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FRENCH

IMMERSION

Kindergarten



When does the program begin?

The French Immersion Program begins in Kindergarten at the following French Milieu Schools in St. James-Assiniboia School Division:

Ecole Assiniboine

175 Winston Rd.,
R3J 1N1
204-885-2216
assiniboine@sjsd.net

Ecole Bannatyne

363 Thompson Dr.,
R3J 3E5
204-888-1101
bannatyne@sjsd.net

Ecole Robert Browning

130 Browning Blvd.,
R3K 0L8
204-837-8381
robertbrowning@sjsd.net

In a French Milieu setting, all students in the school are studying in the French Immersion Program and all school activities are conducted in the French language.

Language:

The goal of the French Immersion Program is to provide students with the tools they need to be proud, engaged, plurilingual, global citizens. Students at the Kindergarten level are totally immersed in the French language and the language of instruction is French.

At the Early Years level, teachers use a variety of strategies to teach the language such as songs, poems, rhymes, actions, gestures and games. This gives students an opportunity to use their second language skills to develop their fluency and a more diversified vocabulary. Classrooms have many posters and vocabulary word walls to help students with their oral and written skills in French. Many French books are also used as classroom resources.

Culture:

An integral part of the curriculum is to develop a positive attitude towards the French culture. The students easily compare their new found language with their own culture. Early Years schools host an array of activities such as Festival du Voyageur Week, musical performances by French artists, etc. to expose students to the French language and to further develop an awareness of the French culture.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) What will my child do in French Immersion Kindergarten class?

A typical day in the life of a Kindergarten child will include calendar time, learning centre time, play centre time, circle time, and more.

2) How much time is spent in French?

The language of instruction in Kindergarten is French. 100% of the teaching day is conducted in French.

3) What will my child learn in French Immersion?

Many different themes will be studied in Kindergarten such as: shapes, colours, fruits and vegetables, seasons, Halloween, parts of the body, clothing, Festival du Voyageur, modes of transportation, family, farm, circus. These themes are taught through the following subject areas: French Language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and health.

In addition, there are five areas in learning a language: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing. The main focus is listening and understanding, as well as learning to express oneself in French.

4) What can parents do to help their child in French Immersion?

- a) Be supportive
- b) Continue to review skills in English as these are all transferable from one language to another
- c) Read to children regularly

5) What assessment tools are used to assess my child's progress?

- a) Daily observations
- b) Daily checklists
- c) Math assessments administered
- d) Portfolios
- e) One-on-one conferencing



6) What can I expect my child to learn in French Immersion Kindergarten?

- a) Your child should be able to use expressions and simple sentence structures in French
- b) Your child will be able to understand and follow directions and simple instructions in French

7) Is all correspondence between home and school in English?

Yes, most parents of French Immersion students are Anglophone, therefore all newsletters, announcements, etc. are sent home in English.

8) Where can I find resources and support for my child in French Immersion?

- a) Librairie à la Page (200 Provencher) and La Boutique du livre (129 Marion) are two bookstores in St. Boniface containing many useful French resources for children.
- b) Canadian Parents for French, also located in St. Boniface (475 Provencher), provides numerous supports and resources for parents of French Immersion students.
- c) The St. Boniface Public Library (100-131 Provencher) has many French reading materials that can be delivered to your local community library for pick-up.

9) Will my child receive homework?

Parents can expect children to bring home English books to read, math games and activities.

10) Who can I speak with for more information about the French Immersion Program?

- Parents can speak to principals at one of the French Immersion Schools
- Parents can contact the French Language Coordinator at the school board office (204-837-5886 ext 2112)
- Canadian Parents for French, Manitoba (204-222-6537; www.cpfmb.com)
- French for Life, Manitoba (204-233-6403; <http://www.frenchforlife.ca>)
- Bureau de l'éducation française (204-945-6916; www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mychild/immersion/kindergarten.html)



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