

# Intensive French Parent Information Booklet



## Vision of the Intensive French 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 Intensive French!

## WHERE IS INTENSIVE FRENCH OFFERED?

Intensive French is offered to grade 5 students at Our Lady of Fatima, Sir Edgar Bauer, St Dominic, and St Luke.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER FOR INTENSIVE FRENCH?

The program is open to all Grade 5 students, of all proficiency levels, attending an Intensive French school. Some schools determine registration through a lottery system. Others offer a “first come, first served” registration model.

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration typically begins at the School’s Parent Information Evening, and continues for a few weeks afterwards. Deadlines vary from school to school.

## WHAT’S NEXT?

In grades 6-8, students are integrated back into the regular Core French stream. In grade 9, students are invited to enroll in one of our specialty French Courses:

**RESURRECTION:** FSF 1DN Post-Intensive Core French

**ST BENEDICT:** FSF 1DN Intensive French

**ST MARY’S:** FSF 1DP Pre-Advanced Placement French

**MSGR DOYLE:** FSF 1DP Pre-Advanced Placement French

## THE INTENSIVE FRENCH PROGRAM IS BASED ON FIVE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

1. Communication in **Authentic** Situations
2. The Development of **Literacy** Skills.
3. A **project-centered** approach which facilitates Language and Cognitive Development
4. An Emphasis on **Interaction**
5. The Development of **Implicit** Language Competences

## Parent Information Nights:

St Luke: Wed. March 28 - 6pm

Our Lady of Fatima: Thurs. March 30 – 6pm

St Dominic Savio: Tues. April 4 – 6pm

Sir Edgar Bauer: Wed. April 5 – 6pm



## WHAT IS THE NEUROLINGUISTIC APPROACH?

Across Canada, the Intensive French Program has been referred to as Enhanced French, Intensive French, and Intensive Core French. As of 2011, the program is officially being referred to internationally as the Neurolinguistic Approach (NLA).

In the WCDSB, although we continue to refer to the program as Intensive French, teachers continue to ascribe to the research and pedagogical best practices of the Neurolinguistic approach.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Intensive French is a pedagogical approach designed to improve the fluency of Core French students. It is designed 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.

In the Intensive French program, students spend the first half of the school year (September- January) developing literacy skills in French. Students spend about two-thirds of the school day immersed in the French language. During the rest of the day, students study Mathematics, Religion and Family Life in English. Subjects that are not explicitly taught in the first semester are addressed through a trans-disciplinary approach, but are not formally assessed.

In the last 5 months of the school year (February-June), the class returns to a more traditional format adding Social Sciences, Science and Technology, and English Language back into the weekly schedule. French is taught in blocks of 70-80 minutes, a few times a week.



## WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS BE ABLE TO DO BY THE END OF THE INTENSIVE FRENCH YEAR?

At the end of the school year students should be able to:

- carry on a general conversation on specific topics;
- write with a reasonable degree of accuracy: for instance, write or reply to a letter from a friend, write messages to people of their own age;
- ask relatively simple questions;
- read a short, simple novel in French, grasping the general idea;
- read simple articles in a newspaper or magazine at an appropriate age and interest level;

The focus of Intensive French is on the learning of French as a means of **communication**, and not as an academic subject of study.

**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!



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **WILL FRENCH BE INTRODUCED GRADUALLY OR ALL AT ONCE?**

On the first day the teacher will use English. As of the second day, the class will be completely immersed in the French language for two thirds of the school day.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT CANNOT KEEP UP WITH THE FRENCH?**

French is taught as a means of communication, and not as an object of study. Curriculum in Intensive French is based mainly on the everyday experiences of students; therefore they learn how to speak about things of interest to them. They become motivated and interested, talking about themselves, their families, their favourite animals, sports they like, films, etc. Anecdotal reports from parents and students show that even students who struggle in academic areas gain more self-confidence and actually improve their overall literacy skills.

## **WILL THE SAME REPORT CARD BE USED FOR INTENSIVE FRENCH?**

The regular provincial report card will be used for the Intensive French students, however, in the Intensive semester an assessment will be given only for French, Mathematics, Religion and Physical Education. In the non-intensive semester an assessment will be given for all subjects in the usual manner.

## **WHAT HAPPENS TO MATHEMATICS?**

There will be no change in the learning of Mathematics. The regular grade 5 Mathematics program will be taught throughout the entire school year in English.

## **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. Intensive French students match and often exceed the English and Math skills of other students on the Grade 6 EQAO test.

## **DO STUDENTS HAVE TO DO EXTRA WORK TO CATCH UP?**

No. Students will not be expected to do extra work in order to cover the curriculum. The curriculum for the year will be carefully structured to cover all of the learning outcomes without increasing the student's workload.

## **HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD?**

The best way to help your child is to be supportive and encouraging about their studies. Ask them what they are learning, listen to them read you a simple book in French, encourage them to watch French cartoons to develop their receptive skills.



**For more information about our Second Language programs please contact our FSL Consultant at 519-578-3660 x2333, or visit the Board website at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca).**