

MÉTIS CULTURAL PROGRAM



Westmount Community School

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MÉTIS CULTURAL PROGRAM ADVANTAGE

The Métis Cultural Program has been created to preserve, strengthen, and transmit Métis and Michif culture, traditions, and Michif language in Saskatchewan. The program supports all Westmount students from prekindergarten to Grade 8 and is delivered exclusively from a Michif and Métis perspective that is infused in curricular outcomes throughout the subject areas.

The intent of the program is to enrich student education through authentic learning experiences within a Michif and Métis world view. The learning occurs through a co-teaching model where the Métis culture teacher, Michif Traditional Knowledge Keeper, and the Michif language teacher work with classroom teachers to integrate the language, content, and perspectives. This approach is building capacity in all teachers to infuse content, perspectives, and language in all curricular areas.

During the school year, students are engaged in enriching their skills from a Michif and Métis perspective, building culturally relevant leadership skills, transferring knowledge between generations, and participating in experiential learning opportunities. These opportunities are made possible due to the generosity and commitment of members from the Michif and Métis communities in Saskatoon.

Partnerships and support from the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Lii Pleu Vyeu, Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated (CUMFI), Metis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S), Gabriel Dumont Local 11, and Saskatoon Public Schools First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Education Unit are essential to the success of the Métis Cultural Program.

MA TAANT SA PLAAS PROGRAM

Westmount Community School is the home of Ma Taant sa Plaas (Auntie's Place), a Michif early learning program offering full-day prekindergarten, Monday to Thursday. The program is designed to preserve, strengthen and transmit Michif language, culture, and traditions and provide children ages 3, 4, and 5 with an experience that will build a strong cultural Michif/Métis identity and increased academic success. Children entering Ma Taant sa Plaas learn through a Michif/Métis perspective, ways of knowing and being. This program aims to involve Michif speakers, Lii Vyeu, families, and community to share in their knowledge of language and traditions. Information and application forms are available at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca/westmount

HIGHLIGHTS

- The first program of its kind in Saskatchewan
- Home to a performance jiggging troupe
- Offers Michif language instruction
- Program, staff & community were highlighted in the emergent reading series—*Taanshi Books*—published at GDI
- The Sweetheart Dance hosted in partnership between the school, SCC & Westmount Community Association is held annually in February as a celebration of Métis culture through song and dance. Students, families, and community members look forward to this event each year
- Métis Day, an annual celebration of learning in June that hosts Grade 4 students from 18 different schools within Saskatoon Public Schools
- Home to a full-size Red River cart built by students, staff, and community members

