

## WHAT SHOULD PARENTS CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING TO ENROLL THEIR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

### CHARACTERISTICS OF EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION

- An early start provides for more time and more opportunities for the child to develop the language in and out of school.
- Children are naturally very enthusiastic learners and they seem to learn everything with ease including second languages.
- Younger learners are very open-minded which makes them less self-conscious and less apprehensive than older learners.

### THE CHILD

- How developed is the child's first language?
- Does the child appear to be developing normally in terms of social and emotional growth?
- Does the child have positive self-esteem?
- Does the child have any perceptual or auditory problems?
- Can the child adjust easily to unfamiliar situations?

### HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

Parents have a vital role in their child's learning. In order to support your child in French Immersion, the following are some suggestions:

- Be positive about the program
- Show interest in your child's daily activities
- Check newsletters for special events
- Check backpack or agenda for homework
- Communicate your concerns, questions or suggestions with teacher
- Listen to your child read in French and English
- Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain of the correct expression or pronunciation.
- Read daily to your child in English
- Provide access to French books, subscriptions, tapes, games, software, videos, television, and radio
- Purchase a French/English dictionary for home

Carol Cotton  
Chair of the Board

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## York Catholic District School Board



## FRENCH IMMERSION



*We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.*

# FRENCH IMMERSION

This brochure is provided to share information about the French Immersion Program at YCDSB and to help answer questions regarding the program.

## WHAT IS THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM?

- French Immersion begins in grade one and is intended for students whose parents do not have a French background but would like their children to become fluent in French. Although the curriculum is the same as in the English language program, the language of instruction is French. By completing the elementary program and an additional ten secondary French courses, a student should achieve a level of confidence in the French language to allow him or her to study French language university or college courses, accept employment where the working language is French, live in a French community and participate in French conversation.
- The program will deliver approximately 5,000 hours of instruction between Grades 1 to 8.

## WHY ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

- French is one of Canada's two official languages and one of Ontario's two official languages of instruction
- Knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills.
- Ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving, as well as creative-thinking skills.
- Research shows children educated in content subjects (like science and geography) in two languages develop higher reasoning and analytical skills.
- Knowledge of French provides students with an advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.



## WHO MAY ENROL IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

- Year 2 Kindergarten students (SK), eligible for Catholic education.
- Students transferring from other boards who are currently enrolled in French Immersion and have been since grade one.
- The Ministry specifies that French Immersion is open to all students, including those with English as a Second Language.
- Parents are not required to be French speaking.

Research suggests that children who are successful in French Immersion are:

- Risk takers
- Interested in learning new things
- Attend school regularly
- Positive in their attitude toward school
- Able to communicate well verbally in their first language
- Effective listeners
- Capable of good memory skills

## HOW DOES FRENCH IMMERSION DIFFER FROM CORE FRENCH CURRENTLY OFFERED IN THE YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD?

Core French (Current)	French Immersion (Current)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French Instruction in <u>Primary Grades 1 to 3</u> <b>160</b> minutes per week</li> <li><u>Grades 4 and 5:</u> 200 minutes per week</li> <li><u>Grades 6 to 8:</u> <b>160</b> minutes per week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available in Grades 1 to 8 (phased in basis)</li> <li>• Beginning in Grade 1</li> <li>• French is the language of instruction for approximately                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>85%</b> of the total hours of instructional time in grades 1 to 3</li> <li>* <b>50%</b> of the total hours of instructional times in Grade 4 to 8</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
St. Thomas Aquinas CES offers Gr. 1—Gr. 6	



## WHAT WILL THE CURRICULUM LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM?

- Students will be taught the Ontario Curriculum.
- The expectations in each grade are essentially those outlined in the English-language subject curriculum documents.
- Learning resources provided in French follow the Ontario English language curriculum.
- Students will be expected to achieve the regular English language curriculum expectations before the end of Grade 8.

## HOW WILL THE STUDENTS BE ASSESSED AND EVALUATED?

The assessment and evaluation of students in the French Immersion Program will be consistent with Board procedures and practices for all students.

## WILL TRANSPORTATION BE PROVIDED?

Students up to grade 3 residing 1.2 km , and students in grades 4 to 8 residing 1.6 km beyond the school, and living within the French Immersion transportation boundary, will receive transportation. Students are required to walk a short distance to and from centralized bus stops.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Parents and guardians wishing to submit their applications should visit the York Catholic District School Board's website at [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca) click on French Immersion Icon. The website provides additional information including available Parent Information Night dates.

