

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there no English class in grades 1 and 2 in the Early FI program? How will my child learn to read in English?

English Language Arts is introduced in Grade 3. However, many of the skills acquired through French literacy are transferable and coordination between French and English Language Arts (beginning in grade 3) supports literacy development in both languages.

If I don't register my child for French Immersion in grade 1, can I change my mind and register them for it in grade 2?

Our current entry points in Immersion are grades 1 and 6, and it is offered where numbers warrant.

My child is struggling in French, is any support available?

French Immersion is an option for all learners. Many teachers are able to support struggling learners with classroom interventions. Resource teachers can support students in French Immersion programs and some schools may have bilingual resource teachers.

Will my child's English language skills suffer in French immersion?

Research shows that students in French immersion programs achieve the same levels of competence in English as students in English-only programs. This has been found for reading, writing, speaking and listening. Immersion students usually catch up to their peers in the English program quickly because many of the literacy skills are transferable between languages.

How can I help my child if I don't speak French?

Parents and caregivers should contact their child's teacher to seek ways to reinforce the learning at home. Students with strong first language skills develop strong second language skills. Some strategies include: reading to the child and engaging the child in conversations, asking them to explain what they like about a story and why or to provide alternative endings.

Can my child receive EAL (English as an Additional Language) support in French Immersion?

English as an Additional Language students who are registered in Early French Immersion will receive EAL support to be able to communicate basic needs. The focus in the early grades will be on French literacy instruction. In Early Immersion, all students will take English Language Arts starting in Grade 3. EAL students are able to register for FI at either entry point and receive support for their English language skills. This usually occurs during their English Language Arts class.

Do I have to register my child for Intensive French in Grade 5?

No. All students registered in the English Prime program will take the Intensive French Block for 5 months in Grade 5. The Intensive block uses a literacy-based approach to develop students' capacity to speak, read and write in French. In Grade 5, some subject areas are compacted and instructed during the non-intensive block. See PowerPoint for typical schedules during the Intensive and Non-Intensive blocks.

Will I have to re-register my child in FI for high school?

Once your child is enrolled in French Immersion or English Prime they remain in the program until graduation from high school. See PowerPoint that describes course offerings at the 9-12 level.

For additional questions, our French Second Language Subject Coordinators may be of assistance:

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