

Late French Immersion

Apply on-line at www.sd33.bc.ca
January 29th, 2018 (8:30 am-2:30 pm)



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

The ratio of instructional time between French and English will be as set out by the Ministry of Education. In Late French Immersion, this means the percentage of French instruction in Grade Six will be 100%, until the English Language Arts curriculum is reintroduced in Grade Seven. The percentage of instruction in French will then be a minimum of 80% to the end of Grade Seven. The exception to this would be in cases where teacher preparation time and/or Exploratory courses are unable to be covered by a bilingual teacher.

From Grades Eight through Ten, students will receive 50-75% French instruction. In Grades Eleven and Twelve, students will receive no less than 25% French instruction. 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 Late French Immersion. Within the limits of available space and resources, classes will be organized to form a continuous Late French Immersion program, starting from Grade Six at either Chilliwack or Vedder Middle Schools, and then will complete their program in Grades Nine through Twelve at Sardis Senior Secondary School.

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 be accepting on-line applications on *Monday, January 29th, from 8:30 am through to 2:30 pm*. The District will hold an informational meeting on *Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 pm* for interested parents of Grade Six students, prior to opening the on-line application site. This meeting will be held at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre (Alumni Hall), 46361 Yale Road.

Please Note: Students wishing to enter at any other grade level than Grade Six for Late Immersion will only be considered if there is adequate space, if the student is adequately proficient in French, and with permission of the French Immersion school principal.

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 Late French Immersion?

French Immersion is a District Program of Choice, open to all students that are resident in Chilliwack and/or registered at a Chilliwack school. Prior knowledge of the French language is not required when entering at the Grade Six level.

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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