

YRDSB Regional Specialized Arts Program

Westmount CI Arts Information Night 2022



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties are signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.



Introductions



Administration: Susan Maharaj, Principal

Lana Fisher, Vice Principal

Rory Gangbar, Vice Principal

Drama: Andrew Dolha, (Dept. Head of Drama, Dance, Music)

Dance: Dionne Harte (Dance), Paola Willingham (Dance)

Visual Arts: Efrat Litvack, Dept. Head, Sandie Zhang (Visual Arts)

Music: Travis Nixon (Music Vocal, Instrumental)



Why the YRDSB Regional **Specialized Arts** program?



What is the YRDSB Regional Specialized Arts Program?

The Secondary Arts Program is a 4 year arts program for YRDSB students who are committed to exploring and deepening their understanding of the arts. The program offers a package of specialized arts credits (2 per year) that count towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students will receive a certificate upon completion. Students are invited to apply to the school that corresponds with their [ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY](#)

YRDSB OFFERS REGIONAL ARTS SCHOOLS FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO EXPLORING AND DEEPENING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARTS

Students may apply to study one of the arts program disciplines, including: dance, drama, visual arts and music (vocal and instrumental). Multiple applications may be submitted by one student to one school.

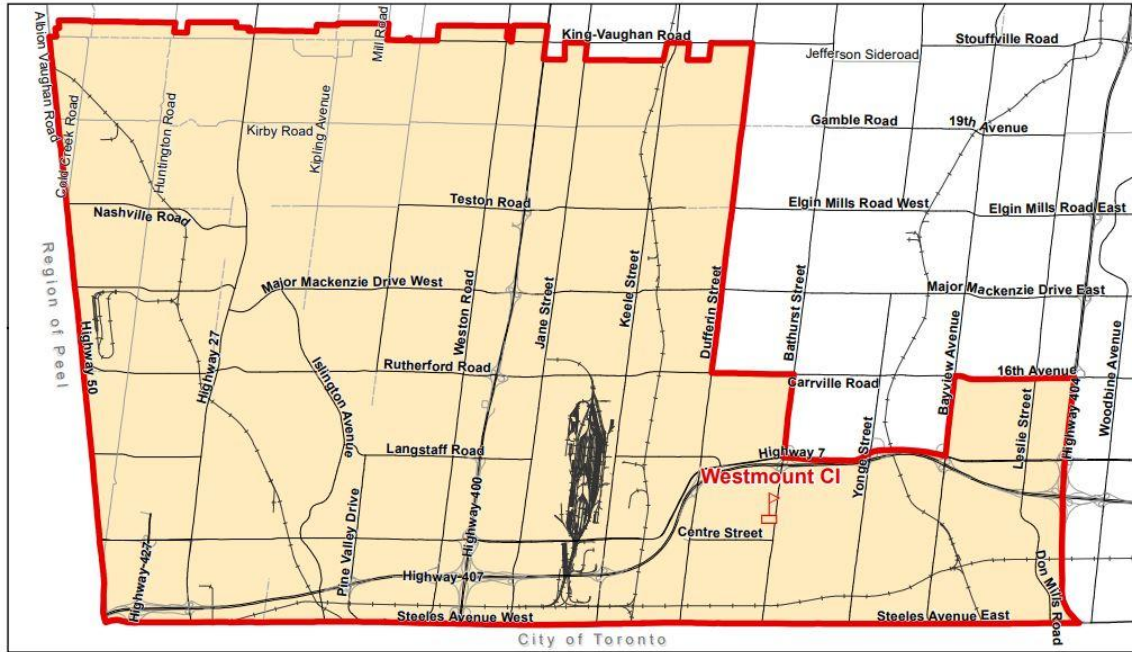
There are four secondary schools offering the Specialized Arts program in the York Region District School Board. These include:

- [Alexander Mackenzie High School](#)
- [Huron Heights Secondary School](#)
- [Unionville High School](#)
- [Westmount Collegiate Institute](#)



Boundaries

Families can locate their boundaries on YRDSB.ca under [“School Locator”](#)



Why might I select the program?

ARTS West is the perfect program for students who:

- Are passionate about acting, dancing, singing, painting, drawing, playing an instrument
- Love to talk to and work with others who share the same passion
- Benefit from working with a small group of like-minded individuals
- Enjoy the feeling of community with a close-knit group of people
- Want to reap the benefits of having balance in their day
- Who enjoy pushing themselves to improve at their own pace and not compared to others



Benefits of ARTS programs

Arts programs have been proven to:

- Improve student's memory and concentration skills
- Develop decision making and critical thinking skills
- Enhance communication and listening skills
- Encourage focus and discipline
- Help students' improve self-esteem and social skills
- Learn to work as part of a team and understand different points of view
- Develop an understanding and appreciation for different cultures which can then translate to an increased sense of tolerance and social acceptance
- ARTS students tend to excel in other academic areas



About the Program

Students accepted into the program will take **8 credits in 1 discipline** during their 4 years of high school. Students will be in an **ARTS** specialized course with other students accepted.

2 credits per year, 1 in each semester.

Students will earn a certificate upon completion.

Once an acceptance has been granted, should the student change their mind about the program and does not live within the regular program boundary of Westmount CI, they will have to return to their home school.*



Core Programs

Our high school is proud to offer arts programming for all of our students. Students do not need to be enrolled in a Regional Arts program to receive an Arts education. YRDSB students who are committed to exploring and deepening their understanding of the arts may choose the Regional Arts program

Students in the Regional Arts program may also select from these courses in addition to their 8 ARTS credits.

We provide a wide range of courses that engage and address a range of interests and abilities.

Any student interested in expanding their learning pertaining to the arts are encouraged to join SHSM in grade 11.



IEPs and the ARTS programs

All students with IEPs are welcome to apply for ARTS programs

We encourage Grade 9 students who are in ARTS to take Learning Strategies

We remove the Health & Physical Education course so the student can then take Learning Strategies in Grade 9. Students would take any Physical Education credit (from Grade 10-12) to meet the requirement.



Disciplines Offered

At Westmount Collegiate Institute we offer ARTS programs in the following areas:

DRAMA

DANCE

VISUAL ARTS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC * No piano, strings or guitar*

VOCAL MUSIC



Applying to an Arts Westmount Program?

There are **5 steps**:

- 1 Registration Online: Edsby**
Opens Monday, November 7, 2022
Closes Thursday December 8, 2022
**If applying to a 2nd program an additional \$10 is required.
- 2 Application Per Discipline**
Opens Monday, December 12, 2022 @ 4:00 PM
Due Friday, January 13, 2023 @ 9:00 PM
- 3 Virtual or In-person Workshop**
To be held between January 26 - January 30, 2023
- 4 Acceptance: Email Notification**
Tuesday, January 31, 2023
- 5 Student Communication of Acceptance**
Friday, February 3, 2023

Please visit the [Arts Westmount section of the WCI school website](#) for more information

Registration Information - Timelines

KEY DATES:

- **Registration on EDSBY:** Opens Monday Nov. 7th. Closes Thursday Dec. 8, 2022
- **Application E-portfolio:** Shared Monday Dec. 12th @4:00 pm Due Friday Jan. 13th @9:00 p.m
- **School Communicate Acceptance Offer to families/students:** Jan. 31st, 2023
- **Family/Student Communicate Acceptance to school:** Feb. 3rd, 2023



Edsby Registration

Registration will be done through Edsby.

- The link is posted on the **ARTS** website page of each Arts Secondary School.

Maximum of 2 applications per student.

- Cost of \$10/ application

A virtual application process will follow the Registration.

- Communicated to registrants by email on December



What do Families need for Edsby Registration?

- Student Number & OEN Number (***found on a student's report card***)
- Student's Name, gender and date of birth
- Student's home address and phone number
- Parent/Guardian Name and contact information
- Student's current school, grade and which local YRDSB Secondary School the student's address would default to
- At registration, you may indicate a maximum of 2 disciplines the students wishes to apply for
 - **Please note there is an additional cost of \$10 for a second registration**



Application Process

Once registrations are submitted via Edsby, submitted, we will be contacting registrants and outlining the process to submit an Application via a virtual “e-portfolio”.

Our “e-portfolio” for Arts Westmount is a Google Form submission.

The criteria, by discipline, for this portfolio will be shared with registrants & posted to each school’s Arts page.

The application will be shared on **Monday December 12th, 2022.**

Applications are due January, 13th, 2023 by 9:00PM



VISUAL ARTS

In these courses students become familiar with the elements and principles of design and the expressive qualities of various materials. Students will use the creative and critical analysis processes and will interpret art within a personal, contemporary, and historical context. Studio work may include graphic design, drawing, pen and ink, scratchboard, digital mediums, multi-mediums, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and collage. Art history will be explored through traditional and studio based themes. In these courses, seminars, essays, field trip assignments and tests will be evaluated along with all artwork that is done.



In-Person or Virtual Workshop Visual Arts

Visual Arts

The in-person workshop will be divided into two parts:

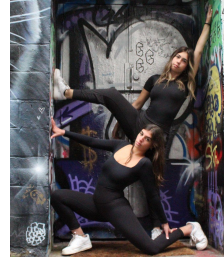
- A morning whole group workshop. In this workshop there will be a short lesson, and a performance task (value scale, observational drawing of a provided object, rendered and shaded in pencil). There will be a creative drawing task that assesses students skills in divergent thinking.
- An afternoon small group inclusion activity, portfolio sharing and interview. During the inclusion activity, students will be asked to reflect on what art means to them, and be able to engage in a small group discussion. Students will be provided with the opportunity to discuss their portfolios with teachers and ask questions during the interview.

For those who can't attend the workshop an online alternative will be offered and consist of an inclusion activity, a performance task (same as in-person task), and an opportunity to ask questions.



DANCE

In these courses students are given the opportunity to explore their technical and compositional skills by applying the elements of dance and the tools of composition in a variety of performance situations. Dancing daily allows the students to train technically in a wide variety of dance styles, to create, and to learn about themselves as students and as dancers. These courses gives students the chance to create, present and perform for themselves and others. The courses also asks students to reflect on their own progress, respond to others and analyze where improvements can be made. The dance courses also look at the social, cultural, and historical origins and development of dance forms.



In-Person or Virtual Workshop Dance

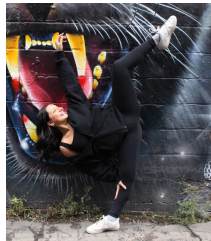
Dance

The in-person workshop will be divided into two parts:



1. Whole group workshop. In this workshop there will be a warm-up, whole group learning activity (learn a short movement phrase), small group/partner creation activity (student might adapt the previous movement phrase, or could create their own original movement phrase).
2. Solo dance sharing and interview. During this sharing session, students will be provided with the opportunity to share their 1-2 minute solo dance in preferred dance style. They will also be given the opportunity to chat with teachers and ask questions during the interview.

For those who can't attend the workshop an online alternative will be offered and, consist of an improvisation, a solo performance and an interview.



DRAMA

In Drama, students will create fun memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. Not only will they craft drama pieces based on their own lives and connect with their classmates through games and activities, but they will also collaborate to create performances through drama in all of its forms: plays, musical theatre, film, clown, mask, singing, etc. All of their hard work pays off in public performances every year for family and friends to enjoy. Drama does more than help students prepare for theatre but teaches them confidence, collaboration, the importance of hard work, and most importantly, about themselves and their own unique voice. All skills they will take with them for the rest of their lives.



In-Person or Virtual Workshop Drama



Drama



The in-person workshop will be divided into two parts:

1. A morning whole group workshop. In this workshop there will be a variety of drama exercises (improvisations, prompt scenes, games, etc.) in multiple groupings (whole, small, pairs) that allow students to demonstrate such things as: their leadership and follower capabilities, listening, offering, collaboration, their ability to take and synthesize instruction and direction as well as their ability to solve creative problems within the drama context.
2. An afternoon individual monologue sharing and interview. During this sharing session, students will be provided with the opportunity to share their monologue and work one on one with teachers. They will also be given the opportunity to chat with teachers and ask questions during the interview.

For those who can't attend the workshop an online alternative will be offered and, consist of a monologue, an interview and improvisations.

MUSIC - INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL

We're not looking for the level of playing or singing, but the passion, love for music and the desire to learn and grow. Students will develop their awareness of the elements of music and apply them to create and perform works that are related to their personal interests and experiences. Performance techniques and an understanding of theory are also important for music students and these topics are also covered in the courses. Through informal presentations and formal performances, students develop their technique and use music to communicate their aesthetic and personal values. By experiencing, analyzing, and commenting on the performances of others, students enhance their understanding of the values of other musicians and cultures.



In-Person or Virtual Workshop Music

Music Instrumental/Vocal

The in-person workshop will be divided into two parts:

1. Small ensemble work and team building activity. Performance activity -share what you have prepared from the options given
2. An individual sharing session in the afternoon. Students will be provided with the opportunity to share their solo pieces. They will also be given the opportunity to chat with teachers and ask questions during the interview.

For those who can't attend the workshop:

- Complete the E-Portfolio with performance activities
- Complete a virtual online Interview



Criteria for Successful Selection

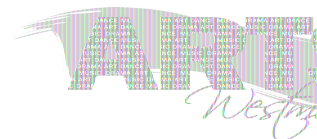
The process for entry into each of the Arts Westmount programs is a comprehensive look at a student in order to determine and project the overall success of that student within these programs over their four-year association with it.

OVERALL CRITERIA

Students demonstrate: Leadership and follower capabilities, listening, collaboration, an ability to utilize and synthesize instruction and direction as well as their ability to solve creative problems, make connections, and think outside the box. Students demonstrate their aptitude in taking on creative challenges, their maturity and emotional depth and their ability to express their creative ideas.

IN PERSON WORKSHOPS: All disciplines will require applicants to participate in an in-person workshop. Those students who are unable to attend will be provided with an online alternative interview date.

SUBMITTED MATERIAL CRITERIA (if required by discipline): Students demonstrate their own thinking/creative process and their current level of ability. Students demonstrate their level of authenticity, their connections to the world, and artistic choices.



Selection

All registrants who submit an application (google form) and attend an in-person or online workshop will receive notification on January 31st.

Registrants will receive:

- An offer of acceptance OR
- A notification that they are on a waitlist OR
- A notification that they were not successful

Students must accept or decline an offer.

At this point, schools will begin the Grade 9 registration process.



Final Step: Letter of Intent

- All registrants who have been selected for a spot in an Arts Westmount program will need to declare their intention of acceptance by Friday, February 3, 2023.



Commonly Asked Questions

Q Are students eligible for bussing?

A The Arts Specialized program is an optional program. As per Policy and Procedure 680 Student Transportation, students attending optional programs do not receive transportation.

Q Can students apply to more than 1 discipline?

A Yes. You may apply to 2 disciplines. You may only accept an offer to 1 discipline.

Q Can I apply to a school that is outside of my boundary?

A Unless the program (ex Piano, Strings) is only offered at a specific school, no. In the application, you may indicate an alternative school. This may be offered to those who are waitlisted, once all spots are accepted, and if there is a spot. Schools will reach out ONLY if this is available.



Commonly Asked Questions

Q How can I support my child to be successful in the process?

A The school will provide clear success criteria. If you have questions please email the school contact that is shared on the school's website

Q I'm an international student attending YRDSB on a VISA. Can I apply?

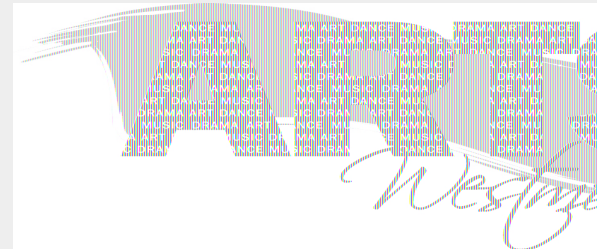
A Yes. However, priority will be given to YRDSB students. VISA students will only be offered a spot left unfilled by YRDSB students.



Thank You!

Visit our Arts page to access the digital registration via Edsby.

It closes December 8th, 2022!



Inspire Learning!