

How to register for French Immersion

Complete the registration form

Registration forms can be downloaded from the Saltspring Island Middle School website

<http://www.sims64.com>

and scanned and sent by email to

(ktaylor@sd64.bc.ca)

or handed in at the SIMS office

on or before

March 14, 2019

Important Note:

Should the number of applications exceed the number of places available, parents will be notified and informed of the selection process.

For more information

Please contact:

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Principal

Saltspring Island Middle School
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or

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"...Canada will benefit greatly by having a large number of bilingual citizens, (but) don't have your children learn French for the good of the country - do it for the good of your children. They, as I did, will say merci for it later."

Steve MacKinnon, politician and graduate of Late French Immersion, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

LATE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

School District 64

An Introduction:

We recognize the world is a complex, multilingual global village and the future workplace of most Canadian graduates. School District 64 is a leader in creating programs to meet the changing needs of students, among these, language programs such as Late French Immersion.

Canada is respected worldwide for its official bilingualism, and is a world leader in the design of language immersion programs. Other countries like Australia are now implementing second language programs while students in the European Union have a minimum of three languages at graduation.

In Canada, young people are leading the way: British Columbia continues to set records in the numbers of students enrolling in French Immersion!

Gulf Islands School District offers a Late French Immersion Program which begins at Grade 6 at Saltspring Island Middle School and continues with the Grades 9-12 program at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

About French Immersion

Much of what has recently been learned about language acquisition has inspired the immersion model: we acquire language through active immersion experiences. In French Immersion, French is used in the classroom for communication by teachers and students in a variety of contexts and subject matters. The goal is to develop a high level of oral fluency and literacy, encompassing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

The program offers a higher percentage of classes in French in the beginning and this percentage decreases as the students reach high school. Except for the French classes per se, the curriculum content is the same as in the regular English Program but the instructional language is French and students complete all assignments and activities in French. Resource, reference, and library materials are provided in French as much as possible. The following table illustrates the amount of curriculum which is delivered in French for each grade level.

- ❖ Grade 6-7-8: 80 – 85% of core subjects taught in French.
- ❖ Grade 9: 3 subjects taught in French: Mathematics, Social Studies and French.
- ❖ Grade 10: 3 subjects taught in French: Planning, Social Studies and French.
- ❖ Grade 11: 2 subjects taught in French: Social Studies and French.
- ❖ Grade 12: 1 subject taught in French: French Immersion Provincial Exam for all students.

Students who complete the whole program from Grades 6 – 12 are awarded the BC Bilingual Dogwood

French Activities and Events

The French Immersion staff works hard to provide opportunities for students to enjoy enriched French language experiences.

Each year, grades 6, 7 and 8 immersion students stage celebrations “*en français*” Halloween and Christmas parties featuring skits, songs and dances created entirely by students. The Grade 8 class often hosts a mid-winter Medieval Festival at the court of a French king and queen with knights, jesters, servants and rabble rousers!

Other events include French film afternoons, public speaking contests in French, video production in Grade 10 and various field trips at all grade levels.

In Grade 10, students may apply for a fully funded three-month exchange to Québec. Each French Immersion exchange student is paired with a Québec exchange student. From September to December, Québec students attend GISS; then GISS students spend February to April in Québec. Students who have travelled to Québec come home with many wonderful memories and experiences of another culture.

Many organizations offer exchanges to France, French camps across Canada, and summer camps in Québec. We encourage students to look into all of these opportunities.

In May of their Grade 12 year, immersion students take the oral exam followed by the written exam in June.

French Immersion graduates may access various bursaries and grants to continue their university studies in French. Many study and work exchanges are available to graduates of French Immersion Programs.

The Questions

Canada’s French Immersion programs have been studied, analyzed, and evaluated for more than 30 years – and immersion is a success story. Here are the questions most often asked by parents:

Is French Immersion for all children?

Learning a second language is suitable for all children who wish to benefit from the experience.

All children can learn to speak French albeit at different rates and at different levels of achievement; most students who complete the program attain a high level of oral and written French. Students who have significant English language difficulties do, however, require learning support and may continue to have the same difficulties in a second language.

Do French Immersion students lose their English skills?

A myth – the 2001 BC Ministry of Education’s Foundation Skills Assessment, which tests English reading comprehension, English writing and numeracy skills of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 across the province shows the English skills of French Immersion students are better than the provincial average.

What makes a successful French Immersion student?

Profiles of successful immersion students reveal they are motivated to learn French; have a home environment in which regular homework time is a well established practice; enjoy good communication between home and school; and have families who highly value the learning of a second language.

**Extracted from “French Immersion in Canada”
Dr. André A Obadia, Professeur
Faculty of Education
Simon Fraser University**