

FRENCH IMMERSION

THE GIFT OF A SECOND LANGUAGE



St. Albert
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At St. Albert Public Schools, you can give your child the gift of a second language by enrolling him or her in French Immersion. French Immersion is designed for students whose first language is not French.

Why choose the French Immersion program offered in St. Albert Public Schools?

We believe that our dual track approach with both English and French programs at the same school is a true reflection of the richness of our Canadian heritage. All of our students gain a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures and traditions.

Our program produces bilingual students who are fluent in French and whose English skills are equivalent to those of their peers – all this, while still fulfilling the curricular goals of a regular program.

Our dual track approach provides opportunities for interaction between the English and French Immersion programs to the benefit of all students. This also allows for a greater opportunity to access special programs, options and extracurricular activities particularly at the junior and senior high school levels.

And, for those students who missed the elementary school immersion experience, we offer our Late French Immersion program. This enables students to enter into immersion in Grade 7. It's never too late to become bilingual!



Why should I choose French Immersion for my child?

Immersion is the most effective method of learning a second language. The benefits of immersion are obvious – students not only learn a second language, but their English language skills also benefit because skills learned in one language transfer to another. Bilingualism opens many doors for our graduates – they have more post-secondary options and the ability to use French in the workplace.

Is French Immersion for every child?

The French Immersion program at St. Albert Public Schools welcomes all children. Most parents do not speak French, but all students enjoy the richness of shared cultures and expanded horizons. In fact, approximately 20 per cent of our division students are enrolled in French Immersion.

When should a child begin the program?

Usually, children begin the program in Kindergarten. Our division also offers a Late French Immersion program beginning in Grade 7 for those students who missed the immersion experience in their elementary years.

Will my child learn the same things as their peers in the English program?

Both programs follow the guidelines of Alberta Education. The curriculum is the same, with the language of instruction the primary difference.

When is English introduced?

Our current practice of introducing English in Grade 2 continues to be very successful. By the end of Grade 3, the children in our French Immersion program who received their first year of education entirely in French are reading in both languages competently at their grade level. Immersion students do as well on standard English tests, and all other subject areas, as their counterparts in English.

How much of the curriculum is taught in French?

In Kindergarten and Grade 1, all instruction is in French. In upper elementary grades, with the exception of English Language Arts, all core subjects are taught in French. At the junior high level, students follow all core subjects in French and pursue option courses offered in English. Then, at high school, as students' careers and post-secondary education goals crystallize, there is even more flexibility. A superlative blend of core programs is offered, alongside a vast array of options and extracurricular activities.

What if I don't speak French?

We do not expect immersion parents to be able to speak French. Our teachers work very closely with parents to best meet the needs of their children as they progress through the program.

What if my child needs extra help or an extra challenge?

As in the English program, our schools offer remedial and enrichment activities. A child with learning difficulties should not have to leave the French Immersion program to get assistance.

How do I receive support?

Parents, teachers and administrators from the division work collaboratively to support and provide leadership to the French Immersion program. We are fortunate to have the support of our own chapter of Canadian Parents for French who continue to enrich the division's program by offering cultural experiences for families and providing information to parents.

Why should students stay in immersion until they graduate?

While it is true that students can communicate well in French by the time they reach junior high, they need the senior high school years to give them a broader vocabulary and greater familiarity with the language. The longer they continue to learn in the French language and the more subjects that they take in French, the more fluent they will become. Paul Kane High School offers one of the best course selections in all core subjects in northern Alberta.



Please contact the following schools to offer your child the opportunity of French Immersion:

Grade K-6

Leo Nickerson

10 Sycamore Avenue

780.459.4426

Email: leo.nickerson@spschools.org

ln.spschools.org

Lois E. Hole

120 Everitt Drive

780.460.0034

Email: leh@spschools.org

leh.spschools.org

Muriel Martin

110 Deer Ridge Drive

780.458.0205

Email: mm@spschools.org

murielmartin.spschools.org

Grade 7-9 French Immersion & Late French Immersion

Sir George Simpson

50 Grosvenor Boulevard

780.459.4456

Email: sir.george.simpson@spschools.org

sgs.spschools.org

Grade 10-12

Paul Kane

12 Cunningham Road

780.459.4405

Email: paul.kane@spschools.org

pkhs.spschools.org

Division Administration Office

60 Sir Winston Churchill Ave.

780.460.3712

info@spschools.org

www.spschools.org

