

How to Apply for grade 1, fall 2012

1. ATTEND the K-1 parent information night: January 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the gym.

2. DOWNLOAD the application package from the “apply for elementary grades” link at www.westmountcharter.com.

3. SUBMIT the completed application package, along with a copy of your child’s birth certificate (and, if the child was born outside Canada, permanent residency card) and, if available, immunization records, **by Feb 8, 2012**.

4. ATTEND the student assessment day: **March 2, 2012** from 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM. Students will have a variety of activities during the day, including the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test and outdoor activities. Please make sure your child has a lunch, snacks, and outdoor wear.

5. WAIT for notification
You will be notified by email of your admission status by March 23, 2012.

6. COMPLETE the process
If a space is offered, families complete an online acceptance and pay a non-refundable \$100 deposit.

Please note: there are hundreds of students applying to Westmount. There will be close to 70 spaces available for grade one. If you miss the February 8, 2012 application deadline, please consult the “apply for elementary grades” link at www.westmountcharter.com

How to Apply for grades 2-4, fall 2012

We anticipate limited openings for grades 2-4 in 2012-2013, so we are not planning a gr.2-4 information night this year. If you wish to apply, follow **steps # 2 and 3 above** and then wait for further notification from the school.

You are welcome to attend the K-1 information night (see #1 above), but please be aware that this night will be focused on the Kindergarten and grade 1 programs.

Statistics from the most recent school year

In all sixteen *Accountability Pillar* areas measured by Alberta Education in the 2010-2011 school year, Westmount ranked in the **top 5%** of Alberta schools:

- ✓ Safe and Caring School
- ✓ Varied program of study
- ✓ Quality of Education
- ✓ High School “drop out” rate
- ✓ High School Completion rate
- ✓ Transition to Post-Secondary rate
- ✓ Preparation for the workplace
- ✓ Development of Citizenship skills
- ✓ Parental Involvement in the School
- ✓ School Improvement
- ✓ Diploma Exam—acceptable
- ✓ Diploma Exam—excellence
- ✓ Diploma Exam—participation rate
- ✓ Rutherford Scholarship eligibility rate
- ✓ Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)—acceptable (gr 3,6,9)
- ✓ Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)—excellence (gr 3,6,9)

Grade 3 Language Arts PAT

97% of Westmount grade 3 students met the Acceptable Standard (Alberta avg. was 82%)
45% of Westmount grade 3 students met the Standard of Excellence (Alberta avg. was 18%)

Grade 3 Mathematics PAT (2009-2010)

96% of Westmount grade 3 students met the Acceptable Standard (Alberta avg. was 76%)
64% of Westmount grade 3 students met the Standard of Excellence (Alberta avg. was 25%)

Westmount Charter School

Elementary campus
728 - 32 Street NW
Calgary, AB T2N 2V9

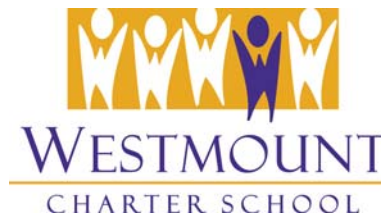
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Westmount Charter School

A Centre for Excellence in Gifted Education

ELEMENTARY GRADES (Grades 1-4)



GIFTED CHILDREN HAVE

advanced cognitive abilities and heightened intensity*

GIFTED CHILDREN NEED

modifications in parenting, teaching and counseling in order for them to develop optimally *

WESTMOUNT PROVIDES

an excellent, publicly-funded program for Gifted Learners from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Founded in 1996.

*The Columbus Group, 1991, in Morelock, 1992

www.westmountcharter.com



Publicly-Funded Excellence in Gifted Education: WESTMOUNT CHARTER SCHOOL

“Four Pillars” of Gifted Education

Westmount Charter School sees “four pillars of gifted education” that provide the foundation for our program: the Affective Curriculum; health and wellness; social responsibility; and, academic.

i. The Affective Curriculum

The intensity of the gifted child often leads to an intense emotional life, and can lead to gifted children being misunderstood by others. While this emotional intensity can give the child very special gifts of creativity, perceptiveness and humour, it also presents unique challenges for the child and the adults in his/her life! At Westmount, many gifted children find that they make deep friendships with other children who “see what they see.” Helping children to build friendships and positive social interactions is a significant focus of our elementary community.

ii. Health and Wellness

All Westmount elementary students participate in a minimum of 15 minutes of Daily Physical Activity, in addition to their Phys Ed classes. A group of grade 5 students, the “Healthy Active School Committee”, helps to encourage active living and healthy eating habits.

iii. Social Responsibility

Westmount students are encouraged to be aware of and involved in the needs of the world around them. Volunteer opportunities begin at grade two, and a group of grade four students takes active leadership in the area of recycling.

iv. Academic

From an early age, Westmount students are taught how to seek understanding, and how to share their ideas with others. As detailed on the flip side of this brochure, our student scores in provincial testing place Westmount among the top five per cent of Alberta’s schools.

Re-Grouping

Many gifted students are very adept in certain subjects, particularly when they are passionate about the topic at hand! In order to meet these specific academic needs, our elementary students are re-grouped for Math and Language Arts to ensure that each child is appropriately challenged in these key, core subjects.

It is also important that gifted learners develop strong social relationships with children their own age. For this reason, each child is placed in a home room with his/her grade mates. All subjects other than Math and LA are taught in these home room groupings.

Most subjects are taught by the home room teacher, but students also benefit from having a number of specialist teachers: Phys Ed, Music, Band, Dance and Library.

Elementary teacher comments about what Westmount offers its gifted students:

“an academic program that challenges students intellectually and an inclusive, accepting environment for students”

“ a community of ‘like-peers’ who are socially and emotionally similar to each other . [Students] are surrounded by an atmosphere of mutual respect with teachers and students alike”

Giftedness is Diverse!

Anyone who parents a gifted child knows that giftedness does not come in one shape or size! With this in mind, Westmount Charter School takes a very broad approach to the needs of the gifted learner.

When assessing children at the time of admission, parents and current teachers provide written materials about the child; children are observed while engaged in a number of different activities; and, children take the Canadian Cognitive Ability Tests. Other information presented by parents (for example, the results of Psych-Ed assessments) also assist the school in determining how to best meet the needs of every child.

Class size

Westmount follows the Alberta Class Size Initiative: we aim to have 17 students per class in grades 1, 2 and 3; 23 students per class in grade 4 .

Westmount elementary parent comments:

“Kids respect each other and are interested in what they do in school.”

“...an environment which allows and encourages each child to be himself or herself, with acceptance by peers of the ‘quirkiness’”

“these special kids have a place where they can be themselves and feel accepted among their peers”

“kids can be kids while learning at a level that encompasses their abilities”

“My children enjoy school; they are happy”

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