



How French Immersion Works

Our program accepts students turning 5 and 6 years of age by December 31, entering Kindergarten or Grade 1. Early immersion continues through to Grade 12. Students enrolled in French Immersion follow the same prescribed BC curriculum as they would in the English-language school program. Graduates receive a bilingual Dogwood certificate.

What happens in French Immersion Kindergarten?

- Fluently bilingual teachers gradually introduce French as the language of communication.
- The classroom focus is on the intellectual, social and emotional development of the child as well as language acquisition, motor skills and encouraging creativity.
- Classroom activity centres give children opportunities for learning through exploration and experimentation.

French Immersion Program Goals

- To enable students to understand and communicate in French and English.
- To allow students to develop linguistic and cultural knowledge within a program that supports a spirit of positive appreciation and respect.
- To foster the intellectual, physical, emotional, social and creative development of children.
- To develop awareness, appreciation, respect and understanding of the French and English cultures and values.
- To enable students to pursue further education and careers in either or both languages.

Is French Immersion for Your Family?

Although research has consistently demonstrated that French Immersion is an educational model with universal application, the following questions might guide you in your decision about whether it is an appropriate choice for your child and your family:

- Has your child's first language developed adequately for a child of his/her age?
- Does your child accept change easily?
- Have you and your family talked about the French Immersion Program?
- Are you willing to play an active role in the home/school partnership?

Suggestions to support your child in French Immersion

Read aloud to your child every day. Read books in your own language. Do not worry if you do not speak French; you can instill a love of literature in your child regardless of the Language in which you read. By fostering enthusiasm and motivating your child to seek out books independently, you are laying the groundwork for positive attitudes that are essential to lifelong learning in French or in English.

The more fluent a child is in their first language, the easier it is to learn another

French Immersion Registration

Registration for French Immersion kindergarten students, including siblings of current students, will take place at our elementary French Immersion schools regular office hours the week of January 15-19, 2024.

Registrations will be placed according to the following priority placement criteria:

- 1 – Siblings of French Immersion students continuing at the same school
- 2 – Lottery for the remaining new registrants if numbers of applicants exceeds space
- 3 – Late registrants or Out of District – placed at the end of the process

Parents will be contacted by phone within a week of the lottery to confirm either registration or waitlist placement. More information regarding the French Immersion registration process is available online at www.sd79.bc.ca



Information sessions will be held at École Mount Prevost Elementary on Tuesday, January 9th at 5:30 pm and at École Cobble Hill Elementary on Tuesday, January 9th at 6 pm. Please contact the school if you have any questions about the information sessions.

Elementary French Immersion K-7

École Mt.Prevost Elementary

6177 Somenos Road
Duncan BC, V9L 4E7
Tel. 250.746.7187

Rhonda Cizeron - Principal

rcizeron@sd79.bc.ca

Sandra Buckland - Vice - Principal

sbuckland@sd79.bc.ca

Secondary School French Immersion 8-12

Quamichan School

2515 Beverly Street
Duncan BC, V9L 3A5
Tel. 250.746.6168

Claire Whitney - Principal

cwhitney@sd79.bc.ca

Darren Hart - Vice - Principal

dhart@sd79.bc.ca

École Cobble Hill Elementary

3642 Learning Way
Cobble Hill, BC, V0R 2P3
Tel. 250.733.2307

Ian Zibin - Principal

izibin@sd79.bc.ca

Grant Mellemstrand - Vice - Principal

gmellemstrand@sd79.bc.ca

Cowichan Secondary School

2652 James Street
Duncan BC, V9L 2X2
Tel. 250.746.4435

Darcy Hoff - Principal

dhoff@sd79.bc.ca

Penny Butler - Vice - Principal

pbutler@sd79.bc.ca

Jennifer Merrett - Vice - Principal

jmerrett@sd79.bc.ca