

# YRDSB Regional Specialized Arts Program

Westmount ARTS Information Night  
Thursday November 5, 2020



# 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 achieving excellence in 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](#)

Students may apply to study one of the 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. These include:

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

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



# Q&A Link

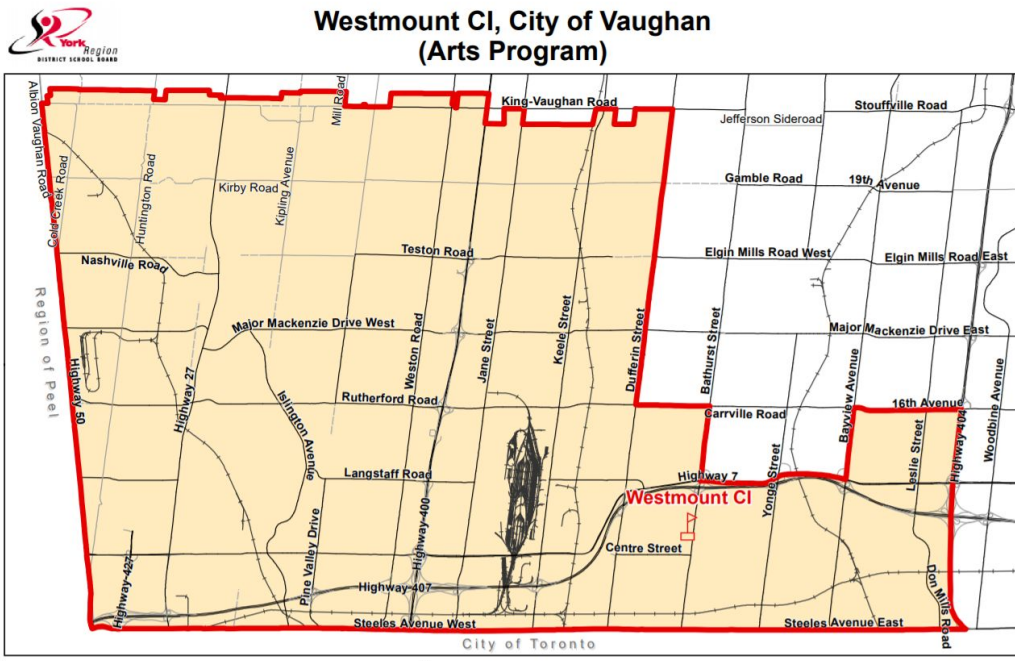
We are going to do our best to answer all your questions but if you have any that have not been addressed please use this address to submit your questions:

<https://bit.ly/WCIQANDA>

Additionally, you can also send any questions to [westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca](mailto:westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca)

# Boundaries

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



*Tip: You can search an address & get a graphic of your school's Arts boundary.*

# 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.

# Typical Grade 9 Timetable

|                     | Semester 1 | Semester 2 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| 8:40 am - 10:00 am  | ARTS Drama | Science    |
| 10:05 am - 11:20 am | English    | Geography  |
| 11:25 am - 12:40 pm | Lunch      | Lunch      |
| 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm  | Phys Ed    | ARTS Drama |
| 2:05 pm - 3:20 pm   | Math       | French     |

# Typical Grade 10 Timetable

|                     | Semester 1     | Semester 2 |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| 8:40 am - 10:00 am  | Math           | ARTS Dance |
| 10:05 am - 11:20 am | ARTS Dance     | English    |
| 11:25 am - 12:40 pm | History        | Elective   |
| 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm  | Lunch          | Lunch      |
| 2:05 pm - 3:20 pm   | Civics/Careers | Science    |

# Typical Grade 11 Timetable

|                     | Semester 1  | Semester 2  |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 8:40 am - 10:00 am  | Elective    | ARTS Vocals |
| 10:05 am - 11:20 am | English     | Lunch       |
| 11:25 am - 12:40 pm | Elective    | Elective    |
| 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm  | Lunch       | Math        |
| 2:05 pm - 3:20 pm   | ARTS Vocals | Elective    |

# Typical Grade 12 Timetable

|                     | Semester 1      | Semester 2      |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 8:40 am - 10:00 am  | Spare           | Elective        |
| 10:05 am - 11:20 am | ARTS Visual Art | Elective        |
| 11:25 am - 12:40 pm | English         | Lunch           |
| 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm  | Elective        | Spare           |
| 2:05 pm - 3:20 pm   | Lunch           | ARTS Visual Art |

# Core Programs

Our high school is proud to offer excellent arts programming for all of our students. ARTS students may also select from these courses in addition to their 8 ARTS credits.

Our Core program provides 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

[Adapt school information as needed]

# Disciplines Offered

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

DRAMA

DANCE

VISUAL ARTS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

VOCAL MUSIC

# Information by Discipline

## 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 art work 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.

# Information by Discipline

## 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.

# Application Information

## **KEY DATES:**

- Opens November 16th, 2020
- Closes December 7th, 2020
- Must be completed in 1 sitting.

The link will be posted to the **ARTS** page of the WCI Website.

Maximum of 2 applications per student.

A selection process will follow the Application.

# What do you need for the Application?

- Your 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's Name and contact information
- A recent digital headshot (***to be uploaded***), ideally with the students name on said photo
- Student's current school, grade and which YRDSB Secondary School the student would normally attend
- The names, phone numbers and email addresses of one reference

# What do you need for the Application?

Additionally, both the student and a parent will be required to answer the following:

## Student

Why do you wish to enroll in the **ARTS** Program?

Have you ever taken, or are you taking, private, individual or group lessons? (*Please provide details*).

Dancers: Please specify the type of dance.

List any other activities (*other than lessons*) in which you are currently involved.

Have you ever performed or exhibited your work? (*Please give details*).

## Parent/Guardian

Please tell us why you are interested in having your child attend the **ARTS**.

Includes comments on particular academic or artistic goals that you would like to have your child accomplish while attending **ARTS** program.

# Selection Process for this Year

**Due to COVID-19, the selection process will be fully virtual for this year**

*We know you may have questions about this process. At this time, we are still working to determine what it will look like.*

We invite interested students to submit their application. Once submitted, we will be contacting those families and outlining the process.

**Considerations:** Learning Skills, Report card, Teacher references, statement of interest

# IEPs and the ARTS programs

All students with IEPs are welcome to apply for ARTS programs

Please keep in mind that the ARTS programs are not just about being able to dance, or draw, or act, or sing - there are history and theory components to each course.

For Grade 9 students who are in ARTS and wish to take Learning Strategies

We remove Phys Ed so the student can then take Learning Strategies in Grade 9 and then would need to take any Phys Ed credit (from Grade 10-12) to meet the requirement of a Phys Ed credit

# Commonly Asked Questions

**Q** Are students eligible for bussing?

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

**Q** Can I 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** No. Unless the program (ex Piano, Strings) is only offered at a specific school. 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.

*[Schools to add as needed]*

# Question?

<https://bit.ly/WCIQANDA>

# Please Join Us!

| <b>Visit each Department by visiting their respective link</b> |   |
|--|---|
| Dance  | <a href="http://bit.ly/WCI2020DANCE">http://bit.ly/WCI2020DANCE</a> |
| Drama  | <a href="http://bit.ly/WCI2020DRAMA">http://bit.ly/WCI2020DRAMA</a> |
| Music  | <a href="http://bit.ly/WCI2020MUSIC">http://bit.ly/WCI2020MUSIC</a> |
| Visual Arts  | <a href="http://bit.ly/WCI2020ARTS">http://bit.ly/WCI2020ARTS</a>   |
| Admin for questions  | <a href="http://bit.ly/WCI2020ADMIN">http://bit.ly/WCI2020ADMIN</a> |

# Thank You!

Visit our Arts page to access  
the digital application.

Applications open on  
**November 16th!**