

French Immersion Parent Information Booklet



Vision of the French Immersion Program

Students will communicate and interact with growing confidence in French, one of Canada's official languages, while developing the knowledge, skills, and perspectives they need to participate fully as citizens in Canada and in the world.

Ontario Ministry of Education



It's time to sign up for Grade 1 French Immersion!

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The French Immersion Program is intended for students who do not speak French at home. Communication between school and home will be in English, as it is presumed that parents are not French speakers. Half of the day will take place in English, and the other half in French.

Subjects taught in French include:

French Language Arts, Social Sciences, Science & Technology, Physical Education & Health, Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music.

Subjects taught in English include:

English Language Arts, Religious Education, Family Life, and Mathematics

PROGRAM BOUNDARIES

Attendance boundaries for the French Immersion Program are based on the location of the student's home school. In most cases, students attending school in Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo would attend the French Immersion School in the same city. Students currently attending St Clement, St Teresa (Elmira), St Boniface, St Agatha, or St Nicholas would attend Sir Edgar Bauer in Waterloo. Students attending St Brigid would attend Our Lady of Fatima in Cambridge.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to the French Immersion program offered at a school that is not your child's neighbourhood school is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

In the 2017-18 school year the French Immersion Program will be offered at the following locations:

Sir Edgar Bauer CES
660 Glen Forrest Blvd.
Waterloo, ON N2L 4K2
(Grades 1-3)

St Anne CES
250 East Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2H 1Z4
(Grades 1-3)

Our Lady of Fatima CES
55 Hammet St.
Cambridge, ON N3C 2H5
(Grade 1 & 2)



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

The French Immersion program is open to all students entering Grade 1 in the Fall of 2017. Online registration will begin January 3, 2017. Students who have an older sibling in the French Immersion program, and who register online before January 31, 2017 will have priority for entry into the Grade 1 French Immersion class. All other students, including students currently attending the school, will be placed in a lottery.

- ❶ Visit www.wcdsb.ca between January 3rd and January 31st. Click on the link for French Immersion Registration (on the banner). The link can also be accessed under “Programs for Students/French as a Second Language/French Immersion”. If registration appears to be closed, try refreshing your browser or clearing your browser history.
- ❷ On February 1st you will receive notification by e-mail as to the results of the lottery. **Communication will be sent via the email address you provide.** Please check your junk mail folder if you do not see anything in your inbox.
- ❸ When offered a placement, **you must take action to accept this placement by going into the school to register with the school secretary by February 10, 2017.** This includes families that already attend the school, who must clearly indicate to the school secretary that they are accepting the spot in French Immersion for their child.
- ❹ After February 10th we will begin to fill any remaining spots beginning with the wait list, and then on a first come, first served basis. A final review of the registration numbers will take place on March 1st, at which time the Board will decide whether there have been enough registrations at each school to offer the program in the Fall of 2017.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will our child be at a disadvantage because my spouse and I don't speak French?

No. It is not necessary for parents or guardians to know or speak French. If you don't speak French, you can still make your child's French-language experience positive. Be supportive and enthusiastic. Research shows that students whose parents have positive attitudes toward French do better in FSL programs.

My child already speaks 2 or 3 languages. Will the addition of another language be too overwhelming?

No. The more languages one speaks, the easier it is to master new ones! Students who arrive in Canada speaking a language that is neither French nor English have an advantage over students from English-only homes when learning French. These children are five times more likely to complete high school French than Canadian born students!

My child has special education needs. Can they register for the French Immersion program?

Yes. All children can succeed in French immersion programs. Your child's Individual Education Plan will reflect any necessary accommodations or modifications, as it would in the English stream. Every student has the potential to become bilingual.

Will my child's performance in English suffer?

Learning subjects in French does not interfere with English-language development. In fact, it improves it. Research shows that learning a second language has a positive effect on first-language achievement. Immersion students match and often exceed the English skills of other students by Grade 4 or 5.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Parent Information Evenings will be held for those interested in asking additional questions about the French Immersion Program. Attendance at the Information evening does not influence your child's chance of being chosen in the lottery.

St Anne Catholic Elementary School 250 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 1Z4	Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:00-6:00pm
Sir Edgar Bauer Catholic Elementary School 660 Glen Forrest Boulevard, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 4K2	Tuesday, January 17, 2017 5:30-6:30pm
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School 55 Hammet St, Cambridge, Ontario, N3C 2H5	Thursday, January 19, 2017 6:00-7:00pm



THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FRENCH

In addition to strengthening students' ability to communicate, learning another language develops their awareness of how language and culture interconnect, helping them appreciate and respect the diversity of Canadian and global societies. When a student is exposed to another culture through its language, he or she begins to understand the role that language plays in making connections with others. Learning an additional language not only challenges a mind, it also teaches understanding, encourages patience, and fosters open-mindedness.

Knowledge of an additional language strengthens first-language skills. The ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances cognitive development, as well as reasoning and creative-thinking skills. It also enhances the student's confidence as a learner, facilitates the learning of additional languages, and contributes to academic achievement. As their strengths develop, French language learners become more flexible and adaptable in new and unforeseen situations. For example, second-language learners tend to be more divergent thinkers, with improved memory and attention span.

Ontario Curriculum: FSL, Ministry of Education, 2013



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about French as a Second Language Programs, please call Jennifer Kruihof at 519-578-3660 x2333, or visit the Board website at www.wcdsb.ca