AGENDA ~ 6:30 – 7:00 PM

Graeme Finlay  Introduction  ~ Gifted from the Inside Out
Serah George  Why HS at Westmount?
John Poole  Why HS at Westmount?
Dani Sever  HS  Framework
Laurie Alisat  Wrap-Up & Open House Instructions
Giftedness: “Who you are” not “What you do”

*Giftedness is a greater awareness, a greater sensitivity, and a greater ability to understand and transform perceptions into intellectual and emotional experiences*.

At Westmount:

- Our focus is on the whole child.
  
  *We see the child first then the student.*

- We strive for each student to know themselves and their potential

  *Achievement is an outcome not the starting point.*

- We recognize that each student is unique.

  *Each student is programmed based on what they need to be appropriately challenged.*

- We know that school is more than just academics.

  *We provide multiple opportunities beyond the classroom for students to engage in activities of interest.*
MORE than a matter of TIME

Mastery Learning
Personalization
Flexible Learning Environments
Home and Community Involvement
Assessment
Meaningful Relationships
Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum
Educator Roles and Professional Development
Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe
Meaningful Relationships
*FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE 6*

Personalization
*FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE 2*

Flexible Learning Environments
*FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE 3*

Rigorous & Relevant Curriculum
*FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE 7*
MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

“Teachers are not teaching to a group of students – they are teaching individuals who they know and care about. This results in a dramatic shift in instructional pedagogy and in the atmosphere of the school.” (Norbert Baharally, 2012)

• Approximately 440 students Grades 9 – 12 (100/grade – exception grade 10 bubble)
• Fewer students per teacher with increased frequency of connection over 4 year span (teaching student multiple times) – hard for a student to move through a program underground
• SOURCE (Teacher – Advisor Program)
• Extra-Curricular Clubs and Teams (36+ for 2018/2019)
• Building Relationships cross-grades - extra-curricular/curricular/mentorships ie. Teams/HEROES program/Model UN, tutors, mentors
PERSONALIZATION

• All students have Individual Program Plans – coordinated through their SOURCE teacher, authored by student, teachers and Student Services

• Flexible learning environments – see next page

• Courses designed for gifted learners – examples:
  • Learning Strategies, Yoga and Mindfulness, STEM/humanities options, AP/Dual Enrollment, PE Flex

• Extensive Support in Student Services - Room 204
  * Needs of gifted (including 2E) understood and programmed for accordingly
  • 2 Guidance Counsellors, 1 Provisional Psychologist
  • 1 Career Counsellor
  • 4 Learning Strategists
  • 1 English Language Learning Strategist(ELL strategist)
  • 10 TLA’s
  • 2 Wellness Strategists
FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

• Teaching and learning highly driven by personalized needs of gifted learners
• Creates a need for flexible learning environments:
  • Flexible pacing (Acceleration or Course Extensions)
  • Flexible groupings (regroupings)
  • Multiple instructional methods (direct instruction/project-based/Inquiry/self-paced)
  • Student choice and advocacy – increases engagement, independence, critical thinking
  • Enriched curriculum
• Formal and informal examples:
  • PE Flex 10/20/30
  • Career and Technology Studies/ADST 10
  • Acceleration practice (course challenges, curriculum compacting, continuous progress/self-pacing)
RIGOROUS & RELEVANT CURRICULUM

• Programming directly related to Alta Ed. learning outcomes and competencies
• Experiential Learning
  • Field Trips – foundational in programming
  • Large Outdoor-Education Program 15/25/35
• Integrated/Cross-Curricular
  • Formal (Humanities 9 & 10, Kaboom 9) and Informal (teacher-collaborative projects)
• Fine and Performing Arts (Art, Drama and Music Program)
• Second Language Program (Spanish – 6Y and French – 9Y)
• Dual Credit (AP) and Dual Enrollment (MRU/U of C) Opportunities
  • AP Biology, AP Physics, Math 31/35AP, English Literature AP, Studio Art AP, Statistics
  • AP Economics
  • MRU Biology (Biology 1202/1204) and U of C Math (Math 265/211/277)
More information

More information regarding our philosophy and programming can be found on our website:  https://www.westmouncharter.com/

Academic programming: https://www.westmountcharter.com/grade-5-12-programming/
Student support: https://www.westmountcharter.com/grade-5-12-student-support/