



French Immersion

Programs

in

Central Okanagan Public Schools

j'♥l'école

j'♥l'école

WHY *LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE MATTERS?*



Research says that bilingualism...

- improves focus, memory and decision making abilities (Bialystok, 2010 & 2013);
- develops strong thinkers (solving problems, using logic, flexibility, creative thinking) (Zelasko & Antunez, 2000; Kessler & Quinn, 1980; Bialystok & Majumber, 2011; Kharkhurin, 2010; Leiken, 2012);
- increases socio-emotional development (Kovacs & Mehler, 2009);

WHY LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE MATTERS?



Research says that bilingualism...

- helps question prejudices (Keysar, Hayakawa & An, 2011);
- enhances empathy (Crosbie, 2014);
- Supports global citizenship (Seemaan & Yamazaki, 2015);
- provides more job opportunities locally and globally with higher salaries (Zelasko, Antunez, 2000 Fradd, 2000; Agirdag, 2014).

French Immersion in the Central Okanagan District Promotes

LIFELONG OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

Travels, Career/Employment
Friendships
Cultural exciting activities
Education
Health
Adventures



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP BY:

Expanding sense of self in relation
to the world
Developing an appreciation of other
cultures
Experiencing cultural diversity Promoting
Interconnectedness



COMMUNICATION BY:

Increasing language skills in both
languages, French and English



BRAIN DEVELOPMENT BY:

Increasing neurological pathways
Providing opportunities for
intellectual stimulation
Enhancing learning potential
in multiple disciplines



EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY:

Providing opportunities to
develop flexibility, perseverance
and resilience

Sparking curiosity, joy and pride
of learning languages

Providing opportunities to take
risks and develop confidence



FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMS

- ❖ Early Immersion K to 5 George Pringle Elementary
- ❖ Middle Immersion Grade 4 Hudson Elementary
- ❖ Early & Late Immersion Grade 6 Glenrosa Middle



The three biggest advantages to start French Immersion in K-1



The Early French Immersion Program provides...

- ❖ the most inclusive learning environment;
- ❖ the best results for oral fluency and spontaneity in French language
(pronunciation, confidence);
- ❖ good literacy results in both languages;

The three biggest advantages to start French Immersion in Grade 4



An 8-9 year old child...

- ❖ usually chooses the program which means a strong motivation to succeed;
- ❖ already understands school routines and can focus on learning a new language;
- ❖ can already read and write, which speeds up the acquisition of new language.

The three biggest advantages to start French Immersion in Grade 6

j'♥l'école

A 10-11 year old child...

- ❖ welcomes the opportunity and challenge to start a new program during a natural break (Elementary to Middle school);
- ❖ has a strong understanding of school & social routines;
- ❖ has highly developed English language skills that can be transferred to French.

Percentage of French taught in Immersion



Elementary		Middle		Secondary
K-2	3-5	6-7	8-9	10-12
100%	80%	80%	50% +	No less than 25%

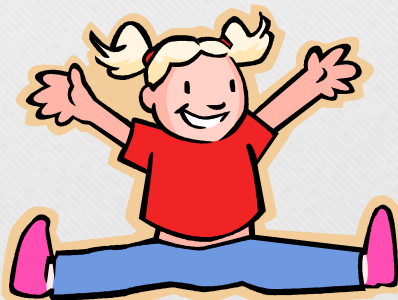
Will my child's English skills suffer?



- *Research indicates that second language learners transfer their literacy skills to English.*
- *Provincial assessment confirms student achievement in English.*
- *French Immersion students' scores are comparable and in some cases higher in non-French subjects.*

Is French Immersion for all children?

*Research indicates that all children will
succeed if given support.*



Would my child have a different curriculum to follow?

Teachers teach the same curriculum as outlined by the British Columbia Ministry of Education for each grade level and subject area.



How can I help when I don't speak French?



- *Encouragement is what is most important.*
- *Continue supporting your child in English with daily reading.*
- *Establish good communication with your child's teacher.*
- *Have your child talk to you about their work and what they are doing at school.*

French at Home



- *Look at French books, channels, YouTube videos, and apps.*
- *Start using common phrases like: “Bonjour.” “Merci.” “Comment ça va?”*
- *Your child will learn French songs. Sing along with them.*
- *Give your child the job of teaching you how to speak French.*

Cultural Opportunities

- *Schools host presentations that promote French language and culture.*
- *Schools facilitate French Cultural Days to promote the culture, the language and to help the students understand the history of French in Canada .*
- *Middle and Secondary schools facilitate cultural exchange trips with French students.*

