

Report to Council

Mid High Principal - Sept. 2024

Welcome to Westmount!

Welcome
BACK to
SCHOOL

Westmount Mid High is thrilled to welcome nearly 900 students (894 to be exact) to our campus for the upcoming school year! A special welcome goes out to the 92 new Grade 5 students joining us from the Elementary campus, along with the 57 students who are brand new to Westmount. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year with all of our students and their families!

Welcome Mr. Seamus Doyle

I wanted to introduce myself. My name is Seamus Doyle and I'm excited to join the administration team as an assistant principal at the Mid-High campus. This year will mark the beginning of my 21st year at Westmount Charter School. During that time, I have been involved in teaching a wide variety of subjects from grades 6 through 12. Early on I also joined the student services team with a specific interest in academic skill support for gifted students. My school activities through the years have included helping to establish and coach the school's first rugby team, as well as coaching curling. Also, I have taken part in several curricular initiatives including interdisciplinary programs, team teaching and advanced placement in order to expand the ways by which students have experienced learning at the school. On a personal note, I continue to play saxophone with Westwinds Music and have spent many years involved in soccer as a player and coach.

I look forward to meeting and working with even more students, parents and staff at the school to support their needs and explore ideas for continuing to make Westmount a vibrant and innovative environment for gifted students.



Westmount Personal Device and Technology Policy

School Happenings

Westmount Charter School is committed to fostering a safe and supportive educational environment. In line with this mission, and in compliance with Alberta Education's Ministerial Order (014/2024), we have established clear policies and procedures to guide students and staff on the responsible use of technology and cell phones at our Mid High campus.

The implementation of this new policy has significantly transformed the atmosphere during both class time and lunch. Staff and students alike have observed an increase in face-to-face interactions and positive social engagement. Below are photos showcasing the meaningful connections that are becoming more and more common across our campus.

Thank you to everyone for your support in making this positive change possible.



School Happenings

Cross Country Running



Our Cross Country team is off to a running start! (pun intended) We have had a best ever turn out and are looking forward to a great fall season.

Mid-School races: Wednesdays starting at 4:00pm (locations to be provided to athletes on the lead up Monday)

High School races: Thursday starting around 4:00-4:30pm (day and start times will be announced)

Fans and Families are always encouraged to come out and cheer on our competitors!

Volleyball

Volleyball tryouts are underway as we finalize our Senior Girls, Junior Boys, and Junior Girls teams. The Senior Boys team, however, was formed at the end of last school year after receiving special permission from the league. This early formation was necessary as they have been invited to participate in a series of exhibitions in Hawaii this fall, allowing them time to fundraise and prepare.



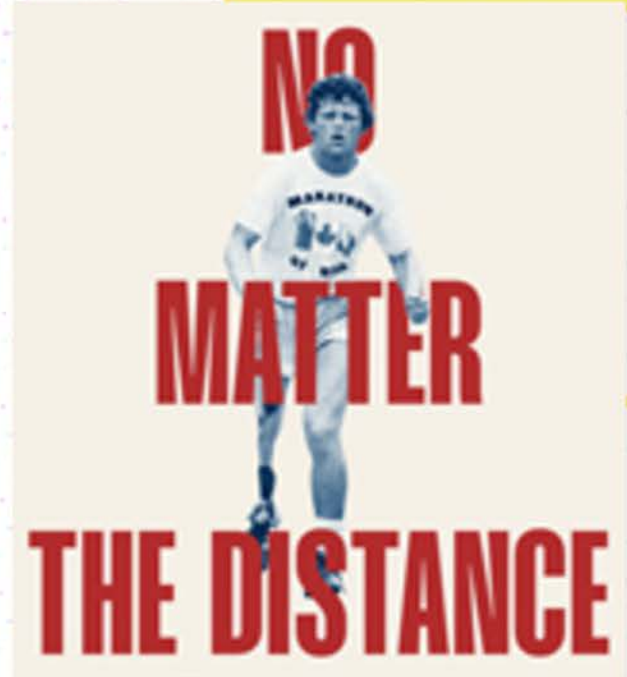
School Happenings

Terry Fox

In honor of those who have battled and/or are currently battling cancer, we are coming together for the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope on Friday, Sept. 20th.

If you would like to donate to this years event, you can do so here:

Terry Fox Westmount Donation Link:
<https://schools.terryfox.ca/72685>



Band Head Start Clinics

We are happy to announce a new initiative in our Junior High Music Program this year.

In addition to the Grade 5 & 6's ,this year Grade 7s and Grade 8s will also have their own head start nights as brush-up lessons with professional musicians to support having a strong start to the year.

The Head Start night schedule is as follows:

Grade 8: September 10, 6:00- 8:00 pm

Grade 7: September 17, 6:00- 8:00 pm

Grade 6: October 1, 6:00- 8:00 pm

Grade 5: October 8, 6:00- 8:00 pm



Clubs

School Happenings

Clubs are a key part of what makes Westmount special. They offer students a chance to explore their interests and connect with like-minded peers. Westmount boasts a wide variety of clubs, and at the end of the month, we'll be hosting a digital club fair where students can learn all the details—when, where, and what each club offers.

In the meantime, students can find out which clubs have already started by checking the announcements or the TU at the school entrance.

Here are a few examples of clubs that are already up and running.

NEW WCS Club this Year | Investment Club



Crochet/Amigurumi Club begins next Week!



Interested in yearbook this year? Join our club!

WCS Debate Society is looking for new debaters!

The Westmount Charter Debate Club invites you to come to our weekly meetings!



School Happenings

Memory Project

In what has become an annual tradition for Ms. Siegle's Art students, our talented young artists had the opportunity, through memoryproject.org, to bring joy by creating portraits for children who have faced significant hardships. This year, they were partnered with students in India who have experienced the challenges of being separated from their parents due to death, neglect, or abuse.



EcoSchool Certification

Sept. 10, 2024

We are a certified
EcoSchool!



WESTMOUNT CHARTER SCHOOL

Due to the wonderful effort of the Eco-Actions of our staff and students last year, Westmount Charter Mid High has received the Gold status for EcoSchools!

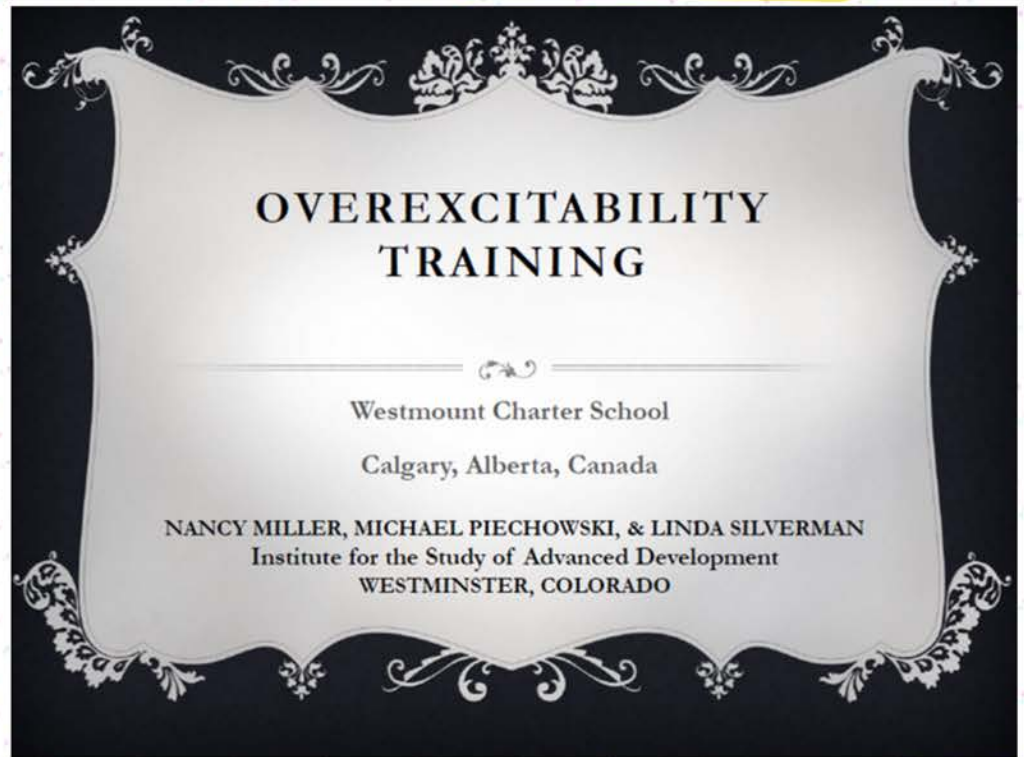
Can't wait to continue our eco-actions for the 2024-2025 school year.

As well, we are excited to announce we will be part of the successful A+ Energy Grant for the 2024-2025 year!

Over Excitability Training

On August 29th, Westmount staff had the privilege of participating in a specialized training on Overexcitabilities (OEs) and giftedness. Led by world-renowned experts Nancy Miller, Michal Piechowski, and Linda Silverman, the session covered the history and research behind OEs and provided valuable insights on how to better understand and support our gifted students from the inside out.

Staff Happenings



Shaping School Culture



On Friday, August 30th, Westmount staff had the opportunity to work with Judy Riege, a highly respected leadership coach, to explore how we can create the best version of ourselves. This session served as the launch of our theme, "Shaping Westmount Culture." Staff delved into the importance of self-awareness as a key factor in shaping both our own growth and the experiences of our students at Westmount.