

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”

WESTMOUNT'S DEFINITION OF GIFTEDNESS

“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.”

GIFTEDNESS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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.

PRIMARY NEEDS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

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.

WESTMOUNT'S MISSION

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

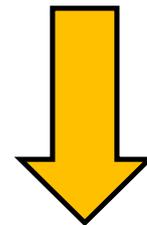
APPROXIMATE POPULATION

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

Total population: 1300 students

*Typically, 4 classes per grade from K - Gr 8

FACILITIES



Elementary Campus

728 32 Street NW

Kindergarten to Grade 4



- 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.

Mid-High Campus

2215 Uxbridge Drive NW

Grade 5 – Grade 12



- There is limited space in 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.

FEES

- \$100 Registration Deposit only if space is offered.
- The \$100 deposit is applied as a credit to 2023-2024 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.
- Based on 2022-2023 fee structure. Fees may change for 2023-2024.
- Bussing fees are applied separately.

BUSING

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

<https://www.westmountcharter.com/transportation/part-time-busing>

http://www.westmountcharter.com/pdfs/transportation_overview.pdf

WHEN APPLYING TO OUR PROGRAM

... 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 online application in School Engage by **February 15, 2023 at 3:00 pm.**

A complete application must include:

- Scanned copies of required documents:
- See next slide for list of required documents.
- **Teacher Inventory of Learning Strengths (TILS)**
- ❖ Our **preference would be your child's current homeroom teacher**, a resource teacher or guidance counselor who has recently worked with your child or an administrator at your child's current school. However, we understand that some schools will not allow teachers or staff members to complete forms for external schools. While your child will not be penalized if the teacher is not able to fill out the form, you are also welcome to have a coach/piano teacher/tutor (someone other than a relative who knows your child well) complete the form. **If you are unable to have a TILS completed, it will not impact your child's application.**

Step 2



Application must also include supporting documentation...

Scanned .PDF documents ready to upload:

- **Psychological Assessment** (3-5 years) (*Required document*)
- **Birth Certificate** (*Required document*)
- **“WHY WESTMOUNT”** for your child – Parents: What made you look into Westmount for educational programming for your child? (*Required document*)
- Most recent **report card** – June final or current (*Required document*)
- Immigration Documentation, *if applicable*. Canadian Passport preferred, however this may also include a Permanent Residency Card, Work Visa, Student Visa, Permanent Landed Immigrant papers or a Canadian Citizenship Card.
- Any assessment documentation other than the Psychological Assessment i.e. assessment to address social/emotional/behavioural concerns.
- An Individual Program Plan (IPP) associated with behavioral intervention funding, Program Unit Funding (PUF), or any Severe Disabilities funding.
- Custody or Guardianship documentation if applicable.



STEP 3 — Receive notification of **receipt** of application via email to the PRIMARY parent/guardian email address as provided through the SchoolEngage account.

****Please note:**

Applications to Westmount are **not** on a “first-come-first-served” basis. All applications received by February 15, 2023 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 2023, 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 2023 – our current students are asked to re-register to secure their space at Westmount. Available space (if any) for the 2023 – 2024 school year is then determined.
- ❖ February 15, 2023 – deadline to submit an application for grade 5 through 12.
- ❖ Early March 2023 – the Intake Committee (typically 5 members per grade) thoroughly reviews each application to determine suitability for our program.
- ❖ Late March 2023 - The SchoolEngage account holder for each applicant will be notified by email regarding the status of their applications and the appropriate next steps.
- ❖ March 24 – April 10, 2023 – Spring Break at Westmount Charter School.

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) Teacher Inventory of Learning Strengths (TILS) if available
- 3) Other significant factors of student need indicated in the application package
- 4) 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.

APPLICATIONS TO WCS

- ◉ “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 submission. 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

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.