

## FAQs about Arts Westmount

### **General Arts Program Questions**

**Is there busing available for students?** There is no busing available to students. Westmount is relatively easy to reach on public transportation.

**Are there after-school commitments?** Each program will vary depending on their schedule of performances/presentations.

**Can I transfer to Westmount?** You are entitled to transfer to Westmount after a successful arts audition at another YRDSB Arts program.

**What does the waitlist mean?** Students will be placed on a waitlist according to the order they were scored during their audition. If a space becomes available because a student turns down an offer after the acceptance deadline, then the waitlist students will be contacted.

**Do the two credits a year limit you in how much you can do outside the Arts Program?** Students will be able to enrol in a variety of courses as room progressively becomes available throughout their journey at Westmount. In grade nine two electives are taken up by the arts program and this stays constant throughout high school. By grade ten students can enroll in another elective besides the arts and in grade 11 and 12 they can choose from a wide range of electives.

**When will you let us know the results?** Applicants will be notified by end of January, beginning of February 2022 by email.

**What is the audition fee for?** The audition fee is to cover the costs associated with our guest adjudicators.

### **DRAMA**

**What kind of performances do you do every year?** Students will culminate in performances every year in drama either in the studio or in the theatre depending on the project.

**What kind of topics do you cover in drama?** Students study a vast variety of topics in drama: basic to advanced acting, mime, Commedia Del Arte, Scene study, devised theatre, greek theatre, theatre of the 20th and 21st century, film, improvisation, clowning, musical theatre, etc.

**What things are you looking for in your audition?** Students that show an open mind, are risk-takers, able to think outside the box, have analytical skills are reflective.

**What performance spaces do you use?** We use both the City Playhouse and the Studio 150 for performances depending on the size and scope of the performance. For example: we use studio 150 for our one-act play festival, the City Playhouse for our senior shows and grade nine musical theatre.

**What protocols are in place for Covid in Drama?** Students and staff follow all ministry mandated protocols for indoor spaces.

**Do you need to have a lot of background in drama to apply?** No. Students are auditioned to demonstrate vital skills that are essential for learning in a drama setting: collaboration, risk-taking, divergent thinking, personal and interpersonal skills, reflection, analysis etc.

## **DANCE**

**What are you looking for in the audition?** Creativity, training, application of corrections/directions, willingness to learn, and demonstration of your passion for the art form. Someone who is passionate about dance, loves dancing and is committed to developing as an artist and dancer over the next 4 years.

**Can you explain more about the audition process?** It will entail a series of exercises which will be taught through a series of pre recorded videos. Dancers will need to learn the exercises and record themselves performing the choreography. Additionally there will be an interview and a solo.

**What styles of dance do you focus on?** Contemporary, Jazz, Ballet, Hip hop, and World Dance Styles.

**What do you cover in your curriculum?** Technique, performance, creation/composition, dance history, dance anatomy, improvisation, critical analysis, and connecting dance and society.

**Are there Exams in Dance?** We normally have two shows a year at the end of each semester that are used as the final assessment in the Vaughan City Playhouse. Due to Covid 19 restrictions this has temporarily been paused. The final shows have been filmed instead.

**What protocols are in place for Covid in Dance?** Students and staff follow all ministry mandated protocols for indoor spaces.

**Do you need to have a lot of background in dance to apply?** We are looking for students who want to learn. Students that are willing to work hard and are teachable in a variety of dance styles. Students who enjoy working with others, collaboration and creating.

**Does the dance credit take the place of a physical ed. Credit?** No it does not. One PhysEd credit is mandatory in one's high school career. In Gr.9 a student in Arts West Dance will have one dance credit each semester as well as their required PhysEd credit.

**Does the solo need to be original choreography?** We would love that! However, it can also be something that was choreographed in the past.

**Can you comment on how diverse your dance group is?** Within the dance program, there is a range of highly competitive students, to students with less experience who are passionate about dance and eager to learn. We also try to cover diversity in the program by integrating various styles of dance into the curriculum, including world dance forms. Currently we have one male dancer in the program and one male dance student teacher.

**What is the number of dancers admitted to the program out of those that audition?** We can accept up to 28 dancers in a dance class.

**Do you know if some of the students move onto an arts related field after graduating high school?** Yes, some of them do, while others choose to move on into other fields, but they take the transferable skills gained through the program with them no matter what pathway they select.

**What percentage of the Dance "mark" is measured in practical/performance and how much is theory and written examinations?** We do not do written exams. Most of what we do is practical and movement based. However, we also learn about the history of dance, technique, critiques and anatomy. We do written work in the forms of projects, quizzes, presentations etc.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

**What are you looking for in the audition?** We are looking for potential. Of course, evidence of technical skill is important, as is evidence of creative thinking skills and ingenuity. However, we are also looking for students with the potential to learn and grow. Art skills can be developed like any other skill set, but this requires students to be open minded, hard working, positive and passionate about the visual arts.

**What is the advantage of joining Arts West visual arts?** Students have the opportunity to study visual art in every semester of their high school career, within a class of like-minded peers. The frequency of their art classes allows teachers to take a deeper dive into the curriculum, allowing for more complex, elaborate and ambitious projects. Another major advantage is that the program has been designed to build on previous learning across all 4 years, ensuring a well-rounded and progressive education in the visual arts.

**Are students from Arts West successful in pursuing art related careers?** While not all students in the program pursue careers in the arts, many do. Our students have successfully gone on to study at major post secondary art institutions in Canada and the United States, and are studying everything from fashion design, animation, interior design, illustration, industrial and product design, theatre design, advertising, graphic design etc.

**Why should students join Arts West Visual Art if they don't plan to pursue a career in the arts?** Many of our students have gone on to highly successful careers in areas outside of the visual arts. These students benefit from the study of global cultural history, the development of critical/divergent and metacognitive thinking skills, the development of their own creativity, as well as the associated skills of discipline, focus, hard work, problem solving and dedication. Through regular opportunities for critique students develop the ability to give, receive and apply constructive criticism. An education in the visual arts produces ambitious, thoughtful, resilient and creative students.

### **MUSIC (INSTRUMENTAL)**

**What instruments do you have in the program?** We have ALL WIND INSTRUMENTS in the program. Flute/piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto/tenor/baritone saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion. We DO NOT HAVE strings, guitar or piano.

**How much theory do we need to know?** You only need to know basic theory. If your theory skills are weak, you will still be considered for the program.

### **MUSIC (VOCAL)**

**What type of music do you sing?** We sing music from all genres, time periods, cultures, countries and languages.

**How much theory do we need to know?** You only need to know basic theory. If your theory skills are weak, you will still be considered for the program.

**Is there a choir and are there rehearsals?** Yes. There will be choir rehearsals every Tuesday after school throughout the year. Rehearsals are 2 hours in length, Additional rehearsals may be required for various concerts/festivals/performances etc. These may occur at lunch time, before school or after school.