

FRENCH IMMERSION AND YOUR CHILD

There will be an essential information meeting for the SD83 Late French Immersion Program (Grade 6) on Wednesday, March 8 at 6 p.m. at Shuswap Middle School.

It is important that parents and students (current grade 5 students who are interested in the program) attend this meeting. There will be important information shared about the program.

Following the meeting, a link to an online form will be shared with all families in attendance. This form indicates a family's commitment and intent to register in the program. Completing this short online form is essential for all families interested in registering for Late French Immersion.



If there are between 24 and 28 students, there will be one grade 6 Late French Immersion class. If there are between 48-56 students, there will be two grade 6 Late French Immersion classes. The online sign up form will help us know how many classes there will be. If the numbers do not work out for either 1 or 2 classes, a process will be discussed at the meeting.

An important change with registration this year: All students interested in the program need to complete the sign-up form. There is no longer early or priority pre-registration for siblings of students currently enrolled in the French Immersion program. This practice is in keeping with the registration process for other programs.

Principals, district staff and teachers will present information about Late French Immersion and provide registration information.

- Immersion programs (both Early and Late) are designed for students from any catchment area in SD83 whose first language is other than French.

- *Parents need NOT speak French.*

- Students are encouraged to stay in the program through Grade 12 in order to attain a high degree of bilingualism and to receive a bilingual Dogwood Graduate Certificate.

- *The program is NOT operating separately from the normal functioning of the school. Students in the French Immersion program will participate in regular school activities.*



PROGRAM GOALS

- To develop language skills enabling students to participate easily in French conversation.
- To provide an insight into the French culture.
- To achieve skills in all subject areas equivalent to those in the English program.
- Ability to take post-secondary education with French as the language of instruction.

Questions?

Questions? Please contact **Clint Maltais, VP of Shuswap Middle School at (250) 832-6031** or **Megan Weir, District Vice-Principal of French Immersion, at (250) 832-3741.**



COMMON QUESTIONS about French Immersion programs in our schools

What are the benefits of learning a second language?

- ✓ Learning a second language develops your child's listening and learning skills as well as their self discipline
- ✓ It increases their cognitive abilities by helping them to become more flexible thinkers.
- ✓ It enhances their knowledge of and their ability to communicate in their first language.
- ✓ It makes learning a third and fourth language easier.
- ✓ It can provide opportunities for future employment or career advancement.

What about the students' academic achievements?

- ✓ Research shows there is absolutely no detrimental effect on academic performance in any subject area despite learning in a new language.
- ✓ Students gain larger English vocabulary as French words are often similar to English words.

What will happen to my child's first language?

The authors of "Yes You Can Help! Information and Inspiration for French Immersion Parents", Pat Brehaut and Judy Gibson have concluded that the results of 30 years of studies undertaken from St. John's to Victoria are clear and consistent. Early Immersion students tend to lag behind English-program students in more technical aspects of the language (punctuation and spelling) until they have a year or two of English Language Arts. However, by Grade 5 or 6 (even if this subject is not introduced until grade 4), they perform as well as their English-program peers

In School District No. 83 some students perform equal to the English students and/or sometimes outperform them with respect to English language communication and reading by Grade 5 or 6.

How does Late Immersion compare with Early French Immersion?

- ✓ Late French Immersion is not a continuation of Early French Immersion. It is a separate program, offered in addition to Early Immersion, which provides an alternative final entry point for English students who want to become bilingual.
- ✓ In Grade 8, the Early and Late Immersion students join together into one program. The two groups become academically cohesive during the secondary years.

More information at www.sd83.bc.ca



North Okanagan-Shuswap
School District No. 83



**INTERESTED IN LATE
FRENCH IMMERSION?
ESSENTIAL MEETING & SIGN UP**

**WEDN., MARCH 8, 2023
AT 6 P.M. AT SHUSWAP MIDDLE SCHOOL**