WE ARE A CHARTER SCHOOL

- Publicly Funded
- Elected School Board
- Specific Educational Mandate to teach intellectually Gifted students.

Please see information regarding our Charter under “Explore Westmount”
“Students are gifted when they demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement) when compared to others of their age, experience, and environment. Asynchronous development, a critical aspect of giftedness, combines advanced cognitive abilities and heightened intensity to create inner experiences and awareness that are qualitatively atypical and require modifications in teaching and counselling.”
Gifted students not only think differently from most others, they also feel differently.

- Heightened sense of awareness
- Sensitivity to surroundings
- Highly aware of self and others
- Show concern for others and highly critical of self
- At times, out of step in the world

From this perspective, giftedness is not equated only to high academic achievement. Giftedness is how you are wired, not what you produce.
It is MOST IMPORTANT to ensure an appropriate alignment between the needs of gifted students and the school’s program.

Westmount Charter School’s primary objective IS NOT high achievement. We value and encourage good marks, but our #1 priority is best programming for intellectually gifted learners, not high marks. If high marks is the most important objective for you and your child, please seriously consider this before applying.
To provide students who are gifted an authentic educational experience that:

- Supports need, ability and potential
- Provides opportunities for inner growth
- Develops genuine relationships, and
- Is facilitated by empathetic, passionate, creative educators whose ethical practice develops lifelong learners.
TWICE EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS

Westmount Charter School’s inclusive student population is highly diverse with up to 20% requiring special education supports, on top of their primary gifted needs. These supports may include:

- Student Services Team: Counsellors, Learning Strategists, Teaching and Learning Assistants
- Individualized Program Plans; accommodations, modifications
- Assistive Technology
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND PRACTICES

- Acceleration
- Enrichment
- Individualized and personalized programming supporting each student’s unique profile
- Flexible programming in terms of the pace and level of instruction
- Dual Enrollment
- Cross-Grade or Multi-Age Grouping
- Course or Grade Advancement
- Independent Study
- Seminars and Tutorials
Approximate Population

- Elementary K - 4: 420 students
- Middle School 5 - 12: 880 students

Total population: 1300 students

*Typically, 4 classes per grade from K - Gr 8
Students automatically move to the mid high in Grade 5. They do not need to reapply once they’ve been accepted into Westmount Charter School.

There is limited space is grade 5 only due to a class size increase between campuses.
There is extremely limited space for grade 6 - 8.
There is more availability in grade 9 and 10.
Please see Step #3 on the mid-high admission pages for detailed information.
APPROXIMATE CLASS SIZE

- Grade 5: 27
- Grade 6: 27
- Grade 7: 28
- Grade 8: 28
- Grade 9 is the beginning of High School and scheduled as such

- Class sizes based on the previous 5 year average.
- Based on student need and complexity.
- Can vary minimally from these numbers.
- Complex learners may have the support of a TLA for part of their day.
$100 Registration Deposit only if space is offered.
The $100 deposit is applied as a credit to 2020-2021 fees.
Balance of fees are collected in October.
Total instructional fees are $230 - $285 per year depending on grade level.
Option classes may charge additional fees.
Bussing fees are applied separately.

https://www.westmountcharter.com/parents/school-fees/
Under the School Act, charter schools are not obliged to provide transportation. Nevertheless, we do.

- Fee based
  - Partially Alberta Education paid
  - Partially parent paid
- 12 bus routes
- Full time riders & part time riders
- Must live 2.4 km or more from the school
- Expect bus rides averaging 60 – 75 minutes
- Visit Westmount Charter School Website for specifics

http://www.westmountcharter.com/pdfs/transportation_overview.pdf
... it is critical that your child be described as accurately as possible.

Inflating a child’s abilities may result in his/her placement in a program with a pace and complexity that will be too difficult to keep up with. This may be damaging to a child’s self-concept and self-esteem.

**Please note**: Providing incomplete or inaccurate information about a child may result in a recommendation that the child be removed from the program.
HOW TO APPLY....
STEP 1:

- Obtain Intelligence Testing (Psychological Assessment). FAQ can be found on website in Step #2 on the Mid-High Admissions pages.

NOTE: We do not offer assessments through Westmount Charter School.

- Westmount Charter School is looking for evidence that a child’s scores meet the recommended criteria for Gifted and Talented, which is a **Full Scale IQ (FSIQ) score** or a **General Abilities Index (GAI) score** of 130 +/- 5.
Step 2 – Complete, sign and submit the application package by February 28, 2020.

A complete application must include:

- Application pages
- Demographic Overview
- Parent Inventory for Finding Potential (PIP)
- Teacher Inventory of Learning Strengths (TILS).

The TILS is an important tool for us to better understand your child, but it will not affect your application if you are not able to find someone to complete the form. The TILS can be completed by a teacher, coach or community member who understands your child. Please mark N/A and include the form with the application package even if the form has not been completed.
Step 2 (Continued)

Application must also include supporting documentation…

*Photocopies* of:

- **ONE (1) copy only of current psychological assessment**
- Birth certificate
- Immigration documents (if applicable)
- Social/Behavioral assessment (if applicable)
- An Individual Program Plan (IPP)
- Recent report card  ➔ June Final or current

** Please note, we are unable to make copies for you. Please obtain your copies elsewhere.
STEP 3 — Receive notification of receipt of application through email to the PRIMARY email address indicated on your application.

**Please note:**

Applications to Westmount are not on a “first-come-first-served” basis. All applications received by February 28, 2020 will be carefully reviewed at one time (by grade grouping) for consideration for admission to Westmount Charter School.

Westmount Charter School consistently receives more applications than it has spots for. Although your child may qualify to attend Westmount they may be placed on a waiting list until the end of September 2020, or have his or her application discontinued.
STEP 4 – Receive Notification of Decision regarding suitability to our program and whether or not we will proceed with the application.

**Timeline:**

- **February 2020** – our current students are asked to re-register to secure their space at Westmount. Available space (if any) for the 2020 – 2021 school year is then determined.

- **February 28, 2020** – deadline to submit an application for grade 5 through 12.

- **Early March 2020** – the Intake Committee (typically 5 members per grade) thoroughly reviews each application to determine suitability for our program.

- **April 2020** - The PRIMARY parent/guardian of all applicants will be notified by email regarding the status of their applications.

- **March 23 – April 6, 2020** – Spring Break at Westmount Charter School.

**These emails are not an offer of placement. Offers will be emailed separately from this process after Spring break.**
What does “suitability to the school’s program” mean?

Determining “Suitability” is based on:

1) The results and recommendations of the psychological assessment
   - WISC, WAIS-IV, Stanford-Binet
2) Parent Inventory of for Finding Potential (PIP)
3) Teacher Inventory of Learning Strengths (TILS) if available
4) Other significant factors of student need indicated in the application package
5) Review of application package by all members of the Intake team (Typically 5 members for each grade)
STEP 5 – OFFER and Acceptance of Placement Offer

- An offer of placement will be sent separately by email to the PRIMARY contact with instructions on how to proceed.

- Parents/guardians will have a specified deadline to accept placement offers.

- If there is no response by the date listed on your offer email, we will attempt one phone call and one reminder email.

- If a placement spot is declined or there is still no response, we will rescind our offer and move on to the next candidate on our waitlist. A final email will be sent as confirmation.
“When the number of students qualifying for admission to the school is greater than the number of available positions, placement will be offered to the students identified by the assessment process as demonstrating characteristics of giftedness most appropriate to the school’s program. Any other qualifying students will be eligible to be placed on a list of qualified candidates.

Please note: being placed on a list of qualified candidates does not guarantee eventual placement.

We do not keep a waitlist from year to year. If we are unable to offer your son or daughter a space at Westmount for the upcoming school year, you will need to reapply for each school year with a completely new application package. Assessments are considered valid for 3 – 5 years.

When the number of students applying for admission is less than the number of available positions, those students shall be offered the placement provided they meet the acceptance criteria of the assessment process.”
Appeals of decisions made by the Intake Committee may be requested if:

- an error has been made in recording information from the application;
- the application was processed in a way that is not consistent with the one described or posted on the WCS website or Administrative Policy 300 – Student Selection;
- An appeal may result in information or processes being corrected. The correction may not necessarily change the final decision of the Intake Committee.

Please note: We are not able to respond to appeals based on reasons other than those listed above.

- Appeals must be received by email to the principal within 7 days of receipt of the decision email being sent.
- Email responses to appeals will be sent to parents/guardians within one week of receiving the Appeal request.
- Appeals of the principal’s decision may be made to the Superintendent.