



ROYAL WEST ACADEMY

189 Easton Avenue, Montreal-West (Quebec) H4X 1L4

OPEN HOUSE Q&A

Please note that answers below, unless otherwise indicated, relate to our usual practice during non-COVID times.

GENERAL

1. What is your cellphone policy & do you have a course in digital citizenship?

Personal cell phones and other mobile computing devices must be turned off and may be left in the locker or school bag during class time and between classes unless it is required for educational purposes in a particular class. RWA provides access to school-purchased devices for classroom use. Prior to using a cell phone, smart watch, or other electronic device, a student must seek the permission of the classroom teacher. Failure to do so will result in confiscation by staff and/or the administration. A parent may retrieve their child's cell phone or electronic device at any time during school hours. A student may consequently lose access to the device while at school, during the school day for five days. Further, a student may also receive a school detention and any subsequent violation may result in suspension. Cell phones and electronic devices may not be used between classes except during recess and lunch. Students may not receive phone calls and may not use the phones in the general office. Parents should contact the office for urgent matters.

Several technology topics such as digital citizenship, are covered in the Educational Technology course taught as of secondary 1.

2. What are your class sizes or student-to-teacher ratios?

The class sizes at Royal West Academy follow standards established by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES). In subjects that offer a choice (FLM or FLE, Math regular or accelerated, electives, for example) the number of students registered will impact the course's class size. Generally, class sizes vary between 28 and 33.

3. How many classes per grade?

There are typically 6 sections (or groups) at each grade level.

4. Are student allowed to leave campus for lunch?

Royal West Academy does not currently have any rules restricting movement during the lunch period.

5. What happens to students out of dress code?

If the student has modified their uniform in a way that does not conform to the uniform policy, they may be subject to disciplinary measures, including being sent home immediately.

6. If a child struggles in one or two subjects, are they asked to leave the school or are they helped?

Students have many avenues to help remedy any difficulty they may experience in their subjects. For example, they may attend teacher remediation periods, work with a peer tutor or a resource teacher. For students who need help with organization or study skills, the MindPOP team is also available to offer support.

7. Should the pandemic cause school closure, what on line platforms will the students be using?

Depending on the subject domain, either MS Teams or Google Classroom will be used to conduct virtual classes.

8. In times when the students need to work remotely, are teachers available on line when students need extra support?

Assuming the question refers to a confinement situation (due to COVID pandemic), teachers will have scheduled office hours, when students may contact them for additional support. In regular (non-pandemic) times, teachers are available in person to assist students.

TRANSPORTATION

9. Is there any special transportation available to students who do not live on the island of Montreal?

Transportation for high school students is not provided by our school board. Our students travel to school via public transportation (metro, bus, commuter train), by bicycle or walking, or are dropped off by a family member.

PROGRAMS

10. Are there special programs or study streams offered?

Royal West Academy offers an enriched curriculum, including:

- Arts rotation (visual arts, music and drama)
- Accelerated math program
- Français Langue d'Enseignement
- Environmental Science & Technology in secondary 4
- Science pathway in secondary 5 (chemistry and physics)
- Annual Science Fair and Salon des Inventions

11. Is RWA considering having a sport concentration program to provide a balance between academic and athletic development for student athletes?

Royal West Academy is not considering a sports concentration program, however, mandatory participation in our extensive extra-curricular program does provide an opportunity for students to develop as well-rounded young people.

12. Do all students have access to drama courses & performance opportunities

All secondary 1 students participate in an arts rotation that includes Drama. Further, students are given the choice between visual arts, music and drama in secondary 2 and 3.

Extra-curricular activities such as the Bardolators, the Musical, Honour Band, and Dance Show provide opportunities for students to advance their talents and perform in front of spectators.

13. Do you have a study methods course & are teachers available after hours for extra help?

Our MindPop team can help students with organizational skills, study skills, and much more. Every RWA teacher has scheduled remediation times, during which students may get additional support. This may take place in the mornings prior to homeroom, at lunch or after school.

14. Is there a Music Program?

RWA has a well-established music program for students in secondary 1 through 5. We also offer music extra-curricular activities, such as Honour Band.

15. Are all courses offered in French in the first few years?

Many of the courses in secondary 1 and 2 are offered in French, such as French, mathematics, science, history and geography. The remaining courses, the arts, physical education, ethics and religious culture, and educational technology are taught in English. As of secondary 3, mathematics are taught in English.

16. Can you please elaborate on your computer program classes and are there any concentrations in computer technology?

We do not offer a concentration in technology, but do offer a variety of both mandatory and elective courses.

In Grades 7-9 students must take the course Educational Technology, which is designed to further develop their computer skills by using applications such as Google Docs, Slides, Microsoft Office and Google Sheets/Forms. The course will also focus on improvement of keyboarding skills using typing.com. Students are introduced to webpage design and computer programming using Code Academy, Scratch and Microbits.

In Grades 10 and 11, students may continue to develop their technological skills through their electives, including Computer Science, Film, Digital Graphics and 3D modeling.

17. On the website, you call yourselves an alternative high school, what makes you alternative/different?

Our special status as per article 240 of the Education Act, is multi-faceted:

- Mandatory student participation in our extra-curricular activity program
- Community, Culture and World awareness programs
- Excellence in French and Bilingualism
- Academic enrichment and literacy in information technology

- Organizational and planning skills
- Parental involvement
- Criteria for the selection of students

SPECIAL NEEDS

18. Do you offer special/ additional support for children with an IEP and/or (light) learning disabilities?

Many of our teachers have resource periods built into their schedule, when they work with students to facilitate IEP accommodations.

19. For any ASD students which RWA accepted in the past, what type of services did RWA provide to help the students to adapt?

Services offered to ASD students are based on their IEPs, in consultation with our school team as well as the ASD consultant at the school board when deemed necessary. Such services may include support from our Student Services team, resource teacher, behavior technicians, or classroom teachers.

Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)

20. Are there any extracurricular activities to reinforce learning French?

In secondary 1, the French teachers created the CAF (Centre d'apprentissage du français) to help students who require additional support in French. The CAF is not considered an ECA.

All ECAs run by French teachers are done entirely in French.

21. What sports and clubs do you offer? What extracurricular activities do you offer and can secondary one students join these teams?

The list of ECAs offered on a yearly basis is contingent upon the interests and expertise of the faculty. With changes in staffing, there may be alternative options offered. There are often over 100 different ECAs offered to all RWA students. Here is a small sample of activities:

- Honour Band
- Club de lecture
- Bardolators
- Battle of the Books
- Glee Club
- International Student Exchange
- Literary Magazine
- Robotics
- Basketball
- Canoe Camping
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Debating
- Green Bean cuisine
- Social Justice
- Yearbook

- Collective garden
- La Nuit Verte

ADMISSIONS

22. During the acceptance process, are the entrance exams and the in person interview weighted equally? (in other words, if my child does excellently academically but is very nervous during the interview, will she be rejected?)

The entrance exams are worth approximately half the assessment, with the report card and interview worth the other half.

23. What is the average grade 5 score required for admission?

We do not have a specific grade 5 score required. Each year, the students are selected based on where they placed within the cohort of students who apply.

24. What is the average score on the entrance exam required for admission?

We do not have a specific score required. Each year, the students are selected based on where they placed within the cohort of students who wrote the exam.

25. How is RWA determining 2021 Entrance criteria for students since their Grade 5 report cards do not indicate any grades, but rather pass/fail?

We will be looking at terms 1 & 2 of the grade 5 report card, as well as the grade 4 report cards.

26. I need information about Grade 5 Entrance exam. What is the date of exam for this year for grade 5 students?

There are no exams for grade 5 students – only grade 6 students.

27. Can you provide details on the admission process as well as the timeline when each step occurs?

Entrance exams usually take place at the end of September. Early acceptance letters are usually sent out in October. Interviews are typically scheduled from October to December. All acceptance letters or refusal letters are sent out by the end of December or early January.

28. What are the pre-requisites for admission besides the entrance exam?

A certificate of eligibility for English instruction in Quebec.

29. Besides academic grades, what other criteria does Royal West consider important for the success of the students and of course to help them be accepted in?

We are looking for well-rounded students with varied interests outside of school.

30. How can a student transfer to Royal West in secondary 2 or 3? What is the procedure? What are the requirements?

Applications for upper graders (secondary 2 to 5) requires only an interview. We will also look at the last report card.

31. Are math questions in English or in French?

Math questions are asked in both languages.

32. Did RWA accept highly-functioning ASD students?

We do not discriminate against students who have special needs. Students are accepted on the basis of their results on the entrance exam (if applying to secondary 1), interview, and previous year's report card.

33. What is ratio of applicants to acceptance?

We usually receive 550 applications for approximately 180 spaces in secondary 1.

34. Hi, I just saw the 4 minute video, it is very hard to get a fix for a school with this venue. Is there any possibility of visiting the school by appointment?

Unfortunately we are unable to offer individual visits to the school, especially during this time where COVID-19 guidelines are quite specific with regards to visitors to the building.

35. Do you offer online practice entrance exams?

We do not offer any preparatory exams.

36. What is entrance test's subject?

The students are tested on their grade 5 knowledge of English, French and mathematics.

37. What is ratio of girls and boys?

The ratio varies every year as acceptance is not granted based on gender.

38. Are results from competitions of organized sports recognized in the admission process? The premise is that this serves to demonstrate that the child is mature and disciplined and talented to be able to manage their time effectively, train and compete in competitions.

Participation in events should be mentioned during the admission interview, as it speaks to the well-roundedness of the student, however, the results of competitions do not impact admission acceptance.

39. Are siblings given any form of priority?

We are unable to offer priority to siblings. Every prospective RWA student must follow the same admissions process.

40. My son is in Lester B. Pearson school board, will he be eligible for Royal West Academy. What is the procedure we need to follow? Is there an interview process thereafter?

Any student applying from a different school board will require an inter-board agreement to attend RWA. The application process remains the same as for any other applicant.