

Frequently Asked Questions

Must parents speak French?

The French Immersion program was created specifically for children whose first language is not French. It is common for parents to have little or no knowledge of the French language. Notices home, report cards and parent-teacher conferences are all in English.

How do I support my child in French Immersion?

As with any educational program, encourage your child and demonstrate interest in what your child is learning, find ways to expose your child to French language and culture outside of school time, borrow French books from the public library, listen to children's music by French artists, watch some French television programs, and attend local cultural events.

Continue to foster your child's first language by reading to your child every day. Not only does this develop your child's world knowledge and vocabulary, but instills a love of language and literature, laying the ground work for life-long learning in French, English or any other language!

How do I register my child?

To register your child for French Immersion, check the school district website and local newspapers for registration dates and information meetings, usually held in February.



French Immersion Schools

École Puntledge Park

(Early Immersion K-7 & Late Immersion 6-7)
401 Willemar Ave. Courtenay
Phone: 250-334-4495
Contact: Clyde Woolman, Principal
clyde.woolman@sd71.bc.ca

École Robb Road

(Early Immersion K-7)
1909 Robb Road, Comox
Phone: 250-339-6864
Dirk den Otter, Principal
dirk.denotter@sd71.bc.ca

École Mark R. Isfeld Secondary

1551 Lerwick Ave., Courtenay
Phone: 250-334-2428
Gerald Fussell, Vice-Principal
gerald.fussell@sd71.bc.ca

École Highland Secondary (Gr.12)

750 Pritchard Road, Comox
Phone: 250-339-0832
Judy Berkeley Vice-Principal
judith.berkeley@sd71.bc.ca

French Immersion Contact :

Erika Moser,
Modern Languages Coordinator
erika.moser@sd71.bc.ca

School District # 71

<http://sd71.bc.ca/fi>

Canadian Parents for French

www.cpf.bc.ca

British Columbia Ministry of Education

www.bced.gov.ca

COMOX VALLEY

SCHOOL DISTRICT 71

French Immersion
Programs



COMOX VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

... a bilingual educational
opportunity

What is French Immersion?

French Immersion is an educational program of choice in which students receive much of their instruction in French. It is designed specifically for children whose first language is not French. French Immersion is a highly successful approach to second language learning—an effective way for students to become functionally bilingual while achieving all the learning outcomes of the BC curriculum.

Why choose French Immersion?

Studying French enhances a child's education in many different ways. Research demonstrates that students who successfully complete a French Immersion program attain bilingualism while doing as well as, or better than, their unilingual peers in the content areas of curriculum, including English Language Arts. Learning another language expands communication skills, and gaining fluency in French can have career benefits and/or lead to other educational opportunities. While gaining confidence and proficiency in the language, students also gain an awareness of other cultures and a broader view of the world - with this they naturally develop a better understanding of our society. Finally, many would like their children to have the advantages of learning both of Canada's official languages.

It also offers post secondary opportunities such as: travel and work experiences in Canada and abroad.

School District #71 offers both an Early Immersion and a Late Immersion Program.

What is Early French Immersion (EFI)?

Students enter the Early Immersion Program in Kindergarten (and occasionally in Grade 1). From Kindergarten through Grade 3, all instruction is in French. With the start of instruction in English Language Arts in Grade 4, students receive 80% instruction in French in Grades 4-7. At the secondary level, students receive 50% instruction in French at the Grade 8-9 level, 37.5% instruction in French in Grade 10, 25% of French instruction in Grade 11, and 12, 5% in Grade 12.

Many parents choose EFI because language learning poses few problems for the young child and the Early Immersion program capitalizes on the young child's inherent inclination to learn languages. The process of language learning works best when the learner is engaged in vital, necessary communication. Early Immersion works so well because a young child lacks self-consciousness, prejudice and negativism and loves mimicry, memorization and repetition. Early Immersion provides more time working in the second language and more time results in more learning. The success of the target language is directly related to the amount of exposure to it and the child learns to speak with more native fluency.

Who is eligible?

Any student who is eligible to enroll in Kindergarten (and possibly Grade One) is eligible to enroll in the EFI Program.

What is Late French Immersion (LFI)?

Late Immersion offers students an alternate entry point to the French Immersion Program. The Late French Immersion Program begins at grade 6 for students who have no previous training in the French Language. In grade 6, 100% of the BC curriculum is taught in French, 80% in Grade 7 when English Language Arts is reintroduced. In Grade 8, Early and Late French Immersion students merge into one program. At the secondary level, students receive 50% instruction in French at the Grade 8-9 level, 37.5% instruction in French in Grade 10, 25% of French instruction in Grade 11, and 12, 5% in Grade 12.

What characteristics will help a LFI student succeed?

- Motivation to learn
- Openness to learning another language
- Eagerness to meet new friends and have new experiences
- Willingness to work hard, especially in the initial fall term when learning basic language skills
- Enjoyment of language activities and a willingness to spend lots of time chatting to friends in class en français!

Who is eligible?

Any student who would normally enroll in Grade 6 is eligible for the LFI Program.

French Immersion Program completion

Upon graduation and the completion of the French Immersion Program in Grade 12, students receive a bilingual Dogwood certificate. Graduates should be able to participate easily in conversations in French, take post-secondary courses with French as the language of instruction and/or accept employment with French as the language of the workplace.