

Administrative Procedure 420

Human Resources

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

BACKGROUND

The Charter Board believes teachers have a significant influence on the learning of students. As a result, teachers will strive to respond appropriately to the needs of students who are gifted, to understand more thoroughly the nature of successful learning and teaching and to maintain high regard for teaching as a profession.

PROCEDURES

The practices of successful learning and teaching in gifted education have a basis in professional knowledge formed by professional development experience, research and literature. At Westmount Charter School, we believe:

1. Everyone is capable of learning.
2. Learning is a life-long process.
3. Language is embedded in all learning.
4. Learning occurs when information, materials and activities have personal meaning to an individual.
5. Learning is personal, cumulative, reflective and related to individual development.
6. Learning is the social construction of knowledge, wherein learners work together to acquire understanding.
7. Learning is enhanced in a supportive environment with high expectations and shared responsibilities.
8. Learning and teaching are dynamically interactive.
9. Successful teaching occurs in many observable forms and:
 - 9.1 centers on the development of significant personal relationships;
 - 9.2 is enhanced by pedagogical thoughtfulness;
 - 9.3 has a foundation in careful planning and organization;
 - 9.4 occurs when those involved are actively engaged in meaningful, relevant activities;
 - 9.5 involves a contextual application of teacher and learner judgement;
 - 9.6 features monitoring, recording and assessing progress;
 - 9.7 requires effective communication among all participants;
 - 9.8 demonstrates an understanding of the individual needs of students;
 - 9.9 values personal success, uses failure constructively, fosters enjoyment and supports positive self-concept.

Cross Reference: AP-421 Teacher Qualifications
Charter Board Policy 1 Vision and Mission
Charter Board Policy 1.1 Philosophy and Beliefs
Charter Board Policy 1.2 Goals, Outcomes and Strategies
AP Section 200 - Instructional Programs and Materials

Date of Adoption: April 12, 1999
Date of Revision: December 5, 2003, October 20, 2015
Due for Review: October 20, 2018