



FRENCH IMMERSION

A Unique Opportunity
For Your Child





FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

The French Immersion program at the DSBN

If your child will be starting Grade 1 in September, one of the important choices you will make is whether you want to enroll your child in French Immersion.

The French Immersion program is open to all students who are entering Grade 1. It provides your child with opportunities to develop proficiency in Canada's two official languages and to learn about other cultures.

This booklet provides families with information regarding French Immersion. It is intended to assist families in making informed decisions regarding the educational program for and development of their child. Children benefit from learning in two languages - their proficiency with thinking and reasoning skills improve as both languages are developed.

Many families also believe that French Immersion will give their child additional career opportunities. We live in an increasingly global economy, so proficiency in more than one language is considered to be both an advantage for career development and for competitive advantage in the job market.

Goals of the French Immersion program

- To provide a quality educational program that meets the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum at both the elementary and secondary levels.
- To provide students with the opportunity to acquire functional proficiency in oral and written French, which will permit them to communicate on both personal and professional levels.
- To prepare students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and to provide them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.
- To contribute to the intellectual development and academic knowledge of students.
- To increase understanding, acceptance and appreciation of other cultures.



Do students receive program certification?

Upon completion of the Grade 12 program, the certificate of French Immersion Studies is awarded by the DSBN in addition to the student transcript. It provides evidence of a student's degree of involvement in the French Immersion program. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to challenge the DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) examination which provides a diploma from the French National Ministry of Education certifying the level of proficiency in French.

Note: The images in this document were photographed prior to COVID-19.



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Do the students learn the same subject content as the students in the English program?

YES. All courses in both languages are based on the same Ministry of Education expectations. Research shows that students in French Immersion programs, after a brief adjustment period, academically align with students who are taught in their first language.

Are English language skills affected by the French Immersion program?

One of the questions families often ask is whether their child's progress in English or other subjects will be affected by being in French Immersion. While there may be an initial lag in some English language skills in the primary years, the transfer of language skills from French to English evolves with support and time.

Information About Grade 1 Entry

Students in this program take exactly the same subjects as the English Grade 1 program. They are introduced to the French language by learning the most common French words. An early start is important as developing minds can quickly absorb a second language. Early French Immersion students are more likely to reach an advanced level of French proficiency than students in any other program. It is important that families and students demonstrate motivation and commitment throughout the program.

How can a parent help a child in this program?

The French Immersion program is designed for children of non-French speaking families. Families play an important role in ensuring their child's success by:

- Showing an interest in their child's progress.
- Encouraging and supporting their child's efforts.
- Reading stories to their child in English and listening to them read aloud in French and in English.
- Borrowing French books from the public library, listening to children's music by French artists, watching French television programs, and visiting French communities.
- Providing additional opportunities for exposure to the French language and culture beyond the classroom (e.g., French summer camps, activities sponsored by Canadian Families for French).

How do we apply to the French Immersion program?

- 1) An invitation to the evening information sessions is made available through your child's home school.
- 2) Online applications will begin **January 4, 2021** at noon. The deadline for applying for French Immersion is **February 18, 2021** at 9:00 a.m. You will need your child's OEN number, which is located on the upper right hand corner of their report card.
- 3) To register go to www.dsbn.org/fi



In late March, families will be contacted by letter or email to confirm their child's acceptance into the program.

For more information, please contact your child's school principal or contact:
905-641-2929 Ext. 52301



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Q&A

Q: Is it possible for my child to enter French Immersion at a later grade?

DSBN is a single-entry program with French Immersion starting in Grade 1.

Q: In what language does the school communicate information to families / guardians about a child's progress?

All communication to families is in English.

Q: What if we transfer or move to another district or province?

French Immersion is available in most school boards. A full directory of programs available across Canada is published by Canadian Families for French.

Q: What if my child experiences difficulty in French Immersion?

Children who have difficulty learning to read in English may also have difficulty learning to read in French. The Learning Resource Teacher (LRT) may be consulted and the school team will decide upon a plan of action to offer the necessary support.

Q: Do French Immersion students receive support if they require special programming?

Yes. Students have access to all of the program supports that are available in the DSBN to give them an education that is tailored to their specific needs.



Is transportation provided?

YES, the eligibility for transportation for French Immersion students Grades 1 - 8 is 1.6 kilometres from the student's residence to the French Immersion home school.



FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Elementary schools with French Immersion programs*

CENTRAL FRENCH IMMERSION PUBLIC SCHOOL

(GR. 1-8):
10 Livingston Avenue
Grimsby · 905-945-5459
central.dsbni.org

DALEWOOD FRENCH IMMERSION PUBLIC SCHOOL

(GR. 1-8):
61 Duncan Drive
St. Catharines · 905-934-3325
dalewood.dsbni.org

JEANNE SAUVÉ FRENCH IMMERSION PUBLIC SCHOOL

(GR. 1-8):
91 Bunting Road
St. Catharines · 905-684-9461
jeannesauve.dsbni.org

GORDON PUBLIC SCHOOL

(GR. 1-8):
468 Thorold Road West
Welland
905-734-3730
gordon.dsbni.org

MCKAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

(GR. 1-8):
320 Fielden Avenue
Port Colborne
905-834-4753
mckay.dsbni.org

PRINCE PHILIP FRENCH IMMERSION PUBLIC SCHOOL

(GR. 1-8):
3112 Dorchester Road
Niagara Falls · 905-356-0521
princephilips.dsbni.org

GARRISON ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL (GR. 1-3):

1110 Garrison Road
Fort Erie · 905-871-4830
garrisonroad.dsbni.org

PRINCESS ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOL (GR. 1-8):

330 Scholfield Avenue
Welland · 905-734-3460
princesseliz.dsbni.org

**Grades refer to the French Immersion Program.*

Secondary schools with French Immersion 9-12

A.N. MYER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Niagara Falls
905-358-5753
anmyer.dsbni.org

GOVERNOR SIMCOE SECONDARY SCHOOL

St. Catharines
905-934-4006
govsimcoe.dsbni.org

GRIMSBY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Grimsby
905-945-5416
grimsbyss.dsbni.org

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

St. Catharines
905-684-6349
sirwinston.dsbni.org

WELLAND CENTENNIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Welland
905-735-0700
centennial.dsbni.org



Families of Schools

Grouping elementary and secondary schools in Families of Schools is an important support to students as they progress through the French Immersion program.

FORT ERIE & PORT COLBORNE:

- Garrison Road Public School
- McKay Public School
- Welland Centennial Secondary

GRIMSBY, LINCOLN & WEST LINCOLN:

- Central Public School
- Grimsby Secondary

NIAGARA FALLS:

- Prince Philip French Immersion Public School
- A.N. Myer Secondary

ST. CATHARINES (NORTH OF THE QEW & NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE):

- Dalewood Public School
- Governor Simcoe Secondary

ST. CATHARINES (SOUTH OF THE QEW):

- Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School
- Governor Simcoe Secondary
- Sir Winston Churchill Secondary

WELLAND & PELHAM:

- Gordon Public School
- Princess Elizabeth Public School
- Welland Centennial Secondary



For families of English Language Learners,
support in understanding this document is
available through the Settlement Workers in
Schools program at: 905-684-3500 x 437

191 Carlton Street • St. Catharines, ON
www.dsbni.org/fi

