

FRENCH IMMERSION

A Unique Opportunity For Your Child

Bienvenue!

Grade 1
Parent Information
Booklet

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



The French Immersion Program in the District School Board of Niagara



If your child will be starting Grade 1 in September, one of the important choices you will make is whether you want to consider 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 another culture.

This booklet provides parents with information regarding French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara. It is intended to assist parents in making informed decisions regarding the educational program and development of their child. Children benefit from learning in two languages - their thinking and reasoning skills improve, as English language skills are developed.

Many parents 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 French Immersion

- 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 a personal and professional level.
- 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.

“*The ability to speak both of Canada's official languages helps prepare students for their role as active and engaged citizens in today's bilingual and multicultural Canada. Moreover, the language learning strategies that students develop in the FSL program can contribute to an interest in learning languages throughout their lives and provide them with the skills to do so. Such abilities benefit the individual; but Canadian society – as well as the global community – also stands to gain from having plurilingual citizens.*”

(Page 7 of the Ontario Ministry of Education French as a Second Language curriculum document, 2013)



Is Transportation Provided?

YES, the eligibility for transportation for French Immersion students is the same for all students within the District School Board of Niagara. The eligibility distance for transportation for Grades 1 - 8 is **1.6 kilometres** or greater from the student's residence to the French Immersion home school.

For students in secondary school (Grades 9 -12) transportation is offered to students who live **2.5 kilometres** or further from their home address to the school.

The mode of transportation selected by the Niagara Student Transportation Services for eligible students may be either a school bus or taxi cab. Transportation information will be available online by mid-August at www.nsts.ca.



French Immersion Program Considerations



French Immersion is open to any student starting Grade 1. As your family considers the decision whether to pursue French Immersion, consider the following characteristics which may indicate that your child is ready for this new adventure.

My child:

- is verbal and likes to talk;
- uses strategies for listening and focusing;
- has strong skills in his or her first language;
- enjoys books;
- is confident and a risk-taker;
- enjoys new challenges.



Do Students Receive Program Certification?

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 in Grade 12 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 competency in French.

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 parents 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.



Secondary Schools with French Immersion Grades 9-12



A.N. Myer Secondary
6338 O'Neil Street
Niagara Falls
905-358-5753
anmyer.dsbn.org

Governor Simcoe Secondary
15 Glenview Avenue
St. Catharines
905-934-4006
govsimcoe.dsbn.org

Grimsby Secondary
5 Boulton Avenue
Grimsby
905-945-5416
grimsbyss.dsbn.org

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary
101 Glen Morris Drive
St. Catharines
905-684-6349
sirwinston.dsbn.org

Welland Centennial Secondary
240 Thorold Road West
Welland
905-735-0700
centennial.dsbn.org

Families of Schools

Grouping elementary and secondary schools in Families of Schools is an important support to students as they progress in their French Immersion program. Families of schools are organized by region.

Fort Erie & Port Colborne:
Garrison Road Public School
McKay Public School
Welland Centennial Secondary

St. Catharines (North End) & Niagara-on-the-Lake:
Dalewood Public School
Governor Simcoe Secondary

Grimsby, Lincoln & West Lincoln:
Central Public School
Grimsby Secondary

St. Catharines (South End):
Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School *
Governor Simcoe Secondary or Sir Winston Churchill Secondary

Niagara Falls:
Prince Philip French Immersion Public School
A.N. Myer Secondary

Welland & Pelham:
Gordon Public School
Princess Elizabeth Public School
Welland Centennial Secondary

* Students attend one of two high schools based on their home address.

Elementary Schools with French Immersion Programs*

Information About Grade 1 Entry



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

Garrison Road Public School (Gr. 1-3)

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

Prince Philip French Immersion Public School (Gr. 1-8)

3112 Dorchester Road
Niagara Falls · 905-356-0521
princephilips.dsbni.org

Princess Elizabeth Public School (Gr. 1-8)

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

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 parents 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 parents. Parents 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 Parents for French).

*Grades refer to French Immersion Program.



How do we apply to the French Immersion Program?

Q & A



An invitation to the evening information sessions is made available through your child's home school. Information evening sessions are held at the French Immersion School sites for both parents and students who are entering Grade 1 in 2019.

Online applications will begin **January 7, 2019** at noon. The deadline for applying for French Immersion is **February 19, 2019** at 9:00 a.m.

We encourage you to apply at: www.dsbni.org/fi

You will need your child's OEN number, which is located on the upper right hand corner of the report card.



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

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

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

All communication to parents/guardians is in English.

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

French Immersion is available in most urban centres of Canada and in many smaller localities as well. A full directory of programs available across Canada is published by Canadian Parents for French.

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.

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 DSBNI in order to receive an education that is tailored to their specific needs.



“I believe all Canadian children should have the opportunity to become bilingual. As an inclusive society in a bilingual country, we must understand the importance of inclusion in French Immersion education and leave no child out.”

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

Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages
The State of French-Second-Language Education in Canada 2012,
Canadian Parents for French