



YRDSB Regional
Secondary Arts
Programs



Information Night 2024
for program starting
September 2025

Beginning in a Good Way: We Are on Indigenous Land

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 have been 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 who is 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.

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



What are the YRDSB Regional Secondary Arts Programs?

The Regional Secondary Arts Programs are an opportunity for Grades 9-12 students committed to exploring and deepening their understanding of/about/through the arts. Each of the **4 school locations** offer a package of 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.

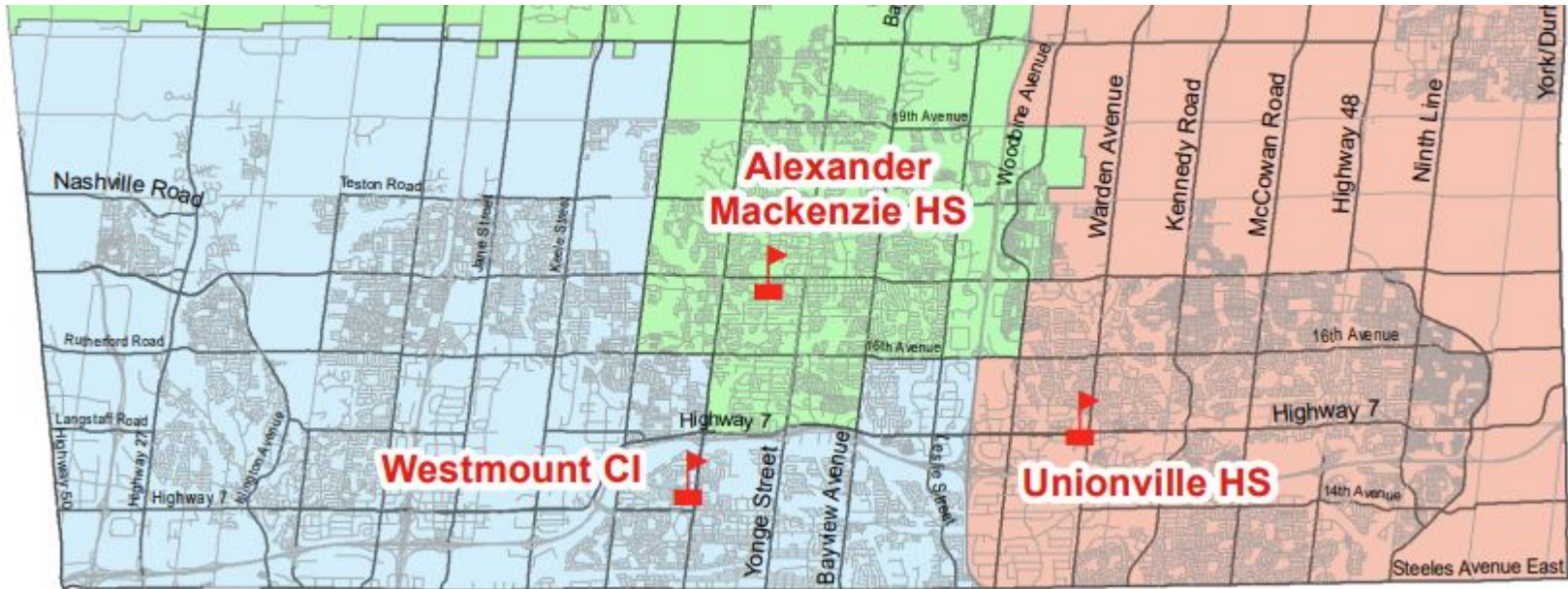
Students may apply to arts program disciplines, including: dance, drama, visual arts and music (vocal and instrumental). Some schools offer piano, string and theatre technology. Multiple applications may be submitted by one student to one school.

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

- Alexander Mackenzie High School
- Huron Heights Secondary School
- Unionville High School
- Westmount Collegiate Institute

Boundaries

Families can locate the [school boundaries](#).



Arts Programs are in every school

Our secondary school is proud to offer Arts programming. **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 to apply to the Regional Secondary Specialized Arts program.

Westmount C.I. provides a wide range of courses that engage and address a range of interests and abilities in the Arts.

Any student interested in expanding their learning pertaining to the arts are encouraged to join SHSM in grade 11. **Westmount C.I. offers a SHSM in Arts and Culture.**

What is Different about the Regional Arts Program (Arts West)

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.

Applying to a YRDSB Secondary Regional Arts Program in 2024-2025?

There are **3 steps**:

1. Registration Online: Edsby

- Nov. 11th - Dec. 4th 2024
- ***If applying to a **2nd** program an additional \$20 is required.*

2. Application

- Opens December 6th, 2024
- Due January 10th, 2025

3. Selection and Acceptance:

- **Email notification** on or around Friday, February 3rd, 2024

Step 1: Registration Information

KEY DATES:

- Opens November 11th, 2024
- Closes December 4th, 2024

Registration will be done through **Edsby**.

- The link is posted on the website of each Regional Secondary Arts School.

Maximum of 2 applications per student.

- Cost of each application is \$20.

The **application process** will follow registration.

- Communicated to registrants by email on or around **December 6th, 2024**

What do families need for Edsby Registration?

- Student Number & OEN Number (***found on a student's report card***)
- Student's Name 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 \$20 for a second registration

Disciplines Offered in the Arts West Program

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

- DRAMA
- DANCE
- VISUAL ARTS
- INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
- VOCAL MUSIC



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.

Information by Discipline



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.



Information by Discipline



Drama:

In these courses students will be provided with opportunities to explore dramatic forms and techniques, using materials from a wide range of sources and cultures. Students will use elements of drama to examine situations and issues that are relevant to their lives. Students will create, perform, discuss, analyze, and reflect on their own performances, the performances of others to develop an understanding of themselves, the art of drama, and the world around them.



Music - Instrumental and Vocal:

In these courses students 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.

Step 2: Application Process

Interested students would have registered via Edsby by Dec. 4th. Once registration is submitted, students/families will be contacted by email with information outlining the **Application** process.

The **application** process *may* include:

- Artistic demonstration in person or by video recording
- Invitation to a workshop
- E-portfolio
- Interview
- Audition

The selection criteria, by discipline, for this application process will be shared with registrants and will be posted to each Regional Secondary Arts web page.

Application information will be shared to registrants on December 6th, 2024 by email.

Applications are due January 10th, 2025

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL SELECTION

The selection process for 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.

INTERVIEW/WORKSHOP CRITERIA: Students demonstrate their aptitude in taking on creative challenges in their chosen discipline, their maturity and emotional depth and their ability to express their creative ideas.

SUBMITTED MATERIAL CRITERIA: 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.

Accommodations

Students who require accommodations will be able to provide this information as part of the application.

While there may be tasks that are timed as part of the workshop / audition, assessment is not based on completion. Rather, what has the student been able to demonstrate while following instructions.

Student IEPs or medical plans will be shared with the school through the registration process and preparations in the spring for the transition from Grade 8 to 9.

Step 3: Selection

Registrants who submitted an application will receive selection notification on or around February 3rd, 2025.

Applicants will receive one of:

- An offer of admission
- A notification that they are on a waitlist
- 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.

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 Only if the program (ex Piano, Strings) is only offered at a specific school. You may apply for a transfer to a different school (if they are open to transfers) after you have been accepted into the program - if there is a spot. Schools will reach out **ONLY** if this is available.

Q Can I apply if I live in a different region?

A Students must live in York Region (Public, Catholic or Private).

Commonly Asked Questions

Q Can I apply or reapply for any Arts Westmount discipline in the future?

A Students who wish to apply after grade 8 may do so but must follow the same application and process set out for each discipline. This will depend on whether there are spaces available.

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

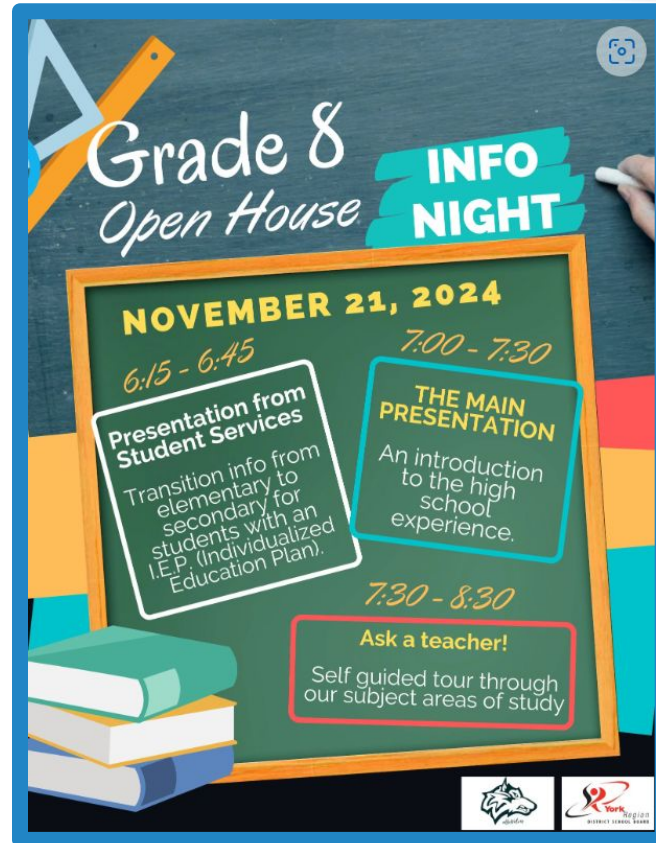
A The school will provide clear success criteria. If you have questions please email the school contact that is shared on the school's website.

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

A Maybe. Depending on the Secondary school you are applying to, and if they are open to admitting students. In all cases, VISA students will only be offered a spot left unfilled by YRDSB students. Families should refer to the Conditions of Participation information found on the [public YRDSB website](#).

Westmount C.I. Open House - Thursday, November 21

If you like what you see,
there's even more to
explore!



A colorful poster for a Grade 8 Open House event. The title "Grade 8 Open House" is written in white cursive on a dark blue chalkboard background. To the right, "INFO NIGHT" is written in white on a teal brushstroke. The date "NOVEMBER 21, 2024" is in yellow. Three time slots are listed: 6:15 - 6:45, 7:00 - 7:30, and 7:30 - 8:30. Each time slot has a corresponding activity box. The 6:15-6:45 slot is for a "Presentation from Student Services" about transition info for students with IEPs. The 7:00-7:30 slot is for "THE MAIN PRESENTATION" about high school experience. The 7:30-8:30 slot is for "Ask a teacher!" which is a self-guided tour. The poster also features a stack of books at the bottom left and logos for Westmount and York Region at the bottom right.

**Grade 8
Open House** **INFO
NIGHT**

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

6:15 - 6:45

Presentation from Student Services
Transition info from elementary to secondary for students with an I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plan).

7:00 - 7:30

THE MAIN PRESENTATION
An introduction to the high school experience.

7:30 - 8:30

Ask a teacher!
Self guided tour through our subject areas of study

Question Period

Thank You!

Registration via Edsby opened
November 11th!

