

SIASD French Immersion
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the philosophy of French Immersion?

A: 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. They seek opportunities to engage in the Francophone community.

Q: Will my child learn French all day in Kindergarten?

A: In Kindergarten, the only language of instruction is French. However, English is used to help children, when necessary. For example, when hurt or upset.

Q: After Kindergarten, what does the program look like?

A: In Grades 1-8, the language of instruction is 75% French and 25% English.

Q: I don't speak French. How will I communicate with the school?

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

Q: We speak other languages at home. Can my child still learn French?

A: Students in French Immersion are able to transfer knowledge and skills from one language to another. In fact, research shows that children who speak more than one language will be successful in French Immersion. Follow the links below for more information on language acquisition benefits:

<https://iwillteachyoulanguage.com/blog/9-health-benefits-of-learning-a-foreign-language>
<https://knowablemagazine.org/article/mind/2018/how-second-language-can-boost-brain>
[Brain-based Research on the Benefits of Bilingualism and Second Language Instruction FINAL.pdf](#)
<https://etoninstitute.com/blog/top-10-benefits-of-learning-a-foreign-language>

Q: What is the focus in a French Immersion classroom and school setting?

A: There are 3 areas of focus:

Language – Learning the French language in all 4 forms: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students value themselves as language learners.

Content – Following Manitoba curriculum (French Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and Health, Arts Education, Musique, English Language Arts)

Culture – Exploring and participation in the Francophone community, openness to other cultures and languages, valuing diversity, and broader life choices.

Q: What supports are available to students?

A: Beyond the classroom, there are many supports available.

- School-based supports
 - Resource
 - Counseling
- Division-Based Education Support Services
 - School Psychologist
 - School Social Work
 - Speech and Language Pathologist
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Physiotherapy
 - Reading Clinician
 - Behaviour Team
 - Autism Resource Teacher
 - Behaviour Intervention Support

What are the myths about French Immersion or additional language acquisition?

Myth: Parents will need to speak and read in French to help your child.

Answer: Not true. The French Immersion program is designed for non-French speaking families.

Myth: Children with learning disabilities should not learn an additional language.

Answer: Not true. Research shows that language acquisition learning can benefit all students, including students with learning disabilities.

Myth: Learning an additional language impacts the first language negatively.

Answer: Not true. The opposite is actually true! Research shows that learning an additional language positive impacts the child's first language.

Myth: You need to do math and science in English in later years for successful transition to post-secondary studies.

Answer: Not true. Research shows that students in French Immersion can complete Grade 12 French Immersion and transition successfully to post-secondary.