

2025-2026

Westgate Guidebook

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate
is a Christian school grounded
in the Anabaptist tradition.
It is the mission of the school
to provide a well-rounded
education which will inspire
and empower students to
live as people of God.

Supporting Churches

Aberdeen Mennonite Church • Bethel Mennonite Church • Charleswood Mennonite Church
Douglas Mennonite Church • First Mennonite Church • Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship
Home Street Mennonite Church • Hope Mennonite Church • Jubilee Mennonite Church
North Kildonan Mennonite Church • Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church
Springstein Mennonite Church • Sterling Mennonite Fellowship

Important information

Application Deadlines

Returning students:

March 3, 2025

New students:

March 3, 2025

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

86 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1

Connect

 204-775-7111

 westgate@westgatemennonite.org

 westgatemennonite.ca

 [@westgatemennonite](https://www.instagram.com/westgatemennonite)

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MISSION

A group of students is sitting on a rocky shore, looking out at a calm lake. The sun is setting behind a forested hill, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and water. The students are silhouetted against the bright light of the sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A School with
a Difference

Our Vision

As a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, Westgate Mennonite Collegiate integrates academic learning with growth in character and faith, together with peacemaking and service to God and all creation. Westgate seeks to provide a quality academic education in the context of a faith community, upheld by our Christian values.

We are convinced that learning, at its best, occurs when academics are bound together with faith and positive relationships. This is the vision that has nurtured Westgate for more than 65 years.

We will strive to regularly commit this vision and these goals to God in prayer, and we recognize the importance of the continued support of families and our supporting churches in Winnipeg in this endeavour.

The aspirations and commitments of Westgate's staff and teachers in their teaching, mentoring, and friendship can be broadly understood in terms of four Core Commitments.

Striving for Academic Excellence

Living Lives of Faith and Discipleship

Sustaining a Nurturing Community

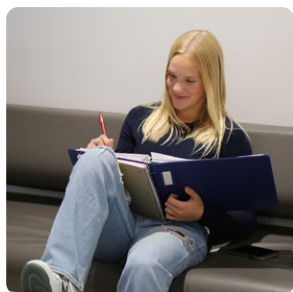
Serving our Wider World.

Learn more on the next page.

Core Commitments

Striving for Academic Excellence

Westgate strives to provide an academic environment which encourages academic excellence within the context of our Anabaptist faith. Westgate will:



- offer a program of academic excellence recognized by both Manitoba Education and institutions of higher learning.
- inspire academic achievement in order to broaden, enrich and challenge students' learning and worldview.
- enrich classroom learning with diverse extra-curricular opportunities for participation and leadership development.
- enable students to weigh educational, life-style, vocational and voluntary service choices that offer healing and hope in our world.

Living Lives of Faith and Discipleship

Westgate strives to be an environment that encourages students to explore, understand and claim their own faith in Jesus Christ. Westgate will:



- partner with the families and local Mennonite Church Manitoba congregations in the mission of Christian education.
- teach the Bible as the story of God's relationship with us and encourage students to participate in this story and to choose the way of Jesus in daily life.
- lead students to understand, appreciate and identify with people of faith throughout history, with emphasis on the Anabaptist witness of faithful discipleship and service.
- encourage students to belong to and actively participate in their local churches and provide opportunities for students to be involved in service, both locally and globally.
- equip students to discern values in the world in order to responsibly participate and lead in their church, community and global society.

Sustaining a Nurturing Community

Westgate strives to provide a safe, nurturing community where every student is included and encouraged to explore their gifts and find places of involvement and belonging. Westgate will:



- foster a stimulating and safe school environment where students, faculty and staff reconcile individual freedom with mutual accountability and learn a wholesome respect for self and others.
- help to develop respectful and ethical relationships, where each person is valued and where we are accountable for our actions, decisions and behaviours.
- encourage and affirm students to do their very best, whether in academics, leadership, service, athletics, music or the arts.
- give students the direction and the grace they need to succeed.
- be a safe and inclusive space for all of our students.

The education of children is a shared responsibility of the school, the home and the church. Parents and teachers are partners in this endeavour and work together with mutual respect and support.

Serving Our Wider World

Westgate strives to promote healthy relationships between our school and the local and wider community. To that end, Westgate will:



- foster opportunities for students and teachers to give back to the local community.
- inform and invite participation from the community in Westgate events.
- encourage interaction through drama, athletics, music and service.
- encourage healthy living.
- encourage global awareness, working toward fairness and equality in the world.
- teach students to be generous stewards of their time and resources.
- teach students to respect the earth and tend to creation care.

Mission Statement

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate is a Christian school grounded in the Anabaptist tradition. It is the mission of the school to provide a well-rounded education, which will inspire and empower students to live as people of God.

Learn more on the next page.





Faith and Spiritual Formation at Westgate

Following the mission statement, Westgate strives to integrate its Mennonite foundation into the life of its program.

Our school is grounded in our Anabaptist tradition and focuses on developing Biblical literacy and spiritual reflection. At the same time, we welcome and recognize the different Christian traditions and other faith traditions of our students. In fact, we believe that our foundation as a Mennonite school gives us the obligation to be a welcoming and loving place for all of our students whatever their tradition may be. We often say that we become richer as new students with new traditions become part of our community.

Our schedule includes daily devotions and a weekly chapel. In these activities, students will be invited to sing, pray, and listen to various speakers speak about their faith. Once a year we hold a Spiritual Emphasis Week in which we hold extra chapels, invite guest speakers,

and meet in small groups to delve deeper into a topic.

Furthermore, students will take one Christian Studies course in each grade. These courses invite our students to explore their beliefs within the context of a Mennonite school. The courses progress throughout their time at the school. In grades 6-8, students will explore Old and New Testament stories and themes. In grade 9, the focus is on Jesus and the early church. Grade 10 focuses on other religious traditions such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Indigenous Spirituality. In grade 11, students will enter into the arena of Christian ethics. Finally, in grade 12, the focus is on Mennonite history and theology.

Our hope is that through the progression of these courses and through participation in devotions and chapel, students will gain a deeper and richer understanding of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.



Partnered with the local church

Westgate is sponsored by thirteen supporting congregations. These churches make up the Mennonite Educational Society of Manitoba, an organization that was founded to operate and maintain Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. According to its constitution, it is the “objective of the corporation to stress the integration of knowledge, to interpret the world and the meaning of life from a Christian perspective, to acquaint students with the Mennonite heritage, to stress Christian values, and to give leadership in education so that the changing needs of the students and the times will be considered.”

The positive relationship between Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and church communities is extremely valuable. Westgate has long

been seen as an extension of the church and we strive to continue partnering with church communities to raise the next generation to be people of God. People with a background of independent Christian school education are strongly represented among our church leaders and active church members. The school needs the church for support, as a sounding board, and as a body to whom the school is accountable.

We seek to maintain strong connections with our churches. We encourage students to remain connected to their own church communities, participating in worship, youth activities, etc. We also regularly visit our supporting churches, leading worship with our senior students.

Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff at Westgate are committed to creating in students a vision of themselves as effective and life-long learners. The aim is to afford all students an equal opportunity to develop their potential academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Mennonite Church.

Learn more on the next page.



Teaching Staff



Mr. James Friesen

Principal,
Christian Studies



Ms. Heidi Koop

Vice Principal, German



Mr. Lyndon Baerg

Christian Studies, History



Mr. Owen Baerg

Science, Social Studies



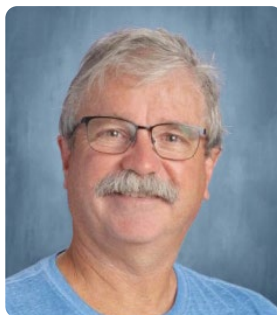
Ms. Andrea Bell

Strings Director, French, Music,
Family Studies, Physical
Education, Life Work Exploration



Ms. Gabrielle Bishop Wiebe

Music, Christian Studies,
German



Mr. Loren Brown

French, Creative Arts,
Life Work Exploration



Mr. Ross Brownlee

Band Director



Ms. Raya Cornelsen

Science, Language Arts,
Mathematics



Ms. Shelley Dalman Betts

Social Studies, French,
Geography, Language Arts



Mr. Doug Durksen

Mathematics



Mr. Jason Dyck

Dramatic Arts, French,
Mathematics, Keyboarding
& Computer Skills

Teaching Staff



Mr. Neil Ens

Accounting, Information Technology, Computer Science



Ms. Karina Fast

Language Arts, Physical Education



Ms. Jennifer How

Physical Education



Mr. Kevin Kampen

Mathematics, Physical Education, Family Studies, German



Ms. Johanna Klassen

Choral Director, Images of Faith



Mr. Pat Koslowsky-Wiebe

Social Studies, Christian Studies, Physical Education



Ms. Nancy Loewen

French, Psychology, Family Studies, Language Arts



Ms. Krista Neustaedter Barg

Christian Studies, German



Ms. Tessa Nussbaum

School Counsellor, Resource



Ms. Heidi Redfern

Biology, Science, German



Ms. Kara Reimer Barkwell

Social Studies, Science, Mathematics



Mr. Jarrett Rempel

Chemistry, Physics, Digital Filmmaking, Outdoor Education

Teaching Staff



**Mr. Jeremy
Siemens**

Social Studies, Language
Arts, Guidance Counsellor



**Ms. Sherisse
Spenst**

Mathematics, Language
Arts, Resource Teacher



**Ms. Crystal
Thiessen**

School Counsellor



**Ms. Julia
Thiessen**

History, Christian Studies



**Mr. Mark
Wiehler**

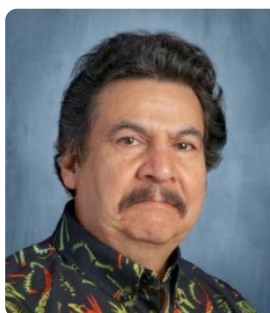
Language Arts, Math,
Resource Teacher

Support Staff



**Mr. Ryan
Bemister**

Building Supervisor



**Mr. Eric
De Los Rios**

Custodian



Ms. Pamela Derksen

Educational Assistant

Support Staff



Ms. Michelle Dyck
Accounting Assistant



Mx. Bryn Friesen Epp
Educational Assistant



Mr. Jeff Hiebert
Computer Technician,
Robotics Instructor



Ms. Lori Hildebrandt Penner
Administrative Assistant



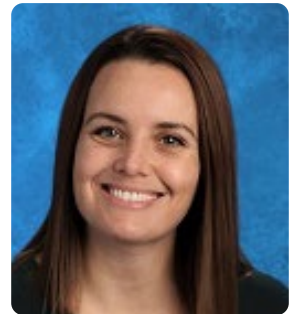
Ms. Natalie Johnson
Community Relations
Coordinator



Ms. Deanna Klassen
Student Records



Mr. Adam Klassen Bartel
Library Technician



Ms. Tracy LeClair
Accounting Assistant



Ms. Brianna Neufeld
Educational Assistant



Ms. Thalia Neufeld
Educational Assistant



Ms. Lindsay Unger
Cafeteria Manager



Debbie Watson
Business Manager

ENROLMENT



Admissions Policy

Westgate seeks a strong complement of Mennonite students from its constituent churches at each grade level. That said, all applications are welcome and every effort is made to place each applicant. Note that, because of admission guidelines, limits on class size and resources, Westgate may be unable to offer space or a program for all applicants.

All are welcome to apply!

Learn more on the next page.



Application Process

Our application process is done through the ALMA START program on our Westgate website: westgatemennonite.ca

1. All new applicants will be asked to submit an application, references, a **\$50 application fee**, and some relevant educational documentation.
2. Once we have received all parts of the application process (as listed above), Westgate will contact the family to set up an interview. The interview might include people from our administration and resource staff. You do not need to prepare for the interview. We want to get to know you and allow you to get to know us. We will try to give an indication at the end of the interview as to when you might expect to have an answer in terms of acceptance.
3. The following priorities will be used in admitting students
 - a) Returning students in good standing
 - b) Children of members of supporting congregations
 - c) Children of alumni
4. In addition, other factors taken into consideration are academics, class sizes, diversity, educational needs, potential social impact, affiliation with a Mennonite church, attendance at a Mennonite church school (such as Winnipeg Mennonite School (WMS)) and whether applicants are siblings of current students.
5. Once a student has been accepted by Westgate, families will receive an invitation to confirm their attendance in September (Confirmation of Acceptance). Families will then be asked to fill out a more thorough Acceptance Form and pay a **\$200 non-refundable deposit** that will be applied towards their first payment of tuition.
6. Suitable applicants applying after the deadline, or for whom there is no available space, will be placed on a waiting list. As soon as space becomes available, these applicants will be notified.
7. Course Selection will take place in spring.



All Inclusive Tuition

Westgate's tuition fees are intended to include all aspects of the regular program which includes classroom and other school-sponsored student activities. Student Council fees, lockers, yearbooks, Grade 9 Retreat, grade 6 music instruments, junior camping, sports tournaments, Music Tour, Definitely Not the Tour activities and many other activities are all included in tuition.

Additional costs not included in the tuition would include but are not limited to:

- Uniforms for performances – A sale for new and used uniforms takes place within the first few weeks of the school year.
- Band instrument rentals (\$200.00 first instrument & \$125.00 for a second, to take home). Students can also rent from outside sources.
- Students are responsible for renting/buying their own instruments for Junior and Senior Strings.
- Private music instruction
- Study tours
- Student exchanges
- Voluntary special activities
- Senior High Alternative Education Activities
- Grad Banquet

A charitable donation receipt will be issued for tuition paid in excess of the operating cost per student of the academic program. This represents the religious studies portion of fees paid. Receipts are issued and mailed out for the previous calendar year no later than the end of February.

Tuition

Tuition Rates for 2024-2025

Tuition rates for 2025-2026 will be increased to reflect the increased cost of education. The revised rates will be distributed to applicants in June 2025. For information purposes only, the tuition rates for 2024-2025 are listed below:

Available Payment Plans	Plan A Single Payment	Plan B Early Payment	Plan C 2 Payments	Plan D 10 Payments
Supporting Congregation Rate* Payment Amount	\$7,225.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,335.00 \$3,667.50 x 2	\$7,385.00 \$738.50 x 10
Alumni Tuition Rate**	\$8,025.00	\$7,950.00	\$8,135.00 \$4,067.50 x 2	\$8,185.00 \$818.50 x 10
Non-supporting Congregation Rate Payment Amount	\$8,850.00	\$8,775.00	\$8,960.00 \$4,480.00 x 2	\$9,010.00 \$901.10 x 10
International Payment Amount	\$15,000.00	\$14,925.00	\$15,110.00 \$7,555.00 x 2	\$15,160.00 \$1,516.00 x 10
Fee Payment due date	Sept 6	July 31	Sept 6 / Jan 10	Sept 6 and the 1st or 15th of each month Oct-Jun

* A parent or student must be a member of a Westgate Supporting Church. See page three for the list.

** Parents who are alumni, or completed at least one academic year at Westgate are eligible for this rate.

Financial Assistance

Tuition Reductions

Families with more than one student at Westgate receive a reduction (per family) in tuition fees of:

- 2 children: \$400.00 tuition reduction
- 3+ children: \$800.00 tuition reduction

In an agreement between Westgate and WMS, families with one or more students in each school receive an additional tuition reduction (per family) of \$150.00 at each school.

Bursaries

Westgate's goal is to provide generous bursary assistance so that students are not prevented from attending due to financial reasons.

The deadline for bursary applications is May 15th.

Applications are reviewed by the Bursary Committee and held in the strictest of confidence. All applications are processed by June 30th and the applicants will be advised by letter of the committee's decision.

Should you require further details, please contact the school office or:

Debbie Watson, Business Manager

 **204-775-7111 ext. 211**

 **dwatson@westgatemennonite.org**

Fundraising Events & Development

Independent schools in Manitoba receive government support that covers a portion of student costs and plays a significant role in offsetting tuition fees. Fundraising is an extremely important third source of income for the school. Donations made by parents and friends, fundraising events, and direct financial assistance from our member congregations by budget contributions are essential to meeting Westgate's annual budget.

Learn more on the next page.



Supporting Events

- Student fundraising events:
 - » Cyclathon (fall)
 - » Community Service Day (spring)
- Westgate Parent Association fundraising events:
 - » Farmer Sausage, Perogy, and Meatbun Sale (fall)
 - » Other fundraising opportunities (TBA)
- Community fundraising events:
 - » Fall Supper (Nov)
 - » Spring Bursary Banquet (May)
 - » Golf Tournament (August)
- Supporting others in need is an essential component of our school culture:
 - » Each year Student Council leads a Christmas Hamper Drive in which each home room provides a hamper to a Winnipeg family.
 - » Funds raised during our Christmas concert are donated to local charities.
 - » Some of our student groups host fundraising efforts to support humanitarian relief and human rights actions.

Ways To Give

Westgate accepts financial gifts of cash, cheques, online donations, e-transfers and approved in-kind gifts. Gifts of stock or securities are accepted through the support of Abundance Canada. Donations by credit card are accepted through CanadaHelps.org.

 www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/westgate-mennonite-collegiate

Should you require further details, please contact:

James Friesen, Principal

 jfriesen@westgatemennonite.org

 204-775-7111 ext. 202

Debbie Watson, Business Manager

 dwatson@westgatemennonite.org

 204-775-7111 ext. 211

ACADEMICS



Program Overview

Staff at Westgate strive to provide students with an excellent education, and we wish for students to develop academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally during their time with us. We encourage students to be involved in our co-curricular programs and to take classes in a wide range of subject areas. Grade 9 and 10 students carry a full course load at Westgate. This usually means 10 credits within the school day. Students may engage in extra credits like early morning or lunchtime Jazz Band. Grade 11 and 12 students are expected to take a minimum of eight credits.



Courses

Grade 6 Classes (8:30–3:30)

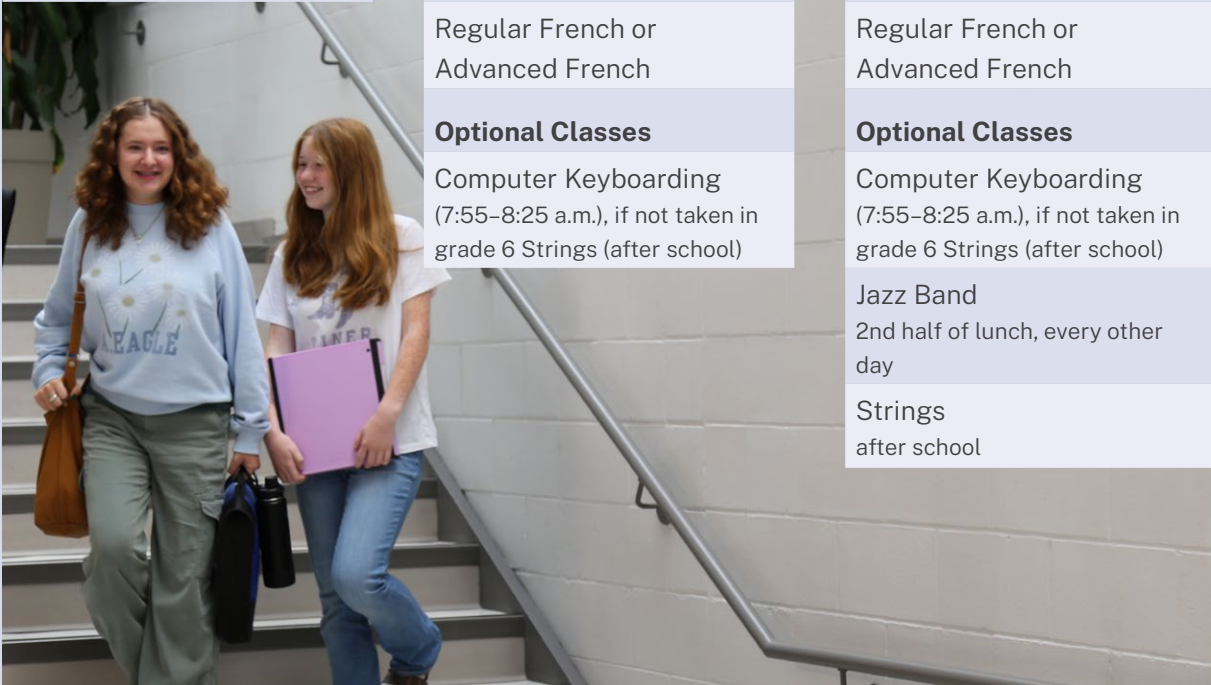
English Language Arts
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science
Christian Studies
Physical Education
Choir
Music
French Exploration
Computer Keyboarding or Advanced German

Grade 7 Classes (8:30–3:30)

English Language Arts
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science
Christian Studies
Physical Education
Choir
Music
Band
Beginner German or Advanced German
Regular French or Advanced French
Optional Classes
Computer Keyboarding (7:55–8:25 a.m.), if not taken in grade 6 Strings (after school)

Grade 8 Classes (8:30–3:30)

English Language Arts
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science
Christian Studies
Physical Education
Choir
Music
Band
Beginner German or Advanced German
Regular French or Advanced French
Optional Classes
Computer Keyboarding (7:55–8:25 a.m.), if not taken in grade 6 Strings (after school)
Jazz Band 2nd half of lunch, every other day
Strings after school



Grade 9 (10 Credits Total)

Compulsory Courses

- 1 Christian Studies 11G
- ½ Choir 15S
- 1 English Language Arts 10F
- 1 Mathematics 10F
- 1 Physical Education 10F
- 1 Social Studies 10F
- 1 Science 10F

At least one of:

- 1 French 10F
- 1 German 10G

Exposure Classes

In grade 9 students take a variety of exposure classes. While students can indicate preference, class sizes and schedules may dictate student placement.

- ½ Family Studies 15S
- ½ Life/Work Exploration 15S
- ½ Images of Faith 11G
- ½ Visual Arts 15S
- ½ Introduction to Drama 15S
- ½ Woodwork Technology 15G
- ½ Robotics 11G

Optional Courses

- 1 Concert Band 10S (auditioned)
- ½ Jazz Band 15S
- ½ Strings/Orchestra 15S

Grade 10 (10 Credits Total)

Compulsory Courses

- 1 World Religions 21G
- 1 Geography 20F
- 1 English Language Arts 20F
- 1 Physical Education 20F
- 1 Science 20F

Only one of:

- 1 Introduction to Pre-Calculus 20S
- 1 Essential Mathematics 20S

Optional Courses

- 1 Accounting Essentials 30S
- 1 Applying Information and Communication Technology 15F
- 1 Visual Arts 20S
- 1 Dramatic Arts 20S
- 1 Concert Band 20S (auditioned)*
- 1 Concert Choir 20S (auditioned)*
- ½ School Chorus 25S
- ½ Jazz Band 25S (must be in concert band)
- ½ Strings/Orchestra 25S
- 1 Digital Film Making 25S/
Digital Pictures 25S
- 1 French 20F
- 1 German 20G
- ½ Outdoor Education 21G
- ½ Keyboarding 25S

*Performance Dates Expected

Grade 11 (Minimum 8 Credits Total)

Compulsory Courses

- 1 Christian Ethics 31G
- 1 ELA: Literary Focus 30S
- 1 History of Canada 30F
- 1 Active Healthy Lifestyles 30F

Only one of:

- 1 Pre-Calculus Mathematics 30S
- 1 Essential Mathematics 30S

At least one of:

- 1 Biology 30S
- 1 Physics 30S
- 1 Chemistry 30S
- 1 Current Topics in Science 30S

Optional Courses

- 1 Accounting Essentials 30S
- 1 Accounting Systems 40S
- 1 Computer Science 30S
- 1 Visual Arts 30S
- 1 Concert Band 30S (auditioned)
- 1 Concert Choir 30S (auditioned)
- ½ School Chorus 35S
- ½ Jazz Band 35S (must be in concert band)
- 1 Vocal Jazz 30S (auditioned)
- ½ Strings/Orchestra 35S
- 1 French 30S
- 1 German 30S

Grade 12 (Minimum 8 Credits Total)

Compulsory Courses

- 1 ELA Comprehensive Focus 40S
- 1 Mennonite History 41G
- 1 Active Healthy Lifestyles 40F

Only one of:

- 1 ELA AP Literature and Composition 42S
- 1 ELA Literary Focus 40S
- 1 ELA Transactional Focus 40S

Only one of:

- 1 Pre-Calculus Mathematics 40S
- 1 Essential Mathematics 40S

Optional Courses

- 1 Accounting Essentials 30S
- 1 Accounting Systems 40S
- 1 Computer Science 40S
- 1 Cinema As a Witness to Modern History 40S
- 1 Visual Arts 40S
- ½ Introduction to Calculus 45S
- 1 Chemistry 40S
- 1 Physics 40S
- 1 Biology 40S
- 1 Concert Band 40S (auditioned)
- 1 Concert Choir 40S (auditioned)
- ½ School Chorus 45S
- ½ Jazz Band 45S (must be in concert band)
- 1 Vocal Jazz 40S (auditioned)
- ½ Strings/Orchestra 45S
- 1 French 40S
- 1 German 40S
- 1 Psychology 40S



Additional Requirements Notes

1. Westgate offers two graduation certificates:
 - a. **Manitoba Education Certificate:** Minimum requirement of 30 credits including the compulsory credits required by Manitoba Education and Training.
 - b. **Westgate Certificate:** In addition to meeting the requirements of Manitoba Education and Training, the student must also complete the compulsory Christian Studies credit each year.
2. The basic requirements for university are five courses at the Grade 12 level. They must cover at least four different subject areas and three of them must be at the 40S level. University scholarships are based on five 40S courses.
3. Westgate students tend to graduate with more than the required credit amounts, as our students are required to take full course loads in grades 9-10 and 8 credits in 11-12. Full participation in classes has helped us to create a positive community.

Co-curricular Programs

Our mission calls us to provide a well-rounded education.

And so, in all that we do, we want to present positive opportunities for learning and socializing in settings both inside and outside the classroom. Our co-curricular programs are deeply tied to what we teach in the classroom and are focused on following core areas: Arts, Athletics, Outdoor Education, Languages, Travel, Community building activities, and Student-led Groups.



Arts

Students at Westgate have the opportunity to be involved in Music, Drama, and Visual Arts. Besides in-class study, students participate in many other extracurricular activities.



Vocal	Instrumental	Special
Grade 6/7 Choir	Grade 6 Music	Grade 9-12 Musical
Grade 7 Choir	Grade 7 Band	Music Tour
Grade 8 Choir	Grade 8 Band	Private Lessons: Vocal, Piano, Strings, Winds, Brass, Percussion)
Grade 9 Choir	Grade 9 Band	
Grade 10-12 School Chorus	Junior Jazz Band	
Grade 10-12 Concert Choir	Grade 10-12 Concert Band	
Grade 11-12 Vocal Jazz	Senior Jazz Band	
	Junior Strings	
	Senior String	

Arts (cont'd)



Drama

- Grade 9 Drama
- Grade 10 Drama
- Grade 7-9 One Act Plays
- Grade 9-12 Musicals
- Grade 10-12 Senior Drama
- Chapel Skits
- Westgate Worship Skits
- Gr 6-12 Visits to the Theatre

Visual Arts

- Grade 6-8: *art is integrated into the classroom.*
- Grade 6-9: *opportunities creating art for one-act plays*
- Grade 9 Art
- Grade 10 Art
- Grade 11 Art
- Grade 12 Art
- Set Design
- Art Displays
- Art Gallery Visits



Athletics

The Athletics program is found in three categories: Physical Education classes, Intramural sports, and Inter-school sports. A blend of these three categories will enable every student to have the opportunity to participate in athletics and stay fit.

Grade 6–8 Inter-school sports

All students may participate if they choose to commit. The only tryout is for the badminton team. All players who attend practices will receive equal playing time in league play and exhibition tournaments. In the league championship, players will receive playing time based on the objective of fielding the most competitive team possible. Inter-school sports include:

Badminton	Cross Country	Ultimate
Basketball	Track and Field	Volleyball



Grade 9–12 Inter-school sports

Senior High students are welcome to make use of our fitness room. Many of our students also continue to be involved in inter-school sports in grades 9–12, which include the following:

Badminton	Curling	Track and Field
Basketball	Golf	Ultimate
Cross Country	Soccer	Volleyball

Outdoor Education

Outdoor experiential learning is one of the defining characteristics of Westgate’s approach to holistic education. This program aims to support and strengthen our school’s commitment to the outdoors. We want to foster an appreciation for creation and nature in students, while equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to successfully and safely navigate a range of outdoor activities.



All School June Alternative	Grade 10–12: Bike Trip from Jasper to Banff
Education Week	Grade 10 to 12: Hiking in Kananaskis
Grade 7: Camping and biking at Bird’s Hill Park	Grade 10 to 12: Canoeing in the Experimental Lakes
Grade 8: Camping and hiking at West Hawk Lake	Grade 10 Outdoor Education class
Grade 9: Camping and canoeing at Rushing River	Grade 10–12: Fall Hike
Grade 7: Festival du Voyageur	Grade 10–12: Winter Camping in a Quinzee
Grade 10–12: Ice Fishing	Grade 11–12: Winter Hike
Grade 8–12: School Winter Triathlon	All School Ski Trip
All School Cyclathon	All School Walk or Skate to the Forks
Broomball on the River	

Languages

Westgate has a long tradition of providing excellent French and German language education. Students with little or no French experience can join our regular program and students coming from French Immersion schools can engage in our advanced classes. We have often been able to offer the DELF to our most advanced French students. Our German program also has 2 streams to accommodate both those new to the language and those who are coming from the German Bilingual Program or German speaking families. See below for our language programming:

Grade 6–12: Regular and Advanced French	Advanced German Certification: Sprachdiplom
Grade 6–12: Regular and Advanced German	Grade 11: Three-month German Exchange Program
Advanced French Certification: DELF	Grade 10–11 European Study Tour



International Travel

In keeping with our desire to connect with our wider world, Westgate has a long tradition of creating meaningful and exciting excursions to far off lands. In the past, Westgate has brought students to Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, India, and Nepal. In the recent past, our international travel program focuses on two study tours. Students are given the opportunity to use their language skills and connect with German and French culture on the European Study Tour, and students can experience the spiritual and political diversity of the holy land on the Middle East Study Tour. We continue to think about new ways in which we can give students the opportunity to see their place in this diverse world.



Community Building Activities

Westgate is a community where students and teachers support each other. We also recognize that we are supported by our surrounding community. The following activities are how we build community within our walls and beyond:



Intramural Sports	Community Service Day
Grade 9 Retreat	Community Connections
Camping Trips	Volunteer Credit
All our co-curricular	Cross Grade Small Groups
Chapel	Grade Parties
Worshiping with our supporting churches	Junior and Senior Day

Student-Led Groups

It is important to give our students opportunities to develop leadership skills during their time at Westgate. By getting involved in student-led groups, students receive mentorship and support from teachers as they develop into leaders.

Junior Council	BIPOC Alliance
Senior Council	Games Club
Peer Support	ReconciliACTION
Gender Sexuality Alliance	Cross-grade Small Groups
Green Action Team	<i>And more</i>



SUPPORTS & SERVICES



Student Services

Student Services is a place where students can come to study and gain information in a quiet and comfortable setting. Students come on their own, by invitation or during scheduled support periods. Students are invited to schedule time for additional academic support before or after school. We have created an inclusive atmosphere in this space and all are welcome.



Confidentiality

Strict confidentiality is maintained and the only people with access to student files are the professionals who work with the student.

Resource Program

The prime purpose of the resource program is to assist students with a wide range of abilities and achievements so that they may progress emotionally, socially and academically while remaining in the classroom. The main objectives are:

- to identify, select, evaluate and monitor students with additional needs at all levels in collaboration with the student, classroom teacher(s), parents/guardians, educational assistant, resource teacher and clinicians when necessary.
- to develop Student Specific Plans (SSP) and support teachers with implementation.
- to support the work of the classroom teachers.

Resource Contact Information

Sherisse Spenst, Resource Teacher

 sspenst@westgatemennonite.org

Mark Wiehler, Resource Teacher

 mwiehler@westgatemennonite.org

Tessa Nussbaum, Resource Teacher

 tnussbaum@westgatemennonite.org

Counselling Program

1. Individual Personal Counselling

- » student, parent or teacher referrals

2. Career Planning

- » post secondary and career advisement, class presentations, parent information evenings, individual counselling
- » counselling regarding course selection, coordination of course changes
- » coaching and support regarding scholarships

- » assistance with job search skills and portfolio/resume writing
- » coordination of Grade 9 “Take Our Kids to Work Day”
- » facilitation of student visits to career symposia and university/college open houses

3. Consultation and Coordination Services

- » liaison with/referrals to clinicians and community supports
- » assessment and monitoring of services available to students
- » support for teachers
- » communication with parents to aid understanding of students’ behaviour and progress

4. Support to families during times of stress

5. Peer Support Program

- » The counsellor trains and works with a team of students who have been nominated by their peers to serve as trained listeners, referral agents and assistants in the delivery of the health curriculum.

6. Consent and Confidentiality

- » Students are welcomed and encouraged to speak with the counsellor at any time, but particularly when struggling with school or personal issues.
- » Generally, information shared in the counselling office is confidential and not willingly disclosed. Legal and ethical limits of confidentiality include information regarding attempts to seriously hurt self or others, abuse allegations, search warrants, subpoenas and probation orders.

Counselling Contact Information

Crystal Thiessen, School Counsellor

 cthiessen@westgatemennonite.org

Tessa Nussbaum, School Counsellor

 tnussbaum@westgatemennonite.org

Jeremy Siemens, Career Guidance

 jsiemens@westgatemennonite.org



Library

The Westgate Library is a place for learning and community. Whether you need a resource for an assignment, want to play a game at lunch, or are looking for your next great read, the library strives to be a place where students and staff can find what they need. The library provides access to a wide array of print materials and online databases, as well as knowledgeable staff to serve the needs of students and staff.

Staying Connected

We use email for our main communication with parents in an effort to reduce the amount of paper that Westgate sends home. Parents/Guardians can expect to receive requests for permission for out of school activities via Permission Click, order forms for Parent Association fundraisers, instructions for online registration for Parent/Teacher Interviews, weekly reminders of upcoming events, etc.

We utilize the Student Information System, Alma. Parents and students are able to access attendance records, course schedules, report cards and more in this platform. Please ensure that the office has your current and most used contact information. You can update this by contacting the office.

Our Website

Westgate's website is a great source of information on everything from, sports schedules and weekly menus, to admission procedures and application forms.



International & Auditing Students

Please refer to the Westgate website for information on requirements and applications for international and auditing students.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria provides good nutritional meals and friendly service to students and families at our school. They sell everything from soup, sandwiches, lasagna, and chicken curry on rice, to their famous oat squares. Students always look forward to the variety of food with an ever changing daily menu. Personal pizza day and other tasty meal special offerings are always a hit. The cafeteria does an excellent job accommodating dietary requirements by making many of the menu items dairy free or gluten friendly, with a daily vegetarian or vegan option available.

The cafeteria is cashless. Students use old school facial recognition to purchase their food. If you have any further questions, contact the cafeteria.

Lindsay Unger, Cafeteria Manager

📞 204-775-7111 ext. 209

✉️ food@westgatemennonite.org

Privacy Protection Policy

The Compliance Officer will ensure that personal information is destroyed or erased, as soon as the purpose for which it was collected is no longer relevant, or as permitted by law. There shall be an annual review of the need to continue retaining personal information. If you would like more information, contact:

Debbie Watson, Business Manager

 204-775-7111 ext. 211

 dwatson@westgatemennonite.org

Westgate Board Members 2024–2025

Executive	Representative for
Joanne Sawatzky Board Chair	Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church
Weldon Penner Vice Chair, Finance Chair	Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship
Nathan Kliewer Governance & Nominations Chair	Charleswood Mennonite Church
Tonya Rath Personnel Chair	Aberdeen Mennonite Church
Lisa Friesen Secretary	North Kildonan Mennonite Church
James Friesen Principal	Charleswood Mennonite Church

Directors	Representative for
Sandi Conrad	Parent Association
Vanessa Friesen	Bethel Mennonite Church
Debbie Hassar	Sterling Mennonite Fellowship
Linda Hathout	Member at Large
Walter Kampen	Jubilee Mennonite Church
Nancy Loewen	Staff Representative
Don Narine	Springstein Mennonite Church
Joshua Neustaedter Barg	Member at Large
Peter Sawatzky	Home Street Mennonite Church
Roland Sawatzky	First Mennonite Church
Eric Stutzman	Hope Mennonite Church



A Small School. Doing Big Things.

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