



Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

39 Montcalm Drive
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 4B1
Phone: 905.385.5395
Fax: 905.574.6020

EMAIL: westmount@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Lisa Farrugia, Heather Moffat
www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount

March 14, 2023

Dear Wildcats and Westmount Families,

We hope you are keeping well. Thank you for a great semester 2 start up. As we begin March Break, we wanted to share a few updates, key dates and reminders as special events are quickly approaching.

Preliminary Report Cards

Preliminary Report Cards will be sent home electronically to parents/caregivers on March 24th. This is a first formal check to see how courses are progressing. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to review these progress reports with their students.

Family-Teacher Interview Night

We will be holding Family-Teacher Interview Night on **Thursday, March 30th at Westmount Secondary School from 5:00-7:00 pm**. Caregivers will have an opportunity to meet semester 2 teachers and discuss student progress. Further information and link to book appointments online will be sent out next week. If parents/caregivers cannot make it that evening and would like to connect with subject teachers, please reach out to teachers by email or phone. Staff will follow up to set up a time to connect. Email contact information can be found in student agendas or on our website.

Homework Club

Westmount Homework Club is available for student support on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. During these times, support is offered by Westmount teachers, with a math/science focus. There will be a greater math focus on Mondays and more of a science focus on Wednesdays; however, staff can support both subjects on both days. Homework club is open to students in grades 9 and 10. Students should come to the Learning Commons after school on Monday or Wednesday to sign up for one or both days.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Any student currently in Grade 10 and any student who was previously unsuccessful (and not scheduled to take the OLC40 Grade 12 Literacy Course) will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on the morning of **Tuesday, April 4th**.

To prepare for the OSSLT, a Practice Test will be held on Wednesday, March 22nd during period 1 in the student's period 1 classroom. As well, students can practice on their own time by typing into a search engine: EQAO OSSLT Practice Test. This information was shared with students in their advisor class on Wednesday, March 8th.

The OSSLT is a graduation requirement and attendance is mandatory for students needing to write. If you and your child would like more information, please go to the EQAO website and look for OSSLT resources.



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For students not participating in the test, classrooms will be available to flex into during the morning. A common lunch for all students will take place from 11:45am to 1:00 pm and Periods 1 and 2 will run in the afternoon.

If you have any concerns about the April 4th test date because of religious observance or absence please reach out to the school through email (Westmount@hwdsb.on.ca) or call the school to speak to an administrator.

Commencement

Commencement for the Class of 2023 will take place on **Monday, May 29th at 4:30 pm at the First Ontario Concert Hall**. All Grade 12 students will have the opportunity to participate in this event. Students in Grade 11, graduating this year, will also be invited to participate. There is a \$60 fee, which covers the cost of six guest tickets and venue. The fee is to be paid via School Cash Online.

Participating students should arrive at 3:45 pm with their caps, gown and stoles. Additional details will be shared with students in the next few weeks.

Please note: A commencement celebration recognizes all students in a cohort year regardless of graduation status. This is different from graduation, which recognizes only students who are graduating. Students participating in Commencement are still required to attend classes until the end of the semester to ensure they meet their graduation requirements.

Gown/Cap/Stole Ordering

Students may order their gowns beginning March 20. A link will be sent to students as soon as it becomes available. The deadline for ordering is Monday, April 3rd. **No orders will be accepted after this date.**

The gown packages are a gift from Westmount Secondary School and there is no charge to students. Students are encouraged to wear the gowns/caps/stoles when participating in the ceremony.

Gown/Cap/Stole and Ticket Pick Up

Students who have ordered gowns may pick them up in the LC beginning the week of May 15. Students will receive an email with further instructions. Students participating in the commencement ceremony will receive six tickets.



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Graduation Photos

The make-up dates to have Graduation Photos taken with Prestige Portraits are scheduled at **Westmount Secondary School** for **March 27th - March 31st**. Students can now start booking appointments at <https://prestigeportraits.ca/>.

There is a \$35 sitting fee. If paying cash, please bring exact change.

Please note: All students who were scheduled on February 23rd have been moved to March 28th in the same time slot they had previously booked. This can be changed if needed. Affected students have been contacted at the email address provided at the time of booking to notify them of this change.

Family Wellness Workshops

Westmount's School Council is proud to present Wellness Workshops for families. We held our first session on February 27th with a focus on Nutrition. Our next two workshops will be held on March 27th (focus on Mental Health) and April 24th (focus on Movement for Healthy Development). If you are interested in attending in person or virtually please register using the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ag_-er6xq0ypdMQ6iyFWNPbZqVqxJAXOIHNb1Q3NJRUVUNVRUSTEwOVA2Vk9aNEpWVEtaNVZPWFFQMi4u

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the school. Have a healthy and safe March Break!

Sincerely,

Ms. Geeta Malhotra
Principal