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F R E N C H

I M M E R S I O N

Kindergarten



French Immersion in St. James-Assiniboia begins in Kindergarten and is offered at the following French milieu schools:

École Assiniboine 175
Winston Rd.,
R3J 1N1
204-885-2216
assiniboine@sjasd.ca

École Bannatyne
363 Thompson Dr.,
R3J 3E5
204-888-1101
bannatyne@sjasd.ca

École Robert Browning 130
Browning Blvd., R3K 0L8
204-837-8381
robertbrowning@sjasd.ca

École Voyageur
37 Voyageur Ave.,
R2Y 0H7
204-888-3390
voyageur@sjasd.ca

The goal of the French Immersion Program is to develop proud, confident, engaged, plurilingual global citizens. The French Immersion Program enables students to interact spontaneously, autonomously, and confidently in French with pride and ease, and to seek opportunities to engage in the Francophone community.

Students at the Kindergarten level are totally immersed in the French language. From Grades 1-8, the language of instruction is 75% French and 25% English.

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 visuals around the room to help students with their oral and written skills in French.

Through the French Immersion program, students will gain an understanding of plurilingualism as well as an openness to other languages and cultures. Plurilingualism allows a language to be learned in relation to another, where one language draws on another.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

A typical day in the life of Kindergarten will include discovery, talking circles, small and large group activities, play centres, snack, recess, gym, music, library, and learning buddies.

2) How much time is spent in French?

In Kindergarten, the only language of instruction is French. English is used, however, to help students when necessary (e.g., when students are hurt or in distress).

3) I don't speak French. How will I communicate with the school?

The majority of our families do not speak French at home. The language of communication between home and school is English.

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

- a) Be supportive
- b) Continue to review skills the child's first language 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) Portfolios
- d) One-on-one conferencing



6) What is the focus of the French Immersion classroom and school setting?

Language - Learning the French language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing, students value themselves as language learners.

Content - Students follow the Manitoba French Immersion curriculum.

Culture - Students explore and participate in the francophone community, develop an openness to other languages and culture, value diversity, and gain broader life choices.

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

- a) Librairie à la Page (200 Provencher) is a bookstore 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.

8) 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
- 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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