



FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Entry in to French Immersion can be at the Junior Kindergarten or Senior Kindergarten level. These two programs are offered at 3 neighbourhood schools. JK programs run full days, alternate days. SK programs run full days, everyday. In grade 1 and 2 instruction is in French with the exception of 1/2 hour per day devoted to English literacy activities.

Formal English language instruction is introduced in grade 3 for 25% of the day. This percentage is maintained in grade 4 at 25% and in grades 5 and 6 increases to 50% with English language, mathematics, social studies & music taught in English. In grades 7 and 8 the program continues in a true bilingual direction with 50% in English and 50% in French. The aim of the program is to develop functionally bilingual persons.

EXTENDED FRENCH PROGRAM

The extended French program commences in grade 5 effective September 2005 where 50% to 80% of the program is offered in French until grade 8. Students have options to continue in extended French programs at the secondary level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:



**963 Airport Road
P.O. Box 3110
North Bay, ON PIB 8H1**

**(705) 472-8170
1-800-278-4922**

www.nearnorth.edu.on.ca

French Immersion as a Second Language Program



If you want your child to become bilingual and to learn another culture, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.





WHAT IS FRENCH IMMERSION?

French Immersion is designed specifically for children whose first language is not French.

Monthly newsletters, Board information and other print communication are in English, as well as parent/teacher interviews.

French Immersion is a type of schooling in which students receive all or most of their instruction in French from a teacher who speaks French and English fluently.

Early French Immersion offers maximum exposure, which allows young children to absorb a second language more willingly with native-like fluency.

WHY CHOOSE FRENCH IMMERSION FOR YOUR CHILD?

- Fluency in two languages provides tremendous career opportunities.
- Bilingualism eliminates language and cultural barriers around the world.
- Researchers suggest children who learn a second language have better problem-solving skills.
- French is a stepping-stone to learning other languages.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

French Immersion is open to any student. We have found some characteristics that are common to successful students in French Immersion. These characteristics are indicators to help you make a good choice. We strongly recommend that you discuss these characteristics with your child's kindergarten teacher.

A successful student:

- is verbal and likes to talk
- has strong skills in his or her first language
- enjoys books
- imitates easily
- has a good memory
- is confident
- is a risk taker
- enjoys new challenges
- has demonstrated a successful transition from home to school



YOUR CHILD'S FIRST YEAR IN AN EARLY IMMERSION PROGRAM

The program in JK French Immersion will consist of the English JK program with a very gradual introduction of the French language.

Major objectives of all JK programs in the Near North District School Board are:

- To establish self-confidence in a welcoming school environment
- To enhance social development
- To promote the development of gross and fine motor control
- To provide opportunities to experience and think about new things, people and events
- To continue the language learning started in the home

JK French Immersion provides an opportunity for children to hear French and gradually develop an ear for the new language. After routines and patterns of learning are comfortably established, French will be introduced very gradually by the teacher until 100% French is achieved. Children can express their ideas and needs to the teacher and to each other in English. By the end of the JK year, the teacher will communicate to the children in French for a good portion of each day. The French vocabulary that the children will hear will be related to their immediate experiences, environments and needs.



PATHWAY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Graduates of Grade 8 Early Immersion programs are afforded the opportunity to continue their studies in the French language through selected courses at the secondary level.

In order to graduate with the French Studies Certificate, a student must take a minimum of four French Immersion courses and six other courses taught in French.

Please note that students in the Extended French program must take two French subjects at each grade level. At the end of secondary school, the graduate of an Extended French program should be able to do the following:

- Participate easily in conversation and discussions
- Understand films, radio, and television programs
- Take courses in French at the college or university level
- Request or give information in French
- Have an understanding of the French Canadian culture
- Accept employment in which French is the working language

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

- Become knowledgeable about the program
- Encourage your child to watch French television, listen to French radio and read French books, and expose them to French-speaking people
- Become involved with programs, teachers, school council and school activities
- Offer positive reinforcement whenever your child "shows off" his/her new language
- Read to your child everyday in English