

WESTWOOD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



COURSE HANDBOOK 2025-26

**2800 rue du Bordelais
Saint-Lazare
Quebec
J7T3E3
(514) 798-4500**

INDEX

Academic ProgramsPage 2

Secondary 1:

Secondary 1 Compulsory Course Descriptions.....Page 3 - 5

Secondary 1 Art Option Course Descriptions.....Page 6

Secondary 2:

Secondary 2 Compulsory Course Descriptions.....Page 7 - 9

Secondary 2 Art Option Course Descriptions.....Page 10

Academic Programs

The placement of students into the appropriate level of French (Français de base ou Français Enrichi) and Social Studies or Sciences Humaines will be determined by Westwood Junior in collaboration with Elementary Schools.

Acceptance into the Enriched Program (Matrix) is based on the results from the enriched entrance exam.

Aspire Program	Regular Program	Immersion Program	Enriched Program - Matrix
Math Science English History Geography Study Methods Français de base Physical Education	Math Science English History Geography Français de base Ethics, Quebec Culture & Citizenship Physical Education	Math Science English Histoire Géographie Français de base ou Français Enrichi Ethics, Quebec Culture & Citizenship Physical Education	Math Science English Histoire Géographie Français Enrichi Ethics, Quebec Culture & Citizenship Physical Education

The Westwood Junior ASPIRE program is an initiative providing students with instruction that is modified to their academic level, tailoring learning to fit the child. The program will offer:

- Small class size/ student ratio.
- Curriculum that meets the students learning needs and levels.
- Structured curriculum that allows for flexible and differentiated instruction and assessment.
- Unified cohort for core classes (English, French, Math), as well as Science.
- Study methods 6 periods on a 9-day cycle;
- Option courses (Drama, Art, and Music), as well as Physical Education with the general school population.

Upon completion of this program, most students may enter a work-oriented pathway, or transition back to a graduation track program.

**Students who have been accepted into the ASPIRE program have gone through a screening process and are recommended by their Secondary 1 teachers.

Cycle One Option Courses

As per Ministry requirements, students must take the same compulsory Arts course in Secondary 1 & Secondary 2. Students must complete a two-year program in one of the following Arts option courses: Art, Music, Drama.

SECONDARY ONE

ENGLISH - SECONDARY 1

English Language Arts at Westwood High School is a literacy-based program. Students will be engaged with literary selections in a wide variety of activities. There are several specific end-of-cycle outcomes for each competency that students will be working to achieve in their ELA program. There are also several specific evaluation criteria for each competency. Put in straightforward terms, students in Secondary I English at Westwood will be engaged in a stimulating variety of activities, which will further develop their Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening skills. Activities may include reading stories, novels, articles, and poems. Students will develop their writing skills through writing paragraphs, journal responses, and short essays.

Participating in discussions, oral presentations, debates, creating photo essays, media presentations, as well as listening to the teacher, fellow students, and audio and video recordings will hone their oral communication skills. The Residential school system and Truth & Reconciliation are major themes of study in Secondary 1. Course readings may include *The Adventures of Ulysses* (Evslin); *The Giver* (Lowry); *Hatchet* (Paulsen);

Freak the Mighty (Philbrick), Juice (Walters), The One and Only Ivan (Applegate), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare), Fatty Legs (Pokiak-Fenton), The Breadwinner (Deborah Ellis), and various poems, short stories, film, and media resources.

FRENCH - SECONDARY 1

Le programme de base en Français vise une connaissance fonctionnelle de la langue, c'est-à-dire la capacité d'interagir en français à l'oral et à l'écrit avec des amis, des pairs, des commerçants ou, éventuellement des employeurs francophones. Ces habiletés permettent à l'élève de participer à la vie de la communauté francophone au Québec. Nous encourageons la lecture pour aider à maîtriser et travailler la langue. Certains des romans que nous utilisons sont:

- *La saison de basket de Fred* par Roger Poupart
- *Zamboni* par François Gravel
- *Qui a peur des Fantômes* par Sylvie Desrosiers

ENRICHED FRENCH - SECONDARY 1

Le programme avancé en Français vise le développement d'habiletés plus complexes en matière d'interaction, tant à l'oral qu'à l'écrit. De fait, l'élève est appelé à atteindre un niveau d'autonomie et d'aisance linguistique et culturelle suffisant pour faciliter son intégration à la communauté francophone au Québec.

MATHEMATICS - SECONDARY 1

The Math department loves challenging their students with what the program has to offer. They believe strongly in the basics and help build that foundation for the students so that they can build strategies in solving more challenging situations. They are always available for help and believe that with the aid of the student's home, as a team, they can achieve student success. Math classes use online programs and applications are used regularly in the classroom. Every student has a Math Help Service Account. Topics covered include decimals, fractions, proportions, operations sense, area and perimeter of polygons and circles, surface area, transformations and constructions, angles and measurement, understanding algebraic expressions, constructing and evaluating algebraic expressions and solving algebraic equations, constructing and analyzing tables and graphs, using (forming) statistical reports, studying random experiments, calculating probability of events and determining all possible possibilities.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - SECONDARY 1

The curriculum is designed to be a student-based hands-on program. Students will find solutions to scientific or technological problems, make use of knowledge about science and technology, and communicate using scientific and technological language and symbols. The curriculum is theme-based and integrates concepts from the four worlds: living (habitat, adaptation, species, population, plants and animals, stages of human development), material (mass, volume, density), earth (structure of the Earth, natural disasters, sources of energy) and technological (motion, force, transformation of energy).

SOCIAL STUDIES / SCIENCES HUMAINES SECONDARY 1

The course will focus on past and present territories and societies in the attempt to connect and explain their significance with regards to both human development and human activity. It studies the conditions and the settings which affect human behavior, existence and development. Although this course is henceforth an amalgam of geographical and historical examinations, these analyses are not mutually exclusive. Their correlation (connection) and union offer students a more appropriate and effective approach in studying all the phenomena associated with human societies and human representations of them.

In Geography, students will work towards understanding the organization of a territory, interpreting territorial issues and constructing their consciousness of global citizenship. We explore topics such as maps, tourism, metropolises, protected territories, natural disasters, and agricultural territories. In History, we travel through time from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages.

ETHICS, QUEBEC CULTURE & CITIZENSHIP - SECONDARY 1

The Ethics, Quebec Culture & Citizenship program offers all students from various backgrounds multiple opportunities to engage in issues of ethical and religious nature through discussions, guest speakers, and group outings. By using the necessary tools, students can achieve a better comprehension of our pluralist and democratic society and its cultural and religious heritage. Students will be exposed to various ethical issues and are encouraged to reflect and practice open-mindedness in order to develop critical reflection, while improving their ability to act appropriately with others. Students will be provided with a multitude of opportunities to learn from and will be guided through strategies to assess their online risk profiles, better evaluate their digital footprints, and actively manage their cyber profiles. Guest speakers will provide students with key presentations on topics such as philanthropy and giving. In addition, students will be provided with opportunities to embark on projects through entrepreneurial initiatives that will look at serving vulnerable populations or a particular need in their local community. The CCQ course aims to facilitate and promote a dialogue about inclusivity, behavior,

reflexive thinking, tolerance and acceptance towards people's differences, while learning to respect others in order to become an integral part of a democratic society.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - SECONDARY 1

Physical Education at Westwood is designed to increase physical literacy. As a whole we aim to teach skills, knowledge, sportsmanship and safety through a wide variety of sports and fitness activities. In secondary one, we cover units such as rugby, ultimate frisbee, ball hockey, basketball, track & field, softball, as well as outdoor winter activities. The units focus on the development of skills and on an understanding of team and individual sports where the majority of the evaluation will be on participation, sportsmanship, cooperation, and personal fitness. A mandatory physical education t-shirt and proper attire is required for each class.

SECONDARY ONE

Art Option Course Descriptions

ART - SECONDARY 1

It is a 2-year program that allows the students the opportunity to develop their creative and expressive abilities through various art projects. At the same time, they are developing observational and technical skill. Students are challenged as they are guided in discovering their own potential. Over the 2-year period, students explore a wide range of art mediums and materials in a bright, spacious art room. The students' artwork is displayed on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

DRAMA - SECONDARY 1

This course introduces students to Dramatic Arts by teaching techniques in three areas: acting, stagecraft, and production. Students will learn how to act through body language, pantomime and improvisation. They will learn how to read and write scripts and produce both skits and video productions. They will do some blocking, set and costume design, as well as audio/visual setups. Finally, students will study the history of theatre through Shakespeare, Commedia Dell'Arte, and puppetry. Some of the activities that the students will take part in include team building, drama games, duologues, sock puppets, improvisation, comedy skits, Circus Arts.

MUSIC - SECONDARY 1

In this two-year course, students have the pleasure of playing a wind or percussion instrument. At the beginning of grade 7, students try all the different instruments and choose one that they like to play. We begin to play our instrument by learning the musical basics so if you have no musical experience at all, you will be part of the majority. If you have some musical experience, you have the advantage. As a bonus, we perform concerts throughout the year for our community and take trips to compete at the provincial and national levels. Pre-requisites are not mandatory for students going into grade 7. All students are expected to participate in all concerts, recording, competitions, and events. Overnight trips are optional.

SECONDARY TWO

ENGLISH - SECONDARY 2

English Language Arts at Westwood High School is a literacy-based program. There are several specific end-of-cycle outcomes for each competency that students will be working to achieve in their ELA program, building on the knowledge gained in Secondary 1. There are also several specific evaluation criteria for each competency. Students in Secondary II English at Westwood will be engaged in a stimulating variety of activities, which will further develop their Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening skills. Activities may include reading stories, novels, articles, poems, writing paragraphs, journal responses, short essays, participating in discussions, oral presentations, debates, creating photo essays, media presentations and listening to the teacher, fellow students, as well as audio and video recordings. World War II is a major unit of study in Secondary 2. Some novels may include: King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table (Green); Beowulf (Nye); Ugliest (Westerfeld), Soldier X (Wulffson), Shattered (Walters), Juice (Walters), The Outsiders (Hinton), Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare), The Boy on the Wooden Box (Leyson) MacBeth (Shakespeare), Number the Stars (Lowry), The Hidden Girl (Kaufman), We Are All Made of Molecules (Nielsen), The Field Guide to the North American Teenager (Phillipe), Luna (Peters), as well as various poems, short stories, film, and media resources.

FRENCH - SECONDARY 2

Le programme de base en Français vise une connaissance fonctionnelle de la langue, c'est-à-dire la capacité d'interagir en français à l'oral et à l'écrit avec des amis, des pairs, des commerçants ou, éventuellement des employeurs francophones. Ces habiletés permettent à l'élève de participer à la vie de la communauté francophone au Québec.

ENRICHED FRENCH - SECONDARY 2

Le programme avancé en Français vise le développement d'habiletés plus complexes en matière d'interaction, tant à l'oral qu'à l'écrit. De fait, l'élève est appelé à atteindre un niveau d'autonomie et d'aisance linguistique et culturelle suffisant pour faciliter son intégration à la communauté francophone au Québec.

MATHEMATICS - SECONDARY 2

The Math department loves challenging their students with what the program has to offer. They believe strongly in the basics and help build that foundation for the students so that they can build strategies in solving more challenging situations. They are always available for help and believe that with the aid of the student's home, as a team, they can achieve student success. Math classes use online programs and applications are used regularly in the classroom. Every student has a Math Help Service Account. Topics covered include decimals, fractions, proportions, operations sense, area and perimeter of polygons and circles, surface area, transformations and constructions, angles and measurement, understanding algebraic expressions, constructing and evaluating algebraic expressions and solving algebraic equations, constructing and analyzing tables and graphs, using (forming) statistical reports, studying random experiments, calculating probability of events and determining all possible possibilities.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - SECONDARY 2

The curriculum is designed to be a student-based hands-on program. Students will find solutions to scientific or technological problems, make use of knowledge about science and technology, and communicate using scientific and technological language and symbols. The curriculum is theme-based and continues to integrate concepts from the four worlds: living, material, earth and space and technological.

SOCIAL STUDIES / SCIENCES HUMAINES SECONDARY 2

The course will focus on past and present territories and societies in the attempt to connect and explain their significance with regards to both human development and human activity. It studies the conditions and the settings which affect human behavior, existence and development. Although this course is henceforth an amalgam of geographical and historical examinations, these analyses are not mutually exclusive. Their correlation (connection) and union offer students a more appropriate and effective approach in studying all the phenomena associated with human societies and human representations of them.

In Geography, students will work towards understanding the organization of a territory, interpreting territorial issues and constructing their consciousness of global citizenship. We explore topics such as maps, agricultural areas at risk; industrial, forest and energy-producing regions; heritage cities and native territories. In History, we travel through time from the Renaissance to the civil rights of the 20th century.

ETHICS, QUEBEC CULTURE & CITIZENSHIP - SECONDARY 2

The Ethics, Quebec Culture & Citizenship program offers all students from various backgrounds multiple opportunities to engage in issues of ethical and religious nature through discussions, guest speakers, and group outings. By using the necessary tools, students can achieve a better comprehension of our pluralist and democratic society and its cultural heritage. Students will be exposed to various ethical issues and are encouraged to reflect and practice open-mindedness in order to develop critical reflection, while improving their ability to act appropriately with others. Students will be provided with a multitude of opportunities to learn from and will be guided through strategies to assess their online risk profiles, better evaluate their digital footprints, and actively manage their cyber profiles. Guest speakers will provide students with key presentations on topics such as philanthropy and giving. In addition, students will be provided with opportunities to embark on projects through entrepreneurial initiatives that will look at serving vulnerable populations or a particular need in their local community. The CCQ course aims to facilitate and promote a dialogue about inclusivity, behavior, reflexive thinking, tolerance and acceptance towards people's differences, while learning to respect others to become an integral part of a democratic society.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - SECONDARY 2

Physical Education at Westwood is designed to increase physical literacy. We aim to teach skills, knowledge, sportsmanship and safety through a wide variety of sports and fitness activities. In secondary two, we cover units such as flag football, lacrosse, futsal, handball, tchoukball, as well as outdoor winter activities. The units focus on the development of skills and on an understanding of team and individual sports where the majority of the evaluation will be on participation, sportsmanship, cooperation, and personal fitness.

A mandatory physical education t-shirt and proper attire is required for each class.

SECONDARY TWO

Art Option Course Descriptions

ART - SECONDARY 2

The 2-year program allows students to explore further ways to develop their creative and expressive abilities through various art projects. At the same time, they are developing observational and technical skill. Students are challenged as they are guided in discovering their own potential. Students explore a wide range of art mediums and materials in a bright, spacious art room. The students' artwork is displayed on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

DRAMA - SECONDARY 2

This course introduces students to Dramatic Arts by teaching techniques in three areas: acting, stagecraft, and production. Students will learn how to act through body language, pantomime, and improvisation. They will learn how to read and write scripts and produce both skits and video productions. They will do some blocking, set and costume design, as well as audio/visual setups. Finally, students will study the history of theater through Shakespeare, Commedia Dell'Arte, and puppetry. Some of the activities that the students will take part in include team building activities, Commedia Dell'Arte, mask making, monologues, improvisation, shadow puppetry.

MUSIC - SECONDARY 2

In this two-year course, students have the pleasure of playing a wind or percussion instrument. As a bonus, we perform concerts throughout the year for our community and take trips to compete at the provincial and national levels. All students are expected to participate in all concerts, recording, competitions, and events. Overnight trips are optional.