

THE EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

SJAM

WHAT IS FRENCH IMMERSION?

- ❖ The French Immersion Program has been designed for students who have little or no French Language skills.
- ❖ The entry point of the *Early French Immersion Program* is at the Primary Level
- ❖ Upon graduation of the French Immersion Program in Grade 12, students receive a ***French Immersion Certificate***
 - This certificate helps students to pursue further education in French or a job where bilingual skills are an asset.



HOW WILL MY CHILD LEARN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE?

- ANL approach
- Songs
- Centers
- Hands on learning
- Play



CURRICULUM

The French Immersion Program follows the same learning outcomes as defined by the Nova Scotia English Provincial Guides.

Primary - Grade 2

100% (except in Music & Physical Education)

Grade 3 - 6

80%-85% (formal instruction in English is introduced in Gr. 3)

Grade 7 - 9

60%-75%

Grade 10-12

50% (minimum of nine credits taught in French)



WHAT TO EXPECT IN PRIMARY FRENCH IMMERSION

French Immersion is a rich and rewarding learning experience, and it requires commitment from students and teachers. Learning in another language takes time, effort, and, perseverance, especially in the early months.

Students and teachers communicate in French throughout the school day (unless there is a safety issue). This full-immersion approach is intentional and is one of the most effective ways to support language learning.

At the beginning, students may experience some *productive struggle* as they build confidence and understanding; this is a normal and important part of the learning process.



WHEN CONSIDERING THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM...

- How developed are your child's first language skills?
- Does your child appear to be developing in terms of social and emotional growth?
- Does your child have positive self-esteem?
- Does your child have any major perceptual or auditory problems?
- Can your child adjust easily to unfamiliar situations?



PREPARATION AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

- ❖ French section of community libraries
 - Halifax Public Library offers an online book resource called Tumblebooks for free! Books are in English & French
- ❖ HRCE website and French links
- ❖ French language television & YouTube videos!
- ❖ Extracurricular and community activities which promote French language and culture
- ❖ Read to your child in English (and French, if possible!) to foster a love of language and to transfer reading skills
- ❖ Learn more about the programs offered at Canadian Parents for French



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is French Immersion suitable for my child?

Research shows that the French Immersion program is suitable for a wide range of learners. While the program has multiple benefits for students, every child is different, and his/her individual needs should always be taken into consideration. In general, the level of success a child demonstrates in the English program will be similar to his/her level of success in French Immersion. For more information, consult your child's teacher and your area's French Immersion school.

Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?

The Nova Scotia French Immersion curriculum is the same as the English language curriculum except that the language of delivery is French with the exception of music and physical education classes.

Will my child be behind in English if he or she takes French Immersion?

While there are certain lags in English language skills for the first few years of the program, the children in Immersion catch up quickly once English is introduced and often demonstrate enhanced English language skills by Grade 6.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I help my child?

From the early stages of the program, adults at home can be of great assistance by being supportive of the program. They can read regularly to the child in their home language or simply talk to the child about new experiences. In this way, the child's home language vocabulary will be enriched and his/her self-confidence will grow. If a child is experiencing difficulty in a particular subject area, the confusion often lies with the concept, not the language. Discuss and explain the concept in your home language. Adults at home can provide valuable assistance in the preparation of projects and assignments, especially in the areas of research, planning and presentation of materials.

What type of French will be taught in the classroom?

Standard French vocabulary and structures are taught. A variety of accents exist in all languages; during a school career a child will be exposed to teachers from various parts of the world who are models of well-spoken, grammatically correct French.

Do parents and caregivers of children in French Immersion have to be able to speak French?

Absolutely not. The French Immersion program is designed for children who do not speak French at home. It is not expected that parents and caregivers will be able to speak French therefore communication and reporting are done in English.

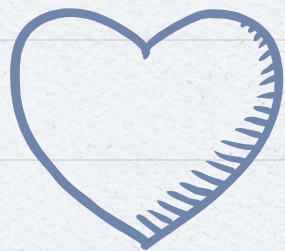
USEFUL LINKS

www.cpf.ca (Canadian Parents for French)

www.caslt.org

(Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers)





MERCI!