

Delta School District: Late French Immersion

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it necessary for my child to know some French before enrolling?

No. Students are not required to have any background in French prior to entering either the Late French Immersion program.

What if English is not our first language?

Evidence indicates that English Language Learners enrolled in French Immersion perform as well as their Anglophone counterparts, and ELL students who come to French Immersion having already developed literacy in their home language often perform even better than Anglophone students (Canadian Council on Learning, 2007).

When is English taught?

In the Late French Immersion Program, English is reintroduced in Grade 7.

Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?

Yes, the curriculum is created by the Ministry of British Columbia. Students work toward the same academic goals regardless of the language of instruction.

Will my child's level of achievement be adversely affected if instruction is in the French language?

Most children who receive their education in French are able to achieve the same levels of competency in all core subjects as those children who have had all their instruction in English.

What are the benefits of French Immersion?

A student who has successfully completed the K-12 French Immersion program will:

- Participate easily in conversations in English and French
- Have an increased appreciation of another language and other cultures
- Be able to take post-secondary courses with French as the language of instruction
- Accept employment where French is the language of the workplace
- Receive a bilingual designation on their secondary school diploma, which can enhance their employment and post-secondary learning opportunities

What resources are available to support my child and I?

Help always starts with your child's classroom teacher. Contact your child's teacher and the school's administrative team as they can suggest ways to support your child. Your child will receive the same support regardless of the fact that they are in French Immersion.

Will classes be smaller in French Immersion?

No, class size is the same as in English: 30 students in Grade 6 to 12.

Will my child(ren) have bussing available?

No, bussing will not be provided to families.

How much homework should we expect?

It seems sometimes like there is more homework at first but, it will seem like less work as the year progresses. As well, a majority of the homework involves review to become familiar with the French for the material students already know in English. However, there is more work during major projects.

What if my child gets frustrated with homework?

Keep in contact with your child's teacher. Attend parent-teacher-student interviews and keep in contact with your child's teacher to discuss progress. Your teacher can direct you to helpful websites, amazing mobile apps or resources and give you additional information about specific assignments. Encourage your child to set-up homework partners with the help of your child's teacher, as then your child can contact their partner for support. Students should not leave school if homework has not been understood. The student agenda is a useful communication tool and an integral part of the homework routine.

Will my child forget his/her English?

Although there are no English classes in grade 6 LFI, there is little concern of losing the language as students are surrounded by English at school, in the community, and in the media that surrounds them. However, parents can be proactive by encouraging reading and writing in English at home.

If I do not speak French, how will I help my child?

Students will experience increased success in French Immersion as they are able to engage, self-motivate, and initiate practice on their own. There are a number of ways you can support them is this:

- You can help your child by helping them develop good study habits such as regularly practicing reading and speaking, re-reading homework questions, and answering questions in complete sentences. You can also help by having your child read orally to you and they can summarize what was said.
- Be appreciative and encouraging of your child's effort to work and play in a new language.
- Continue discussing with them about what they have learnt at school each day in English to increase vocabulary and strengthen literacy skills.
- Provide an environment rich in experiences, such as visits to the nature centre or swimming pool. Talk about these experiences afterwards.

- Listen to French music or television shows or movies with your child.
- Attend a French community activity with your child, contact the [Canadian Parents for French](#).
- Consider learning some french alongside your child!

Parent Questions from Parent Question and Answer sessions

1. I think our biggest concern is the social and friend making aspect of school for our son. He is definitely on the shy side and we worry that with the added challenge of a new language it would perhaps take away from his ability to form connections. For instance if he started to talk to a classmate in english would this be discouraged by the teacher?

All children starting to go to school vary in their comfort level with other students, and their ability to form friendships isn't in any way hindered by the fact that they are learning to speak a new language. Teachers will support all students in making friends and building a safe and positive social environment.

2. If we were accepted into the French Immersion program are we able to change our minds before it starts?

Yes, you may change your mind before the program starts. However, when you accept a French Immersion spot, the English spot at your catchment school is made available to other students. So, depending on the timing of your decision, you may risk that your local catchment English school may not have space for your child. We will work to get you into a Delta school, but it might not be possible at your catchment school.

3. We are in Tsawwassen, if we just wanted to apply to the Cliff Drive Elementary French Program (and not do it if it is in North Delta) is that okay?

Yes, it is fine to apply at just one French Immersion school.

However, applying to other schools means you have other options to enter the Delta French Immersion Program. If you accept a spot at another school, this sets you up for possibly moving back to your first choice school, should a spot open up in the future.

4. Are the classes online or do they do it in school?

Classes are in school. However, currently due to the COVID pandemic, some students have chosen to enrol in our district transition program (HomeQuest) with some French oral support.

6. What type of help/resources are available for children coming from non-French speaking families/backgrounds?

French Immersion is designed to be a program that is primarily done only at school. Teachers find that students become very resourceful on their own and learn to help each other. A strategy that teachers use frequently is pairing up students both in class and at home to help each other with homework. As well, parents have access to resources and tutoring through Canadian Parents for French to help parents support their child's learning at home.

7. What is the background on the prioritisation process for students with siblings in the French Immersion? We believe it is important to prioritize keeping families together in a school setting. Therefore, having siblings in a FI school is high on the priority list.

8. How often does the application process go to a draw? This depends on the number of applicants and the number of spots available each year and therefore differs from year to year.

9. What are the attendance areas in regards to the priorities used to select students?

Ecole Chalmers Elementary if students live in North Delta.

Ecole Cliff Drive Elementary if students live in South Delta (Ladner or Tsawwassen).