



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I help my child if I don't speak French?

Most parents of immersion students do not speak French. Here are some ways you can help your child when you don't know the language:

- Support and encourage your child's learning.
- Use your home language to develop your child's intellect through conversation about varied topics.
- Encourage reading in any language and read with your child in your home language.
- Communicate with the school about your child's progress.
- Show an interest in French and explore French events, films and books.

How will my child develop and maintain strong English skills in French immersion?

At least 25 per cent of the time (and more in later years) will be spent working on English skills. Moreover, studying in a second language will actually end up strengthening your child's English language skills, as well.

Isn't immersion just for gifted children? What about if my child struggles?

Research and experience show that immersion students with a variety of challenges will do as well academically as they would in an English language program. Children learn at different rates and in different ways, regardless of their program.

OUR FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS

Dual track (English program also taught at these schools)

- Neil Campbell School (grades K–6)
- Salisbury Morse Place School (grades K–6)
- Springfield Heights School (grades K–5)
- Sun Valley School (grades K–5)
- John Henderson Junior High School (grades 6–9)
- Munroe Junior High School (grades 7–9—late entry)
- Miles Macdonell Collegiate (grades 10–12)

French milieu (French-only programming)

- École Centrale (grades K–4)
- École Margaret-Underhill (grades K–4)
- École Regent Park School (grades 5–8)
- Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau (grades 9–12)

For further information

Further information about catchment areas, transportation, daycare and after-school care can be found online at www.retsd.mb.ca or by contacting the principal at one of the French immersion schools. As well, information can be found at:

Canadian Parents for French
www.cpf.ca

A Guide to French Immersion Schools in Manitoba
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/fr_imm.html

French Immersion in Manitoba
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/french_imm/fr_imm_mb.html

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FRENCH IMMERSION

Immersion française





Why learn another language?

Research* shows that students who learn a second language:

- Do better on intelligence tests
- Have better results in school
- Strengthen their communication skills in their first language
- Build global citizenship skills
- Improve their career prospects
- Heighten their earning power

And they have twice as much fun!

*www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/learnlang/benefits.aspx

Why learn French?

- Over 200 million people in 55 countries on five continents speak French regularly.
- French is the second most frequently taught additional language in the world.
- French is the first language of about a quarter of all Canadians.
- French is a global language of diplomacy; it is one of the official languages of the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and many other international organizations.

- By accessing French culture in the original language, you can enrich your experience through literature, music, food, dance and art.

Why choose French immersion in RETSD?

- A K–12 language program with over 30 years of proven results
- Later immersion option available, starting in Grade 7
- Designed for students whose first language is not French
- Students with prior French language skills may also enter the program at other levels
- All students are welcome
- A language program with a strong academic focus
- Become proficient in French while mastering English
- Acquire a facility for learning other languages.
- Opportunities for language proficiency certification through the internationally-recognized DELF French assessment

How does French immersion work?

- French immersion is an official program of Manitoba Education. It follows a program of studies that is parallel to the English program and students are expected to meet the same outcomes.
- Teachers are bilingual and communicate in French to provide a French atmosphere for the children.

- Students spend most of each day immersed in French and over time they use it with increasing ease and precision.
- Communication between the home and school remains in English.

Early years (grades K–4)

Students receive instruction in French for approximately 80 per cent of the school day (even more in kindergarten). Music, games, interactive reading and technology all help to develop an ear for the language and build fluency.

Middle years (grades 5–8)

Students receive instruction in French for most of the school day (60–75 per cent). They also have extracurricular events and cultural excursions to support their learning.

Senior years (grades 9–12)

Students receive instruction in French for 50–75 per cent of the school day, depending on course availability and individual choices. French cultural and extracurricular activities are offered to support language skill development. At least 14 of 30 high school credits must be taken in French to obtain a French immersion diploma.