

Early French Immersion



CAMPBELL RIVER
School District 72

The early French Immersion program is a district program housed in two elementary schools, École des Deux Mondes and École Willow Point, aimed to develop functional bilingualism in students whose first language is not French. While parents can indicate a preference of which school they would like their child to attend, enrollment is dependent upon space and staffing considerations.

WHAT IS EARLY IMMERSION?

- Students acquire second language skills by undertaking an extensive study of the language and by receiving instruction in French in other subjects.
- In the early elementary years (K-3) French is the language of instruction. Students are encouraged to interact in French for all school-related activities.
- English language arts is introduced as a subject in grade 4 and in grades 4 and 5, 80 percent of the instruction is given in French.
- The curriculum parallels the English language program. Children are expected to develop the same level of competence in academic, social and physical skills as their counterparts in the English program.

WHO IS IMMERSION FOR?

- Early French Immersion is a program of choice, open to all children entering kindergarten.
- While most French Immersion students come from English-speaking homes, a small number come from homes where neither English or French is the primary language.
- There is no selection criteria or special fees for registration.

IMMERSION IN GRADES 6-12

After grade 5, early French Immersion students have the option to continue with French Immersion in middle school (grades 6-8) at École Phoenix Middle School and secondary school (grades 9-12) at Carihi Secondary School.

- In middle school, students in early French Immersion receive 50 percent of their instruction in French. Courses include French language arts, math, science and social studies.
- Starting in grade 10 the instruction in French decreases gradually to about 20 percent once students are in grade 12.

Common Questions

Will my child receive the same quality of education in the Immersion program?

Yes. Both programs follow identical curriculum from the Ministry of Education.

Will my child adapt to a class where no English is spoken?

Yes. Children adapt very easily. Those who are very confident begin using the language right away. Others need more of an initiation period. As their confidence builds, they begin to interact more in French.

Will my child keep up in their English language development?

Yes. Language mechanisms are taught in both English language arts and French Immersion. Skills learned in French language arts tend to strengthen first language skills and vice-versa.

How can I help my child at home?

At the early elementary level, parents can encourage their children by demonstrating an active interest in their language learning. Parents should continue to read with their child in English. As children progress through intermediate years, continue to take an active role in your child's education.

For more information contact either of the two French Immersion elementary schools.