

District School Board of Niagara
191 Carlton Street
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 7P4



Revised November 2009



FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM



**A Unique
Opportunity
For Your Child**

Parent Information
Pamphlet

THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

You are invited to consider a special opportunity for your child. This booklet has been prepared to provide parents with information regarding Late Entry 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.

French Immersion is designed for students wishing a concentrated program where French is the language of instruction for a significant portion of the students' school day. This program has two entry points. A grade 5 program entry is offered at 3 elementary schools and 2 secondary schools in the southern tier, as indicated later in this brochure. In the northern tier, a Grade 7 entry program is presently offered at 4 elementary sites and 2 secondary sites, also documented in this brochure.

GOALS OF THE LATE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

- i) To extend knowledge and appreciation of the French language and culture.
- ii) To contribute to intellectual development and academic knowledge.
- iii) To increase understanding, acceptance and appreciation of other cultures.
- iv) To promote favourable attitudes towards the learning of other languages.

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Students in this program take exactly the same subjects as those in the regular program, based on the Ontario Ministry of Education Curriculum expectations, the only difference being that at least half of the program is taught in French.

✓ represents subjects taught in French. Blank area represents subjects taught in English.

SUBJECTS									
ELEMENTARY	French Language Arts	Math	Science & Technology	Social Studies	History	Geography	Civic Career (.5 credit)	Career Studies (.5 credit)	Introduction to Anthropology Psychology Sociology
Grades 5/6	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Grades 7/8	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
SECONDARY			Science	GRIMSBY					
Grade 9	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Grade 10	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Grade 11	✓				✓				
Grade 12	✓								
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL									
Grade 9	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Grade 10	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Grade 11	✓				✓				
Grade 12	✓								
A.N. MYER									
Grade 9	✓		✓			✓			
Grade 10	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	
Grade 11	✓								✓
Grade 12	✓								
CENTENNIAL									
Grade 9	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Grade 10	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Grade 11	✓								✓
Grade 12	✓								

This chart represents the minimum subjects offered in French in the French Immersion schools. However, more subjects may be offered in French depending on enrolment and interest. Slight variations and/or additions to the secondary offerings may occur from school to school. The District School Board of Niagara required the completion of a minimum of 10 secondary credits taught in French for DSBN French Immersion certification purposes.

IS IT TOO LATE TO START A FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM IN GRADE 5 OR 7?

NO. Research indicates that students beginning the program at either entry point can achieve a very high level of competency.

HOW PROFICIENT DO STUDENTS BECOME IN FRENCH?

The French Immersion program leads to functional bilingualism by offering students more exposure to the French language than can be offered in a Core French Program.

By the end of the Secondary School French Immersion Program, a student could reasonably be expected to:

- **read** periodicals, magazines, newspapers and books with ease;
- **understand** radio and television programs;
- **understand and converse** with native speakers;
- **write** with greater ease and accuracy than could be expected of students completing the Core French program;
- **appreciate** French literature and culture;
- **pursue** studies in French at the university level should the students so choose.

DO STUDENTS RECEIVE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM CERTIFICATION?

The certificate of **French Immersion Studies** is awarded by the District School Board of Niagara in addition to the student transcript. It provides evidence of a student's degree of involvement in the French Immersion program. This certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the Senior French Immersion courses offered at the secondary sites. This certificate is important for students applying to study at a French or bilingual post-secondary institute as well as for students intending to enter a workforce where French can be used for communicating.

IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?

YES, the eligibility for transportation for French Immersion students is the same as it is for all students within the District School Board of Niagara. The eligibility distance for transportation for students is 1.6 kilometres from Grade 5 through Grade 8.

The mode of transportation selected by the Niagara Student Transportation Services for eligible students may be either by school bus, taxi cab or by public transit. Transportation information will be mailed to the home of new students by mid August from the transportation department.

- Some restrictions do apply to individuals wishing to attend a different site than the one in their area.



WHO MAY ENROLL IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM?

The program is open to all students, yet clearly it would not be suitable for every student. Factors to be considered by students and parents include:

- motivated and an interest in learning French;
- commitment, on the part of both the parents and the child, to the program;
- an acceptable command of French within the Grade 4 or 6 Core French program;
- teacher and principal recommendations;
- sound work habits.

DO THE STUDENTS COVER THE SAME SUBJECT CONTENT AS THE STUDENTS IN THE ENGLISH PROGRAM?

YES. All courses in both languages are based on the same Ministry expectations. Research shows that students in French Immersion programs, after a brief adjustment period, can academically compete with students who are taught in their first language.

ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS AFFECTED BY STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN A FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM?

YES. But not negatively.

French Immersion students already understand, speak and write in English when they enter the program. Research shows that the development of English academic skills continues at a normal pace within a French Immersion program.

The Ontario Curriculum (1998) also states that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills. Becoming literate in a second language improves one's ability to read, write, and think, and facilitates the learning of additional languages.

HOW CAN A PARENT HELP A CHILD IN THIS PROGRAM?

While it is not necessary that parents be able to speak French, they can play an important role in ensuring their child's success by:

- showing an interest in their child's progress;
- being supportive of their child's efforts;
- encouraging good work habits; and
- providing additional opportunities for exposure to the French language and culture beyond the classroom.

ARE SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR MY CHILD?

YES. Enrichment and remedial assistance may be provided by the:

- classroom teacher;
- English-speaking Learning Resource Teacher;
- Support Service Personnel including Guidance Counsellors and Youth Workers.

All French Immersion students are encouraged to augment their academic pursuits by taking part in the wide variety of co-curricular activities offered at the school level. Schools offer a range of activities including creative problem solving, French plays, exchange programs, science fairs, historical fairs and bilingual debating, depending on the school site.

HOW DO WE APPLY TO THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM?

In **January**, application forms, as well as an invitation to the information evening sessions, are made available through the home school. Information evening sessions are held at the French Immersion sites for both parents and students.

The deadline for submission of applications is indicated on the application form. We encourage you to apply on line at: www.dsbn.edu.on.ca and click on the **French Immersion (Extended French) Application** button.



In **April**, parents will be contacted by letter regarding status of applications.

FRENCH IMMERSION ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Grade 5 Entry

McKAY PUBLIC P.S.

320 FIELDEN AVE.
PORT COLBORNE, ON
L3K 4T7
905-834-4753

PRINCESS ELIZABETH P.S.

330 SCHOLFIELD AVE. SOUTH
WELLAND, ON
L3B 1P2
905-734-3460

PRINCE PHILIP P. S. (SOUTH)

3112 DORCHESTER RD. NORTH
NIAGARA FALLS, ON
L2J 2Z7
905-356-0521

Grade 7 Entry

DALEWOOD P. S.

61 DUNCAN STREET
ST. CATHARINES, ON
L2N 3P3
905-934-3325

LAKEVIEW P. S.

33 OLIVE STREET
GRIMSBY, ON
L3M 2B9
905-945-5427

OAKRIDGE P. S.

1 MARSDALE DRIVE
ST. CATHARINES, ON
L2T 3R7
905-684-6589

QUEEN MARY P. S.

20 MAPLE STREET
ST. CATHARINES, ON
L2R 0A9
905-682-6637

FRENCH IMMERSION SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Grades 9-12

CENTENNIAL S.S.

240 THOROLD ROAD WEST
WELLAND, ON
L3C 3W2
905-735-0700

A.N. MYER S.S.

6338 O'NEIL STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, ON
L2J 1M7
905-358-5753

GRIMSBY S. S.

5 BOLTON STREET
GRIMSBY, ON
L3M 1H6
905-945-5416

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL. S. S.

101 GLEN MORRIS
ST. CATHARINES, ON
L2T 2N1
905-684-6349





FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT

THE PRINCIPALS OF THE

FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS

OR

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE CONSULTANT

DON REILLY RESOURCE CENTRE

13227 LUNDY'S LANE, ALLANBURG

905-227-5551, EXT. 52220

