



Friday, August 29, 2025

Dear Westmount Charter School Families,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year at Westmount Charter School! We hope that you and your children have had a restful summer and are ready to embark on another year filled with curiosity, creativity, and meaningful learning experiences. At Westmount, our vision of fostering gifted education from the inside out guides everything we do, supporting students not only to excel academically, to grow as thoughtful, compassionate, and resilient individuals.

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, we want to share important information regarding recent updates to Alberta's Education Act. These changes, made through the Education Amendment Act, 2024 (formerly Bill 27), take effect on September 1, 2025, and apply to all school authorities in Alberta, including charter schools like Westmount.

#### Key Updates and New Administrative Procedures

##### **1. Extracurricular Student Competitive Athletics and Compliance with Fairness and Safety in Sport – AP 318**

- Westmount Charter School will follow the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act (formerly Bill 29) for all extracurricular athletics starting September 1, 2025.
- Female-only divisions are reserved for athletes who are biologically female.
- Co-ed or mixed-sex divisions are encouraged, providing opportunities for transgender and non-binary students to participate meaningfully.
- Policies for eligibility, supervision, and participation will be enforced to ensure a safe, fair, and inclusive environment for all student athletes.

##### **2. At-Home Learning – AP 331**

- Updated at-home learning policies will be implemented to ensure continuity of learning during emergencies.
- These policies outline when and how at-home or blended learning may be used, how learning will continue if in-person classes are unavailable, and what supports are provided to ensure students remain engaged and supported.

##### **3. Student Identity and Parental Consent for Sensitive Content – AP 370**

- If a student under 18 requests to use a new name or pronouns related to their gender identity, parents will be notified.
- For students under 16, parental consent is required before staff can use the new name or pronouns at school.
- In cases where notification may cause emotional or psychological harm, the school will provide counselling or other support first.

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*Fostering Gifted Education from the Inside Out*

- Classroom lessons that deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality require at least 30 days' notice to parents/guardians and written opt-in consent. Parents/guardians may choose to partially or fully opt their child in.
- Teaching materials and external presenters on these topics must receive Ministerial approval (unless used for religious instruction).

### **Additional Resources**

For further information on these updates, please refer to the following Administrative Procedures (AP) found on our website at

<https://www.westmountcharter.com/about/admin-procedures/>:

- AP 318: Extracurricular Student Competitive Athletics and Compliance with Fairness and Safety in Sport
- AP 331: At-Home Learning
- AP 370: Student Identity and Parental Consent for Sensitive Content

At Westmount, we are dedicated to nurturing each child's unique talents and encouraging their growth from within - academically, socially, and emotionally. We are especially proud that in 2026, Westmount Charter School will mark its 30th anniversary. This milestone is a chance to honour our history as one of Alberta's first charter schools, and an opportunity to celebrate the vibrant community of students, families, and staff who continue to shape our vision of gifted education.

We look forward to partnering with you and your children as we embark on a year of learning, exploration, and discovery together. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Should you have any questions about these updates or any aspect of the upcoming school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Adriana Klassen  
Superintendent  
Westmount Charter School