



How to Apply for Mid Grades (grades 5-8, fall 2012)

We anticipate limited openings for grades 5-8 in 2012-2013, so we are not planning a gr.5-8 information night this year.

If you wish to apply for grades 5-8 for the 2012-2013 school year,

DOWNLOAD the application package from the "apply for mid grades" link at www.westmountcharter.com, starting the evening of January 18, 2012.

SUBMIT the completed application package, along with a copy of the student's birth certificate (and, if born outside Canada, landing papers/immigration documents) and, if available, immunization records.

WAIT for further notification from the school regarding spaces available, testing, etc. If your son/daughter is invited to a testing day, this typically includes a testing day at Westmount when the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test is administered.

If, at the end of the assessment process, a space is offered, families complete an online acceptance and pay a non-refundable \$100 deposit.

NOTE: You are welcome to attend the High School information night, January 25, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the gym (second floor, east side), but please be aware that this night will be focused on the grade 9-12 program.

Westmount Charter School

Mid-High Campus, 2215 Uxbridge Drive NW
Calgary AB T2N 4Y3

Phone: 403-217-9427

E-mail: admin@westmountcharter.com
www.westmountcharter.com

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 6 Language Arts PAT

97% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Acceptable Standard (Alberta avg. was 79%)
50% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Standard of Excellence (Alberta avg. was 16%)

Grade 6 Mathematics PAT (2008-2009)

100% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Acceptable Standard (Alberta avg. was 77%)
60% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Standard of Excellence (Alberta avg. was 17%)

Grade 6 Science PAT

99% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Acceptable Standard (Alberta avg. was 76%)
76% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Standard of Excellence (Alberta avg. was 25%)

Grade 6 Social Studies PAT

100% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Acceptable Standard (Alberta avg. was 71%)
74% of Westmount grade 6 students met the Standard of Excellence (Alberta avg. was 19%)

MID-GRADES (grades 5-8)



GIFTED LEARNERS HAVE

advanced cognitive abilities and heightened intensity*

GIFTED LEARNERS 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



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

At Westmount, many gifted learners make deep friendships with peers who “see what they see.” In the mid-grade years, “Positive Action” curriculum helps support students’ efforts to build self-esteem, learn to manage their emotions, and develop resources for social/emotional well being. Grades 5-8 have Home Room groupings for core subjects, to give students a strong foundation. Starting in grade 6, students have options courses in which new interests can be explored.

ii. Health and Wellness

Westmount students participate in a minimum of 15 minutes of Daily Physical Activity up to grade 9, in addition to their Phys Ed classes. Ski and skating lessons, Outdoor Education option courses, and grade 7’s integrated program all have significant outdoor components. Our partnership with a local deli has provided healthy eating choices on-site. Intramural sports and school teams provide great outlets for all students to be athletically involved.

iii. Social Responsibility

Westmount students are encouraged to be aware of and involved in the needs of the world around them. The grade 7 integrated program involves community engagement and volunteering, and many classes participate in Video Conferences that connect them with students in other parts of Canada and other nations.

iv. Academic

From an early age, Westmount students are taught how to seek understanding, and how to share their ideas with others. As a program for gifted learners, enrichment is provided for all students, with very positive academic results. 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 schools. Technological advances, such as the one-to-one laptop program which begins in grade 6, support student learning.

Giftedness is Diverse!

Giftedness does not come in one shape or size! Each gifted learner has his or her own unique strengths and challenges, and tends to have a truly passionate intensity toward areas of deep interest. Within a commu-

nity of gifted students these differences are accepted and embraced; it is our hope that these mid-grade years can be a time when students really “own” the special qualities they possess.

With this in mind, Westmount Charter School takes a very broad approach to the needs of the gifted learner. Mid-grade students are accepted not just on the basis of IQ scores, as in many gifted programs, but on a broad range of measures (see overleaf).

Grade 7 Integrated Program

Over the past years, our grade 7 team has generated some very successful and unique opportunities for Gifted students. These experiences have evolved into the construction of an integrated and specialized program using key successes from these programs (Project Earth, Innovations and Footprints) that optimize development of Gifted learners. Therefore, the grade 7 experience now involves one integrated program that consists of many exciting adventures. It’s a very active year, so grade 7 students can expect to spend a significant amount of time outdoors in all weather conditions participating in hiking and camping as well as cycling.

Teachers comment about what Westmount offers its gifted students:

“ A place of acceptance. Everywhere has challenges in this area but Westmount's social environment is much more open to diversity and unique points of view”

“Westmount offers academic, social/emotional well-being, leadership/advocacy opportunities and choices to empower students to become great, responsible leaders in the future of their choice!”

Westmount mid-grade parent comments:

“[there is an] overall acceptance between peers. The respect level in their grades is wonderful. They have many friends from all corners of the city and this diversity makes for a great group of kids “

“I am delighted with the teachers my child has had at Westmount. All have been genuinely interested and focused on their students' emotional well-being and intellectual development. I feel fortunate to have my child attend a school where teachers are so engaged and engaging.”

“gifted kids ... have a place where they can be themselves and feel accepted among their peers. They don't have to put on an act or try to be ‘normal’ to fit in. They can be individuals and that is very difficult to find in other schools.”

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