



Westmount Secondary School Information Night November 29, 2018

Self-Directed, Self-Paced Program

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Land Acknowledgement

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.



Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Westmount Model
 - Similarities
 - Differences
 - Skills for Success
- Student Voice: Grade 9 Reflections
- Admission Process and Timelines
- Next Steps



School Council Chair:

Mr. Mohammad Alizadeh Najmi

westmountSC@hwdsb.on.ca

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Student Services Department

Ms. Jennifer Currie, (A-E)

Mr. Mike Armstrong, (F-L)

Ms. Jyoti Nagpal, (M-Q)

Ms. Heather Rex, (R-Z)

Ms. Roberta Haddad, Student Success



Learning Resource Department

Ms. Rachael Proulx

Ms. Maria Papalia-Potvin

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Westmount Administration

Ms. Geeta Malhotra, Principal

Mr. Joshua Connor, Vice-Principal (A-L)

Ms. Andrea Moore, Vice-Principal (M-Z)



At Westmount, we believe
we can change the world!

Together, what can we do to create an
inclusive, world-class school that ensures
the success of all students?

curiosity

creativity

possibility



How it's the same as other schools:

4 classes every day

Attend every day

Specialized programs (SHSMs)

Same Ontario curriculum /diploma

Teachers for every class

Enriched courses

Homework Club & Learning Resource

Full offering of clubs and teams

Blended learning models and elearning options

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Westmount School Day

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| PERIOD 1 | 8:40 - 9:55 am |
| PERIOD 2 | 10:03 - 11:18 am |
| PERIOD 3 | 11:23 - 12:38 pm |
| PERIOD 4 | 12:40 - 1:55 pm |
| PERIOD 5 | 2:00 - 3:15 pm |

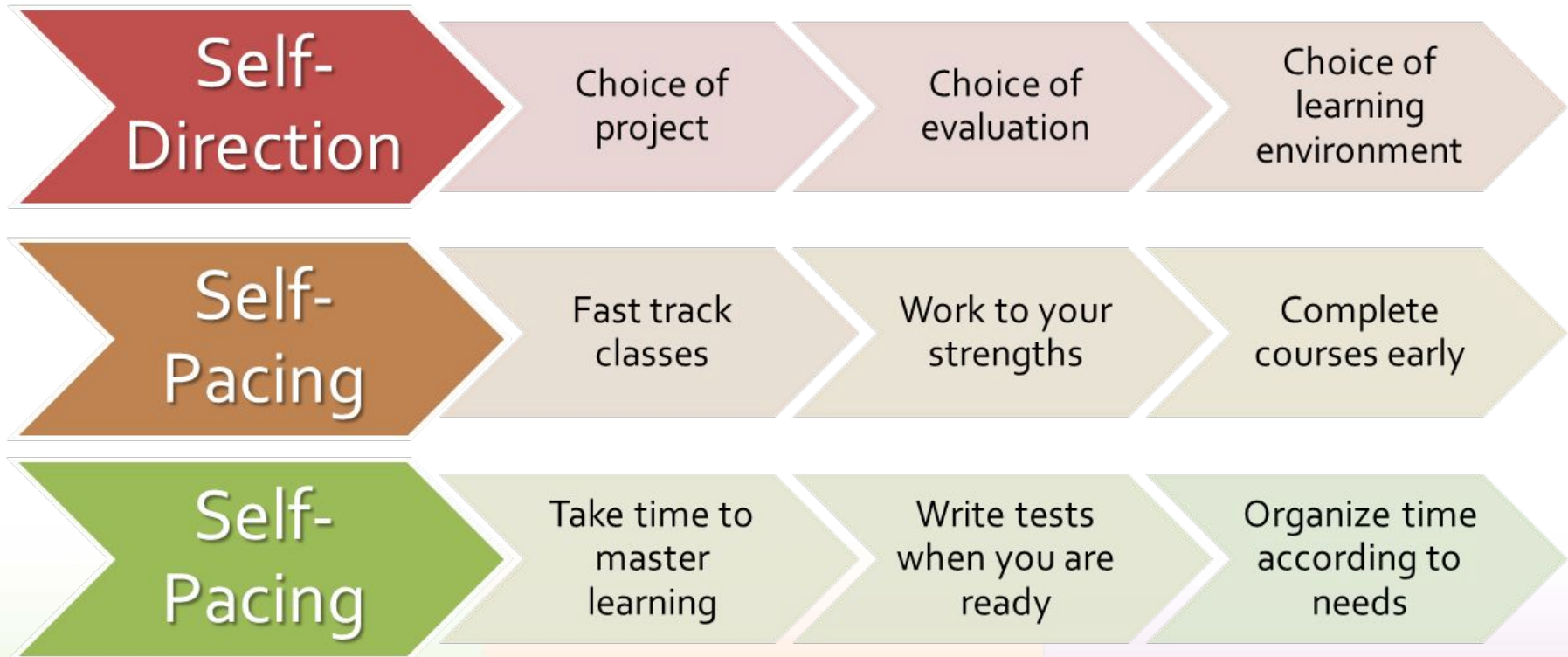
curiosity

creativity

possibility



How it's different from other schools:



curiosity

creativity

possibility



How Might Students Self-Direct?

- Students can collaborate with their teachers and determine how to demonstrate the expected learning
- Students may do inquiries based on interest
- Teachers value student voice and choice

curiosity

creativity

possibility

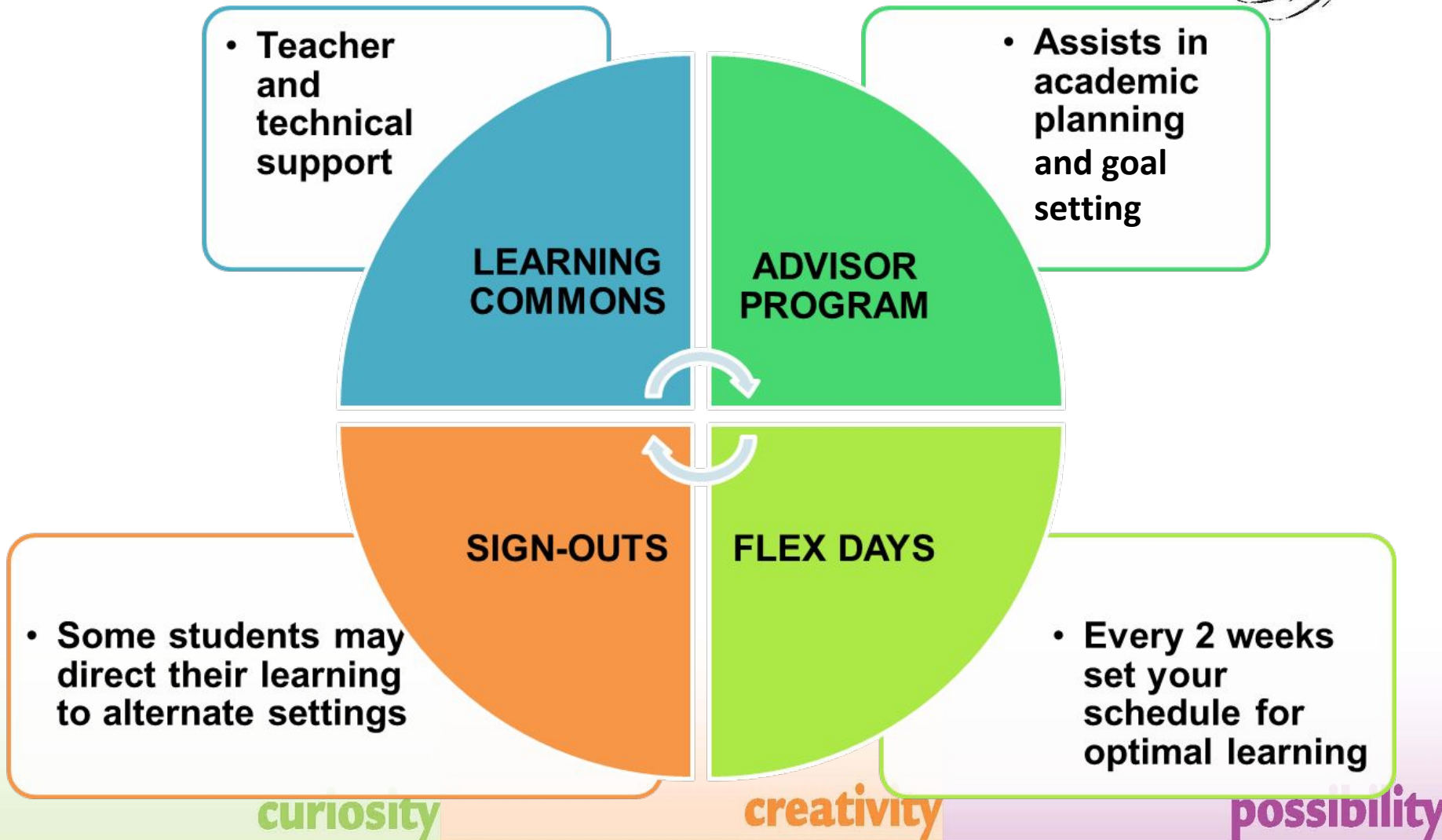


How Might Students Self-Pace?

- Students may work to their strengths – working faster in some subjects
- Students may also plan to take more time to be successful in a subject they find challenging
- Intentional collaboration among teacher, student and parent/caregiver

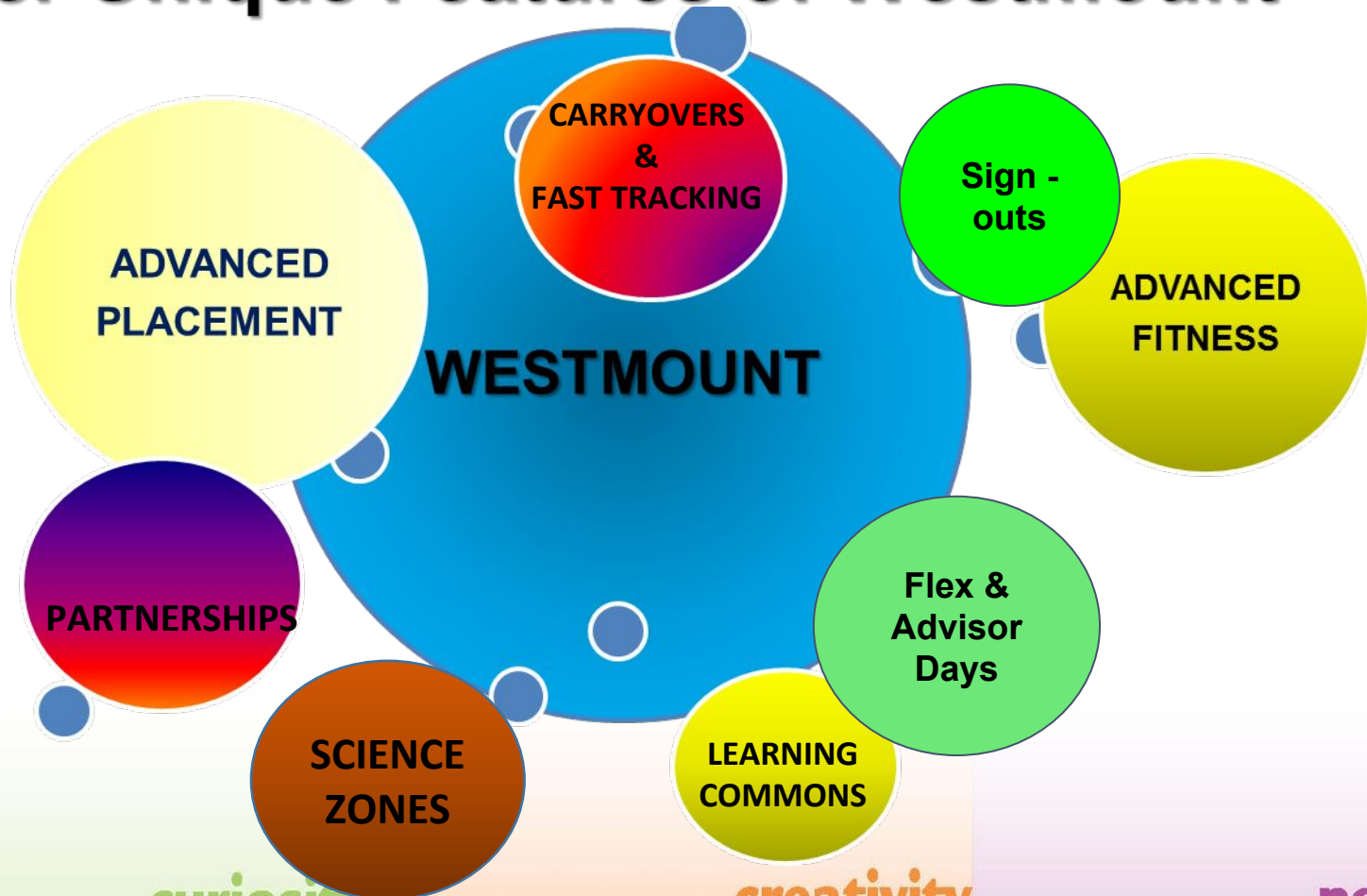


Supports in Self-Direction and Self-Pacing





Other Unique Features of Westmount



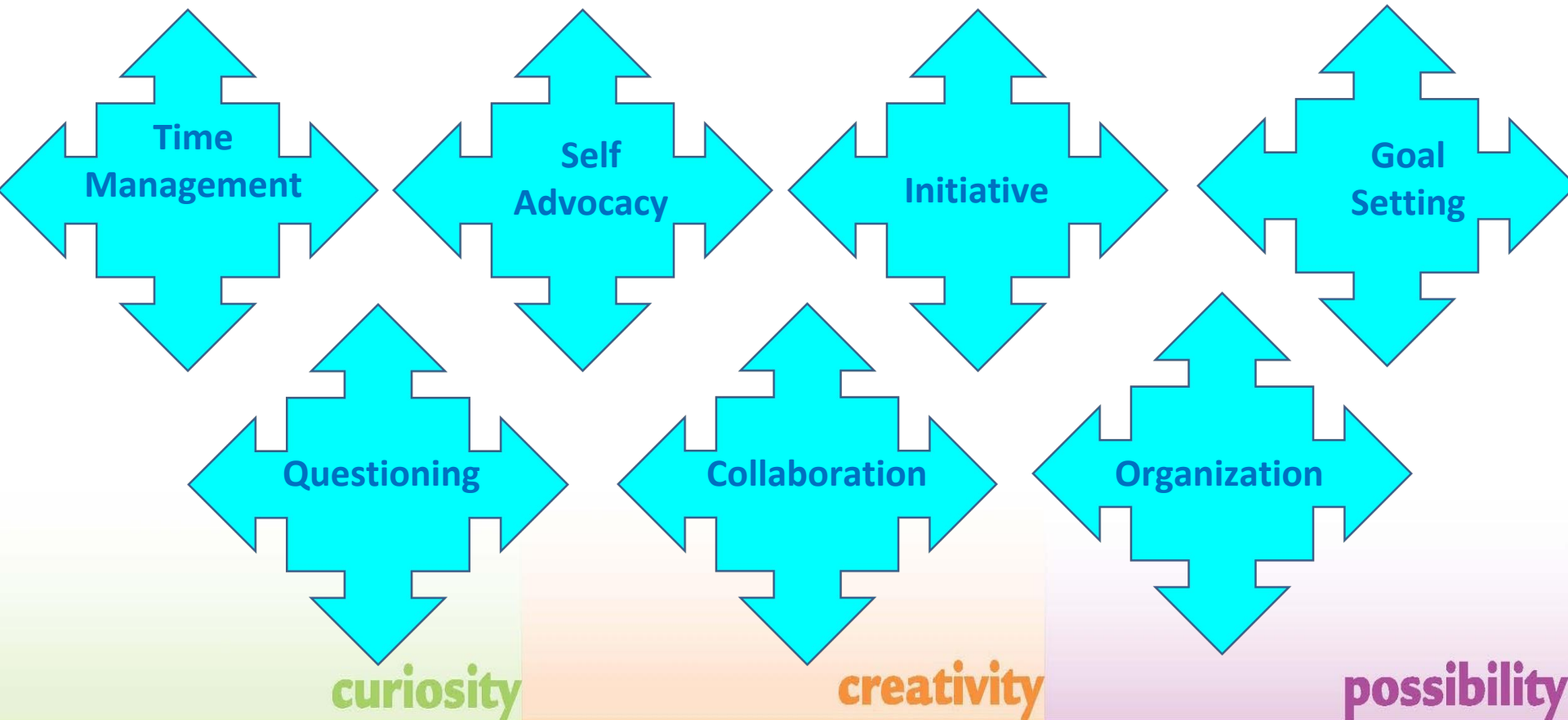
curiosity

creativity

possibility



What skills support a self-directed, self-paced program?





What does the Grade 9 Experience feel like?

Student Voices:

Jeneen and Tia

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Myth Busting: The Westmount Program

MYTH

REALITY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Attendance is optional | At Westmount, we know that attending school is important. It gives students a chance to conference with their teachers, receive feedback on learning, collaborate with peers, ask questions and receive direct instruction. We expect students to attend daily. |
| Flex day attendance is optional | Flex days are designed for students to practice planning and to structure their day to maximize learning. On these days, departments offer ways to enhance or extend learning in one subject area, for example, by bringing in guest speakers or focusing on more hands-on work. |
| Teachers only teach two days | In-class lessons occur on any day of the week. As well, teachers conference with students 1:1 on a regular basis. |
| Westmount is a booklet-driven program | Every course has some form of Course Guide that supports student self-pacing. These are not worksheets or fill-in-the-blank booklets to be completed alone. Each course also uses a variety of other teaching resources such as The Hub, texts, iPads, etc. |

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Myth Busting: The Westmount Program

MYTH

REALITY

We are an independent learning school

We are a self-directed learning program that promotes student self-pacing. Students work with their teachers to understand why they are learning (curriculum expectations), how to demonstrate their learning and what to learn, based on their interests and strengths. Self-pacing lets students learn at their own pace; within guidelines, they can decide when and where to learn, as long as they are progressing in class. Self-advocacy and initiative are key skills needed for success.

We are the best school for students struggling with anxiety

We have a wonderfully inclusive and welcoming environment but Westmount may not be a good fit for all students. Although we have some flexibility, we expect daily attendance. Students who are successful need to set and achieve their own goals because due dates are self-imposed. For some, this adds pressure. It is also a busy place as the largest school in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB). Deciding if Westmount is a good fit for a student should be done on a case-by-case basis, considering each student's individual needs.

It is okay to carry any courses over

At Westmount, we expect students to finish courses within the semester. Carrying courses over is a strategy enabling fast tracking (working ahead) or as a support for students who may need more time for a variety of reasons.

Creating opportunities for our students to change the world!

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Compulsory courses for Grade 9 students

English

- Academic
- Applied
- Enriched
- Locally Developed

Math

- Academic
- Applied
- Enriched
- Locally Developed

Science

- Academic
- Applied
- Enriched
- Locally Developed

Geography

- Academic
- Applied
- Enriched
- Locally Developed

French*

- Academic
- Applied
- Open

*Students choose a class from each subject area
(for more information see course descriptions)*

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Elective Courses for Grade 9 students

The Arts

- Beginner & Experienced Music
- Drama
- Visual Arts
- Vocal Music

Business

Information and
Communication
Technology

Humanities

Exploring
Family
Studies

Technological Education

Exploring
Technologies

Physical Education

- Open (Male or Female)
- Advanced Fitness
- Mindfulness

(choose three)

curiosity

creativity

possibility



How to Become a Westmount Wildcat?

- January 17, 2019** Grade 8 Option Sheet/Parent Info Night 6-7 pm
- January 24, 2019** Final date for Notice of Intent to Attend 1 pm
Attach Grade 7 Final Report Card and Most Recent Grade 8 Report Card
- February 4, 2019** Student/parent informed about entry via email
- February 2019** HWDSB Grade 8 students enter option selections in Career Cruising from home and return the course sign sheet to Westmount. All non HWDSB students will be sent an e-option sheet that they must return along with their registration package to the school.



How to Become a Westmount Wildcat?

May 1, 2019

Wildcat Day

Registered Grade 9 students will be invited to Westmount for a morning of games and activities

**Tues Aug 28 &
Wed Aug 29 2019**

Westmount Grade 9 Orientation Program

Westmount will be hosting a two day program to transition students into the self-directed, self-paced school environment. Students will meet other grade 9 students, receive their timetable and locker, find their classrooms, and learn about the Westmount program. There will also be a focus on literacy, numeracy and learning skills for success. It is recommended for all new grade 9 students. Registration will occur in the spring.



Activities and Next Steps

- Notice of Intent to Attend available in the front foyer
- Self-directed tours: Tour sheets and maps available in the front foyer (You do not have to go in order- Choose any zone to start at)
- Cafeteria: Clubs and Teams displays
- Questions? Ask a student! Guidance / Administration in the AUD, department heads (see tour sheet)

