



# **Westmount Secondary School**

## **Information Night**

### **November 26, 2025**

**HMDSB**



*"Self-Directed, Self-Paced Program"*

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WESTMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL

HWDSB

## 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 Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.



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# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Westmount Model
  - Similarities
  - Differences
  - Skills for Success
- Student Panel
- Admission Process and Timelines
- Next Steps

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WESTMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL

HWDSB

**Student Council Co-Presidents**  
Maple-Gin B. and Zachary L.

Follow us on Instagram:  
[@lifeatwestmount](https://www.instagram.com/lifeatwestmount)

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**School Council Chair**

**Brandi Marcy**

[WestmountSC@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:WestmountSC@hwdsb.on.ca)

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## **Westmount Administration**

**Ms. Geeta Malhotra, Principal**

**Ms. Annie Jos, Vice-Principal (A-L)**

**Mr. Dan Stepaniuk, Vice-Principal (M-Z)**



# Learning Resource Department

Mr. Michael Trink

*(Students with last names A - C)*

Ms. Maria Papalia-Potvin

*(Students with last names D – L)*

Mr. Adam Potvin

*(Students with last names M – R)*

Ms. Nicole Meyers

*(Students with last names S - Z)*



## Student Services Department

Ms. Andrea Lackovic (A-C)

Mr. Jon Vermeer (D - J)

Ms. Meredyth Keating (K - P)

Ms. Seema Narula (Q – Z)

Ms. Melissa Gauley, Student Success

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**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?**



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# How Westmount is the same as other schools:

Four Classes  
Every Day

Attend Every  
Day

Specialized  
Programs  
(SHSMs)

Same Ontario  
Curriculum /  
Diploma

Teachers for  
Every Class

Learning  
Resource

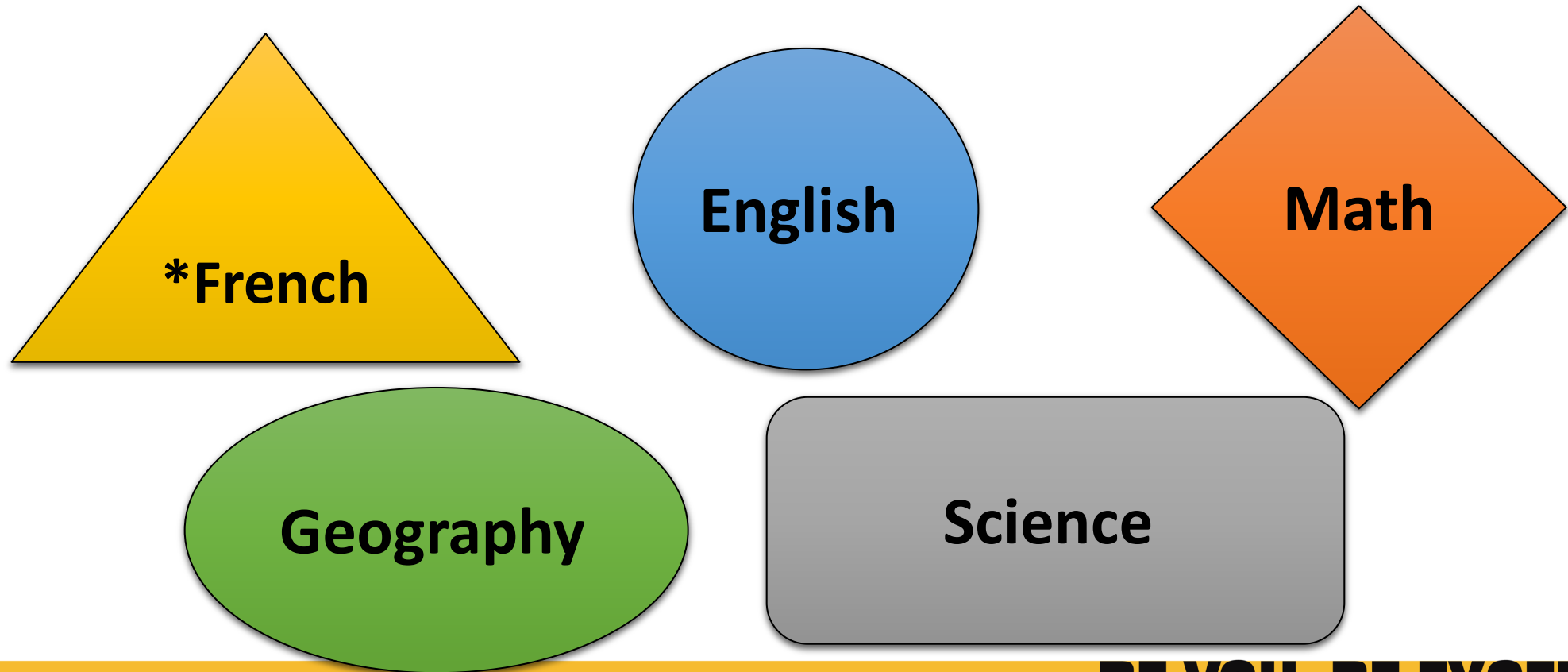
Full Offering  
of Clubs and  
Teams

eLearning  
Options

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# Compulsory courses for Grade 9 students

*Students will take the following compulsory courses*



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# Grade 9 Elective Courses

*Students take these courses at the 'open' level  
which comprise one set of expectations for all students.*



HMDSB

## The Arts \*

- Drama
- Visual Arts
- Arts and Crafts
- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music

## Business

- Building the entrepreneurial mindset

## Humanities

- Exploring Family Studies

## Technological Education \*

- Technology and the Skilled Trades

## Physical Education \*

- Healthy Active Living
- Advanced Fitness
- Mindfulness
- Aquatics

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## eLearning

- Westmount is a unique self-directed, self-paced program that is structured around face-to-face learning.
- We highly recommend that students take in person classes in grade 9 to build a strong foundation for their learning at Westmount
- Students wishing to take a full timetable of eLearning, should register with their home school.



# How Westmount is different from other schools:

**Self-Direction:** choice of project, choice of evaluation, choice of learning environment as negotiated with teachers

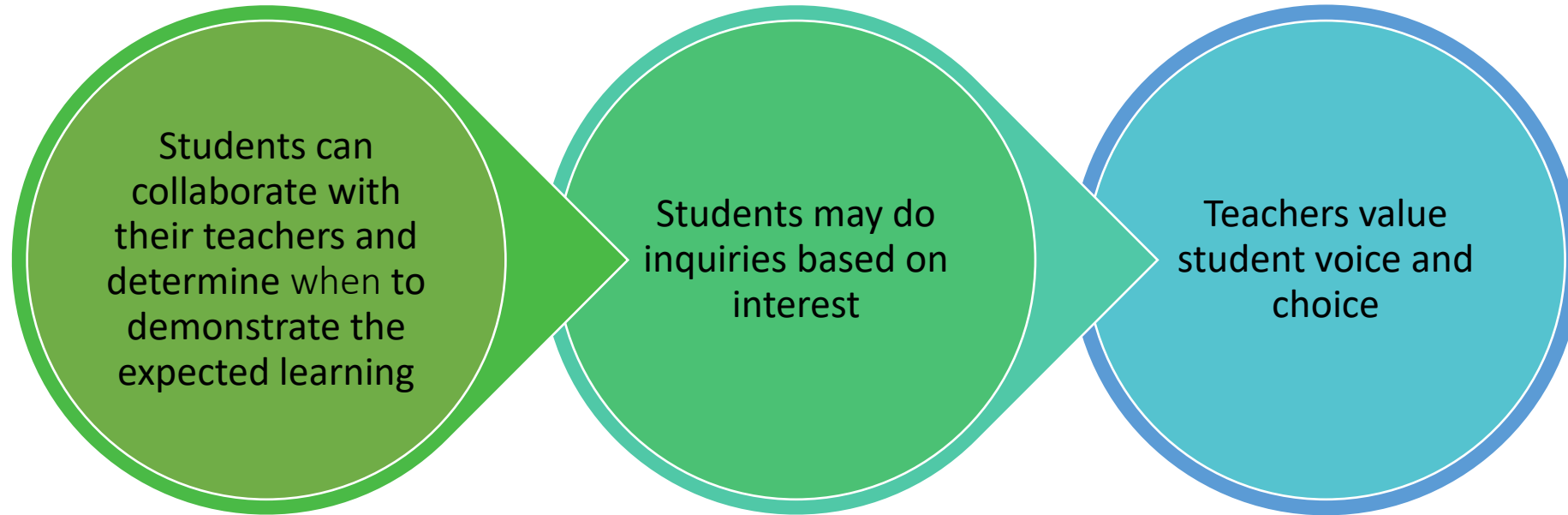
**Self-Pacing:** fast track classes, work to your strengths, complete courses early

**Self-Pacing:** take time to master learning, write tests when you are ready, organize time according to needs

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# How Might Students Self-Direct?



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# How Might Students Self-Pace?

Work to their strengths by working faster in some subjects

Take more time to be successful in a subject they find challenging

Participate in intentional collaboration with teachers and parents/caregivers

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## Supports in Self-Direction and Self-Pacing

**Learning Commons:** Technical Support, Resource Support, Teacher Support, and Collaborative space.

**Self-Directed Learning Days (SDL) and Sign-outs:** Students can direct their learning to alternate settings. SDL Days provide opportunities for students to focus their learning how and where they see fit.

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# Supports in Self-Direction and Self-Pacing

**Advisor Program:** Assists in academic and pathways planning, wellness strategies and goal-setting

**Fast-Tracking and Carryovers:** Students can accelerate their learning and complete credits early. Students may negotiate with the teacher to continue a course in the next semester

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# How *else* is Westmount different from other schools?

- Westmount welcomes grade 9 students from more than 60 different elementary schools, which contributes to the unique character of our school community.



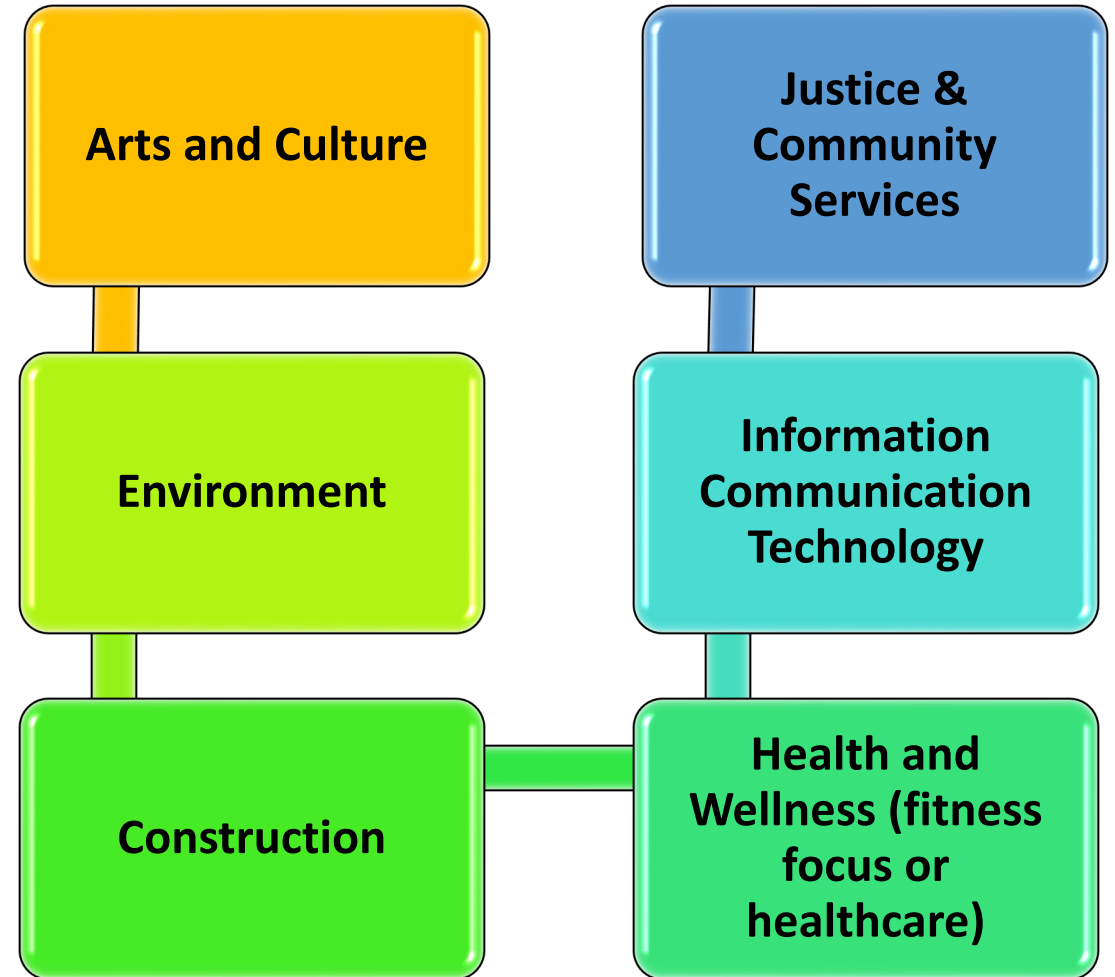
- A unique *system* program that supports student ownership of their learning
- Transportation to Westmount is not provided and it is the responsibility of the caregiver to get the child to school



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# Specialist High Skills Major (SHSMs)

Beginning in grade 11, students can start to focus their learning in a specific economic sector. Westmount offers six Specialist High Skills Major programs – among the most of all secondary schools.



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# Advanced Placement (AP)

- In Grade 11 and 12, students can take Advance Placement (AP) courses in English, Math and Senior Sciences.
- Westmount does not offer the International Baccalarete program (IB)



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# Westmount Celebrations







# Westmount Student Panel

**Facilitators: Maple-Gin & Zachary**

**Student Panel: Ahmad, Bella, Mohil, Astrid**

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## Important skillsets to support self-directed learning:

Time  
management

Initiative

Goal-setting

Self-  
Advocacy

Collaboration

Organization

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# In-School Supports



## Student Success Teachers:

- ✓ Communicate with elementary team to help ease progression
- ✓ Provide academic and emotional support
- ✓ Help develop learning skills to facilitate success

## Guidance:

- ✓ Assists with pathway planning, course selection, referrals and applications

## Learning Resource Teachers:

- ✓ Support students with IEPs, assist students working in the Learning Commons

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# Other In-School Supports



Support	Benefit
Breakfast Club	Provides daily morning nutritious 'grab-and-go' snacks
Social Work Support	To remove barriers for regular attendance and academic success
Literacy/Numeracy Club	Lunch time/After school, teacher-supported tutoring in literacy and numeracy for grades 9 and 10 courses
MHAN Support	Confidential mental health supports to promote wellness—by referral
Prayer Space	Provided for daily and Friday prayers
5 Period Day	Provides a longer lunch period and provides time for intramural sports and extracurriculars
Bell Times: 8:40 - 3:15	Later start supports morning practices, extracurriculars and travel times

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# Factors to Consider Before Applying

- Learning skills and autonomy
- Full-time eLearning
  - not an option for Westmount Students
- Westmount does not provide:
  - Specialized ESL Support for MLLs
  - Individualized supports such as Educational Assistants, Grad Coaches or CYCP
  - Transportation



# Admission process

Submit application via  
[Westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:Westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)

Applications and grade  
7/8 report cards are  
reviewed with a focus on  
learning skills and  
comments

Students who have been  
educated via home school  
or in an alternate  
setting will be called in for  
an interview

Final offers will be made  
and caregivers will  
confirm offer and ensure  
registration package is  
complete

Future students will  
choose courses

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# How to Become a Westmount Wildcat?



Date	Action
November 26, 2025	Grade 7 & 8 Information Night – 6:00 pm Notice of Intent online form available on Registration Tab of website starting Nov. 27, 2025.
December 19, 2025	Final date for Notice of Intent to Attend due by 1pm. Attach Grade 7 final report card and most recent Grade 8 report card. Late applicants will be waitlisted.
Mid-January 2026	Parents informed about acceptance via email.
February 5, 2026	Grade 8 Parent Course Selection Night – Details communicated with acceptance
February 2026	HWDSB students will have entered their course selections in My BluePrint with their grade 8 class by this date. All students will be given a Microsoft Form option sheet that they will submit before Feb. 13, 2026. Non-HWDSB students will be given a separate registration and course option package.
Mid-March, 2026	Starting mid-March 2026, HWDSB parents/guardians confirm course selection via Parent Portal.



## **What Happens After That?**

### **Spring 2026 – Wildcat Day (Date TBD)**

Registered Westmount students will be invited for a morning of activities that will allow students to get to know their peers

### **Late August 2026 – Grade 9 Orientation Program (Date TBD)**

Westmount traditionally hosts a fun day to meet other students and support progress into the self-directed, self-paced school environment. More details to come; registration occurs in the spring.

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**For additional  
questions and  
clarifications:**

**Scan the QR code**



**Or email:**



**[Westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:Westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)**



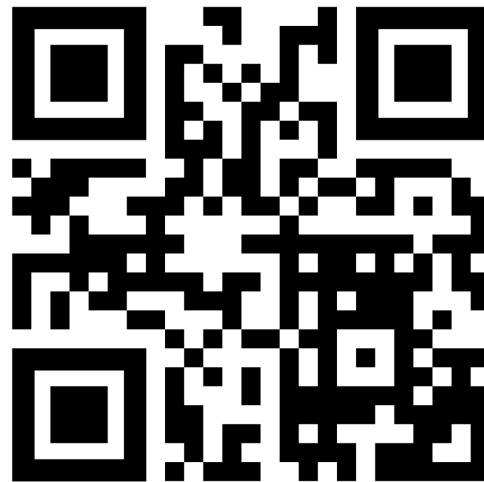


# Pathway Planning Resource

[Pathways Guides for Grades 7 to 12 | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#)



# For the Self-Guided Tour



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# BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.