



Saskatoon Public Schools



LET'S LEAD NĪKĀNĒTĀN

What is it? (Mission Statement)

Let's Lead NĪkĀnĒtĀn is a Grade 8 outdoor leadership program. Students get an opportunity to learn with a holistic and community-based approach that teaches them independence, initiative and advocacy. The Let's Lead - NĪkĀnĒtĀn program is for students who enjoy experiencing:

- First Nation's, Métis and Michif cultural teachings and opportunities
- Camping and connecting to the land
- Improving leadership and teamwork skills
- The Grade 8 curriculum in a practical hands-on format

Who is it for?

Let's Lead – NĪkĀnĒtĀn is for students who want to spend their entire Grade 8 year learning the curriculum through hands-on, and out-of-school experiences. It is for young people who are looking to develop their leadership skills, find their passion, spend time connecting to the land and experience a hands-on approach to education. All equipment, transportation and food costs along with any other fees incurred will be covered completely by the program for each student.

Who are the staff?

Mandy Cooper and Evan Nienaber are the teachers in the program. They have more than 20 years of combined experience in teaching leadership, teamwork and working in an outdoor environment. They are supported by Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers and community facilitators who provide students with a well-rounded learning experience.

How much will the program cost?

The Saskatoon Public School Division, along with Westmount Community School provides the teachers, facilities and equipment. Students will not be required to pay any fee to participate in the program. There will be times when the students are expected to help with a fundraiser or community service. All of the cost for equipment, student gear, food on trips, and travel expenses are covered.

I like that we get to learn outdoors and do hands-on learning, it helps me be more engaged because I have a lot of fun. -

*E. Whitehead-Stonestand
(Student)*

Parent/Guardian Open House:
Monday March 11, 2024.
Starts at 7PM @Westmount School

Apply Today!
See the last page for details





What do I get out of it? What is the program's philosophy?

There are nine components of our overall vision regarding how the Grade 8 curriculum will be taught to the students in Let's Lead— Nīkānētān. They are as follows:

Relationship Building

This includes developing relationships between the students as well as with the staff members who work with them. We feel that it is very important that we all are able to work together and have a respectful, cooperative, and understanding relationship between all people in the class. This relationship is critical for the best learning to take place.

Teamwork & Leadership

This includes working on communication skills (speaking, listening, and writing), developing independence and responsibility, learning how to use strengths and challenge our weaknesses, developing presentation and decision making skills, learning risk management, working and learning in teams, and learning from failures to turn them into successes.

Land-Based Learning

Students are provided with opportunities for holistic connections with the land. Not only do we learn on the land, but the land is our teacher. We are often joined by Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers who help deepen students connection with the land.

Choice

We feel that being able to choose and make choices is important; because throughout your life you will have to make choices all the time. This means that our students are treated as young adults with opportunities to make choices, make mistakes and deal with the natural consequences. The first choice you get to make is to apply to spend your Grade 8 year with us.

Integrated Project Based Learning

This includes doing long term and real life projects with all subject areas integrated. There will not be scheduled separation of subject areas.

Assessment for Learning

This includes using student and teacher developed criteria to assess our work rather than using marks or percentages. We also integrate student involvement in the creation of assessments. Learning from our mistakes is an important part of the program.

Future Vision

This includes working on career education, improving self-concept and self-confidence, developing a sense of hope, planning for the future (job, education, lifestyle), and valuing lifelong active living.

Fun

Our goal is to ignite a passion for learning and to make it joyful with all of the students in Let's Lead – Nīkānētān.

Experiential Education

This includes learning in the best place at the best time, which means we will be out in the real world, doing hands on learning. As well, we will be spending as much time in the great outdoors as possible and experiencing as many different career options as we can fit into one school year.



Some of the experiences students have been offered in previous years are:

- ◇ 3 day leadership camp at Pike Lake
- ◇ 3 day camping trip at Shekinah (Zip-lining, Wall climbing, Archery)
- ◇ Belonging Blasts
- ◇ University of Saskatchewan trips including gymnastics, biology, chemistry, observatory, etc.
- ◇ 3 day winter camping trip to Brightwater
- ◇ Downhill skiing/snowboarding
- ◇ Cross-country skiing
- ◇ Canoe Training
- ◇ River Canoe Trip
- ◇ Wall-Climbing
- ◇ 2 day Regina Trip (Science Centre, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Legislature, RCMP Depo Division, First Nations University)
- ◇ One School One Farm partnership and Muskeg Lake Trip
- ◇ Hide Tanning
- ◇ Grocery store planning & trips
- ◇ 3 day camping trip to Douglas Provincial Park
- ◇ Experience multiple worldviews through visits to spiritual and significant cultural places
- ◇ Opportunities to participate in First Nations and Métis/Michif culture (i.e. smudge, teepee teachings, jigging, pow wow, etc.)
- ◇ Opportunities to learn from Métis and Michif, First Nations Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Community Members
- ◇ Partnership with the U of S with a lot of hands-on experiences on campus
- ◇ Swimming, lifesaving and first aid lessons at our city pools
- ◇ Cycling throughout the city. We have a class set of bikes and learn bike maintenance



What about meals?

All meals will be provided for the students on all of the trips. Students will be expected to bring a daily lunch on days the students are not away on a trip. Students without a daily lunch will be provided with one.



What about extra-curricular activities?

We try our best to accommodate extra-curricular activities and provide opportunities for students' interests and needs. We try to make room for outside school activities in the program, but our overnight camps mean students involved in these activities may miss some events.

"I like how we are out all day and are not stuck in the classroom, and how instead of reading from a textbook we can go and actually do it."

C. Rabbitskin (student)





What will be expected of me if I am in the class?

1. You must be prepared to **spend time away from home** on our out-of-school camping trips and our day to day activities. The length of time for the camping trips can vary from two to four days in duration. Day to day class activities may involve time during the day or evening. Your class time may not always be between 8:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. We prefer to schedule activities and camps weeks or months in advance, but occasionally opportunities come up with short notice. As we like to take advantage of all learning opportunities and be responsive to the learning needs of the class, some of these activities may be scheduled with less than 24 hours notice.
2. **Be present and on time** throughout the year.
3. Will have **appropriate behavior at all times** in both supervised and unsupervised situations (on public transit, independent work time, solo time, etc.)
4. **Persevere** throughout the year, on activities and in trips. A person who is willing to dig in and try harder as soon as the going gets tough will strengthen the rest of the group. Our aim is to develop and encourage resilience in students.
5. Show **enthusiasm and cooperation** at all times with all of the other group members and leaders.
6. Be **willing to work until the job is done**, not just when you've done your share.
7. **Dress appropriately**. This means wearing suitable waterproof clothing and footwear that we provide.

Contact Us

Give us a call and ask for Evan or Mandy if you have questions:

Let's Lead Nīkānētān

(306) 683-7490

Visit us on the web at <https://www.spsd.sk.ca/school/westmount/ProgramsServices/letslead/Pages/default.aspx>



Where does the program take place?

Let's Lead - Nīkānētān is based out of Westmount Community School at 411 Avenue J North, 306-683-7490. Much of the time, the students will be learning and doing activities outside of the school throughout the city of Saskatoon and the province.





What kind of equipment does the program provide?

Students do not need any special equipment. All necessary equipment will be supplied to each student in Let's Lead – Nīkānētān. If students wish to use their own equipment, they may, but it is not required. Equipment supplied includes:

- ◇ Waterproof boots
- ◇ Sleeping bag & mat
- ◇ Backpack
- ◇ Paddle & lifejacket
- ◇ Tents
- ◇ Bike Helmet and Bike
- ◇ Any outdoor gear that students need for learning outside



“My most favorite trip was Table Mountain because I got to snowboard and I learned that the more you try, the more you get better at it, and not to just give up. I learned how to persevere.”

D. Elliot (student)



How do I get to the program?

Each student will be given a monthly bus pass to keep and use throughout the year to get from their home to Westmount Community School and anywhere else our travels take us in Saskatoon.



“I like how we have bus passes and we can go wherever we want without a ride. It really helped me learn about how to get around our city.”

A. Kaur (student)



How do I apply?

1. Guardian & Family Information Night– **March 11th at 7:00PM.** This will take place at Westmount Community School in the gymnasium. Please email nienabere@spsd.sk.ca if you have any questions.

2. Fill out the online application OR fill out a paper copy and send it to Evan Nienaber @ Westmount Community School or email it to Evan (nienabere@spsd.sk.ca) by April 26th, 2024. *We will accept late applications until May 10th, 2024.*

3. Of the students that apply, approximately 70 to 80 students will be chosen to participate in an application camp at Pike Lake on **Wednesday, May 22nd to Thursday, May 23rd.** Students will receive more information about our application camp at the beginning of May. Information will be sent to teachers and the primary email contact.

- Students must notify their school of participation in this camp.
- Transportation and meals will be provided.
- Those students that meet the selection criteria (see below) will have their names entered in a lottery and 28 of these students will be chosen to form the Let's Lead –Nīkānētān classroom in the fall.



Selection Criteria:

- ◇ Their ability to get along with others
- ◇ Make responsible independent choices
- ◇ Be safe and responsible
- ◇ Contribute to the group
- ◇ Show a willingness to learn and take correction from others
- ◇ Be physically able to meet the demands of camp
- ◇ Persevere to the end
- ◇ Listen and respect both peers and teachers
- ◇ Show self-control
- ◇ Be kind, caring, and accepting of others



Application Form (Due Friday, April 26th, 2024)

(Please fill out our online application or detach this section and send it to Evan Nienaber (nienabere@spsd.sk.ca) or Westmount Community School (411 Ave J North).

By completing this form, the student is applying to the Let's Lead Nīkānētān program and you as the parent or guardian are giving permission for your child to participate fully in all activities and meet the expectations outlined in the above application package.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Preferred Pronouns: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

Student's Phone Number: _____ Student's Hospitalization #: _____

Guardian (s) Phone Number: _____

I have fully read the above information and I support and permit my child to participate in this program.

Parent / Guardian's Name: _____

Parent / Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Primary Email (this email will be contacted with information regarding the upcoming Application Camp): _____

Student's Current School: _____

Student's Current Teacher: _____

Student Q & A:

Please answer the following questions to your best ability.

1. Why do you want to be a part of Let's Lead Nīkānētān?

2. Write a list of your interests/hobbies.

3. Do you like to spend time outdoors (circle the answer that best applies to you) ?

No Sometimes Most of the time Almost Always

4. Do you work well in groups (circle the answer that best applies to you) ?

I prefer to work alone Sometimes Most of the Time Almost Always

5. How do you show leadership in your school/community?

Contact Us

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