

The audition process for the Arts Westmount Drama program is a comprehensive look at a student in order to determine and project the overall success of that student within our program over their four-year association with it. Our panel of adjudicators work hard to provide many opportunities in a variety of drama exercise in multiple groupings in the morning that allow the student 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.

In the afternoon, we ask the student to bring in work, in the form of a monologue, in order to provide them with the opportunity to demonstrate their own thinking/creative process. We gauge that work on authenticity, connection to character/voice/body, actor choices, maturity and emotional depth. In the effort to provide them with more opportunity for success, we also work with the students one on one with either the monologue or in an improvisation during this phase of the process in order to further diagnose their aptitude in solving creative problems, making connections, and thinking outside the box.

In the final stage of this detailed process, we interview the students to gain further insight and to give them the opportunity to express themselves and ask questions. Report cards, letters of recommendation, personal and parent statements all work together to provide us as much information as possible in order to rank and situate students accordingly.

There is never "one thing" that keeps a student from making a successful application, if there was, our process would be deeply flawed. We do not use words like right or wrong, but merely seek to assess with as much clarity as possible, where a student's current ability stands with respect to all of the above. Over the years we have become adept at being able to clearly identify students who fit this program, thereby ensuring their success within it. Not all students are suited to this program and it is our job to find those that do. We appreciate that it is extremely disappointing to not be offered a placement, but it is important for parents to encourage their children to see this as an opportunity to learn and to continue to grow into maturity. Application numbers for this program are high, but we are limited to a class of twenty-eight each year, therefore those that fall outside of our parameters will not be offered a placement. Also, due to the high number of applicants, we do not have the manpower to provide individual feedback to every applicant. Parents need to be assured that the well-being and success of the student within our program is our primary goal.