support various initiatives each year.
- Regular parent information sessions on various topics from giftedness to technology implementation, Internet safety, student anxiety, and new programming initiatives such as the Mid-High School Redesign Project.
- Parent representation (4/10) on our Board of Directors..

Budget Summary – 2015/2016 School Year

| Revenue Summary by Source | 2016 | 2015 Restated | Change (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Alberta Education | 14,524,830 | 13,647,240 | 6% |
| Instructional and Transportation Fees | 1,224,346 | 1,188,439 | 3% |
| Other | 348,397 | 417,975 | -17% |
| | <u>16,097,573</u> | <u>15,253,654</u> | 6% |
| Program Expenditures | 2016 | 2015 Restated | Change (%) |
| Instruction (K-12) | 12,055,897 | 11,977,461 | 1% |
| PO&M and Rent | 2,411,564 | 1,997,449 | 21% |
| Transportation | 991,045 | 951,933 | 4% |
| Board & System Administration | 845,836 | 824,321 | 3% |
| External Services | 35,375 | 35,393 | 0% |
| | <u>16,339,717</u> | <u>15,786,557</u> | 4% |
| (Deficit)/ Surplus | <u>(242,144)</u> | <u>(532,903)</u> | |
| Accumulated Operating Surplus | 2016 | 2015 Restated | Change (\$) |
| Unrestricted net assets | 1,556,509 | 2,089,412 | 78,248 |
| Operating deficit | (242,144) | (532,903) | (493,903) |
| Total | <u>1,314,365</u> | <u>1,556,509</u> | (415,655) |

Westmount Charter School's Audited Financial Statements may be accessed from the provincial roll up of AFS information at: <https://education.alberta.ca/financial-statements/charter-schools/>

For additional information, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer at secretary-treasurer@westmountcharter.com.

The complete Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2016/19 may be accessed at: http://www.westmountcharter.com/charter_board/index.html