

Early French Immersion

Apply on-line at www.sd33.bc.ca
January 8th – 12th, 2018



Program Goals

District French Immersion Programs of Choice will operate according to Ministry of Education guidelines, and will be designed to meet the following program goals equally in all dual-track schools:

- To produce students who are able to understand and communicate effectively in French and English, enabling them to pursue further education, careers and cultural opportunities, in either language.
- To concurrently meet all Ministry and School Board curricular expectations in all areas of programming, including English Language Arts.
- To allow students to develop linguistic and cultural knowledge, within a dual-track program, supporting a spirit of positive appreciation and respect.
- To develop respect, awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Francophone culture, customs and values, particularly in French Canada.
- To foster the physical, social, intellectual, emotional, and creative development of students.

Program Organization

Elementary

The ratio of instructional time between French and English will be as set out by the Ministry of Education. In Early French Immersion, this means the percentage of instruction in French at the elementary level will be 100% until the English language arts curriculum is introduced in Grade Three. The percentage of instruction in French will then be approximately 80% to the end of Grade Seven. The exception to this would be in cases where teacher preparation time is unable to be covered by a bilingual teacher.

Middle/Secondary

To enable immersion students to improve and become competent in French, they should be offered, in the process of course selection, the maximum number of courses in French. The district will follow the Ministry of Education's guidelines for Middle/Secondary French Immersion relating to instructional time, competent staff, and adequate facilities.

School Organization

The District is committed to a dual-track organization for Early French Immersion. Within the limits of available space and resources, classes will be organized to form a continuous Early French Immersion program from Kindergarten to Grade Five at Cheam Elementary School. The current practice has been and for planning purposes, that on the North Side, students will continue Grades Six through Eight at Chilliwack Middle School, and then will complete their program, Grades Nine through Twelve, at Sardis Senior Secondary School. As the Early French Immersion program grows this will be revisited.

Students from a school's local catchment area will not be displaced to accommodate French Immersion students. As this is a District Program of Choice, the specific locations are subject to change, based on a variety of factors. Parents of elementary, middle, and secondary students will be consulted where decisions are to be made regarding changes in the organization and programming of French Immersion.

Application Process

The District will hold an informational meeting at the host school (Cheam Elementary) in December for interested parents of Kindergarten and Grade One students, prior to opening on-line application in January. This meeting will be advertised through multiple platforms, including on our website: www.sd33.bc.ca.

For general program information, visit www.sd33.bc.ca
Or contact jain_gardner@sd33.bc.ca

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FAQ

Is my child eligible for French Immersion?

French Immersion is a District Program of Choice, open to all students registered in School District #33. Prior knowledge of the French language is not required when entering at the Kindergarten or Grade One level. If your child is not already a registered Chilliwack School District student, please be sure to register him or her at your catchment area school prior to applying to this District program.

Why learn French?

Learning a second language is an opportunity for students to experience a whole new world. In this age of information, communication, technology and travel, every different learning opportunity opens more career doors to students. Learning a second language not only increases self-confidence and independence, but also strengthens the language skills in the mother tongue. The District recognizes that French Immersion programming benefits the cognitive and social development of students, as well as their opportunities for career advancement, in Canada and abroad. We believe this approach also promotes broader acceptance and understanding among our students.

How can I support my child?

There are so many ways you can support your child in their learning, such as reading with them and exposing them to a wide variety of experiences, and being in French Immersion is no different. Please have a look through the following resource, entitled **Yes You Can Help!**, for further information regarding French language education, and your role as a parent.

- <http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/youcanhelp.aspx>



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